

*This issue contains articles about
the IAJGS conference in Philadelphia and
another installment of Utah's Jewish History!*



ATSMI UVSARI
“MY BONE AND MY FLESH”

עצמי ובשרי

Issue #21

Summer 2009

In This Issue

The International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Philadelphia 2009 by Kahlile Mehr	2
My Week in Philly by Banai Lynn Feldstein	4
The IAJGS 2009 Awards	7
John Colletta Comes to Utah by Banai Lynn Feldstein	8
Involving Children in Family History: The Cemetery Excursion by Lane Fischer, Ph.D.	11
Utah's Jewish History, Part 4: Mining Magnates by Rochelle Kaplan	13
Film Review: Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg by Rochelle Kaplan	20
Tweeting from Philly by Banai Lynn Feldstein	21
Regular Features	
Contact Info	3
Copyright Notice	12
Meeting Highlights	18
Message from the Editor	19
President's Message	9
Who We Are	11
Zip Tip	6

The International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Philadelphia 2009

by *Kahlile Mehr*

The current economic environment cast gloom on projections for the Philadelphia conference. Regardless, the event was a great success, meeting the most optimistic expectations.

Nearly a 1,000 people attended with 650 registering for the full conference. There were 275 sessions and 160 presenters and session coordinators. Only one speaker cancelled and one arrived late because of bad weather. The presentations were organized into subject or SIG tracks that helped attendees focus on sessions of particular interest to them. There was minimal overlap in concurrent sessions that covered the same area of interest. There were many excellent films, attesting to the deep connection felt with the history as well as the genealogy of their ancestors.

Many participants commented positively on the programs. Bobbi Weintraub of Philadelphia wrote: "WOW! My head is still spinning from the conference. Having never been to one before, I had no idea what to expect, but thought the program looked incredibly rich and varied. It was far better than that. There wasn't just something for everyone — there was a lot for everyone. The depth and breadth were overwhelming. I found myself trying frantically to make use of every minute." Other comments included the words broad-based, robust, high quality, excellent, fantastic, interesting, and informative.

The program was well run. Facilitators introduced speakers, provided assistance so that the presenter was not distracted, helped close the session on time, and helped with take-down of additional equipment. Many speakers commented on how this made a difference. Prior to the conference, speaker instructions were issued regularly so that they would know what to expect. After the conference, Mark Halpern, the program chair wrote, "Your talks



**Banai Lynn Feldstein and Kahlile Mehr
The Utah Delegation**

were part of the mosaic that resulted in the success of the conference and all the very positive comments."

This success was due to the hard work of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Philadelphia and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. While the JGSGP prepared the program, syllabus, and local arrangements, all members of the IAJGS Board contributed. They helped with vendor coordination, awards, registration, and the overall running of the conference. A commercial vendor handled the printing of name badges and event tickets rapidly and efficiently. No one had to stand in a line that didn't move at registration.

I greatly enjoyed the sessions I attended. One in particular, by David Brill, discussed internal passport records of the Russian Empire. This is a record type I am not acquainted with but am glad to know about. It just so happened that someone at the conference needed translation assistance for such a document and I was better able to help her because of the class.

(Continued on page 3)

(Conference, Continued from page 2)

There was a class from a professional, Ellen Friedland, on how to video document visits to Ukraine. This was exceptional and the information worth hundreds if not thousands of dollars to those who want to visually document the current remnants of their heritage.

There was plenty of good cheer. Jonathan Sarna, Professor of Jewish History at Brandeis, is as much an entertainer as a lecturer, as he presented with great humor the 350 year experience of American Judaism. There was also a round of Jewish Genealogy "Jewpardy" with Banai Feldstein as one of the contestants. One person told me afterwards that they had not laughed so hard in years.

There were other prominent people who attended including the Director of Romanian State Archives, Dr. Dorin Dobrinicu. He gave a fascinating account of the current situation in the archive. My experience in Romania is that getting to the head of the archives is virtually impossible, but here in America it seems that everything is possible.

As in the case of the last two mentioned attendees, the conference brings in prominent persons from a variety of disciplines that enrich the world of genealogists. Benjamin Nathans, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania,

gave excellent information on doing research in Russian archives, which are simply different than those in this country. It is good to know the pitfalls so that one falls into fewer of them.

I encourage all those who could not attend to order audio tracks from the catalog at <http://philly2009.org/conference_recordings.cfm>. In some cases, speakers turned in their PowerPoint slides so that one can view the presentation as well as hear it.

A recent major film release, *Defiance*, on the Jewish experience in Belarus, was shown during the concurrent Jewish Film Festival. The movie recounts the story of 1,200 Jews who survived in the woods for three years during World War II under the protection of the Bielski brothers. What was even more interesting was the account given the next day by Sharon Rennart, granddaughter of Tuvia Bielski, on the "real" story behind the film. She is creating a documentary and showed us clips from both that work and the Hollywood version with a commentary on what really happened as opposed to how it was portrayed.

The conference was an exceptional experience and I encourage our members to attend the conference next year in Los Angeles. It will be held July 11-16 at a new Marriott that will be minted as of February. The IAJGS Conference will be one of its first events.

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, Rochelle Kaplan, at president@ujgs.org or our Editor, Banai Lynn Feldstein, at editor@ujgs.org.

My Week in Philly

by Banai Lynn Feldstein

Another summer, another IAJGS Conference. A week full of genealogy coming at you from every direction, friends who not only understand but also share your obsession, trying to bust through brick walls and trace back an extra generation, learning sometimes more than you ever wanted to know about where your ancestors lived, wandering the hotel hallways looking for meal companions because you didn't plan ahead, visiting the vendor room semi-regularly for chocolate and mints, trying to teach computer programs to a small group of people covering the full spectrum of computer literacy, a bit of sight-seeing in the city, and total sleep deprivation.

OK, so maybe that doesn't describe the week for everyone, but it pretty much summarizes the highlights for me.

The week had a bit of a rocky start, with bad weather causing my flight to circle in a holding pattern over Harrisburg until landing an hour late (then circling on the ground at the airport for some strange reason), and then my roommate checking in to the wrong hotel and being missing for the day, until she registered for the conference Saturday night. But once that was all straightened out...

