

**“What is the Message?”**

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**ATSMI UVSARI**  
“MY BONE AND MY FLESH”

עצמי ובשרי

Number 14

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Visit Our New Website:

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

Romanian Fusgeyers:  
A Brief History and a Research Case Study  
*By: Lane Fischer*

Brief History

In 1858, the Peace Treaty of Paris ended the Crimean War and established new borders for Romania. In 1866, the Romanian Constitution allowed citizenship only for Christians. Jews were considered to be resident aliens. Western governments protested. In 1878 the Treaty of Berlin established Romanian independence with the proviso that civil rights were to be extended to non-Christians.

*(Continued on page 4)*

New research:  
Was Pancho Villa Jewish?  
*By: Don Fallick*

Most scholars agree that the Mexican Revolutionary general known to history was born Doroteo Arango Armábola about 1878, near San Juan del Río, Durango, Mexico.

*Villa, about 1915*

About 1894, he fled to the Sierra Madre mountains after killing a man in a fight over his sister's honor. By 1896 he had joined a gang of bandits under the control of Ignacio Parra, which he eventually took over, adopting the name of Francisco Villa, a well-known bandit with a Robin Hood complex. "Pancho" is the common Mexican nickname for

*(Continued on page 8)*

***In Memoriam:***  
A Tribute to  
Ralph M. Tannenbaum  
1921-2006

When we were meeting in our last meeting on September 19, 2006 Ralph had just passed away, and was probably with us in spirit. His obituary appeared both in the Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret's News of September 21 and 22, 2007. He was also highlighted in our "Spotlight on" feature of our Newsletter Number 9 of the Spring of 2005.

I do not want to write the facts of his life, but rather to try to portray the feelings and memory of him, I and probably most of those who knew him will carry with them hopefully for ever.

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## Member Spotlight: Marylynn Zipser

*By: Denise Rubacalva Kleinfeld*

I am a senior citizen, born in Jersey City, NJ, residing in Florida, Colorado and Texas before arriving in UT. I have a B.S. from Rutgers (Douglass College), M.S and Ph.D. from Florida State University all in food science and nutrition.

I have taught at the university level and worked in the food industry. I was Celestial Seasonings' herbal tea product developer for 10 years.

Ed and I have been married for 48 years. He is a meteorology professor at University of Utah. We have 2 daughters (attorneys) and 4 grandchildren between 13 and 8. They live in Colorado and Massachusetts

At age 40 my father learned that his father was really his step-father. He wanted to know about his birth-father, but knew nothing except his name from the marriage certificate. I wanted to know especially when my father developed a neurological disorder resembling ALS. My sister and I and our families needed to get some health-related information. I did get everything we needed, but my father died before I had tracked his father from New Jersey to Wyoming and found he had died of heart disease.

Although I can track my own family back to the 16th and 17th centuries in the United States and Hessen, Germany. I have been trying to work with what records are available for Jews in the Austro-Hungarian Empire from which all 4 of Ed's grandparents departed for the United

States between 1896 and 1902. I can infer birth dates before 1800 from death records, probably the best that can be expected.

What is your most interesting experience in doing genealogy?

I finally figured out that Ed's maternal grandfather had entered the United States in 1898 from Budapest using his deceased brother's documents. Finding the remarriage of the widow in 1902 in Budapest was the piece of evidence I needed. I did find out that a relative was the first man to enter into a same-sex marriage in Vermont (and he later filed for the first divorce there)!

What are you currently working on and trying to "find the answer" to?

I would like to see if I can find any more information about Isaac Wiltsek, Ed's own greatgrandfather, who "promenaded" around Slovakia as a shachter and a cantor. I keep hoping I will find him in an 1869 census and figure out where he was from and how many kids he fathered.

What advice would you give the members of the UJGS? Network! Put your names on Jewishgen's Family Finder! Read the Jewishgen >Digest! Join a Special Interest Group! Since most of us have ready access to the FHL, we can look up odd items for others who are working in areas of interest to us. I have been richly rewarded by pictures of gravestones in Europe and New York given to me by other researchers.

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M. Bratianu, Head of the Romanian Government in 1882, ignored the terms of the Treaty of Berlin and stated, in response to a question about the "Jewish Question",

*A fox, thin, starving, fleshless, managed to dig a hole and enter into a vineyard, a hole just big enough to squeeze through and, once inside, he began to fatten up, become healthy; but his presence was bad for the grapevine because of the destruction he caused. The owner of the vineyard was neither allowed to kill the fox nor to make the hole wider so that the fat fox could escape, yet he had to take precautions so that his vines were not completely destroyed and he did this in a very clever way. Little by little he closed off part of the vineyard allowing the fox less and less space. Soon the fox was unable to find enough to eat in the small circle and he, once again, became scrawny, weak, fleshless finally escaping through that same little hole he had once dug for himself.*

Between 1885 and 1898 the Romanian government instituted sanctions that increasingly restricted the Jews' presence in the professions, trades and schools. Boycotts on any economic trade with Jews were rigorously enforced. Jews began to starve.

In 1899 the harvest was poor. A brutal pogrom broke out in Iasi. In 1900

the harvest was again very poor. Severe economic depression set in nationwide. Impoverished Jews with no hope for relief began to flee Romania on foot. They became the *fusgeyers*.

It is unknown how many total fusgeyers walked across Europe. Once across Romania they had to brave the Austro-Hungarian Empire's brutal policies and anti-semitism. They were often helped by Jewish relief agencies to reach safety in France and Germany. Western European Jews supported

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"...once again... fleshless escaping through the same little holes he had once dug in..."

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transmigration to other countries.

The Rothschilds in Paris and London supported transmigration.

Baron de Hirsch supported emigration to Canada and Argentina where he had purchased large tracts of land for agricultural homesteading. Secular zionists recruited immigrants to settle in Palestine.

