

20th U of U Remembrance Day: In 1942, the Dutch underground produced 300,000 yellow cloth stars like those imposed on Jews, inscribed, "Jews and non-Jews stand united in their struggle." The cloth stars distributed on campus carry a similar message. **Page 2**



ATSMI UVSARI

"MY BONE AND MY FLESH"

עצמי ובשרי

Number 6

Summer, 2004

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U of U hosts 20th Days of Remembrance

by Wilma Odell

The University of Utah remembered the millions of victims of the Holocaust during its 20th anniversary of Days of Remembrance activities in April 2004, coinciding with the national Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 18, and included a keynote address, lecture, reading, workshop, and film screenings. All events (except the workshop taken for credit) were free.

Jewish Stars

On campus, yellow cloth stars were distributed to faculty, staff, and students to commemorate the identity badges that have been imposed on Jews throughout history. In Nazi-occupied Denmark, the yellow, six-pointed star was never introduced because King Christian X threatened to wear it himself. In 1942, the Dutch underground produced 300,000 replicas of the badge inscribed with the motto, "Jews and non-Jews stand united in their struggle." Many Dutch citizens wore these in solidarity with the victims and in defiance of the Nazis. The cloth stars distributed on campus carry a similar message.

Films, lectures, readings, etc

Films shown over a three-day period, April 12 - 14, were: JUDGMENT AT NUREMBERG, DIVIDED WE FALL, THE PAWNBROKER, EUROPA EUROPA. and others. There was also a lecture by Holocaust survivor Ruth Kluger, "Jewish Ghosts in



University of Utah campus, courtesy of University of Utah

Postwar Germany," as well as a reading from her internationally best-selling and award-winning autobiographical memoir, *STILL ALIVE: A HOLOCAUST GIRLHOOD REMEMBERED*. A coming-of-age story that constantly delves into the blunt, unsentimental observations of childhood, *STILL ALIVE* rejects all easy assumptions about history, both political and personal. Kluger sees and names an unexpected reality which has little to do with conventional wisdom or morality tales. From the experiences of her youth she builds a philosophical argument for the right to live and the right to self-determination.

[Continued on page 3]

Remembrance [cont'd from page 5]

The University also offered a workshop with lecture, discussion, and film clips on the Holocaust by Ronald M. Smelser, Professor of History. This workshop was only available for those registering for university credit through Academic Outreach and Continuing Education.

Keynote address

Charles Sydnor's keynote address,

"Managing Genocide: Reinhard Heydrich & the SS Culture of Murder" came on Thursday, April 15. Sydnor has prepared materials and testified in more than two dozen cases brought by the US government against former SS guards in German concentration camps and Nazi war criminals. He is recognized internationally as an authority on the policies of persecution, the crimes of the Nazi Regime, and the history of the Holocaust. His lecture focused on the life [*Continued on page 18*]

Zip tips

Check Ancestry.com for pre-Ellis Island NY arrivals

by Marilyn Zipser

Ancestry.com has added New York arrivals for 1851-1891, preceding Ellis Island. They also have early New York City naturalizations available. You may get lucky and find your people immediately, but you may have to try other strategies.

I was looking for Moritz Zipser. Initial attempt at arrival (using Morris and variations on Zipser) was unsuccessful, BUT he was listed in naturalization, stating he had come 13 Nov 1879. I finally entered "Moritz" with no surname, year "1879" and "Hungary."

There were nine records, but one Moritz FRIEBSER arrived on 14 Nov 1879. I linked to the original manifest which was almost black. I saw Moritz Ziebser, and above him a Salamon Ziebser (his brother).

Fortunately, the manifest was clear on the microfilm I found at the LDS Church's Family History Library. His brother was indexed as "Liebser!" The European "Z" may have been the problem if the records were electronically transcribed. ☆



The Family History Library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Photo courtesy LDS Church

Origins of common European-Jewish Surnames

reported by Rochelle Kaplan

Jeremy Taylor's surname, for example, might become Szabo in Hungarian, Schneider in German, Portnoy in Russian. (All words for tailor.) He also wrote the equivalents in Russian and Hebrew. Polish records before 1868 were written in Polish so Shnaider might be Sznajder or Szneider or Zsznajdrowych. After 1868, the records were written in Russian.

In 1835, Russia required Jews to take fixed surnames. The Duchy of Warsaw required fixed surnames but Jews were not allowed to take Christian-sounding surnames. In other places and times, Jews couldn't take Jewish-sounding surnames. Dan noted that the Dutch and French kept meticulous records.

