

*This issue has Part 1 of Utah's Jewish History series
and several articles about the
27th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy!*



ATSMI UVSARI

“MY BONE AND MY FLESH”

עצמי ובשרי

Issue #17

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I Survived the IAJGS Conference

By Rochelle Kaplan

Now that the conference is over, I am glad I took on the task of hospitality chair. The conference broke even, even after costs rose. Hospitality desk volunteers enjoyed themselves and did a great job. Volunteers included folks from the Utah chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women and some of their spouses, the UJGS, conference participants from California and Kentucky, and my eighty-seven year old mother from Brooklyn, NY. Questions posed to the volunteers involved items lost and found (with one overwhelmed participant losing at least one item daily), where were the best and closest places to eat, securing kosher food, best places to amuse a child, conference changes, and banquet seating. The desk sold CDs, conference bags, syllabi, and daily planners. We awarded door prizes daily, including some expensive prizes donated by Ron Arons and the Salt Lake Visitors and Convention Bureau and one of a kind jeweled key rings made by local Rakella Richardson. Guests scooped up information on the city and surrounding areas supplied by the Salt Lake Visitors Center and the City Weekly and grabbed copies of the *Self-Guided Downtown Jewish Walking Tour* that I designed with

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My Thoughts About the IAJGS Conference

By Robert Neu

This was the first annual conference in Salt Lake City since the formation of our society, so for some of our members, it was their first conference. We probably appeared bigger than we are since we were joined by volunteers from Congregation Kol Ami and the National Council of Jewish Women. We wish to express our thanks to all our volunteers. We hope that it was a mutually rewarding experience.

Also, as a result, we were spoken about in both the Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News. Hopefully this will result in new interest in our society. We can always use new members, and will try to encourage membership by running an introduction to Jewish Genealogy seminar. So start to talk about it to your family and circle of friends.

I once gave a presentation which I entitled *The Past is a Work in Progress*. The link from past to present to future is **us**, meaning each of **you**. Furthermore, it is not an automatic link. How vibrant it will be is entirely up to you. We all

wish our parents, grandparents, or whoever would have left some more information about their time and family. Think of future generations, whether they will be directly related to you or not. It has been said that most Jewish people know that they have Abraham, Jacob, or whomever in their family, but probably don't know about their great-great-grandfather, and must resort to general information to get a feel of the time and places of those who lived before us.

That is what it is all about, and what you learn at conferences like the IAJGS. It is finding out what records do exist, how to read a tombstone, learning where a shtetl is, finding research done by others, and many other things.

Above all, it's getting to know other people with similar interests, and especially if you are Jewish, people who are possibly related to you, and sometimes reuniting with close relatives you did not know had survived the Holocaust. Being Jewish is not **just** a religion, it is a cultural heritage, in many cases an ethnicity, if not quite an extended family, something you ought to be proud of.

Next year in Chicago...

IAJGS Board Report on the Salt Lake City Conference

By Anne Feder Lee, IAJGS President

As always, those attending the annual international conference had to make difficult choices from among a great many activities: from inspiring and knowledgeable speakers, SIG and BOF luncheons/meetings, watching films, socializing, to doing research at the Family History Library. Here are a few highlights:

There was a great photo exhibit called *Lives Remembered*: Photographs of a Small Town in Poland 1895-1939 put together by Mike Marvins from numerous pictures that Marvin's grandfather, Zalman Kaplan, took as the photographer in Szczuczyn from 1895-1939.

Paul Shapiro, of USHMM, gave an extremely moving opening ceremony speech about his years of work that have led to the opening of the ITS archives at Bad Arolsen.

Dan Rottenberg, author of the first guidebook on Jewish genealogy research, *Finding Our Fathers*, spoke at the banquet and wowed us all by announcing that he was relinquishing his copyright to the part of his book with the alphabetical list of family names with information on each entry. I'm sure it will be available on the Web before too long.

The banquet festivities also included the awarding of the 2007 IAJGS Lifetime Achievement to Mathilde Tagger of Israel for her many years of Sephardic research and the 2007 IAJGS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print, or Electronic Product to Lars

Menk for his remarkable book, *Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames*.

At the IAJGS annual meeting, Alexander Avraham, on behalf of Yad Vashem, presented a certificate to Donald Hirschhorn of the JGS of Palm Beach County, in recognition of his activism, dedication, and outstanding volunteerism as coordinator for the Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project. The IAJGS member organizations approved the granting of the 2007 Stern Award of \$2000 to the US

Holocaust Memorial Museum to be used for its upcoming project to index materials it receives from the International Tracing Service (ITS). The Board announced that, in the future, the name will be changed from Stern Award to Malcolm Stern Grant to clarify that it is for a proposed project. Jan Meisels Allen gave an excellent report on the activities of the Public Records Access Monitoring Committee. A

bylaws amendment was passed adding the following language to IAJGS Objectives: "To promote public access to genealogically relevant records." The following officers were re-elected: Anne Feder Lee, President; Michael Brenner, Vice President; Joel Spector, Secretary; and Mike Posnick, Treasurer. Consensus was reached on creating a new IAJGS committee for Strategic Planning. Member organizations were encouraged to submit posters for our Jewish Genealogy Month competition (see <http://iajgs.org/> for more).

The IAJGS Management Seminar on Fundraising and Grant-writing for Non-profits, with presentations by Ron Arons and Shelly Weiner, was excellent and included much practical information. All IAJGS member organizations received a CD with their power-point presentations.

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I Volunteered for What?

By Banai Lynn Feldstein

I don't know what got into me. In late 2006, I suddenly found myself volunteering for things that I never would have considered previously. In fact, I rarely, if ever, volunteered for anything. First, I volunteered to coordinate the Resource Room at the 2007 IAJGS Conference, then it was compiling and editing the UJGS newsletter, and that was just the genealogy-related things.

It didn't take long to finally realize what I'd gotten myself into: a lot more than I had planned. But I never regretted my decision and had a terrific time running the Resource Room.

I spent a lot of time in the Resource Room at the Las Vegas conference in 2005 and thought that I was volunteering to run that kind of room. Imagine my surprise to hear that the resource room and the computer room were going to be together in one room for my conference.

I had a lot of help along the way. Mark Heckman was recruited to handle most of the computer issues; he even organized some computer volunteers at the last minute. Shelly Weiner, the coordinator for the

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(Board Report, continued from page 3)

At our preview of the Chicago 2008 conference, we announced that some of the special items will include lunch kiosks, free wi-fi in attendees' guest rooms, free use of the hotel health club, and the possibility of cooking classes given by the hotel chef... The Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel, the location of the conference, is in a wonderful location, has a spacious lobby, and a fantastic pastry chef. The room rate is: single and double \$199 (excluding taxes) and an additional person is \$30 (excluding taxes). There will be a special focus on Jews in the Midwest, Jews in Latin America, and immigration to the US via Canada, as well as many other sessions. The hotel is offering a special bonus of a free week for a conference attendee — details of how the winner will be selected will be announced as soon as they are finalized. Those who want to get a head start on research possibilities in Chicago are urged to go to Mike Karsen's excellent web site: <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago/>. A Google search for

“Jewish Chicago” will also lead to many interesting items. Mark your calendars now: August 17-22, 2008.

