



זכרון ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XVII, Number 4

November 1997

SFBA JGS CALENDAR OF GENEALOGICAL EVENTS Meetings of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Please note: Unless otherwise indicated, the meeting schedule is as follows:

- San Francisco:** **Sunday, Doors open 12:30 p.m., program begins 1 p.m.**
Fort Mason Center, Marina Boulevard at Buchanan Street
Building C, Room 205
- Palo Alto:** **Monday, 7:30 p.m. Please contact Dana Kurtz if you need directions.**
Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Road)

- Sun. Nov. 16** **San Francisco:** *12th Annual Jewish Genealogy Workshop.* Special four-hour event from **1 p.m. - 5 p.m.** will feature small working groups, beginner and immigration/naturalization classes, translators and more. Don't miss this exciting day of research, resources and sharing expertise! (See page 4)
- Mon. Dec. 15** **Palo Alto:** *The Santa Clara Public Library.* Judy Svoboda, a member of the Santa Clara County Genealogical Society, will introduce us to this terrific resource in our own back yard.

1998

- Sun. Jan. 18** **San Francisco:** *Travels to Argentina and New York City.* SFBA JGS member Merle Krantzman will talk about a recent trip to Argentina to visit and interview his wife's aunt, and their subsequent research experiences in New York City. **[Note room change: Building C, Room 230]**
- Mon. Feb. 16** **Palo Alto:** To be announced

San Francisco

- Sun. Mar. 22 (Note date change)**
Sun. May 17
Sun. Jul. 26 (Note date change)
Sun. Sep. 13
Sun. Nov. 15

Palo Alto

- Mon. Apr. 20**
Mon. Jun. 15
Mon. Aug. 17
Mon. Oct. 19
Mon. Dec. 21

Other Genealogy Meetings of Interest on Page 4

ZichronNote

Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

ZichronNote is published four times per year, in February, May, August and November. Deadline for contributions is the 10th of the month preceding publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submittals. Submissions may be made on 3-1/2" floppy disks in DOS, Windows 3.1 or ASCII format, or e-mailed to <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com>.

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Family Finder queries are free to society members. Non-members may place queries for \$5 each, limited to 25 words not including searcher's name, address, phone number and e-mail.

Correspondence relating to publication items or requests for back issues should be addressed to the SFBA JGS at the address below.

Display advertising is accepted. The rate for a 2-column-inch (3-1/2 x 2 inch, business card-sized) insertion is \$10 per issue, quarter-page ad \$20, half-page ad \$35, full-page ad \$60. Ads must be camera-ready, relate to Jewish genealogy and be in good taste.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Dues are \$20 per calendar year. The Society is exempt pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Make check payable to "SFBA JGS" and send to: Sita Likuski, Membership, 4430 School Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Society Address:

SFBA JGS, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147

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ZichronNote Editor: Dana L. Kurtz

Copy Editor: Gordon Fine

Meetings: Odd-numbered months-3rd Sunday of each month, 1 p.m. at Fort Mason Center (Marina at Buchanan), San Francisco. **Even-numbered months**-3rd Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue (near Arastradero and Foothill), Palo Alto.

SFBA-JGS Web Site: www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

President's Message

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You don't want to miss our 12th Annual Workshop on Sunday, November 16 (see page 4 for details). This promises to be another great day, with the opportunity to spend hours focusing on your research with others who have common interests. Not to mention, great door prizes!

Recently, I've received a number of inquiries seeking suggested questions to ask when interviewing family members. That sounds like a great ZichronNote article! So, I'm asking you: "What's Your Question?"

When trying to solicit information from family members and other sources, what do you ask about? For future publication, we would like to collect the questions **you** have found to be the most successful at eliciting memories, thoughts and other information. What is the best way to phrase a question about a potentially touchy subject? How do you get past the initial "I don't remember" response?

Please send your suggestions, whether for written or oral interviews, to: SFBA JGS, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147, or e-mail <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com>.

Finally, you will soon be receiving an envelope full of JGS business for your attention, which includes:

- A dues renewal notice (yes, it's that time of year again) along with a listing of your entries in the SFBA JGS Family Finder. Please make any corrections and additions.
- An election ballot. The two-year term of current JGS officers expires in December. Many thanks to those who have shown their interest in getting involved by accepting a nomination.
- A survey. Two years ago a survey was sent to the membership, to learn more about your interests and experience, and obtain suggestions for the JGS. The overwhelming return of more than 60% has helped guide the past two years of JGS programs and planning. In that time we've grown tremendously (35%!) and once again we are asking for your input.

My thanks to everyone for your participation and for your enthusiasm, which has helped the SFBA JGS grow and thrive. It's been a exciting two years!

~Dana

SOCIETY NEWS

Member News

E-Mail Address Updates

Erica Aks <erica.aks@altavista.digital.com>
 Loren Bialik <bialik@sfbayguardian.com>
 Thalia Stern Broudy <aLbroudy@aol.com>
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 Sara Allen Laws <slaws@stanford.edu>
 Shirley Maccabee <maccabee@lanminds.com>
 Larry Tesler <tesler@pobox.com>
 Harry Wolf <harrynmi@aol.com>

Messages sent to the following people have bounced. Please advise us of your correct e-mail address:

Martin Gewing Vic Levy
 Bob Mills

If you have an e-mail address but have not been receiving occasional SFBA e-mail messages, or your e-mail address has changed, send a message to <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com> so we can keep you up to date.

Welcome New Members

Richard Argosh San Francisco
 Florence Koshner Bell Vallejo
 <bell@community.net>
 Armand Cohn Foster City
 (Past SFBA JGS President)
 Kay and Harry Harding Castro Valley
 <vsvv76B@compuserve.com>
 Dorothy Kay Oakland
 Philip Kivitz San Francisco
 Bob Mills San Francisco
 Sheila D. Radman San Francisco
 Sheila and Harry Sello Menlo Park
 <hsello@aol.com>
 Gunther Steinberg Portola Valley
 <gunther_steinberg_pv@worldnet.att.net>
 Marika Wertheimer Berkeley
 <mwerth@concentric.net>

SFBA JGS Library - Additions

All microfiche and the most popular books are brought to every meeting. If you would like to insure that a particular book will be brought to a meeting, please contact Society librarian Judy Baston at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Telephone Judy at: (415) 285-4616 or send e-mail to <jrbaston@aol.com>. *(Many thanks to those who have contributed books to the library.)*

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author/Publisher</u>	<u>Date</u>
Collector's Guide to Early Photographs [<i>Gordon Fine</i>]	Mace, O. Henry	1993
Hamburg Passengers from the Kingdom of Poland and the Russian Empire: Indirect Passage to New York: 1855-June, 1873	Moser, G. & Silverman, M.	1997
Izmir: List of 7,300 Names of Jewish Brides and Grooms Who Married in Izmir 1883-1901 & 1918-1933 [<i>Dov Cohen</i>]	Cohen, Dov	1997
JewishGen Family Finder, May 1997 Version	Mokotoff, Gary, ed.	1997
Migration From the Russian Empire, Vols. III & IV, May 1886 - May 1889	Glazier, Ira M., ed.	1997
Prominent Jews of Lodz, Poland, During the Hundred Years Before World War II [<i>Jan Engel</i>]	Engel, Jan	1997
Russian Consular Records Index (microfiche) [<i>Sara Laws</i>]	Sack, Sallyann	1988
Sephardim in the Americas	Cohen, M.A. & Peck, A.J., eds.	1993
They Came In Ships [<i>Sita Likuski</i>]	Colleta, John P.	1993
Tracing Your Roots by Computer [<i>Bob Weiss</i>]	Posey, Joanne D.	1987
Victorian and Edwardian Fashion: A Photographic Survey [<i>Gordon Fine</i>]	Gernsheim, Alison	1981

CALENDAR, cont'd.

More Genealogy Events

Local

Sat. Nov. 15, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. San Mateo County Genealogical Society; **Karen Clifford**, seminar. Sam Trans Building, 1250 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos. \$22 non-members at the door. Tel: (415) 572-2929.

Sun. Dec. 7, 1:30 p.m. California Genealogical Society; **New England Resources on the Internet**. CGS, 300 Brannan St., Suite 409, San Francisco. Tel: (415) 777-9936.

Tue. Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. Congregation Beth Emek, College Ave. and South "M" St., Livermore. Tel: (510) 447-9386.

Regional

Sun. Nov. 16, 10 a.m. JGS of Sacramento; **Researching U.S. Census Records**. Albert Einstein Center, Arts & Crafts Room, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. Tel: Jane Paskowitz, (916) 633-9557.

Sun. Dec. 14, 10 a.m. JGS of Sacramento; **Researching Vital Records in the U.S.** Albert Einstein Center, Arts & Crafts Room, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. Tel: Jane Paskowitz, (916) 633-9557.

