

*The 27th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy
is coming to Salt Lake City this July 15-20.
Speakers will be coming from around the world — Page 2*



ATSMI UVSARI
“MY BONE AND MY FLESH”

עצמי ובשרי

Issue #16

Winter/Spring 2007

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Speakers From Around the World Are Coming to Salt Lake City

Nearly 100 speakers are scheduled for approximately 200 lectures at this year's 27th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Visit <http://slc2007.org/> for more information.

European Archivists

Gerhard Buck of Idstein, Germany

The Way Back to Jewish Ancestors in Germany in the 17th Century, will demonstrate how to overcome research obstacles back to renewal of Jewish life after the Thirty Years' War in 1648. This will include the Standesamtsregister from 1874, and other resources, and a history of name changes.

Hubert Steiner of Vienna, Austria

Nazi-era and post-war records at the Austrian Federal Archives, will explore records and files of this repository and the work of the Historians Commission in using

the Federal Archives material.

Dr. Ingo Zechner of Vienna, Austria

Rebuilding the Archive of the Jewish Community of Vienna. In 2000, community researchers found a vacant apartment filled with documents in cabinets and 800 cartons. The documents included 500,000 Holocaust-era pages of reports, letters, emigration and financial documents. He will address the challenge of rebuilding an archive, efforts to preserve, organize, and categorize materials.

Julius Muller of Prague, Czech Republic

Jewish Census Records 1724-1811 and Jewish Vital Records, 1788-1949, Bohemia and Moravia. The first program demonstrates the content of the Jewish Census of 1724, 1783, and 1811, while the second illustrates the obligation of Jewish communities to keep vital records and the National Archives collections of some 4,000 books available to family researchers and historians.

(Continued on page 3)

Spoiled by the Internet?

by Nancy Ring Kendrick of Port Orange, Florida

As I check my daily email from JewishGen, I find it interesting the number of posts that ask the question, "Are these records available online?" It also triggers the thought of how spoiled genealogists have become with access to millions upon millions of online historic records through this wonderful resource called the World Wide Web. I too am one of the spoiled ones!

Years ago, I used to travel to libraries in Orlando, Florida, (a 60 minute drive, pending traffic), libraries in the Jacksonville area (90 minutes or more drive), and visit the local Family History Center searching for something, anything, that was documentation of my BLOCH, KWASNY, and RING ancestors. I did this an average of three times a month when time allowed. Now I don't. Therefore, I only have myself to blame for not breaking through my brick walls. Are you guilty of the same?

Many in this world have become so programmed to looking it up on the Internet, no matter what the subject, they forget about all the other important resources for genealogy research. Not to mention, there is nothing better than scanning microfilm and hitting gold. This may be the case with many of you, with the exception of those with handicaps, etc., who really do not have the ability to get away from the computer.

(Continued on page 5)

(Conference Speakers, Continued from page 2)

Israeli Speakers

Meliza Amity of Neve Monosson is a member of the PhpGedView development team, presenting *PhpGedView (PGV) and Jewish Genealogy*.

Alexander Avraham of Jerusalem has headed the Yad Vashem names computerization project since 1991. *Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names - present achievements and new directions*.

Rose Feldman of Tel Aviv will present two programs, *Military resources in Eretz Israel for the genealogical sleuth* and *The 1839 Montefiore Census of Eretz Israel*.

Haim Ghiuzeli of Tel Aviv is director of the Internet and databases department of Beth Hatefutsoth-Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv. *A Tool for an Innovative Approach to Jewish Genealogy* presents the museum's new comprehensive computer system.

Michael Goldstein of Jerusalem is a professional genealogist who researches, mentors, lectures, and conducts workshops in Israel and North America, and guides North Americans in locating/connecting with Israeli family. *To Be Found in Zion: A Wealth of World Jewish Records*.

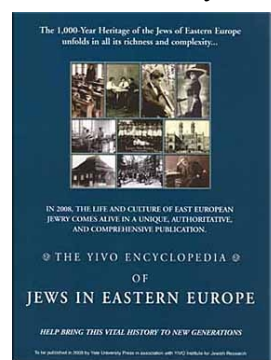
Currently in development, **The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe**. Projected for publication in 2008, this multi-volume encyclopedia will "explore Jewish life in all its variety and complexity." With both print and electronic versions planned, the geographic boundaries covered will include the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, covering people, places, and events from the earliest Jewish settlements until the year 2000.

More information about the encyclopedia is available on the YIVO web site, where you can also download PDF versions of several sample entries.
<http://www.yivoinstitute.org/publications/index.php?tid=109&aid=269>



Israel Pickholtz of Elazar created the Pikholtz Project, a single-surname project to identify and reconnect descendants of all East Galician Pikholtz families. *Keeping Track of Given Names in Large Family Databases and Single-Surname Research Projects*.