No words can express our thanks to all the wonderful volunteers under the able direction of conference co-chairs Michael Brenner and Hal Bookbinder. A sincere thanks to: The Generations Network for sponsoring the Ancestry.com Resource Room; to the Family History Library for providing extended hours

“No words can express our thanks to all the wonderful volunteers under the able direction of conference co-chairs Michael Brenner and Hal Bookbinder.”

for attendees, speakers, and special maps for the resource room; and to Genzyme for a substantial educational grant and for sending Gary Frohlich to share important information on Ashkenazi genetic diseases, particularly Gaucher Disease. Thanks also for support from Harvey

Krueger, Alan Rinsler, Rochelle Kaplan, E. Randol and Pamela Schoenberg, Marty Mazner, Bob Spinner, the Center for Jewish History, the Czech Torah project, Jossey-Bass publishers, The Jacob Rader Marcus Center, Congregation Kol Ami of Salt Lake City, JGSs, SIGs, individuals, and many vendors.

(I Survived, Continued from page 2)

help from the Utah State Historical Archives. Some folks stopped by to tell us excitedly about genealogical discoveries they made while researching at the Family History Library. Others wanted a closer look at posters made of early Utah life pertaining to Jewish history here, which surrounded the hospitality tables and which were subsequently donated to Congregation Kol Ami. Binders supplied to the volunteers included information on places of interest to visit, places to eat and/or buy food, items for sale, lost and found and door prize procedures, local synagogues, and planning for a Utah summer. One of my duties was to compile the syllabus' last portion on Utah's Jewish History, information about local synagogues (both active and defunct), Jewish cemeteries, organizations and resources, and things to do in the city and state. An abridged version of this appeared on the conference website.

Volunteers reported loving the films they saw and enjoyed mingling with conference participants. One volunteer ran into a friend from childhood she hadn't seen in over fifty years! Another shared information on his ancestor whom I had researched in preparation for my talk on Utah's Jewish History.

The conference keynote speaker, Paul Shapiro, spoke emotionally about his long efforts to open the International Tracing Service Records to researchers and got a standing ovation for his efforts. I was too busy and nervous at hospitality to attend films or talks, although I did hear Ron Arons' talk on his criminal ancestors and Diane Freilich on using Court and Probate Records. I viewed the heartbreaking exhibit, *Lives Remembered? Photographs of a Small Town in Poland 1895-1939*, the work of Zalman Kaplan, the town photographer of Szczuczyn, Poland, and I perused the well-stocked vendors' section and resource room. The Latvian and Litvak luncheon talks about

personal visits to the countries were moving and informative. The banquet was the first I'd ever attended at a conference, the food delicious. Dan Rottenberg gave an inspirational talk about how far genealogy has come since he wrote *Finding Our Fathers* thirty years ago, and the local group *Desert Wind* enthusiastically performed music at the reception and during the banquet.

Daniel Schlyter, our webmaster, presented an intriguing Jewish Genealogical Jeopardy session and gave a talk on locating places in Eastern Europe. He also helped the conference obtain rare maps from the Family History Library and worked with the FHL staff to offer special sessions at the library. Maryann and Gerald Jacobs, before they left the country, worked with the FHL to ensure that top IAIGS officials and visiting European and Israeli archivists got to visit the rarely-accessed vaults and get a special tour. Banai Feldstein, our newsletter editor, ably handled the responsibilities of resource room. Local historian Eileen Hallet Stone presented on Clarion, the failed Jewish agricultural experiment in Gunnison, Utah and then volunteered to give a local tour to two of the session's attendees. I presented on Utah's Jewish History, subtitled, *Utah; Jews Lived There?* This was my first genealogical talk at an international conference and I prepared for it for the past year, researching at the Utah State Historical Society and the Marriott Library, interviewing old-timers, amassing and reading relevant books. What a journey! I took a Powerpoint class and then hired the instructor to help me do what I wanted, like add music or make one image come from another.

In summary, it was an amazing, exhausting experience. It will be nice to go to Chicago next summer and be merely an attendee. I have new appreciation for the work that goes into producing a conference of this magnitude, almost all of it done by volunteers.

Utah's Jewish History, Part 1

By Rochelle Kaplan

Solomon Carvalho Jewish artist and explorer

Among the first Jewish adventurers to spend time in Utah was South Carolina-born Solomon Nunes Carvalho, who, as the official photographer and artist, accompanied Colonel John Fremont on his 1853-1854 expedition from Missouri across the Rocky Mountains. A fire later destroyed most of Carvalho's plates and prints, but his journal chronicles the trip. Fremont's group, lean and exhausted after a winter in the Wasatch Mountains, stumbled into the Mormon community of Parowan, where residents nursed Carvalho back to health. The artist then traveled to Salt Lake City where he befriended and painted portraits of Brigham Young and other prominent citizens. Carvalho only hints at his Judaism in his journal:



Solomon Nunes Carvalho

He describes a porcupine with its quills burned off, "leaving a thick, hard skin, very like that of a hog. The meat was white, but very fat, it looked very much like pork. My stomach revolted at it, and I sat hungry around our mess, looking at my comrades enjoying it."

"The habits of the horse and mule are clean; their food consists of grass and grain; but I was satisfied that my body could receive no benefit from eating the flesh of an animal that lived on carrion."

"The blood I never partook of."

Carvalho, in 1869, was living in Manhattan, NY, with two businesses listed in a directory, one for photography and the other for steam-heating systems, for which he held several patents.

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Message from the Editor

I take full responsibility for this dual-season issue. Previously, we somehow lost a season before I was in charge. However, this one's my fault. I volunteered to run the Resource Room at the IAJGS Conference this year and just as the Summer issue should have been put together, I was at my busiest coordinating for the conference. Well, my busiest outside of the actual week of the conference anyway.

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

Banai Lynn Feldstein
banai@feldstein.info

(Utah's Jewish History, Continued from page 6)

Jews migrate West Beginning in the mid-1850s

Perhaps spurred on by Carvalho's account and those of other pioneers, Jews migrated to the West. Lured by adventure, religious and personal freedom, and economic opportunity, some people traveled overland from Independence, Missouri, the gateway across the Plains, to the West. Others took ships south along the Atlantic Coast, around Cape Horn to the Pacific Ocean, and then north to San Francisco. Still others went along the Atlantic Coast to Panama, trekked across the jungle to the Pacific, and then booked passage to San Francisco. (There was no Panama Canal then). There they joined wagon trains headed to Utah.

Jews who took the overland route included Solomon Carvalho, Julius and Fanny Brooks, Nicholas and Eli Ransohoff, Abraham and Adam Kuhn, Gumpert Goldberg, and Meyer Cohn. Among Jews who took the all water route around South America were Abraham Watters, Aaron Greenwald, and Charles Popper. Jews who took the Panama route included the Auerbach brothers, Moses Hirschman, and Ichel Watters. Except for Carvalho, all the others put down roots in Utah. Jews, at various times, lived in Alta, Bingham, Brigham City, Castledale, Corinne, Echo, Eureka, Gunnison, Logan, Ogden, Ophir, Park City, Provo, Richfield, Salt Lake City, Silver City, Silver Reef, Tooele, and Vernal. Because Brigham Young long felt the only suitable vocation for Mormons was agriculture, business opportunities opened for Jews and other Gentiles (non-Mormons).

