

*This issue has Part 3 of Utah's Jewish History series
and continues the series of
Involving Your Children in Family History.*



ATSMI UVSARI
"MY BONE AND MY FLESH"

עצמי ובשרי

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Utah's Jewish History, Part 3: Ogden Jews

By Rochelle Kaplan

Early Ogden Jews

Ogden lies between Corinne and Salt Lake City. On the 1870 Ogden Census, we find Fred J. Kiesel, merchant, worth \$5000, from Wurtenburg, who in 1889 was elected mayor of Ogden, Prussian-born D. Levy, merchant worth \$1000, Prussian-born Samuel Auerbach, merchant worth \$2000, William Cohen, worth \$1800, from Prussia, and his large family: Vina, his German-born wife, and five children born in California, Montana, and Utah. Also enumerated are Prussian-born J. Plonsky, merchant worth \$2000, and his family, D. Mendelsohn and Julius Mendelsohn, merchants each worth \$1200, Lewis Gross, Jacob Levi, and H. Cohn, salesmen born in Russia, and F. Auerbach, and J. Auerbach, Prussian-born merchants each worth \$2000. The 1867 Pacific Coast Directory list Auerbach & Bro., general merchants, Cohn & Co., and Cohn & Munter, dry and fancy goods merchants, all of Great Salt Lake City. Ogden also was home to Ad and Abraham Kahn, brothers listed as A.K. & Bro. in the 1890 Utah Directory.

Abe Kuhn, on his ninetieth birthday, recounted some of his adventures for a June 1927 article in the Ogden Standard Examiner. At ninety, he still worked at the Kuhn building on Washington Avenue, purchasing hides in the winter and selling them the other seasons. Born in Bavaria, he came to New Orleans at fifteen and finally settled in Ogden in 1865 after sixteen years out west. He recalled hearing of the gold fields in Colorado and headed west with his brother Adam, rigging up a wagon and supplies. In the 1860s, he operated two mercantile stores in Denver. They would buy gold dust in Montana and later sell it in Denver. The article notes, "Loaded with the precious dust, the two brothers, after months in Montana, took stage to Denver, acting the part of penniless travelers to avert any suspicion of their riches. More than once they went without

food and begged 50 cents of fellow travelers for victuals. They paid the highest price for dust in Montana, \$17.75 an ounce, and sold it for \$40 an ounce in Denver."

The Kuhn brothers were cousins of the Kuhns of Kuhn-Loeb bankers in New York City. Fred Kiesel donated land for an Ogden school and a public park in Idaho.



Brith Sholem Congregation was organized in Ogden in 1890; articles before then in the Ogden newspapers announce Jewish High Holy Day services. The synagogue dates to 1916 and is Utah's oldest continuously operating synagogue, although the congregation lacks a rabbi. Congregants lead the services.



Congregation Brith Sholem

Involving Your Children in Family History: Microfilm Race

by Lane Fischer, Ph.D.

One of the most fun family history events I have enjoyed with my children is the "Holiday Microfilm Race". I identified two ancestors' death dates and their death certificate numbers on the Illinois vital records web site. I then logged on to the Family History Library catalog web site and identified the microfilms on which the death certificates would have been filmed.

My wife and I then took our youngest children, ages 11 and 14, to Salt Lake City to see the lights on Temple Square during the holidays. But before we took the kids to Temple Square, we stopped in at the Family History Library. We divided into two teams: the males versus the females. I prepared a worksheet with the names, death dates, death certificate numbers, and microfilm numbers. We said, "on your mark, get set, go!" It was a race to be the first team to find the microfilm, load it, find the death certificate, make a photocopy, and return the microfilm to its appropriate drawer. Both teams were successful in finding and copying their death certificates, but I am proud to say that the boys beat the girls by about thirty seconds. The race took only about 25 minutes and we left the

Family History Library laughing and trash talking about our research skills.

The race was over quickly. The key to the event was a few hours of preparation in which I was quite certain about the locations of the death certificates on the microfilms. I enhanced the efficiency of the event and probability of success (rather than frustration) of my neophyte researchers, my children.

