



זִכְרוֹנוֹת
Zichron Note

The Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

VOLUME X, NUMBER 3

SUMMER 1990

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 20, 1990

Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue, Palo Alto

7:30 PM Peninsula Group networking, Resource sharing

8:15 PM Jeanne Waters Strong, Professional Genealogist,

"Researching at the Stanford University Green Library"

September 17, 1990

Sutro Library, 480 Winston, San Francisco

7:30 PM General meeting, Resource sharing

8:15 PM Speaker to be announced

October 15, 1990

Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue, Palo Alto

7:30 PM Peninsula Group networking, Resource sharing

8:15 PM Speaker to be announced

November 19, 1990

Sutro Library, 480 Winston, San Francisco

7:30 PM General meeting, Resource sharing

8:15 PM Speaker to be announced

December 17, 1990

Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue, Palo Alto

7:30 PM Peninsula Group networking, Resource sharing

8:15 PM Speaker to be announced

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

According to our Bylaws, annual dues to our Society are payable at or before the August meeting. Please do not force us to eliminate you from our membership mailing list. You will find a membership renewal form bound in with this ZichronNote. Please return it with your check for \$20.00 to our Treasurer Sherrill Laszlo, 34 Craig Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611, or better still, bring it with you to our next meeting.

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

NEW TITLE FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society has recently decided to name its newsletter with a title which would be somewhat more tractable than "The SFBAJGS Newsletter" and at the same time capture the essence of the Society's goals and activities. The name selected was **ZichronNote**. The dictionary meaning of זִכְרוֹנוֹת (zichronot) is memories, memorials, remembrances, records, or mementos, each of which expresses an aspect of the genealogical activity. The title is plural in Hebrew, ending in the sound *note* in its Sefardic pronunciation, offering us an opportunity for a play on words. Our only fear was that the guttural *chaf* (or *khaf*) might provide a stumbling block for those uninitiated to the Hebrew language, but we decided to go ahead nonetheless, realizing that the Jewish genealogist must at some time in his or her research master its pronunciation.

1936/7 POLISH TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

Our Society has obtained, at the Summer Seminar in Los Angeles, a roll of microfilm with a copy of the telephone directories from all of pre-war Poland except Warsaw, including areas now in the Soviet Union, such as Vilna. Until the film is placed permanently it will be available prior to our Sutro Library meetings for the use of our members, or call Bob Weiss if you wish to borrow it between meetings.

We also have the set of microfiches with the Jewish Genealogical Consolidated Surname Index, Gazetteer of Eastern Europe, Black Book of Localities whose Jewish Populations were Exterminated by the Nazis, and the index to "Memorial to the Jews Deported from France." Also available at all of our meetings is the latest update of the Jewish Family Finder and selected audio tapes from various JGS seminars.

LOCAL AVAILABILITY OF PERIODICAL SOURCE INDEX (PERSI)

Member Gail Call informs us that the PERSI is available in hard copy at the Santa Clara City Library's Genealogy Room, as well as in microfiche form at all local LDS Family History Libraries. PERSI is a subject index to thousands of articles in U.S. and Canadian genealogical periodicals.

SEEKING DOCUMENTS LINKING YOUR ANCESTOR TO THE USSR

Dr. Sallyann Amdur Sack, a member of the US/USSR Genealogical Archival Exchange Committee, is requesting photocopies of documents which you have used to establish where your relatives lived in the Soviet Union. Diaries, letters from abroad, old passports, copies of passport applications, arrival records, pages from yizkor books, etc. are requested. If you have such items the committee would greatly appreciate your donating copies for their collection. Send materials to Dr. Sallyann Amdur Sack, 7604 Edenwood Court, Bethesda, MD 20817.

(From Vol. 5, No. 1 of Discovery, San Diego JGS)

**REPORT ON THE NINTH ANNUAL SEMINAR ON JEWISH GENEALOGY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, JUNE 24-28, 1990**

This year's Summer seminar in Los Angeles boasted nearly 250 registered participants, nine of whom were from the Bay Area. The week was packed full of lectures, birds-of-a-feather workshops, researching, and networking with some of the "stars" of Jewish genealogy. Scheduled sessions were generally held in the mornings and evenings, with opportunities for research in the many facilities in Los Angeles being offered mid-day. Buses were provided to UCLA, the LA LDS Family History Library, the LA Public Library, Hebrew Union College, and other facilities on request. An entry level session was offered each morning on subjects such as census records, city directories and phone books, maps, yizkor books, etc. There was so much interest in the beginners' sessions that additional concurrent sessions had to be offered. The class lessons were reinforced each day with a trip to a research facility where hands-on instruction and research help were given.

