

# SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

c/o Pete Tannen, 289 States St., San Francisco CA 94114

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edited by Pete Tannen

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## OFFICERS

President:	Carolyn Sherfy	521-8593 (Alameda)	Secretary:	Madge Perkel	857-9185 (Palo Alto)
Vice President:	Martha Wise	564-9927 (San Francisco)	Newsletter:	Pete Tannen	861-4045 (San Francisco)
Treasurer:	Pat Futoran	435-1713 (Tiburon)			

## APRIL MEETING

Our meetings are held at 7:30PM (7:00 PM for question & answer period) at the CALIFORNIA FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN COMMUNITY ROOM at 1900 Noriega (at the corner of 26th Avenue) in San Francisco. The 71 Haight-Noriega bus stops outside. Enter the bank through the door to the left of the main entrance on Noriega and go upstairs. For more information call Carolyn Sherfy or Pete Tannen. NOTE: We have not changed our meeting schedule and still meet on the second Tuesday of every other month.

The topic of our April Meeting will be Genealogical Record Keeping. Pat Futoran, our Treasurer, will show us how to effectively organize those ever expanding genealogical records that we all must cope with. In addition, Pat will bring examples and talk about several types of Family Tree Charts, including a numbering system for keeping track of the people on the chart. This talk will be most informative to both experienced and novice genealogists. Bring your Family Tree Charts and as always, bring your questions.

## 7 PM QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Prior to our regular program, we will be continuing our successful question and answer period. For those of you who may be new at genealogy or have specific questions or genealogical problems, several of us have agreed to arrive one half hour early, at 7PM, for informal discussion. Our April meeting will be an excellent opportunity to share information about Family Tree Charts and genealogical record keeping.

## PAST MEETING

Our February Program was presented by Martha Wise, who spoke about the various laws and rules that governed the lives of our ancestors in the various countries of Europe prior to the twentieth century. This talk began with the subject of marriage, and specifically dealt with the allowable degree of relationship for Jewish marriage, arranged marriages, and the effects of learning and study versus commercial skills and trades on the desirability of a man for marriage. Taxes on Jews, the lack of Jewish civil rights, and the property and location restrictions on Jews was the next subject. Martha also spoke about the Schutzjuden (Protected Jews) and the Hofjuden (Court Jews) and what was involved in obtaining their special status. Familianten Gesetze, or Family Laws, which limited the growth of the numbers of Jews in an area by restricting marriages was the next topic. The talk concluded with a discussion of travel permits, safe conduct papers for businessmen, naming conventions, and restrictions on what Jews could take with them when they left Europe. This most informative talk was enjoyed by all.

## DOCUMENT TRANSLATION AT THE HEBREW HOME FOR THE AGED

So far we have not received any responses from our members and newsletter recipients to last issue's item which told of the availability of residents at the Home who are willing to assist in translating documents for us (Hebrew, German, and possibly Polish and Yiddish). If you would be interested in visiting a resident of the Home and talking with them in exchange for their help with a reasonable amount of translation, please send a postcard to Pete Tannen, indicating the language of interest, and you will be put in touch with one of their residents.

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

We are growing! We now have 33 paid members. Our newsletter, which has a current circulation of over 100, is sent to members, prospective members, synagogues, libraries, archives, a limited number of newspapers, and other Genealogical Societies. Attendance at our meetings has also increased to the point where we will soon outgrow our meeting space. California Federal's Community Room is a lovely place to meet, is easy to reach, and best of all, has plenty of parking near by, but we are considering a larger meeting place for our expanding group.

We have prospects for several interesting guest speakers. Rabbi Unqar will present our program for October. A representative from the Sinai Memorial Chapel has been asked to speak at either our June or August meeting on Jewish burial customs, Jewish cemeteries in the Bay Area, and records held by Sinai as well as by local cemeteries and synagogues. If you have an idea for a program that you think would be interesting, please let me know about it.

I would like to thank Martha Wise, our Vice President, for providing the delicious refreshments at each of our meetings. She has not been reimbursed by the Society, but steadfastly declines to deplete our treasury in this way. If you appreciate the goodies at the meetings, perhaps, as you help yourself to coffee and cookies, you will leave a small donation to help Martha defray the costs she incurs on our behalf.

Prospective members receive three complimentary issues of our newsletter, at which time they must join the Society to remain on our mailing list. Pete Tannen, our Corresponding Secretary, is doing a terrific job singlehandedly maintaining our mailing list on his Apple Computer and editing the Society Newsletter. I know he would appreciate news, articles, and stories contributed by our membership.

We have a new board member, Madge Perkel, our Recording Secretary. She is doing a superb job recording the minutes of our general and board meetings. We split the job of Secretary when the work became too much for one individual. Pete carried the burden for much of the year and outdid himself. We are still seeking additional board members and a Program Chair and Membership Chair. Please let me know if you are interested in any of these positions.

Our Treasurer, Pat Futoran, reports that our treasury has a respectable balance, so we are able to repay our loan from Martha Wise, which opened our checking account. Pat has wisely invested our money in an interest bearing checking account. Thank you, Pat.

### ARTHUR KURZWEIL TO SPEAK IN SAN JOSE

Arthur Kurzweil, the author of "From Generation to Generation - How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History", and the Co-Editor of "Toledot - The Journal of Jewish Genealogy" will be speaking at San Jose State University on Thursday March 25, at 8 PM. This free talk will be held in the Concert Hall of the Music Building and is the Second Annual Robert Levenson Memorial Lecture. For further information or directions, call (408) 266-6317.

### THREE WEEK JEWISH GENEALOGY MINI-COURSE

This is an excellent opportunity for those of you who are new at genealogy to find out more about the "how to do its" of this fascinating hobby. Rabbi Irvin Unqar of Temple Shalom in Burlingame, and one of our members, will be teaching a 3 week mini-course on Jewish Genealogy at Temple Shalom. This course will be held on Thursday evenings, May 6, 13, and 20 from 7:30 to 9 PM and is free of charge. The Temple is located at 1655 Sebastian Drive in Burlingame. For further information or directions, call Rabbi Unqar at 697-2266.

### SEMINAR ON LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH AT STANFORD

The New England Historic Genealogical Society is sponsoring a Seminar on Local and Family History Research at Stanford University on Tuesday, March 23. This four session seminar will cover military records, civil court records, church records in the British Isles, and compiling your research notes and writing your family's history. The cost of the seminar is \$20 (\$18 for members of the New England Society). Further information can be obtained from the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116, (617) 536-5740.