Jacob Finkelstein published his story, *Memoirs of a Fusgeyer from Romania to America*, 1945 (YIVO *Bleter* 26, September-October 1945). Jill Culiner translated Finkelstein's original text from Yiddish to English and began her research. Culiner's (2004) *Finding Home*, is the best researched and documented recreation of the fusgeyer's experience. Stewart Tower's (2003) *The*

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*Wayfarers*, is a historical novel about the fugeyers that provides good historical context for the movement.

## **A Research Case Study**

In the late 1950's my great-grandfather, Morris Schreiber, reported, " I walked from Bucharest to Paris with my brothers, Osaias and Lazar. We got help from Lord Rothschild in Paris to get to London where we boarded a ship for America. One brother went back to Paris and one went to Argentina. I sneaked into the United States from Canada." At that time his story sounded far-fetched. To cross the Carpathian Mountains on foot and get help from a famous and wealthy Western European Jew sounded like the bluffing of an old man. I began to research his story in 2000.

The first evidence of his journey came from the Poor Jews Temporary Shelter database. The Shelter was established in London in 1896 to assist vulnerable Jews in their transmigration. It operated until 1914 and supported over 40,000 immigrants. Beginning in 1987, Aubrey Newman and John Graham Smith began using the original shelter archives as a project to teach students to create a searchable database. The database is accessible online and easy to use.

I found four Schreiber's in the data-

base who entered the Shelter on 8 July 1900. The original shelter registrations only list the first initials of the residents. I found M. Schreiber, M. Schreiber, O. Schreiber, and Mrs. Schreiber all traveling with one child. The database also listed the departure date of the party on 17 July 1900 on the S.S. Montfort bound for New York.

I could find no evidence of the Montfort's arrival in New York. I had never found an entry for Morris Schreiber on Ellis Island. Naturalization records in the National Archives finally confirmed that Morris had entered the United States from Canada. I didn't know if the initials recorded at the Shelter actually represented Morris, Lazar, and Osaias. Maybe I was barking up the wrong tree.

The next evidence of Morris' journey came from the Ships List website. A remarkable chance entry confirmed the date of the Montfort's first passenger voyage on 17 July 1900 from Liverpool to Quebec. It read:

*The MONTFORT was built in 1899 as a cargo vessel with accommodation for only 12-1st class passengers. She served as a troop transport for the Boer War between November 1899 and mid 1900. In 1900 she was refitted to carry 30-1st class and 1,200-3rd class passengers. Her first passenger voyage between Liverpool, Quebec and Montreal commenced on 17/7/1900. Quebec, not*

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New York!

The next evidence of Morris' journey came from the Montfort's manifest which I found buried on FHL micro-film # 2308060, Quebec/Montreal Arrivals. The Montfort either had no binder or it was damaged before microfilming. There was a blank space following the SS Tunisian's summary page with the name Montfort in one corner. There are 16 contiguous pages with no binder or summary. In those pages I found Morris Schreiber, Manslie? (Lazar) Schreiber, Oasias Schreiber and his wife Rebecca Schreiber. There was no child listed with Oasias and Rebecca on the manifest. I had found my Morris and learned the name of Oasias' wife. But who, and where, was the child?

I began to backtrack. What had I confirmed?

Morris, Lazar, Oasias & his wife Rebecca arrived in the Poor Jews' Temporary Shelter in London on 8 July 1900 from Holland. They left Liverpool on 17 July 1900 on the Montfort and arrived in Quebec. There was an unnamed child listed with them at the Shelter, but no child listed with Oasias and Rebecca on the Montfort's manifest. Where was the child?

About that time I read Culliner's, *Finding Home*, and learned that fugeyers actually did walk across Europe to escape Romania. Could my great-grandfather have been a fugeyer? Could his story be true?

There was an odd entry in the history of the Poor Jews Temporary Shelter's database. It read:

*There was, for example, the student who found himself facing a large number of returnees, and who wanted to know why Kovno had suddenly become so attractive. He had not appreciated that these individuals had been deported from South Africa at the height of the Boer War. Two other students, dealing with a period just a few weeks later, were faced with a wave of Jews from Rumania who had, apparently, walked much of the way from there to Holland.*

"Could my great-grandfather have been a fugeyer?  
Could his story be true?"

There was also an entry in Culliner's *Finding Home*. It read,

*When the SS Lake Ontario docked on July 23, 1900, not 200 but 300 Romanians were on board and more, perhaps thousands, were reported on other ships heading towards Canada. The Canadian government warned the Baron de Hirsch Society that if this "influx were carried to excess, it would be obliged to interfere". When the next boat, the Montfort, docked, Romanians were, temporarily, forbidden to disembark.*

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Maybe Morris, Lazar, Oasais & Rebecca were part of the wave of Jews from Romania that were noted in the Shelter's database. Certainly, they were on the Montfort when the Canadian government refused their disembarkation because it was concerned about the flood of Romanian Jews entering the country.

I went back to the Shelter's database and searched all "Roumanian" entries. I narrowed the results by their shelter entry date on 8 July 1900. I then narrowed the results by their departure date on 17 July 1900. I then narrowed the results by their departure on the Montfort. That winnowing process resulted in a list of 86 contiguous registrations (#'s 2206-2291) of Romanians entering on 8 July and departing on 17 July on the Montfort, all of whom are listed as traveling with one child.

## **Conclusions**

Morris, Lazar, Oasias & Rebecca were very probably part of a fugeyers group. If they followed the pattern of other fugeyers, they left Bucharest in early spring of 1900 after the failed harvest of 1899. They traversed the Carpathians through the Prislop pass to Budapest and then to Paris where they either walked or took a train to Amsterdam. They sailed from Holland and arrived in London in early

July. They stayed eight days in the Shelter and were given passage to Quebec. The historical and specific timelines fit my great-grandfather's story perfectly. Oasias and Rebecca Schreiber did not have a child at that time. There was one child in the entire fugeyers' group. The disappointing reception by the Canadian Government likely induced one brother (probably Oasias and Rebecca) to return to the safety of Paris. Baron de Hirsh's homestead land in Argentina was also more inviting to one brother (probably the younger, Lazar). One brother, Morris, disembarked in Canada and shortly thereafter worked his way down the Great Lakes to Chicago where he met my great-grandmother Schainde. Some of the 86 fugeyers in their group are likely to be extended family to research. The search goes on.

