



MISHPOCHOLOGY

Volume 26, Number 1 March 2021

President/Editor: Kim Sheintal klapshein@aol.com

Treasurer: Liz Klaber eklaber@comcast.net

Programs: Howard Finkel hgfinkel@gmail.com

Publicity: Lee Ruggles lee0614@verizon.net

Facebook: Leah Cook leahcook@aol.com

Webmaster/Zoom: Jim Haberman jim@HabermanUSA.com

Mishpochology is published quarterly.

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

Zoom Program: Sunday, March 21, 2021

(12:45 p.m. Socializing) (1:00 p.m. Program)

Out of the Whirlwind: Resources for Holocaust Research

By Deborah Long

For more information or to access the Zoom link:

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

Permission is granted to quote, in whole or in part, any article included in Mishpochology by the newsletter/journal of any other IAJGS member society, providing that acknowledgment of the source is given, unless the article is identified as one that is not to be reproduced. Acknowledgement should include the title and writer of the article, the issuing society, and its newsletter volume number or date of publication. Additionally, as a courtesy, we request that an email be sent letting us know that a published article is being further used. You are invited to submit stories, helpful genealogical hints, and tidbits to Kim Sheintal at klapshein@aol.com.

President's Shpiel

By Kim Sheintal

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida had its first meeting on January 28, 1996. During its 25 years, there were speakers, panel discussions, movies, book reviews, book fairs, field trips, and the Shtetl Kettle with our ancestors' photos and recipes. In 2013, JGS of SW FL members Lynn Teichman and Tuvia Natkin won the International Genealogy Month poster contest. From 2013 thru 2020, a portion of their poster appeared as the header on the IAJGS website.



International Jewish Genealogy Month



Cheshvan 5774 · 2013
October 5 to November 3
www.iajgs.org

Submitted by Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida
Design by Lynn Teichman and Tuvia Natkin

The following article by Lorraine Greyson, the 1996 Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida President, appeared on the front page of Mishpochology exactly twenty-five years ago (March, 1996 Volume 1, Number 1).

“Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida is now a reality. The road that brought me from Portland, Oregon to Sarasota was a long one. While at the Convention in Washington, D.C. in June, I knew I wanted to start a Southwest Florida chapter because none existed.

On January 28, we had our first meeting at Temple Sinai in Sarasota. There were 35 people in attendance and for a Super Bowl Sunday, I'd say that was a pretty good turnout.

I'm blessed with having Kim Sheintal for an enthusiastic editor; Doris Benice, a very efficient secretary; and Franchon Rosenstein, a capable treasurer. Nora and Susan Banner will do a great job with membership. I'm also looking forward to utilizing the skills of Kenneth Sipser. There is such a vast array of talented people in the Sarasota area. To those of you who thanked me for starting the chapter here and were so supportive and kind – thank you. Starting something of this magnitude is never easy. It takes work and your positive reinforcement is needed and welcome.

Rabbi Geoffrey Hunting of Temple Sinai also deserves a big todah for having the foresight to understand what a unifying force this organization will become. All Jews from Chassidic to Reform can share genealogical quest and knowledge together with the respect and love I know we share.

Our next meeting will be March 10, 1996 at 1:00 p.m. in Temple Sinai's sanctuary. Our speaker will be Fran Carter-Walker who has written 28 “How to” books. She has traveled extensively lecturing. She was awarded the distinguished Genealogical National Award from the Federation of Genealogical Societies in Richmond, Virginia.

Hope to see you all there. Refreshments will be served.”



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ✦ SINCE 1996

“Our House Burned Down to the Ground!”

Breaking through the Bricks

By Barry Halpern

My mother’s family had passed down a story about their childhood home burning “down to the ground”. That’s what it always was while growing up: a family story that was interesting to me and all of my many cousins, but nothing that aroused our interest enough to research the facts.

My mother was one of thirteen children, all with the surname of “Waldman”. Some were born in Boston and some in Concord, New Hampshire, where the family lived for a time on a farm. The 13 siblings were born between 1898 and 1923 and the last of them died in the year 2013 (my mother died in 2007 at the age of 92). Their parents, Simon and Bertha Waldman, my grandparents, were born in Lithuania and arrived in Boston during the 1890s. They met in the Boston area, married shortly thereafter, and spent the next couple of decades alternating between residences in Boston and Concord.

I can’t recall when I first heard about “the fire”, but I do recall that my mother was the one who initially told me the story. She said that when she was a little girl, living in Concord, that her home “burned down to the ground”, but everyone got out of the house safely and no one suffered any injuries. She had told me that they “lived on a farm”, with chickens, horses, pigs, and various other animals, but my personal level of interest was never very high so I never sought out any details.