I arrived Friday night and got my bearings with a short walk to find a late night dinner/snack. On Saturday, I spent a few hours sight-seeing with Mark Heckman. We walked across to the historic side of the city, visiting the Liberty Bell, but too late for tickets to tour Independence Hall. Our tourist activities only lasted a few hours, since he was called back to the hotel to finish setting up the computers. Later in the week, we went for a few walks around the neighborhood again, but didn't make it back to the historic district.

On Sunday, I attended Matthew Bielawa's workshop, "Hands-on Approach to Learning the Cyrillic Alphabet". I had heard good things about it in the previous year and decided to go, even though I can already decipher the Cyrillic records. His workshop was also about writing the alphabet, which I hadn't really tried to learn. He lived up to the hype, as a good speaker with a sense of humor.

The opening session featured Father Patrick Desbois. He has been documenting Jewish mass graves from the Holocaust in Eastern Europe, speaking to eyewitnesses who tell him personal stories about their neighbors and friends.

That night, I barely got any sleep, and I didn't attend any lectures except for my own computer lab, "Publishing Your Own Family Book". It was well attended, having sold out, with a waiting list of five people. I finished the evening attending a couple of short movies in the film room with Barbara Hershey of Portland, Oregon, whom I had first met at the Chicago conference last year.

I slept much better the next night and made it out for a morning lecture on Tuesday. Warren Blatt and Debra Kay-Blatt spoke about "Using Pre-1826 Polish Parish Records in Jewish Research". They gave a bit of a history of Poland, history of the Jews in Poland, and information about the Napoleonic Code. They had prepared so much information, at one point Warren had to skip over an entire section of the PowerPoint presentation about Jewish surnames in just a few minutes, pointing out that that part was its own one hour lecture.

After last year's success, I arranged for a Birds of a Feather meeting for Newsletter Editors.

(Continued on page 5)

(Philly, Continued from page 4)

The turnout was a bit smaller, but it went well. I then went to the ROM-SIG meeting. The new director of the Romanian archives, Dr. Dorin Dobrinicu, was at the ROM-SIG meeting. I hadn't realized who he was the evening before when I met Mark Heckman and Bob Wascou for dinner and he was with them, mostly because he spent most of that evening speaking with another attendee in Romanian.

Next, I went to Yefim Kogan's "History of Jews in Bessarabia (Moldova) in the 15th to 19th Centuries". This was more of a history lesson, with a bit of genealogy information added for good measure. In a similar story to other locations in Europe, Jews were invited to the region, kicked out, and invited back, depending on who was in charge at the time.

After a few years of attending these conferences, I finally learned that it is important to attend the JewishGen evening presentation. Warren Blatt gave a bit of a history of the site, from its beginnings as a mailing list, and pointed out many of the different sections and projects. I think the point of this year's presentation was to encourage people to contribute.

To finish the night, I went to "Jewish Genealogy Game Night". I volunteered to play Jewpardy, along with Roger Lustig and Vivian Kahn. The host was Jordan Auslander, who was in his element of stand-up comedy. Rules were not discussed, causing for quite a bit of confusion, but we all had a great time. Family Feud pitted Ashkenazis against Sephardim, and it seemed like Jordan had never watched that game show before. It made for an hysterical evening. For the rest of week, I was complimented about that session, as many people told me how much fun they had watching and how hard they had laughed that night.

On Wednesday, I attended a discussion group about JGS membership retention, where I learned a few things that might come in handy with UJGS. After lunch, I taught my other computer lab about "Social Networking and Facebook", which was scheduled at the same time as the IAJGS Annual Meeting.

That evening had a session on "Yiddish in Story, Poem, and Song", but I left early to watch the screening of "Defiance". The granddaughter of Tuvia Bielski was there and spoke about the film afterwards. Unfortunately, I missed her documentary presentation the next day.

Thursday, I attended a BOF meeting for Professional Genealogists, another repeat from last year. Next I went to a lecture called "Sweet & Sour: How Jewish Traders Changed the Way the World Eats" with Aliza Green. She was passing around spices and other items, and I hadn't eaten lunch yet. The reception and banquet followed. The entertainment was comedian Yisrael Campbell, a man who converted three times; to Reform, then Conservative, and finally to Orthodox Judaism.

On Friday, there were quite a few sessions scheduled; more than most conference Fridays. Uncharacteristically awake, I went to the 8:15am session with Lois Rosen on "Creating a Family Tree Scroll". She had a few samples around the room. I discovered that the one she had up front was much more impressive when I went up for a closer look after the lecture and found it draped along the floor, stretching almost halfway across the room.

The final session I attended was the "Sneak Preview of the 2010 Conference in Los Angeles" with Pamela Weisberger and Lois Rosen, and the conference was over.

(Continued on page 6)

(Philly, Continued from page 5)

One new thing I tried this year was integrating Twitter into the week. At two recent genealogy conferences, a few people had been tweeting right from the lectures (and as I write this, another conference actually has specially designated tweeters). It looked like fun, so I decided to try it. There were several people tweeting from the conference, but only two of us who were really covering the lectures in the same way as I had seen. The Wi-Fi in the hotel left something to be desired, so a couple times, I typed out my tweets and sent them right after the session. There was free Wi-Fi at the conference, but it was set up in a small room in the back corner of an unused hallway and it felt

incredibly anti-social. I didn't spend much time in Siberia, as I came to call the room, making do with the low signal I was getting from the hotel's main Wi-Fi network in more social locations.

I look forward to these annual conferences. It's not just about learning more about genealogy. It's about seeing friends that I usually see only once a year, networking with people and making new friends, and it's an excuse to get out of Utah, because I start to go a little stir crazy if I stay in one place for too long. I hadn't been to Philadelphia before, except maybe passing through on the Interstate. I have been to Los Angeles a few times, but it's been a while, and I can't wait for next summer.

Zip Tip

by Marelynn Zipser

If you are looking for a relative's birthplace in Europe, you know that naturalization papers are sometimes the best sources. But if they arrived too early for their naturalization documents to be helpful enough, or if they weren't naturalized at all, there is an alternative.

