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ATSMI UVSARI  
 “MY BONE AND MY FLESH”

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**Inside this issue:**

President’s Message:  
Upcoming Las Vegas 7

DNA & Tradition: The Ge-  
netic Link to Ancient He-  
brews 2

Urgent Call (Follow Up) 11

The Mordy Collection 14

Recife’s Jewish Past 4

Genealogy Gazetteer of  
the Kingdom of Hungary 16  
and other publications

**Regular**  
**Features:**

*Book Review* p.2,13  
*Who are We?* p.16  
*DNA Update* p.12  
*Guest Editorial* p.11  
*Minutes November* p.7  
*Minutes January* p.9  
*Online Encyclopedia* p.12  
*Zip Tips* p.7  
*President’s Message* p.7

Visit Our New Website:

[www.ujgs.org](http://www.ujgs.org)

*BOOK REVIEW:*

# **DNA & TRADITION: THE GENETIC LINK TO ANCIENT HEBREWS**

**by Rabbi Yaakov Kleiman**

© DEVORAH Publishing Company -Jerusalem - New York - ISBN: 1-932687-13-0

Book Review by *Robert Neu*

The book raises the following questions in the Introduction:

“- The Bible and Genealogy - history or myth?

- Was Abraham a unique living person, or a made-up character?

- Did the Twelve Tribes of Israel really exist? If so, where are they now?

- Can present-day Kohanim be traced to a common ancestor who was the founder of the lineage, as is written in the Torah?”

These are questions that beg the answer. If positive answers could not be satisfactorily presented there would be no reason to write this book, or the title would have to be changed.

In this newsletter we have previously presented and discussed how markers called haplotypes on the Y-Chromosome (the so-called maleness chromosome) and the mitochondrial chromosome (the so called femaleness chromosome) contain the biological/genealogical history of both the individual concerned and of humanity as a whole.

The author attempts successfully to vulgarize this proposition and its application to the tradition first of the Jewish priestly cast, the Kohanim, and then to the Jews in general.

He also takes the opportunity, at the same time, to explain the historical, religious, and biblical past, present and hopefully future practices that are part of this tradition and how they are supported and support the findings of the DNA scientific study.

The study of the DNA of Jewish people is particularly interesting because people who claim to be Jews are present in places as dispersed as Africa, the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, Iran, Afghanistan, China and even Japan. As for the Jews of the Americas they are to be associated from where they came relatively recently, which is mostly from Europe.

The question really, though on a broad basis, is whether all these people share a common DNA heritage, within the relatively short time, that is genetically, of 500 to 2,000 years, that links them both together and to the Middle East. The latter being defined roughly as Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, the Arabian peninsula and Syria..

The first hypothesis to be tested was based on the tradition that Kohanim have to be direct male descendants of Aaron, older brother of Moses who lived approximately 3,300 years ago. This requirement is codified in the Bible and at the time of the destruction of the Temple Kohanim (plural noun) in 70 C.E. were still officiating in the Temple. They had been officiating since the

days of the Tabernacle (1300 B.C.E.), then the Temple of Solomon (970 B.C. E), then the second Temple (530 B.C. E) till when it was destroyed in 70 C.E.

Nevertheless almost 2,000 years have gone by and some of the Kohanim descendants have been separated from that time. Therefore the question was can we scientifically affirm that people after 3300 years, an estimated 132 generations, have a single common male ancestor.

The answer is yes and there is a what is called a Cohen Modal Haplotype (CMH). Though an individual Y-chromosome test covers usually anywhere from 12 to 37 loci (defined locations of the Y-chromosome), the CMH compares the value of six of them and it is common to 80% of all Kohanim.. DYS means DNA Y Chromosome Segment. The last number indicates the number of times that segment is repeated for the given individual(s).

They are: DYS388=16, =DYS390=23, DYS391=10, DYS392=11, DYS393=12 and DYS394(also known as DYS19)=14.

As an example, and I don't have a Kohanim heritage, my Y-DNA matches the CMH on 2 of these loci, two have a 1 point(repeat) difference and the last two 3 or 4 more repeat difference..

It must also be stated that "Kohanim claim" cannot be made or denied on the basis of a DNA study as it is based on the halachic history of each Kohan.