At various times over the years, I recall hearing several of my numerous aunts and uncles mention the family fire, again providing no specific details (or if they did, I just wasn’t terribly interested). It wasn’t until most of them had passed away, and until I began researching my family’s history, that I became much more interested. The “family fire” seemed like it should have been a bit more than just a detail. So, during the past ten or so years, I began my attempts to uncover some external (i.e., non-family) evidence or confirmation for the fire including exactly when it happened, how much damage was done, and so forth.

A few of my uncles did spend some time during the 1980s and 1990s writing down some of their own family memories, including their time living in Concord, and they had shared these writeups with some of their nieces and nephews. One of my uncles handwrote 90 pages about the family! The family fire was mentioned, but no specific dates were given. From what my mother had told me, and what my uncles had written, it seemed that at least a few of the kids were home at the time of the fire, which meant that it was either not a school day, or that the fire occurred in the evening or on a weekend.

One piece of the story I heard provided a “new” detail. That is, the fire supposedly occurred while the oldest of the 13 siblings, my Aunt Sylvia, was in Boston for her wedding in 1923. That particular detail would have meant that my mother was seven or eight years old at the time of the fire, and she certainly would have been old enough to remember some of the details. But this was only a tantalizing clue that still provided no real confirmation.

During the 2010s, as readers would know, more and more newspaper archives came online, which enabled all of us amateur genealogists to begin to do online (rather than microfiche) searches for our historic data. In 2015, one of my close cousins, who also researches our family’s genealogy, sent me an email about a fire that occurred in Concord. She had located the following article from the Boston Herald. Note that

it names “David and Simon Waldman”; David was Simon’s brother and they co-owned the “farm” property, with both families sharing the home. Mrs. Goodsell, referred to in this article, was indeed a neighbor, as that surname had been referred to in other family writings (there is yet another story about Mr. Goodsell, who was involved in a car accident, striking my grandmother Bertha while she was out walking, while pregnant, resulting in a miscarriage).



So – did this solve the mystery? NO! It only created a new one. The newspaper date was March 12, 1909!

Could this be the family fire that everyone had spoken about? Most of the 13 children had not yet been born, including my mother, so how could she “remember” the fire?

Unfortunately, no newspapers from New Hampshire that were available online contained any references to a Waldman family fire. No other Boston newspapers contained references to it. The above article has been the only one we have been able to uncover.

My research, as of several years ago, was at a dead end, or rather a “brick wall”.

Until Covid-19.

As many of us may have done during 2020, we used our newfound isolation time at home to delve into some of our genealogical mysteries. I was no different. In fact, I was determined to begin writing a long overdue collection of stories about my mother’s life. Her life had been filled with many stories, some that she had told to me, and some that had to be uncovered and peeled back like an onion, and I wanted to ensure that her grandchildren, great grandchildren and so on, would learn a bit more about who she was. Naturally, I had to write about the family fire, and I was determined in my efforts to tear down that wall.

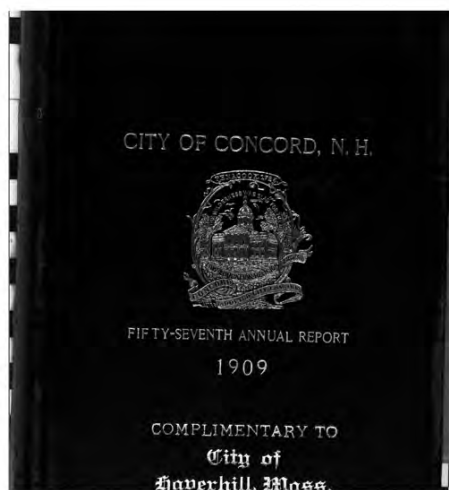
The first thing I did was what many of us do after hitting a brick wall: go over and re-do your research to see what you may have missed. Or to see if something new has popped up online.

I began by going through the various newspaper sites, including fold3, genealogybank, newspapers, and more (all “.com” of course). All of this yielded no new results.

When I began to write about my mother’s life, I decided to first cover her childhood years, mostly spent living in Concord, which made the family fire one of my research targets. I spent time learning about Concord, its history and development, including the development of Concord’s Jewish Community (it turned out that my grandfather Simon was one of the founders of the original Synagogue there). I learned about the Golden

Dome of the New Hampshire State Capitol building. I learned about the Concord Airport (the family farm was located very close to the first runway in Concord). I learned about the visit of Charles Lindbergh to the airport when my mother was only a small girl.