"It was a race to be the first team to find the microfilm, load it, find the certificate, make a photocopy..."

The "microfilm race" can be adapted to many searches but will be most successful with good advanced planning. The

objective is to give the children a fun experience in which they can feel successful and competent. As they do, they will be more likely to engage in research as they mature. A feeling of competence will also sustain them as they eventually confront more frustrating research challenges. As you do the race with them, it enhances your relationship with them. My children are much older now, but they fondly remember the "Holiday Microfilm Race" and have a sweet taste in their mouths for family history research.

Atsmi Uvsari My Bone & My Flesh

Is published quarterly by the Utah Jewish Genealogical Society. This newsletter is distributed to UJGS members and other IAJGS member organizations and can also be downloaded from our web site at <http://ujgs.org/>. The information in our newsletter can be used freely for all academic and other non-profit purposes.

We strive for accuracy, but cannot be responsible for unintentional errors. Views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of Atsmi Uvsari or the Utah Jewish Genealogical Society.

We welcome comments, submissions, and questions. Send them via email to our President, Rochelle Kaplan, at president@ujgs.org or our Editor, Banai Lynn Feldstein, at editor@ujgs.org.

President's Message

By Rochelle Kaplan, UJGS President

There is an exciting event coming up: the annual IAJGS conference, to be held August 17-22 in Chicago. Several of our members and Utah genealogists will be presenting.

Banai Feldstein will show in a computer workshop how to create your own family newsletter using Microsoft Publisher. She will provide ideas for newsletter formatting and content as well as interjecting comments about publishing a JGS newsletter. General computer literacy is a prerequisite. Banai will also present "Szepping through Kalisz, A Journey of Researching Polish Families Using the FHL and JRI-Poland." Following the process of researching her own family, Banai will go through the steps of searching for family members in the JRI-Poland index, finding the records on microfilm available from the Family History Library, and putting it all together to create a family tree. Also included are how to find records on FHL microfilms when they aren't indexed in JRI-Poland, and tips on translating the records in both Polish and Russian.

Daniel Schlyter will reprise Jewish Genealogical Jeopardy with top genealogist contestants vying to come up with the questions to arcane answers. Daniel will also give a computer workshop on building your own digital map collection in which he will teach how to create, find, modify, organize, and use digital maps in your personal genealogical research. Daniel Schlyter is a genealogical author, lecturer, and Family History Library consultant for the U.S. and Canada. Previously, he was the Collection Management Specialist for the LDS Church Family History Department, responsible for Eastern Europe and Jewish materials. This followed 18 years at the Library assisting researchers with Eastern European, German, and Jewish genealogical problems. An accredited genealogist for Poland,

Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, Daniel served on the Polish Genealogical Society of America board from 1984 to 1999 and now serves on the board of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

Kahlile Mehr, of the FHL, will talk about the major policy shift about acquisitions in 2007, and the development of an image delivery infrastructure in the genealogical operations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons). It also covers all other elements of acquisitions: collection management function, record locations, field negotiations, procedures, shipping, receipt, cataloging, and distribution through record search and Family History Centers. Mr. Mehr will also give a Russian Empire Genealogical Primer. Understand the historical context, become acquainted with the best sources for genealogical research, the arrangement of records in an archive, options to acquire information from the sources, identify and use archival collections, and use the Internet to help do research. The Jewish records of L'viv have been filmed and will be featured in this lecture.

Steve W. Anderson directs the marketing efforts for FamilySearch, a nonprofit organization that maintains the world's largest repository of genealogical resources. Millions of people visit FamilySearch.org, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, or one of over 4,500 worldwide Family History Centers. Steve will discuss FamilySearch's spearheading global efforts to provide unprecedented access to records and resources. Come learn more about new services to digitize and index genealogical and historical records and publications that are being made available online. Discover more options to digitally preserve and share your information. We'll also

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(President's Message, continued from page 4)

explore what's new with FamilySearch.org, and how family history enthusiasts can benefit or contribute.

