

זְכֵרוֹנוֹת
Zichron Note

The Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 1

SPRING 1991

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Monday
January 28 Regular Society Meeting in San Francisco. (Note date change—Sutro Library closed on Third Monday for Martin Luther King Day). **Jewish Farmers:** *Michael Chessman* will share a translated diary written between 1914 and 1918 by a Jewish farmer living near Bialystok. Share this heart-rending story of a Jewish farmer caught between the Russians and Germans in WW I. Sutro Library, 480 Winston, San Francisco, Problem sharing starts at 7:30 PM.
- Monday
February 18 Regular Meeting of the Peninsula Group, *Mr. Wayne Rose*, Administrator of the Home of Peace Cemetery, San Jose, **History and Records of Jewish Cemeteries in the South Bay Area.** Mr. Rose has done extensive research into the history of the Home of Peace Cemetery in San Jose, established in 1853. He can help researchers locate records pertaining to local burials. Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Ave., Palo Alto, Problem sharing starts at 7:30 PM
- Monday
March 18 Regular Society Meeting in San Francisco. Program to be announced.
- Monday
April 15 Regular Peninsula Group Meeting in Palo Alto. Program to be announced.
- Monday
May 13 Regular Society Meeting in San Francisco. Program to be announced.
- Sunday
June 2 Annual Jewish Genealogical Workshop, Jewish Community Library, 14th Avenue & Balboa, San Francisco, 10:30 AM (tentative) through 3:00 PM. Bring your own brown bag dairy lunch.
- July 7-11 Third International Seminar in Jewish Genealogy, Double-tree Hotel in Salt Lake City, UT.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society has grown not only in membership, but in the quality of our programming. To maintain this quality we require more people to serve on committees. **Your** talents, interest and experience are needed to assist in our mission of gathering and disseminating information for our mutual benefit, and for the benefit of Jewish genealogists worldwide. The level of your participation is up to you, but any help you are able to offer will be welcome, be it addressing envelopes, writing articles, finding speakers, or just brain storming.

If you wish to become involved with one of our committees, please call a Board member or complete the form below and return it to us by mail or at our next meeting. You will be contacted to arrange a mutually convenient activity.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy, genealogically productive 1991.

Armand S. Cohn, President

Thank you Al Kingsbury and the Santa Clara Family History Library for the generous donation of two microfiche readers to our Society. They will be available for research at our monthly meetings.

ORAL TESTIMONY INDEX

One of the more urgent activities occurring around the Jewish world is the capturing of the testimonies of Holocaust survivors. Interviews are being captured on audio and video tape and on film at many Holocaust research centers, universities, and archives. The personal records of the experiences of Holocaust survivors is an important genealogical resource which can be used if the accounts are indexed.

Over 700 interviews have been taken by the Oral History Project in our local Holocaust Center of Northern California (HCNC), under the direction of Lani Silver. We have started indexing these interviews and would like to solicit suggestions for making the index as useful as possible to genealogists and Holocaust researchers worldwide. The

(continued on the next page)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Resource Directory | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Your Name _____

Your Phone Number () -

following abstract is taken from the index of the first 50 oral testimonies. It is presented here to solicit comments from you, the potential users and benefactors of the effort. The complete index may be viewed at the HCNC or at our Society meetings.

<u>Name</u>	<u>City or Camp</u>	<u>Other Name</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Interviewee</u>
Loebner, Egan	Deblin, POL			Loebner, Egan
Loebner, Egan	Flossenberg		airplane factory, camp	Loebner, Egan
Loebner, Egan	Gross-Rosen		concentration camp	Loebner, Egan
Loebner, Egan	Jungbunzlau, HUN	Mlade Boleslav, HUN	camp, coal mine	Loebner, Egan
Loebner, Egan	Livitzon (?)		camp	Loebner, Egan
Loebner, Egan	Plzen, CZE	Pilsen, CZE		Loebner, Egan
Loebner, Egan	Prague, CZE			Loebner, Egan
Loebner, Egan	Theresienstadt	Akkar one	concentration camp	Loebner, Egan
Loebner, Egan		Zionist Organization	hachsharrah	Loebner, Egan
Louis, Dr. Emile	Sachsenhausen		camp surgeon, camp	Levernoy, Alec
Louns, Alexander				Levernoy, Alec
Lox, A.	Auschwitz		extermination camp	Patipa, A.
Lunz, Alexander				Levernoy, Alec
Maibaum, Jean	Berlin, GER			Maibaum, Sandor
Maibaum, Sandor	Berlin, GER	League for Human Rights		Maibaum, Sandor
Maninga, Josef	Dresden, GER			Duering, Renee
Margot	Auschwitz		extermination camp	Duering, Renee
Maryanne Field	Saint Louis, MO			Stern, Ahna