And I learned that the city of Concord produces an annual report about the town, with many of these reports from the early 1900s now available online! They were not only available, but they were free, and downloadable. Unfortunately, they were very lengthy, more than 800 pages! But within them, there is an annual report about the Concord Fire Department. Below is a copy of the cover of the 1909 report, and the information about the Waldman family fire that took place on March 11, 1909.



STILL. March 11, 10.01 a. m. Double tenement residence and barn owned by Bertha Waldman and occupied by owner, Simion and David Waldman on Pembroke road, near Black Hill destroyed. Cause unknown. Chemical Company and detail from the department sent under command of Engineer J. J. McNulty. Adjoining building saved.

	Value	Loss.	Insurance.	Ins. paid.
Building,	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
Contents,				
S. Waldman,	500.00	250.00	500.00	250.00
D. Waldman,	500.00	230.79	400.00	230.79

With this information, had I now solved the family mystery?

Of course not! All it did was to confirm the mystery about a fire in 1909, and if that's the whole story, then what I heard from my mother and her siblings just wasn't accurate.

I kept looking, and this time focused on the tidbit of the story that the family fire occurred at the time of the wedding of my oldest aunt. According to my own records, as well as

confirmation from online records of the wedding, I found that the wedding took place not in 1923, but in 1922, on March 5th. With this information, I began searching for a copy of the City of Concord report for 1922. It actually took a while to find it – but during COVID-19, I had plenty of free time!

Here's the page from the 1922 report – note the entry for March 6th:

STILL. February 27, 11.09 a. m. Reported chimney fire at 27 School Street. Combination 1 responded but no assistance was required. No loss.

STILL. February 28, 12.53 p. m. Chimney fire in residence of J. S. Duprey, 33 Harvard Street. Extinguished by Combination 1. No loss.

STILL. March 3, 7.00 p. m. A call to investigate cause of smoke in residence of F. P. Johnson, 39 Washington Street. Attended to by detail from Alert Co. No fire.

STILL. March 6, 7.38 p. m. Buildings owned and occupied by Simeon Waldman destroyed. Cause unknown. Combination 1 responded, but did little but assist in removing contents.

	Value.	Loss.	Ins.	Ins. Paid.
Buildings,	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Contents,	3,000.00	3,000.00	None	None

STILL. March 13, 4.39 a. m. Slight fire in dresser in Elm Wood Hotel, 11 Center Street. Combination 1 responded but no assistance was required. Extinguished by occupants. Loss trifling.

STILL. March 14, 6.52 a. m. Chimney fire in residence of F. S. Sweatt, 75 Hall Street. Extinguished by Combination 1. No loss.

STILL. March 16, 2.05 p. m. Fire in piggery, 6 Donovan Street, owned by John Dummerling. Caused by overheated stove. Extinguished by Combination 1. Four hundred feet of hose wet.

	Value.	Loss.	Ins.	Ins. Paid.
Building,	\$25.00	\$25.00	None	None
Contents,	30.00	30.00	None	None

STILL. March 16, 7.11 p. m. Slight fire in waste paper in Rumford Press building, Ferry Street. Combination 1 responded but no assistance was required. Extinguished by occupants. No loss.

STILL. March 18, 7.43 a. m. Fire in bed in residence, 5 Gallinger Court, owned by S. Tremblay and occupied by

Mystery solved! The fire took place on a Monday, March 6, 1922 at 7:38 pm. The children could not have been at school! My aunt's wedding had taken place a day earlier, in Boston, and my grandmother must not have been in the home when it burned.

What's amazing about this is that there were not one but TWO family fires. Both took place on the same property. Both "burned the house to the ground". The financial loss for each was similar. And they took place about 13 years apart (interesting, because the number "13" has always been considered a lucky number for my mother's family).

I immediately shared the complete story with my many cousins using our Facebook Group page. Some of course were very interested, while others likely had absolutely no interest. As with much of all of our genealogical research, there are

always those who take great interest in what we uncover, and those who haven't yet realized that someday they will indeed be interested. When that day comes, at least they'll have a more complete story about the "house that burned down to the ground".

What's to be learned from this in terms of our genealogical research and breaking through a brick wall?

1. Family stories are great, and no matter how credible they are, it's worth investigating the facts to the extent possible. The research alone can yield additional stories that were unexpected when the searching began.
2. Always repeat your research after some period of time (could be six months, a year, ten years). Confirm what you've already uncovered, and re-look at all of your sources. Not to mention, seek out new sources (e.g. newspaper archives, online family trees, etc.)
3. Expand your searches to go beyond your ancestors. Learn about the towns and cities where your ancestors either lived or passed through. Not only does this place your ancestors into the context of where they lived, but it also can help uncover new facts, or solve genealogical puzzles.
4. Never give up!