Though more complex the study of the Y-DNA of Jewish communities worldwide shows that they have a greater affinity to

each other and to the Middle Eastern population than to the non-Jewish communities that surrounds them. The physical differences in skin, hair, eyes etc.. color and appearance, being as we usually say only "skin deep".

While this applies to the Y-DNA, the mtDNA indicates that each community may have a different "female founder". Indeed biblically Jews do not descend from Sara, Rebecca, Leah, and Rachel - who already themselves have different mothers, not to mention Ruth the Moabite, and the wives of the Kings of Israel and Judah. However in each community only a few women appear as the founders, and are not of the same mtDNA as the surrounding non-Jewish community.

***The CMH Tradition is common to 89% of all***

The author expounds on these findings and as to how they help fulfill the biblical prophecies of the past and the future.

I do not find necessary to explain the development of the DNA research, the mapping of the Genome, genetic markers, and the ethical and other questions raised and answered. Then the author passes in review what can be gleaned about the lost ten tribes from the DNA of the various population that claim Jewish ascendancy both historically and presently including the Jews of Iran, Iraq and Chaldea, Yemen. Afghanistan, Georgia, Kurdish, Bukharan, Khazaria, China, Japan India, Ethiopia, Africa, Sephardim, and Ashkenazim.

Then he reviews all the halachic, biblical and historical tradition that are the linked to the Kohanim as well as a short overview of basic Jewish Genealogical research, including Holocaust research.

One interesting remark made is that the CMH, the haplotype of Aaron is that of Abraham as well and therefore Shem, son of Noah, who he associates with Melchizedek (Holy King.)

One conclusion is also that the fulfillment of Abraham being the father of the Jewish and many nations is no longer only a matter of faith...

Interested in some information/controversy on the CMH? Go to: [www.geocities.com/hrhdavid/cmhindex.html](http://www.geocities.com/hrhdavid/cmhindex.html)

## RECIFE'S JEWISH PAST

by *Daniel Gerson*©

Staff Reporter of the Sun

January 18, 2005 RECIFE, Brazil

The discovery of a buried Synagogue prompts Recife, Brazil to probe its Jewish Past. Sweat dripping down his back, Rinaldo de Lima Andrade took a seat in a metal chair facing the Torah. "I am the descendant of Jews," Mr. Andrade, a black man who wears a deep blue yarmulke, said conclusively in Portuguese as he settled in for a prayer class. He was born Catholic and later became an evangelical Christian.

After a stunning discovery revealed this sweltering port city's Jewish past five years ago, Mr. Andrade joined scores in Recife suddenly claiming Jewish ancestry. "I believe it comes from my mother's side," he says.

When archeologists uncovered the oldest synagogue in the Americas deep under the heart of Old Recife's Street of Benevolent Jesus, it set off a Jewish renaissance of sorts in Recife, a booming city in Brazil with about 1.5 million inhabitants.

"It's strange because Israel is so unpopular, and yet people are interested in becoming Jewish here," the director of Recife's Jewish school, Marcelo Kozmhinsky, said. "People call and say, 'I know I'm a Marrano.' They say they cook differently, light candles, have a special process of burying, they clean house on Friday. Everyone has some connection." Mr. Kozmhinsky and administrators of Recife's other Jewish institutions receive a constant flood of inquiries requesting guidance investigating Jewish ancestry and Stars of David, which are often paired with crosses or the Virgin Mary, and are worn by people of all faiths.

Sitting in a plush wooden chair inscribed with the insignia of the currently defunct Jewish club in the city, the Israeli Club of Central Pernambuco, Mr. Kozmhinsky said the surge in interest has created a challenge. Some in the highly secular Jewish community of about 1,400 - mostly descendants of Eastern European Jews who arrived toward the beginning of the 20th century - see the newcomers as an exciting addition. But others in the rather insular and affluent community are concerned about the motives of those claiming Jewish heritage.

The most difficult question, to which Mr. Kozmhinsky has no answer, is how to prove claims to a Jewish lineage that has been hidden for centuries. "It's hard because we are not an authority on these issues," he says.