A February 1865 article in *The Hebrew*, one of several Jewish newspapers published in America, mentioned twenty Jewish men and two families living in Salt Lake City who did good business there and closed their stores for the High Holidays. A letter to the same paper in October 1865 noted that Fred Auerbach, J. M.

Ellis, and Max Wehlgemuth called for a meeting of Israelites in August, and shortly thereafter, the community bought prayer books, a Torah, and Talisim. Brigham Young offered free use of a hall for religious services. During Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, fifty Jews attended services, including some from Bozeman in Montana Territory, some 350 miles to the north. In October 1865, seven Jewish families lived in Salt Lake City.

Frederick Auerbach and his brothers Samuel and Theodore, from Prussia, established dry goods and clothing shops in mining towns in California in the 1850s, and moved to Great Salt Lake City, as it was then known, in 1863. Frederick Auerbach found a store location with the help of Brigham Young. Theodore Auerbach, after his divorce, moved to New York City. Auerbach's expanded operations with stores in Corinne, Ogden, and Salt Lake City. An 1876 ad for the store mentioned zephyrs (light weight clothing) and that new invention, the automatic umbrella, among the items for sale. The Auerbach brothers' business, by 1883, reached \$500,000 in sales and real estate. The Salt Lake department store, one of the largest in the West, closed only in 1977.



**Auerbach's
Store,
Earlier and
Later Views**



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(I Volunteered, Continued from page 4)

Las Vegas Resource Room, was able to provide some guidance and suggestions from what she learned that year. Rochelle Kaplan offered to provide a prodigious number of books from her personal genealogy library. Mike Brenner made several suggestions about a variety of things, including who to contact for several resources. Hal Bookbinder and Daniel Schlyter were involved in obtaining the maps from the Family History Library and the Library of Congress.

Leading up to July, I traded emails with several people to procure access to various databases. I had some trouble with one person who couldn't figure out *how* to give us access to her database, but Pamela Weisberger came to the rescue with a contact in the company. In the end, I had secured access to five subscription web sites; Ancestry was already taken care of, as they had donated some money to the conference and were even sending their own representatives for the week. (I later found out we were also naming the room for them.) Days before the conference, I even got a call from one of those people in England about setting up the access — she was going home for the day and it was only 10am in Utah. Funny, I had not thought of reading her emails with a British accent in my head before that call.

After several meetings over seven months, I arrived in July at the now familiar hotel to begin setting up for the week. After trading room layouts a few times with our hotel liaison, I found the room set up nothing like how I had envisioned it. Mark was already setting up the computers and had moved all the tables, but not even from my layout plan. In the end, his setup worked out beautifully. He even managed to have an extra computer due to his setup of two computers per table, which I quickly claimed for the USHMM database access.

Rochelle brought a few boxes of books and the

maps arrived from the FHL on Saturday. Susana Leistner Bloch and Jonathan Ridgeway helped with setting up the books and the impromptu bookshelves. I made a run to the City Library for about 30 more books. Daniel Schlyter arrived in the evening to help with the maps — the finding aids were still not all prepared. He and Judi Missel organized and marked the finding aid for the Austrian set until midnight. Judi was an enormous help all week, staying until late at night (or early in the morning) to help me improve our efficiency each day.

“...Thank you again for your help. I never would have had a chance to provide such great resources to the conference without all of you.”

Sunday morning, I stopped for a few more supplies, some munchies, and headed in. Vera Finberg was my first scheduled volunteer to arrive, but almost everything was ready. I called Christine Ritchotte, a good friend of mine who I had talked into volunteering, to bring lunch for

some of us. Arnold Lieberman showed up a day early and quickly took command of the maps for the entire week. Ilene Murray arrived, then we finally opened the room to the public.

I had a terrific group of volunteers to help me run the room, including locals who put in at least twelve hours each: Margarita Choquette, Jackie Daniels, Arnold Lieberman, Bryce Rogers; more local help from Cathy Dern, Denise and Mark Kleinfeld, and Christine Ritchotte; lots of conference attendees: Vera Finberg, Judi Missel, Ilene Murray, Donna Russell-Snyder, Joel Sisitsky, Natalie Tannenbaum, Debbie Etzion Wang, and Shelly Weiner; and UJGS and committee members Robert Neu and Marelynn Zipser who answered my call of desperation when the computer sign-ups required two more volunteers in my room. Thank you again to all of you.

Translators were listed on the white board outside the room and were well received. I had recruited Margarita Choquette from the FHL to

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(I Volunteered, Continued from page 8)

help out in the room. I envisioned her helping at the main desk, but she just translated Russian all week; when she wasn't at the conference, she was doing the same at the FHL. Bryce Rogers, another local full-time volunteer, did quite a bit of German translating. Gerhard Buck of Idstein, Germany, one of the European archivists brought in by the IAJGS, eventually found his way to the Resource Room and also did some translating on several days. (All the archivists were supposed to do translations, but unfortunately nobody told them where to go.) Other translators included locals Rebecca Fleischman and Louise Lindorf, and conference attendees Tom Fox, Alexandra Goldberg, Michael Goldstein, Sara Mages, Israel Pickholtz, and Nicki Russler.

Sunday was chaotic, all of us learning what was going on and how to handle the crowd of attendees. The FHL was closed, as were many stores and restaurants, so everyone came to the Resource Room. Vera and Ilene were both great charges of the room, and constantly sent me out into the crowd to help with computer troubleshooting and translations. At first, I didn't like to be bossed around in "my room," but it was actually a great thing that they did for me. As a control freak, they took away my control, and it allowed me to more easily leave the room in other people's capable hands for the remainder of the week.

By Sunday night, we knew what needed to be done to run the room more efficiently, and worked on it until we got it right. Computer and other sign-ups were devised, charts were printed, computers were setup with programs for use with certain web sites and the special conference home page that I created, and I got home around 3am. Each night all week was spent improving operations, but Sunday was definitely the latest.

The rest of the week was not quite as hectic as Sunday, with the conference lectures, film

room, and the FHL open. We never quite reached a level of chaos again until after the big fire when everyone just rushed back into the room. Well, maybe it was just a fire *alarm*. I never even made it out the door of the room before everyone started coming back in saying it was a false alarm.

I did not leave the Resource Room much to see the rest of the conference, even when things were calm and volunteers were aplenty. I just hadn't delved into the schedule, so I stuck around helping with the usual computer troubleshooting and translations. Fortunately for me, a lot of attendees came into the room and I got to meet several people that I'd traded emails with previously or had heard of through various genealogy web sites over the years. I did escape from the room a few times for lunches, a visit to the hospitality/vendor room, a few lectures, and a film. On one occasion, I returned to find a brand new computer sign-up method was devised by Jackie, Ilene, and Allen Ginzburg (a computer volunteer), which worked out quite well for the remaining days of the week.

