

## SFBAJGS Financial Report and Donations for 2014

Jeff Lewy, SFBAJGS Treasurer

Our financial performance for 2014 reflects the activities of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society during the past year and shows that SFBAJGS had another strong financial year. Below are simple pie charts showing the major categories of our income and expense. We recognize that our financial position does not show the value of the volunteer efforts of members of SFBAJGS and your Board of Directors, whose time contributes so substantially to the activities of SFBAJGS. We thank our volunteers and the Board for their valuable contributions of time and expertise.

Our revenue this year was just under \$8,000, the majority in dues from a total of 214 members. In addition, you, our members, donated more than \$2,900, or 37% of total revenue, to support our activities. We are grateful for these donations, as they allow us to support our projects and those of other groups to document and remember our Jewish past.

Our major categories of expenses were:

- about \$3,300 to present eighteen meetings, including room rentals, honoraria for speakers, and handouts, and to maintain contact with members and solicit new members and renewals
- about \$1,000 to create, print, and mail four issues of the *ZichronNote* journal to our members and to other organizations which have expressed interest

in our work, including more than 120 other Jewish genealogical societies worldwide and about 40 local congregations and libraries

- other administrative costs, largely for publicity, insurance, and Web site maintenance
- grants to other organizations (see below) working to document, digitize, and make available online Jewish birth marriage and death records, and documentation and memorials for Jewish cemeteries and *shtetlach*, many of which no longer exist. Each year we evaluate our financial position to see how much we can grant to other groups undertaking projects that support our mission. In 2014, we decided to spend \$3,350, somewhat more than the \$2,900 we received this year in donations, in a conscious effort to use part of our previous years' surplus.

Thank you for your support of SFBAJGS! Please let us know if you have any questions or comments on our finances or on projects you would like to see us support. And let us know how we can most effectively help you with your genealogical research.

### Contributions to Other Organizations: Paying it Forward

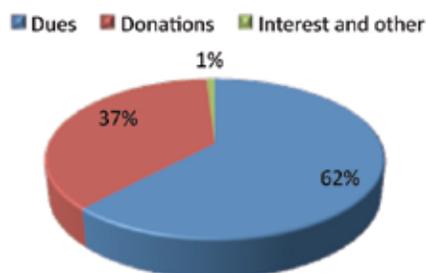
We operate the society primarily on the revenue from membership dues. Over the past several years, your generous donations above and beyond your membership fees have helped us build a strong foundation for the society. Your donations offer us the opportunity—and the obligation—to use them wisely.

SFBAJGS now has a substantial cushion to maintain and even expand our activities when we find worthwhile projects that are within the scope of a volunteer organization such as ours. We believe that we can best support our mission by making donations to other groups that have valuable projects that are consistent with our mission:

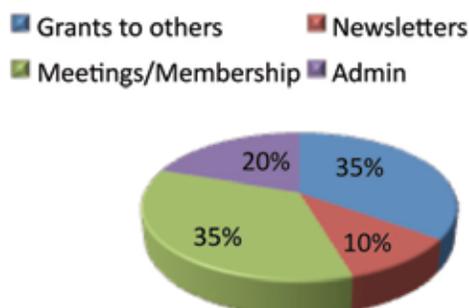
- to support and improve online sharing of information of value to Jewish genealogy
- to make new records available that support Jewish genealogical research
- to support efforts to research and remember the existing and vanished Jewish communities in Europe and elsewhere

We have been making these donations for quite a few years, with our focus on local, national, and international efforts that we think are particularly relevant to SFBAJGS, some of which do not have large sources of income compared to the cost involved.

SFBAJGS Revenue - 2014



SFBAJGS Expense - 2014



We typically make our gifts near year-end, when we have a clear idea of how much we can spend after paying our own annual expenses. Our gifts in 2014 totaled \$3,350, for nine projects. A brief synopsis of the organizations and the focus for our gifts follows.

#### Local

- Jewish Community Library: continuing to fund a particularly strong collection of materials relevant to Jewish genealogy here in San Francisco
- Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks in the West: maintaining seven Gold Rush-era Jewish cemeteries in the gold country of the Sierra foothills
- Oakland FamilySearch Library: providing books and microfilms for Jewish research locally, and supporting our Oakland meeting location

#### National

- Italian Genealogy Group: ongoing indexing of all New York City birth, marriage, and death records from about 1870 to the 1940's, since so many Jews in the U.S. have connections to New York City

#### International

- The Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant: contributing to the annual grants made by the International

Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) to increase the availability of resources for Jewish genealogical research

- JewishGen: two records projects indexing and digitizing historical records of Jewish communities in Romania and in Chernigov, Ukraine, where new records have become available for digitization, and where there is a possibility that access to the records may be withdrawn

- Kirkuty: photographing existing *matzevot* in Jewish cemeteries in Poland, and assisting in indexing the cemeteries for inclusion in the Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Project (JOWBR) hosted by JewishGen

- Yahad-In Unum: identifying mass killing sites of Jews and Roma in Eastern Europe and in the countries of the former Soviet Union during the Holocaust and collecting eyewitness testimony of the killings

We greatly appreciate your donations and the opportunity they give us to support these projects. We welcome your comments, especially any suggestions of projects we might support in the future. Thank you.



## Obermayer German Jewish History Awards

### Call for Nominations

The German Jewish Community History Council, GerSIG, and the Berlin Parliament are pleased to announce the call for nominations for the annual Obermayer German Jewish History Awards to be given to non-Jewish Germans who have made extraordinary contributions to preserving vestiges of former Jewish life in their local communities, including historical records, cultural material, cemeteries, and synagogues. The call for nominations is online at <http://www.obermayer.us/award/nominate.htm>. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, **23 September 2015**.

Thousands of Germans have carried out such activities as volunteers because they feel it is the right thing to do. The preservation of Jewish material is one of the few ways in which they can respond constructively to their country's past. This award is an opportunity to recognize and honor German individuals who, in many cases, have devoted their lifetimes to such important endeavors. As Jewish genealogists, we have been the recipients of their good work.

Previous nominees who have already received Certificates of Commendation are prime candidates for this year's awards. They will require only updating of prior submissions.

This will be the sixteenth year for the awards, which will be presented in January 2016 in Berlin. Each awardee and his/her spouse will be invited on an all-expenses paid trip to Berlin to receive the award at the Plenary Chamber of the Abgeordnetenhaus, the home of the Berlin Parliament. Successful nominators are also invited to attend all of the award ceremony events in Berlin, where they will meet with the award recipients they have chosen to honor.

Honorees will each receive a framed certificate and an honorarium to be used for the furtherance of their work. Awardees' contributions will be announced to attendees and to local, national, and international news media. These awards have in the past received extensive worldwide media coverage (see <http://www.obermayer.us/award/news.htm>.)

If you know someone who may be appropriate for nomination, further information, including the call for nominations and profiles of previous award winners and the jury, can be found at <http://www.obermayer.us/award>.

You may obtain a hard copy of the call for nominations by sending an e-mail to [germanaward@hotmail.com](mailto:germanaward@hotmail.com) or a letter to:

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