Interest in the religion surged last year, when New York celebrated the 350th anniversary of the founding of its first Jewish settlement by a group of 23 Dutch Jews from Recife, who survived misadventures with Spanish pirates and a daring French rescue to create Shearith Israel, a congregation that still survives today at 70th Street and Central Park West. A flush of press reports documented the celebrations in New York. When Globo, the national TV giant piped into almost every Brazilian home, dispatched reporters to the Netherlands, Recife, and New York to retrace the fantastic journey, Recife's residents watched with pride.

Most here have been content to just learn about Recife's Jewish past, but there is also a growing faction of people like Mr. Andrade who are reclaiming what they believe to be their long-lost Jewish heritage and studying the faith. The director of the Jewish Historical Archive of Pernambuco, Tania Kaufman, says that most people in the state of Pernambuco, of which Recife is the capital, have a Jewish ancestor. Some trace their lineage to immigrants who arrived in Brazil who converted to Catholicism during the Spanish and Portuguese inquisitions in the 15th and 16th centuries. The new Christians settled the region's lucrative sugar and tobacco plantations. Others say they are descendants of Marranos or crypto-Jews - Jews of Iberian origin who professed to be Christians but continued to secretly practice their faith - and now want to openly practice. In Recife, according to Ms. Kaufman, few people still practicing crypto-Jewish rituals have been found. But the lack of proven practitioners hasn't stopped city residents from deluging the archives with requests to uncover their Jewish lineage.

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***The Inquisition leaders did their best to bury all traces of Jewish influence renaming... The Street of the Jews ....the Street of benevolent Jesus***

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Ms. Kaufman attributes the trend to a current interest in all things Jewish, probably spurred in part by a trend toward experimenting in alternate forms of spirituality and the decrease of prejudice against the religion that has come with greater exposure. Judaism is also now seen by many as a way to get closer to Jesus. Once an overwhelmingly Catholic country, Brazil has seen a rapid spread of evangelical Christianity in recent years. As one Anglican priest who recently uncovered his Iberian Jewish heritage, and now observes the Jewish Sabbath, said, "Many Christians observe the Sabbath, just as Yeshua did, the messiah of Israel. Spiritually they are Jews. And some have Jewish blood."

The city has been without a rabbi for much of its history, and for eight decades the

Jewish community in Recife has looked most often to its school, the Colegio Israelita Moyses Chvarts, as the center of Jewish life. Mr. Kozmhinsky said he requested a rabbi at an annual meeting of Reform Jewish congregations in Sao Paulo last year, mainly to attend to the community's needs for funerals, bar mitzvahs, and weddings. Months later, he was surprised when he learned a Jerusalem based group, Lost Jews, which helps individuals interested in Judaism convert to the faith, was planning to dispatch a rabbi to Recife. While Mr. Kozmhinsky, who shares his windowless office with the new rabbi, was concerned the Lost Jews mission comes too close to proselytizing for the highly secular community, he is grateful for a religious authority to provide a Jewish response to the many claiming Jewish ancestry. "I think he is welcome at this moment because he can try and resolve this problem," Mr. Kozmhinsky said.

The privately financed group knows its subject well. They have already scoured remote areas around the globe for Andean tribes and Chinese peasants who are not considered Jewish by Jewish law, but maintain they have a connection with the Jewish people. According to the director of Lost Jews, Michael Freund, Brazil has the largest concentration of crypto-Jews in the world. "You've got to get to Brazil," said Mr. Freund, speaking from Jerusalem in a telephone interview. "Because that's where in terms of numbers the potential is enormous."

The Inquisition was late to reach Brazil, arriving at the end of the 16th century, and among the country's early settlers were many crypto-Jews and new Christians who came in search of religious freedom, as well as economic opportunities. In the early 1600s, a reprieve came with the Dutch occupation of northeastern Brazil. For three decades, Recife, the only open Jewish settlement during colonial times, flourished both religiously and economically, with its members serving as middlemen, traders, and plantation owners. At 600 families, Recife's Jewish community had two schools, a cemetery, and the first synagogue in the Americas, Kahal Zur Israel, or Congregation Rock of Israel. But when the Portuguese regained control of northeastern Brazil in 1654, the Dutch were given three months to depart. Most of the ships left for the Netherlands and the Dutch Antilles, with one group running astray and ending up in the settlement of New Amsterdam, or what is today New York. Despite the Portuguese ultimatum, however, as much as half of the Jewish community remained in Brazil. Space on the ships was limited, Ms. Kaufman said. Those who stayed behind were forced to convert or hide. The Inquisition's leaders

did their best to bury all traces of Jewish influence, renaming what had been the Street of the Jews the Street of Benevolent Jesus. Still, well into the 18th century, reports continued to reach Lisbon's office of the Inquisition of clandestine Jewish observances.