Sun. Jan. 18, 10 a.m. JGS of Sacramento; **Immigration and Naturalization Records**. Albert Einstein Center, Arts & Crafts Room, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. Tel: Jane Paskowitz, (916) 633-9557.

Foreign Travel

Sun.-Sun. June 21 - July 5, 1998, **Discover Your "Ancestral Roots" in Ukraine**. Cruise Kiev to Odessa, four-day optional extension to Moldova. Write: Shirley Rose, Travel-Rite Inc., 816 Glenmere Way, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Tel: (310) 471-1943; Fax: (310) 476-9553; e-mail: <dream@aol.com>.

Ride Sharing

Many members have indicated their desire to attend JGS meetings, but feel the drive is too long, too difficult in the dark or otherwise inconvenient to be undertaken alone. We would like to help members make a connection for sharing rides.

If you are interested in attending a meeting and would like a ride, or can occasionally offer a ride, please call Dana Kurtz at (415) 921-6761 or e-mail <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com> to make arrangements.

Upcoming Program - Workshop

On **Sunday, November 16**, the SFBA JGS will present our **12th Annual Jewish Genealogy "Brown Bag" Workshop**, from 1 to 5 p.m., at Fort Mason Center, Building C, Room 205, in San Francisco.

Expanded library resources and two microfiche readers with our complete fiche collection will be available, as will a photocopier. Maps will help you locate your ancestral towns. The JGS librarian will be present to help you use the materials.

We also expect to have translators available through the day, to help reveal the secrets of documents and photographic inscriptions. Languages tentatively include: Polish, Yiddish, Hebrew, German, Russian, Georgian and more. (Sign-up sheets will be posted at the workshop.)

Classes and "Birds of a Feather" groups will be lead by a JGS expert. Experienced genealogists will be available throughout the day to assist researchers at all levels of experience.

Door prizes, including books, gift certificates, *Avotaynu* subscription, and other genealogy-related items, will be given away. Light refreshments will be served.

Tentative Schedule

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

- * Beginning Jewish Genealogy Class (1-3:30p.m.)
- * "Birds of a Feather" Groups:
 - Bay Area Resources for World-Wide Research
 - Galician Research
 - Lithuanian Research
 - German Research
 - One-on-One Assistance

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

- * Immigration and Naturalization Class (3:30-5 p.m.)
- * "Birds of a Feather" Groups:
 - Genealogy Without a Computer
 - Genealogical Computer Software
 - Polish Research
 - Hungarian Research
 - One-on-One Assistance

And More!

Bring your "Brown Bag" Lunch and Explore!

You are encouraged to review your research needs prior to the workshop. Check for all your surnames in the on-line Consolidated Jewish Surname Index and see which resources contain the names you are researching. Then you will be ready to use the references you need.

The workshop is free to members, guests - \$5, applicable towards membership. Bring your questions, papers and your curiosity!

Success Story: Success – And More to be Done

by Avrum Chaim ben Henoah ben Yaakov Benyamini ben Yehuda Tsvi, aka Hugh Dubb

Hugh has been researching his **DUBB** and **KAS(s)AN** families and his wife's **GORDON/ETS HOKIN** and **SHYER (SCHEIER, SCHIER, SHIRE)** families for about five years. He has had more time for this since retiring from his patent law firm the first of the year. He is now ready to mail out a draft of his Dubb family history to relatives asking for stories about family members, recipes (why not?), suggestions and additions. The family tree, which he has researched, will be appended to the history.

I am writing this article because of a terrible mistake I made. I published a success story on JewishGen. This caught our esteemed President's eye, and she asked me to provide a longer report for *ZichronNote*. I never did learn to say "no" thank goodness, so here I am at my computer. I do hope this story of mine will encourage those who are discouraged with their own research to dig in again and keep trying. If you are persistent, you too can get lucky.

As with most things in life, the main source of good results I have obtained has been through networking. Let me make this statement loud and clear: *There is no better source of networking for Jewish genealogy than JewishGen!* With that introduction out of the way I will turn to a report on my successes and lack thereof.

Searching For My Mother's Family Before JewishGen

My mother (nee Lillian **KASAN**), her brother and sister moved to the Los Angeles area from Baltimore in 1927. She had four brothers, two sisters and a half-brother. My father followed in 1928. He had six brothers, a sister, a half-brother and two half-sisters. While I was growing up (I was born in 1934), I believed that only one of mother's sisters and her family, and one of my father's brothers, his sister and their families settled in Southern California. My parents were divorced in 1937 and contact with my father was sporadic. I didn't even know the names of my father's half-siblings and I believed that they lived in Washington or Oregon.

I wanted to provide more family connection for my children than I had experienced. I did the usual searching in the census, through the city directories for Baltimore, Chicago, Newark, New York, and Portland, Oregon, through vital records such as naturalization papers, marriage certificates and death certificates. I hunted through old documents at home (including a family tree my sister had sketched out for my older son for a middle school project) and reestablished contact with the cooperative portion of my Los Angeles cousins (one branch wasn't cooperative). I filled in quite a bit of information on my mother's family since two of my Kasan first cousins, one in Los

Angeles and the other in Baltimore, had previously put together complementary family trees of their branches of the family. But I still had many unanswered questions, particularly about my **DUBB** family. And letters to Dubbs I located in national phone books mostly went unanswered.

Help from a Maryland JewishGen Friend

JewishGen then came to the rescue. My first success came through a friend, Dr. Jeff Knisbacher, whom I met through JewishGen. He posted an offer to trade research in Maryland for research in California. I was happy to accept his offer and he has been of great help to me in locating documents, walking through cemeteries to locate grave sites and providing information and translations. I have tried my best to reciprocate.

We have met twice in person, once when he came out here to the San Francisco area and more recently in late July, in Baltimore. Both times we visited cemeteries which proves we are genealogists.

One of the most amazing things he found serendipitously, when looking through some Baltimore Hebrew Orphanage records for information on his own family, was an entry about my mother's half-brother which included information as to the place and date of death of my maternal grandfather. I presumed that he had died in Baltimore but found out that he had died in Chicago where he evidently moved shortly before his death, probably to be with his four older sons and a daughter who had moved there earlier. The date seems wrong and I am currently extending my search through the Chicago death records at the local Mormon Family History Center. At least now I am searching in the correct city.

Finding Cousins

I posted a request on JewishGen for any information about Dubb family members in the Baltimore/Washington D.C. area. A kind JewishGener saw the notice, contacted me, and put me together with a married first cousin living in Baltimore, Bette, by snail mail. I had no idea of her married name and could not have otherwise located her.

I attended the 1995 Jewish Genealogy Seminar in Washington, D.C. and extended the trip so that

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I could meet with her and her sister, Ruth. I took along a camera with black and white film, a small tripod and close-up lenses, and took photographs of old pictures they had in their family albums. They came out fine and will be scanned into my computer and made a part of the family history book I am currently writing. Living in Baltimore and being older than I, they knew much more about the family. We also visited family grave sites and I took photographs of the monuments for later translation, as I do not read Hebrew. I learned, to my surprise, that my grandfather had lived until 1946. I had no idea that for a time I had a living grandparent.

The next step in my success came a year or so later when I again posted an inquiry regarding a Dubb family from Baltimore. This time a first cousin once removed (Barbara) who also follows JewishGen, read my posting and responded. As I had a business trip scheduled to Orlando and she and her husband live only about 200 miles from there, I extended my trip and visited with them. She had many old family photographs and I again took photographs of them for the family history. One of the gems was a photograph that was identified on the back as being of "Jacob's mother." Jacob was my grandfather. Now I know what my great-grandmother looked like. Barbara also added lots of information to the family tree.

Next, I received a telephone call from another first cousin once removed who lives in Annapolis, Maryland. I had sent a letter to her father in about 1994 and had given up on getting an answer. It seems he handed the letter to her and she was busy at the time getting married so it took her a while to get back to me. I had a delightful dinner with her and her husband while on a combination vacation/genealogy trip this summer. She too provided more family information. This contact did not come from JewishGen and taught me that it is always worthwhile contacting all relatives and asking them to help.

Finding More Baltimore Family

There was a branch of the family that had not been explored. I found out in 1995 that my grandfather Jacob had a sister named Pearl and that she had married an Isaac or a Jacob **GREENSTEIN**. But that was all the information I had about her and her family except that there was a daughter named Sarah who had married a man named **BAYLIN**. The Baltimore city directories revealed both a Jacob Greenstein and an Isaac Greenstein, both married to women named Pearl! Oy veh! Which is which and who is who? Of course I now knew how to proceed.