## ***Erratum***

You hopefully noticed that our last issue of Spring 2006 erroneously bears the Number 12 (same as Winter 2005-2006.) It really was number 13.

*The editor*

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"Francisco."

Based on extensive oral history and personal interviews, Rubén Osorio has uncovered Villa's family lineage and background. Included in these interviews are some of the few recordings of Villa's wife, Luz Corral de Villa, and his adopted son, Francisco Piñón. One item found in early accounts of Villa, written during his own lifetime was his statement that Mr. Arango, his supposed father, was not his real father at all: that he was, in fact, the illegitimate son of a hacienda owner whose family name was reported to be "Gérman".

Actually, Villa probably did not say "Gérman", which is a common first name (not family name) in Mexico - but since the pronunciation, especially with the "pelado" accent, would be close to identical, it was not very noticeable that he was referring to the "Férman" family, who were the employers of his mother, Micaela Armábola. The person who was actually Villa's father was Luis Férman Gurrola, the son of a Jewish immigrant from Liechtenstein. Though Villa doesn't look Jewish, Villa's half-brother was reported by his children to have been a crypto-Jew, practicing Jewish rituals secretly in the attic.

Osorio, Ruben, The Secret Family of Pancho Villa published by The Center for Big Bend Studies, Sul Ross University, in Alpine, Texas.

**Accomplishments:** Many are legendary. Villa was such a master at the art of propaganda that it is now almost impossible to separate the facts of his life from his legend. Some of Villa's true accomplishments include:

1. Villa was instrumental in restoring democracy and social justice to Mexico.
2. He raised money via methods such as forced assessments on hostile hacienda owners, and train robberies. In one notable escapade, he held 122 bars of silver ingot from a train robbery (and a Wells Fargo employee) hostage and forced Wells Fargo to help him fence the bars.
3. He issued his own paper money. Villa was held in such high regard that banks in El Paso, Texas accepted his paper pesos at face value.
4. Villa became provisional governor of Chihuahua state. During his single month in office, Villa decreed his paper money to be traded at par with gold Mexican pesos, under penalty of execution, then forced the wealthy to trade their gold for his paper pesos by decreeing gold to be counterfeit

**“Villa's halfbrother ...(was) practicing Jewish rituals secretly...”**

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money.

5. He distributed the money taken from the wealthy to the poor and downtrodden.

6. He also used loot from his raids to finance the revolution, build hospitals and schools, and to rebuild the railroad in northern Mexico.

7. He built many schools in Chihuahua, though he was barely literate himself. As governor, he sometimes practiced for hours before signing important documents.

8. Villa was a noted ladies' man, with as many as 24 wives, and countless dalliances.

9. Starting with eight followers and 500 rounds of ammunition, he built his army into one of the most feared and respected military forces in Mexico. His generalship was so admired by the US military that he was invited to Fort Bliss to meet General John J. Pershing.

10. Villa pioneered in the use of media for propaganda. He proposed, and starred in, the first film of actual battle ever made, as well as two other full-length movies. As many as ten other full-length films were made about him during his lifetime.

### **Other interesting facts about Pancho Villa:**

\* He was crazy about ice cream. His favorite flavor was tutti-frutti.

\* He was a lifelong teetotaler.

\* He was a dancer of legendary stamina.

\* Villa's legal widow, Luz Corral, operated Villa's former mansion as the Museo de la Revolucion in Chihuahua until her death in 1981. The museum is still in operation.

\* The song La Cucaracha was modified and popularized by Villa's troops to mock Venustiano Carranza, an opposing general.

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**"He distributes the money taken from the rich to the poor and downtrodden."**

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modified and popularized by Villa's troops to mock Venustiano Carranza, an opposing general.

\* At the Battle of Tierra Blanca, Chihuahua, Villa invented the tactic of hijacking a locomotive, packing it with explosives, then sending it with the throttle tied down into the enemy's rear.

\* After he was gunned down in a gangland-style murder in 1923, his corpse was exhumed and decapitated. Neither the killers nor the grave-robbers were ever identified. The skull has never been found, and the actual location of Villa.

*(Continued from page 2)*

I only knew him through UJGS and I still see him seated usually in the same seat, on the left when facing the blackboard. Some people have a “presence”; Ralph certainly did. He communicated peace, love, dedication and a certain strength, as if he was there, everything would be all right. The number of times the place he was in on the ships he served on during World War II were torpedoed certainly attest to that fact.

He was a founding member of UJGS, meaning he was with us from the first meeting we held here at Kol Ami. He leaves a spot that someone will have to fill. On his own he kept the record of Jewish people who passed on here in Salt Lake. Also someone will have to continue the search on his “Hungarian” lines. I hope someone is listening.

It is interesting to me that the cemetery listing he worked and we also published in our newsletter was read by someone just this passed week. That person found the relatives she was looking for and is asking us to send her photographs of the grave-sites.

The beauty of genealogy is that it does not die with you, but lives on. This is one more way Ralph will live on, not just with his posterity, but the of posterity of his ancestors and eventually of all of mankind.

Just one more thought. Ralph died of ALS also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. Is that a medical genealogy that should be researched?

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

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

**“Journey to Vaja”**  
by © Elaine Kalman Naves

Review by Robert Neu

This book was available at the IAJGS Conference this past August in New York at the conclusion of the H-Sig luncheon, where the author was the guest speaker.

**“Journey to Vaja”** is a journey both in time and in space. The period is sometime in the late eighteenth century. The place is a small village in the far eastern portion of Hungary where the boundaries of Hungary, the Ukraine, Romania and at times Slovakia do or did get together.

That is where and when the Itzig the forefather of the author first settled in the area. Where he came from is not mentioned, though it is agreed that Jewish people of the area came from Galicia or Poland just to the north. Of course most probably Jewish peddlers and merchants had been around since who knows when ! Aren't they traces of Jewish presence going back to the Roman empire ? Weren't some of the Kabars - ethnic Khazars -, one of the tribes that entered Hungary in the ninth and tenth century, partly Jewish ?