Another example of a surname was Hirsch. Hirsch means deer. So if Hirsch didn't like this name, he might have changed it to Hart, which is German for deer, or Jelinek, which is Polish for deer. Cerf is French for deer. Other equivalents are Hertz or Herz.

Tsvi equals Levy. Levite is associated with Levi, and variants might be Levinsky, Levin, Lewin, Levine.

There are names associated with fish: Efroyim, Efrem, for example. Also Hecht, which is German for pike. Or Rybok, Rybak, which equals Fisher, Fischer, Fiszer. A Kinnui is a Jewish tradition of names associated with qualities of objects. Judah, for example, is associated with the lion. The Slavic word for lion is Lev or Lew. From this we might get Lowenstein or Lowen or Lowenbrau.

People selected surnames after places. Hence, we have Morey Amsterdam. Morey

might have been Morris, Maurice, Moses, Meyer. Meier means farmer in German and has variants Mayer, Mehr, Meir. Pinski or Pinsky might indicate a person from Pinsk. Other names derived from places are Irving Berlin, Guggenheim, Posnik (a person from Posna), Bayer (from Bavaria), Unger (from Hungary), Anne Frank (from France), Halperin (from Heilbronn), Spiro (from Spier). Dreyfus, from Trier, a German town.

Surnames were also derived from occupations. A butcher might become Metzger, Schlachter, Resnick (from the Polish or Slavic word for butcher). A shochet might take the surname Chocquette in France. Kaufman means merchant. Sherman means cloth-cutter. Zlote from gold in Polish, or Golda. Skulnick means town crier. Klopman or Koppelman or Kaplan means prayer caller.

Sometimes names came from nature. Rosensweig means rose branch. Fink means finch. Finkelstein means glittering stone or diamond. So does Diamant. Sometimes folks paid to get a better name.

Sometimes names were rearranged. So Weil might be Levi or Lewi rearranged.

Katz came from conflating Cohen Tzadek, or righteous priest. Segal or Siegel comes from Segan Leviah or member of the Levites.

Recall that Russian has no H, instead using G. So Hirsh became Girsh. Kogin might be Cohen or Cogin or Kohen.

Novak in Slovak is the equivalent of Neu or Noye or New. Names derived from other adjectives such as Klein, Gross, Weis. Harry Houdini's real surname was Weiss. ☆

History Page & Book Review

REFUGE IN HELL: how Berlin's Jewish Hospital outlasted the Nazis

by Daniel B. Silver. Houghton Mifflin Co. 2003. ISBN 0-618-25144-8

When Russian soldiers liberated Berlin's Jewish Community Hospital, they were amazed to discover a fully functioning medical facility with eight hundred Jews still living there openly.

Daniel Silver served as General Counsel to both the NSA and the CIA, but revealing the secrets of Berlin's Jewish hospital may be his most astounding feat of research. As he takes us through the labyrinthine tangles of history, mysteries pile upon enigmas.

How did they survive the entire Nazi Holocaust, in the very heart of the Reich? Why did the Nazis allow this one Jewish institution survive, staffed entirely by Jewish doctors and nurses, for the benefit of Jewish patients? Why did the Gestapo fund the hospital with five million reichsmarks?

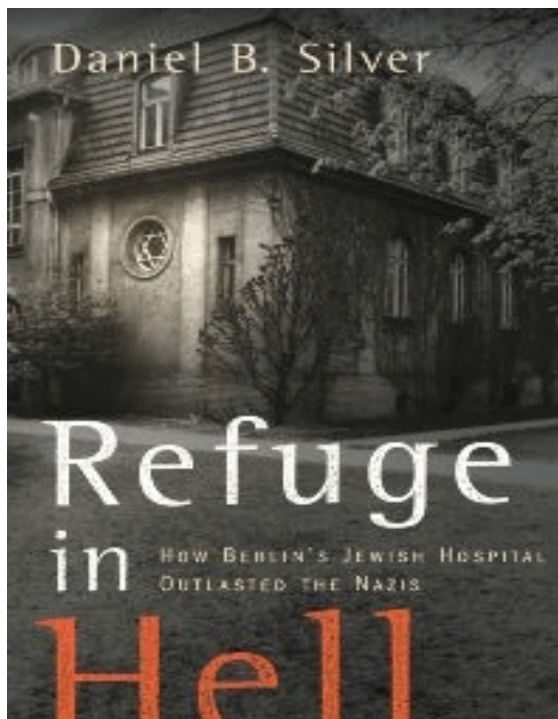
And what became of the hospital's Jewish director, "Dr. - Dr." Walter Lustig? Was he a venal coward who sacrificed half his medical staff to keep his job, or a hero who negotiated successfully with Adolf Eichmann? Or both? Should he be remembered as the aptly-named lecher who forced nurses to strip naked for his pleasure, or the genius with both an MD and a Ph.D., who kept the Jewish Hospital functioning, with all of Germany in ruins?