I posted an inquiry on JewishGen about the Baltimore Greenstein/Baylin clan. Another success!

Several JewishGeners answered and passed my inquiry on to the family. On my recent trip to Baltimore I met my second cousin, Dr. George Greenstein and his wife, Vera, had a delightful evening with them and copied down a large amount of family information. They also gave me the names of other relatives to contact and I have done so. When talking to the other relatives, I was pleasantly surprised to hear that they had been expecting my call. It seems that George had called them after meeting with me and had paved the way for me to receive a warm reception. My family tree and family history are currently undergoing a major expansion based on the information I am now collecting.

Also, completely to my surprise, I learned that more Dubbs had come to the United States both just before and shortly after World War II. The one who came before W.W. II now lives in Baltimore and I recently sent off a letter to her asking her permission to call her and talk to her. My father had told me in the mid-1950s that every one of our European relatives had been killed in the Shoah. Obviously he had assumed this and not bothered checking but I wasn't aware of it at the time and took his statement as conclusive. I am now in the process of trying to contact other members of that branch of the family, some of whom live in Israel. Perhaps the lesson is to not trust anyone over or under 30. Anyway, I now have another area in which to seek success.

JewishGen Links Nearby Shtetlach

I recently received a reply to a letter I had sent to a man named Dubb, whom I had thought might be the son of one of the now deceased Dubbs, who entered the United States just after W.W. II. He kindly provided me with a short version of his family tree and even named the shtetl from which his family came to this country in 1888. Since I thought that there might have been a relationship in Europe I decided to check how far away that shtetl was from my family shtetlech of Stepan and Svaryn. My decision to check the distance was also spurred by the writing of this article. Even a task like this can lead to a degree of enlightenment as you will see. I went to the JewishGen web site which provides an engine for determining the longitude and latitude of shtetls and for then calculating distances between shtetlach. When copying down the coordinates of my family shtetlech I noticed that the next shtetl listed under Svaryn was Svaryne, (which is not listed in either the *Shtetl Finder* or in *Where Once We Walked*, both of which I had used for my previous determination of the location of the shtetl), and that it was

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PAST MEETINGS

Publishing Your Genealogy

The topic of our August JGS meeting in Palo Alto was "Publishing Your Genealogy." We were lucky to have four terrific authors offer their insights and suggestions for this formidable undertaking. They have graciously provided their suggestions for those of us who have yet to 'put pen to paper.'

Len Traubman

- 1. Motivation:** To sustain you in your research and publishing, be aware of, and remember, your deeper motivation – future generations of children, deceased Grandma Rose, your ancestors' trials, fulfilling your own soul. It helps you during the tiring and stressful parts of the project.
- 2. Content Limits:** Define what you will and will not include. Perhaps you'll have basic information about all family members, but photos and extensive stories about only those born before 1920.
- 3. Project Time Frame:** For some people, deciding on a publishing date helps determine the length of the publishing project. This frees you up to "get a life" again. Spouses appreciate this! "I will print this in some form 24 months from today."
- 4. Budget:** Often a project of the heart and not of usual logic, publishing a document can be much more expensive than you might have thought. Consider your motivation, goals, and budget, especially if you share your resources with another person. I recommend being generous with yourself and others. Allow this project to be fulfilling for you and your expression of love and generosity – part of your legacy to life.
- 5. Persistence:** Knowing your motivation, telephone others to help you remember people and stories from the past. Allow time, then telephone them again to see if they've remembered something new, or found any old photos or documents in the attic, since your last conversation. Tell them how valuable and nice your book will be. Pep them up. Keep them included and enthusiastic by mailing them little portions from your research along the way.
- 6. Publishing:** Print your story in some form, whether simply photocopied or hard-bound. Others will love and deeply appreciate it, and it will fulfill you.

Marian Rubin

- 1. Motivation:** My urgent objective is to get the family information into the homes of cousins who are 40 years old or younger, along with placing it in a Jewish historical society.
- 2. Size of the Project:** I set limitations only because I don't want to make a commitment to a big project, and I have five booklets to write. My booklets include the basics: details of the three oldest generations, with some information about younger generations.
- 3. Appearance of the Booklet:** I want a booklet with a dramatic cover, so that young children will remember that there is a book about the family. Booklets with clear plastic covers offer the opportunity to design a cover page with a family photo and the title in very large print. Here is an example of my design:
THE DUBINSKY FAMILY FROM MAKAROV (35 miles SW of Kiev)
Yitzhak Dubinsky and Bessawa Resnick Dubinsky, born 1848,
settled in Baltimore, Maryland
<family photo>
By Marian Rubin, address, great-granddaughter of Yitzhak & Bessie
<Date:>
- 4. Content:**
 - (a) A family tree;
 - (b) An index of individuals (from your software program, if using one);
 - (c) A listing of current addresses and telephone numbers;
 - (d) A narrative of one or more pages discussing family events, occupations, burial sites, meetings of cousins, information about other families who are possibly related, visits to ancestral towns, family victims of the Holocaust, and acknowledgments; and
 - (e) Photographs.
- 5. Printing:** I photocopied my pages (laser/color copies made of photos) and then selected a clear plastic cover booklet at Kinko's, and had Kinko's bind the booklets for about \$3 each. There were four choices of binding. Be sure to leave a large enough left margin for binding when printing your pages.

Bert Oppenheim

- 1. Format:** What form would you like your book to take?
 - (a) Do you want a hard cover or a paperback?
How many books will you want printed?
 - (b) Do you want acid free paper or polished paper?
 - (c) Do you want a stitched binding or glue?

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Publishing, cont'd. from page 7

- (d) Do you want colored pictures or black and white? Do you want the pictures placed in one section or as they are discussed in the text?
- 2. Cost:** After deciding the terms of item (1), then the price must be determined. If the answer to most of item one is yes, this will end up being the best quality publication.
- 3. Editing:** Will you end up editing your own document or will you require an editor?
- 4. Selecting a Publisher:** This can be tricky. Ask others how they selected theirs and if they are satisfied. For example I am very satisfied with my publisher, but very unsatisfied with my editor.
- 5. Pages and Other Decisions:** I believe the above four items will establish how many pages you can afford, the type of binding etc. The cost for a book using the highest quality materials will range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 (1,000 copies). A book can be made for much less depending on the final decisions.

Of course on the lower end, for example, is Kinko's, which does a good job. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Dan Goodman

- 1. Content:** Decide for whom you are doing the publication. This will determine the family lines that have to be followed. For example, if it is for yourself then the lines to follow will be the two families of your parents and their ancestors. For your children it becomes four families; eight for grandchildren. Will it include aunts and uncles? Will it follow only blood lines? Will it contain photographs, documents, trees, newspaper reprints?
- 2. Process Printing:** Publication process is essentially a function of quantity, quality, cost and content. If this is new to you, before you start, talk to someone with experience in this kind of work. Don't go to the printer only to have him tell you there isn't enough margin to bind the publication properly. Have at least one other person proof read the document. Learn how to copy and print photographs. Avoid color photographs as much as possible.

For small quantities (up to about 100), present day photocopiers do an excellent job. There are also new copy machines that do an adequate job of reproducing photographs directly from an original. For more than 100 copies, consider a true printing process. This requires half-tones of photographs. Avoid using rag bond paper unless there are no photographs. Use acid free paper if possible.

Ask the printer for suggestions and samples. A higher quality paper will not add a great amount to the cost.

- 3. Process-Finishing:** Finishing or binding can take many forms. Binding can run from a staple to a plastic spine to a hard bound book. Discuss these methods and costs with your printer.
- 4. Budget:** Establish a budget before you start! Do not expect a stampede by your relatives to share in the cost. A 100-page book with 100 copies will cost from \$500 to \$2,500 depending on your choice of items mentioned above. Using a professional graphics artist could easily add \$5 to \$20 per page. Make a major effort to determine how many copies to produce. If you use a printing process, a few extra copies are inexpensive.
- 5. Distribution:** Determine where you wish to send copies. In addition to family, do you intend to send copies to libraries, historical societies in your old home town, etc.? How many copies will you give (or sell) to your cousin who has five children? Poll them before-hand to find out how many copies they would like to have. Remember: Uncle Sam who didn't bother to answer your question will see one and then get angry because you do not have three copies to send him.

**Submit Reference Information
About Your Publication**

Genealogical & Local History Books in Print, published by Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, MD is compiling book listings to include in the *Family History Volume Supplement* scheduled for publication in the fall of 1998. The supplement will include listings of family histories, pedigrees, and compiled genealogies that have become available since the publication of *G&LHBIP's Family History Volume* in 1996, or were omitted from that volume. There is no charge for listings in the supplement.