W. Todd Knowles is a member of the British Reference Staff at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. His main focus is English and Jewish research. Over the last few years, he has compiled a collection of records of "The Jews of the British Isles" which uses the Mordy Collection as its foundation. The collection currently has the records of over 12,000 people. Todd's class will use actual case studies to teach attendees where those British records, often everyday records, are and how to find them. Emphasis will be given to records that are available on the Internet if the researcher knows where to look. Another talk by Todd will cover the Knowles Collection. The Knowles Collection is a free, easily searchable database that is comprised of records of the Jewish people of the British Isles. While the records are from the British Isles, the people in the collection have left their footprints in over 20 countries. Whether their ancestors are Ashkenazi or Sephardic, this class will be beneficial for those whose ancestors spent time in Great British.

In addition to these talks and computer sessions, there will be many other experts presenting from the U.S., Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Israel, sessions focused on Chicago, sessions for SIGS, exhibition and resource rooms, and a film festival. The keynote speaker will be E. Randol Schoenberg, an attorney. In his talk, "Recovering Nazi-Looted Art - A Genealogist's Tale", Randy will describe how the skills he obtained as a genealogist facilitated his highly successful pursuit of Nazi-looted art cases. He will also share with us how his family research, a passion since childhood, was of critical importance in his legal work since he was aware of available genealogical resources that could be used as supporting documentation and how his family research gave him insight into the lives of individuals who lost art. Cases he will highlight include Republic of Austria v. Altmann (involving the return of Gustav Klimt paintings) and cases involving Nazi-looted Picasso and Canaletto paintings.

I hope to see you there!

On a personal note, my only niece got married on July 5 and that opens a whole new branch for me genealogically, the Lebow and Abramson families from Houston, TX!

Zip Tip

by Marelynn Zipser

Our old friend, FamilySearch, has a Pilot Project that can be accessed from the home page under "Record Search Pilot", or directly at <http://pilot.familysearch.org/>. It has vital records indexes for some US locations as well as census, immigration, and military records. Some records are digitized! It is not as complete as the "well-known subscription site", but the Pilot Project has some unique records. Well worth a few clicks to check it out!

Who We Are

The Utah Jewish Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization which provides a forum and assistance to members researching their Jewish ancestors. Our goal is to bring together all Utahns interested in pursuing their Jewish genealogy, regardless of faith.

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

Web Site Review: <http://wiki.familysearch.org/>*by Banai Lynn Feldstein*

Thomas Lerman had a promising beginning as our new Programming Chair, inviting Michael Ritchey from the "triage unit" of the Family History Library to talk to our group at the April 15 meeting. Michael gave us a presentation about a new Wiki that the FHL has created. After the meeting, I went online to check it out.

Michael mentioned not to type the "www" or the "http://" before the address. I found one page within the Wiki that points back to itself, using "http" instead of "https" and it does forward properly. The "www" is optional for most web sites, but when you have a third level domain (third.second.first), I assume that most people don't also type in those letters anyway.

One of the first things I notice while looking back at the site while I write this article is that, while I made my contributions late at night after our meeting, the wiki thinks I was online around 5:30am the next day. After a more recent edit, it appears that the clock on their server is six hours ahead of Mountain Daylight Time.

I started looking around the site at a few things, and found the most appropriate place to list the UJGS, so I added it to the "Utah Societies" page. Simple enough.

Next, I went searching for somewhere to mention IAJGS, and found it already mentioned on the "Upcoming Conferences" page. This page is very generic about conferences, mostly listing approximate months of regular conferences. I moved IAJGS down to August from July, added that 2008 is in Chicago with a link to the conference site, and then cleaned up the code.

Michael mentioned that adding to the Wiki would be similar to using Word. I think it's a little more like using FrontPage. Just like when

creating a web site using that program, the editor leaves a lot of garbage behind in the code. I found that by clicking on "Wikitext", I could see the regular Wiki code that I was used to using on Wikipedia, and I could see the things that were going wrong in the code. On the "Upcoming Conferences" page, there was a table of contents at the top linking to each month, and a blank 13th section. By removing the garbage at the end of the page, I removed the empty 13th link.