Daniel Silver has unearthed documents, memoirs, and even photographs of many of the hospital's personnel. But of the enigmatic Dr. Lustig, practically nothing remains: no photographs, no documents.

We don't even know his fate. Months after the war had ended, he climbed into a Russian limo and vanished without a trace. All that is left are the contradictory testimonies of his staff and subordinates.

From these testimonies and memoirs emerges an unusual portrait of Berlin under the Nazis. Silver devotes most of a chapter to the amazing *Frauenprotest*, which saved many of the hospital's personnel. In 1943, thousands of "Aryan" Berliners demonstrated publicly against the deportation of their Jewish husbands

and children. The protest lasted a week, right through a major air raid. Using the Nazis' own bizarre racial laws, the women forced Goebbels, as mayor of Berlin, to recall more than five thousand Jews from the camps, most of whom survived the war. Such was the power of public outrage, even in Nazi Berlin. What could they have accomplished, if they'd only had the courage to protest sooner! [Continued on page 6]



The Jewish Hospital's synagogue, closed by the Nazis, adorns the book's jacket. Photo courtesy Houghton Mifflin Co.

Refuge [continued from page5]

Some facets of the Shoah are so strange as to totally defy common sense. For example, the Nazis sometimes refused to transport sick prisoners to the death camps. Though medical resources were desperately needed throughout Germany, so many sick prisoners were sent to the Jewish Hospital that they were forced to open a “police ward” for sick transportees.

The prisoners knew that after they were cured, they would be sent to the camps to be murdered. Meanwhile, there was always a chance the war might end first. Over a hundred such prisoners did in fact survive the war this way.

The hospital’s survival also gives damning testimony about Eichmann’s role in the Shoah. Silver’s evidence contradicts the picture of Eichmann which emerged at his trial, as an aloof, impersonal bureaucrat. Eichmann visited the hospital frequently, to personally select individuals for deportation. One survivor noticed that he seemed to prefer fat women with glasses.

This evidence of his very personal involvement may have been unknown to his prosecutors, but it also begs the question: why did Eichmann allow eight hundred Jews, living openly under his direct, personal control, to evade genocide for twelve years?

Eichmann, of course, was a master at persuading Jews to cooperate in their own destruction. Silver notes:

The instinct of Jewish communal leaders to cooperate with the oppressor in mitigating the severity of the attacks proved fatally misguided...

With the benefit of hindsight, one can see that, instead of alleviating Jewish suffering, such cooperation enabled more Jews to be killed faster than otherwise would have occurred, and at less cost to the Germans. [Note #61.]

Silver’s end notes are far more than mere citations of quotes and sources. They tell lengthy stories of historical or even romantic interest, give “second opinions,” and comment on the reliability of witnesses. Many of the notes are as fascinating to read as the book itself.

REFUGE IN HELL is not a blood-and-guts horror book; nor is it a revisionist puff piece. Pulling no punches, Silver presents the facts of daily Jewish life at the center of the Nazi hell, through the stories of those who managed, astoundingly, to survive. ☆

WHO ARE WE?

UTAH JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY is a non-profit organization, organized to bring together all Utah people interested in pursuing Jewish genealogy, regardless of faith. UJGS Meets Bi-Monthly at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month at Congregation Kol Ami synagogue in Salt Lake City, Utah. ☆

Contact us:

UJGS website:

www.rootsweb.com/~utjgs/

President: Robert Neu

Program Chair: Rochelle Kaplan

Editor: Don Fallick d.fallick@mstar2.net

THE POWER OF DNA: DISCOVERING LOST AND HIDDEN RELATIONSHIPS

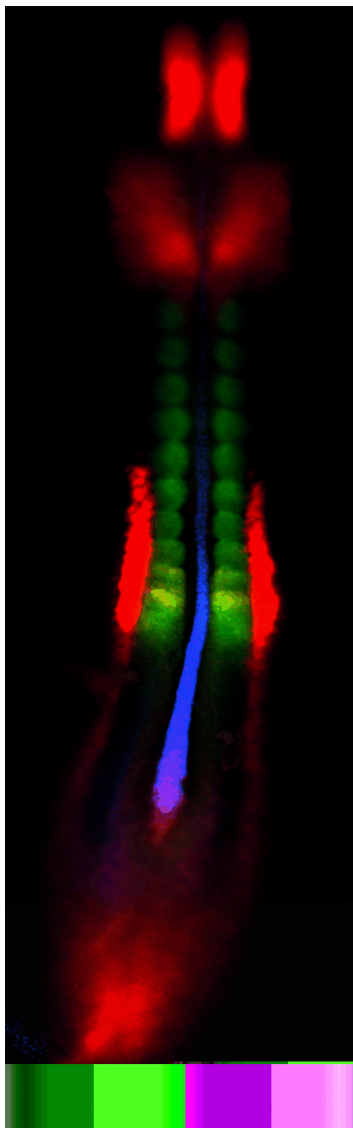
*Dr Scott Woodward is Chief Scientific Officer of The Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation
by Robert Neu*