The index was created using a Macintosh computer using the database tool of Microsoft®WORKS. It is convertible to word processing tabular format and to other database formats on Macintosh, IBM compatibles, and perhaps VAX using available translation software such as MacLink Plus/PC by Data Viz. Searches may be made on any term, date, or name in the database, and the index may be ordered by record in any one field. The sample index has been ordered by Name.

There would be great value in standardizing the formats and the terms used in the indexing of oral testimonies around the country. There would be an additional payoff if the indexes could be created and exchanged either on magnetic media, or electronically through the various BBSs. And the ultimate use would be if a central database could be queried on-line.

Please review the described work in progress. We specifically solicit your comments on the following:

1. Are the fields (City or Camp, Name, Other Name, Context, and Interviewee) adequate?
2. What descriptors (Context) which might be used to standardize the indexing?
3. Do you know of any other oral testimony indexes being created that may be used for guidance? In what form are they available (typed lists, magnetic media, etc)?

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our members who have volunteered to help with this important project: Judy Baston, Harry Brown, Sita Likuski, and Carolyn Miyashita.

U.S. RESEARCH SOURCES

UPDATE ON NEW YORK CITY VITAL RECORDS AVAILABILITY

New York City vital record holdings of the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City, and available through the local FHLs, were spotlighted in the March/April issue of the News of the Family History Library. The list of available films is reproduced here. A plus (+) sign after the date indicates that records are still being acquired by the library. A "b" after the date indicates that not all records for the range of years is included.

Few vital records exist prior to 1850 for New York City. Records are listed in the Locality section of the FHL catalog under the heading "New York, (county), (village or town- pre 1898) - Vital Records". Member Gail Call indicates that the fiche giving the film number and data descriptions for these records arrived at the Santa Clara FHL this past summer.

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Bronx	Death	Certificates	1898	1919+
Kings	Marriage	Certificates & Returns	1866	1924+
Kings	Death	Certificates	1898	1920
Kings	Birth	Certificates	1866	1897
Kings	Death	Certificates	1862	1897
Kings	Coroner	Reports	1898	1914
Kings	Coroner	Journal Records	1897	1914
Kings	Birth	Card Index to Returns	1866	1897
Kings	Death	Card Index to Ledgers	1848	1866
Kings	Death	Card Index to Certificates	1862	1898
New York	Birth	Certificates & Index	1866	1897
New York	Death	Registers	1798	1865b
New York	Death	Certificates	1866	1919
New York	Death	Card Index	1868	1890
New York	Birth	Registers & Index	1847	1873b
New York	Marriage	Groom Index	1866	1910
New York	Marriage	Bride Index	1866	1937
All Borough	Marriage	Groom Index	1910	1937
New York	Marriage	Certificates	1866	1916+
New York	Death	Coroner's Inquisitions	1823	1898
All Borough	Birth	Index to Certificates	1881	1965
All Borough	Death	Index to Certificates	1888	1965
Queens	Death	Certificates	1898	1919
Queens	Birth	Index, Towns & Villages	1847	1897
Richmond	Death	Certificates	1898	1920

The NYC Department of Health has tripled their fee for copies of post-1897 birth and post-1929 death records from \$5 to \$15. The NYC Municipal Archives, which provides pre-1898 birth, pre-1930 death, and pre-1938 marriage records, has raised their search and copy fee from \$5 to \$10. If the requester provides the certificate number (which can be obtained from LDS films) a certified copy only costs \$5. Addresses are: NYC Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Records, 125 Worth Street, New York, NY 10013 and NYC Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007. (Dorot, Summer 1990)

EUROPEAN RESEARCH SOURCES

GUIDEBOOKS TO POLAND

The excellent guidebooks shown us by member Harry Saal at his talk in November are available through the mail from Our Roots, Jewish Information and Tourist Bureau, Pl. Grzybowski 12/16, 00-194 Warsaw, Poland, Telephone/Telefax 20 05 56. They are priced at \$4.50 plus \$1.50 postage. A Guide to Jewish Warsaw and A Guide to Jewish Krakow are available now. A Guide to Jewish Lublin is scheduled to be published in November 1990 and Places of Jewish Martyrdom in Poland for 1991. (from JGSCT newsletter Quest, Summer/Fall 1990)

RESEARCH CONTACT IN BYELORUSSIA

Ruth Hodes of the JGS of Greater Miami has made contact with an active member of the Minsk Jewish community who has offered to help locate relatives from Byelorussia who may have been lost during the war years. Send the names of families you are searching to Ruth Hodes, 201 Southwest 21 Road, Miami, FL 33129 (305-854-0428) and she will forward them to Yacov Gutman, who has helped Ruth reunite with her mishpacha.