I will not try to recap the program in this newsletter. Schedules and copies of the handouts are available from the participants from your Society (Armand Cohn, Martha Wise, Sherrill Laszlo, Bob Weiss, Judy Baston, Inga Campbell, Barry Klezmer, Sita Likuski, Mary Thompson). Our Society has obtained recordings of some of the lectures. These may be checked out for a one- or two-month period at our Society meetings. We obtained a copy of the latest Jewish Family Finder. (Thank you Hal Bookbinder.) We also obtained additional microfiche research material and a microfilm of pre-war Polish telephone directories. Please come to meetings promptly at 7:30 PM to see, use, and borrow these materials.

The Conference was not all work. On the opening evening after the greetings by the host Society and session organizers, we were treated to an interview with showman and playwright Shelley Berman and preview scenes from "First is Supper", a play he wrote based on his early Jewish family life. And the closing banquet featured Rabbi Malcolm Stern, "the Dean of Jewish genealogy", who summarized latest events and speculations in Jewish genealogy.

The biggest news of the year concerns arrangements being made with the Soviet Union to make available Soviet archival materials for genealogical research. The Federation of Genealogical Societies sent a mission to the Soviet Union which visited the archives in Moscow and Minsk. The purpose of negotiations is to establish protocols for exchange of requests and data. A reciprocal visit by Soviet archivists to the U.S. was delayed because of financial considerations.

The Ellis Island reconstruction project is nearing completion and is scheduled for opening in September. Students at NYU are completing a computerized database of passenger arrivals from 1892-1954. The original passenger lists will be permanently archived at the Temple University Balch Institute in Philadelphia.

Rabbi Stern ended by citing some of the significant Jewish genealogical works recently published and about to be published, and congratulating Miriam Weiner on her three awards for newspaper and magazine columns.

U.S. RESEARCH SOURCES

SOURCES ON 19TH CENTURY PROMINENT PHILADELPHIANS

Milt Botwinick provided the following list of resources for researching socially prominent Jewish Philadelphians in the 19th century to an inquirer:

Jews of Philadelphia, by Henry S. Morais (indexed, with separate sections including law, art, politics, military)

On the Edge of Greatness, Ira Rosenweike (names, addresses, and more on most of the Jews in the U.S. in 1830)

Archives of Rodef Shalom and Mikve Israel synagogues.

Jewish Newspapers: Jewish Record (16 Apr 1875 to 25 Jun 1886); The Occident and American Jewish Advocate (April 1843 to March 1869); Jewish Exponent (1887 to present).

The Hebrew Blue Book of Philadelphia, social directory published 1902-03.

Citation from Mishpacha, 1988: Philadelphia Naturalization Records in microfilm at the National Archives: Records of the Special Boards of Inquiry, District 4 (Philadelphia), Immigration and Naturalization Service 1893-1909. M1500, 18 Rolls

(From Chronicles, JGS of Philadelphia, Vol. VII, No. 1 Spring 1988)

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY MATERIALS

The major part of the Jewish Theological Seminary's manuscript collection of over 10,000 items, including communal record books or pin-cassim, has been microfilmed over the last 20 years by University Microfilms Inc. The JTS has just received a U.S. Department of Education Grant to complete the filming of recent acquisitions and manuscripts which were not previously filmed. Records for the entire collection will be entered into the National RLIN database, making them available to research libraries throughout the country.

(from Between the Lines, a publication of the Friends of the Library, Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Volume 2, Number 2, Fall 1989)

The Seminary has also received a grant from the National Archives to preserve and make accessible its own papers and papers chronicling the history of the Conservative movement, making the JTS the central repository of the papers of rabbis and synagogues from throughout North America and Israel. Eventually these materials will be entered into the computerized catalogs of the Library of Congress.

(from the JTS's Seminary Progress, Vol. 32, No. 1, April 1990)

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL AT THE U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

East Germany has recently donated hundreds of artifacts to the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. This material joins artifacts previously donated by the Polish government. In addition, the museum has received archival materials from East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the Soviet Union.