In a presentation at the Salt Lake City Main Library on May 1, 2004, Doctor Woodward started by explaining the start of his passion for genealogy, and more specifically DNA genealogy.

It all started with the BYU archeology project in Egypt a dozen or so years ago. He indicated that the mention of this in the announcement for this lecture was in part due to the fact that it draws more interest than simply a presentation about “genealogy.”

In any case as all the uncovered mummies were being contemplated, the researchers got to wonder as to who all these people were. There was no documentation of any kind, just the mummies. Everyone seemed to agree that somehow they had to be related to each other. The question was how could one know? Could DNA provide the answer?

The next step was a 2:00 a.m. phone call from James Sorenson from the Sorenson Medical Companies. He wanted to have Dr. Woodward head a project to bring together all the people of



Actual chick embryo genes.
Credit: Teri Mauch,
University of Utah..

the earth by linking them using DNA genealogy. The rest will hopefully be history.

The fascinating thing about DNA is that it can be used to show how each human being that has ever lived or will ever live has a unique DNA, and on the other hand how each person has in his DNA the history of his ancestry that he shares with all humanity.

It is amazing to think that in each of our three to four trillion cells has DNA that consists of three billion characters.

Dr Woodward took us back in history, mentioning earlier attempts to both and separate people by what we call “race.” Carolus Linnaeus in 1758 considered that there were four races – white, black, yellow, and red. Charles Darwin in 1856 said there could be six to sixty races. A look at US Census forms links not quite sixty, but many more than four or six.

Dr. Woodward used his own ancestry as an example. His own DNA, as most Americans’, includes people from England, Scotland, Switzerland, Sweden, [Continued on page 8]

DNA Genealogy [cont'd from page 7]

Germany, and other mixtures. This shows his relationship to people from each of these countries. The DNA equivalent of a family name is a "haplotype," which we share with specific ancestral groups. These are shared with more and more common ancestors as we go back in time.

The theoretical doubling of ancestors at each generation before too long leads to an astronomical number of ancestors that would exceed the number of people alive at the time, let us say by the year 1300 C.E. or so. So, yes, we are all cousins. The term used is coalesce.

So far, the use of DNA in genealogy has been done using the Y chromosome which enables to trace the paternal line and the mitochondrial DNA for the maternal line. It is easy to do, as they are DNA which is passed on unchanged from father to son and mother to both sons and daughters, except for mutation (yes, we are all mutants.) This however is the study of 0.51 percent of the total DNA we have for the Y chromosome and 0.08 percent for the mitochondrial. So what about the rest of the over 99 percent, which are referred to as autosomal?

"Autosomal DNA" means that the rest (the over 99 per cent) of the DNA we inherit, is merged. For each chromosome, it is a combination of the corresponding chromosomes of father and mother, hence the diversity between human beings.

This is where the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation has a unique approach. They will link DNA genealogy and traditional genealogy, and their database will include autosomal markers and not only the Y and mitochondrial ones, which will enable one to link up with all ancestors, not only the paternal and maternal lines.

As a result, when a person checks whether their own DNA profile is the same as any of the DNA profiles in the database, and they get any match (meaning of almost all of their DNA markers) they will be able to look at the genealogy of the person they have matched, and see if they can link up with that person genealogically.

Using a sample of about six hundred natives from the South Pacific islands, they could divide the people into eight linked clusters with ancestors from Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Tonga etc.

So far the database has about forty thousand records, each consisting of one individual's DNA and genealogy going back at least four generations. They are working on expanding it to at least one hundred thousand or two hundred thousand records.

As another example, they were able to prove the relationship of over a hundred people to one specific person (in this case Lorenzo Snow 1814-1901, who was President of the LDS Church.)

To send in your DNA and traditional genealogy, or get more information, go to their web site: www.smgf.org. ✧

In our mailbox:

Hi Don,

Thanks for sending this issue to me directly. I had already downloaded your back issues (direct access is much quicker!) and have enjoyed reading through them. I'm sure that our members and other attendees will enjoy them as well.

