JEWISH GENEALOGY
Finding Your Jewish Roots

Presented to
Tampa JFS & JCC “JetSetters”
October 8, 2009
By William E. Israel
Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay
Getting Here!

[Map of Eastern Europe with cities labeled]

[Historical image of Jewish men in traditional clothing]

[Photograph of a ship with people on deck]

[Image of Ellis Island with a boat arriving]

[Photograph of a crowd of people at a port, possibly immigrants]

October 8, 2009 Jewish Genealogy Page 2
Genealogy - What and Why?

• To answer "Who am I? Where did I come from?"
• To strengthen family ties
• To learn about your medical inheritance
• To personalize history and geography
• To create a legacy for your descendants
• To create history, not just study it
• Some people have other reasons
• Genealogy - where forward progress is made by going backwards!
Jewish Genealogy is unique and often more difficult

- More than 5,000 years of history
- The Diaspora - Jews were scattered throughout much of their history
- Jews in the Diaspora often resisted civil authority and records
- Surnames were not commonly used until the early 1800s
- The Holocaust destroyed some sources of information (but not as much as you think!)
- Name changes and spelling variations
Myths about Jewish Genealogy

- My family name was changed at Ellis Island
- No one in my family knows about the past
- No one is left alive to tell me about my family's past
- All the records were destroyed in the Holocaust
- My town was wiped off the face of the map
When Did Jews Come to America?

• Three main migration periods
  – Colonial Period (1654-1838)
    • Fewer than 15,000
  – German Emigration (1838-80)
    • 250,000
  – Eastern European Emigration (1881-1924)
    • 2,000,000
  – Holocaust Survivors (1945-60)
    • 250,000
Your Roots - What do you know about your ancestors?

- Who was your earliest ancestor you know of?
- When did your first ancestors arrive in America?
- Which country did they come from?
- Which town or city did they come from?
- Which American port did they arrive at?
- Where did they settle after they arrived?
- Did they become citizens? When and Where?
How to Get Started - The Rules

1. Spelling NEVER counts!
2. Be patient - you have to dig through a lot of ore to find a nugget.
3. Start here & now first; then go there & then.
4. Family research never ends.
5. If you want it done right, do it yourself.
7. Don’t forget rule number 1!
Getting started - Where to Begin

- Start with yourself
- Fill out a *pedigree sheet*
- Work from the known to the unknown
- Search your house for documents and photos
- Interview older relatives (immediately!)
- If you are an older relative, write or record all you know about your family’s early origins.
Getting Started: Available Resources

• Family members’ records and photos
• U. S. Census Reports - 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930
• Naturalization Papers
• Social Security Death Index
• Ship’s manifests
• Probate records
• Vital Records - birth, marriage, death
# Ship’s Manifest – Albert Einstein

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>List</th>
<th>Name in Full</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Calling or occupation</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Race or people</th>
<th>Place of birth</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>City or town, State, Province or District</th>
<th>issued</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Ct. Brit. England</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>19 OCT 35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ship’s Manifest Gives Collateral Information

![Ship's Manifest Image]

Table: List of Alien Passengers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. in List</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>NATIVE OR ACQUIRED</th>
<th>NATIONALITY</th>
<th>LAST PERMANENT RESIDENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Schachman</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Kowno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Schachman</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Kowno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Schachman</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Kowno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td>Schachman</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Kowno</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![States Immigration Officer Image]

Table: States Immigration Officer at Port of Arrival

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. in List</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Whether going to join a relative or friend</th>
<th>Relationship to a resident of the United States</th>
<th>Condition of health, mental and physical</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Color of Eyes</th>
<th>Marks of Identification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Schachman</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>ph</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5'2</td>
<td>fr</td>
<td>blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Schachman</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>ph</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5'4</td>
<td>fr</td>
<td>blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Schachman</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>ph</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5'4</td>
<td>drk</td>
<td>blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td>Schachman</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>ph</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>5'4</td>
<td>drk</td>
<td>blue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Declaration of Intention:

Albert Einstein

1936
Probated Bequests

Fourth:— To the daughter of my late nephew Zoval Goldberg, who resides in Pruzany, Grodno, Poland, I will and bequeath the sum of One Hundred ($100.00) Dollars.

Fifth:— To my niece Filey Goldberg, who resides in Pruzany, Grodno, Poland, I will and bequeath the sum of Fifty ($50.00) Dollars.

Sixth:— To my niece, Feiga Ronya Kaplinsky, who resides in Zelvie, Grodno, Poland, sister-in-law of Joe Selaetz, of Bedford, Indiana, I will and bequeath the sum of One Hundred ($100.00) Dollars.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE OF ABODE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RELATION</th>
<th>HOME DATA</th>
<th>PERSONAL DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY</th>
<th>EMPLOYMENT</th>
<th>VETERAN</th>
<th>OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY</th>
<th>EMPLOYMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El Paso, Texas</td>
<td>Mark</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>White Male</td>
<td>Age 25</td>
<td>arbe</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jane</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>White Female</td>
<td>Age 23</td>
<td>arbe</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Steve</td>
<td>Brother</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>White Male</td>
<td>Age 21</td>
<td>arbe</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Sister</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>White Female</td>
<td>Age 18</td>
<td>arbe</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Jewish Genealogy**

October 8, 2009
Getting Started: Available Resources (cont.)