PRE WW II STREET MAPS OF GRODNE, LWOW, WILNO

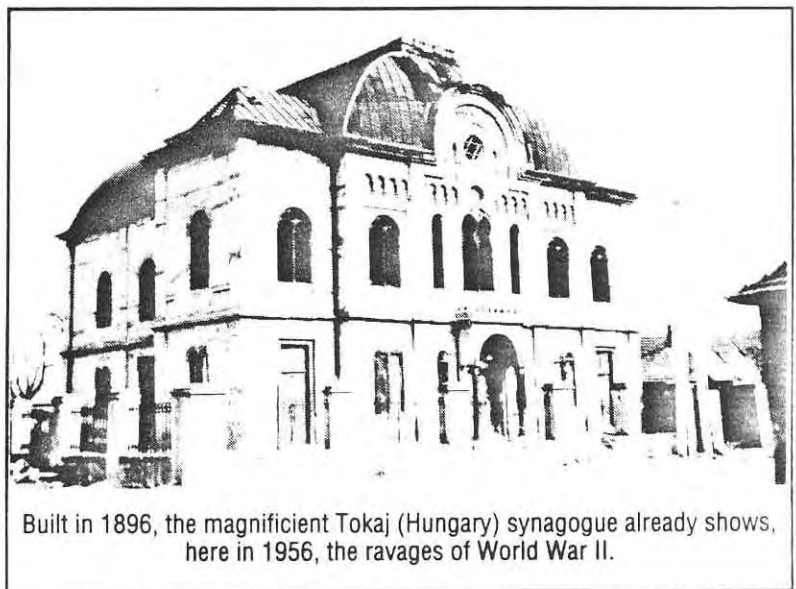
Bernard Behrens offers street maps of GRODNE, LWOW, and WILNO for \$20.00 each including postage and handling. Current city and topological maps of Poland are also available. Send cash, check or money order to Bernard Behrens, 633 p. Dom St. Piast, Piastowska 47, Krakow, 30-067 POLAND.

RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS ON TOKAJ, HUNGARY SYNAGOGUE

The City of **Tokaj**, Hungary, with a grant from the Hungarian National Historical Society, is planning the reconstruction of the Tokaj synagogue, once one of the 10 largest in Hungary. They would also like to memorialize the 16,000 Jews from Zemplén county who perished.

They are seeking monetary assistance and are compiling names of Zemplén County Jews to be memorialized. They may be able to provide information that they have already gathered. Send information and inquiries to Lajos Löwy, 3910 Tokaj, Rákóczi u.41, Hungary. Enclose two International Response Coupons to pay for return postage.

Send donations to: Magyar Nemzeti Bank 279-98225 OTP fiók Tokaj, Tokaj Városi Tanács Letéti számla 663-349957-0653, 3910 Tokaj, Hungary.



Built in 1896, the magnificent Tokaj (Hungary) synagogue already shows, here in 1956, the ravages of World War II.

HOLOCAUST RESEARCH AND YIZKOR BOOKS

YIZKOR BOOK DEALERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>St</u>	<u>Ctry</u>	<u>Zip</u>
CYCO Publishing House	25 East 21th Street	New York	NY	USA	10010
F. Pinczower, Bookseller & Publisher	83 Sokolow Street, POB 6008	Tel Aviv		ISR	
J. Robinson & Co.	31 Nachlat Benjamin St.,POB 4308	Tel Aviv		ISR	65162
Moshe Schreiber	Mea Shearim Street 16	Jerusalem		ISR	
National Yiddish Book Center	POB 969/ Old East Street School	Amherst	MA	USA	01004
Otto Harrassowitz, Buchhandlung	POB 2929	Wiesbaden		FRG	D-6200
Phillip Feldheim Book Dealers	96 East Broadway	New York	NY	USA	11209
Pinat HaSefer	POB 46646	Haifa		ISR	31465
Rubin Mass Ltd., Publishers & Booksellers	POB 990	Jerusalem		ISR	91009
Sefer-Hermon Press	1265 46th Street	Brooklyn	NY	USA	11219
Shofa Press	19 Heleni HaMalka Street, POB 7782	Jerusalem		ISR	