Hazel Boon
for JGS - Hamilton [Canada] & Area

Does anyone else notice a speed difference between direct mailings and downloads from the Web site? – editor

MARK TWAIN ON "THE JEWS"

by Robert Neu

Today, when anti-Semitism is on the rise, Mark Twain's comments about us provide some comfort. When this essay appeared in 1889, large companies did not hire Jews. Universities had strict quotas. Ford and Edison expressed their anti-Jewish feelings openly. Mark Twain answered them:

If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way.

Properly, the Jew ought hardly be heard of; but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk.

His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine and obtuse learning are also way out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world in all the ages, and has done it with his hands tied behind him.

He could be vain of himself and be excused for it. The Egyptians, the Babylonians, and the Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, and faded to dream stuff and passed away. The Greeks and the Romans followed and made a vast noise and they are gone. Other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time. But it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all. Beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind.

All things are mortal but the Jew. All other forces pass, but he remains. ☆ – Mark Twain

Other famous writers' opinions:

"No thoughtful man can deny the fact that [the Jews] are, beyond any question, the most formidable and the most remarkable race which has appeared in the world."

– Winston Churchill

"The Jew is that sacred being who has brought down from heaven the everlasting fire, and has illumined with it the entire world. He is the religious source, spring, and fountain out of which all the rest of the peoples have drawn their beliefs and their religions." – Leo Tolstoy

"It was in vain that we locked them up for several hundred years behind the walls of the Ghetto. No sooner were their prison gates unbarred than they easily caught up with us, even on those paths which we opened up without their aid."

– A. A. Leroy Beaulieu

"... any modern man who has not learned to think as though he were a Jew can hardly be said to have learned to think at all."

– William Rees-Mogg

"As long as the world lasts, all who want to make progress in righteousness will come to Israel for inspiration." – Matthew Arnold

"The study of history of Europe during the past centuries teaches us one uniform lesson: That the nations which received and in any way dealt fairly and mercifully with the Jew have prospered; and that the nations that have tortured and oppressed him have written out their own curse."

– Olive Schreiner

"If there is any honour in all the world that I should like, it would be to be an honorary Jewish citizen." – A.L. Rowse

Submitting newsletter articles

by Don Fallick

It's not hard to get published, if you have information that other genealogists need or want. Newsletter editors are always alert for interesting articles and stories that they don't have to research and write themselves.

Contrary to popular opinion, you need not be a wonderful writer to qualify. The main reasons for rejection are:

- ❑ The subject does not fit the publication's needs.
- ❑ Duplication of a recent subject.
- ❑ Failure to self-edit.

Most rejections occur because the writer has not read the publication. *Atsmi Uvsari* does not need recipes for Jewish cooking or essays on Israeli politics. We are devoted to Utah Jewish Genealogy and issues affecting it. We also publish articles of wider interest, written by Utah Jewish genealogists.

Other newsletters may differ; the only way to know is to **read the publication**, then ask the editor. Include the topic, genre, and length in your query: "Would you be interested in a five-hundred-word editorial about the plight of Hungarian Jews?" Also include any relevant personal qualifications, such as fluency in Hungarian. Editors sometimes reject a perfectly good submission if it duplicates something they've recently published or have already accepted from another writer. A query note can save you from writing and submitting an article which is going to be rejected anyway.

Most newsletter editors will correct minor errors, but they are unpaid volunteers. If your piece needs complete rewriting, the editor may simply reject it.

- ❑ **Always** spell-check **everything!** If you can't spell common English, how can the editor trust you to get Hungarian surnames right?
- ❑ Watch out for homonyms like *to*, *two*, and *too*. Use a grammar-checker if necessary, but get them right.
- ❑ Have a friend help you look for problems, errors and ambiguities.
- ❑ Re-write for conciseness. Every word you can eliminate is golden. If it's too short, add more information.

It is best to submit articles by e-mail. For short ones, paste the text into the body of the e-mail, rather than attaching it, unless you know what format the publication wants. *Atsmi Uvsari* is edited in WordPerfect, which will not open Microsoft Word documents. When I receive a submission in Word, I have to open it, copy it, and paste it into Word Perfect anyway, so sending it as a Word attachment is not helpful. Of course, if an attachment is in Word Perfect, I can edit it directly, which does save time.

You may not be able to paste longer articles into the email body without violating the size limits of your email program. If you must send a long article as an attachment, attach it to a brief cover note, put the word, "Submission" in the subject line, and give the attachment a descriptive filename, such as, "hungary.doc."