Clearly, I had only volunteered to *coordinate* the Resource Room, where I thought I was supposed to *run* it. None of it would have happened without the help and support of so many people. I did not even mention everyone who volunteered their time or resources to the room, but thank you again for your help. I never would have had a chance to provide such great resources to the conference without all of you.

I believe it was Friday night when Marilyn Brenner asked me if I'd ever volunteer again. Even then, my answer was "Absolutely!" It was hard work, tested my patience when things didn't work out smoothly (which earned me the title of "Mistress of Patience" from Mark), chaotic, and hectic, but in the end, it was absolutely worth it. I look forward to wearing the volunteer ribbon again at future conferences, but sometimes with a little less responsibility. A girl needs *some* time off to relax.

President's Message: Who Are You?

By Robert Neu, UJGS President

Yes, of course you have a name, for most of us, a known mother and hopefully father. Does this defines **YOU**?

Does your place of birth, where you spent your childhood, where you went to school, the education you received, the way your parents raised you, with or without family traditions, with or without religious involvement define **YOU**?

Is knowing who you are part of your interest in genealogy?

Is being Jewish for you a tribal affair, a religious identity, a social heritage, something else or some of all of the above?

Is being Jewish for you a matter of pride, fear, concern, wonderment, or a burden?

Have you been told that you looked like, acted like, or reminded someone of a grandparent, cousin, or uncle?

There was an unfortunate statement that the only good Indian was a dead Indian. It is also said, once a Jew, always a Jew, and that the only choice was to be a bad or a good Jew. Of course, that leaves a lot of leeway. Good or bad by what standard? We can probably at least extrapolate it to say, a good person?

In most cases, to be good or bad, even just in our own eyes, is a matter of choice. If you are a genealogist, one mark of goodness should be the acceptance of others.

You may be Chassid, Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, or unaffiliated, Cohen, Levite, or have a short or long known list of ancestors, it does not change the fact that you are Jewish.

Clearly whether Ashkenazic, Sephardic, Oriental, or whatever, the ancestor, known or unknown, who joined the community outside of the USA, ensures that your family has been Jewish for at least two, three hundred or more years. This means that you are looking, going back twelve generations, at about 4,000 theoretical ancestors, which in most cases, is a larger number than, at the time, the community they came from was.

So yes, at some point, your ancestors are also my ancestors, and some of them are your ancestors several times. Cousins marrying cousins, even first cousins, was not so unusual. I am sure that you have encountered that on your family tree. Having large families increases the likelihood of sharing ancestors. Going further back, it is estimated that the millions of Eastern and Central Europeans Jews are the progeny of probably no more that 10,000 people.

At least a couple of Jewish families who thought they had no relatives found that they shared some lines with me within three or four generations.

Yes, we are all. I am part of you and you are part of me, whether you like it or not.

New President

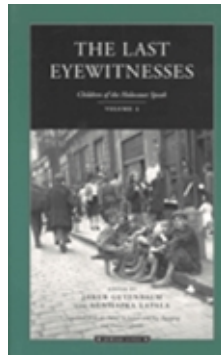
Congratulations to Rochelle Kaplan for being nominated as the UJGS President at our September meeting after Robert Neu announced that he had to step down after December 31. We look forward to hearing more from her in future articles of Atsmi Uvsari.

The Last Eyewitnesses: Children of the Holocaust Speak, Volume 2

Edited by Jakub Gutenbaum and Agnieszka Latiala

Review by Lane Fischer, Ph.D.

The Last Eyewitnesses includes a collection of 33 oral or written histories of members of the Association of “Children of the Holocaust”. The witnesses’ accounts vary widely in their detail and depth but are unified by several underlying features: the sheer improbability of survival, the constant fear, the unpredictable losses, the psychological impact of trauma on children, and the helpfulness of some people in the face the overwhelming brutality of others. The text leaves the reader with mouth agape and heart rent at the end of each chapter with the cumulative effect of unmitigated sorrow by the close of the book.



In a series of Bernoulli trials in which the probability of success or failure is 0.5 at each trial, a distribution of outcomes results in a histogram in which the cumulative probability of all correct decisions is extremely small. For example, over only 8 trials, the probability of all correct decisions is only 0.0039. If a child were confronted with 8 decisions in a day, their chances of survival would be 4 in one thousand. If the threat that any single incorrect decision would result in death combined with limited information as to which pathway is safe, the resultant affective experience is constant fear.

Rachela Malinger’s chapter, “The Beginning of Hell” illustrates the problem in one decision.

That night, knowing that the German army was already just outside the city, was the worst. The Germans were to enter Lodz the next day. What should we do, escape from the city or stay? We had one night left to make the decision. It had to be made right away; the next day would already be too late. Those who decided to escape began to gather

in the courtyard, loaded down with their household “treasures”. “We’ll go toward Warsaw. It’s the capital, after all. They won’t let the Germans in there,” some people said, trying to convince others, but mainly themselves, that they had made the right choice. “Fools, what are you doing?” said the ones who decided to stay. “Can there be an effective defense against the Germans, with their technology and armaments?” Both sides were haunted by doubts, but there was no time for deliberation. ...Mama decided to stay.

...Those who went east on that horrible night, hoping for rescue, made a costly mistake. The long column of people, plodding along toward Warsaw with their “treasures,” their children and the elderly, were cruelly machine-gunned by Nazi warplanes. Not many were left alive. Having lost their relatives and loved ones, they returned to their deserted apartments in Lodz. We then learned from them about these dreadful events.

Every eyewitness’ story is filled with numerous decisions encountered on a daily basis. Do we stay in the ghetto? Do we escape to the forest? Do we split up the family? Do we stick together? Do we stay with this seemingly kind gentile family for one more night? Do we send an 8 year-old girl to the Aryan side to smuggle food? Do we stay in this bunker tonight or try to impose on the goodwill of a people in the bunker in the next vale? Do we change our names? Do we convert to Catholicism? Do we hide the children in the pillows or under the bed or behind the cupboard or in the shed or in a pit in the pigyard?

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UJGS Meeting Minutes 20 March 2007

By Rochelle Kaplan

Attendees:

Marelynn Zipser, Wilma Odell, Alan Bachman, Mark Kleinfeld, Banai Feldstein, Charity Samowitz, Rochelle Kaplan, Robert Neu, Gerald Jacobs, MaryAnn Jacobs, Lane Fischer, Micah Fischer, Thomas Lerman

1) Announcements

- a) Gerald and MaryAnn Jacobs are leaving for Romania (on a mission) April 30, so Gerald will be unable to continue as treasurer of UJGS. They will be in Romania for 1½ yrs, overseeing welfare services. They invite research requests. UJGS members present nominated and elected Mark Kleinfeld to replace Gerald as UJGS treasurer. Gerald was warmly thanked for his service. Gerald said that the UJGS balance stands at \$495.65.
- b) Regarding conference tour of LDS FHL Vaults which MaryAnn was working on, Michael Brenner, IAJGS Conference Co-Chair, must be informed that someone else will have to follow up. MaryAnn will contact Michael.
- c) Dorothy Rackley informed Michael Brenner, who informed IAJGS/UJGS partners, that she will be unable to continue as food chair of the upcoming July IAJGS Conference. Update: Michael Brenner interviewed and hired Chlarson Seeley, associated with Congregation Kol Ami, to oversee food events at the conference.
- d) Minutes of January meeting accepted