CONCENTRATION CAMP RECORDS—MAJDANEK AND AUSCHWITZ

For records from **Majdanek**, send requests to Krystyna Madalowa, Panstowowega Muzeum, Droga Mexcennikow Majdanka 67, Lublin 20-325, Poland.

For **Auschwitz** records send to Panstowowa Muzeum, 32-603 Oswiecim, Poland.

Send full name, approximate date of birth, place of residence, and profession, if you know it. Send as much information as you have. There is no charge for inquiries, but you should send a couple International Response Coupons to pay for return postage. (from JGSCT newsletter Quest, Summer/Fall 1990)

•Irene Fischer has compiled a list of surnames that appear in a book on the city **Berdichev**. Send SASE to her c/o Avotaynu, 1485 Teaneck Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666. (Lineage, Summer 1990)

•A 500-page **Chrzanow** yizkor book is available for \$35 from S. Tauber, 224-68 77th Avenue, Bayside, NY 11364. Make checks payable to "Chrzanower Young Men's Association." (Lineage, Summer 1990)

•A history of the Jewish community of **Schenklengsfeld, Germany** is available from Hans Lowenberg, 361 Orchard Street, Healdsburg, CA 95448. It includes information on the communities of **Burghaun, Erdmannrode, Hunfeld** and **Mansbach**. (Lineage, Summer 1990)

•Max Plitt, 2675 Brown Street, Brooklyn, NY 11235 (718-891-9681) has extra copies of the yizkor book published several years ago by the **Skala** Benevolent Society. A donation to the society of at least \$10 plus \$1.25 postage will get a copy. (Lineage, Summer 1990)

•The JGS of Connecticut has a list of 380 adults and 20 children buried in the **Fulda**, Germany Jewish cemetery, contributed by JGSCT membership chairman Howard Siegel. For a name search, send a SASE to JGSCT, 19 Storrs Heights Road, Storrs, CT 06268 (from JGSCT newsletter Quest, Summer/Fall 1990)

•A 500-page hardbound English translation of the **Stryzow** yizkor book is obtainable for \$25 from the translator, Harry Langsam, 745 N. Croft Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 60069 (213-655-5896). (Lineage, Summer 1990)

•Rabbi Daniel Meyer, Rabbi of **Prague** and **Bohemia** has countless books of death records. He may be reached in care of the Jewish Communities in CRS, 110 01 Praha, 1 Maiselova 18, Czechoslovakia.

•Joseph Fibel has indexed Jewish names in the **Veronova (Werenow)** memorial book. Names of residents of neighboring towns between Vilnius and Lida, are included. Send inquiries with SASE to Joe at 94 Beverly Road, New Rochelle, NY 10804. (Lineage, Summer 1990)

•Information on death records may be obtainable from A. Schweid, Chairman, Jewish Rescue and Relief Committee, 173 Green Lanes, London N4, England. He is attempting to rescue Jewish cemeteries in the following communities: **Vysoka pri Morave, Spisska Nova Ves, Spisske Podhradie, Poruba pod Vihorlatom, Piestany-Banka, Trencianski Teplice**, and **Tvrddsovce**. (From Chronicles, JGS of Philadelphia, Vol. VII, No. 1 Spring 1988)

•The JGS of Connecticut has a list of those martyrs from **Bukovina** who perished and those who were exiled in Transnistria and Siberia, contributed by JGSCT member Marge Gaber Simon. For a name search, send a SASE to JGSCT, 19 Storrs Heights Road, Storrs, CT 06268 (from JGSCT newsletter Quest, Summer/Fall 1990)

•A memorial to Holocaust victims from **Bytca**, Czechoslovakia is due to be established in Israel. Persons who remember victims from the area are requested to write to Heda Karas, 15 Rehov Hen, 20100 Carmiel, ISRAEL. (Genealogical researchers might be able to obtain information about family from that city- Ed.) (From Int'l Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia N/L, Vol.XX•90-91, 1989)