If you've already queried the editor and been accepted, a cover note can be as simple as, "Here's my editorial on Hungary." If you have not previously contacted the editor... shame on you! ☆

Obituaries: More Than Meets the Eye

by Kory Meyerink, AG

QUICKIE QUIZ:

- What original source usually provides more information about its subject than any other original record?
- What source may provide cause of death before death certificates were required?
- What source tells you what became of Aunt Jenny's children?
- Besides church records, what source can tell you which specific church (congregation) a person belonged to?
- What is the best source for learning about the lives of female ancestors?
- What is the one "biographical sketch" most available for the common man?
- What source provides occupational details, such as the company an ancestor worked for?
- What source do family historians often ignore in their research?

If you answered "Obituaries" to each of the above questions, then you have at least read the title of this article. But, more than that, you are beginning to get an under-standing (if you didn't already have one) of the great value that this under-appreciated source has for family historians.

Yes, of course, you know about obituaries. After all, you have been reading them in the newspaper for

years. Perhaps you even helped write the obituary for a parent, grandparent, or other loved one. But obituaries are like several other records we encounter in our everyday, modern life; ones we often fail to consider when researching our ancestors and other relatives. In this way, they are like tax records, voter registration, and telephone books. Our own names, as well as our spouse and children, are on these "modern" records, but we often don't make them a regular part of our family research.

There are several reasons why we overlook obituaries so often. First, we don't teach enough about them in our books and genealogy classes, either in formal settings, or online. Second, we don't understand the scope and coverage of obituaries. Third, we believe they are more difficult to access. Well, this article is an effort to overcome (in part) the first problem while specifically addressing the second and third issues.

See: Research Tip of the Month
This tip was excerpted from a passenger list research tip. The entire article, which is very good, is available in the Genealogy.com Learning Center.

Learn more:

- Wills and Testaments
- Finding the Minimum Information for
- Probate Records
- Obtaining Canadian Probate Records
- Social Security Sleuthing

Submitted by Robert Neu. ☆

March / May Minutes Digest

by Rochelle Kaplan

March meeting:

Rochelle raised concern about **declining attendance**. Suggestions were:

(1) email members to find out (a) what activities they'd like to see at future meetings (b) what weekdays members can come and what weekdays they can't come

(2) advertise or send out news releases to local organizations.

Rochelle told group of **useful website**: <http://www.celebrate350.org> It is about the 350 years of Jewish life in America, from 1654-2004, and includes a calendar, resource center, photos and a wonderful time line. The contact info is *Celebrate 350: Jewish Life in America 1654-2004, 330 Seventh Avenue, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10001*.

Another good organization and website Rochelle discovered is the **Jewish Family History Foundation**. Its goal is to obtain and translate records and other useful info on the Grand Duchy (now mostly Lithuania). They need contributions

Marelynn shared info about **new Google tools**. Google search engine can be used to locate photos of ancestors, bring back dead sites, track down missing relatives, and search within websites. Google search tips for genealogists are recommended on <http://genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/a052902a.htm> Or see Mishpochology, the Newsletter of the JGS of SW Florida, Vol. 9, #1, March 2004.

Rochelle told of an article by Leonid Smilovitsky, researcher at the Diaspora Research Institute of Tel Aviv University, "**Origins of Jewish Last Names in Turov.**" (in Belarus).

The article contains much interesting info and is available on the Belarus SIG newsletter link of Jewish Gen. Dr. Smilovitsky is compiling a book about the Jews of Turov and it will include an entry about a relative of Rochelle's. An abridged version of her research trip to Latvia was published in the Latvia SIG spring newsletter of Jewish Gen.

Robert showed the report of his **Y chromosome report** from Sorensen Labs.

Marelynn announced that Ancestry.com now has **pre-Ellis Island records** of immigrant entries to the Port of NY, for the period 1850-1891. [See Zip Tips on page 3.]

Dan Schlyter demonstrated the **new UJGS website**, which he designed. He suggested we might have our own URL, rather than link through IAJGS. He further demonstrated new features of IAJGS website, with amazing maps. Dan also presented a workshop on Eastern European Jewish surnames [reported on page 4].

Robert stated that the **IAJGS convention locales** are Jerusalem for 2004, Las Vegas for 2005 and NYC for 2006. Las Vegas group is asking for volunteers to help them with convention plans there.

[Continued on page 13]

Minutes [continued from page 12]

May Meeting:

Yizkor books are some of the best sources for learning about Jewish communities in Eastern and Central Europe. Groups of former residents, or *landsmanshaftn*, have published these books as a tribute to their former homes and the people who were murdered during the Holocaust. The majority were written in Hebrew or Yiddish. Some have been translated into English.