Mathilde Tagger of Jerusalem is co-author of The Guidebook for Sephardic and Oriental Genealogical Sources in Israel. *Military Genealogy: Algerian Jews in the French Army* provides a history of Algeria's Jews and the resources for relevant information. *Sephardic Genealogical Sources in Israel - New Findings* focuses on Sephardic document language diversity, archival acquisitions, and Jerusalem Sephardic Council computerized archives.



Press Release: Utah Death Certificates Now Online

18 January 2007

250,000+ certificates from 1905 to 1954 linked with index and images

Salt Lake City - FamilySearch, in conjunction with the Genealogical Society of Utah and the Utah State Archives and Records Service, announced today that the state's free online index to death certificates is now linked to original images of the historic documents. The integration of the index with free digital pictures of the death certificates issued from 1905 to 1954 by the state will open doors to additional information for family historians and genealogists with Utah ties. To search the index and view the certificates, users need to go to <http://historyresearch.utah.gov/indexes/index.html>.

The online index to 250,000+ Utah deaths was created by the State Office of Vital Records and Statistics and has searchable information limited to the name of the deceased person, their date of death, sex, and where they died. The Utah State Archives turned to FamilySearch to help them get the digital images online. FamilySearch digitized the images and provided the technology to link the images of the certificates to the state's online index. The linking process was completed in just a few weeks — incredibly fast for a project of this nature and magnitude. The names of Utah's deceased are now very much alive, searchable, and viewable online — and for free.

"There is so much more information of family history importance that can be found on the certificate itself," said Glen Fairclough, processing and reference archivist for the Utah State Archives. Before making the certificates viewable online, Fairclough said patrons had to order copies through the mail for a fee or visit the state archives office in person.

"The value of viewing the image of the original death certificate is that it saves you time, money, and provides rich genealogy data for the family historian," said Paul Nauta, manager of public affairs for FamilySearch. Captured on a death certificate are the names and birth places of the deceased person's parents, place and date of the decedent's birth, marital status, occupation, permanent residence, place and date of burial, time of death, chief cause and contributory factors of death, and if applicable, where illness was contracted and the duration of the illness.

“The value of viewing the image of the original death certificate is that it saves you time, money, and provides rich genealogy data for the family historian.”

The user merely needs to type in an ancestor's name that died in Utah between 1905 to 1954, and they will be directed to a brief summary of the ancestor's death certificate with a link to view the original image. Users need to simply click on the certificate image to see a larger, high quality view of the original death certificate.

New Members

Two new members joined us at our last meeting. Welcome Alan Bachman and Charity Samowitz.

Also, congratulations to the newest member of our board, Mark Kleinfeld, who is filling the position of Treasurer.

A New Trend For Family Rights

Many family trees contain a child born after its father's death. But how do you explain a child born five years after the father's death?

It's a curious scenario for future genealogists, and any genealogy program will complain that it is an error, but in this case, it won't be.

Israeli soldier Keivin Cohen was killed in 2002 in the Gaza Strip. His parents had his sperm extracted after his death, but the hospital refused to release it to them, saying that only a spouse could make such a request. He left no will, but his family and friends said that it had always been his wish to have children. After a four-year court battle, the Cohens finally won the rights to their son's sperm this January. One woman, out of two hundred volunteers, was chosen. The Cohens may have lost a child, but they may still get a grandchild from him.

Updates to JRI-Poland

Two new search fields have been added to the JRI-Poland. Now available, are Year Range and Record Types searches, so users can search for just births, marriages, deaths, divorces, or burials, and only during the time-span they are interested in. However, Stanley Diamond, Executive Director adds a word of caution. "Some events, particularly births, may have been registered a number of years after they took place." So keep that in mind when using the Year Range option.

It is recommended that you start with a broad search. Sometimes searching by a specific town name may not bring up all results for that town, or your relatives may have lived and/or registered in a nearby town. Begin with a broad search using only the surname and the gubernia. Then, if you have too many results, begin to narrow it down by year range, type of record, and/or town name.

(Spoiled?, Continued from page 2)

For those who think the World Wide Web is your only resource for genealogy records, remember, you are wrong. And you are limiting your chances of discovery! The Internet is only one way to search. It should be used in *combination* with other forms of resources, such as your local library, the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration in your area, the Family History Center, and so many, many, more! For those of you not in the United States, challenge yourself to learn what facilities in your area offer genealogy records to meet your needs. Then, use them!

For many reading this, Spring is just around the corner! Get out and away from your computer and, when possible, commit at least four hours each month to genealogy research away from the Internet. Then, take what you learn and use the World Wide Web resources such as JewishGen, JRI-Poland, and the thousands of other records online and proceed.

Remember, the World Wide Web is only one luxurious research option among thousands to assist you in your goals! It should be used as just that, one source of research, not the *only* resource.