Until the arrival of the Lost Jews rabbi, for the past decade or so, the man with the most knowledge of Judaism in Recife, Isaac Essoudry, has been the self-professed "guide and educator of the Marranos, helping them so they can return to Judaism." Born to Moroccan immigrants in Belem, a city at the mouth of the Amazon, Mr. Essoudry lived in Israel for many years and has received more instruction on Judaism than almost anyone in Recife. In the 1990s, his group took over the one synagogue in Recife, in a neighborhood that once housed the Jewish community but is rapidly deteriorating. They still go there Saturday mornings, but on Friday nights the streets are too dangerous, he said, and they instead congregate in Boa Vista, a middle-class neighborhood where the 70-year-old Mr. Essoudry welcomes up to a dozen students for lessons in Judaism. While some question the motives of those who claim Jewish heritage, the bearded Mr. Essoudry welcomes them. "Everyone who wants to come, I accept them," he says. Mr. Andrade rushed in late to his prayer class on a recent Friday night and took his seat in the semicircle of metal chairs. Still unable to authenticate his hunch that he has Jewish ancestors, Mr. Andrade said he plans to investigate. Either way, he wants to convert to Judaism, go to Israel, and send his daughter to the Colegio Israelita. "I am going to stay Jewish, without a doubt," Mr. Andrade said as he prepared to pray. "For me, Judaism is the only true faith on Earth."

# ***GOING TO VEGAS JULY 10-15?***

(President's Message)

Just keep in mind that at the 25th IAJGS Conference there are only winners?

Also, it pays to get in the game early. You pay more starting May 1, 2005.

Some highlights will be:

- A FOUR hour beginners class if you need it
- More 1 steps from Steven Morse.
- Alexander Avraham, Director of the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem.
- Dr. Erwin Schmidt of the Austrian Military Archives on the Jews in the Austro-Hungarian Army.
- Bryan Mark Riggs author of "Hitler's Jewish Soldiers"
- Free Access to Ancestry.com!  
More! More! More! More! More! More!

## **ZIP TIPS**

by Marelynn Zipser

Familysearch "Keyword(s)" option

I have been "playing" with <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)> . I had read that the "Keyword Search" listed as an option had become functional.

I think "word" is misleading. I tried "Jewish records in Saros" and got an immediate list of all the Jewish records in Saros megye of Hungary. I could click on each one and find out what is there. It certainly beats trying to predict where the records are. Please use "key words".

Ancestry.com "wild card" search

When using "ancestry.com" (free at FHL), try "wild card" searches. If you have had no luck finding your people on US census, try entering at least the first 3 letters of either surname or given name and then \*

(asterisk). If the census taker did not hear the final "s" in the name or if a nickname was used, you are covered.

## **MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2004 (SELECTION)**

Recorded by Rochelle Kaplan

-Newest edition of our newsletter distributed. Also available online.

-Robert announced that Todd Knowles, of APG (Assoc. of Professional Genealogists) is willing to talk to our group about English Jewish archival info. He is a descendant of the first Jewish convert to the LDS Church in the 1840s, who also taught Hebrew to the founder of the LDS Church. He is a staff member at the FHL

-Copies of Avotaynu made available.

-Yad Vashem database actually became available on Nov. 18.

-The Canadian Archives now has some information available online. Rochelle was able to learn the ships and dates that some of her husband's relatives came to Canada in the 1920s. After writing to the Archives and sending a small fee by credit card, the ship manifests arrived about a month later.