MyFamily.com has two **Jewish Genealogy online courses**. One began in early May and the other will start in August. Rochelle has signed up for both. Instructors are Schelly Talalay Dardashti and Misha Reisel, both in Israel.

Rochelle announced the current **Jewish Film Festival** (May 15-20) in Salt Lake City. Ralph, Rochelle and Wilma attended and Rochelle has a copy of the program:

SHMELVIS: SEARCHING FOR THE KING'S
JEWISH ROOTS.
KINKY FRIEDMAN: PROUD TO BE AN
ASSHOLE FROM EL PASO
STRANGE FRUIT
KEDMA
ALLRED FISHBEIN'S IN LOVE
MISS ENTEBBE
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
THE HEBREW HAMMER
NINA'S TRAGEDIES
ADVICE AND DISSENT
TIMBRELS AND TORAHS (about a new Jewish
tradition of a ceremony marking a
woman's 60th birthday and a new, final,
part of her life), and
GOD @HEAVEN.

Remember the **July IAJGS Conference** in Jerusalem. Of our members, only Robert is going. He will present at our July meeting. We ask that he make copies of worthy handouts and summarize key highlights or points learned and make copies for the members. Additionally, Rochelle will ask him to purchase audiocassettes of lectures useful for our members, and she will reimburse him for these.

Rochelle heard from Rachael Diment at <http://www.celebrate350.org> regarding our entry. Our contact info states the following: Utah Jewish Genealogical Society (UJGS) Address: 160 E. Southgate Avenue, South Salt Lake, UT 84115
Tel: 801-484-0772
Fax: 888-305-2051
General mailing address: Same as above
Website: www.rootsweb.com/~utjgs

President's report:

Robert passed out copies of the sample UJGS folder. Robert was complimented on the job he did, and the UJGS folder will be distributed. The folder was unanimously approved.

Robert distributed copies of the **by-laws**. Members read same and noted typos to be corrected and suggested other slight changes. The changes were accepted and the by-laws, as amended were approved.

Robert summarized the **Dewey Lecture at the SLC Library** by Dr. Scott Woodward of BYU about DNA and its usefulness in genealogy. See Robert's article on page 7. *[Continued on page 14]*

Minutes [continued from page 13]

Video shown: HOW TO TRACE YOUR JEWISH ROOTS – A JOURNEY WITH ARTHUR KURZWEIL. This 33 minute video presents a step-by-step process for budding genealogists, using Kurzweil's search for his family as examples. Key points:

- ❑ Interview your relatives - especially aging ones and have them identify folks in photos or significance of family heirlooms.
- ❑ Determine the towns your ancestors came from; consult NARA and INS for information about your immigrant

ancestors; use resources like public libraries and the FHL for items like ship manifest pages, census records, vital records, Yizkor books, maps, rabbinical histories, and special collections.

- ❑ Consult resources like YIVO in NYC and Yad Vashem in Israel for items like benevolent associations, Yizkor books and survivor lists.
- ❑ Visit cemeteries where your ancestors are buried; share your family tree with others. Many libraries have interlibrary loans.

The film is available through Avotaynu.☆

BOOK REVIEW



BY ROBERT NEU

CONSTANTINE'S SWORD – THE CHURCH AND THE JEWS – A HISTORY

By James Carroll 2001

First Mariner Books Edition
Houghton Mifflin Co, New York
ISBN 0-618-21908-0 (paperback.)

Review by Robert Neu

A work that proposes to review the relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the Jews, from the beginning of Christianity to the present, should be of interest to both Jews and non-Jews, especially as we are often referred to as “Western Society” and “Judeo-Christianity.”

The opening chapter deals with the circumstances and contradiction presented by the setting up of the cross and Carmelite convent in Auschwitz. I do not wish to describe all the details and the opposing emotions brought out by this situation, other than to say that the author bemoans the lack

of deserved consideration of Jewish outrage to the keeping of the huge cross that overlooks the extermination camp.

Before going much further it is appropriate to mention that the author is a scholar and former Catholic priest of Irish descent. This explains his deep commitment, well-documented work, and personal involvement in the cause he presents.

He clearly presents the long history of persecution, a plausible cause to modern readers of antisemitism, and unfortunately even today the far-from-expiating position of the Catholic Church towards Jews, notwithstanding the improvement of relationship between the Catholic Church, Jews in general, Vatican II texts, and diplomatic recognition of the State of Israel.

[Continued on page 15]

Constantine [cont'd from page14]

.In the next chapter he recalls the emotional impact of the cross on the makeup of his Catholic Christian education that led to his becoming a priest, creating the background for antisemitism, and his analysis of it.