- with revisions (previously sent out to UJGS members with email).
- e) Lane introduced his son Micah, who was attending to earn a Boy Scout merit badge in genealogy.
 - f) More conference updates: Rochelle learned that due to UT laws, we cannot offer a raffle at the conference. We still can offer door prizes, however, to lure participants into visiting the hospitality desk. Update: Sweet's Candy Co. has offered to donate some packets of candy as door prizes. Rochelle is buying and soliciting other prizes. Someone suggested at the meeting that Rochelle contact Ancestry to see if they might offer a membership as a door prize. The Forward will donate recent copies of its issue to conference participants. Thanks to Wilma for her suggestion.
 - g) Wilma circulated an article from the *Forward* about a famous cantor and composer in Germany. A cache of his music, previously unknown, was recently discovered. The article was "A Cantor's Tale: Yossele Rosenblatt's Great-Grandson Unearths a Goldmine", by Alexander Gelfand in the December 1, 2006 issue of the *Forward*. You can read the article by Googling, Forward, and then do a search.
 - h) Robert Neu reminded those present that Yad Vashem still seeks Pages of Testimony. He distributed sample forms.

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(Minutes, Continued from page 12)

- i) Wilma suggested that Rochelle interview Michael Schaeffer, a WWII survivor and member of Kol Ami, for her IAJGS conference talk on Utah's Jewish history. Both Rochelle and Eileen Hallet Stone's conference proposals were accepted. Eileen Hallet Stone will speak about Clarion, Utah's failed Jewish agricultural colony in Gunnison.

- j) Both Banai and Rochelle need volunteers to help in the Resource Room and the Hospitality Desk at the IAJGS Conference (July 15-20), respectively. Banai asked Rochelle to supply a list of books she will lend to the conference. If others wish to lend books to the Resource Room, they should contact Banai. Also, if anyone is willing to volunteer as a translator in the Resource Room, contact Banai. Banai also seeks suggestions for additional databases that might be made available in the Resource Room.

- k) Someone inquired about the Schwab Building in Provo. Was Schwab a Jew who lived in UT? We seek info.

- l) Members briefly discussed the downtown revitalization plan and its impact on visitors to the FHL.

- m) A member noted that several folks ended up in SLC due to the TB/Consumption Clinic (National Jewish Hospital for Lung Diseases) in Denver. That is how Ralph Tannenbaum's family ended up in SLC.

- n) Tom Lerman, a computer engineer

and programmer from Provo, whose family hails from Cleveland, and prior to that Bertichev/Berdichev, Ukraine (immigrated from 1880-1915), seeks to learn more about his roots in Transcarpathia. He now does consulting to universities, writes genealogical software, and cleans up databases.

- o) Rochelle, and perhaps Lane, will present a short talk on genealogy to Kol Ami group on April 15, to try to induce folks to join UJGS and to attend the IAJGS conference.

“Rochelle showed and explained her recently created site on the shtetl Kraziai...”

2) New UJGS member Alan Bachman seeks help gathering genealogical info pertinent to his uncle Joe Cohen who lives in Newton, MA and who will be 100 years old on May 7. The info is needed for a celebration on May 12. Joe immigrated to the US in 1913 with the name Chaim and is from Kovno, in Lomza Gubernia, Poland. He then lived in Rochester, NY. Alan found out that his Hebrew name, Avraham Schleimi, is that of Joe's father. Joe's mom, Ida/Itska Kohn, came to the US via Ellis Island on August 7, 1913. Joe's best friend was Ian Loew of Loew's Theater fame. Ian (as I recall) was Elijah Moshe Loew and he married a former Ms. Czechoslovakia. He encouraged Joe to marry the sister. Loew, if I recall correctly, owned the Latin Quarter in NYC. Ian Loew's brother was caught by the Nazis in Czechoslovakia and taken to Germany. The former Ms. Czechoslovakia (who was blond, spoke German, and was married to a rich Jew) went to Germany to try to rescue her brother-in-law. She told the Nazis she hated the Jews and that her husband would not grant her a divorce unless she brought the brother home. If this was accomplished, she said she would spy for the Germans.

(Continued on page 14)

(Minutes, Continued from page 13)

She succeeded in bringing the Loew brother to the US, but she did not divorce her husband. Avraham/Abraham Cohen/Kohn, Joe's father, did not become naturalized. He was born in 1877 and died in 1950 in Rochester. Alan wishes to find the ship manifest for Joe's dad and asked UJGS for suggestions. These included: (a) checking Rochester newspapers, some of which are online, (b) looking for Avraham's obituary, (c) checking under the name reversed: Avram or Avraham might be the surname or the first two names might be reversed as Schleimi Avraham, (d) looking for WWI Draft Registration. The father apparently came with his daughter Sora/Sara. Alan should (e) check all variants of Cohen/Kohn, (f) should check the databases of JRI-Poland and see if Rochester had censuses in the years ending in 5 (1905, 1915, 1925).

- 3) Rochelle showed and explained her recently created (with the technical help of Dave Howard) web site on the shtetl Kraziai, in Lithuania. Web site is: <<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Kraziai/>>. She encouraged others to create web sites and talked about the difficulties encountered and solutions to same.
- 4) Tentative agenda for May:
 - Brainstorming around mentoring in genealogy, involving kids in genealogy.
 - Conference update
 - Preview of Rochelle's talk at the upcoming conference on Utah's Jewish history.

Mark Your Calendar: UJGS Meetings

Our final meeting for 2007 will be on November 13. Rochelle Kaplan will present the second half of her talk on Utah's Jewish History and we will be discussing future plans for a beginner's workshop. We meet at 7 PM at Congregation Kol Ami. The address can be found on our web site, <http://ujgs.org/>.

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.

(The Last Eyewitnesses, Continued from page 10)

When the adults were murdered, children surviving on their own or trying to save their siblings confronted such decisions. The probability of success was infinitesimally small. The grinding fear would damage the psyche of many. In fact, many of the survivors report serious psychiatric problems in adulthood. Jadwiga Kotowska, in her chapter, "The Little Smuggler" concluded with the lines, "I consider myself a sick, morally broken person. I regret that my life did not evolve as it should have, because of the war and the ghetto. I had a very difficult life."

Over successive trials, the cumulative probability was failure and death. The losses were savage and ubiquitous.