Like most people who have been uprooted the author needs to associate with a place and a people who existed

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**Lost and Found:**  
**Family Research at the NYC**  
**Municipal Archives**

Presenters: Leonora A. Gidlund,  
Michael Lorenzini

*Bios:*

Michael Lorenzini is Sr. Photographer at the NYC Municipal Archives. Currently compiling a book on photographer Eugene de Salignac. Before that, photography book and magazine editor at Aperture Foundation.

Leonora Gidlund has worked at the NYC Municipal Archives since 1985, and has been the Director since 2005.

In Ms. Gidlund presentation, she referenced the following:

Collections include:

- Index to Synagogue Records, WPA Catalogue index online
- 1880-1897 Geographic Index for Manhattan
- 1898-1909 Geographic Index all boroughs

Ex: Esther Adler (a.k.a. Stella) birth cert.

Rudolfo Guglielino death cert. (Rudolph Valentino)

Marriage cert. for FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt. Witness: Uncle TR.

- Indexes to Coroner's Inquests
- Burials of Deceased Veterans, headstones for 1888-1891
- Potter's Field- note: not all those buried here were poor.

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before and somewhere. Thus the **“Journey to Vaja”** is a voyage to such a place and such a time. In the first pages of the book she notes:

“Wherever we lived, a part of me remained a foreigner... searched for the true place I came from. Deep down I believed Vaja to be that place.”

*“The family had a history. Its past was not some kind of hallucination in which my father and I colluded... I had ancestors who lived and died in normal ways before the world went mad.”*

Itzig Derzser who settled in Derzs was the grandfather of Samuel Schwartz, which became the legal surname and he was the grandfather of Yakab himself the grandfather of Aniko Schwartz, the mother of Elaine the author.

On her father’s side Hersh K’danever, the Reb of Kajdano, really Herman Weinberger was the other grandfather of Elaine’s father “Gusti”, for Gustav.

Both sides of the family came to either own or manage large agricultural estates. The Weinbergers in Kajdano, and the Schwartzes in Vaja where Jakob obtained the lease of what is still known as the Rakoczi estate, where

the offsprings of Yakab as well as Kalman Weinberger who married Ilona Schwartz lived.

The story takes us through their successes and hardships. It covers the history of Hungary from the late 1800's, as lived in the villages of the north-eastern corner of the country till the aftermath of World War One. There are the hardships of the war years, the disintegration of civil order that immediately followed it, including looting, shooting of the prime minister, the communist revolution of Bela Kun and the occupation by Romanian

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**“Wherever we lived a part  
of me remained  
a foreigner...”**

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to restore a semblance of normalcy that led to the election of Admiral Horthy as Regent of the amputated Kingdom, led now by

and admiral without any navy for being now a landlocked country.

If you want to know the very human and personal happenings in the lives of Jakab, Andor, Sandor, Elizabeth, Irén, Kálmán, and other siblings and nephews I strongly suggest you read the book. If you stem from the same or similar environment in Central or Eastern Europe, be it Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Poland I am sure some of the events were lived by your ancestors and relatives, whether they took care of large land holdings or not.

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German Jews almost forgot that they were Jews until awakened by Hitler, when two-third of them left the “homeland.” In a similar vein Hungarian Jews were *Magyars* of *israélite* religion. They had good reasons to feel that way. Elaine Kálmán Naves remarks :

“...by the turn of the twentieth century, more than a third of Hungary’s arable land was estimated as being owned by Jews.”

The time between the two world wars was a period of ups and downs, with growing antisemitism, where one could have seen the swelling storm. Hungary was the first to pass anti Jewish laws, even before Germany. Though the deportation to Auschwitz took place well in 1944, after the Germans took over Hungary, it was the Hungarian administration and authorities that rounded up the Jews, put them in overcrowded ghettos, and loaded them on the trains turning them over to the Germans only in Kozice/Kassa for the final leg of the journey.

The Schwartz and Weinberger lived and died during the period, mostly died. There were two survivors who renewed acquaintance in Canada, Montreal for Gusti - Elaine’s father-, and Toronto for Zsuzsi, a friend, the only survivor of a family of thirty-

four who went to Auschwitz in the same boxcar.

Gusti, Elaine’s father, served, like all Jewish men, in the so called workers battalions where seven out of a battalion of over two hundred survived. Reminiscing his survival Gusti talks of the “finger of God” that allowed him to make the right choices at the right times. This is one more survival, noting that it required both guts and luck to be still alive as a Jew at the end of the war.

Elaine also notes that the road to success of the Jews in Hungary was only possible because of the subservient position the peasantry was kept in. She quotes from and refers to a series of interviews that were made in Vaja concluding :

“...Perhaps Itzig Derzser had struck root in the wrong place... perhaps all the effort his descendants put into that land was doomed because it was built on the exploitation of others”

The book deals evenly with what we would call the good and the bad, from the handling of the workers, the sexual mores of the so-called “masters”, their religious rituals, their arranged and not arranged marriages.

Elaine did visit Vaja. She reflects on the picture she took of the address where the house she was born in stood and confides that it was “the only one” of her trip her mother kept.

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Elaine relates suffering the pain of those who suffered, lived or die, as she would translate the letters her father had kept, as she would transcribe or translate the taping she had taken of her father's life story, of reading to him these stories as he was getting more despondent in a Montreal hospital, perking up while she did.

This story could be your story.

Any unclaimed body for 2 weeks ended up here.

- 1890 Police Census. But you need an address.
- City Directories for Brooklyn and Manhattan. These list if person widow, widower.
- Register of Voters- Need address, ED-Ad. Manhattan 1872-1914, Queens 1898-1948, Richmond (Staten Island) 1898-1956. These kept offsite. One week delay in obtaining.
- Almshouse records from 1838 on. Welfare became Roosevelt Island.
- Tax photos from 1940. Every NYC building photographed. Copies of photos vary from \$30-\$55, depending on size.
- NY County District Attorney's Record of Cases. Not on microfilm. Index on microfilm.