I next wandered into some of the Polish pages, seeing as that's where a lot of my expertise lies. On "Poland Websites", I found another page that needed a lot of cleaning up. Again in the table of contents, every other number was blank. So again, going into Wikitext instead of the fancy editor, I removed all the "empty" headers and fixed the contents.

A little more clicking around and I found that the Wiki is using the FCK Editor (FCK being the author's initials). Obviously, it is needed to insure that the people with the knowledge of genealogy can update the Wiki without having to learn the Wiki code, but I think this Wiki will also need people like me, highly computer literate perfectionists who can switch off the editor and clean up the code where it is needed.

Michael mentioned using the Portal pages, but the Poland page was essentially blank. I checked the Danish and Swedish pages as he suggested, to find an interesting organization of the information on each of them.

I agree with Michael about this Wiki: It shows great potential. It just needs more contributors working on it. I don't know if there is a reason they have not yet promoted it more to their 50,000 volunteers, but the information in the Wiki could explode when they do.

Forgiving Dr. Mengele

By Nicholas Wade

Review by Rochelle Kaplan

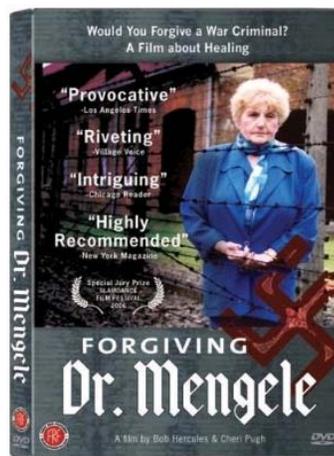
Forgiving Dr. Mengele is a provocative American documentary from 2006 about a Holocaust survivor's decision to forgive her Nazi captors. In so doing, filmmakers Bob Hercules and Cheri Pugh challenge viewers to question their own capacity to forgive and ponder whether it is possible, or appropriate, to forgive such evil.

The film opens with the liberation of Auschwitz and the sight of two little girls, in striped uniforms, holding hands. Eva Mozes Kor is one of the girls; her twin sister Miriam is the other. Eva's story is chronicled: she and her sister and other twins were used for ghastly experiments by Josef Mengele, the head physician of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. Mengele thought he could learn by experimenting on twins how to produce a master race. Miriam and Eva survived the war, but Miriam's growth was stunted and her kidneys ultimately failed due to chemicals the Nazis gave her. Miriam is buried in Israel. Eva almost died in the camp's hospital for the moribund, but through her sheer will to live and protect her sister, she lived. Kor's other family members, her parents and other siblings, died in the crematorium. Eva and her sister moved to Israel following the war; Eva met another survivor there, Michael Kor, married, and the couple subsequently moved to America. But she and her twin remained close. When Miriam was ill, Eva tried to reconstruct the past and find out what toxic substance her sister had been given, in the hopes that a

remedy could be found. So Eva decided to find out all she could about Mengele's experiments, his records, other survivors who experienced the horrors that she and her sister did.

In the 1980s, Kor went to Europe, met a Nazi doctor, Hans Munch, and persuaded him to return with her to Auschwitz to openly declare that the Holocaust occurred. In their discussions, he revealed the torment he experienced in the years following the Shoah, and the shame and guilt he felt. During the Auschwitz ceremony, Kor forgave Munch. A reporter asked Eva whether she could also forgive Mengele. Kor decided affirmatively: to free herself of the pain of the past, to heal herself. Other Auschwitz survivors, rabbis, and scholars, disagree with her stance. They seek justice.