...And I think my Mother went to Warsaw. ...My father was killed in the siege of Warsaw. Thus from the very beginning of the occupation, Mama and I were left without any means of support. ...When I left the hospital in the beginning of December, my mama was no longer among the living. ...There, on January 20, 1944, my mother was killed, shot by a Ukrainian policeman who had been Father's schoolmate. I survived by a miracle, tucked under the bed by my mother. ...About my birth mother I know only that she saved my life and that she was beautiful woman. ...One day Papa set out from Krakow on a bicycle with his backpack and mobilization card. We never saw him again. ...There was a roundup in which Mama and Rudolf were caught. All trace of them vanished. Alfred and I were left alone. ...Despite this, during an "action" in the ghetto in May 1942, Father was caught and sent to one of the death

"Why would a genealogist care about the stories of holocaust survivors? Why vicariously experience even a tiny portion of their sorrow?"

camps — where he was killed. ...My nanny received news that my older brother Alfred, was killed in a similar way. ...My mother was caught in a roundup and deported to Treblinka. ...Father ran in the direction of Sasaki Garden. He was killed. He was lying with half his face resting (on a curb). Papa lay there nearly a whole day. Then his friends came and brought my mother and took me in their arms so we could see Father one last time! He lay covered with newspapers. I started screaming. Father's friends held me in their arms, covered my mouth, and took me to some stairway. They were simply afraid that I would run up to my father. This was my final farewell to my father. A truck arrived, he was thrown on it, and they drove off. We don't know where he lies. ...I noticed a commotion in the square. I came closer and saw that a man was lying on the ground, while German soldiers were kicking him with their boots and screaming something at him. A small crowd looked on. I walked up even closer. The man on the ground — it was my papa. I froze with horror and fear.

The survival of children with their limited comprehension often depended on the goodness of others, including family members, courageous neighbors, and sometimes compassionate young soldiers caught in their own moral dilemmas.

Bronislawa Wajngarten titled her chapter, "Run to the Woods". The crux of her story revolves around a most unlikely benefactor. She was 8 years old when her father was murdered. Shortly thereafter she and her mother were rounded up in an action.

(Continued on page 16)

(The Last Eyewitnesses, Continued from page 15)

We were placed in a single long file near the forest, where ditches had already been dug. I can't explain why I was not with my mother and my other relatives. I was the last one, and at the end of the line stood a young man in a German uniform — but not the uniform of the SS — with rifle ready to fire. The command was given, "Fire!" In a fraction of a second, the young man grabbed me by the hand, shielded me with his body, and yelled, "Run to the woods!" The woods were right there, and the brush was high enough that I couldn't be seen. My instinct for survival made me listen to that soldier. It seems to me that I saw my mother — her look of approval is before my eyes — and then, when I was running through the woods, all I could hear were bursts of gunfire and horrible screams.

Stella Kolin dedicated her chapter to her sister Ludka with good reason.

Majdanek, May 1943

This was a horrible day. I saw my father on the other side of the barbed wire separating the women's camp from the men's camp. He seemed so thin and frail. I wanted to embrace him, to be close to him but we were separated by an electrified double fence.

I wanted to give him what was dearest to me — my daily ration of bread — even though I was so very hungry! I shouted to him, and with all my might, I threw my piece of bread in his direction. But I was too weak. The bread landed short of its goal and

bounced off the wires, setting off a piercing alarm that could be heard throughout the entire camp. Almost immediately I was surrounded by guards. They dragged me in front of Hermine Braunsteiner, the worst of the camp's beasts. She sentenced me to twenty-five lashes and looked on as one of the guards carried out the punishment with a bullwhip. I fainted after the ninth stroke.

I am lying on my bunk half-dead and bleeding. I am scared that if I don't go to work tomorrow, they will send me to the gas chamber.

I still cannot comprehend what happened and how my sister Ludka managed to do it. After a thorough medical examination, she was slated for a transport out of Majdanek. She had been declared healthy and able to work. I, however, had been rejected. Ludka exchanged our clothes — and sewn-on numbers. When her number was called, she pushed me to the front of the ranks. I could hardly walk after my beating, but my friends helped me get to the train. Miraculously, I was out of danger.

There in Skarzysk I recuperated a bit. What bothered me the most was the news from people who arrived with the next transport from Majdanek. They told me that Ludka, still healthy and strong, was taken somewhere. She was wearing my name and number. She was not able to convince the SS men that she had not yet gone through the selection. Only God knows whether we will ever see each other again.

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(The Last Eyewitnesses, Continued from page 16)

Stella's story is most touching to me. Clearly these family members were willing to sacrifice for one another. Stella was moved with compassion for her father and tried to give him her only scrap of bread. Ludka saw her sister's condition and organized to save her by changing identities with her. Both girls' moral actions were remarkable. One might claim that such actions only occurred within families, but with the very long odds of survival, most of the children's stories include references to the moral actions of neighbors and strangers that saved them at critical moments. Somehow, those others also knew that we are all family.

Why would a genealogist care about the stories

(Utah's Jewish History, Continued from page 7)

Another set of Prussian-born brothers, the Ransohoffs, set up shop in 1858 in Salt Lake City. Nicholas Ransohoff was a member of Utah's first Masonic Lodge, a fraternal order, founded at Camp Floyd. He lent Brigham Young \$30,000 to buy the camp's entire pork supply when the U. S. Army left in 1864. He was one of the earliest Jews to freight goods across the Plains from the East, a founder of Utah's first Jewish synagogue, Congregation B'nai Israel, and of the Liberal Party. On Main Street in 1864, Jewish owned-businesses included Ransohoff Brothers, Siegel and Company, and Bodenbug and Kahn. At their height, the Ransohoff brothers had stores in Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Corinne.

Bohemian-born Charles Popper is listed on the 1860 Placer, California Census as having \$200. In contrast, the 1870 Salt Lake City Census shows Popper, a butcher, now married and with

200	Popper Charles	30	Man	Butcher	2000	1000	Bohemian
	Charolette	28	Wife	Keeping House			Bohemian
	Kinsey Mary	31	Wife	Domestic Servant			Bohemian
	Bartman August	16	2 yr	Domestic Servant			Bohemian

Charles and Carlotta (Charolette) Popper, 1870 Salt Lake City Census

of holocaust survivors? Why vicariously experience even a tiny portion of their sorrow? Sven Sonnenberg's chapter, "Journey to Hell: Under Facism" concluded, *It is tempting to wish for...innocence, and yet I would no longer have within me the knowledge of human nature, the understanding of the level of evil to which a human can descend, and the height of sacrifice and goodness of which man is capable.*

There is so much to learn of courage and endurance from one another. There is so much to learn from the best and worst of humanity. There are still tragedies to prevent. There is still goodness to nurture. Against long odds, we hope that we would survive or reach out to help. Because we are all family. Atsmi Uvsari.

two servants, with assets of \$30,000. That equals \$478,000 in 2006 dollars. In 1865, Popper organized Utah Lodge #1, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a fraternal organization. Popper's name lives on in Popperton Park, located where his animal stockyards once stood. Popper was Utah's first Jewish rancher, with vast holdings on the Utah-Colorado border. Popper supplied beef to the Federal troops stationed in Utah, at 9 ¾ cents a pound. When he closed his shop on the High Holy Days, the Mormon butchers closed their butcher shops out of respect for Popper. He reciprocated by closing his shop on Pioneer Day. An 1879 article in *American Israelite*, a Jewish newspaper, cited Popper as the most influential Jew in Utah Territory. At that time, the Jewish community numbered thirty families, according to this article. However, Rabbi Max Lilienthal wrote in 1876 that he met forty Jewish families in Salt Lake City.