Sometimes a Brick Wall Contains a Secret Door and the Challenge is to Find the Key

By Barry Halpern

I didn't begin researching my father's ancestry until 2008, shortly after I retired. He had died very young, and very suddenly, at the age of 50, in 1966. All I really knew of him was that he immigrated to the US from Lithuania at the age of 18, in 1934. The only story I had of his background was that he grew up in a small town in Lithuania, came to the US to "escape the Nazis", and that the rest of his family had been "murdered by the Nazis". I knew nothing of his parents, my grandparents, or the rest of his family.

Thanks to JewishGen, I connected with a paternal 3rd cousin of mine who had information about some of my father's family. Using my cousin's info, plus JewishGen, plus LitvakSIG, I was relatively quickly able to piece together some basic information.

My father's original surname wasn't "Halpern"; it was "Pitum" (my mother was aware of his original name but she didn't confirm it until I reminded her of it). His parents were Asnat Pitum and Beryl Pitum (yes, there are multiple possible spellings for their names but I'm simplifying for the purposes of this story). I was able to find a 1914 marriage record for his parents, through the All Lithuania Database (ALD). The marriage record gave me the name of my grandfather Beryl's father: Leiba.

With that, I was off and running in my attempts to uncover my father's ancestors and what happened to them. During the several years following these initial pieces of information I was able to fill out several lines of my father's family. Thanks to Yad Vashem, I discovered information about how my father's family had died. I discovered he had one surviving sister (for a time), who had two children – previously unknown first cousins of mine. I wrote and published a book about my father's life and his family's history to the extent I knew it at the time. I published the book in 2011, "The Three Lives of my Father". And I became heavily involved both in the Jewish Genealogy Society of Colorado as well as LitvakSIG.

At the time I wrote my book, I had been able to trace my father's maternal line back to my GGG-grandfather. I had solidly confirmed and consistent records for each generation. For my father's paternal line, however, I could only confirm my great-grandfather's name. Despite my lack of confirmation, I had very strong suspicions that I had found records dating back to my GGGG-grandfather. The problem was that for one of those ancestors, my great grandfather Leiba, I believed that the published record (the revision list which was my source), was incorrect. Males named "Leiba" often have a double given name, "Arie Leiba". The transcription I had (from the ALD and the LitvakSIG Excel spreadsheets) stated that the name was "Aron Leiba". I obtained a copy of the original Lithuanian document but unfortunately it was unclear (i.e. the record appeared smudged).

During the following years – from 2011 onwards – I conducted additional searches but wasn't able to confirm anything new. I documented other Pitum families in and around Aukstadvaris (Visokidvor) and Stakliskes (Stoklishok), which are towns located very close to each other. But I still couldn't confirm the relationships between the "other" Pitums and my father's family.

By 2017, I had been serving on the LitvakSIG Board for several years, and several of us were planning a trip to Lithuania, both to visit the archives with whom we had been dealing for years, as well as to visit our personal ancestral towns.

In anticipation of that trip, I began reviewing my records, ensuring that I had everything I needed to take with me for my visits to my father's (and mother's) ancestral shtetlach. As a part of this, I began communicating with a paternal second cousin of mine, newly found by me, who it turned out also had some family records. It turned out that he had visited Lithuania in 2007, and prior to his visit had requested the Lithuanian archives to perform some research for him. At that time (2007), the archives would perform such searches until they became too large in numbers for them to continue. My cousin apparently had only read the archive's letter focusing on their unsuccessful searching for his other lines. He really hadn't paid attention to the Pitum searches. He told me that he wasn't really involved in genealogy but had traveled to Lithuanian purely as a matter of personal interest in seeing his ancestors' home country.

The letter to him from the archives, which he shared with me, contained the "key" to unlocking the hidden door within my brick wall! Had I not been traveling to Lithuania, I likely would never have pursued this line of inquiry, nor would I have thought to contact this particular cousin (who I have still never met nor spoken with). The letter confirmed that the "Leiba" within my research was indeed the Leiba – actually, the Arie Leib, who linked my father to the prior generations.

As a result of all of this, the question mark has come off of my pedigree chart and it appears below. The person in blue is my great-grandfather and he was the question mark in my tree for years. So I now have confirmed my father's line back to my GGGG grandfather, with his birth in the late 1700s.

What lessons have I learned from this effort?

1. Never give up!
2. Even if your older relatives have died, don't neglect contacting your cousins! Even though they may not have been interested in their family history, they may possess information and/or documents that can help you with your own searching.

