

THE SHOFAR

SPRING MEETING

April General Conference is here again and as always we have a get together planed. This time we meet in Utah valley. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm in the Chapel located at 610 West 300 South, in Provo.

We have a surprise program scheduled. Learn how some descendants of Judah came to know the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Afterwards there will be the usual potluck treats and socializing. Please bring something that is a family favorite.

If you need or are willing to provide transportation from Salt Lake, please call Ed Motola at 322-2544.

B'NAI SHALOM ELECTIONS

We have scheduled an election for President at this meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor. Think about who you want to lead our organization for the next year.

HEBREW LESSONS

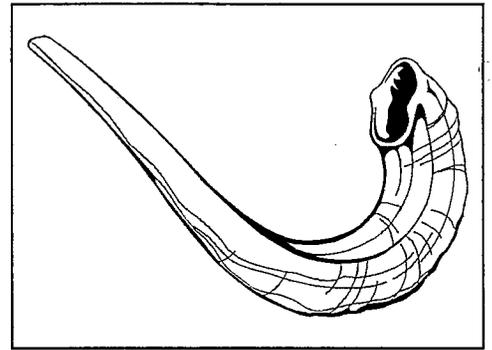
Hebrew lessons are going on both in the Salt Lake City area and in Utah Valley. The teacher is Claudia Zafran-Rona. Contact her at 363-0921 for times and place in Salt Lake City.

In Utah County, she is teaching at the home of Marilyn Call on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Marilyn's phone number is 225-6247.

The cost of the lessons is \$30.00 for 10 lessons. That's \$3:00 per lesson which is very reasonable. If you want to talk to Claudia during the day, you can reach her at her BYU office at 378-6515.

SEMINARS ON JUDAISM TO BE GIVEN AT UATH VALLEY STATE COLLEGE

If you have an interest in Judaism and want to learn more about it, you might be interested in lectures to be given at the new Jewish Studies



Department at UVSC.

Starting March 16th there will be mini-classes taught at the college in groups of six lectures centering on a particular topic related to Jewish culture and history.

The first six lectures will be entitled "What is a Jew". The second group of lectures will be entitled "Zionism and the State of Israel".

The lectures will be taught by professors from BYU, The University of Utah and other universities from around the country. Many of these lectures will be given by Rabbis to tell us about Judaism. In addition, there will be Jewish political leaders to give us insights into the goings-on in the State of Israel.

The cost for six lectures is \$8.00 per student, \$10.00 per adult and \$15.00 for a couple. For more information call Margie Green at the college at 222-8002 or Marline Telford at 225-2051.

Marline tells the "Shofar" that there was standing room only for those who tried to register at the door at the last series. She advises to register early to have a seat!

WHAT IS YIDDISH?

by Irvin Cohen

Do you know the difference

between Hebrew and Yiddish?

Yiddish uses the Hebrew alphabet, composed of 22 letters commencing with the "Aleph" and terminating with "Taph".

Yiddish vocabulary, however, consists of about 75 percent Middle High German (spoken in the 13th - 14th centuries) and about 25% Hebrew-Aramaic words.

Hebrew pronunciation is more guttural than the German. This results in Yiddish being more guttural than German.

Also, German is written from the left to the right similar to English. Yiddish, however, is written from right to left, similar to Hebrew, using Hebrew characters.

WHAT IS HEBREW?

by Irvin Cohen

Hebrew is probably one of the oldest Semitic languages and, in my opinion, probably the closest to the Adamic language.

Hebrew gets its name from Eber, the 14th Patriarch of the Old Testament. (See Gen. 10:21-25)

The word "Hebrew", in Hebrew spelling, is composed of four letters - Ayin, Bet, Resh, Yud. Eber in the Hebrew is composed of the first three letters of the word "Hebrew", specifically: Ayin, Bet, and Resh.

In McConkie's "Mormon Doctrine", under "Hebrew" it states that the word Hebrew is derived from Eber. To elaborate further, when you put a "yud" to a person's name, the suffix "ite" is obtained. For example, a "yud" on the end of the word "Israel" makes "Israelite", a "yud" on the end of "Dan" makes "Danite". Similarly, a "yud" on the end of "Judah" makes for a "Judahite" (in English) or "Yihude" in the Hebrew. (The word Jews is a shortened form of Judahite.)