If you are interested in having your publication listed, contact Marian Hoffman, G&LHBIP, 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202, or telephone (410) 837-8271. Copies of the submission form are also available from the SFBA JGS; contact Dana Kurtz. The deadline for submission of listings is March 31, 1998.

Recent Travels in Alsace

by Rosanne Leeson

Rosanne and Dan Leeson have been members of the SFBA JGS for a number of years. Rosanne is a retired librarian with the Santa Clara County Library System, though still an active substitute librarian. She is currently researching her Alsatian **HEMMERDINGER** family, as well as families from Holland, Germany, and Romania.

Dan is a retired IBM executive and a former member of the San Jose Symphony. He now teaches math at De Anza College, and does musicological research. He is looking for his Polish **SANDOW/GUTTMAN** and Lithuanian **LEESON/SINGER** families.

A Righteous Gentile in Bavaria

One of my great-grandmothers was born in the little town of Huerben, in Bavaria, that has since been swallowed by the larger community of Krumbach. I am named, in part, for her, and have a photograph of this sweet-looking woman whom my father adored. I had done some research on her family and the town they came from, using helpful information which had been sent to some cousins by a gentleman who lived in Krumbach. However, I had never had the opportunity to travel further into Germany than just across the Rhine from France, in Baden-Wuerttemberg.

My husband and I were planning to drive across Germany towards Austria, so I decided that the time had arrived to make a visit to Great-Grandma's place of birth. Accordingly, I wrote a letter to the gentleman in question, telling him who my great-grandparents had been, and expressing a desire to meet with him for a visit to the cemetery, which he had documented. I soon received a letter back, in English, written for him by a translator, who he said would come along to assist us. This was encouraging to me, as my German is exceedingly shaky, and he apparently spoke no English. We made a tentative date for the morning after our arrival, which we anticipated would be late in the afternoon of the previous day. Well, we made better time than we thought, and within a hour of our arrival the telephone rang, to announce the Herr and Frau Auer, and his translator, were waiting for me down in the lobby! Obviously, the desk clerk had been primed to tell them the minute I arrived in town!

The translator turned out to be an American teacher, who had married a local woman and settled in the town. After warm greetings all around, I found myself crammed into Herr Auer's little car, on the way to the cemetery on the outskirts of town. Along the way he showed me where the synagogue had stood, and the house where my great-great-grandparents had lived, and Great-Grandma Anna had been born. When I reached for my camera I was told, "No, don't bother. I already have a picture I took of that house in a little book I have put together for you about your family." I wasn't sure that I had understood this exchange properly until later that day.

The cemetery visit was most moving, not only because of the visit to family gravesites after a century and a half, but also because of the obvious care that it is receiving. Upon arrival at the cemetery both Herr Auer and the translator took out hats to cover their heads, and a jug of water and a towel for the washing of hands. He then took me from stone to stone, telling stories about the people buried there, explaining with great detail the meanings of the various symbols and inscriptions, reading them in Hebrew. I should state here that Herr Auer is not a Jew. When I inquired of our translator the origin of his great interest and study I was told that about ten years ago, when he was unemployed, Herr Auer was asked by the town council if he would undertake the documentation of the graves in the old Jewish cemetery. From that small task has grown the overwhelming passion of his life: to learn about the entire history of the Jewish community in Huerben, and to "know" every single individual's and family's history as well!

He now leads hour-and-a-half tours for individual visitors and groups, including schoolchildren and teacher groups from Israel. The Jewish Community of Munich makes any necessary repairs, whenever he notifies them of a need. But, many little things are paid for out of his own pocket. He is not wealthy – just a simple, not-too-well educated man – but refused outright to accept a donation from me for his care of the cemetery. He has put together family books for each family that he can. That was his gift to me a book documenting my several intermarried families from Huerben, with pictures, and included was a physical description of my great great-grandfather, taken from his military record! I was then asked to please send back to him any data that he did not have so that he could correct any omission or errors! To say that I was overwhelmed would be to greatly underestimate my reaction!

What makes this man do what he does? It is hard for me to say, but he says only that he was overwhelmed by what he learned about the Jews that had lived in his town, and the tragic and horrible fate that overtook those who were there

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Alsace, cont'd. from page 9

when he was young, and of whom he says, he was barely aware of at the time. He feels that he must rescue their history, and in a sense, return them to life, through his dedication. "It is the very least we can do, and we MUST!", he said. It was a very real high point of our trip to find this kind and caring man – a truly Righteous Gentile!

Tales From an Alsatian Visit

Following last summer's Paris Seminar, I fled the big city hubbub for the quiet vineyards of my ancestral home in Scherwiller, Alsace. In addition to the sheer beauty of the region, and all of the "villes fleuris," I looked forward with anticipation to another visit with my cousins still living in the area, and the opportunity to check up on the ancient cemeteries I had not seen in a couple of years. The depth of my emotion each time I return always takes me by surprise. Could it be genetic? At any rate, I certainly feel "connected" to the region! So, it was with some sadness that I discovered that the oldest Jewish cemetery in Alsace, and the final resting place of some of the most prestigious Jewish families in Alsace, that of Rosenwiller (Bas-Rhin), while still in use after some 600 years, and despite efforts to care for it, had suffered a decline in its condition in just two years. Two years ago things had been looking up.

We then drove south to the second oldest Jewish cemetery, that of Jungholtz in the Department of Haut-Rhin. There I met René Grumbach who has cared for the cemetery for many years. Mr. Grumbach is a descendant of one of the early families there, and now is the last Jew living in Jungholtz. He arrived with the old cemetery register that is in his possession. He was also accompanied by two of his grandchildren, who were visiting from Strasbourg, roughly an hour's drive away. The grandchildren's presence directly violates the old Alsatian Jewish custom which dictates that children may NOT visit a cemetery. Mr. Grumbach was in the process of selling his home in this ancestral town and moving to Israel, where some of his children live. His statement was that it was more important that these children learn about the cemetery, its history, and how to care for it, because when he is gone, there will be no one left who knows or cares. Sad, but oh so true!

There are stones there that had been torn out during the French Revolution (when no sectarian sites had been permitted!), and recently returned to the cemetery when home owners who were renovating discovered them in old walls and floors. During the World War II occupation, the Germans cut a street through the middle of the old

cemetery, covering over the graves with road material. My elderly acquaintance would not drive or walk over this road, so we took the long way around to get to the other side.

All of this left me feeling quite depressed about the future of any Jewish life in what had once been the most vibrant and largest Jewish community in all of France. Shortly before the French Revolution, literally one-half of all of the Jews in France lived in Alsace; a tiny region barely the size of Rhode Island, if that big! However, things picked up when we reached Scherwiller where a cousin, the last member of my family and the last Jew living in the village, still resides. This is after 300 years of my family's presence in that village. We were joyously greeted with a video of his daughter's wedding which had occurred just two weeks earlier. It took place in the old synagogue in the nearby town of Séléstat. More than 800 people attended - Jew and gentile alike - and the ceremony was Orthodox. The Rabbi of Séléstat invited the chief cantor from Strasbourg and the entire town turned out to celebrate this special event! I might also add that my cousin's wife, who is the only Jewish woman living in Scherwiller, was elected the Assistant Mayor by more than 85% of the residents, and performed the required civil ceremony.

Marriage for her daughter! This event was a far cry from the days when the wife was almost anonymous! This was the only Jewish marriage for this year. However, next year there will be two! Maybe things are not so bad after all.

European Town Plans Source

Detailed street maps of a number of European towns and cities from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century are available from Generations Press, a California vendor that provided brochures at the 1996 Summer Seminar in Boston. Most of the European maps contain street and building indexes and show major buildings, places of worship and cemeteries. The original scale ranges from 1:7,500 to 1:50,000 and most of the reproductions have been enlarged. For a catalog, send \$1.25 to Generations Press, P.O. Box 2421, Pasadena, CA 91102-2421, (818) 557-1795, or e-mail <GenPress@aol.com>. The catalog and samples of 200 maps can also be found on their web site <<http://members.aol.com/townplans/>>. *(Dorot, Winter 1996-Spring 1997)*

From Vilnius to Vilna: Learning About my Father's Brothers' Families in the Vilna Ghetto

by Judy Baston

Judy Baston, SFBA JGS Librarian, is concentrating these days on her **BASTUNSKI** family in Eiskes and Vilnius, Lithuania, and Sokoly, Bastuny and Voronovo, Belarus, as well as her **KAGANOVICH** family in Eiskes, her **JASKOLKA** family from Nur and Zaremy Koscielne, Poland, and her **KONOPIATY** family from Nur, Bransk and Ostrow-Mazowiecka.

As I stood by the mass graves in Eishishok and in Ponar (near Vilna) during my trip to Lithuania in September, I felt strongly the need to call by name the ghosts of my murdered family members.