On the off-chance that the person went back to Europe to visit, he/she may have obtained a passport, which wasn't a big deal back then.

Pre-1925 passports are indexed and viewable on Ancestry.com. The passport will usually show the reason for travel to the specific place and the person being visited, unless the travel was solely for business purposes.

Bonus tip: ItalianGen.org is now indexing New York City births, so we can get certificate numbers without going to the microfilm index. It looks like the web site currently has 1901-1907 online, with 1881-1909 planned. We can get the certificates from the LDS microfilms.

New IAJGS Board

The UJGS wishes to congratulate Michael Goldstein on his election to the presidency of the IAJGS. This marks the first time that the position has been held by a non-American and highlights the fact that IAJGS is truly an international organization.

Michael Brenner remains as the Vice President, and Joel Spector as Secretary. Paul Silverstone moves up from Board Member to the position of Treasurer.



**Banai Feldstein and Michael Goldstein
at the IAJGS Conference, 2009**

The 2009 IAJGS Awards

by Banai Lynn Feldstein

The Thursday night banquet at the Philadelphia conference was, as usual, the biggest event of the week. (Actually, I think Game Night was a close competitor this year.)

Before the awards were presented, Marc Manson (Michigan), the awards committee chairman, made sure to thank Steve Morse for his one-step page for award nominations. A lot of people thought he was kidding and he got a laugh from the audience.

The committee also included Daniel Horowitz (Israel), Phyllis Kramer (Florida), Kahlile Mehr (Utah), and Gary Mokotoff (New Jersey).

The Outstanding Programming or Project that Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy went to the JGS of Greater Boston, for a 17 hour course it gave at Hebrew College. Their president, Heidi Urich, accepted the award.

The Outstanding Publication award went to JGS, Inc., the JGS of New York City, for their publication of 30 years, Dorot. Linda Cantor, their president, accepted the award.

The award for Outstanding Contribution to

Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print, or Electronic Product went to Harry Boonin for his two books, *The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia* and *Life and Times in Keshet Israel*. He was also given a special award from the JGS of Greater Philadelphia.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Joyce Field for her efforts on behalf of JewishGen's Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Register, Holocaust database, Yizkor Book database, and content acquisition.

The Stern Grant was not presented at the banquet, but was awarded to Shamir, a non-profit organization in Riga, Latvia, whose main goal is to commemorate the memory of Latvian Jews.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by Yisrael Campbell, a stand-up comedian who lives in Israel. Among his stories, he told of converting to Judaism just in time to marry an Egyptian Muslim. He decided not to convert to her religion because, "If I belong to all three major religions in one calendar year, people are gonna question my sincerity."



**Committee: Kahlile Mehr, Phyllis Kramer, Marc Manson, Daniel Horowitz, Gary Mokotoff
Winners: Harry Boonin, Heidi Urich, Joyce Field, Linda Cantor**

John Colletta Comes to Utah

by Banai Lynn Feldstein

We were happy to welcome John Colletta as the featured speaker of the July meeting of the UJGS. He spoke to us about putting stories into historical context. How do you take disembodied facts and recreate human lives?

First, you begin with a biographical fact. His example was the marriage of Jacob Striner and Mary Hill in 1860. He found information about their marriage published in a local newspaper. The marriage took place in the residence of Jacob Morris in Vicksburg, Pennsylvania.

As genealogists, we know how to track down marriage information, but John asked, what does it mean for two people to be married in Vicksburg in 1860 at Jacob Morris's residence?

John turned to the census and the city directory. He tracked down real estate information, checking land deeds, and maps, and found that Jacob Morris owned a certain lot, buying the property next door, then next to that, until he owned the whole block. A map of the city showed that the block was on the busy Mississippi River, showing why his business of a boarding house was doing so well.

Looking through newspapers of the time, he uncovered details about the weather. In this particular instance, apparently nothing of note happened at the time the couple were married.

He further discovered that Jacob Morris and Jacob Steiner (as he had previously discovered was the correct spelling of the name) were part of a German-speaking mercantile group, where the members often intermarried between religions. John realized that his Catholic relative had married a Jew. Contacting the local synagogue for more information, he helped them discover records in their possession that they didn't know were there.

The final piece of the puzzle came in the one

element that you just can't account for in genealogical research; dumb luck, or serendipity. The local church records were finally indexed, and he found their marriage at the church in 1865.



John Colletta

John Colletta used the techniques he shared with us to write his book, *Only a Few Bones*.

For his second example, John used an immigration story. What was it like for our ancestors to leave their

homeland, take the long voyage, and arrive in America? What impact did the immigrants have on America, and what impact did America have on the immigrants?

One of the points that John made about immigration was that not everyone went through Ellis Island. And he didn't just make the typical point about our ancestors arriving at other ports, but that many immigrants who entered the country through New York went through the Barge Office and Castle Garden at various times, including after a fire that burned Ellis Island to the ground and during World War I when Ellis Island was used by the War Department.

John suggested looking into the history of the ship and checking the New York Times for arrival information.

When writing your story, it's important to come up with a theme or an idea of your ancestors' lives. Were their lives summarized by ambition or contentedness? Adventurousness or security? Success or failure? Did they struggle with hardship or have good fortune?

President's Message

by Rochelle Kaplan

At our next meeting, we will nominate and elect officers of the Utah Jewish Genealogical Society for the upcoming year. So I am calling for nominations for these positions: president, recording secretary, treasurer, membership chair, program chair, newsletter editor, and web site manager. Currently, these positions are held by me (president and secretary), Mark Kleinfeld (treasurer), Marelynn Zipser (membership), Thomas Lerman (programming), Banai Feldstein (newsletter and web site editor). I would like to return to being solely recording secretary.

At the meeting, we will revisit our bylaws for possible changes and formulate our calendar dates for 2010. Should Daniel Horowitz, a genealogist now living in Israel, be in Utah in early November as expected, we will change our meeting date from October to November to accommodate his schedule. Stay tuned.

Kudos to Khalile Mehr and Banai Feldstein who represented UJGS at the IAJGS conference in Philadelphia! The early August event was a resounding success. I hope the two presenters will reprise their workshops for our members. I have sent away for the conference tapes and hope members will borrow them. Congratulations to Joyce Field, recipient of the lifetime achievement award, for her contributions to the JewishGen Yizkor Project.