The Book of Mormon informs us

that at the time of the tower of Babel, when the languages were confounded, that Jared and his brother (Mahoari Morioncumer) prayed the Lord and requested that their language would not be changed (See Ether 1:33-37). The Lord granted their request.

Is it possible that another righteous Semite (descendant of Shem) requested the same blessing of the Lord? The evidence exists, ever so subtly" that Eber was granted the same request. Eber also lived at the time of the confusion of the tongues. This would make Jared and his brother contemporaries with Eber. The Jaredite traveled to America, the promised land, whereas Eber remained in the land of Ur of the Chaldeans.

Abraham recognizes Eber as a great leader of God's direction for Abraham took the phraseology as a Hebrew (Gen. 14:13) is quoted as follows: "And there came one that had escaped, and told Abraham the Hebrew..."

The question now arises, "why would Abraham take the title "Abraham the Hebrew"? The Book of Abraham in the Pearl of Great Price, stated unequivocally that Abraham had the record of Adam and Noah. (See Abraham 1:28: and 1:31).

If the language of the records were changed, then the Hebrew marriage of names would not exist as they do today.

For instance, the name Adam is derived from the word "earth". Adam was created from the dust of the earth and the word for earth is "Adamah". Hence Adam was given the name Adam for he was created from the earth.

Similarly Eve in the Hebrew is "Chanah" which has its origin in the word "life". The translation of "Chanah" means "she creates life" or "the mother of all living".

Pursing this these, Isaac was

called "Yetzchak" because Abraham and Sarah laughed when they were told by Heavenly visitors that they were to have a child the next year. Sarah was 90 years old and Abraham was 99 years old.

The prophet Joseph Smith informs us that Abraham laughed because he believed and was happy. Sarah laughed in derision of disbelief. She had passed the normal period of having children. (See Gen 18). Yetzchak is derived from the word laugh which in the Hebrew is "Tzachoke"

There are many other names which are derived from the Hebrew such as Elohim, Jehovah, Noah, Gabriel, Israel and Joseph to mention just a few.

In conclusion, I'd like to state that the Hebrew language must be important, as even the prophet, Joseph Smith studied Hebrew after the Church was organized in the "School of the Prophets" that he instituted.

God bless us all of the House of Israel. In the name of the Messiah, even Jesus the Christ.

FAMILY HISTORY MYSTERY

By Barbara Sora Shpack

"It's impossible....There is simply nothing I can find....I can't read those films....Why should I waste my time...." Such are the statements I so often hear people exclaim with great conviction concerning their person family history experiences.

With the many years that I have been researching, reading and gathering Jewish family histories. I am thoroughly convinced that given any little clue, we can help find something that will "hook" you into wanting to unlock the mystery of your ancestral past.

DID YOU KNOW:

The Family History Library in

Salt Lake City has the best Gazetteer collection in probably all the world?

There are a set of eleven easy to follow maps created by the Family History Library explaining European Jewish migration and national boundaries covering 200 years?

Even if you don't know the place your family came from in Europe, there are no less than fifteen possible places in the United State where you can look for that information?

Even if you can't, don't want to, or don't have the time to learn to read the Jewish Synagogue and Census Records from Europe and the Middle East, you can have a professional do it for you.

JEWISH FAMILY RESEARCH SOCIETIES

Hear is a partial list of excellent societies that have new information coming monthly pertaining to Jewish Genealogy.

Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies
Search Bureau for Missing Relatives, Israel
American Jewish Archives, Ohio
The American Jewish Historical Society, Massachusetts
Western Jewish History Center, California
Leo Baeck Institute, New York
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, N.Y.
Yeahiva University Library, New York

....and if you think all else has failed, try.....

TRANSLATION AND ORGANIZATION OF JEWISH SYNAGOGUE FILMS !!

Yes, I've been talking about this for years and I have actually tried extraction with youth from three different wards. We have a great time and accomplished a lot. If by chance your own research slows down, then consider having your Ward Extractors take over extracting your town's synagogue records from Europe. Please contact me if you want to do this for a catalogue number, reading instructions and computer information.