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(Forgiving Dr. Mengele, continued from page 7)

We learn how Mengele worked under the guise of scientific research and experimentation. No records survive. Dr. Munch says that the methodology used was sloppy and unprofessional. We meet Kor's family, her husband, an amateur pianist, and their adult children, who describe growing up as children of Holocaust survivors and the occasional acts of anti-Semitism or lack of awareness they face in the small town they live in, Terre Haute, Indiana, in America's midsection. We see Eva working as a real estate agent.

In one sequence, a group of Jews argue with Eva at a Jewish center, debating the meaning of "to forgive". In another sequence, Kor travels to a Palestinian neighborhood and hears from activists and victims of Israeli oppression who wish to free themselves of their hate of their occupiers. Kor is overwhelmed and admits "it

was more than I could deal with." Kors and the group never coalesce. Later, back home, Kor, learns that the Holocaust Remembrance Museum she set up has been torched by an arsonist, never apprehended. Only her badly scorched Auschwitz soup cup and some donated pennies remain amid the rubble. Kor is more sad than angry. Kor lectures throughout her community, the U.S., and the world, urging forgiveness.

I have mixed reactions to the film. I believe everyone must find a way to heal himself; for Kor, that means forgiving her Nazi oppressors. But she is insistent that other survivors follow her path, and that makes her less likeable. For someone into forgiveness, she appears brittle, though unbowed. Her unwillingness to come to grips with the Israeli/Palestinian situation left me feeling that she still has much to think through. Still the film is a fascinating journey.

Message from the Editor

Thank you everyone for your patience with this newsletter. Or for your disregard of the seemingly missing issue. It seems to have been a busy year for many UJGS members, although no one's busy times seemed to have overlapped. So some of the articles were submitted rather slowly, and naturally, once in my hands, I contributed another time gap before putting everything together. But alas, it all came together and we finally have a new issue! (And with only a single email in the interim asking if she had missed a newsletter.)

Happy reading and see you in Chicago!

Banai Lynn Feldstein
Atsmi Uvsari Editor
editor@ujgs.org

Message to the Editor

I read about the Utah JGS newsletter and have downloaded a copy of #18 to show to our members. What a great newsletter you produce! Thank you so much for sharing it.

Reeva Kimble
President, JGS Willamette Valley Oregon

[Thank you Reeva. Much appreciated!]

Future IAJGS Conference Schedule

Several future IAJGS conference locations have been announced this year. The current schedule is as follows:

- 2009 Philadelphia, August 2-7
- 2010 Los Angeles, July 11-16
- 2011 Washington, DC, to be determined
- 2012 Paris (tentative)
- 2014 Jerusalem (tentative)

Rutka's Notebook: January - April 1943

By Rutka Laskier

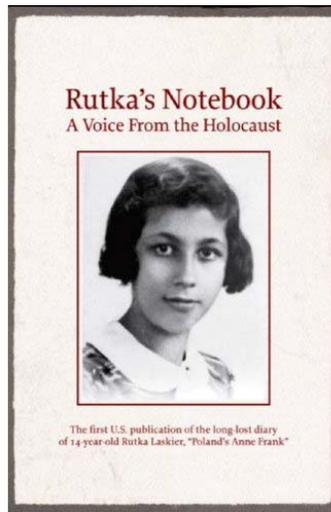
Review by Robert Neu

We all know of Anne Frank, her journal, her family, her life in their hiding place in Amsterdam. Girls, especially teenage girls, like to confide into a diary. That makes you wonder how many other Jewish girls wrote about their lives in those perilous times.

At least more than one diary has survived. This second one is the proof thereof. Rutka was a Polish Jewish girl. Her diary is much shorter. It fills barely 33 printed pages for about 60 pages written in long hand in a notebook. It spans just over three months, from January 19 to April 23. It is really the end of the story.

Just as with Anne Frank, it is her father, Yaakov Laskier, who survived. He died in Israel in 1986 and did not live to know that the

diary had been preserved or to see it published. He had the opportunity to have a family again, and it is her half sister Zahara who had the privilege of being the recipient of the document that had been kept by a Polish woman for over sixty years.