Welcome back to Utah to Gerald and Maryann Jacobs, Robert Neu, and Don Fallick. And welcome to our new members, Gary Bowen, Michael and Sheryl Ginsberg, J. E. Levins, Louise Lindorf, Doug Torney, Frank and Anne Kwiatowski, and F.D. and Candace Kammerman. I am thrilled that our last few

meetings have been well attended, perhaps because we had excellent genealogical speakers from out of town.

As to my own genealogical sleuthing, I finally broke through a brick wall and located my great-grandfather's ship manifest page. That resulted from a phone call from my cousin, Rabbi Shlomo Bregman, who lives in Lakeside, NJ, and who is about to be remarried. He related a Jewish custom of visiting the gravesites of one's ancestors to ask their blessings upon an upcoming marriage. I hadn't heard of the custom but I am neither Orthodox nor steeped in Jewish traditions as is Shlomo. He wanted to know where some of his great-grandparents were buried. I was happy to help out.

"I am thrilled that our last few meetings have been well attended, perhaps because we had speakers, excellent genealogists, from out of town"

As I read aloud the info on my great-grandfather, Alexander/Zissel Kaplan, my neurons fired. The next day I determined to use the Stephen Morse One-Step site, <http://stevemorse.org/>, to try again (after not trying in a few years) to locate my GGF.

This time, using the birth year span of 1850-1857 and the probable years of emigration from 1895 to 1899 (the year most of his children arrived at Ellis Island), I calculated his age range and entered only place of birth, Russia, range of entry years, Jewish and surname. In the past, I had tried many variants of Alex and Zissel, and entered Slutsk and had come up empty. This time, as I scanned the results, one name struck me: Tusshind Kaplan. I realized that the person who transcribed the manifest page misread what was likely Zusskind, a kinnui of Alexander and Zissel. Looking at the ship manifest from February 1895, from the steamship Dania, I clearly read Zusskind, age

(Continued on page 10)

(President's Message, Continued from page 9)

42, laborer. The ship left Hamburg, Germany in January.

The following day, I checked out the Hamburg Emigration Database hoping to get more information from the German pages. Sure enough, the last place of residence was listed Kapule (or Kopyl). That shtetl, 20 miles northwest of Slutsk, I know was the home of my great-grandfather. Checking the 1910 census again, I saw that Alex listed his year of immigration as 1895. Bingo! I still have to locate him on the 1900, 1905, and 1930 censuses.

Lessons learned: Every so often, revisit your material. Something may click that didn't before. Don't always try for first and last names, since handwriting analysis, in the hands of a transcriber with no familiarity with Yiddish or Eastern European Jewish names, may be wanting. Use ranges of dates. The Morse site makes this easy. Periodically check in with your relatives to get stories and new angles to explore. Once you find an error in Ancestry, contact them about the error.

Happy hunting.

Rochelle

Popular British Jewish Database Grows to 40,000 Records

20 April 2009—FamilySearch expanded its Knowles Collection, a free popular database of Jewish records hailing from the British Isles. The collection builds upon work commenced by the late Isobel Mordy, a well-known historian of the Jews of the British Isles.

Mordy was a retired mathematician and used a complex code to link Jewish United Kingdom families in her research. Her work yielded 8,000 names and has been very popular for Jewish researchers with British ancestry.

"The complexity of the code Mordy used to index her research is daunting even to the most experienced researcher," said Todd Knowles, author and manager of the Knowles Collection and a British Reference consultant for the FHL in Salt Lake City. It took Knowles a few years, but he ultimately managed to transcribe the records from Mordy's work into a more easily searchable genealogy database.

The great advantage of the Knowles Collection is that it links together electronically tens of thousands of individual Jews into family groups. Knowles has since expanded Mordy's collection of 8,000 names to a collection of

over 40,000.

"The records come from over 100 individual sources," noted Knowles. "That saves the researcher a lot of time and travel."

Some of the record sources were actively maintained until the mid 1980s, so many people living today will be able to find their relatives from recent memory in the collection. The newly added names come from many types of records: censuses; probate records; synagogue birth, marriage, and death records; biographies; and more.

Perhaps the most interesting records added recently include over 200 Jewish Welsh marriages from a community in the city of Cardiff, original synagogue records, and patron-submitted records.

The collection can be accessed at FamilySearch.org on the Jewish Family History Resources page. It is available to download for free as either a GEDCOM or PAF file. Individuals can add their own records to the collection by contacting the collection's author, Todd Knowles, knowleswt@familysearch.org.

Involving Children in Family History: The Cemetery Excursion

by Lane Fischer, Ph.D.

Cemeteries are often characterized as spooky places in children's literature and folklore. Children's actual experience with cemeteries may be associated with direct loss and grief or observation of the grief and crisis engendered in the lives of extended relatives. When adolescents make cemeteries their playgrounds with hijinks and night games, they are psychologically taking control of their fear and grief. However, there is a more functional way to engage with a cemetery that better enhances children's psychological growth and identity development. If parents will take children to cemeteries to assist in family history research at a time that they (the parents and children) are psychologically calm, children will come to better know who they are as well as the nature of family life and death. A research visit to the cemetery opens multiple conversations about identity, history, birth, and death.

Jewish headstones are particularly instructive. Because Jewish headstones in America typically include information in both English and Hebrew, children learn about the importance of names and kinnuim. For example, the headstone of my great-great-grandfather, states Shalom Shachne Blumenfeld; the name he used in America was Sam. Finding the headstone with his Hebrew and Aramaic name was instructive to my children. A rough translation of Shalom Shachne is peaceful neighbor. The discussion with our children flowed something like this: Can you think of why a parent would name his



child peaceful neighbor? Do you recall that one of the three rules we have is "In our family, we talk and we share. We don't fight." Do you know how much our family has always valued peace? Did you know that your grandfather, Roger Sheldon, was named after Shalom Shachne? Did you know that your great uncle and his cousin were also named after Shalom Shachne? Do you know why we do this? My initial questions to them led to them asking me much deeper existential questions. Where did they come from? Where do we come from -- not just in Europe -- but in the universe? How is it that we are organized in families? How long have we known each other as entities in the universe? It was fascinating to watch them

(Continued on page 12)

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 quarterly at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month at Congregation Kol Ami in Salt Lake City, Utah.