Good luck to all!

Nancy Ring Kendrick grew up in Adams, NY and moved to Florida in 1979. She works as an administrative assistant for the International Speedway Corporation.

Nancy began her genealogy research in 1998 with a gift of genealogy software from her husband, and keeps a research diary on the Family Tree Maker web site. She also authors and maintains an "Adams, NY History and Genealogy" web site at <http://www.adamsny.org/adams.html>.

This article first appeared on the JewishGen Listserv, March 10, 2007. Reprinted by permission.

Országunk (Our Country)

Jeráchmiél Schwarcz (Schwarcz Béla) is a survivor of the Hungarian Jewish Military Forced Labor battalions during World War II. He wrote this poem on his 95th birthday in 1998. He has a book of poems, published in 2000, in Hungarian and Hebrew, as well as a diary of his years as a forced labor battalion slave. They are entitled Szàntottam, Vetettem az idegen földet (I ploughed and sowed the foreign soil), and Én is húztam a szekeret (I too pulled the cart).

Most of the poems were composed during World War II. Uncle Béla, now 103, is still active in his garden in Israel.

Our Country

A tiny country,
a door in the world
to which people
come in wonder.

They can't believe
that it is possible
that after two thousand years
a people came home.

Though it was written
in our holy books
whose name is
the five books of Moses,

That the time would come
when we would return here
and that on the ancestral land
we would build a new home.

Országunk

Egy kicsinyke ország
Kis pontya a világnak
Amelyhez a népek
Csodálkozni járnak

Nem akarják hinni,
Hogy ez lehetséges
Kétezer év után
Egy nép hazatérjen

Pedig meg volt írva
A mi szent könyvünkben,
Aminek a neve a
Mózes öt könyve,

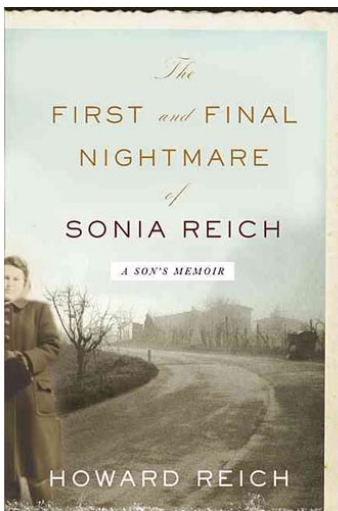
Hogy eljön az idő
ide visszatérjünk
és az ősi földön
új Hazát építünk.

The First and Final Nightmare of Sonia Reich: A Son's Memoir

By Howard Reich

Review by Lane Fischer, Ph.D.

Howard Reich is the well-known jazz critic that writes for the Chicago Tribune. Both of his parents, Robert and Sonia, survived the Holocaust and immigrated to the United States where they met, married, and began a seemingly normal life. Howard had no outside reference point to understand that his mother's habit of staying awake all night peering out the front window and repeatedly checking the door's locks was atypical. The fact that, as a child, he was never out of the sight of an adult seemed natural. The Holocaust was hardly mentioned and the connection between the Shoah and his parents' approach to life was oblique at best.



Howard's father died of cancer on February 16, 1991. After the shock and mourning, Sonia settled into a quirky widowhood but seemed to be coping adequately. On February 16, 2001, exactly ten years after the loss of her companion, Sonia ran out of her house in the middle of the night, walked the streets of Skokie, and was picked up by police claiming that someone was in her house threatening to kill her. When checks of the house revealed no intruders, Sonia was eventually taken to the local hospital where she continued to claim that she heard a voice in the house saying, "I'm going to put a bullet in your head." After two

weeks of ups and downs in and out of the hospital, Sonia was diagnosed with a delusional disorder and auditory hallucinations.

Sonia refused to take the medication prescribed by her psychiatrists. Her behavior became more bizarre and she was unable to care for herself. She would claim that food was raw or was crawling with bugs. She would sit in her chair by her bedside and refuse to lie down in the bed. She would claim that orderlies touched her private parts or that she was being held captive in a warehouse. She would hoard food in little bags and always wore a fanny pack with food and supplies for a quick getaway.

She seemed to be suffering from a psychotic disorder with delusions, hallucinations, and paranoid ideation.

Only when Howard was transferring her from one care facility to another did the connection between Sonia's childhood and her current state come into focus. She claimed that the staff members were calling her a dirty Jew and that they wanted to take her to Wisconsin to work on a farm. At that moment, Howard remembered his mother's vague reports of

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(A Son's Memoir, Continued from page 7)

working for local farmers, hiding in the barns, being fed rotting scraps, and frequently running away into the forest to escape. He saw that the content of his mother's delusions might be tied to her childhood experience. Eventually he would learn from distant relatives that once, while trying to feed a Russian prisoner, a German soldier caught Sonia and threatened to put a bullet through her head.

