

# Schlissel/Schlussel e-gazette #3

May 2003

## Pessach Meeting Enjoyed by All



About 50 Schli/ussels young and old gathered in the beautiful town of Bet Shemesh for a Pessach holiday event that featured an update on the status of "All Schlissels are Linked" and a performance featuring Biblical themes by pantomime artist Ofer Goren. Special thanks to Koby and Orly Schlissel (Ten Generations Branch) for their help in facilitating the gathering. And to Moshe Shlissel (Lieman-Schlussel Branch) for the use of the PowerPoint projector.

## Torah to Be Dedicated

As this newsletter was being readied for distribution it was learned that plans were being made to dedicate a Torah Scroll in memory of a Schlissel and a Schlissel descendant during the Succoth holiday. As this is such an important event, and to ensure that all the details are reported fully and correctly, a special newsletter will be devoted especially to it when plans are finalized.



*No matter which branch they belong to, they're adorable*

## Guide to Our Website: [www.Schlissel.org](http://www.Schlissel.org)

Within a few months after "All Schlissels are Linked" began it became clear that the only way the amount of information that was being collected could realistically be made available to all interested parties was via the Internet. However by the time the [www.Schlissel.org](http://www.Schlissel.org) became operational the amount of information was so voluminous that it seemed that only the most dedicated Net users would be ready to grapple with it. The Pessach gathering made clear how accurate that assumption was.

So this is a guide to the website content, or more specifically, the branches which are its heart. They represent 27 units of the Schlissel/Schlussel family. Seven are labeled "mini-branches" and contain info on two or three generations, with very little or no "width".

At the other end of the spectrum are the 5 "mega-branches" which contain a few hundred names each. The second-largest of the mega-branches is "Israel Mendel," with about 1000 names. The largest is "Ten Generations" with more than 1700!

In the middle are 14 branches that usually go back as far as 1880, some times a bit more, for which the link to the "mega-branches" has yet to be found.

## Schlussel - Not a Very Popular Name

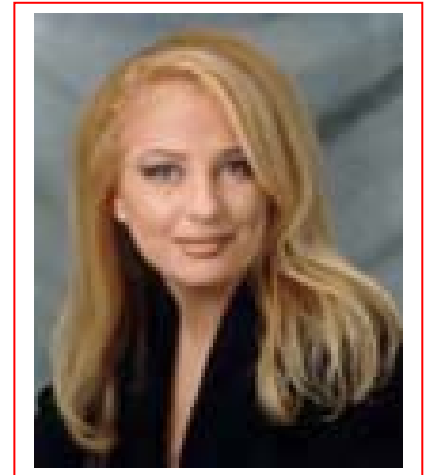
Someone who apparently likes to play with statistics analyzed the frequency of use of family names in the U.S. Surprise, surprise, Schlussel is not in the Top Ten. Nor 100. Nor 1000. It is, however, the 68,153rd most popular. (source: placenamed.com)

## So What is Popular?

Among male heads of Schli/ussel households Steve/Stephen is by far #1, with David, Edward and Mark tied for second. Somewhat surprisingly, not far behind is Leonard, with fellows by that name found in New York, Florida, California and Nevada.

## Who is Popular?

I don't know if she's popular, but Debbie (Detroit branch) is probably the most well-known Schlussel of our generation. An attorney by profession, Debbie is a media personality who appears most frequently when hot controversial topics are on the agenda. A profile that reflects her feisty spirit can be found at: [http://www.freep.com/entertainment/tvandradio/debbie\\_3\\_20030303.htm](http://www.freep.com/entertainment/tvandradio/debbie_3_20030303.htm)



## Where Do the U.S. Schli/ussels Live?

There are approximately 200 Schli/ussel households in the U.S. Where do they live?

New York	- 40%
Florida	- 13%
New Jersey	- 11%
Michigan	- 11%
California	- 10%
13 other states	- 15%
States with no Schlissels	- 32

## No Problem



*No problem with "i" or "u" in Hebrew*

## More Exotic

While a number of "American" Schlusssels live in Europe, the most "exotic" of all is undoubtedly Kenny Charles (Naftali branch) who for the last 2 years has been (slowly) traveling around the world. His latest reports are from Cambodia.

Anybody interested in receiving Kenny's travelogues, which are usually accompanied by National Geographic quality photos, should drop him a line. His email address says it all: [exquisitefreedom@yahoo.com](mailto:exquisitefreedom@yahoo.com)



*Photo of long-necked woman at work by KennyCharless Schlusssel*

## Spotlight on Ten Generations

Laibush and Alexander Zecil, estimated period of birth ca. 1780, are the first known Schlusssels.