Need case #. Include mug shots. Criminal records from 1898-1960. For Manhattan only.

- WPA Jewish Synagogues, from 1939. Historic Records Survey, Part 3. Electronic index. Also, WPA's Jews of NY.
- Landmanshaftn. Jewish Hometown Associations and Family Circles in NY. Also WPA Work Group.

Mr. Lorenzini added:

- Over 2 million images
- Black and white darkroom and digital lab
- 1940s tax photos. Every NYC building photographed.
- 1980s tax photos will be available in 2007, in color.
- Over 500,000 photos in 47 collections from 1800s-2000.

Notes:

95% of photos taken by city photographers. Tax photos include block, lot, and sign. To research building, you need exact # of street, description. The block # is the big #. The Lot # is italicized. Red indicates brick building. With block and lot #, you go to index and that gives file # or film #. DM = Demolished. NP = No photo.

- WPA photos of NYC. Example : Hotel Astor at night
- Borough President of Manhattan collection. By intersection, know the street address. 20,000 negatives from 1920s-1940s.
- Queens, 20, 000 negatives, from

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same period. Includes subject index.

- Brooklyn Borough Pres. Collection from 1940s-1960s.
- Dept. of Health negatives
- Dept. of Public Charities
- Fire Dept of NY, 700 negatives, mostly Brooklyn from 1910-1920s.
- NYC Glass Plate Evidence-from NYPD. Mug shots. For mug shot, you need date of arrest.
- Bd. of Education collection-7000 negs by school and subject matter
- Tax Photos-schools, synagogues exempt from taxes, so no photos.
- Mayors' Collections
- Dept. of Bridges and Planned Structures Collection from 1900-1938. Includes photos of master photographer Eugene de Salignac. There will be an exhibit of his work at the Museum of the City of NY and a book in 2007, called NY Rises.
- Marriage Records 1937-Present
- Probate Records in Surrogate Ct. in same building. Must go to county where will probated.
- Bronx County formed in 1914.

Website: [www.nyc.gov/records](http://www.nyc.gov/records)

Hours : M-Th. 9-4:30, Friday 9-1.

## What's the Message ?

### President's Message

*By: Robert Neu*

Utah Jewish Genealogy President

I just came back from the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual IAJGS Conference in New York, and it kind of gave me a jolt because the next one will be here on our own turf, here in Salt Lake City, and it is barely 8 ½ months away July 15 to 21, 2007.

Mercifully our little group is not responsible for it, which does not mean that we will not be involved. The word is that Salt Lake City is the World Genealogy Capital. I also heard the Family History Library referred to as the genealogists candy store.

Probably, as locals we don't take fully advantage of it, because it is in our backyard. On the other hand several members of our small group did move here because of the availability. Any other candidates ? Our little group would really welcome you.

Also, based on previous experience attendees of the conference in Salt Lake City spend half their time doing research, and not necessarily attending the lectures, presentations, seminars; however you want to refer to them.

Therefore, in my opinion this gives a challenge to those who will make presentations. They better be worthwhile attending. I am sure presenters are

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aware that a less than exciting session affects attendance at the other sessions, of course those done by the same presenter, but also those done by other presenters.

This takes me to the title of this blurb. What is the message? I hope that each presenter as he prepares his material asks himself this question, and that at the end of the session each participant leaves the session with a message and that he gained something by having been there, and hopefully that he will be motivated to do something about it.

What do I mean by a message? Perhaps the best way to explain it is to use as examples a couple of lectures that I attended and that in my opinion had a message. I don't mean by that others that I attended did not have a message, but I can't use them all, and I have avoided those dealing with my ethnic interests.

We had a session by the American Red Cross, on their search service to locate people or information on Shoah victims. Yes, over sixty years later it still goes on. Many of us still don't know exactly the details of the fate of relatives, and yes, reunions still happen. It reminded me that my father had gone to the Red Cross right after the war to see what happened to his family from a first marriage. What was the message? Here is what I got from it:

The Red Cross has a search division. They get information not just from the ITS, but also from records that have become available since the iron curtain went down, and anywhere where they can think of. A file is never closed, you will receive new information if some surfaces. It does not take years, six to nine months was mentioned. You need to submit your request to your local Red Cross Office. I have three aunts for whom nobody in the family knows what happened to them. I will inquire.

The other one I would give as an example is the session on a medical pedigree. The message was clear. This is true especially if you are a bearer of one of the genetic disorders, or have been diagnosed with one. Then you owe it to ALL members of your family, as extended as possible, to create your medical pedigree, so that all possible carriers, and potential affected members be aware. The ounce of prevention is always better than a cure... I have tried to give an idea of our family concerns to my own kin.

I hope that you are getting the idea. We look forward to see as many as possible here in Salt Lake City. This is a metropolis of over a million people. The majority is not LDS, and even less so with active LDS. There are cultural events, great restaurants, great skiing (not in July), unique landscapes of great beauty, and to a degree a Jewish History. You'll hear more about it as time goes forward.

## WHERE, OH WHERE, IS SARAH FROM?

By: *MaryAnn Jacobs*

The search to find Sarah Herrmann's birthplace began for us in 1968. This was before the era of genealogy on the internet. After 35 years we did find her German origins, but only after methodically following the basic steps of research. The internet provided a means to correspond with distant cousins who had no clues for us but were interested in our findings. Our research logs were most helpful because we were sporadic in our attempts to find this family. Letters would be written and when no leads were returned, the search would be put on hold for another year or two or more. When the desire to solve this mystery would surface, we would pick up where we left off, look for another resource and try another sibling to follow.