-Galveston Ship Manifests are available online. To enter the site, one needs to create a password. The site is:

[www.tsm-elissa.org/immigration/login.htm](http://www.tsm-elissa.org/immigration/login.htm)

-Rochelle attended a fascinating talk at Kol Ami by U of U Professor Vincent Cheng about Jewish identity. He is married to a Jewish, kosher member of Kol Ami and they are raising their adopted Taiwanese

son as Jewish. The talk was based on one chapter from Prof. Cheng's recent book, *Inauthentic - The Anxiety over Culture and Identity*. The chapter is entitled: The Inauthentic Jew: Jewishness and its Discontents.

-Alexander Beider's newest book *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire*, is now available from Avotaynu. Rochelle bought a copy and is willing to do lookups.

-Richard and Ruth Stone spoke about their genealogical search for Richard's family Jewish past. Although Richard's father was a Chicago Jew, Richard grew up as a Protestant, because Richard's dad did not want to be seen as a Jew in that time of pervasive anti-semitism.

His father came to the US in 1921, as did other family members. They were from Komlos, Hungary.

The couple spoke about their journey with their family this year to the area, to Budapest, Bilka and Brod. They used the services of genealogist and historian Alex Dunai of Lvov and received help from Joanna Fletcher of Jewish Gen. Brod and Bilka were the birthplaces of Richard's grandparents. They saw old, often abandoned synagogues, the site where Richard's grandfather had a home, a mill and distillery. They visited old cemeteries. The locals were very friendly.

-Richard said he'd had his DNA sample done with Mr. Greenspan in Houston (Family Tree DNA – FTDNA).

-A relative recently found, in Israel, would be coming to visit. Richard's father spoke German. The earliest record they were able to find was from 1866. The FHL has Hun-

garian records from 1850-1895. Mukachevo (formerly Munkacs), another town mentioned by Richard, is in Hungary. The group suggested avenues for further research for Richard and Ruth.

- Rochelle presented her genealogical problem. She recently found out that her husband's grandfather Hirsch Libowski, who became Harry Lubov in the US, had a brother Wolff Libowski. It was Wolff who was cited on Hirsch's ship manifest as the person Hirsch was going to see in NYC, at 271 Madison Street. That was in July, 1904.

Rochelle recently found Wolff's ship manifest page from 1902, indicating he came with a young wife (most likely his second wife), and a son Abram. The name of the wife is illegible: it might be Josse, Jesse, Tesse, or Tosse. So is the name of the daughter Wolff was going to see, which might be Liobe Kolere or Kolic. The only older Lubov relative left never heard of a brother Wolff. He knew only about Harry and Beryl.

Rochelle has been unable to find out more info about Wolff, his wife or son. She asked for suggestions. Marelynn suggested trying the Italian Genealogy site for NYC death index or marriage index for Abram. Marelynn Zipser tried the 1905 Census at the Madison St. address but found no Libowskis.

JewishGen Viewmate replies gave additions to her guesses: the wife might be Pesse (a variant of Pesche), the daughter's name might be Liube, Lube, Liebe, Libe, Liuba and her surname might be Kolers, Kobre, Kober, Kolic. Rochelle already had looked at Hamburg emigration list but names were just as hard to decipher. The Italian Genealogy site did not yield posi-

tive results. Rochelle tried Abraham instead of Abram and variants on Libowski/Lubov and she tried kinnui for Wolff such as Benjamin, Benjamin, William, Wolf but no luck. Further suggestions to help Rochelle find Wolff Libowsky are appreciated.

## **MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2005 (SELECTION)**

by Rochelle Kaplan

-Books and magazines passed around: Unlocking Your Genetic History; Outwitting History; Heritage Magazine.

-MaryAnn showed an outline of courses for the Jan. 9-13, 2006 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy Seminar. These are: American Records & Research, Eastern States Research, Scottish Research, Eastern European Research, US Immigration Records, Advanced Methodology, Land & Ct. Records, Internet Searching, Research Outside Libraries, Problem Solving. For further info contact UGA, POB 144, SLC, UT 84110.

-Yad Vashem site now online. We are encouraged to enter pages of testimony for those whom you know to be killed in the Holocaust. The Israeli Genealogical Society has generously offered to help folks locate those people in Israel who submitted pages of testimony for your relatives.