3. "Official records" – such as census, births, marriages, deaths, etc. – may contain errors. Therefore, don't just rely on one source, but check multiple sources to try to solve your riddles. If you uncover information that is inconsistent, it could be that one of your sources is in error.
4. If you can't find your own direct line ancestors, do searches for other families within the same towns, or possessing the same surnames. They may help you take down a brick or two.

Barry Halpern
(Boston)
1952-

Philip Halpern
(Visokidvor)
Born Faivelis Pitumas
1915-1966

Beryl Pitum
(Stoklishok)
1891-1941

Arie Lieb (aka Aron) Pitum
(Stoklishok)
1846-1938

Benjamin Pitum
(Stoklishok)
1812-1885

Leyba Pitum
(Stoklishol)
1786-ca1845

JGS of SW FL Video Archives

To access the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida video archive of past programs, visit the JGS of SW FL web site at www.jgsswf.org, and click on the blue box on the home page.

Welcome New Members

Judy Eisen
Leslie Eisenberg
Bruce Hadburg
Barry Halpern
Jeri and Richard Lipov
Deborah Marqua
Joni Steinberg

Save the Date: Sunday, April 16, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

JGS of SW FL Zoom Program
Getting the Most Out of Ancestry.com
by Donna Moughty

Word of the Day

genographic: of the use of genetics to study human migration over time

<https://www.definitions.net/definition/GENOGRAPHIC>

Brick Walls

Brick Wall by Douglas M. Cohen, dmc@dmcohen.com

1. When I was a boy, our insurance agent was a man named Philip Goldman; Phil was always referred to as a cousin – although with twenty years of work on genealogy, I have been unable to fit him into the family tree.
2. Phil died in 1972 at the age of 57; his tombstone lists him as Feivel ben Chaim.
3. My grandfather, Abraham Cohen, immigrated to the US in 1909 on the ship *Martha Washington*; with him on the ship were his brother and a man named Chaim Goldman, age 20, single; they were all from the town of Olik in Volhynia (Volin in Yiddish). I'm quite certain that this Chaim was Philip's father.
4. Chaim was headed to Boston to his brother, Jankel Goldman.
5. A man named Jankel (Jacob) Goldman was married to Freyda (Fannie); Freyda was my grandfather's first cousin – no question about that.
6. If Chaim (Hyman) was the brother of this Jacob, brother-in-law of my grandfather's first cousin, that's close enough for his son Philip to be called a cousin, and I can put this branch on the tree.
7. Chaim from the ship remained a friend of my grandfather's all his life; he was a guest at my grandparents' fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1956. Like my grandparents, he is buried in Hebrew Volin Cemetery in Massachusetts, a landsmanshaftn cemetery founded by emigrants from Volhynia.
8. His tombstone reads, "Chaim bar Beryl;" he was born in 1888, roughly twenty years before the 1909 immigration, which checks with his age on the manifest.
9. Jacob (the brother?) and Fannie Goldman are also buried there – his tombstone reads, "Jacov ben Shmuel."
10. Could they be brothers – sons of the same mother but different fathers? How could else could Phil Goldman the insurance agent be a cousin? How could I check this?

Another Brick Wall by Douglas M. Cohen, dmc@dmcohen.com

1. My great-great-grandmother, Toba Schwartz died in Boston on May 11, 1913, age 80. The death certificate lists her as "Tobi Schwartz" and the informant was her son-in-law Solomon Friedman. Her address is given as 90 Harrishof Street.
2. She was from Austria-Hungary; I cannot figure out when and how she got to the US.
3. She is not listed on the 1910 census at 90 Harrishof Street; she is not listed on the 1910 census at the home of the Friedmans; I cannot find her on the 1910 census at all as Tobi, Toba, Tovi, Tova or Tov? (wild card).
4. She had three children in Boston at the time, and she is not listed on the census with any one of them.
5. She had at least two children in Scranton, PA, at the time, but she is not listed with either of them.
6. I cannot imagine she came to the US in her late 70's by herself between 1910 and her death in 1913; she must have come earlier.
7. I cannot find an immigration record.
8. How and when did she get here?