Sarah Herrmann is Jerry's great-grandmother. When we married he did not know her name. His grandfather, Sarah's eldest son, was living with Jerry's family and was 92 years old. We visited the family in New Jersey and while sitting by Herman Jerry asked him to tell us about his parents and family. From that conversation we were given his journal that documented the births and deaths of parents, siblings, and children (Jerry's father, brothers and sisters). We visited with Herman's niece (in her late 70's) who was the acknowledged Jacobs' family story "keeper" and she gave us verify-

ing information, but no new leads. Herman knew that his mother, sister and 2 brothers came to America before he was born. He only knew their names, he had no recollection of visits with them, places they lived in, nor details about their individual families. Cousin Frieda gave us information about her great-aunt Jenny, none of which was genealogically helpful, but the stories were interesting.

Next we verified the information given to us by Grandfather. We found 1900 census records, using the Soundex system. On subsequent visits to New Jersey we went to the state archives and found birth, death, and marriage records. We navigated the New York City bureaucracies by mail and using microfilmed indexes at the Family History Library to find Sarah's marriage certificate and birth records of her children. New York City has records of these events from 1880.

We looked in *Germans to America* every passenger arrival index for 1860-1880 available, but found no Herrmann family with given names we had. All the information we had gathered to this point showed Germany or Baden, Germany as Sarah's birthplace. Her son and niece were agreed it was Baden, but did not know of a town name. We looked in the Baden emigration records. No Herrmann family.

The naturalization record for one brother, Gottfried, was found and stated he was from Germany. We even looked

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"We navigated the New York bureaucracies by mail..."

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*(Continued from page 17)*

at directories and maps of New York City to pin-point addresses to search the Police Census of 1890. This in the hopes of locating names of wives and children so New York City vital records could be searched for parent origins. We didn't find any of our Herrmann's in that 1890 census, but we did find them in the directories.

In 2000 we began to follow Sarah's sister, Jenny's family. We had 1900 census information that showed she was the mother of 4 children and all 4 were living, but only 3 were shown at the family residence. We had the record for 1 child that did not give us mother's birthplace

b e y o n d  
"Germany." We  
now looked at  
updated indexes  
of New York

City marriages and births. Resources change over time and 20 years of record additions helped. We found birth records of 2 children born to Nane Steinfeld, maiden name Herrmann, from Gailingen, Baden, Germany.

The Family History Library happened to have 3 records in their catalogue for Gailingen: a Catholic church parish record from 1650, **Jewish Community Records** from 1810-1869, and a Memor Buch for the Jewish Cemetery in Gailingen. Guess which films we went to first? We found the births of the four children who emigrated to America, 3 other children, and their parents' name change from Mahrum to Herrmann. We also extended family lines back 3 and 4 generations with the information from these records.

## ZipTip

*By: Marelynn Zipser*

Our president Robert Neu has mentioned that the FHL catalog is likely to be revised in the near future. In the meantime use the existing searches to try to see if what you want is already in the catalog.

My self-imposed assignment to the Hungarian SIG of Jewishgen is to transcribe 1869 Hungarian census records into an index that can be searched on line. I ran out of raw material as listed under "Hungary" "census 1869". I had heard reports from the 2006 Conference that there were newly acquired records

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"We found birth records of 2  
children born to Nane Steinfeld..."

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that had not  
been cataloged.  
Alas, there is no  
NEW RE-  
CORDS feature

on the current catalog.

I finally tried a TITLE search, looking for the Hungarian word for census (nepszamlalas) and found records from two very large cities, Debrecen and Szekesferharvar, filmed in 1970! I am indexing them right now and they will be added to the All-Hungary database in January.

If you want all of the Jewish records for an area, use KEYWORD search. For example, "jewish records in Zemplin", will yield a complete searchable list of what is available. You won't have to worry about getting the PLACE name just right to see if there are records.

## Minutes of UJGS Meeting 9/19/06

*By: Rochelle Kaplan*

Attendees: Dorothy Rackley, Banai Feldstein, Mark Kleinfeld, Mary Ann Jacobs, Miriam Hall-Hansen, Daniel Schlyter, Robert Neu, Lane Fischer, Marilyn Zipser, Wilma Odell, Rochelle Kaplan.

1) Introductions

2) Preview and discussion of IAJGS conference to be held in SLC next July. The S. Utah Genealogical Conference will be in Jan.

3) Regular UJGS portion of meeting.

Presentations by attendees of IAJGS NYC Conference in Aug.

a) Robert Neu mentioned Jewish Gen's Volunteer Wall of Honor, and UJGS members Robert Neu and Marelynn Zipser both now on this wall. New issue of Avotaynu E-zine passed around.

b) Banai summarized Larry Fermi's presentation on obtaining citizenship. Usually it took an alien 5 yrs to become a US citizen, once he/she applied. Sometimes, however, the process was expedited, for soldiers, for example. On Sept. 26, 1906 the federal gov't took over naturalizations. Before 1906, one could become naturalized in federal, state, regional or local courts. After 1906, there was usually a declaration of intention, a certificate of arrival and the naturalization. The later the date, the more info provided - such as DOB, place of birth, spouse's DOB and place of birth, ad-

dress, children and their DOB and place of birth, port of arrival. Beginning 1929, photos were required. To find naturalization, look for clues in obits, census records, WWI draft registration cards, alien registration cards. Changes of laws occurred in these years: 1790- 2 yrs. Resident of US, 1 yr in the state. 1795- 5 yrs in US increased to 14 yrs in US, 3 yrs intention. 1802, back to 5 yrs in US. 1891- Bureau of Immigration formed. 1922- wife no longer automatically naturalized when husband naturalized, as a result of Amendment granting women the right to vote. 1933- INS founded. 1952- No more quotas. 1954- Ellis Island closed.

c) Hal Bookbinder told a story about a relative (his grandmother, I think), who lost her citizenship (she was born in US) when she married an alien, although she was active in politics in NYC. She had to apply for citizenship to be able to vote. Women lost their citizenship if they married a foreigner before 1922 when citizenship went with the husband. Banai was able to find naturalization records she sought. She lamented that some ship manifest pages (which might provide info) are gone, partially destroyed or ripped, due to mistreatment.