Despite the horrible times the diary covers, there are really no major events; just what takes place mainly in the mind of a budding young lady. But it is a legacy of all those lives we don't know about. It is a testimony to the human spirit which keeps on living even in dire circumstances.

It is also a page of testimonies, of some who survived, and others who crossed Rutka's life, including the names of her family members who perished in the Holocaust.

USCIS Begins Fee-for-Service Program in August

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), formerly the INS, is scheduled to begin its fee-for-service program on August 13. It addresses a complaint of the genealogical community regarding very slow turn-around time for requests of immigration and naturalization documents.

Costs will be \$20 for an index search, \$20 for a copy of a microfilm document, and \$35 for a copy of a textual record.

The web site for the genealogy searches can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy/>. Beginning on August 13, there will be specific forms (G-1041 and G-1041A) available on that site which must be used for the genealogy requests. Cut-off dates for genealogy requests of various records range from 1944 to 1956. Any documents needed from later dates will need to be requested through FOIA/PA.

The USCIS anticipates an increased number of requests from increased interest in genealogy and because the index search and document copying will be treated as separate requests.

As with any new record service, it is anticipated that the program will be swamped with requests.

The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million

by Daniel Mendelsohn

Review by Robert Neu

If you are Jewish, the Holocaust is a reality. You know that a number of your relatives that were in Europe, whether in Germany, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech territory, or Romania, were killed during World War II. But it is some kind of an anonymous death, for you know not where, how, and when in most cases. Hopefully the opening of the ITS records in Bad Arolsen should help in a number of instances.

The family of the author had mostly come to the United States prior to the Holocaust. Nevertheless, for whatever reason, a brother of his grandfather had remained in the old country. His family disappeared during the Holocaust. This was a burden to the family and the author was motivated to try to find out exactly what happened to them.

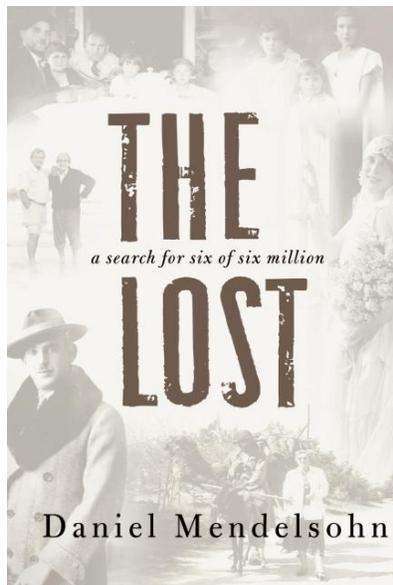
The town is Bolechow, once in Poland, now in Ukraine, with a population of less than ten thousand Poles, Ukrainians, and Jews. Today there are no Jews left, only 48 surviving the Holocaust and going to Israel, Australia, and Sweden, among other places.

Shmiel (Sam) Mendelsohn was married to Ester and they had four daughters: Lorca, Fryda, Ruchele, and Bronia. It is this family of six that stayed behind and was killed in the Holocaust.

The author, along with his brother Matt, a photographer, set out to find out what happened to their family. In the process, they traveled to

the four corners of the world to interview as many of the Bolechow Jewish survivors as possible. Daniel Mendelsohn visited Bolechow several times.

His guide and translator was Alex Dunai, who should be familiar to many members of IAJGS, as he addressed the 26th IAJGS conference in New York in 2006. He is also frequently a guide for those who venture to Ukraine in search of their roots.



In the process, the author uncovers much more than the information pertaining to his family, though he learns more than one would think he might have. In following the journey to the deaths of the six, you will learn about the story of the survivors, of how and why they, and not others, survived. You will feel the losses and the

traumas that the survivors carry with them. It makes you shudder with the author as he stands by the tree where two of the six were shot.

It will become clear that the loss is more than the death of six or six million. It is the disintegration that still freezes many of the small towns of Central and Eastern Europe as a result of the Holocaust. Perhaps, above all, it is those who still remember them that bring a kind of life to those who were lost.