Wonderful World of Websites

<https://cemetery.jewish.org.pl/list/>

Foundation for Documentation of Jewish Cemeteries in Poland

<https://sztetl.org.pl/en/advanced-search>

Polin Virtual Shtetl: Towns/People/Genealogy/Memory in Stone
(click one of the four links on the Polin Virtual Shtetl website)

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

Tsal Kaplun Foundation

(place to connect, study and preserve the cultural heritage of
Jewish communities in the former Soviet Republics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31IdUHAYIKw>

Discover Your Ancestors in City Directories

https://www.familysearch.org/en/surname?et_cid=1841011&et_rid=175317316&linkid=CTA&cid=em-sur-9617

Origins of Last Names

https://community.familysearch.org/s/workgroup/Workgroup_p_c/Recent?language=en_US

FamilySearch Groups to Join

https://community.familysearch.org/s/group/0F93A00000P_gS7SAK/general-questions?language=en_US

FamilySearch Ask a Question

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Directories

Family Search: United States Directories

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page

Family Search: Research Wiki

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Genealogy

Family Search: Germany

(click on links for “German Online Genealogy Records”
“German States Online Genealogy Records”
or “ Ask the Community”)

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland_Genealogy

Family Search: Poland

(click on links for “Poland Online Genealogy Records”
or “ Ask the FamilySearch Community”)

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Getting_started_in_FamilySearch_Community

Family Search: Getting Started in Family Search Community

<https://community.familysearch.org/s/group/0F93A00000LfvTSAK/how-to-use-familysearch-community>

Family Search: How to Use FamilySearch Community

(to join a group, click on “join group” box in upper right corner)

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Jewish_Search_Strategies

Family Search: Jewish Search Strategies

<https://forebears.io/surnames>

Surname Popularity

(global incidence, prevalent, density)

<https://www.theancestorhunt.com/newsletter-page.html>

The Ancestor Hunt
(bi-monthly newsletters)

<https://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/historic-jewish-american-newspapers-online#.X-6rEueIaUk>

Historical Jewish American Newspapers Online

<https://www.intelius.com/>

Intelius (search for people, telephone numbers, addresses, etc.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nc3jaCsNZ5s&fbclid=IwAR1gfUqN3LrH51A7_mP7oiOFGpKulbbdDPa_Gv42p731rHpgP3iyVNFoSv4

MyHeritage Tools by James Turner

<https://dbs.anumuseum.org.il/skn/en/c6/BH>

Museum of the Jewish People - Beit Hatfutsot
(links of interest to Jewish genealogists)

<https://www.familyecho.com/>

Family Echo (build a family tree)

- * Save your family tree for future access.
- * Add photos to bring your family to life.
- * Share and collaborate with invited relatives.
- * Download your family to your own computer.

https://www.ancestry.com/cs/recent-collections?o_xid=86963&o_lid=86963&o_sch=Email+Programs
Recently Added and Updated Collections on Ancestry

<https://www.ancestry.com/cs/jewishgen-all>

Jewish Family History Records on Ancestry.com

<https://www.ancestry.com/corporate/newsroom/press-releases/deborah-liu-named-chief-executive-officer-ancestry>
Deborah Liu Named Chief Executive Officer of Ancestry.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q04ZFfcvowM>

How to Attach Friends, Associates, and Neighbors
(aka FAN Club) to Your Ancestor on Ancestry.com

<https://www.cyndislist.com/jewish/professionals/>

Professional Jewish Genealogist Researchers

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-online-mind/202102/the-hidden-personal-cost-genealogy-websites>
Hidden Personal Cost of Genealogy Websites

<https://www.findmypast.com/blog/family-records/jewish-family-history>

How to Trace Jewish Roots
(link to start your family tree on this website)

<https://www.wikitree.com/>

WikiTree

(where genealogist collaborate)

<https://www.familytreenow.com/>

Family Tree Now

(research your genealogy for free)

German Jewish History

By Kim Sheintal

After welcoming everyone to the JGS of SW FL December Zoom program, I announced good news and bad news with regard to the presentation about the history of Germany. “Good news is that more people registered for this program ahead of time, more than any of our meetings. Bad news is that Howard Finkel, JGS Program Chair, received a notification late last evening that our speaker is ill and unable to present. We hope he gets better and wish him well. Good news is that there still will be a presentation about the history of the Jews of Germany given by me which I title *What I Learned about German Jewish History in Three Hours*. Thanks to determination and needing very little sleep, I prepared this presentation last evening from 9:00 p.m. until midnight. First, I will give a brief presentation about Jewish German History and then I will talk about tips for researching Jewish German roots. I have traced my Polish, Lithuanian, and Russian Jewish roots back hundreds of years. From researching my family from three different countries, I learned that many of the same strategies work for tracing Jewish roots whether from Poland, Lithuania, or Russia. I will give you these tips that should be very helpful in tracing Jewish roots from Germany or elsewhere.”

Not only did I learn about German Jewish history in those three hours; I learned that if you devote three hours of focused time while using lots of brain power and have a passion for Jewish genealogical research, you will discover a lot using Google and JewishGen.