d) Fermi's presentation on property records and also on military records. Banai mentioned NY records, NETR online, USPDR with NY real estate data, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1867. Fermi said to follow the deed trail, check newspapers. One can do "home archaeology". e) 20th Century Military Records include: WWI draft registration cards. There were 3 drafts and 98% of

*(Continued from page 19)*

US men were registered who were born between 1872-1900. In 1917, 10 million were registered; in 1918, 1 million. In Aug. and Sept. 1918 separate registrations were held. The residency requirement was waived for WWI. NARA has a microfilmed index. IGG has indexed some NY records. Ancestry has records. One can file FOIA request (Freedom of Information). WWII had 6 draft dates, beginning in Oct. 1940 for ages 21-35. In 1942, there was an Old Man's Registration. There is an honor list of dead and missing soldiers at NARA.gov. The Navy has a summary by state. Other documents for Korean and Vietnam Wars. A fire at the records facility in St. Louis in 1972 destroyed some records for the Army and Air Corps from the 1940s-1960s. For other military records, peruse newspapers and small town societies.

f) Rochelle presented on 2 talks, Project to Reconstitute the Destroyed Shtetls of Europe, and Lost and Found: Family Research at the NYC Municipal Archives. These are summarized in attachments to this email. (Rochelle provided these as handouts). She also copied from conference syllabus and handed out: Major Repositories in NYC for Genealogical Research. And she brought in the books she bought at the conference for folks to peruse and borrow.

g) Note that Banai, Robert, Daniel and Rochelle each have copies of the IAJGS conference syllabus and some of us

(Banai and Rochelle) bought the CD with the taped talks and handouts. These are available for borrowing.

h) Robert presented on Stanley Diamond's talk on medicine, DNA and genealogy. Stanley Diamond's medical condition, beta-thalassemia, led him to found both the JRI-Project and the Beta-Thalassemia Project. Robert Neu paraphrased this quote, "Mr. Diamond's work serves as a paradigm for the link between genealogy research and the study of the evolution and spread of genetic diseases."

Robert has a particular interest in the intersection of genealogy and genetics

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"the link between genealogy ...  
and .. genetic diseases."

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because of his recent bout with breast cancer and its preponderance in his family.

Here are some excerpts from the Beta-Thalassemia website, by Stanley M. Diamond, Project Director: For years, thalassemia, or Cooley's anemia, was thought to affect only Greek, Italian, Asian, and Sephardic Jewish families. In recent years, it became clear that Ashkenazic Jews also carry the trait and could be at risk for the fatal disease.

Eight years ago, Dr. Ariella Oppenheim, Jerusalem, and Dr. Charles Scriver, Montreal, independently discovered that my family and a family in Jerusalem carry a newly identified mutation of this trait. As a result, I launched a project for which I need the participation of genealogists, the press, and the medical and scientific community around the world. This research is being done in conjunc-

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tion with the McGill University-Montreal Children's Hospital Medical Research Institute and Hebrew University-Hadassah Hospital, Department of Hematology, Jerusalem. The first medical paper on the project was published in the scientific journal *Human Mutation* 9:86-87 (January 1997). Here is a quote from Stanley Diamond, founder of JRI-Poland and of the Beta-Thalassemia Project: "Although my initial goal in this project was to find other carriers of the specific mutation carried by my family (originally from Ostrow Mazowiecka [Ostrova] in the old Lomza Gubernia of Poland) and a family in Jerusalem (originally from Bobruysk in Belarus) and identify the earliest carriers of this mutation in both families, I also want to alert unsuspecting Ashkenazic carriers outside my family. This is the most urgent aspect, because the beta-thalassemia genetic trait is not usually found unless physicians are looking for it. Carriers are often misdiagnosed as being anemic and are incorrectly prescribed iron. Most carriers in my family learned that they carried the trait later in life, in some cases - long after having grandchildren. This late diagnosis could have been disastrous. In addition to previously unknown branches of my family which I have found, outreach has turned up six other Diaspora Ashkenazic families carrying the trait. A few already launched programs to alert their extended families about the potential dangers to future generations. These families were found through Jewish Gen posts and articles in the general and Jewish press and Jewish Genealogical Society newsletters. On-site research in Po-

land and the cooperation of the Polish State Archives and key Civil Records Offices enabled me to document more than 50 additional families who may be at risk. With descendants of so many families to be traced and contacted, my task, already immense, has now become virtually unmanageable. I need help from my fellow genealogists, their friends, relatives, and physicians - anyone who might have knowledge of a carrier." Robert noted that most of us have "family diseases". He also noted the reluctance of family members to discuss medical history. Robert stressed that knowledge can save lives.

i) Hal Bookbinder reprised his talk, "Breaking Through Brick Walls", given at the IAJGS conference in NYC. His suggestions for how to get reluctant family members to open up:

- 1) for women, use the kitchen while the lady is doing the dishes and is relaxed
- 2) write a family story and share it. Family members will find your errors. In your family history, give both versions.
- 3) use a visual prompt- a photo, an heirloom.

- 4) show courtesy. Sense when enough is enough; say thanks. Consider bite sized pieces for an interview, with 2-3 questions, rather than 50.

- 5) don't criticize, contradict, correct - or show your disagreement facially.

- 6) bring up the contradiction later, via a second source. His suggestions for dealing with archivists who say the document is not here.

i) Don't argue with a bureaucrat.

ii) Try a second time without mentioning the first time; you may get a different

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archivist.

iii) Check to see that you gave the correct info.

iv) Ask for suggestions as to where to search. Suggestions re: computer resources.

7) For finding lost, living relatives, try [www.privateeye.com](http://www.privateeye.com) where you can always try a free sample.