The Lost is really about life and not death, even if it is of life cut short.

UJGS Meeting Highlights

January, April, and July 2008

by Rochelle Kaplan

15 January 2008

Eleven people attended.

- Emanuel Yacobson, visiting scholar at Cardiovascular Genetics Division, University of Utah School of Medicine, presented on his work on the intersection of genetics and genealogy. Born in Riga, educated in Latvia and Moscow, he lives in Israel but is a visiting scholar at the U of U.

He mentioned that people are like snowflakes; no two are the same. Yakobson feels that DNA results will likely show that there are 200 million Jews, rather than 15 million as is currently stated. Historically, by DNA, he estimates the number of folks with Jewish genes is much higher than acknowledged. Many Jews have left the faith; many people don't know their ancestors were Jewish.

- The group viewed two films rented by Rochelle from Brandeis University's National Center for Jewish Film: *From Philadelphia to the Front* and *Jewish Life in Vilna*. The first was a documentary about Jewish soldiers from Philly who fought overseas in WWII & their lives then and now; the second was a Yiddish travelogue from 1939.
- We discussed the proposed genealogy course to be offered at the JCC in March. Alan Bachman suggested that we were pulling the cart before the horse. Instead, we should first build and gauge interest by doing short presentations at the JCC, area synagogues during Friday night services, and the Park City synagogue's opening, extolling the benefits of doing genealogy. Lane Fisher talked about doing a program

for families - parents and children - with a demonstration of timeline creation, interviews, perhaps a Jewish story night. We concurred that these ideas made sense. Rochelle Kaplan already did a presentation one Sunday at Kol Ami; although about 10 folks showed and expressed interest, not one person there subsequently came to a UJGS meeting. Banai Feldstein suggested we use the term family history rather than genealogy, since the former term is more engaging. It was suggested that we have a family history themed movie at the upcoming early April Jewish Film Festival, and that someone from UJGS speak about the organization and genealogy prior to the showing of the film. Rochelle has ordered *The Gefilte Fish Chronicles* to see if that might fit the bill. She is a member of the JFF committee.

15 April 2008

Eleven people attended.

- Rochelle Kaplan reviewed our participation in and sponsorship of the Jewish Film Festival, which drew 1800 visitors in the five days and was well received. New UJGS brochures were available at the venues and UJGS was credited in the program. We sponsored *Hollywoodism*.
- Thomas Lerman was confirmed as the new Program Chair.
- We had a presentation Michael Ritchey of FamilySearch.org. He leads a group doing research support for the FHL. Like a triage unit, the group answers 80% of questions that come in while the other 20% go to specialists. The group is developing a new

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(Meeting Highlights, continued from page 11)

search engine, a Wiki. All publications are now on the Wiki site. The Wiki site now has more than 1000 contributing authors. The tool has not yet been marketed. The web site is at <http://wiki.familysearch.org/>.

Challenges facing the group and the FHL include: many countries, languages missing from database, the need to update content, and the need to identify records worldwide. Strengths of FHL include: an expert staff, extensive record collection, and 50,000 volunteers worldwide.

Together the challenges and strengths can best be met in a community, like Wikipedia, with community authoring. Wikipedia is the 9th most popular website, yet has only 9 full-time employees. Most errors are corrected within 5 minutes. To test this, Michael's group placed a deliberate error into Wikipedia, and it was corrected in 27 seconds. The quality of Wikipedia rivals the Encyclopedia Britannica. It is running on the Linux operating system, an open source program which is updated entirely by volunteers. Linus Torvalds, the original author of Linux, said, "Given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow."

The Family Search Wiki group has been operating for 9 months. The site hopes to increase the number of authors contributing material and to increase communication between the customers and the experts. The LDS Church headquarters, hierarchy, and FHL volunteers are enthusiastic. The Wiki hopes to get from users: research advice, feedback, contributions, suggestions for new content, and knowledge sharing.

The site is currently in English. The expectation is of a 15 language capability in the first year, by adding sister sites as foreign experts emerge.