On the 150 acres of land he squatted on outside the city, Popper built a slaughterhouse and a soap and candle factory. The general in charge of the newly established

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(Utah's Jewish History, Continued from page 17)

Camp Douglas appropriated Popper's land, but the butcher legally fought back. He lost two rounds in the general lands office and his appeal to the Secretary of the Interior. But Popper persevered. It helped that he discovered and developed a mine in Idaho that paid him \$60,000 a month. He moved his family to Washington, D.C. and then laid siege on Congress for eleven years. Finally, through a special Congressional act, Popper regained title to the land.

The 1870 Census shows Polish-born Louis Cohn, 29, a retail merchant, owning a home worth \$18,000. Bavarian-born Sol Seigel, only 20, retail clothing merchant, owns an estate of \$15,000. What opportunities for a *shadken!* Louis Cohn was elected to the city council in 1874 and re-elected in 1882; he also served as fire and police commissioner. He was a member of the Alta Club, a businessmen's social club still active today, and an active Mason. Louis and his brother Alexander Cohn organized their firm in 1867. Alexander Cohn was elected President of Congregation B'nai Israel in 1896. He and his brother married sisters; Louis married Carrie Lippman and Alexander wed Jennie Lippman.

Another set of Prussian-born brothers, the Watters, jewelers, went first to California and then two of the three siblings moved to Utah, Ichel and Abraham. Active Masons, the two Watters also joined the Odd Fellows Lodge, the fraternal organization branch established by Charles Popper. Other Odd Fellows were Fred and Theodore Auerbach, James M. Ellis, Nelson Boukofsky, Simon Bamberger, Henry Cohn, Louis Hyams, Samuel Levy, M. Meyers, Elias Siegel, and Moss Wolf. Ichel was treasurer and then grand master of the lodge.

Ichel Watters served as the treasurer of the Hebrew Benevolent Society, established in 1866; his wife Augusta served as President of the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society. Ichel

was a charter member of B'nai Israel, and often led services there with Moses Caspar Phillips, another early settler, who, like Ichel, went to California first. The current Democratic Salt Lake City mayoral candidate, Ralph Becker, is a descendant of Ichel Watters. Abraham Watters divided his time between California (where he was actively involved in the Jewish community) and Salt Lake City; for a time, he also lived in England, but the last part of his life was spent in Utah.

The 1880 Census lists Ichel and his family in Salt Lake City; Ichel's profession is stockbroker. His son Leon later became a celebrated scientist, professor, and writer of Jewish history and was a close friend of Albert Einstein. Leon developed sterile catgut as a suture material to close wounds, designed portable disinfectants for the U.S. Armed Forces in World War I, set up a lab for atomic research at Cal Tech in 1934, designed a mobile hospital unit of trucks for use by the British in North Africa in World War II, and endowed a chemistry prize at his alma mater, the University of Utah, which is still awarded. He wrote [The Pioneer Jews of Utah](#).



Leon Watters and Albert Einstein

Julius Gerson and Fanny Brooks are reported to be the first Jewish family to settle in Utah, arriving first in 1854, but settling down permanently in 1857. From Silesia, and

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(Utah's Jewish History, Continued from page 18)

originally named Bruck, the family took in boarders, owned a millinery shop, and bought real estate. Eveline Brooks Auerbach, their daughter, built the Brooks Arcade, a stately building downtown, on land purchased by her father. Eveline married Samuel Auerbach.



Brooks Arcade

Louis Hyams, who later served as Salt Lake City recorder, organized Yom Kippur services in 1875 and was married to a daughter of Moses C. Phillips.

The Siegel brothers, born in Bavaria, had two clothing stores in Salt Lake by 1866. Before that they had followed the railroad west, selling goods in the Dakotas and Montana Territory. Henry, the eldest, was an incorporator of Congregation B'nai Israel (1891) and its first president. An 1896 article in the *Salt Lake Tribune* mentions Henry Siegel, a well-known clothier, being the original locator of the Mercur Mine in 1871, who worked it for the mercury in its ore. His brother Joseph was one of four signers of a January 1866 appeal circulated in the eastern states, asking for assistance in establishing a Jewish cemetery in Salt Lake City. This was published in *Occident*, another Jewish newspaper. Newspapers such as *The Hebrew*, *Sabbath Visitor*, *Occident*, and *American Israelite* were popular with American Jews seeking news relevant to them. The Jewish press contained international and domestic news, local news, serialized stories,

announcements of deaths, weddings, and births, and advertising. The 1870 Census lists Solomon Seigel, a mine executive, wife Ray and son, both born in Maryland, and Joseph Seigel, husband, a merchandising executive, also with a wife Ray, born in Maryland, and Utah-born son.

Still another set of brothers, Samuel and Emanuel Kahn, settled in Salt Lake City. A third brother, Louis, remained in Philadelphia. Samuel, in 1860, became a partner in N.S. Ransohoff and Co. In 1863, he joined George Bodenbergh in a grocery distribution firm that became a leading outfit in Utah, Idaho, and Montana. In 1867, the partnership dissolved and he joined business forces with his brother. Samuel Kahn was known as Colonel Kahn (pronounced Kane), because he was appointed to the Governor's staff. Kahn was a financial backer of *Peep o' Day*, a magazine of science, literature, and art, perhaps the first magazine published west of the Missouri. He was active in civic affairs and an early supporter of Congregation B'nai Israel. The Samuel Kahn home on South Main Street was a center of social activity. *The American Israelite*, on February 20, 1885, published a long resolution of condolence on the death of Samuel Kahn, from the Jewish Synagogue of Salt Lake. Emanuel Kahn served as trustee and officer of Congregation B'nai Israel. He and his brother married two sisters; Samuel married Sarah Cohen and Emanuel married her sister Fanny, both daughters of Briner Cohen, who was an early partner in a Salt Lake hotel with Simon Bamberger, who was later a Utah governor.



Simon Bamberger

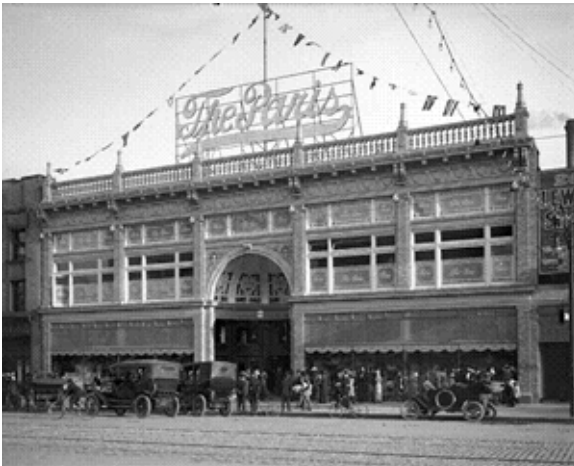
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(Utah's Jewish History, Continued from page 19)

The Simon brothers were early settlers and entrepreneurs in Utah. Fred, Louis, Joseph, and Adolph Simon were active in civic and religious affairs and leading manufacturers and wholesalers of millinery. Louis and Adolph established the fabulous Paris millinery store. Joseph kept a wholesale dry goods business.



The Paris
Above, 1908 — Below, 1913



The Ellis brothers also settled in the city and were active in civic and religious affairs. They advertised dry goods in the *Union Vedette* in 1864; the *Union Vedette* was the newspaper of Camp Floyd. James M. Ellis was a charter member of the Masonic Order and President of the Odd Fellows, both established in 1865.