-Recent article on Recife, Brazil Jews discussed. Judaism is experiencing a rebirth there (see article).

-Rochelle indicated that \$60 annual membership in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 122 E. 58th Street, New York, NY 10022-1939 website [www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org), gives members access to Proquest.

-Rochester, NY has a database of marriages available online.

-Robert summarized new findings at FHL given at recent APG Meeting.

-The FHL is moving away from microfilm and towards digital technology. Eventually, the goal is to get the digitalized versions of the films online, although these may at first only be available at the FHL.

-Another goal is to get an entire database reference online, even for info not at FHL. Thus a researcher could learn where the info is, even if it is not at the FHL.

-The FHL will offer access to more paid subscription databases. Currently, Ancestry and Heritage are available.

-The "key word" search option on the Library Catalog Search display is back on at the FHL.

- More computers and flat screen monitors are available.

-Robert announced that Todd Knowles, of APG (Assoc. of Professional Genealogists) is willing to talk to our group about English Jewish archival info. He is a descendant of the first Jewish convert to the LDS Church in the 1840s, who also taught Hebrew to the founder of the LDS Church. He is a staff member at the FHL

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-Richard said he'd had his DNA sample done with Mr. Greenspan in Houston (Family Tree DNA – FTDNA).

The site is intended to be of use to both beginning and experienced genealogists and to become "the" standard genealogy reference manual.

The Encyclopedia is also unique as a genealogy resource in that uses wiki software, which allows any person to edit any page, or to add pages. (This software has already been used to build an online encyclopedia and dictionary, for more information, you can go to:

<http://www.wikimedia.org>). Users can also correct errors that they find on any page.

Among the types of articles wanted,

Eastman lists:

- a) Information about local genealogy societies
- b) Immigration records explained.
- c) The details of each decade's census records explained
- d) Individual articles on how to research Italian, German, Polish, French-Canadian, Jewish, Black, Indian and other ancestors.
- e) Any other subject that users feel pertinent and useful to other genealogy researchers.

It is intended that all users have free access to any Encyclopedia of Genealogy content. Under the principle of “copy left,” their content can be copied, modified, and redistributed, so long as the new version grants the same freedom to others and acknowledges the authors of the Encyclopedia of Genealogy article used (usually by a different link back to the article).

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## **URGENT CALL TO ACTION FROM IAJGS ( FOLLOW UP)**

In our last Newsletter we mentioned HR10 and its potential impact on genealogical research by limiting access to Vital Records.

The law was passed and you can read it at <http://www.house.gov>, click on “Find a bill or law”, and then enter : H.R. 10.

However all may not be lost and IAGS President Hal Bookbinder requests that U.S. residents request an amendment to this bill that would exempt non-certified copies of birth certificates (which are fine for genealogical purposes, but useless for proof of identification purposes).

The balance of the last article is repeated here for your convenience giving the necessary information.

FAQs:

1) How do I find out the name and contact information for my representative?

<http://www.house.gov/> and enter your zip code. Follow the link to your representative's website to obtain his/her contact information. Speaker Hastart's website is <http://www.house.gov/hastert/>.

2) How do I locate the section on birth certificates?

As above and then click on "CHAPTER 2 IMPROVED SECURITY FOR BIRTH CERTIFICATES." Within this chapter, you will see that SECTION 3063, paragraph (d)(2) directs that access to birth certificates be restricted.

3) Why is this a problem?

While the intention was to tightly control the issuance of certified birth certificates, the wording in the above section does not make the distinction between certified and non-certified certificates. Should the States react by restricting both, this may severely limit our family research.

4) So, what do we want?

The IAJGS asks that an amendment be passed specifying that this provision applies only to certified, and not non-certified birth certificates nor to very old birth certificates (over 110 years as people can be presumed dead).

Again, YOUR ACTION IS REQUIRED NOW as House Resolution 10, which may severely restrict access to birth information.

*We strongly support the IAJGS position on HR-10, and urge all our readers to contact their US Representative. – Editor*

## ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Dick Eastman, of *Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter*, has announced the creation of an impressive new genealogy resource: an online Encyclopedia of Genealogy.