This was not difficult in Eishishok – from family and *landslayt* I knew the names of my grandparents Eli and Ethel **BASTUNSKI**; my aunts and uncles Altke and Abram, Rivka and Shmuel; my cousins Sorele, Leib, Maishke, Rochele and Maishke; and my half-sister Rifka.

Searching for the Bastunskis Who Went to Vilna

But two of my father's brothers had moved to Vilna (now Vilnius). And because of the size of the city and what appeared to be the absence of documentation about ghetto residents, getting information about them was far more difficult.

My older uncle, Motl (Mordechai), had married a woman named Rachel, and had three children; Meir, Maishke and Chasia. I had found their names in 1995 at the Holocaust Research Institute in Washington, D.C. in the microfilms of the Extraordinary Commission to Investigate German-Fascist Crimes Committed on Soviet Territory. Almost miraculously, their names had been listed in a few dozen pages typewritten in Lithuanian and easy for me to read – sandwiched among hundreds of pages in handwritten Cyrillic.

But the names of my Uncle Yankel's wife, and any children he had, remained a mystery to me. A letter from my uncle to my father in 1934 had given a wedding date: August 21, 1934. I hoped this would help me find a record of the marriage at the archives in Vilnius that kept post-1916 documents.

I had gone to Lithuania along with a group of *landslayt* from Eishishok, where my father had been born. Some were survivors of the Holocaust who had fought with the partisans or been in family camps in the forest. Some had gone to the U.S. or Israel before the war. Some were their children, nieces or nephews. A few had only learned of their connection to the town through the Tower of Faces at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, a collection of 1,100 photographs from Eishishok. Knowing how difficult it is to do archival research as part of a group, I had arranged to stay in Vilnius for two days after the group left.

1942 Census of the Vilna Ghetto: the Significance of Survival Alone

Two years ago, I learned from Jewish genealogist Howard Margol of Atlanta about a list of Vilna Ghetto residents at the Jewish State Historical Museum in Vilnius. I might not have remembered this had not several references to this list been made in the Internet discussion group of the recently resuscitated Litvak Special Interest Group (Litvak SIG).

On my next to the last day in Vilnius, I went to the Jewish Museum and obtained a copy of the list. Without knowing about it in advance, I'm not certain I would have found it; the list, now published in book form, is in a display case with the front title saying only *Zydu muziejus* and the spine bearing the title *Vilnius Ghetto* in Lithuanian, Cyrillic and English.

This volume lists, by their addresses in the Ghetto, the 15,000 Jews who were still left in the Ghetto on May 26, 1942, when a general population census of Lithuania was conducted. By then more than 50,000 Vilna Jews had already been slaughtered at Ponar. The census was discovered in the Lithuanian State Central Archive in 1993 by former Vilna Ghetto resident Rachel Margolis.

Volume 1 has no index and several respondents to the Litvak SIG discussion had, for that reason, decided it would be too difficult to search, opting to wait for the second volume, currently in production. It is expected to provide an index to Volume 1 as well as contain lists of prisoners in labor camps located just outside the ghetto.

But even without an index, reading this list was for me like a walk through the Ghetto. Historian Evsey Tseitlin's comments in the volume itself reflected my feeling as I began to read through the list: "It seems that together with the census scribes we enter the houses on the territory of the ghetto. We visit people who are sometimes in dozens squatting in one tiniest room."

It was indeed with such a feeling that I thumbed through the pages, feeling almost privileged to have these names of Vilna Ghetto residents imprinted on my memory for even a fraction of a second – something that indexed research often prevents. And then, after about 45 minutes, I

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came to page 267, the listing of residents at Number 25-4 Rudnicka Street:

Bastunski Jakob	1908	stalius
Bastunski Teiba	1909	siuveja
Bastunski Chana	1935	----
Bastunski Morduch	1896	stalius
Bastunski Rachela	1898	----
Bastunski Mejer	1926	----
Bastunski Moises	1927	----

I had not expected to find them. Because the majority of Ghetto residents had been massacred by the end of 1941, the odds were clearly against it. What I had found: the first names and birthdates of Yankel's wife and daughter, which I had not known; that my two uncles and their families were together in the Ghetto during their last days; that they were among the minority that had survived beyond 1941; that my two uncles, who had a lumber and forest products business, worked as carpenters – (stalius) – in the ghetto, probably in the furniture workshop that was located on Rudnicka Street, and that my Aunt Taibe worked as a tailor, probably in a workshop making uniforms for the German Army.

There was, of course, a name missing from the list, Motl and Rachela's daughter Chasia. Ghetto work permits covered two adults and two children, although occasionally children were shifted around to childless families under whose *shain* – or work permit – they could continue to survive. Was this Chasia's lot? Or had she already perished?

Truly "Vital" Records About the Bastunskis

On the next day, my last in Vilnius, I went to the Lithuanian Vital Statistics Records Archives (at Kalinausko 21, Vilnius 2600 Lithuania). With me was Rita Petrikiene, the Lithuanian guide who had so expertly worked with me during a short foray to Sokoly, Bastuny and Voronovo in Belarus. We first applied for the wedding record of Yankel and Taibe. The clerk consulted the written indices to Vilna Jewish marriages, not only for 1934, but also for 1933 and 1935, and could find no listing.

But because I now knew their child's name and birth year, we then applied for the birth record of Chana. She checked the birth index, and I could see her eyes moving down each page. "Bastatski," she said. "No, Bastunski," I answered. Then she stopped again. "Bastunski ... Chana ... Yankel," she said. Tears came to my eyes with the realization that my first cousin, whose name I hadn't even known 24 hours before, was listed in a book in a contemporary archive, one where people living today in Vilnius go to get documents for a passport, a marriage, all the matters of

ordinary life that continue in the city more than a half-century after the Jews of Vilna were murdered.

Rita explained that I was leaving the next day for America and the clerk said she would try to have an extract of the record available by the end of the workday. We returned at 4:30 to get the extract, which provided a birthdate but made no mention of the mother's maiden name. Although the clerk said such information is customarily not provided on extracts, we persuaded her to get it for us. Reading from the record itself, she informed us that Taibe's family name had been Alperowicz. "Ask her if I could just look at the record for a moment," I told Rita. She asked, and the clerk then turned the record around to me. The short record, in Polish and Hebrew, listed Taibe's parents' names as well, and I wrote them down. As I held that paper in my hands, the past and the present seemed to come together, and for the first time during my trip, Vilnius had turned into Vilna for me.

Judy has donated a copy of Vilnius Ghetto: Lists of Prisoners, Vol. 1 to the Holocaust Center of Northern California (601-14th Ave., San Francisco). The volume may be ordered for \$20 (postage included) from the Jewish State Museum of Lithuania, Pamenkalnio 12; 2001 Vilnius, Lithuania.

Great Joy; More Tears: An Unexpected Cousin

Timing also played a role in another discovery I made on this trip, as did the networking and the general reading that some of us still do despite Internet search engines and increasing emphasis on narrowly-focused research. A special thanks must go here to SFBA JGS President Dana Kurtz, who during the summer was reading the *Cleveland Kol*, newsletter of the Cleveland, Ohio JGS. She saw an article about a 1995 trip to Vilnius by Howard Epstein, who mentioned a Mr. and Mrs. Bastunski he met there.

Realizing that this was the original version of my family name, Dana immediately informed me. I got in touch with Howard Epstein, got an address for Abraham Bastunski and sent him a letter in what I laughingly refer to as my broken Yiddish. An immediate answer came to the letter, but not to my questions about a family connection. However, I would be in Vilnius in a few weeks, so I could find out in person.

Which I did, to great joy and more tears. Abraham Bastunski is indeed my cousin. His grandfather and my great-grandfather were brothers. Survivors of the Kovno Ghetto, Abraham and his wife Raya, now in their late 70s, had grown up in Olita (today Alytus), about 60 miles from Eishishok.

Because two years ago, I had ordered all Bastunski records found from Eishishok in the Lithuanian State Historical Archives – not only those I recognized as in my direct line – I was immediately able to figure out my connection with a cousin I never even dared dream had survived.

The Jewish Chronicle – 156 Years of Jewish History

by Jeremy Frankel

Jeremy, originally from London, England, is the author of *New York State Erie Canal Guide*. Jeremy is a SFBA JGS board member and is researching the **FRANKEL, GOLDRATH, LEVY, MAZIN/MAZO** and **SWEDELSON** families.