The Simon Brothers

Nathan Ellis in 1866 was listed in a *Telegraph* article as President of the Salt Lake City Israelites. In December 1866, a petition of Jewish and other Gentile merchants to LDS leaders was signed by Ellis Bros. by J. M. Ellis. Other Jewish signatures were Bodenburg and Kahn, C. Prag of Ransohoff and Company, Siegel Brothers, L. Cohn and Company, Glucksman and Cohn, Morris Elgutter, F. Auerbach and Brothers, S. Lesser and Brothers, and I. Watters.

The 1880 Census lists Jacob E. Bamberger, in mining, born in Hesse Durmstadt, wife Bertha, born in Pennsylvania to parents born in Baden, their Utah-born children, and Jacob's brothers, Simon, in mining, and Louis E., a merchant/clothier. Simon later built railroads, public transportation, and the Lagoon Amusement Park. He served as a state senator and in 1916 was elected Governor of Utah. The Lagoon Amusement Park still operates, although the Bamberger family no longer owns it. Jacob owned the Daly Mine, which his son Ernest later managed.

Enumerated in the 1880 Census are Fannie Symons, three sons, and grandson Heinbach Cohen, N.S. Ransohoff, liquor dealer, wife Aurelia, and three Pennsylvania-born sons,

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(Utah's Jewish History, Continued from page 20)

Nelson Boukofsky, liquor dealer born in Prussia, his Missouri-born wife, two children, born in Utah and California, and Nelson's brother Mike, a merchant. Nelson, a dry goods merchant, and his family, in 1900, were living in Salt Lake. By 1910 they were in New York City, where they lived with his in-laws, Julius and Regina Maas/Mass. Leopold Ransohoff, in 1900, is a partner, secretary, and treasurer in a lace house in Salt Lake.

The 1880 Census also lists Russian-born merchant Louis Reggel, his Prussian-born wife Rachel, son Samuel, born in England, nephew Gus Jacobs, born in California to Prussian-born parents, and an English servant. The *Corinne Daily Record* in 1871 has ads for L. Reggel's on Montana Street, selling clothing, fancy dry goods, boots and shoes, and general merchandise. Reggel's was one of only two Gentile firms purchased for incorporation into Mormon ZCMI; the other was Ransohoff. And Reggel's Row, built in 1872 on Third South, was the first multi-family house in Salt Lake City.

In the 1900 Census, Louis Reggel is naturalized, the proprietor of a gambling house, living with his wife, a servant, and a lodger. Rachel has borne two children, one surviving. One son, Albert, died of lung disease in 1880. Interestingly, Salt Lake County filed charges against Louis Reggel in 1869 for selling obscene pictures and for gambling in an 1891 criminal case. Moreover, he was wanted in Pennsylvania for obtaining goods under false pretenses. When a federal marshal came to Utah to collect Reggel, he allowed Louis time for "amusement" before they headed east. Both the marshal and Reggel were arrested for gambling! The Reggels, by 1910, had moved to Los Angeles, a city more tolerant of their lifestyle. Reggel had been a trustee and charter member of Congregation B'nai Israel and a trustee of the Hebrew Benevolent Association.

Prussian-born Isador Morris, a grocer, his English-born wife Annie, and their four children, lived in Salt Lake. Annie converted from Mormonism to the Jewish faith. The 1867 Pacific Coast Directory lists Isador, a Civil War pensioner, as a grocer and provisioner in Great Salt Lake City. The 1890 Utah Directory lists him in mining; he contributed gold dust to help raise funds to build an orthodox synagogue, Congregation Montefiore, Salt Lake City's second synagogue. Because Morris, a lawyer, helped to free convicted polygamists, he was loved by the Mormon Church, whose leaders donated money for the construction of Montefiore. Isador's partner and cousin, Aaron Morris, was murdered in a botched robbery attempt in Idaho, at age 31.

Posen-born Morris H. Lipman, a merchant, lives in 1890 with his New York-born wife and a servant. Lipman, Jacob E. Bamberger, and Fred Auerbach were members of the 1887 Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce.

A prominent brewer was Jacob Moritz of the Salt Lake Brewing Company, who came to Utah about 1870 and was President of Congregation B'nai Israel in 1905. Moritz greatly expanded the beer company. He realized that, "Salt Lake City was an up and coming commercial center of the intermountain west, an ideal place to establish a brewery from which to supply the rapidly growing population with a good wholesome beverage in the form of beer." Ads for the company noted that the beer contained less alcohol than apple cider. In 1886, the firm employed 35 men and produced 20,000 barrels of beer. By 1903, the company produced 125,000 barrels annually. And by 1908, it employed more than one hundred and sold beer from California to Nebraska. In 1908, the Salt Lake Brewing Company produced 41,250,000 bottles of beer! (There are 330 bottles in a barrel.) Additionally, Moritz bought up a large tract of land downtown to develop a new business district. After he died, his estate was

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(Utah's Jewish History, Continued from page 21)

appraised in 1910 at \$327,000. In 2006 purchasing dollars, this would be more than \$7 million.

Baer Brothers Mercantile, wholesale liquor distributors, started in Leadville, Colorado but moved to Salt Lake City. The Baer Brothers, Isaac and Adolph, originally from Baden, Germany, were founding members of B'nai Brith in Leadville. Isaac became President of the Hebrew Benevolent Association in Leadville and helped build Temple Israel. Adolph, his wife Mathilda, and their children moved to Salt Lake City in the early 1900s. Minette Baer married Daniel Alexander, a prominent attorney in Salt Lake.

Alexander Stiefel, a drayman, born in Germany, was a founding member of Congregation B'nai Israel in 1881. At the synagogue's first service in March 1883, Ichel Watters and Moses C. Phillips officiated and Alexander Stiefel blew

the shofar as he did in subsequent years. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. When he died in 1904, the *Deseret News* ran a front page story on him. The article said he didn't feel well. His wife suggested he sit down and eat a plate of soup. Sounds like a typical Jewish wife. He collapsed before he got the spoon to his mouth. He left four sons, three of whom lived in Salt Lake.

- Note: This is the first installment in a series on Utah's Jewish history. Subsequent articles will discuss Corinne, Utah's Gentile capital; mining moguls and mining towns; Clarion, Utah's failed agricultural colony; fraternal and benevolent organizations, the synagogues, scandals, politicians, entertainment figures, and other prominent Utah Jews.

Photos courtesy of University of Utah Marriott Library Special Collection or the Utah State Historical Society.

The Lighter Side of Genealogy

Found online at <<http://www.jewishjokes.net/>>

Three brothers just off the boat at Ellis Island are questioned by an Immigration Officer, who asks the first, "What is your name?"

"Beryl" he replies. The Officer says, "Beryl? You can't have a name like that in America. From now on your name is Buck."

He turns to the second brother and says, "What is your name?"

"Cheyl" he replies. "Cheyl? You can't have a name like that in America. From now on your name will be Chuck!"

He then asks the third brother, "And what's your name?"

"Schmerl," he replies, "And I'm going back to Poland!"

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.