In addition to preparing what I would say, I prepared a one-page handout as follows.

HOLOCAUST RESEARCH

[The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names](https://yvng.yadvashem.org/)

[JewishGen Holocaust Database](https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/holocaust/)

[JewishGen Yizkor Book Project](https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/holocaust/)

[JewishGen Yizkor Book Translations](https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/)

[Yizkor Book Availability](https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/translations.html)

<https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/collections/yizkor-books>

JEWISH GERMAN RESEARCH

[JewishGen KehilaLinks](https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/)

[Western Europe](https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/W_Europe.html)

[JewishGen German Research Division](https://www.jewishgen.org/GerSig/)

[JewishGen German Collection](https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Germany/)

[JewishGen German Discussion Group](https://www.jewishgen.org/gersig/TPL_Base.asp?id=11)

[Family Search](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/German_Jewish_Records)

[Germany: Jewish Family History Research Guide](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/German_Jewish_Records)

[Museums](https://www.cjh.org/pdfs/Germany.pdf)

<https://jewish-heritage-europe.eu/germany/museums-memorials-cultural-institutions/>

[Surnames in Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames](https://www.avotaynu.com/books/MenkNames.htm)

<https://www.avotaynu.com/books/MenkNames.htm>

CONTACTING OTHER PEOPLE

RESEARCHING SPECIFIC SURNAMES AND TOWNS

[JewishGen Family Finder](https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/)

<https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/>

GENEALOGY CONSULTATIONS

[Free 20-minute genealogy consultations by Family Search](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Online_Consultations)

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Online_Consultations

BOOKS, JOURNALS

[Avotaynu](https://www.avotaynu.com)

<https://www.avotaynu.com>

IAJGS 41st International Conference

The IAJGS 41st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, will take place in historic Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel. The conference will be more focused over a shorter time frame—now four days and nights from August 2 -5, 2021.

Registration will open on March 1. Early Bird full registration will be \$350; Partner/Spouse Early Bird full registration will be \$250. Speaker acceptances have gone out, and the program is scheduled to go public by the end of February. Hotel reservations will open in March.

While an in-person conference is anticipated, contingency plans are in place for any eventuality. The conference is more than six months away and the conference committee is working with local health guidelines to continue evaluating the conferences path.

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies is the umbrella group of more than 80 Jewish genealogical societies throughout the world. A list of members is at <https://www.iajgs.org/membership/member-societies/>.

IAJGS Welcomes Three New Member Societies

IAJGS welcomed three new member societies in June 2020: the Jewish Genealogical Society of New Zealand, Sociedad Genealogica Judia Colombiana (Colombia), and the Upper Valley Jewish Genealogy Society (New Hampshire). For a list of all of the IAJGS societies, go to the following on the IAJGS website: <https://www.iajgs.org/membership/member-societies/>

FamilySearch Family History Library

Launches New Webpage

<https://media.familysearch.org/familysearch-family-history-library-launches-new-webpage/>

“The new webpage enables guests to better access existing site services, such as visitor information, collections and hours of operations, and introduces many new and expanded services. For example, patrons worldwide can now schedule 20-minute appointments for free personal research consultations with a specialist. And book look-up services will be coming soon.”

Sharing Our Brick Walls

If you have a brick wall that you would like to post in “Sharing Our Brick Walls” in a future issue of Mishpochology, email your brick wall to Kim Sheintal at klapshein@aol.com.

It Was Just a Talk about the Jewish History of Sarasota-Manatee

It may have been just a talk for Kim Sheintal, but much happened because of this talk. First, here is some background as to how and why she was asked to give the talk.

In 2017, Kim drove to the Fort Myers Regional Library (75 miles south of her home in Sarasota) to present "Finding and Connecting with Jewish Cousins around the World" and Arthur Sissman drove to the Fort Myers Regional Library (45 miles north of his home in Naples) to attend Kim's lecture. Arthur is founder and organizer of the Jewish Genealogy SIG (Special Interest Group). In 2007, the group met once a month in Naples. Whereas, Arthur invited Kim to attend the meetings, Kim did not want to drive the 120 miles. In summer 2020, Arthur told Kim that the Jewish Genealogy SIG was now meeting via Zoom. Kim then began attending the Jewish Genealogy SIG.

In fall 2020, Yoram Millman, president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami who lives in Pinecrest (75 miles southeast of Naples), and Kim who lives in Sarasota (120 miles north of Naples) attended Arthur's Zoom. Kim mentioned that she wrote a book about the history of the Jews of Sarasota-Manatee. Yoram asked Kim if she would be interested in speaking for the Embracing Jewish Life series, sponsored by the JGS of Greater Miami for Temple Beth Am (a synagogue in Miami-Dade County), and Kim agreed to speak. On January 31, 2021, Kim presented a Zoom lecture about the Jewish history of Sarasota-Manatee for Temple Beth Am. Serendipitous things happened during Kim's Temple Beth Am lecture.