(from The Northern California Jewish Bulletin, March 23, 1990)

DESCENDANTS OF LOWER EAST SIDE IMMIGRANTS SOUGHT

If your research has taken your ancestors through the **Eldridge Street Synagogue** on the Lower East Side of New York the Synagogue would like to hear from you. The landmark synagogue is going through a restoration, and materials pertaining to its early congregants are being sought by Beth Edberg, the project director, at Eldridge Street Synagogue, 83 Canal Street, New York, NY 10002. They are computerizing names from congregation minutes and will do a search on a family name for you.

(from letter in HADASSAH MAGAZINE, November 1989)

And if your ancestor lived at **97 Orchard Street** at any time, Marsha Saron Dennis, 885 West End Avenue #3A, New York, NY 10025 would like to hear from you. She is documenting the lives of all families who had an ancestor who lived in that specific building as part of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum being established in that building.

RESEARCH AIDS

POSTCARDS AS A GENEALOGICAL SOURCE

Picture postcards can be a source of information on the cities, buildings, and ships which were known to your ancestors or a part of their history. Postcard shows, auctions, garage sales, antique shops and collectors' club swap meetings are all potential sources of postcards. A collectors' newspaper can keep you informed as to the activities and help you tap into collectors' networks. Such a weekly is Barr's Post Card News, available for \$25.00 per year. Write to 70 S. Sixth Street, Lansing, IA 52151 or call (800) 397-0145.

(From Vol. 5, No. 1 of Discovery, San Diego JGS)

CENSUS DERIVED AGES

The ages recorded in the U. S. census are supposed to be the age of the citizen as of the official census date, not the date of the visit by the census taker. The official census dates were the first Monday in August for 1790-1820, June 1 for 1830-1900, and April 15 for 1910.

(from DIABLO DESCENDANTS NEWSLETTER, Vol. 5, No. 1, January 1990, Contra Costa County Genealogical Society citing Nov 1989 Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County Newsletter)

BACK UP YOUR GENEALOGICAL RECORDS ON MICROFILM

You can have copies of your genealogical material put on microfilm by the Mormons. You receive a copy of the film and copies are placed in the permanent microfilm vault and made available to researchers at the family History Library in Salt Lake City as well as at local Family History Centers around the world. Filming takes six to eight weeks. To qualify, your material should be organized and indexed. For details write Vicky Monson, Acquisition/Patron Microfilming, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City UT 84150

(from DIABLO DESCENDANTS NEWSLETTER, Vol. 5, No. 1, January 1990, Contra Costa County Genealogical Society citing Fall 1989 Kyowva Genealogical Soc Newsletter)

EUROPEAN RESEARCH SOURCES

RESEARCH HANDBOOKS, POLAND & CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Bob Weiss came across three research handbooks at the Genealogical Fair which would be useful for deciphering the birth, marriage and death records available on microfilm at the LDS Family History Libraries., All are recent revisions and updates of excellent research aids and are available from Genealogy Unlimited, Inc, 789 South Buffalo Grove Road, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-3607, phone orders 1-800-666-4363.

A Handbook of Czechoslovak Genealogical Research, Daniel M. Schlyter, 1990, \$15.00.

Russian Language Documents from Russian Poland, Jonathan D. Shea, 1989, \$12.00.

Polish Parish Records of the Roman Catholic Church: Their Use and Understanding in Genealogical Research, Gerald A Ortell, 1989, \$12.00.

SUWALK-LOMZA INTEREST GROUP

Marlene Silverman has organized a special interest group for Jewish genealogists interested in the Suwalki Gubernia and the north-east section of the Lomza Gubernia, corresponding to the southern part of modern Lithuania, and the north-eastern corner of Poland. Four 50-page reports are anticipated per year containing original reference material and networking information. LDS holdings of Jewish vital records from the 1808-1825 period will be printed. Information about families from towns not microfilmed will also be distributed. Marlene is looking for contributions from researchers who have information from that area. Membership is set at \$22.00/year, with a trial membership of \$5.50 for the first report. Please send expressions of interest and membership checks made out to "The Suwalk Lomza Interest Group" to Marlene Silverman, 3701 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Apt #228, Washington, DC 20008.

RESEARCH RESOURCE IN TEL AVIV

The Ariel collection of 50,000 newspaper clippings covering the period of 1946-1966 and the 120,000 volume Mehlman Library at the Diaspora Research Institute, Tel Aviv University may provide a valuable researcher resource.