(Cemetery Excursions, Continued from page 11)

ponder important questions after observing a headstone. Rather than see a headstone in a cemetery as a scary thing, it became a source of identity and peace.

Another example was the headstone of a once long-lost cousin, Burton Harris, who died at age 13 in a tragic automobile-bicycle accident.

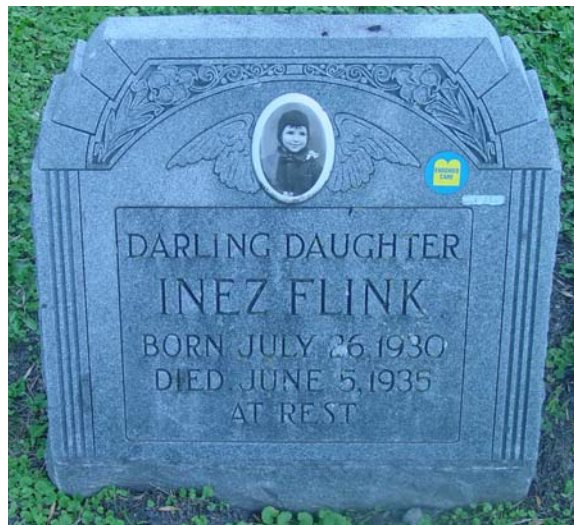


Lovingly preserved in porcelain is the letter that his classmates wrote to his parents. The text is pointed to say that Burton was "an all around American boy". It was poignant to note to our children the era in which the letter was written: during World War II. His mother was an immigrant to the US. Perhaps in the assimilation process, and in such a time in history, few compliments could engender more pride than to be dubbed "an all around American boy". Our children, born in America, assimilated, generations-removed from the immigrant struggle for survival and acceptance,

can have a taste of the courage shown by and stressors endured by their ancestors by simply visiting a cemetery.

Inez Flink died at age four. When children visit a cemetery and see the high number of children lost to disease in the not-so-distant past, they can realize how blessed they are to have been born at a time when antibiotics repel the simple childhood illnesses that killed their ancestors' children. They can sense how often their families have dodged the grief of losing a little one. Porcelain portraits of children like Inez make them very real to us now. Seeing them in a cemetery can make life more precious to our little ones.

Rather than being places of spookiness and fear, cemeteries can be places of instruction that enhance identity development and appreciation for life, current blessings, and the struggles of our ancestors.



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Utah's Jewish History, Part 4: Mining Magnates

by Rochelle Kaplan

Jewish Mining Magnates in Utah and the Alta Club

(Photos courtesy of the Utah State Historical Society, unless otherwise noted.)

Mining began in earnest in the state in 1870, when minerals were discovered to be plentiful in Utah. Jews such as Charles Popper, who had lived in mining towns in California, moved to the Beehive State and became involved in mining and other businesses. Frederick Auerbach noted, "Our business (Auerbach's Store) gradually increased until 1868, when the institution known as Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution was started, which for a time seemed to threaten our existence here as merchants. Had it not been for the discovery of minerals here and the steady development of the mining industry, it would certainly have proved unprofitable for us to stay here in this territory."

By the 1880s, miners from Alta, Ophir, and Park City became Salt Lake City capitalists. A well to do group were either engaged directly in mining or smelting or served the industry as bankers and suppliers of services and equipment. Several of these prominent men decided they'd like a social club like the Union



Abraham Hanauer

Club in San Francisco and clubs back east. A committee to establish such a club was comprised of Gentiles (non-Mormons) most connected with the mining industry. The group included Fred Auerbach, merchant, and Abraham Hanauer, pioneer smelter owner (Hanauer Smelting

Works) and operator, who like Charles Popper was also involved in ranching. Hanauer was the Alta Club's fourth president, in 1886. In the Territory then were two spheres, Mormon and Gentile, which generally did not mix, each with its own economy, political parties, societies, and holidays.



The Alta Club

Of the eighty-one charter members of the Alta Club in 1883, thirty-five were directly involved in mining, smelting, or assaying (analyzing metal or ore to determine its components). In the 1890s, additional wealthy Jewish members of the Alta Club included Jacob E. Bamberger, a representative of the Guggenheim mining and smelting family, and Hartwig Cohen, a manager and grandson and namesake of a rabbi in South Carolina, who persuaded Enos Wall to put his property into the ultimately successful Utah Copper venture. Simon Guggenheim, son of Meyer and brother of Solomon R. (of New York City's Guggenheim Museum), and Samuel Newhouse, who had already made a fortune in Colorado mining, railroads, and real estate, were colorful Alta Club members and philanthropists.

(Continued on page 14)

(Utah's Jewish History, Continued from page 13)

Like Newhouse, Simon Guggenheim moved from Pennsylvania to Colorado where he worked for his father's mining and smelting operation, M. Guggenheim's Sons, as the chief ore buyer. When Simon wed in New York City, the Guggenheims provided Thanksgiving dinner to five thousand poor Manhattan children. When his first child was born in 1905, Simon Guggenheim donated \$80,000 to the Colorado School of Mines to build Guggenheim Hall, which at the time, was the largest private grant ever made to a state institution. In 1907, Guggenheim was elected a Colorado Senator, as a Republican.

After one term, he moved to New York and joined the board of ASARCO (the American Smelting and Refining Company) and afterwards long served as company president. When one of his sons died as a teenager in 1922, Simon established the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in his memory. Since that time, the foundation has granted more than 15,000 Guggenheim Fellowships, worth nearly a quarter billion dollars. Although he never lived in Utah, Simon joined the Alta Club, so I presume he came regularly to Utah on business.