As Howard searched for solutions to his mother's condition, he eventually met with Dr. David Rosenberg who diagnosed Sonia with late onset Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Only having heard of PTSD in Vietnam veterans, Howard was stunned. He questioned, "How could you live almost all of your life before getting PTSD?"

Dr. Rosenberg responded:

PTSD can have a late onset, too. There's an obvious connection in her condition, between delayed reactions and earlier events... Your mother is in a paranoid state. Paranoia can be disabling, but it also can be seen as an important defensive posture. Paranoia holds people together. In your mother, it is a defense posture and is reflected in the mistrust she learned in a hurry when she was on her own. Whether it ever went away, I doubt it. When it is in its full malignant blossom, my sense is that it reemerges... When people have tremendous trauma, like your mother, they simply never forget. She is in the thrall of old memories and old defenses.

Howard began to research delayed-onset PTSD in Holocaust survivors. He returned to his mother's home in Dubno, Poland to try to understand his mother's experience. By

interviewing eyewitnesses and distant family members, he pieced together bits of what she survived, all of which were consistent with the content of her current delusions and hallucinations. Even the bits were horrifying.

Now, Howard visits his mother regularly in the nursing home where she sits, ready to run at a moment's notice. He concluded "A Son's Memoir" saying,

As some time has passed, I have come to savor these visits, saddened by her state but awed by her heroism in standing up to the horrors she believes she is facing, once again, late in life. She had spent decades shielding me and my sister from the events of her frightening past, and I now feel oddly grateful that she spared me until I finally was ready to face them, deep into middle age, although that silence took its toll.

For the first time in my life, perhaps, I love my mother for who she really is, a woman whose steadfastness as a child saved her life and eventually gave life to me and so many others, a hero who to this day wants nothing more than to live, and to protect the lives of those she loves.

I highly recommend this book, which shows the reader the deep undercurrents that lie beneath survivors' coping strategies. It reminds me of Art Spiegelman's *Maus* where his father hoards pieces of wire. It is consistent with the reports of the children of the Holocaust in The Last Eyewitnesses. The complete loss of normal grounding in childhood during the war years left an entire generation coping with insidious gnawing often unconscious memories. It is a poignant account of a mother and son's love. It's all about family. Atsmi Uvsari.

“...she spent decades shielding me and my sister from the events of her frightening past...”

President's Message

by Robert Neu, UJGS President

The Icelandic Review Online of February 9, 2007 purports the story of an Icelander (i.e., a person with Icelandic ancestry) who challenged that all people from the island (300,000) were related, when her brother told her that her boyfriend was a relation. Well, it was true. They share a 7great-grandmother going back only to 1742. The information is available on the web site, <http://www.islendingabok.is/>. It contains 720,000 names, or 95% of the present Icelandic population, mainly starting with the data of the first census of 1703 and subsequent data.

Of course, it is also known that Icelanders are statistically descendants of the small group that came from Norway in 874.

What about ancestry of Eastern Jewish Ancestry? The only one I am slightly familiar with is Hungarian Jewry. Historically, the Hungarian Jewish community started settling in the country for the last time in the late 1690s and early 1700s after the Turks were expelled.

The 1735 Jewish census lists about 2500 families, 11,600 individuals, and it is estimated that 50% of the 950,000 Jews of what has been Greater Hungary (Hungary, Burgenland, Slovakia, Transylvania, etc.) alive just before WWII are descendants of this group, the other half having come mainly from Galicia (then Austria) after 1825. Now obviously those Jews of 1735 were related themselves, especially when you consider that the great majority lived in the counties of Trenscen, Nyitra, Pozsony, Moson, Sopron, and Vas that border Moravia and Austria.

What does it mean? Simply that about half the Hungarian Jews are related to each other, though unfortunately there are not sufficient

records to substantiate it. There are hints, as my father and mother are not the only couple with their last names from the same area of Hungary to ever have married.

Furthermore, in the same way, it is considered that statistically all Englishmen share King John (early 13th century) on their family tree, and that all Western European (whatever limits you give it) can claim Carolus Magnus (early 9th century) as their ancestor.

In the same vein, any Jew with European ancestry (which includes most of those from North Africa, Greece, etc. as they have pre-Inquisition Jewish Spanish ancestry) more than likely have Maimonides, Rashi, and other Middle Age Jews as ancestors, as long as these have a progeny (and obviously some did or we wouldn't be here.)

It also probably means that all Europeans have some Jewish lineage, and Jews have some non-Jewish progenitors. (Otherwise all Jews would have the same Y-DNA, and no more than 3 mt-DNA.)

What's the point? We are all related and there is no need to go back to Noah, Abraham, Jacob, or Hillel. We all have ancestors, good and bad, rich and poor, wise and foolish, famous and infamous, proud and humble.