• Cemeteries – gravestones
• City Directories
• Synagogue records
• Genealogy Societies - National and Local
• Genealogy Conferences and Seminars
• Libraries - Largo Library & Tampa Main Library best in the area
• LDS Church Family History branch libraries
Gravestones reveal relationship

My Great Grandfather
My Great Great Grandmother
Getting Started: Available Resources (cont.)

- **Internet resources**
  - JewishGen
  - Family Tree of the Jewish People
  - One-Step Webpages by Stephen Morse
  - Cyndi’s List (of Jewish Resources)
  - Ancestry.com
  - Google Earth
  - Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

- **Specialized Genealogy Software Programs**
  - “Reunion” - Macintosh
  - “Family Tree Maker” - Windows
Getting Started: Useful Books and Journals

- “Finding Our Fathers” - Dan Rottenberg
- “From Generation to Generation” - Arthur Kurzweil
- “The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy” - Arthur Kurzweil and Miriam Weiner
- Avotaynu - The International Review of Jewish Genealogy
How I Found My Jewish Roots

• First Israel family reunion in 1980; now held every two years - 15 to-date
• Made mailing labels for all reunions - know everyone’s address
• Oldest living aunt outlined early ancestors at 1980 reunion - gave me a head start
• Published Israel Family Tree books
  – First edition in 1987
  – Revised in 1995
  – 3rd edition - hardbound 300 pages - 2001
Finding My Jewish Roots (cont.)

• 1993 - made first “Roots” trip to ancestral towns in Latvia, Lithuania & Belarus

• Published Family Tree on Internet in “Family Tree of the Jewish People” (FTJP)

• Wife published her family history book in 1998 for first ever family reunion

• Received Internet inquiries from other researchers from FTJP
  - Added 65 members to Sherman branch in 1999
  - Previously unknown branch in South Africa verified by DNA testing
Genealogy with DNA

Family Tree DNA

Certificate – Y-DNA

This Certificate confirms that you have had your DNA analyzed by Family Tree DNA. The outcome from each of the thirty-seven Loci examined is reported in the table below.

For your benefit we have listed the Locus designation for all thirty-seven Loci utilized by the geneticists supporting our company. If your alleles for the thirty-seven Loci match another person exactly, then you share the same Haplotype.

Family Tree DNA is a genealogical tool designed to aid individuals wanting to “connect” to other relatives lost in time and where the paper trail no longer exists.

William E. Israel

Your Kit # 129334

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locus</th>
<th>Allele</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DYS 393</td>
<td>12 25 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYS 390</td>
<td>10 17 18 11 16 10 13 13 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYS 19/394</td>
<td>426 388 439 389-1 392 389-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYS 391</td>
<td>11 6 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYS 385a</td>
<td>11 9 11 6 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYS 385b</td>
<td>11 9 11 6 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYS 426</td>
<td>11 9 11 6 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYS 388</td>
<td>11 9 11 6 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYS 439</td>
<td>11 9 11 6 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYS 389-1</td>
<td>11 9 11 6 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYS 392</td>
<td>11 9 11 6 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DYS 389-2</td>
<td>11 9 11 6 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

November 5, 2008

Matthew E. Kaplan
Finding My Jewish Roots (cont.)

- Returned for 2nd roots trip to Latvia & Lithuania in 2006 - had experienced guide, visited archives there.


- 8 days of intensive research with professional guidance at LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City in 1997 & again in 2001 & 2003 - 3 “degrees” in Mishpochology

- Established a “Cousins’ Club” E-Mail list with approximately 200 e-mail addresses

- “Israel Family Website” established in May 2008
BE IT KNOWN TO ALL THOSE PRESENT THAT

Bill Israel

HAS BEEN GRANTED A

Master of Mishpochology

by virtue of completing a course at the
tenth annual Jewish Genealogical Research Trip
to Salt Lake City
on this eleventh day of Cheshvan 5764
and qualifies for all the benefits
to which holders of this award are entitled

[Signatures]

Director, Institute for Advanced Mishpochology

Director, Institute for Advanced Mishpochology
Your past is waiting to be discovered! & you can help your grandchildren discover their past!

- Start with what you know -- work backwards from that. Everyone left a paper trail!
- New archival records are becoming available
- The Internet helps, but it’s not all there -- yet!
- Don’t believe everything you see or hear - some long cherished family stories are not quite true!
- Help is available - join a JGS
- Don’t put it off - the time to start is now!
Find Your Jewish Roots

• Your lost relatives are waiting to be found, and they want to find YOU!
• Everyone left a paper trail - yes, they did!
• One clue leads to another
• If it doesn’t make sense now, all the pieces will fall into place when you find the missing link
• Your relatives will love you for doing it
Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay (JGSTB)

- President – Bettylou Rosen
  1313 Woodstock
  Dr.Palm Harbor, FL 34684
  (727) 785-3041
  E-mail - brosen1316@yahoo.com
- Annual Dues - $25, payable to JGSTB
- Meets Monthly at GCJFS or Tampa Library

Let us help you find your Jewish roots!
HAPPY HUNTING!

My grandparents, Wolf and Ethel Streicher Israel
- Pioneers of the Israel family in America

October 8, 2009
May You Be Inscribed in the book of life for a Good Year

L’Shana Tova