**The Laibush "side"** - Laibush's great grandson David was the Rabbinical Judge of Munkacz (Hungary) and in the introduction to the books he authored he traced his lineage back to Yoska HaKadosh (the Holy One), who cried out "Shema Yisrael" while being burned at the stake (in 1757) due to a blood libel and a resulting decree by Countess Tarnowski.

David had a large family. Many were victims of the Holocaust, but others survived and are today found in Israel, the U.S. and England.

From Wunder's Encyclopedia of Galician Sages we learn that David's grandfather, Nuta Shlomo, married a granddaughter of Rabbi Akiva Eger. It was the determination of Dan Klapper (Teaneck), some genealogy provided by Beyla Granovsky (Jerusalem), and records at Yad VaShem that allowed us to link another entire branch to the "Laibush" side of Ten Generations.

**The Alexander Zecil "side"** – Alexander Zecil had at least two sons. Abraham is one. We know of the second because of "another" David Schlusssel who, in the Tarnobrzeg/Dzikow Memorial Book, recounts a number of stories about interactions between his grandfather (without giving his name) and Rabbi Meyer Horowitz. David's father Yehuda was married twice – with his first wife (Sara) he had four children, but we have almost no information about them. With his wife Lea he had 3 children, and a majority of their descendants live in Israel.

Abraham seems to have had 7 children – 4 sons and 3 daughters. The sons were Laibush, Shimon, Yisrael Matus and Naftali, the daughters Zelda (married name Segal) Tova (married name Katz) and Chana (or Chaya) about whom almost nothing is known. Many years ago, I interviewed the elders of my clan (Laibush). During the course of "All Schlissels are Linked" individuals were "discovered" who had fully developed branches for Shimon (Tracy Makow) and Yisael Matus (Chaim Feldman "led" to Hentscha Hazan and her daughter Naomi Kingsley.)



**Studying Ten Generations**  
*A printout is more than 70 pages, and is 9 meters wide*

**The Enigma** – Tracy, Henscha and I all recorded the existence of a brother Naftali, but none of us had any details. On the other hand, there is a "mega-branch" Naftali whose estimated year of birth would be appropriate for a sibling to Laibush, Shimon and Yisroel Matus, but as of this writing we still do not have the proof. But with the help of Ruth Klein (Toronto), her father Vivian Oster (London) and Solomon Schlusel (Boro Park) perhaps we will prevail.

## Some Comments on Branch Affiliation from the Israeli Perspective

This item must begin with a reminder that statistics do not always present a "true" picture.

There are about 40 listings for Schlissels in Israel's telephone directories. About one half are affiliated with Ten Generations. Most of the remainder belong to Lieman-Schlusel, Eshet, and YaakovRamla (which are essentially the only branches that are "all Israel") and Kobloshov (which is a "transglobal" branch).

Mega-Branch Pessach has quite a large presence in Israel, but none carry the Schlusel name. (Even Lenny, who divides his time between England and Israel, is a Keyes).

Most interesting (at least to the author) are the branches/megabranches that are barely represented (numerically) in Israel. Beryl, Detroit, and Larimi have only one member (Joan Schlusel Hillel, Talia Mishori, and Zehava Groff respectively). Naftali, a mega-branch of more than 300 names, is also represented by only 1 person (who, like its Patriarch, is Naftali). And perhaps most surprisingly, Israel Mendel, a mega branch with on the order of 1000 names is represented by only 2 (wonderful) people Abbie Shrank and Todd Miller

There are only four branches with no absolutely no representation at all in Israel (that we know of) – Judge Abraham, LeeMark, Phyl Ed, and VStein.

## Proud of Damian

### USAFE announces 2002 security forces individual winners

**Released: Nov. 25, 2002**

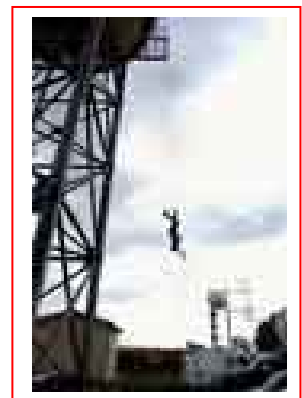
Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe recently announced the 2002 Security Forces Individual Award winners, which include:

Outstanding Security Forces Company Grade Officer: Capt. Damian Schlusel, 31st Security Forces Squadron, Aviano Air Base, Germany

What USAFE didn't know is that Damian is from Ten Generations branch, descendant of Shimon, (and son of Neil)



**AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy (USAFENS)** -- Capt. Damian Schlusel (above) and as he rappels head first -- "commando style" -- down a 90-foot water tower while training here. A member of the 31st Security Forces Squadron, Schlusel leads the wing's anti-terrorist force protection program. The training teaches new team members key tactics they may one day have to use in a crisis. (Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Reed)



More Damian action photos <http://www.af.mil/news/Jan2003/13103103.shtml>

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