Newhouse's spectacular rise and fall makes him my favorite Utah mining character. Called the father of copper mining in Utah, he was president of the Denver, Lakewood, and Golden Railroad, Boston Consolidated Mining Company, Newhouse Mining Company, Newhouse Mines and Smelters, and Nipissing Silver Mines Company, and controlled the Highland Boy Mine in Bingham Canyon, Utah. Newhouse built the first two skyscrapers in Salt Lake, the Newhouse and Boston Buildings, which still stand. He donated land for the Commercial Building and the Stock Exchange Building with



Newhouse and Boston Buildings

the intent of building an alternative business district to that dominated by Mormons. At one point, he had plans and an architect to erect fifteen buildings. Elsewhere, Newhouse bought the land for and built the celebrated Flatiron Building in New York City. He owned an estate on Long Island in New York, where he raised horses, a chateau outside Paris, and mansions in London and Salt Lake City. Sadly, the Utah home was demolished.



Samuel Newhouse

A 1904 New York Times article announced that Newhouse had uncovered \$85,000,000 worth of ore at the Great Cactus Mine in Utah.

Newhouse said he would share annually the profits with the miners and would build a beautiful city near the mine for their use, with each miner to have a house on a lot 200 by 600 feet. In 1908, the Utah delegation to the

(Continued on page 15)

(Utah's Jewish History, Continued from page 14)

Democratic Party nominated Newhouse as vice-presidential nominee but he declined. And Newhouse figured prominently in the national news in 1909, when he beat a train record from Chicago to New York so he could make the Lusitania crossing to visit his dying brother in Europe.

SAMUEL NEWHOUSE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Denver, July 7.—Samuel Newhouse was today formally endorsed for the vice-presidential nomination by the Utah delegation, but declined to allow his name to be presented on the ground that with Bryan as a nominee, an eastern man ought to occupy second place on the ticket.

Newhouse also began construction on the Newhouse Hotel but financial problems prevented him from completing the project. A joke on the vaudeville circuit was that



Newhouse Hotel

"The best ventilated hotel in the West."

Newhouse had the best ventilated hotel in the West (because glass was not yet set in the windows). Profligacy, overextension of credit, legal costs, a financial panic, and the looming Great War which made it hard to get credit, all contributed to Newhouse's bankruptcy, sometime around 1915. His wife, Ida, from whom he was separated but who remained friendly with him, gave him back her jewels to be sold to help him out. Ida remained for years in the Belvedere Hotel in Salt Lake City, helped by friends including Lester Freed, an Alta Club member and businessman. She died in Los Angeles. Samuel died at his sister's chateau, which he had given to her, outside Paris, in 1930.

Another early Jew involved in mining was Henry Siegel, first president of Congregation B'nai Israel. He was the manager of the Siegel Consolidated Mining Company, and mentioned in a 1903 article in *The Mining Review* that a Nevada mine the company owned "has twelve men working an iron-manganese vein and which goes 188 ounces of silver to the ton". His brother Sol was an Alta Club member.

The Bamberger family was involved in coal mining and owned the Bamberger Coal Company before branching out into other businesses such as transportation. Jacob E. Bamberger controlled the Daly West Mine; he was Simon Bamberger's brother. Simon went on to become Utah's only Jewish governor. When Jacob retired, his son Ernest took the reins at the mine. All three Bambergers were in the Alta Club.



Jacob Bamberger

(Continued on page 16)

(Utah's Jewish History, Continued from page 15)



H.A. Van Praag

H. A. Van Praag was a wool dealer and mining capitalist and also a member of B'nai Israel and the Alta Club. Charles Popper, still another Alta Club member, discovered and developed the Queen of the Hills Mine in Idaho, paying him \$60,000 a month. Isador Morris donated gold dust to

Congregation Montefiore to enable construction to begin on a synagogue. M. S. Asheim, who had a mercantile store in Park City, developed its first smelter.

Moses Hirschman was born in Württemberg, Germany in 1832 and came to the U.S. in 1856. He lived in West Virginia, went to California via the Panama route in 1860, and moved to Nevada. Enamored of mining, he went to Montana in 1869 and two years later settled in Salt Lake City. He was involved in Flagstaff, South Star, and other Alta silver mines and the Brooklyn lead mine in Bingham. He also owned a shoe store in Salt Lake City.



Hirschman's Shoe Store

Anna Rich Marks was born in Russian Poland in 1847, went to England, and met and married Wolff Marks in 1862. They moved to NY and then traveled west to Salt Lake City where they operated a store. In 1880, they moved to Eureka, 60 miles south of Salt Lake City, in the midst of the rich Tintic mining area. A local historian, Sam Elton, describes Anna's arrival in Eureka:

"In the early days of Tintic, two men, John Freckleton and Hyrum Gardner, claimed the land in the west end of Pinion Canyon. They opened the first road through the canyon and placed a toll gate in the narrow part,

charging a fee for entrance. Anna was in the lead in a

buggy followed by many wagons loaded with everything necessary to open a store. When she came to the gate, she refused to pay the toll. A verbal war was on, the air turning blue with Anna's cuss words. She summoned her bodyguard and with guns drawn, they tore down the toll gate and went on to Eureka. Anna took possession of some ground on the south side of the street and was soon in business. Her right to the ground was hotly contested by a man named Pat Shay. Many verbal arguments followed. Finally, she pulled her guns on Pat. He went flying and so did the bullets. He made it to a pile of posts. He wasn't hit, but she sure made the bark fly. From then on, no one crossed Anna Marks."

She also carried on a historic battle with the Denver and Rio Grand, holding up the building of a railroad at gunpoint until the Denver and Rio Grand met her price to cross the section of her land.



Anna Rich Marks
Photo: Jewish Women's Archive

UJGS Meeting Highlights

January, April, July 2009

*by Rochelle Kaplan***20 January 2009**

Fourteen people attended.

- Rochelle Kaplan was asked to be on the Stern Prize Committee for the upcoming IAJGS conference and she accepted. The UJGS voted to send a check to contribute to the prize.
- Rochelle read from an article in the New York Times, 19 January 2009, about Flickr and its increasing historical photo collection. The article, "Historical Photos in Web Archives Gain Vivid New Lives", by Noam Cohen, states that the German national archive uploaded nearly 100,000 historical photos to Wikimedia Commons. The archive hopes that folks can identify the 58,000 people in the photos. Similarly, the Library of Congress began adding photos a year ago to a Flickr service called the Commons. The article is online: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/19/technology/internet/19link.html>.
- Banai Feldstein reprised her talk from the IAJGS Conference, "Szlepping Through Kalisz: A Journey of Researching Polish Families Using the Family History Library and JRI-Poland". Banai began with her Kurlender family from Wizna, showing how the JRI-Poland index allowed her to create a large family tree. Attempting to do the same for her Szleper family from Kalisz proved a bigger challenge because she was dealing with multiple families in a large city instead of a single family in a small town. She showed how she used JRI-Poland and the FHL records, her own knowledge of Polish and Russian, and discussed her method of keeping records by FHL film numbers.