While in earlier times, in many cases, the purpose of genealogical research (and in some cases it still is the case) was to establish a "pedigree." Such is not the purpose, hopefully, of your and my research today, but to extend a hand of worldwide fellowship and understanding that goes beyond religion and proven relationships.

Jewish Cemetery Database for Greater Boston Area Is Online

The Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts (JCAM) web site contains a searchable database of more than 50,000 names listing every Jew buried in the Greater Boston area. Each search provides the name of the deceased, cemetery name and location, date of death, and the location within the cemetery. Also on the web site is JCAM's Jewish Cemeteries Guidebook, containing maps and directions to cemeteries as well as educational sections including the meanings of symbols on gravestones and *End-of-Life and Beyond: What Does Judaism Say?* JCAM was founded in 1984, caring for 17 cemeteries at the time, five of which were abandoned. Today, they own and operate 101 of the 209 Jewish cemeteries in the state. The search page is located at <http://www.jcam.org/Pages/Services/Search/search.php>.

Letter to the Editor

Congratulations on an excellent edition! I'm sure everyone else in the UJGS will join me in thanking you for taking on the job of editing *Atsmi Uvsari*. By now, you know what a huge job it is. As founding editor, I am thrilled that the newsletter I helped to create has such continuing life and vitality. I especially enjoyed the article on Columbus' DNA, as this has been one of my own ongoing interests, and in light of the fact that I am currently living in Santo Domingo, not ten miles from the huge museum/lighthouse where the Dominicans claim he's interred.



Columbus Lighthouse, Santo Domingo (Don Fallick)

I found the newsletter useful and interesting. Thanks for all your hard work. It shows!

Don Fallick

Zip Tip

by Marelynn Zipser

The Family History Library in SLC is providing a FREE consultation and translation service on the B1 (international) floor. This service is being tested to determine if it can be used in all reference areas of the Library. You may register for a one hour session with a professional genealogist to help determine place of origin, name changes, record jurisdictions, using records, etc. Translation of genealogical and historically important information (but not word for word) is included, BUT you need to come prepared with pertinent pedigree charts, paper copies of letters, photos, vital records, and research logs to show what you have looked at. Your consultant will provide printouts and instructions about what to do next. Note: Hebrew is NOT one of the languages available.

Because it is in test mode, you must register in person at the B1 reference desk. You must provide your name, address, phone number, and email address (in case staff needs to cancel, and for follow-up and feedback).

Mark Your Calendar: UJGS Meetings

The Schedule for the remainder of 2007 is May 15, July 10, September 18, and November 13. We meet at 7 PM at Congregation Kol Ami. The address can be found on our web site, <http://ujgs.org/>.

In My Hands: Memoirs of a Holocaust Rescuer

By Irene Gut Opdyke

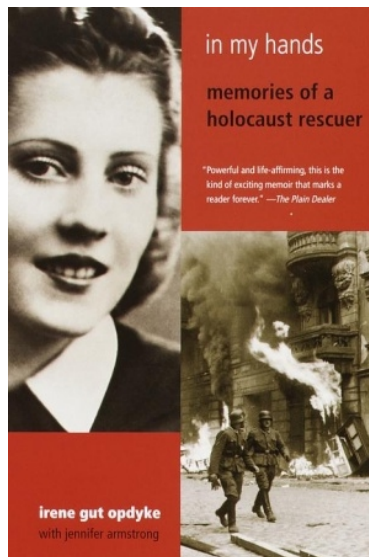
Review by Lane Fischer, Ph.D.

Irene Gut Opdyke was a baby in Kozenice, Poland. Her house sat by the river. One morning she toddled to the water's edge and would have fallen into the river had the family dog, Myszka, not taken notice. Irene reported:

Then Myszka sank her teeth into my diaper and began tugging backward. Stubbornly, I tried to crawl forward to stare again into the water, but the dog would not let go. She also could not bark, so this tug-of-war went on for several minutes as I inched my way closer and closer to the edge. Then, the silent voice that speaks in mothers' ears whispered to my mamusia. She looked out the window, and with a shriek she sped outside. "Irena!" Gasping, she snatched me from the water's edge Myszka collapsed on the ground, wagging her tail, as Mamusia praised and thanked her. For several days, our heroic dog was the talk of Kozenice. Neighbors, friends, members of our church - one by one they stopped to marvel at little Myszka and stroke my baby face. The Rabbi from Kozenice's synagogue came by to bless us both, and our priest took Mamusia's hand in both of his. "God has plans for your daughter, Pani Gutowna. We must watch to see what little Irenka does."