Call or write: Barbara Shpack, Annik Houze, Sue Squire - Center for Translation and Organization of JSF and Center for Yad Vashem Library Organization, 437 Fourth Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah 84103; (801) 533-2745.
For paper copies of micro-films: Charles Smith, 1217 North 685 West, Orem, Utah 84057 (801) 224-1917.

INDEXING PROJECT

By Charles Curtis Smith

Last month I started an indexing project of the town from where my Jewish ancestor left to come to America. The town is located in the southern part of the present day boundaries of Poland. When Fabor Silbermann left "Myslowicz" in the 1850's, it was in eastern "Prussia".

When I originally contemplated doing this project, I realize it would take me years to do the four films on this town by myself.

I therefore asked if there was anyone in the ward who would like to help me. To my surprise, eight people came forward.

The first problem to solve was the fact I did not have any micro-film readers to give to each of my helpers.

What I opted to do was to

photograph each page from the film and give each person a certain number of pages. I also prepared an reading guide so that pulling the information from the photographs would as easy as I could make it.

By the end of the month we had over 1000 names compiled.

At this speed we should have the four rolls of micro-film from the town of Myslowicz indexed by the end of the year.

It will be the only town, I know of, in which all the Jewish birth, married, and death records will be indexed and published. In addition, plans are in the works for setting up a computer data base for Jewish genealogical research

What I would like to propose is to get as many of you as possible to help in this indexing effort. There are over 1000 rolls on Jewish vital statistics in the Family History Library on Poland alone! And the numbers continue to increase. (There are at present some 15 micro-filming crews all over Eastern Europe adding to this number.)

If you have a particular town you are interested in, I can set you up with photographs of the films so you can work in your own home and not have to go somewhere to use a film reader.

At present we are set up to do either German or Polish records. In addition, we are creating guides for Russian and Hebrew. If your ancestor came from some other area in Europe, maybe we can help you can make up a guide for that area.

GENERATION PROGRAM

by Charles Curtis Smith

Back in the 70's the Church had a program in place called "The Four Generation Program". It was to encourage members of the Church

to put into the Church archives, family group sheets on their own pedigree going back at least four generations. There was three pushes to get us to do this. The last push was put into Ancestral File, but the first two were not!

The Church has ask us to now resubmit our family group sheets even if we had done so on the first two request so they can be inputed to the Ancestral File.

If you have never done this at all, the Church is asking that you did it now. So when other people are searching and run across what you have put in, they may contact you for further help.

My family has had calls from all over the United States and a couple of letters from Europe!

Contact your Family History Director in your ward for help or contact the nearest branch of the Family History Library in our area..

If you would like to contact either Barbara Shpack of Charles Smith, we can give you so help with this.

GENEALOGICAL QUOTE

In 1977, Elder Boyd K. Packer addressed a meeting of Regional Representatives saying this about Genealogical Research: "We can accomplish the things we have been commanded if we will but get started." He then quoted Elder Harold . Lee "...you must learn to walk to the edge of the light ,and perhaps a few steps into the darkness, and you will find that the light will appear and move ahead of you."

Elder Packer concluded, "I am confident that as we move to the edge of the light, like the cloud that lead the Israelites, or like the star that led the wise men, the light will move ahead of us, and we can do this work."

JERUSALEM 3000th YEAR ANNIVERSARY

1996 marks the 3000th anniversary of the establishment of the City of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by King David. The year long celebration will highlight the aspects of its history along with its founder.

Throughout 1996, the city will be visited by hundreds of thousands from all over the world. They will see the splendor of both past and present of this thriving capital from the only ancient people that re-established itself 2000 years after its destruction.

Elissa Molling is planning to go next year to see the celebration. If you would like to go with her, give her a call at 224-5355.

MEMBERSHIP

We know that there are many more LDS members of Jewish descent that we don't know about and we would like them to know about B'Nai Shalom.

If you know of anyone who would might be interested, please give us their name and address and we will put them on our mailing list for the next issue of The Shofar.

Please also invited them to our forth coming meeting in Provo.

DONATIONS

B'Nai Shalom is asking for a donation of either \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 per family to help off set the cost of refreshments, printing and mailing of The Shofar.

You can either pay at our meeting or send it to:

Gwen Bardsley
490 South 600 West

B'NAI SHALOM OFFICERS

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