- Daniel Schlyter reprised his talk from the IAJGS Conference, "Building Your Own Digital Map Collection". A copy of the handout he provided is available online at <http://www.ujgs.org/resources/BuildingMapCollection.doc>. Daniel stressed that many images, including maps, can be used for personal study and research using the fair use doctrine of the copyright law. He said that if you can see it (on your computer screen), it is already on your computer, and demonstrated various ways to save the map (or any image) even if the web site tries to prevent you from doing so. His handout lists a variety of search engines to find maps and many web sites of map collections.

21 April 2009

Twenty-five people attended.

- Roger Lustig presented "Prussian Poland 101". Roger has been active in genealogy for about seven years; he is a researcher with JRI-Poland specializing in Prussia and Upper Silesia, is a coordinator for German SIG, does independent research, began as a statistician, then a musicologist, and is now a business consultant and does genealogy consulting.

Roger showed several maps of Prussia. Posen had the largest Jewish population. He discussed many of the cities in Germany/Prussia where Jews have lived. Silesia was divided into urban and rural voters. People were German and Polish speakers, with pockets of Czech speakers. Jews of Pomerania were largely German-speaking.

(Continued on page 18)

(Minutes, Continued from page 17)

Important records for genealogists are Judentabelle (Jew tables) which were census records used primarily for tax purposes. Roger was concerned with one town, Gliewitz (Gliwice) in Upper Silesia, with archives dating back to 1782. Gliewitz is the only place in Silesia with surviving Tabellen, and they go back to the 1760s, with some earlier documentation of the community too.

Roger's inspiration in genealogy was his father, Ernst Lustig (1921-1999). Ernst, a chemist and early user of computers, realized their importance in organizing genealogical material.

He pointed out that Ashkenazi Jews lacking surnames before the 19th century was a myth. Between tribal names, rabbinical dynastic names, big city names, and informal ones elsewhere, plenty of Jews had surnames. These were not necessarily passed down to all children and were not necessarily unchanging.

- Crista Cowan presented about Jewish records at Ancestry.com. Crista has done genealogy research for eight years, has been at Ancestry.com for five years, and has done family history for almost 25 years.

Ancestry sends inquiries and researchers to European archives, trying to drum up interest and partners. Some archives are more open with Ancestry since it is not religious-driven.

Less than 10% of European records are digitized. Eastern European archives are difficult, sometimes the archivists there don't even know what they have. In one Italian archive, three-quarters of a million records were lost due to water damage and improper handling, having just been filmed by Ancestry.

Ancestry offers conservation and cataloging work for archives in exchange for permission to digitize records.

Ancestry has a new portal, Jewish Family History, with tabs to North America, Europe, More Countries, Holocaust, and articles about research by Gary Mokotoff. Ancestry has the largest paid online collection; JewishGen has the largest free online collection. Ancestry has 8.9 million Jewish-specific records, mostly in the US; JewishGen has 13 million Jewish records, mostly European. Ancestry now hosts most of the JewishGen data, which can be searched from both web sites.

28 July 2009

Seventeen people attended.

- John Colletta presented "Turning Biographical Facts into Real Life Events: How to Build Historical Context". John is a writer, historian, and genealogist who speaks five languages and long taught at the National Archives in Washington, DC, where he lives. He is the author of *They Came in Ships* and *Only a Few Bones*. For more information about John, visit his web site: <http://genealogyjohn.com/>.

John suggested starting with some fact: military, immigration, marriage, birth. His first example used the marriage of Jacob Steiner and Mary Hill in 1860 in Vicksburg, MS. He found a notice of the wedding under *hymeneals* (nuptials) in the *Vicksburg Weekly* newspaper. He followed through by searching for all involved parties in the 1860 census, land records, insurance maps, topographical maps and an 1863 panoramic view of the city. Further information was obtained from the *Vicksburg Weekly Sun* and a *History of the City of Vicksburg*, illustrated newspapers

(Continued on page 19)

(Minutes, Continued from page 18)

like Harper's Illustrated and Leslie's. Knowing that Mary was Catholic and discovering that Jacob was Jewish, John contacted the synagogue to unearth more documents that they didn't even know they had. He used all of the information gathered to put together a narrative of the events, with details like weather, the location of the wedding and why it was there, other local events (in this instance, he said that nothing of note happened at the time).

John stressed that in doing family history research, each individual is unique and should be particularized and not generalized as much as possible.

In a second example, John used a ship list form Abram Laskin in 1907 arriving on the SS Arconia. Many amateur genealogists assume their ancestors came through Ellis Island and that the records will be in the online database. Before Ellis Island was used, immigrants arriving to New York registered at Castle Garden or the Barge

Office, which were also used at other times like during World War I and following the fire at Ellis Island in 1897. John also reminded us that many immigrants came to America using other ports like Galveston, Boston, Montreal, and New Orleans.

In one instance, there was a family story that there was a fire on board the ship. Further research showed that the fire was actually at Ellis Island.

John stressed the importance of narrating the story of an ancestor's life: linking life events, discerning a pervasive theme, conflict, or idea and constructing a narrative along that theme. He cited examples from other books he read including the Levy family, which was instrumental in saving Thomas Jefferson's home in Monticello.

- Our next meeting is scheduled for October 20. However, if Israeli Daniel Horowitz is available in early November and agrees to speak to us, we may postpone the meeting to better suit his schedule.