At age 17, Irene was thrust into the war and innocently fulfilled God's plan for her by snatching Jews from the brink by using her wits and sacrificing her own body to keep them alive. Irene was eventually named as one of the Righteous Among the Nations and was awarded Israel's Medal of Honor. Irene did not start out to be a righteous savior. She was a young

nursing student moved by compassion who just tried to do what was right. Zygmunt Bauman's Modernity and the Holocaust posited that, while evil was socially determined, morality was idiosyncratic. It was individual choice to do what was moral in the face of socially determined evil that shaped heroes such as Irene.



On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. While the antiquated army fought the Germans in the West, the Russians invaded from the east. After hiding in the woods with other nurses and soldiers, Irene was captured by the Russians. The soldiers beat her unconscious and then raped her. Another attempted rape by a Russian doctor resulted in Irene's miraculous return to her family on the German side of the eastern front. Eventually a German officer, Major Rugemer, conscripted Irene to work as a cook and server in a dining hall. There she saw the Glinice ghetto and witnessed the first murders of Jews over the fence next to her kitchen.

Irene reported that the day after the killings, "I was so confused and heartsick that I could barely speak. I went about my duties with deadness of a machine. My skin prickled constantly throughout the day, as though the presence of the ghetto beyond the hotel was making itself known to me. I had to do something." She did. She began to smuggle food under the ghetto fence through a hole that she dug in the alleyway. Although the ubiquitous posters and radio announcements warned, "Whoever helps a Jew shall be

(Continued on page 12)

(In My Hands, Continued from page 11)

punished by death," and she knew that the food was a drop in the ocean, she had to do something. Each step of doing something required more daring, creativity, and sacrifice.

When the Germans moved, they carried their conscripts with them. Major Rugemer took Irene to a new hotel and dining hall attached to another ghetto that furnished Jewish slave labor. Here Irene met her new Jewish friends who worked in the laundry. When some of her friends escaped to the forest, she began smuggling food to them. When Major Rugemer took residence in an abandoned villa, he took Irene to cook and clean in his personal home. The guards around the Major's home assumed that Irene was the Major's young mistress. When an *aktion* liquidated the ghetto, Irene first hid her friends in the air duct above a toilet in the hotel and then smuggled them into the Major's basement. Eventually, the Major discovered the presence of Jews living in his home. Perhaps he had no real thirst for Jewish blood, perhaps the public discovery of Jews in the Major's house would have destroyed him politically, certainly he finally had the leverage he needed to obtain his real desire. His contract was simple, the Jews

could stay if Irene would indeed service him as his mistress. With fear and shame, she did.

Eventually the Russian army pushed the Germans out of Poland. As the Major fled with the army, he left Irene behind.

**“Irene was eventually
named as one of the
Righteous Among the
Nations...”**

"Is this all right with you?" he asked. "Fine. Thank you," I whispered. I turned to look at him. He was haggard. Anxiety had drawn deep lines from the corners of his mouth, and one of his eyelids was twitching from fatigue. In spite of everything, I felt grateful to him; he had helped

me save many lives. I was already forgiving him for what he had put me through. I put a hand on his arm and kissed him on the cheek. "Thank you," I repeated.

In My Hands is a fascinating memoir that includes a picture of some of the rescued women surrounding Major Rugemer after the war. The women smile broadly, snuggle into him as he grins an old man's grin. It is the most disorienting picture in the book. It transcends simple constructs of good and evil and speaks to a complex connection between all people. Irene knew that, at some level, we are all family and that in the face of evil, we must do something. Atsmi Uvsari.

Congressman Chris Cannon to Address "Federal Family History and Professional Genealogy Issues"

The Salt Lake Utah Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) is pleased to announce U.S. Congressman Chris Cannon as the featured speaker for their April meeting. It will be held Friday, April 13, 2007, at 12:00 noon, on the Tenth Floor of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. The public and the professional genealogy community are invited to attend. Congressman Cannon will address questions and concerns regarding family history and professional genealogy: Restricted access to federal records and inadequate funding of the National Archives and other records centers throughout the country; Identity theft and privacy of personal information; and Development of Utah's professional genealogy economic assets that are an integral part of legal, scientific, family health history, pharmaceutical, medical, ancestral research, and studies. We look forward to hearing Utah's senior Congressman's views on these important subjects. For information about APG, please visit our web site at <http://www.slcapg.com/> or contact Chapter President, James W. Petty, AG, CG, Toll Free (800) 570-4049.