James Carroll considers the *Shoah* [Heb.--“catastrophe”] the natural consequence of millennia of Christian antisemitic persecution in a similar way as the King is responsible for the murders in Sophocles’ OEDIPUS REX.

This year, the book may have an added meaning as the movie THE PASSION OF CHRIST brings to the forefront the passage in Matthew where the Jews say “Crucify him!,” as if Jews are forever to be considered responsible for the death of Jesus. It is to be noted that this New Testament passage is found only in Matthew and not in the other three so-called Gospels.

Carroll presents the following reasoning for its presence: could we imagine a book blaming the Romans, the reviled occupiers of the country, to be blamed for the death of Jesus? Wouldn’t that in essence risk the writers and supporters lives as rebels themselves?

He also remarks that up to the death of Jesus his quarrel is only with a certain group, “the Pharisees,” and not the Jews at large. Finally he raises the issue as to whether the messianic references from the Old Testament are not after-the-fact reconstruction and justification rather than historical accomplishment of prophecies.

[Biblical commentators of the Old Testament have similarly doubted whether the writings of Isaiah and Jeremiah in particular came before or after the exile to Babylon — R.obert Neu.]

I will not attempt to cover the over six hundred dense pages of the book, but just indicate that it covers the Constantine conversion, the Diocletian persecution, the massacres linked to the Crusades, the Black Plague, the role of the Spanish Jews in the late Middle Ages in bringing about the Renaissance, the Ghettos, the Reformation and Counter Reformation, the Inquisition, the complicity between German Nazism and the Catholic Church, just to mention a few.

There is also some mysticism with the role of Trier, Germany as the starting point of Constantine, to its link to Karl Marx and other German Jewish philosophers, musicians and poets, as well as indirectly to the “Dreyfus” affair, and other persecutions.

Finally he discusses various more modern Catholic philosophers and the need of a Vatican III for the Catholic Church to more completely acknowledge its responsibility in the treatment of the Jews and the hope for a better future. ☆

My Bone & My Flesh

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U of U Days [continued from page 2]

and career of SS General Reinhard Heydrich (1904-1942), the major perpetrator responsible for the planning, preparation, organizational development and design, and daily management and operation of the Nazi program to exterminate the European Jews until his assassination by Czechs in 1942.

Focusing on Heydrich over this period of time reveals how pre-war Nazi anti-Jewish policies and actions were consolidated into a comprehensive wartime program designed to murder every Jew of any age living on the European continent.

Editorial:

Can we do any less?

This past month, Internet users around the world saw the gruesome video of an American Jew being brutally beheaded by Islamist terrorists. Significantly, national and international media did **not** play this as an attack on Jews, but on **Americans**. Even the Arab media were silent about his ethnicity.

Though antisemitism is rising in Europe, here it is being swallowed up in nationalism. Four years ago, a Jew ran for the office of Vice-President, and much was made of his religion. Today, a Catholic of 100 percent Jewish ancestry is running for President [*see our lead article last issue*], and **nothing** is made of his background.

Prejudice and hate are not dead yet, but differences are being down-played in light of the larger conflict between what Robert Neu calls “Western Society and Judeo-Christianity,” [*See his book review page 14*] and brutal terrorist regimes. Once again, Jews are in the thick of it. This time, we are not the victims.

Rather, we are being treated as simply another ethnic group in a diverse society, a

Holocaust Remembrance Day

April 16, Holocaust Remembrance Day, was marked by activities, including the governor’s proclamation and the lighting of a candle by a survivor. A Special Address by Charles Sydnor, NAZI PERPETRATORS, AMERICAN COURTS & THE LEGACY OF THE HOLOCAUST: THE VIEW FROM THE WITNESS STAND explored his preparation of materials and testimony in more than two dozen cases former SS guards in German concentration camps and Nazi war criminals. ☆

form of egalitarianism our people have fought long and hard for, over centuries. Antisemitism, like all forms of hate, will never die. But the war against hate and genocide requires us to accept others the way we would be accepted – as true equals.

UJGS is in its second year, now. We have lasted and prospered, as a society that accepts all with the same interest, regardless of religion or ethnic background. For twenty years, the University of Utah has been fighting hate and prejudice by remembering our ancestors. In this time of trial, can we do any less? — Don Fallick ☆

NOTES:

The high-resolution photo of chick genes on page 7 is downloadable from the University Of Utah website. See their press release for April, 2004 the complete explanation and color codes.

The subliminal “cross” caused by the formatting of the text on page 14 was deliberate — it’s intended to represent the kinds of Jew-baiting mentioned in the book. Did anyone notice? — editor ☆