The site is at [www.eogen.com](http://www.eogen.com) and there is a list of Frequently-Asked Questions at <http://www.eogen.com/FAQ>. As Eastman puts it, this resource will provide reference information about everything in genealogy except people".

In other words, you would not search for individual ancestors on this site, rather, the Encyclopedia of Genealogy serves a clearing house of genealogy techniques: where to find records, how to organize the data found, what the terminology means, and how to plan your next research effort.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT DNA?

Both Family Tree DNA website:

[www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)

which partners with Jewishgen and Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation website: [www.smgf.org](http://www.smgf.org)

Here in South Salt Lake they have a VHS video available for the asking.

BOOK REVIEW

# OUTWITTING HISTORY

by *Aaron Lansky*

©AlgonquinBooks of Chapel Hill 2004

Reviewed by Robert Neu

Yiddish. It was the *lingua franca* of the Central and East European Jews. It developed its own literature, and it came to America with

Jewish immigration up to including after World War II. However, with their native communities in Europe gone, and most Yiddish speakers dying off of old age by the 1970's, Yiddish culture was in danger of disappearing.

Aaron Lansky a young New England American Jew as a result of a partial immersion in the Yiddish language became a man with a mission. To save the Yiddish culture he set upon himself to gather all the Yiddish books yet in existence.

Starting out with a couple of friends he started to go to libraries that had stored away their Yiddish books as they had no more readers. At time he literally rescued books from the garbage bins.

He put together a network of book gatherers from old Jews who knew that after them no one would look at those books. He got them from second or third generation English only spoken American Jews, who had inherited them from parents or grandparents, and who were glad to get them out of their garage, basements or attics. They rented cheap barely running trucks and roamed the Northeast from Boston to Washington, and New York to Philadelphia and beyond bringing eventually over ONE MILLION Yiddish books to Amherst, Massachusetts.

Eventually he got books from Canada to Argentina, not to mention Zimbabwe, South Africa and Cuba. Each of these have their own stories.

The project became a lifetime undertaking. It became known as The National Yiddish Book Center. To keep going it encompassed the need for fund raising, this was a challenge of its own. It became a multi million dollar operation. From an abandoned warehouse, to a disaffected school building it eventually got its own especially designed building on the campus of Hampshire College in Amherst.

The National Yiddish Book Center, does not only collect books. It makes them available. Realizing that no matter how many books they had, there never was enough and also that as many were printed on cheap paper something had to be done. The solution was "digitizing" the entire collection and making them available on line, printing them one at a time as they are ordered on acid free paper. They are available from : [www.yiddishbookcenter.org](http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org)

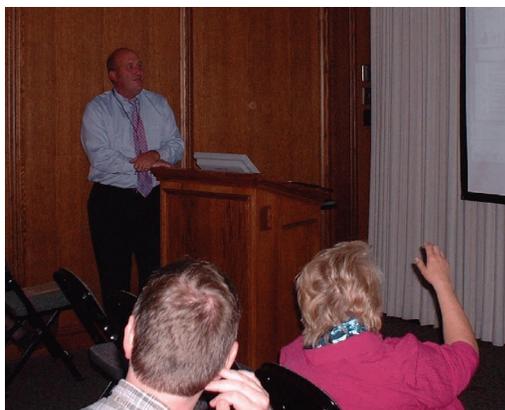
The next project is to get the major works translated into English, so that more readers may become acquainted with the everyday life and culture of the Jews. One example of the wealth of the Yiddish literature is "*Fiddler on the Roof*", the story stemming from the writings of Sholem Aleichem, one of the greatest Yiddish writer.

A very enjoyable book.

# THE MORDY COLLECTION

Presentation by W. Todd Knowles  
The Family History Center  
Salt Lake Chapter APG Meeting -  
October 8, 2004  
Reported by Robert Neu

The Mordy collection is a work in progress by the British Isles section of the Family History Library animated by *Todd Knowles*.



The late Isobel Mordy, a retired teacher from Middlesex, England compiled, on individual slips of paper, all types of records of Jews in the British Isles. Though the records are from the British Isles they actually reach, as the individuals did, Eastern and Western Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand, as well as North and South America.