The first of my articles on Jewish genealogical resources at U.C. Berkeley, is about the *Jewish Chronicle*, a London-based weekly newspaper that has been in continuous publication since 1841. We are indeed fortunate that the Newspaper and Periodical Library has an almost complete run of the *Jewish Chronicle* on microfilm (currently up to mid-1996). The Newspaper Library is part of the Doe (Main) Library and is situated on the ground floor. Researchers do not need a library card to gain access to this library, in fact all you have to do is walk in, select one of the microfilm reader/printers and away you go. The films are all openly accessible. You can go to the cabinets and take out the film(s) yourself. Copies can be made for 25 cents (cash) or you can purchase a copy card which provides greater discount rates for larger amounts on the card.

So how can the *Jewish Chronicle* (or “JC” as it is affectionately known) help you? Well obviously, if you have English roots or connections it is certainly a resource not to be overlooked. [Britain was a way-station for many European Jews before they went to the United States, Canada, South Africa, Argentina and other points. For many, the stopover was for a short period of time; for others, the stay was much longer.]

Biographical information was somewhat sparse during its formative years. However, by the 1880s, births, marriages and deaths were listed in roughly alphabetical order. The fact that lifecycle events were printed on the first three pages for at least 60 years demonstrates the importance the *Jewish Chronicle* attached to these newsworthy items. I have obtained an immense amount of data from the death announcements which offer the most family information: names and addresses, if not the names, then at least the family relationships of the decedents. Careful reading provides more information than appears at first. For example, reference to a “daughter-in-law” indicates that only one son (if there was more than one) was married at the time the person died. Another example indicated it was the second daughter who was getting married when I knew she was the fifth daughter. Previous knowledge allowed me to elucidate that one of the older daughters, who had died while immigrating to the United States, had to have immigrated prior to the marriage, something I hadn’t previously known. Now I have a better idea of how to track down the death record (in the U.S.) of this sister.

Not only does the *Jewish Chronicle* print births, marriages and deaths, but it also listed bar mitzvahs, betrothals, fiancé(e), engagements, forthcoming marriages (and marriages called off!) and silver, diamond and golden wedding anniversaries. Anniversary commemorations usually list the original marriage date, synagogue (London) and rabbi officiating. In one instance, a silver wedding entry included the fact that the husband was originally from Kalisz, Poland, and his wife was from Konin, Poland, and gave their current street address in South Africa! There are tombstone consecrations (useful when you don’t know where someone was buried!), in memoriams, deaths in military service, thanks for condolences, thanks for gifts, people who have moved - with their new address, or had returned (usually from abroad) and were now “receiving visitors.”

The *Jewish Chronicle* also printed multi-page lists of New Year’s greetings for many years. The vast majority are London-based, but there are entries from the British provinces, i.e., Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, etc. There have also been some from abroad, principally the U.S. and South Africa, but these have normally numbered fewer than ten entries for each new year. There are also commercial entries, again predominantly from London-based businesses.

A truly amazing endeavor undertaken by the *Jewish Chronicle* at the outbreak of the first world war was to compile a list of all the known British and Commonwealth Jews who served in the armed forces. The lists (at least 24 were published over the course of two years from submissions received) detail first commissioned and then non-commissioned officers alphabetically by last name. As well as their rank, it also shows which unit they served in. I was more than pleasantly surprised to find my paternal grandfather listed. In 195, the newspaper began printing lists of casualties, both wounded and dead. Some of the latter also merited short death notices.

There are many other items of interest I have literally stumbled across, such as lists of mohels certified by a local synagogue, a synagogue list of local bakers making “extra” kosher Passover matzos. These lists are quite small, maybe no more than ten people in number and easily checked through for possible relatives. Another source which requires a magnifying glass is what I call the

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Success Story, cont'd. from page 6

located only ten miles from Stepan. I am now convinced that my family shtetlach are actually Stepan and Svaryne. This would explain why my grandfather, in his preliminary naturalization papers, listed all of his children as having been born in Svaryn(e) and in his final papers listed them as having been born in Stepan, a much larger nearby shtetl. Serendipity wins again.

An even more mysterious branch of my family was that of my maternal grandmother, Alte Bessie. My grandfather's Baltimore ship arrival record showed that he was going to the home of his "brother-in-law" Abraham **SILBERMAN**. Also, Abraham and his adult son, Joseph, were witnesses on my grandfather's naturalization papers. I knew that my grandfather's second wife, following my grandmother's death, was her sister, Lillian **SILBERBERG**. I knew Lillian's family name because it appears on both her marriage certificate to my grandfather and on her death certificate. My theory was that Abraham Silberman's wife, Sarah, was another sister of Alte Bessie and of Lillian. Of course I wanted both authentication of my theory and more information about the Silberman/ Silberberg family. Again, I knew what to do. I posted to JewishGen asking about the Silberman and Silberberg families of Baltimore and included the information I had in hand to help the reader to be able to distinguish which Silberman/Silberberg families I was seeking.

Yet another success! I received a reply from a Silberman cousin (we are still trying to define the exact relationship) and also had a very pleasant

meeting with that family on my trip to Baltimore. I found out that my theory was wrong and that Sarah Silberman was not a Silberberg. I also found out that Abraham Silberman had a first cousin named Avrum Silberberg. My new theory is that the relationship was one generation further back and that Abraham Silberman's mother was born a Silberberg. This would render my grandfather's ship record incorrect since Abraham Silberman would then have been his cousin-in-law rather than his brother-in-law.

So you see what success leads to: more work and (hopefully) more successes. And getting stuck with writing an article which I hope hasn't bored you too much.

[Hugh has also successfully located two sets of second cousins on his wife's mother's side of the family through JewishGen; one based on a posting he made and the other based on a posting her cousin made.]

In his article, Hugh mentions trading research efforts with Dr. Jeff Knisbacher who sent the following:

Hugh,

It was very kind of you (again) to cite my help in this note. I really should do the same thing for you... Bottom line: you helped me find a Holocaust survivor branch of the family on my father's side, of which I had just the slightest hint before, and tracked two branches of the **TISSENBAUM** family on my mother's side (from Minneapolis to California) that I am still puzzling over. Your conclusion is right on target: networking leads to success, to more work, and hopefully, to still more success! —Jeff

You're Never Too Old to Learn

by Rodger Rosenberg

As someone who has been doing genealogical research for a number of years, I find that I can be a bit of a "snob" sometimes about the wealth of information out there, especially when there is a cost attached. I am specifically speaking about marriage certificates. The logic I always used was, "well I know where and when it happened, what use could a simple certificate be?" Well much to my surprise, a recent letter from a cousin contained a marriage certificate that knocked my socks off. The 1943 certificate from Massachusetts was for my great-aunt; my grandmother's sister's marriage. It contained the usual, name, date, etc. But to my surprise, it also listed the parents of the bride and groom including their places of birth and maiden names.

The groom, my great-uncle (in-law), had immigrated some time in the 1930s, leaving behind 18 immediate family members. What makes this document a real find for me is that I now have a town of birth for him and can begin to research what became of his family. With no evidence to the contrary, and no clues where to begin to look, all were presumed to have been killed in the Holocaust. The marriage certificate has provided me with a valuable tool to begin a new search of my family. It is my new hope that I will find out what happened to his family, and in doing so, bring to light a branch which had always been thought to be in the darkest shadows. My new logic is "never discount ANYTHING you can find ... you never know...."

[Boston vital records can be obtained from the Registry of Vital Records, 470 Atlantic Avenue, Second Floor, Boston, MA 02210-2224; (617) 753-8600. The charge for birth and death certificates is \$11, and marriage certificates (from 1896) is \$6.]

A New Database: Donor Lists Published in the Hebrew Newspaper Hamelitz

by Randy Stehle

Randy is researching **BRILLIANT** and **SABELOWITZ** from Kovno, Lithuania; **GREEN** and **MARKMAN** from Prussia; **POOL**, **BIERMAN** and **DEHOND** from Amsterdam; **VAN FRANCK** from Uithoorn, Holland; **WOLFF** from Sombar, Galicia, and **GROSS** from L'vov, Galicia. His current project is locating **RAFALIN/RAPHAEL** relatives in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Earlier this year JewishGen added another one of its useful database listings. The new offering is Jeffrey Maynard's list of Lithuanian and Latvian donations from the periodical *Hamelitz*. His searchable list indexes the names of donors as they appeared in this Hebrew language newspaper from 1893 through 1903. He states that "...with few exceptions, only names listed as being from towns in Lithuania or Latvia have been included."

Searching *Hamelitz* for Family Names

Using Maynard's database is very easy. One can search for a surname, and if it is indexed, get a listing that will include: the family name, personal name (including any patronymic or family relationships), town, *Hamelitz* issue number (but not page number), year of publication and any comments (title, occupation and other details). When I plugged in the surname **BRILLIANT** I got three hits, all from 1895. They were all donor listings in honor of the same wedding. I could tell from the other names given in the listing that it was one of my relatives who had been married. Two hits were from the town of Kaunas, Lithuania, and the other one was from Pilviskas, Lithuania. The big question for me was whether I should get a copy of the original to see if there was any more information in it.