Downsides include: (1) before a critical mass of users and contributors is reached, the coverage will be spotty. (2) How deep with the knowledge base be? (3) The need for this critical mass to occur quickly is immense; otherwise, people will give up on the tool. (4) Who owns the info? (5) Keeping vandals off the site.

Michael Ritchey encourages UJGS members to use and contribute to the Wiki.

- Tami Owen brought her genealogical inquiries to the meeting. She learned about UJGS when her husband went to hear a Holocaust survivor at the University of Utah last week (during the Jewish Film Festival) and came across our new flyer. She is researching her husband's ancestors, the Salmenson family, who came from Lithuania to Salt Lake City (arriving first in NY) in 1890.

Tami had a scrapbook of info with her. An ancestor's maiden name was Kuhn, from the Ogden area. Ben Salmenson was a founder of Montefiore Synagogue in SLC. Tami came across an article in the foyer of Kol Ami which referenced Ben Salmenson. Ben, Bernard, and Ebil Salmenson are buried at the cemetery here, presumably Montefiore's. Tami seeks info on the family, perhaps synagogue records. She says that Abraham Salmenson was born in NYC.

Banai Feldstein and Alan Bachman helped Tami translate a Hebrew inscription on a photo of a headstone. Some clues our members gave her to try included: the Italian Genealogical Group and the German Genealogical Group web sites which specialize in NYC vital records, naturalization records, and the NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) office to inquire about

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(Meeting Highlights, continued from page 12)

naturalization records that may have occurred in NYC. Rochelle said there are several books about Jews in Utah and also suggested checking out the collections, including digital collections and manuscripts, at the University of Utah Marriott Library, and the Utah State Historical Society, in the old railroad station downtown.

Tami was informed of Stephen Morse One-Step Pages and Ellis Island and Castle Garden databases of ship passenger manifests, the FHL, census records, vital records, and the SSDI (Social Security Death Index). Rochelle said she would explore her Powerpoint presentation about Utah's Jewish History, which included info about the Kuhn family, related to Kuhn-Loeb bankers in NYC.

15 July 2008

Fourteen people attended.

- Program Chair Thomas Lerman arranged a special tour of the Family History Library facilities. Elaine Helgeson Hasleton, Manager of Library Public Affairs, began the tour, followed by Daniel Schlyter and Todd Knowles. Ms. Hasleton began with a computerized tour, "walking" us through the five floors where research can be done.

The FHL in Salt Lake has the world's largest collection of genealogical info and is free, except for minimal copying costs. The reference staff is helpful, especially during the day for translation of foreign language documents (30 languages read) and the library offers classes,

approximately 40 per month. The international floor also has pamphlets with key foreign words and their translations. Several online subscriber services, such as Ancestry.com and HeritageQuest, are available for free at the FHL. The library is in the process of digitizing its records and is always adding new materials and negotiating to film genealogical records in other countries. Ms. Hasleton stressed the importance of writing the name of the source(s) of genealogical info.

Census records are being indexed much faster than in the past. The 1880 Census took 18 years to index; the 1900 census took one year to index. Ms. Hasleton encouraged us to volunteer for the Family Search Indexing Project.

Daniel Schlyter, with assists from Todd Knowles, reviewed what was on floors 2 (US and Canada microfilms), 3 (US and Canada books), and B1 (international).

In response to a question about how far back Ashkenazi Jews can go back in their research, Daniel said it is not uncommon to be able to trace back to 1750 or 1800. A key item to know is the ancestral shtetl (village or town).

Daniel stated that the goal of the FHL is to convert all microfilms to digital within ten years, with US records to be done first.

Todd Knowles talked about the British Collection (floor B2). Vital records for London are available from 1837 on. Synagogues in London have birth records dating from the 1730s. Jews were excluded from Anglican Church requirements.

Mark Your Calendar: Next UJGS Meeting

Our next meeting will be on October 20. We meet at 7 PM at Congregation Kol Ami. The address can be found on our web site, <http://ujgs.org/>.