UJGS Meeting Minutes 16 January 2007

by Rochelle Kaplan

Attendees:

Rochelle Kaplan, Gerald Jacobs, Mary Ann Jacobs, Mark Kleinfeld, Banai Feldstein, Ruth Stone, Dick Stone, Miriam Hall-Hansen, Wilma Odell, Lane Fischer, Robert Neu, Perry Woolsey, Mercedes Woolsey, Daniel Schlyter

- 1) November minutes accepted as amended.
- 2) Announcement: Nancy Goldberg Hilton (formerly Nancy Goodstein) has updated the database of Jewish Records at the FHL, *Nechama's List*. Her project covers the period from January 2001 through November 2006. It consists of almost 700 new specifically Jewish records recently added to the Family History Library Catalog.
- 3) Lane distributed copies of *A Homeland in the West*, which he bought at low cost at BYU, to those who had ordered them.
- 4) Suggestions for boosting our membership include:
 - a) Coverage in local newspapers. Wilma will contact J. Ravitz of the Tribune and give her Rochelle's contact info for further info. Rochelle will contact the Deseret News. The Tribune contact and Wilma have played phone-tag so far.
 - b) Contacting Hillel and Chabad.
 - c) Mary Ann Jacobs, I think, suggested contacting the Church News.
 - d) Gauging interest among 6th-7th graders at the McGillis School, or Park City's Har Shalom Sunday School.

- e) Wilma suggested gauging interest in B'nai Brith Girls and/or AZA boys.
- f) Mary Ann Jacobs has contacts in Ogden.
- g) Targeted ads in the SLC Jewish Community.
- h) Banai and Daniel talked about how to tie in UT genealogy search and our web site.

Updates as of 7 February 2007:

- a) Rochelle contacted the Temple Har Shalom administrator who expressed opinion that once the new synagogue was constructed, a genealogy course would be feasible.
 - b) Rochelle and Lane will likely speak on Jewish genealogy at the Sunday Schmooze of Kol Ami on April 15. Rochelle is meeting Rabbi Tracee Rosen to discuss this next week. Likely Kol Ami will sponsor an ad for the IAJGS Convention. UJGS meetings are advertised in the Kol Ami bulletin.
 - c) Rochelle spoke with the JCC administrator. The JCC will start putting a recurring ad for the UJGS meetings in its bulletins/newsletters. Rochelle sent a blurb to the gentleman who handles this. The JCC summer issue will also advertise the IAJGS Convention.
- 5) Members reviewed their goals of 2006 and noted successes; we stated our 2007 goals.

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(*Minutes, Continued from page 13*)

- a) Mary Ann and Gerald found one more family line. In 2007, they hope to find Gerald's great-grandfather from Prussia.
 - b) Mark Kleinfield reaffirmed his 2006 goals for 2007.
 - c) The Woolseys' goal for 2006 was to help Mercedes speak more fluently, after her illness. They have reduced the number of weekly speech therapy sessions. They wish in 2007 to find another family name change; they already have Spitzer and Hegesy but suspect another name change.
 - d) Banai hopes to read more, learn more history, and do more transcribing. She hopes to organize what she's already finished and make the info available on her web site.
 - e) The Stones are researching a first cousin in California and hope to get more info on a grandmother.
 - f) Miriam hopes to update new info on her computer.
 - g) Wilma hopes to learn more about deciphering handwriting from Marelynn.
 - h) Rochelle in 2006 did find the missing Weinberg sisters and did find out more about the Lubovs, and was able to make some new Lubov connections. She helped transcribe marriage certificates for Italian Genealogical Group. She failed to locate a Lipson descendant or to find more info on the Schreckinger line. In 2007, she hopes to meet a very distant cousin in South Africa related to her Zaks line, to have a researcher help her find possible connections in Grodno between Lebowsky/Lubov and Karolin families, to explore more of Utah's Jewish history, and to prepare for the hospitality portion of the IAJGS conference. She hopes to complete a shtetl web page for Kraziai, Lithuania (with the help of a colleague), to do some scanning work at the FHL for JRI-Poland (re: Sambor) and for the Stephen Morse web site pages (re: NYC Census). And she hopes to photograph the graves of the SLC Jewish Cemeteries and give this info to JOWBR.
 - i) Lane hopes to hire Banai to help him go through Polish records and to meet relatives in Chicago.
 - j) Robert hopes to do more Hungarian research and tie in info about a rabbi.
- 6) Updates about the IAJGS Conference: Rochelle summarized her work in updating the Jewish History page and current places of interest in SLC and Utah and in organizing a self-guided walking tour with the Utah State Historical Society.
 - 7) We watched a film, *Forests of Valor: Following in the Footsteps of Jewish Partisans* (1989). An Israeli film crew filmed inside the USSR, in former Lithuania. The crew visited the remains of Jewish towns and followed the footsteps of the Jewish underground during WWII, with escape routes through the sewage canals of Vilna and reenactments of the escape of Jewish prisoners from the North Fort near Vilna.
 - 8) Next meeting Tuesday, March 20. Agenda will be: update on IAJGS conference, Rochelle will present either on Utah's Jewish history (a preview of upcoming IAJGS conference talk) or on new website on Kraziai.

