

# The Family Sight

News About Our Family and Family Website

Dear Family:

There is not much to report about the website because, frankly, I am waiting for submissions that have been promised from other family members, and I am not yet able to order the original archival documents available from Europe.

So, I thought I would use this issue of **The Family Sight** as a sort of "blog". In this season of giving, I figured that it might be helpful to pass on ways of giving that we can all be a part of. I hope you find them to be enlightening. In these difficult times, my wish is that you are all as happy, healthy and prosperous as possible...OBS

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## How Can I Help Those Even More Unfortunate than Me, With No Out-of-Pocket Cash?

So...You're not rich, but you see that there are those who are struggling even more than you are. What can you do?

If you are thinking..."Once I take care of myself, I'll take care of other people." But, what do you mean by "taking care of myself"? ...will you ever get to that point? You will probably find, like many people, that such a charitable threshold is a moving target.

The answer is to give now, no matter what your present position is. The further solution is: Rather than giving what's left...give first, and live on what's left!

Even if the donation is small, the ancient Talmudic scholars insisted that charity was required of everyone, including the poorest of the poor!

"Poverty does not belong in a civilized human society. Its proper place is in a museum." — *Muhammad*

*Yunus, Nobel Prize Winner & "Banker to the Poor"*

So...What can you do without spending any out-of-pocket cash? It doesn't necessarily take money. Your time and your caring concern may be more valuable than money.

The following list is just a portion of the opportunities available for helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Any ideas you have would be welcome and sound suggestions will be added here:

1. Visit [The Hunger Site](#) every day and click the link to feed the hungry. You click and sponsors donate to feed the hungry! It's fast. It's free...and there's NO excuse not to do it every day you're online!
2. Eat meatless meals twice a week. Donate that money saved to a local food bank.
3. Go through your pantry and donate canned or other foods that you know you won't eat or are extras
4. Skip buying some make-up or other unnecessary item and donate the money you saved
5. Bring in left-overs to work, for lunch, and donate the money you saved
6. Stop putting off cleaning out your closet, attic, basement or garage. Donate what you don't need to a charitable organization. If you can auction off the items, then donate all or part of the money you made. Your local veteran's organization will gladly accept any old car that you have. Old boats can be donated to [boatangel.com](#) for their charitable work. A musical instrument you no longer use can be donated to struggling

musicians and students in New Orleans still recovering from Hurricane Katrina thru Tipitina's Foundation ([www.tipitinasfoundation.org](#)) and The New Orleans Musicians Relief Fund ([www.nomrf.org/donations.html](#)).

7. Stop drinking Coke and bottled water for a day and save on plastic. It will save a lot of plastic if each of us does it for only one day.
8. Share your skill or knowledge with others who can improve their knowledge to increase their life/prosperity.
9. Similarly, donate your expertise to teach a class to those trying to find new ways to earn a living.
10. Visit or help out at an orphanage, senior citizen facility or soup kitchen.
11. Get a feeling of empathy for those in need. Do one or more of the following things and pay attention to how it makes you feel:
  - Drive away from home in your car, one evening, and try to find a place to park it where you won't be hassled. Sleep in it!
  - On another day, eat only food that you have asked someone for directly or that was paid for with money you borrowed.
  - Skip a weekly trip to the grocery store and donate the money saved to a food bank. For that week, only eat what is left in the pantry or fridge. By the end of the week, when the pickings might begin to be a bit slim, you may get a sense of what it feels like to not have the luxury of tasty, well balanced meals every night.
  - Have dinner on the floor and make it a very small meal, like chicken broth and a small piece of bread. Or, go to bed without supper and put yourself in the place of those who must do so every night.

- 12. If you regularly buy take out coffee, skip it for an entire week. Use your own travel mug with home-brewed coffee and donate the savings.
- 13. Pay It Forward: Do something to touch 3 people and encourage them to reach out to another 3 people.
- 14. Don't just talk to your kids about poverty - get them involved by having them go through their toys and clothes to find concrete things to pass along. The next time they want you to buy something for them - talk about what that money could buy for someone who had no food... then follow through and donate the money you didn't spend.
- 15. Don't just donate food, clothing, etc. Donate some time volunteering for the organization that takes your cast-offs.
- 16. Start conserving electricity and contribute the equivalent savings to a local charity.
- 17. On your next off day from work, go to a homeless shelter and help serve food to those who are there, talk with them, listen to their stories, you will find that they were at one time, a lot like yourself.
- 18. "Fight" for peace. The cost of wars and useless struggles around the world could feed millions of people.
- 19. Support, even if it is just by publicizing their campaigns, the organizations that help women in other countries attain the basic human rights they deserve and the skills they need to survive.
- 20. When you choose a charity to donate to, consider those that teach skills or achieve lasting solutions over those that only work for today. (Teach someone to fish, rather than giving them a fish!)
- 21. Be wise when you give: The worst people are those who pose as charities and then pocket what is donated to them.

- 22. Host a gift-basket dinner party: You supply the food and your guests bring items that are packaged into gift-baskets and then donated to charity.
- 23. Buy the products you need specifically from companies or brands that have a policy of donating part of their earnings or products to charity. There are companies that donate all profits to charity (such as Newman's Own...\$250 million donated so far), but many others donate at least a part of their sales/profits to charity.

\*\*\*\* OBS \*\*\*\*

### *A Short Visit to the Olem Shoe Company*

Just recently, while in Florida to attend a wedding, I was able to make a brief visit to the office and lovely show-room of our cousin Olembergs' company...the Olem Shoe Co, in Miami. I had the pleasure of speaking with cousins Jennifer and Nieves Olenberg. While there, Isaac Olenberg's niece Nancy graciously took time out of her busy day to provide me with some information that could help me track other cousins in Argentina and also connect the Olembergs to the Olenbergs.

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*This time of giving should also be a time of remembrance...*

*(Some Pictures from our website)*

*...of family that warrants our thoughts & best wishes:*



*Paula Olenberg, Dallas, Texas*

*...of communities vanished*



The picture shows a small portion of the stones surrounding the central memorial at the site of the Treblinka camp...the last stop for many of our ancestors from Wyskow, "Ostrova", Bialystok, Grodno & Warsaw. Each stone is, in itself, a memorial...not to a vanished person, but to an entire city, town or Jewish community lost in the holocaust...17,000 of them.

**...of families lost**



**...but, most importantly, a time to cling to, cherish and enjoy our growing & thriving family.**



**Website Visits are Approaching 4,000**