Hal gave the example of searching for his college friends, Richard and Henore Pock.

a) Stephen Morse one-step web page has a link to [www.privateeye.com](http://www.privateeye.com)

b) Search birthday with unusual name, even just surname or given name.

c) Check obituaries, wills. Rochelle mentioned [www.obitsarchive.com](http://www.obitsarchive.com)

d) Try Google's advanced search. Remember that you can screen out terms. Hal gave an example using Barenberg, screening out the musician Barenberg. You can list preferences you will accept. Also, use Google images.

e) Use census, ship manifests with all spelling variants, including first letter. Remember that ch, h and g often were pronounced the same. Also, w, v and b. And z and j often were pronounced the same. Stephen Morse's EIDB white form is infinitely better than his blue (Jewish) form, since 40% of Jews were not recorded as Jews. Rochelle mentioned reversed surname, given name with surname Gordon, as example. If the town is small, you can try a town entry without any surnames. Use both Castle Garden and EIDB since records sometimes appear on one list when you expect them on other database. Look at other names on the ship - you may find other relatives. Look at nearby towns for

relatives.

8) Suggestions for making the leap to Europe.

x) Check post 1906 naturalization records.

xx) Check the town of last residence; remember this may not be the birth town.

xxx) Look in census entry for where born. Often, the town was written town, then crossed out and the country written in. WWI Draft Registration Cards- lists place of birth and entry for closest relative may be a relative in Europe.

xv) Letters and envelopes, backs of photos- may list town where photo taken, letter sent from. ) Landmanshaftn records. Cemetery burial society may include name of town where person born.

v) Research collateral relatives.

vi) For cases where many towns have the same name, check WOWW (Where Once We Walked), Jewish Gen Shtetl Seeker, landmanshaftn. Also go to maps and see what nearby towns are. These provide clues. Also check Encyclopedia Judaica, Wikipedia.

j) A reminder that Ralph Tannenbaum, UJGS founding member, passed away. Attached is the UJGS profile on Ralph. We plan to make a contribution to Kol Ami in his memory. We also need to find someone who will continue his superb documentation of Jews buried in SLC cemeteries.

k) Agenda for next meeting to be held at Kol Ami Nov. 21, Tuesday at 7 PM.

1) Daniel, Robert and Rochelle will present on talks attended at the IAJGS NYC Conference.

2) UJGS Election

3) Review of Nov. 9 meeting with IAJGS at SLC Hilton. Respectfully submitted, Rochelle Kaplan.

Minutes of UJGS Meeting  
July 18, 2006  
Kol-Ami @ 7:00 P.M.  
By: Robert Neu

Attendance: Don Fallick, Banai Feldstein, Lane and Rebecca Fisher, Mrs Finkelstein, Gerald and Mary Ann Jacobs, Carolyn Manwaring, Robert Neu, Wilma Odell, Richard and Ruth Stone, Perry and Mercedes Woolsey.

Robert Neu welcomed Members and visitors.

Announcements were made regarding the 26<sup>th</sup> IAJGS Conference in New York. Four of our members plan to attend (Banai Feldstein, Rochelle Kaplan and Daniel Schlyter). Our planned involvement in the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference here in Salt Lake City was mentioned.

Documentation was circulated including the latest Avotaynu's : Nu What's New ?

Minutes of May 26 were approved.

Tonight we will have a presentation by each of three members of our group.

The first by Mary Ann Jacobs introduced by Gerald, as it pertains to his family. It was titled : "WHERE, OH WHERE IS SARAH FROM? (see article on page 16) The next presentation was from Wilma Odell about the trip she had taken to Lithuania sponsored led by Howard Margol.

Wilma first gave some general information about the Lithuanian Jewish community. Before World War II there were 250,000 Jews in Lithuania, with 70,000 in Vilna – the capital. Today there is only 6,000 with a community only in Vilna. The presentation was supported by numerous photographs. Places visited included the square where executions took place, the museum of the renowned Vilna Gaon, the Memorial to those who were killed during WWII., a historical wooden synagogue, a memorial carved by Mrs Banka at a place where 1,800 were murdered. The other main town visited was Kaunas, the second largest town. They were also photos from the home-

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"Our planned involvement in the 27th Conference...."

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town of Mrs Finkelstein, where she came from about ninety years ago, and who related to us her story.

Of note also the memorial to Chinia Syghiru, the consul from Japan who issued visas to Jews even after being ordered not to, saving over 1,500 at the cost of his career and mistreatment back in Japan.

The third presentation was by Lane Fischer about the "Fus(s)geyers", as the Jews of Rumania who left their country in small groups for security and "walked" all the way to western Europe, be it Germany, France or Holland in order to emigrate from there to Argentina, South Africa, Canada or the United States.

There is very little literature on the subject including Stuart Tower's novel

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**“THE WAYFARERS”**, about the fusgeyers” = which those who went on foot, also **‘FINDING HOME: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE JEWISH FUSGEYERS’** by Jill Culinier.

Lane briefly the history of the persecution of the Jews in Rumania in the second half of the nineteen century making them aliens in their own country, monetary sanctions, attempts to conversions and extensive pogroms in 1899 which led to emigration, including the Fusgeyers. (see article on page 2.)

## 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.

## Maternal DNA Data Now Online

Up to now almost all genealogical DNA research has been made using the Y Chromosome DNA markers which are passed on from generation to generation from father to son relatively unchanged.

The mitochondrial DNA, which is passed also virtually unchanged from mother to daughter to daughter and once from mother to son was, up to now not used for genealogical research.

An article that appeared in The Salt Lake Tribune of September 17, 2006:

[http://www.sltrib.com/business/ci\\_4354995](http://www.sltrib.com/business/ci_4354995)

informs us that a mitochondrial database is now available on line from a Salt Lake based DNA research foundation:

[http://www.relativegenetics.com/relativegenetics/tutorial/understanding\\_mtdna\\_analysis.htm](http://www.relativegenetics.com/relativegenetics/tutorial/understanding_mtdna_analysis.htm)

DNA samples can also be submitted to its public database arm:

<http://www.smgf.org/pages/overview.jspx>

The Family Tree DNA which is shown on Jewishgen is also developing its own mitochondrial DNA testing and database :

<http://www.kknfa.org/ftdna.htm>

The director of the Salt Lake group is Dr, Scott Woodward who attended the IAJGS Conference in Jerusalem, and has been reported in previous Atsmi Uvsari editions.



**Images from the September 19, 2006 Meeting**