The collection at this point has over 8,000 names which include some of Todd's ancestors, as well as, surprise may be for some, the late Duchess of Windsor...

Using the Legacy program it has been possible to recreate 138 pedigrees, and as the work progresses, integrating other records, including British Censuses, Birth, Marriage, Deaths records, it keeps on growing. It covers mainly the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and very early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

It will be presented to the British Family History organization with which the FHL shares the copyright to the original material.

It is available right now on the intranet of the FHL in the British Section, and will be later available in the whole building as well as on a CD.

The original supporting material is available on microfilms as follows:

- A. Index to the Pedigree slips FHL Films: A-P #1279240 R-Z #1279241
- B. Pedigree Cards Film: A-Si #1279242 Si-to end # 1279241
- C.. Miscellaneous Data Index Films # 1279244 to 248
- D. Locality Indexes Films London # 1279249, UK and So. Ireland and Other#1279250.

This collection is a good start for those with British(some others too) Jewish Ancestry, though they should familiarize themselves with the set up of the collection.

# Molecular Genealogy of World Populations

*DNA links people not only on the Y chromosome and mitochondrial DNA*

by *Scott R. Woodward*

A presentation at the IAJGS Meeting in Jerusalem on July 7, 2004  
Reported by Robert Neu

We have already reported in this newsletter on a Conference given at the Salt Lake Library by Dr. Woodward. Of interest in the framework of this presentation is to indicate that Dr. Woodward had addressed the IAJGS at the London 2001 Conference and that he had also been a visiting professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem some years ago.

Professor Woodward, on leave from Brigham Young University, is presently heading a program linking genetics and genealogy at the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation in Salt Lake City.

The emphasis of this research is concentrated at trying to link peoples genealogy and genetics over the last 4 to 10 generations and thus bring them together in the process.

We have already discussed previously how human ancestry coalesces and therefore shares the same genetic record in their individual DNA.

Looking at a database of 20,000 individuals, using on the one hand both the paternal (Y chromosome) and maternal (mitochondrial DNA) genetics record, and on the other hand their genealogy they combined into 120 lineages.

In the same way using their genealogy and genetics a number of people with the surname of Smith could be linked together as descendants of Asael Smith both genealogically and genetically including an individual named Jacobson by adoption.

This process enables also to look beyond the Y and mitochondrial DNA. Indeed there are regions of the autosomal DNA, which though harder to work with because of recombination, and particularly on the less subject to change X chromosome, that show the same markers for individuals who shared a common ancestor genealogically.

This was applied to people of Danish and Norwegian descent named Sorenson and Sorensen, where the patronymic system caused a change of surname at each generation.

Having been coalesced some individuals who do not make any Kohanim claim were found to be related by sharing the CMH haplotype. Similarly it linked them with Middle East people from Arabia.

Autosomal commonality was found with a group of people who claimed Italian and Spanish ancestry about a 1000 to 1500 years ago.

A study of 1500 people in Hawaii showed that those who claimed ancestry in Japan had the same autosomal genetical markers; the same principle worked for those from Korea, the Philippines, Tonga, Samoa etc...

Descendants from Lorenzo Snow by his three wives could also be grouped using markers beyond the Y and mitochondrial markers.

Once completed with a sufficiently large database, at the present it has 40,000 records it will enable to assign a person to his ancestral family genetically using autosomal markers and not just Y-DNA and / or mitochondrial DNA .

## ***My Bone & My Flesh Atsmi Uvsari***

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*Send them to the President, Robert Neu via email at: roneu1@yahoo.com*

# **GENEALOGICAL GAZETTEER OF THE KINGDOM OF HUNGARY**

When Genealogists Talk of Hungary they mean Hungary before 1918.

To Find a locality the document of Reference has been the 1877 Gazetteer

This book includes the information of the above gazetteer. It also gives you the alternate and current names of those locality, be they Germany, Slovak, Ukranian, Romanian, Serb., etc.

It is now available form Avotaynu

Who are We?

Utah Jewish Genealogical Society is a Non-profit Organization.

It is 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.

Remaining Meetings for 2005 are May 17, July 19, September 20, and November 15