(From Int'l Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia N/L, Vol. XX•90-91, 1989)

BOOK REVIEW

JEWS OF LEEDS, ENGLAND

The book Glimpses of Jewish Leeds by Douglas Charing is a collection of old photographs illustrating Jewish families and life in Leeds which, by 1892, had become the third largest Jewish community in Great Britain. The book is available from Jewish Education Bureau, 8 Westcombe Avenue, Leeds LS8 2BS. The price is £3.35 including postage.

(from Family Tree, Vol. 5 No. 7, May 1989)

MEMBERS' PAGE

THE KAHN LINE

Miriam Greiff Pearl

When you're working on your family tree
 You know how many years
 It can take to find a relative
 Alive... among your peers.

You know it's quite a lot of work
 And you often grow weary and bored.
 You spend endless hours on research
 You spend money you cannot afford.

You search for time-worn documents
 Old census films and such.
 You phone cemeteries and mortuaries
 For leads to put you "in touch".

And searching for long-lost family
 Or even descendants of same
 Is often very complicated
 Unless you have their name.

But I knew my ancestor's name was KAHN
 (At least on mother's side),
 And great-great grandmother Mina
 Was a KAHN before she was a bride.

But I had searched the KAHN line
 Without much luck at all.
 So naturally I began to feel
 That I'd run into a wall.

Then, one day at a luncheon
 A stranger next to me
 Struck up a conversation
 On family history.

And as he spoke, his eyes grew wide,
 He smiled and suddenly said
 "I'm a descendant of the Oakland KAHNs."
 Well a light flashed on in my head.

I had an urge to stand up and shout
 "This is too good to be true."
 But instead I just quietly grinned and
 replied
 "The KAHNs are my ancestors too."

Later we checked the old KAHN chart
 and found we are cousins, It's true.
 And to think we made contact with no work
 at all.
 We just met... right out of the blue.

FAMILY FINDER

P-1 Miriam Greiff Pearl, 768 Trestle Glen Road, Oakland, CA 94610
 (415) 893-1783. Seeking grandchildren and other descendants of
BERTHA MYERS SILBERSTEIN, daughter of **ROBERT and RACHAEL MYERS**.
 Bertha lived in **New York** prior to WWI. She was the sister of **JENNIE
 GREIFF, JACOB MYERS, MARY HARRIS and HENRIETTA OPPENHEIMER**.

S-11 Ted and Lee Samuel, 125 Cambon Drive #46, San Francisco, CA 94132
 (415) 333-5079. Searching for families **SCHMUEL** and **ROSENBERG** from
Janowitz / Janoweic, Posen/Posnan in the early 1800s.

W-2 Martha L. Wise, 1990 20th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116, (415)
 564-9927. Seeking members of the **ELBE** family in the 18th century.
HERZ ABRAHAM ELBE died 1807 in **Copenhagen**. Also any descendants
 of **JEREMIAS BLUMENTHAL** of **Wöllmarshausen** and wife **JEANETTE GANS**
 of **Celle**, who lived in **Hamburg**. He died in 1849 and she in 1850.

W-3 Robert Weiss, 3916 Louis Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303, (415) 424-1622
 Would like to contact persons with knowledge of families living in pre-
 war **Kelme**, Lithuania (On the road between Shavli and Tavrig). Specif-
 ically seeking information on the **BRAUDE** and **WOLPERT** families.
 Attempting to document linkage with **Rabbi SIMCHA ZISSEL** of Kelme.

Zichron Note is published quarterly by the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society. It is free to all members. Back issues are \$2.00 each.

Family Finder queries are free to members of our Society; others may place queries at \$5.00 each, limit of 25 words. Name, address, and telephone are free.

Correspondence relating to items for publication should be addressed to Editorial Board, c/o Sherrill Laszlo, 34 Craig Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611. Requests for back issues should be sent to Martha Wise, 1990-20th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116.

Meetings are held at two locations: San Francisco on the 3rd Monday of the odd-numbered months at Sutro Library, 480 Winston; and Palo Alto on the 3rd Monday of the even-numbered months at Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue. Both meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Jewish genealogy. Our membership year runs from August 1 to July 31 and dues are \$20.00 annually payable each August. Out-of-area memberships are \$10.00 for those who reside more than 75 miles from our meeting locations. Make checks payable to SF Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society; send to S. Laszlo, Treasurer, 34 Craig Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611.

President: Armand S. Cohn (415) 342-3485
Vice President: Martha L. Wise (415) 564-9927
Secretary; Peninsula Group Leader: Robert Weiss (415) 424-1622
Treasurer: Sherrill Stern Laszlo (415) 655-6789

*San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society*
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