

## SFBAJGS Activity Report for 2017

Jeff Lewy, SFBAJGS Treasurer

SFBAJGS enjoyed a fruitful year in 2017. We held 18 meetings with helpful and enjoyable presentations on research sources, techniques, and personal family histories. We also cosponsored five additional presentations in the Bay Area, participated in San Francisco History Days, and held our first-ever indexing party to transcribe burial records. Twelve society members attended the annual IAJGS conference in Orlando in August, seven of whom made presentations at the conference. We are among the six largest societies in IAJGS, and one of the most active in supporting its goals of educating members and others on the techniques and sources for their genealogical research.

Our members are generous donors to the society, giving us the opportunity to support our mission:

- support and improve online sharing of data useful to researchers doing Jewish genealogy
- make formerly closed or unavailable records that support Jewish genealogical research available online
- support efforts to research and remember existing and vanished Jewish communities

We support activities in the local area that are consistent with this mission. Much of this work takes place where the communities and records are located, however, so it would be difficult for us to do the work ourselves. Therefore, we continued our practice of making donations to other organizations that are working in those communities and archives. We support projects based on their value to the broadest possible audience of researchers, the need to preserve and protect fragile sites, and the need to record data where the repositories and archives are newly open or at risk of restricting access.

This year, we donated \$4,050 to ten organizations for their activities. We include their URL's so that you can learn more about their activities if you wish.

### Local

- Jewish Community Library in San Francisco: to maintain and expand the very strong collection of materials related to Jewish genealogy and history in the San Francisco Bay area. <http://www.jewishlearningworks.org/jewish-community-library/>
- Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks in the West: to protect and maintain the seven Gold Rush-era Jewish cemeteries

in the Gold Country of the Sierra foothills. <http://www.pioneerjewishcemeteries.org/>

- Oakland FamilySearch Library: to expand its collection of materials for Jewish research and support our Oakland meeting location. <http://www.oaklandfhc.org/>

### National and International

- Reclaim the Records: A new nonprofit organization that identifies important genealogical record sets that ought to be in the public domain but which are unfairly restricted by government archives, libraries, and agencies. Freedom of Information and Open Data requests or lawsuits are filed to get that public data released back to the public. They digitize everything they get and put it all online for free. They have already opened a variety of records in New York City, other cities in New York State, New Jersey, and other states where officials have not previously allowed public access. <http://www.reclaimtherecords.org/>

- International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Stern Fund: to increase the availability of resources for Jewish genealogical research. <http://www.iajgs.org/>

- Italian Genealogical Group: to support its ongoing online indexing of New York vital records. <http://www.italiengen.org/>

- Jewish Records Indexing – Poland: to support ongoing digitization and indexing of Jewish records, primarily from Polish archives, and also in Ukraine and other locations where Polish records were formerly recorded. <http://jri-poland.org/>

- Kirkuty: to support photography of Jewish cemeteries in Poland, both extant and desecrated, drawing attention to the remaining signs of the prewar presence of the Polish Jewish community. <http://kirkuty.xip.pl/indexing.htm>

- JewishGen: to its General Fund supporting the primary online site of Jewish genealogical records and instruction for researchers. We also made a separate gift to support a JewishGen project for Romania-SIG, indexing records from archives in Romania. <http://jewishgen.org/>

### Transcriptions

We began transcribing burial records from Sinai Memorial Chapel in San Francisco, which supervises Eternal Home Cemetery in Colma and also arranges for burials at other cemeteries in the Bay Area and other cities in the U.S. and overseas.

### Financial Results for 2017

Revenues for 2017 were just over \$7,600, consistent with performance in past years, with about \$4,700 in dues from just over 200 members, about \$2,700 in donations, and a small amount of interest and other income. Thank you for these donations, which support our activities and those of other groups doing work of great value to you, our members, and to the worldwide Jewish genealogical community.

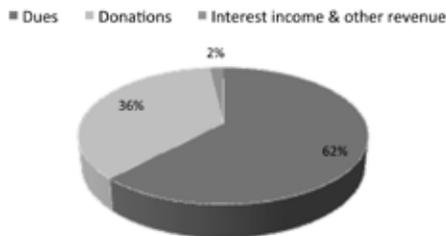
Expenses totaled about \$9,700, generating a loss of about \$2,100. This loss was incurred on purpose to make use of our past surpluses and was primarily a result of the \$4,000 in contributions to other groups. Details of those contributions are described above. Other major categories of expenses were meetings and publicity (\$2,200), costs

of mailing for membership renewals and approval of updated bylaws (\$1,000), and publication of our quarterly ZichronNote journal (\$1,000). All other expenses, including insurance, Web site maintenance, and other administrative expenses, totaled about \$1,500.

Below are simple pie charts showing the primary categories of revenue and expenses.

We want to thank you for your membership, your donations, and your interest in Jewish genealogy and family history. Please let us know if you have any questions on our performance and activities, and how we can most effectively help you with your research. Also let us know if there are any projects or activities you would like to see us undertake or support. We look forward to an enlightening and rewarding year in 2018.

SFBAJGS Revenue - 2017



SFBAJGS Expense - 2017



*Serving the entire Jewish Community for over 110 years*



Honoring the dignity of the deceased and providing compassion and support for the living

- Advanced planning counseling
- At-need arrangements
- Bereavement support and services
- Burial at all Jewish cemeteries locally and globally

Samuel J. Salkin, Executive Director (FDR 3371)

San Francisco . FD262 . 415.921.3636  
 East Bay . FD1523 . 925.962.3636  
 Peninsula - South Bay . FD1830 . 650.369.3636

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