Ancestry.com Access Ceases at Family History Library and Centers Worldwide

For many years, Ancestry.com has provided free access to patrons of family history centers around the world. Ancestry has informed the Church that as of April 1, 2007, it will discontinue this free access to the full Ancestry.com service.

Free access through Ancestry.com to the following databases will continue:

1. Index and images for the 1880, 1900, and 1920 U.S. censuses
2. Full name indices for the British 1841-1891 censuses (England and Wales)
3. World War I draft cards indices as created and miscellaneous other databases

Free access is likely to be discontinued for the remainder of the Ancestry.com databases including:

1. Index and images for the 1930 U.S. census
2. Index and images for the 1901 British census (England, Scotland, and Wales)

At this point, Ancestry.com is not offering an option for family history centers to independently purchase commercial or library site licenses. Patrons, of course, may choose to subscribe directly to Ancestry.com.

Free access to online databases is important and we therefore intend to add many new databases to FamilySearch.org (the web site of the Mormon Family History Library). Much of the data preparation will be accomplished through the online indexing program available at FamilySearchIndexing.org. We encourage you to visit the web site to learn more.

Volunteers have already begun indexing the 1900 U.S. census and other projects. Other censuses and vital record collections will be indexed as soon as the 1900 U.S. census project is completed. The more volunteers that participate, the sooner access can be provided. Since access to databases on FamilySearch.org is free to all, we anticipate that this will be of great interest to individuals around the world. We are also exploring opportunities to provide broader access to additional databases from other online service providers.

Please inform patrons regarding our plans to provide access to records and invite them to help by participating in the FamilySearch Indexing projects. We will communicate as more information becomes available. Thank you for all that you do on behalf of our patrons.

Atsmi Uvsari My Bone & My Flesh

Is published quarterly by the Utah Jewish Genealogical Society. This newsletter is distributed to UJGS members and other IAJGS member organizations and can also be downloaded from our web site at <http://ujgs.org/>. The information in our newsletter can be used freely for all academic and other non-profit purposes.

We strive for accuracy, but cannot be responsible for unintentional errors. Views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of Atsmi Uvsari or the Utah Jewish Genealogical Society.

We welcome comments, submissions, and questions. Send them via email to our President, Robert Neu, at roneu1@yahoo.com or our Editor, Banai Lynn Feldstein, at banai@feldstein.info.

What Happens in Vegas... Doesn't Necessarily Stay in Vegas Anymore

"What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas" is a well-known slogan for Las Vegas, Nevada, suggesting that, while in Las Vegas, anything can happen and no one will ever know. A multitude of wedding chapels makes it easy to get married instantly at any hour of the day or night. Accordingly, it is almost as easy to get a divorce in Nevada.

However, not everything that happens in Vegas is going to stay there anymore. Ancestry.com recently added to their databases Nevada marriages from 1956-2005 and divorces from 1968-2005.

Five New York Cemeteries Online

The final New York metro area cemetery web site in a series of five is online. Mount Judah Cemetery in Ridgewood joins Mount Carmel in Ridgewood, Mount Hebron in Flushing, Mount Zion in Maspeth (all in Queens), and Mount Ararat in Lindenhurst, Suffolk.

All five of the sites make the same information available, including hours and directions, interment search, daily interments, and scheduled unveilings. Mount Carmel is the only cemetery that does not have the *About Us* link in its main menu, that page accessible only from the home page. The history of each cemetery is given on the *About Us* page, as well as some of the more well-known interments for three, Mount Carmel, Mount Judah, and Mount Zion. Each cemetery also makes available a grounds map in PDF format.

The web site addresses are as follows:

<http://www.mountararatcemetery.com/>
<http://www.mountcarmelcemetery.com/>
<http://www.mounthebroncemetery.com/>
<http://www.mountjudah.com/>
<http://www.mountzioncemetery.com/>

Message from the Editor

Somewhere along the line we must have missed an issue, because the Fall issue came out just in time for Winter. I have renamed the season of this issue to coincide with the equinox to which it is scheduled to be issued, instead of to the season that has just ended.

Also, our copyright notice has changed significantly, especially since our old notice contradicted itself. IAJGS member societies may still reprint articles for free, but permission must be requested first. This insures that writers will be informed before their articles are reprinted (and can make any changes if they desire), the articles can be reprinted correctly and in their entirety, and that if *we* have obtained permission to print any articles that may not be reprinted again, that they are not reprinted.

Thank you for your cooperation, and thank you for reading our newsletter. Enjoy!

Banai Lynn Feldstein
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Who We Are

The Utah Jewish Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization which provides a forum and assistance to members researching their Jewish ancestors. Our goal is to bring together all Utahns interested in pursuing their Jewish genealogy, regardless of faith.

UJGS meets bi-monthly at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month at Congregation Kol Ami in Salt Lake City, Utah.