Jonathan Nelson enjoyed hearing Kim mention his mother Sarah Brameister Nelson. In her talk, Kim mentioned that Sarah moved from Palmetto in Manatee County to Miami after college to be in a bigger Jewish community. Jonathan announced that he is writing a book of short stories based on his mother's Palmetto memories. While chatting with the Temple Beth Am members during her presentation, Kim discovered that Jonathan's sister, Rachele Nelson, is the cantor at Temple Beth Am.

Julius Jackson, founder of the Alliance of Black and Jews, attended Kim's presentation and contacted her the next day to brainstorm with her for ideas for this alliance.

Paola Ferst, Kim's daughter's friend who lives in Sarasota, did a Google search for upcoming Jewish events, noticed Kim's event, and attended. Kim called her daughter to thank her for suggesting that Paola attend the talk. To Kim's surprise, her daughter did not tell Paola about the presentation. Of hundreds of talks about Jewish events happening in Florida that day, it is amazing that Paola chose Kim's talk which Paola had no idea was going to be given by her friend's mother.

Kim discovered that her sister's friend's sister, Judy Cowan, is immediate past president of Temple Beth Am Sisterhood.

Kim was surprised to see Ann Rabinowitz attending the talk. Kim told Ann during the presentation that earlier that day, she was looking at notes that Ann had sent her over 20 years ago about Kupishok Lithuania.

At the lecture, Yoram told Kim that the Beit Hatfutsot Museum in Israel might want details about the Jewish history of Sarasota-Manatee. On February 1, 2021, Yoram put Kim in touch with Haim Ghiuzeli, Director of the Databases Department at the Beit Hatfutsot Museum. On February 2, Kim discovered the names of all of the children of her ggg grandparents on the Beit Hatfutsot genealogy database!

So what was just supposed to be a talk for Kim to teach and entertain others turned out to teach and entertain Kim.

Another Way to Look at Genealogy – Process, Process, Process

The Jewish Genealogy SIG (Special Interest Group)

The JGSIG was started by Arthur Sissman, who has been doing Jewish genealogical research since 1999. Arthur is the founder and only organizer. The group has no membership dues and all meetings and workshops are free.

The JGSIG is also an affiliate group of the following organizations: Genealogy Society of Collier Co., Men's Cultural Alliance, Women's Cultural Alliance, and Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, and the Jewish Federation Lee and Charlotte Counties. Arthur also leads the DNA SIG for the Genealogy Society of Collier Co.

The Jewish Genealogy SIG meets on Zoom the 2nd Tuesday of each month (12 months/year) at 10-11:30 AM ET. If you are interested in being on the email list send an email to Arthur Sissman with your contact info and interest in joining the JGSIG to genresearch13@yahoo.com. Arthur will acknowledge and you will receive email announcing meetings and workshops.

The JGSIG also has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hellojewishgen>. On this site are posted articles/videos on the following topics from across the web: all Jewish genealogy topics, all DNA topics, article/videos of general interest on what, where, when, who, how of genealogy. The Facebook page is a public site, but visitors are encouraged to join and thereby get the info delivered to their email.

Topics of the meetings vary widely, but mostly focus on process in finding results in Jewish genealogy research. Process topics might involve any of the following:

- How do I turn on a computer?
- How can I make more effective use of the computer in my research?
- How do I manipulate XYZ website to maximize getting results?
- What is stevemorse.org and can it help me in my research?
- Should I test my DNA or not?
- Which website, company, software should I be using for what?
- Got my DNA results from XYZ matches, what does it all mean?
- Is there a system for trying to contact matches/possible relatives, to maximize returns?
- How to use the internet to maximize positive results for my research.
- What question do you need to answer.....?

Arthur also conducts workshops on specific topics that are usually 3 hours long. These workshops are usually limited to 10-15 people. Some of the topics might be:

- Floating Tree use on ancestry.com
- Using the JewishGen website - soup to nuts!
- How do I manipulate any of the following DNA websites: AncestryDNA, Family Tree DNA, 23&me, MyHeritage, GEDmatch (incl Tier1) - each is a separate workshop.
- How do I make a GEDcom and what can I do with it?
- How can I use the Family Tree Software 2019 better.
- How is Jewish DNA analysis different from all other DNA analysis (Mah Nishtanah!!)?