•Vestnik reports the following cemetery clearing and renovation activities in Czechoslovakia during 1989: Clearance and basic renovation at **Plzen** (Pilsen), **Karlovy Vary** (Karlsbad), **Marianské Lázně** (Marienbad); maintenance and improvements at 46 cemeteries in southern Moravia, including **Brno**; inauguration of a memorial in the **Klatovy** (Klattau, Bohemia) cemetery to the 595 district members who did not return from the concentration camps; clearance of the **Komárno** cemetery in Slovakia; clearance and complete restoration of the historic cemetery at **Rabstejn**, Bohemia. (From International Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia Newsletter, Vol. XX•90-91, 1989)

•Carol Baird has copied 22 pages containing descriptions and plot maps of the Jewish Cemetery of **Opole** with names or comments on 778 tombstones. Entries relate to the names of the deceased (some Hebrew and maiden names), dates of death (Hebrew and secular) and the condition of the headstone. The list is in Polish, but is easily decipherable. To search for a particular name send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Carol. For a complete set of names send \$5.00 to cover copying and postage to Carol Davidson Baird, 255 South Rios Ave, Solana Beach, CA 92075. (Vol. 5, No. 1 of Discovery, San Diego JGS)

MEMBERS' PAGE**MATERIALS FROM PRE-WAR SHTETL SOUGHT
FOR HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL TOWER**

When the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum opens in Washington, D.C. in the next two years, it will include a Memorial Tower representing the life of a now-vanished pre-war shtetl -- Eishishok, the town in which my father was born in 1902, from which he immigrated in 1922 and in which my grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins were murdered in September, 1941.

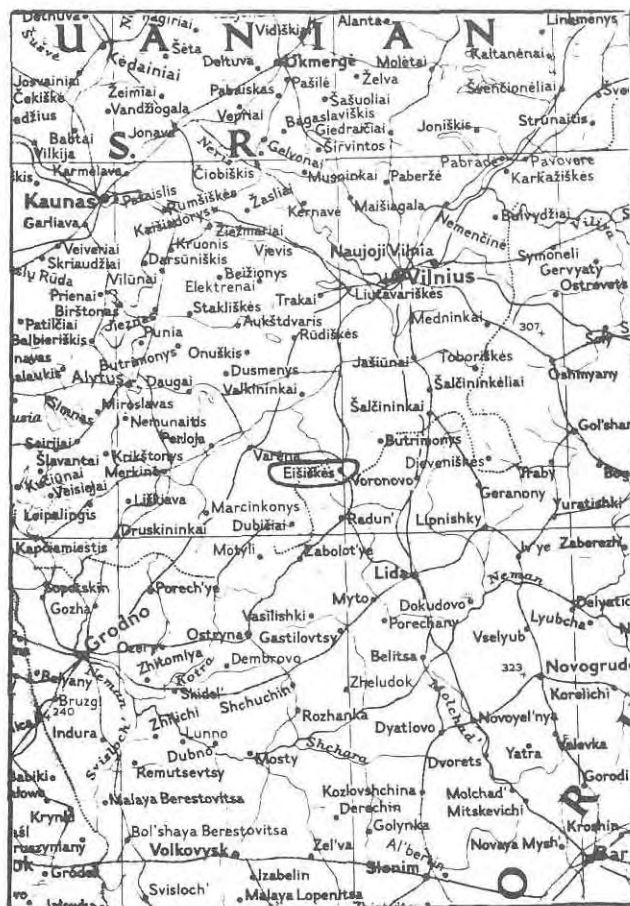
Had one asked me only a few years ago about the home of my paternal ancestors, I would have echoed the answers my father had repeatedly given me: "Everybody was wiped out," or "There's nobody left to know anything." But that was before I met Yaffa Eliach, Professor of Judaic Studies at Brooklyn College.

I had been given her name and address by a first cousin of my father's whom I re-discovered after 25 years when his story appeared in the Holocaust documentary, "Genocide." I wrote Prof. Eliach, told her who my family was and indicated a desire to come to New York, talk with her and bring her some photos and letters from Eishishok. When we spoke on the phone, she said, "I have a few things from Eishishok at my home; perhaps you would like to come here to see them."