I surfed the Web to learn more about this obscure newspaper. *Hamelitz* (The Advocate or Morning Star) was, according to Hadassah Lipsius, an outgrowth of the Haskalah (Jewish Enlightenment), and therefore had secular origins. It was first published weekly in Odessa in 1860 and moved to St. Petersburg in 1871. The lists of donations, (generally in honor of someone's wedding and mostly for work in the Holy Land) first appeared in 1893 and continued through 1903. These lists were used both as filler for empty spaces and to fill up the entire back page or two of *Hamelitz*.

The rest of the newspaper was a compilation of news items from various towns. According to David Chapin (Jewish Genealogical Society of Dallas, TX) there is an index in the newspaper to the towns, but not to the people. There are also some great advertisements in its pages. In an 1895 issue is one for Castle Lines, which advertises passage to South and East Africa from Hamburg.

Chapin goes on to state that during the period *Hamelitz* was published, Hebrew was not a modern spoken language. Therefore, the people who wrote for *Hamelitz* may have had a hard time expressing themselves properly. He also said that it is *very* difficult to translate due to the use of archaic sayings and many abbreviations. He was helped by using a 1910 Hebrew-English dictionary. Some listings contained a lot of interesting content, while others were just a straightforward donation in honor of so-and-so.

I had two of my Hebrew-speaking cousins look at the three listings from 1895 for which I needed a translation. They said that the language itself was not a problem, but there were a lot of abbreviations they could not figure out. This (1895) was the third year that the donor lists appeared in *Hamelitz*, and according to Maynard the earlier issues were done in clearer type and a more readable format. He says that "the print in later issues is quite small and reading it from a microfilm is often nearly impossible."

Obtaining Copies of *Hamelitz*

I decided to get a copy of the originals just to see what they actually said, although obtaining the copies proved to be no easy task. I read in the introduction to the *Hamelitz* database listing, and in several postings to the JewishGen discussion group, that the New York Public Library (NYPL) was the only place in this country that had *Hamelitz* on microfilm. I tried to have the microfilm sent to me through interlibrary loan at my local library. It took several weeks to find out that the NYPL does not loan these microfilms. I was not convinced that the NYPL was the only place that had it, so I went back to my local librarian. She was very patient with me and searched out many alternate places that might own *Hamelitz*. No one else seemed to have it, including Stanford University, UCLA and the University of California at Berkeley. I even called the Magnes Museum, but they did not have it either.

I called the NYPL myself and found out that the library has a copying service available. This service is called NYPL Express, and can be reached at (212) 592-7201. When calling, please

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INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

Svisloch, Belarus

by Marc Melnicove

The first issue of a new, semi-annual newsletter about the shtetl of Svisloch (in Grodno Gubernia, today in Belarus) will be published in November. Contents will include essays, archival documents, list of genealogical researchers and family names being researched, photographs, news of nearby shtetlach, book reviews, Internet resources, maps, listing of Svisloch-related items in archives, list of on-going research projects, and more. The newsletter is free, although donations are accepted. Send SASE (78 cents) to: Mark Melnicove, editor, 216 Cedar Grove Road, Dresden, ME 04342. For further info write, call (207) 737-8116) or e-mail <MMelnicove@aol.com>.

Jewish Chronicle, cont'd. from page 13

charitable donations lists. There were invariably collections being undertaken throughout the year for major causes such as "... the plight of our Jewish brethren in war-torn Poland" This could produce multiple pages in alphabetical order of synagogues. Or there might be a local charity drive for the (Jewish) poor of London's East End. I have been successful in locating relatives amongst these lists.

Apart from the specifics of finding relatives in the various categories I have mentioned above, one should not overlook the articles written on myriad topics, the letters page and the classified section. Also, just because it is a London-based paper, do not think that there isn't any international news. The paper is replete with news from correspondents all over the world, reporting mostly on the "... plight of the Jews"

In closing, I would heartedly endorse the Jewish Chronicle as an excellent source for family information. Come prepared with various dates, remember that tombstone consecrations took place a year after the burial and you might need to check a couple of months worth of issues before you find the entry. In Memoriams are more haphazard, sometimes you can find them many years later. There is however just one caveat, there is no guarantee that a family had to advertise a family event in the Jewish Chronicle. I have many entries for my **FRANKEL** and **KOENIGSBERG** families, both on my father's side, but so far I have hardly any for my **LEVY/LEADER** or **GOLD(RATH)** families, both on my mother's side. Perhaps the absence of entries should be telling me something!

Stanislaw, Galicia

by Marc Seidenfeld

A group of JewishGeners interested in Stanislaw, Galicia, recently shared the cost of translating the memorial book for Stanislaw, Galicia, from Hebrew into English. The yizkor book was previously published by Yad Vashem in its *Pinkas Hakehillot*, a memorial book on communities destroyed in the Shoah.

The material is fascinating and includes a history of the town and the Jewish community, personalities associated with the town, and a detailed and graphic description of what happened there in the late 1930s and during World War II, when the Jewish community was destroyed.

There is considerable material of genealogical interest. For example, one of my ancestors is mentioned as the publisher of a newspaper. If any of your ancestors came from Stanislaw, this material is a must. Please contact me if you are interested, at <marc.seidenfeld@hints.com> or (415) 677-8520.

Hamelitz, cont'd. from page 15

provide the year and issue number of *Hamelitz*. If they ask for it, the call number is *ZAN-*P40. They will make copies of all the donor pages (usually two or three pages), plus enlargements of each page; four enlargements cover one page. The service charges \$15 for the first 10 pages, and \$.25 for each additional page. Postage is an extra \$3. The NYPL Express will take a credit card number over the phone. I did not inquire about other forms of payment.

I got my copies in three weeks. Unfortunately, the wrong year was copied. When I brought this to their attention they were very gracious about it. I was told the film had been mislabeled, my account was credited, and within one week I was sent the correct copies. They were very nice and told me that I was the first person to request copies from Hamelitz. (This was back in July.) In August I posted how I got these copies on JewishGen, so I imagine that they have had lots of experience by now.

The three listings I had translated added nothing to what I originally saw on the JewishGen database extraction. Even though I was a little disappointed, I would do it again as one never knows what will turn up. At least I have copies of my relatives' names in an old newspaper to add to my genealogical material.

SFBA JGS Family Finder Update

The surnames and towns listed below have been submitted by new members of the society. Please add this list to your copy of the 1997 SFBJGS Family Finder and Membership Roster.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Member</u>
Barg	Miedzyrzec, Poland	Radman
Berger	Lodz, Poland	Edelstein
Berger	Tarnobrzeg, Poland; New York	Bobish
Berkowitz	Ternopol, Ukraine	Hamerman
Bleiweiss	Tarnobrzeg, Poland; New York	Bobish
Bobish	Bialystok, Poland; New York	Bobish
Brummel	Ivya, Lithuania	Harding
Bunin	Chernigov, Ukraine; U.S.	Sello
Cohen/Kohen	Steenwijk, Dwingeloo, Meppel, Netherlands; Hamburg, Hildesheim, Germany	Steinberg, G.
Cohn	Lobzenica, Poland	Cohn, A.
Dux	Hildesheim, Germany	Steinberg, G.
Edelstein	Lodz, Poland	Edelstein
Falbaum	Poland	Mills
Gottlieb	Kolbuszowa, Poland	Edelstein
Haberman	anywhere	Harding
Hamerman	Borislav, Ukraine	Hamerman
Horwitz	Romania; Hungary; Czechoslovakia	Wertheimer
Hyman	Austria; Poland	Edelstein
Jamin	Vilnius, Lithuania	Sherman
Kalmitsky	Kishinev, Moldova; Mogilev, Radoshkovichi, Belarus	Bernstein, G.
Kaufmann	Koln, Germany	Steinberg, G.
Kendis	Zhitomir, Ukraine; U.S.	Sello
Kirschenbaum	Tarnobrzeg, Poland	Licht
Kushin	Vilnius, Lithuania	Kushin
Lezenzelo	Daliowa, Poland; New York	Bobish
Lichthaus	Kopaigorod, Mogilev-Podolski, Krilavits/Karilowitch, Ukraine	Licht
Margolies	anywhere	Harding
Mills	Kiev, Ukraine	Mills
Ohren	Rosencovitz, Latvia	Bell
Openheim	Lobzenica, Poland	Cohn, A.
Pesetsky	Slutsk, Belarus	Katz, E.R.
Radman/Rajdman	Miedzyrzec, Poland	Radman
Ratowsky	Royal, Russia; San Francisco, CA	Bobish
Rejdman	Miedzyrzec, Poland	Radman
Resnick	Ureche, Belarus	Katz, E.R.
Rotenberg	Lobzenica, Poland	Cohn, A.
Rotosky	Royal, Russia; San Francisco	Bobish
Rubensohn	Beverungen, Kassel, Koblenz, Germany	Steinberg, G.
Shapiro	London, England	Kay
Sherman	Khotin, Ukraine	Sherman
Slipoy	Pliskov (Plyskov), Ukraine	Rubenstein
Solon	New York; anywhere	Bobish
Soloveitchick	Chernigov, Ukraine; U.S.	Sello
Steinberg	Hildesheim, Hohenhausen, Vlotho, Germany	Steinberg, G.
Taitz	Lithuania	Mills
Topilowsky	England; Germany	Kay
Turkot	Tulna Talnoye, Kiev, Ukraine	Harding
Waltzman	Ustrzyki Dolne, Poland; New York	Bobish
Wertheimer	Trzebinia, Poland	Wertheimer
Wexler	Russia	Kay
Winegard	Russia	Kay
Yager	Minneapolis, MN; Romania	Mills