Message from the Editor

Was our last issue really after the 2008 Conference? And now, here we are a year later already, for our next issue. This seems a little sad to me. However, as much as I think we should have more issues, I also think they're better when more people participate in the writing of articles. I hope our members will start to participate even more in our newsletter. It's not really that difficult to write an article. Honestly. We all know, as genealogists, that we must "publish or perish", so we all must have some experience writing about genealogy. (Well, we either have some experience, or we're about to perish, I suppose.) Please UJGS members, this is OUR newsletter and I want YOU to contribute to it. If each member could

write just one article a year, even if that article is only a couple paragraphs long, it would improve our newsletter immensely and make it more OUR newsletter rather than the newsletter of the few regular contributors we've had in the past. Review a book, a film, or a meeting, tell a story about researching your own genealogy, or let us know what you learned from one of our meetings that helped you with your research. We'd be happy to hear from you.

Thank you for helping to improve OUR newsletter.

Banai Lynn Feldstein
UJGS Newsletter Editor

Film Review: Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg

by Rochelle Kaplan

I saw this wonderfully informative film while on a summer visit to New York City. Directed by Aviva Kempner the film tells the amazing story of Gertrude Berg, aka Molly Goldberg. Berg wrote, produced and starred in the popular radio show turned television show, which many dub the first television sitcom.

Berg was born Tilly Edelstein in New York, New York, and attended public schools. A brother died young; Tilly's mom never got over the loss and was eventually institutionalized. Tilly met Lewis Berg, whom she married in 1918, in the Catskills where her father had a resort and where Tilly produced skits for guests. She transformed one skit, a semi-autobiographical portrait of a Jewish family in a New York tenement, into a radio show. On November 20, 1929, a 15-minute episode of *The Rise of the Goldbergs* was first broadcast on the NBC radio network. Less than two years later, she let the sponsor propose a salary and was told, "Mrs. Berg, we can't pay a cent over \$2,000 a week." For the long-running radio show, Berg wrote over 5000 scripts. She loved malapropisms and in one episode, said to her husband, "It's late, Jake and time to expire." Americans of all stripes, including blacks and Greeks (as the movie demonstrates) identified with the situations in *The Goldbergs*. The show's characters received fan mail as often as did the actors who played them.

Berg finally prevailed upon CBS to let her bring *The Goldbergs* to television in 1949. Berg won the first Emmy Award for Lead Actress in a Comedy Series her debut year on the network, her twentieth consecutive year of playing the role; the show stayed in production for five years. A pioneer in product tie-in concepts, the writer-performer capitalized on the Molly Goldberg phenomenon with short stories, stage plays, a feature film, and a cookbook. Gertrude also developed a line of women's clothing and wrote an advice column. Gertrude was the



highest paid and second most respected woman in America (after Eleanor Roosevelt). She was the apparent forerunner of Oprah.

The Goldbergs, however, ran into trouble in 1951, when co-star Philip Loeb (as Molly's husband, Jake Goldberg) was one of the performers named in *Red Channels: The Report of Communist Influence in Radio and Television* and blacklisted. Berg refused to fire Loeb, who was beloved by many actors for helping to organize better working conditions for them. Loeb resigned rather than cause her trouble and later committed suicide by jumping from a window. The film discusses Loeb, his television replacements, the Goldbergs' move to middle-class Connecticut, and how the television show never reached its former glory.

Unlike Molly, Berg lived on Park Avenue, owned a country house, and did not speak with an accent or recite malapropisms. She wrote early in the morning, and then went to the studio to produce and star in her show. Her husband, born in England, was an engineer who helped invent instant coffee during World War II.

In 1959, Berg won the Tony Award for Best Actress for her performance in *A Majority of One*. That same year, she tried another television show, *Mrs. G. Goes to College*, in which she played a 62-year-old widow who decides to get a higher education. The film has pertinent clips.

The film fleshes out this hugely successful entrepreneur, writer, and actress, showing television series clips and interviews. Berg's life is placed in context, with folks like Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Susan Stamberg commenting on her influence. I hope the film comes to Salt Lake City; if it doesn't, I highly recommend renting it once it becomes available.

Tweeting from Philly

by *Banai Lynn Feldstein*

While writing my other article about the conference, I consulted with the schedule in the daily planner and my Twitter account to figure out where I'd been. I pulled up all my tweets from the conference, and found a few of them more interesting or entertaining than others, so I thought I'd share them.

From Matthew Bielawa's "Hands-on Approach to Learning the Cyrillic Alphabet" workshop, he had a great sense of humor and some interesting information to share:

Cyrillic and Greek alphabets are similar. "How many were in a sorority or fraternity in college? Tapa Tapa Keg?"

Transliterating the CH letter of Cyrillic: Ch in English, Tch in French, Tsch in German, Cz in Polish.

From the opening session, the IAJGS President had some things to say:

Opening Session of the conference, Prez Anne Feder Lee thanks us all for coming: "If you hadn't come, we wouldn't all be here."

Warren Blatt, in "Using Pre-1826 Polish Parish Records in Jewish Research", mentioned something I've heard before:

Map changes: was possible for someone to be born in Poland, married in Austria, die in Ukraine, and never leave town.

From the ROM-SIG meeting:

Someone just asked how to join the group. I realize that I'm not technically in it anymore. Whoops.

From the final presentation, "Sneak Preview of the 2010 Conference in Los Angeles":

Suggestions already in for "Happy Hour with the Experts", "Midnight with the Mavens", instead of only breakfasts. (Yay! I like that.)

And finally:

And that concludes the IAJGS Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy for 2009. Thanks for listening Twitter! Hope y'all enjoyed.

You don't have to sign up for Twitter to see what people are tweeting. Just visit <http://twitter.com/> and enter your search terms on the home page. (The search only goes back a short time, so the conference tweets are now out of range.) You can also "follow" a person's tweets if you know his/her username. You can follow me at <http://twitter.com/banaifeldstein>.

Banai Lynn Feldstein is a genealogist and a computer geek, who only joined Twitter because of her sleep deprivation, but she has found it to be both enjoyable and educational.



Application for Membership in UJGS

Utah Jewish Genealogical Society

Please enroll me as a member for one year as:

- An Individual \$10
 A Couple \$15

Mail to: UJGS
Mark Kleinfeld
2450 East 3700 North
Layton, UT 84040

Enclosed is a check payable to UJGS.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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Surnames of interest: _____

Locations of interest: _____

Signature _____