"A few things" turned out to be nearly 2,000 photographs of the shtetl and its former residents (including my grandfather and cousins), as well as cards, letters diaries and other artifacts of this town 35 miles south-southwest of Vilna. (It is called Eishishok in Yiddish; Eisiskes in Lithuanian; Ejszyski in Polish.) Prof. Eliach, a former resident, has interviewed dozens of survivors and former residents of Eishishok worldwide for a book she is writing on its history. The September, 1941 massacre of the 4,000 Jews from Eishishok and nearby villages ended 800 years of Jewish life in the town, which is believed to have been an early Karaite settlement dating from the 12th Century.

With all the photographs she had collected, Prof. Eliach did not have the dozen I brought her. This simply reinforced her belief -- and now mine -- that no matter how much she has done, learned and collected, there is still more in people's photo albums, basements and memories that can possibly be part of the Memorial Tower. Each time a letter, card or photo is "found", it serves to defy those who half a century ago intended that all memory of Jews from Eishishok -- and, indeed, all of Europe -- would be erased as permanently as their lives.

If you had any family that came from Eishishok, or have heard any friends mention that shtetl, or if you have evidence of ancestors who lived nearby but, for example, might have gone to Yeshiva in Eishishok or had any other connections with the town, please get in touch with Prof. Yaffa Eliach at the Dept. of Judaic Studies, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, New York 11210.



JEWISH FAMILY FINDER ON LINE

The Jewish Family Finder is now available on line for those members who cannot use it at our monthly meetings. It is accessible from the ROOTS BBS in San Francisco, (415) 584-0697. Searches can be conducted by surname, town name or country.

LIST OF 1913 SAN FRANCISCO CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Weiss rescued a little volume which will be useful to researchers of the San Francisco area. The **Fourth Annual Report of the Federation of Jewish Charities, San Francisco, California**, for the year ending December 31, 1913 contains a list of contributors to the Federation either directly or through its constituent organizations. Addresses and amounts are given. The booklet also has lists of the officers of each constituent organization.

NETWORKING

An important part of our Society meetings is the networking and problem solving that takes place before and after the scheduled presentation. Member Lillian Wurzel suggests meeting in small groups and networking with whomever is available to help with the specific problem. If we do our problem solving as a large group, then limit the time each person has the floor. Can we hear from other members on the subject? Do you prefer formal or informal problem solving? Before or after the formal presentation? Would you like to see a separate meeting devoted to problem solving?

International Conference on the Inquisition in the Americas and the Hidden Jews of the Southwest, January 27-28, University of Arizona, Tuscon, AP Call A Chanin. (602) 621-5774 for details

FAMILY FINDER

G-2 Florence Gianfresco, 1568 Willowbrae Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125, (408) 448-4425. Seeking descendants of **ISAAC SLEPIAN (RUBBIN)** living in **Minsk, Russia** prior to 1896. Wife **ZELDA FINE (FEIN)** emigrated to **Rochester, New York**. Children **SAMUEL, BESSIE, FRED, AND LAURA**.

P-1 Miriam Pearl, 768 Trestle Glen Road, Oakland, CA 94610, Tel. (415) 893-1783. Seeking descendants of **VERA & E. C. KLEINBAUM** and daughter **AUDREY**. Known to have been in New York in the 1970s. Related to the **GRIEFF** family.

W-2 Martha L. Wise, 1990 20th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116 (415) 564-9927. Seeking descendants of **JOSEPH** and **FRIEDCHEN** née **HESS**, of **Hamburg, Germany**. Married around 1823. Children **JACOB, MICHAEL, BERNARD, DINA, ROSALIE, and SOPHIE**. Many of the children married into their mother's family. Also searching for descendants of **HENRI ETTA OPPENHEIMER**, daughter of **ROBERT & RACHEL MYERS**, sister of **JACOB, BERTHA (SILBERSTEIN), JENNY (GRIEFF), & MARY (HARRIS)**. Obituary for **ROBERT MYERS** appeared in New York in 1912 listing above family members.

ZichronNote 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. Nonmembers may place queries at a cost of \$5.00 each, limited to 25 words not including the name, address and phone number of the searcher.

Correspondence relating to items for publication and requests for back issues should be addressed to Editorial Board, c/o Bob Weiss, 3916 Louis Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month, starting at 7:30 PM at the Sutro Library, 480 Winston, San Francisco on odd-numbered months, and at Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue, Palo Alto on even-numbered months.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Our membership year runs from August 1 through July 31, and dues are \$20.00 annually payable in August. Out-of-Area memberships are \$10.00 for those who reside more than 75 miles from our meeting locations. Membership checks may be made payable to "SFBA JGS" and forwarded 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**
3916 Louis Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303