We hope to maintain this database for our membership. If you have a correction, update or new information you would like us to know about for future editions, contact: SFBA JGS, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147, or send e-mail to: <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com>.

Clarified Clothing Clues

by Melissa Leventon

Melissa Leventon, Curator of Textiles for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, has written numerous clarifications and corrections to the August ZichronNote article on her lecture about how clothing in old family photographs can enrich your genealogical research.

Although dating photographs through costume is very inexact, the process works best used in conjunction with other sources of information, such as knowledge of the events or people pictured. Other corrections follow below.

New York considered itself – and indeed was – a major fashion center, even if it was looking to Europe for fashion trends, and other cities in the United States looked to New York as well as to Europe for ideas. New York should be linked with Paris as a major style center, rather than with San Francisco.

The 1870s bustle was lower than the 1880s bustle – it basically sat in the middle of one's rump. It could vary in size – it wasn't always large – and it was often decorated with swags of material. The 1880s bustle sat higher, and did jut out much more horizontally than the 1870s bustle, almost like a small shelf, and was often not swagged. The disappearance of the bustle in the 1870s has nothing to do with its making walking difficult. If anything, walking was more difficult after the bustle disappeared than before, because the skirt narrowed considerably and was sometimes tied in at the back of the knees. A basic rule to keep in mind is that changes in fashion rarely have anything to do with practical considerations.

Decoration appeared on the skirt in both the 1870s and the 1880s – in the '80s it was more often asymmetrical, and was also a bit more severe and heavier than in the '70s. The bell-shaped skirts of the '90s might be paired with blouses if the outfit was what is known as a "tailor-made." If not, the skirt would be paired with a bodice, not a blouse. Puffy, leg-o'-mutton sleeves swelled to their largest size around 1895.

The first "bloomers" were actually worn in the 1840s by Amelia Bloomer and her followers, but they didn't catch on. In the 1890s, bloomers first began to be accepted for clothes worn for sports, like bicycling dress and gym suits. The more masculine look is much more a feature of the late 1880s and 1890s than of the 1900s, when clothes became more feminine again, before becoming a bit more masculine in the 'teens.

When skirts were bell-shaped, not all had trains. High collars were boned, meaning that they were

stiffened with pieces of rigid material such as whalebone and wire. The material providing rigidity was not necessarily bone.

The straight-front corset came about as a fashion change, not as the result of a technological change. The major technological change in corsetry came in the mid-19th century when metal eyelets were invented, which allowed corsets to be laced more tightly than had previously been possible.

The Ballets Russes was not the sole "source" of the Orientalism that became so popular in the early 'teens, although it certainly was a contributing factor. The so-called "lampshade" look required a wired overtunic which few women wore. Some contemporary conservative commentators considered the V-neck and swallow tail as "scandalous," nothing that we now would think of as scandalous. The swallowtail form has nothing to do with the bodice neckline. It usually describes a coat or overbodice that curves down the front and extends to a long tail at the center back – kind of like a man's morning coat, which is also described as "swallowtail."

The typical late-19th-century bathing suit for women was a knee-length wool dress, with sleeves, worn belted and over bloomers, stockings, and shoes, and usually with the hair tied up in a scarf or cap. In the general trend towards uncovering the body, first the stockings were discarded, then the bloomers and skirt got shorter, then the sleeves gradually disappeared, and we finally end up with the one-or-two-piece shorts-style suit in the 1920s. The 1930s variation tended to feature a short, swingy skirt. Men wore two-piece wool suits in the 19th century consisting of a long tunic and long shorts. Both gradually shortened, and one-piece men's suits appeared in the 1920s, but two-piece ones were still worn.

The suggested Gernsheim book is entitled *Victorian and Edwardian Fashion: A Photographic Survey*. (This useful reference work has been recently acquired by the SFBA JGS library.) The author of *20,000 Years of Fashion* is Francois Boucher.

BOOKSHELF

Texas Jewish Burials

by Rosanne Leeson

Teter, Donald L. & Gertrude M., Compilers & Editors. *Texas Jewish Burials: Alphabetically by name*. Texas Jewish Historical Society, 1997. P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766. 436pp. \$40-hardcover, \$23-spiralbound, paper covered.

In 1985 the Texas Jewish Historical Society began a project to locate and document all the old Jewish cemeteries in Texas. Letters were written, and articles were placed in major Jewish publications and synagogue bulletins all over the state. Many city and county historical societies, libraries and other governmental organizations were also contacted. This produced a list of many Jewish cemeteries, as well as a list of places where there were none known. At this point the project became dormant. It was not until 1991 that the Teters accepted the challenge of co-chairing a committee to continue the original task, which soon became a five-year project. As with many volunteer projects, assistance was slow in coming, and the Teters did most of the onerous legwork themselves.

Three distinct types of burial sites were covered: (1) consecrated Jewish cemeteries, separate from any other cemeteries; (2) sections of non-sectarian cemeteries, consecrated and dedicated as Jewish burial ground; (3) non-sectarian cemeteries where Jews were buried, although not in any specifically consecrated area. Recorded was the name, date of birth and date of death for each decedent. The data obtained were put into a computer spreadsheet, enabling the Teters to sort and present the information in a variety of formats. The current volume is alphabetical, by name.

Each entry includes a code that identifies the particular cemetery. The Teters have also included two separate introductory lists: (1) City, county, date the cemetery census was taken, number of burials and the name of the cemetery; (2) Similar to the first list, but includes the precise location of the cemetery, the year it was founded, the owner/operator and whether it contains any historical markers.

Understandably, there are some omissions and errors, principally due to the difficulty of identifying Jewish burials in non-sectarian areas, without the information from the families involved. Nonetheless, this is an invaluable tool for genealogists seeking to find links to Texan

COMPUTER/ON-LINE NEWS

Poor Jews' Temporary Shelter

by Dana L. Kurtz

If your immigrant ancestors passed through London, a new database offers a valuable new research opportunity. The Poor Jews' Temporary Shelter was set up to house immigrants on their short stay-over in London before embarking on the remainder of their immigration journey. The shelter was situated in Leman Street, Whitechapel.

The database is a catalog of the register entries for the many people who passed through the Shelter between 1895 and 1914. The database exceeds 43,000 entries, but has some gaps in dates as a complete set of registers no longer exists.

The site can be reached at: <www.hrm.uct.ac.za/shelter/shelter.htm> from which you can search by surname. For example, I entered "Bark*n" (the * wildcard standing for any letter in that position). You can further define your search by specifying a place of birth, final country of destination and a date range.

Two records matched my entry:

- A. Barkan, age 22 from Kowno, blacksmith; arrived 21-06-1905, from Hamburg
- Ch. Barken, age 28 from Grodno, tailor; arrived 22-08-1899, from Hamburg

The second entry is of particular interest to me, as my great-grandfather and family came from towns in Grodno Guberniya.

You can request additional information which may include: marital Status, number of children, length of stay, where arrived from and destination, ship name and other details.

relatives. At the very least, the information given regarding cemetery ownership provides the possibility of locating family members, or a funeral director who might be able to provide such a link. Texas law prevents one from obtaining a copy of a death certificate for 25 years after the death, and even after the 25 years have passed, photo identification is required for a request by mail. But for deaths that occurred between 1903, when records began to be kept, and 25 years ago, 1972, the precise cemetery location and date of death is a great help.

The Teters have performed a service of inestimable value. They have been honored by the Texas Historical Commission for their selfless work. It is to be hoped that future generations will carry the torch, and continue to update the data.

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ZichronNote

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