



זכרונות

ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XVII, Number 3

August 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
Free to members, \$3 for non-members, applicable towards membership
- 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. Aug. 17** **Berkeley:** *Research and Resources:* JGS library resources, problem solving and one-on-one assistance will be available. Bring your puzzles, questions and research to share! Congregation Beth-El Library, 2301 Vine Street, Berkeley. Phone: (510) 848-3988. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. **Special East Bay Meeting**
- Mon. Aug. 18** **Palo Alto:** *Publishing Your Genealogy*, a panel discussion. Hardcover tomes and small, inexpensive publications, provide memories to share. Come learn how it can be done.
- Sun. Sep. 21** **San Francisco:** *Understanding Jewish Tombstones* (tentative) Learn to decipher the symbols and language commonly found on headstones and footstones, and their genealogical value.
- Mon. Oct. 20** **Palo Alto:** To be announced
- Sun. Nov. 16** **San Francisco:** *12th Annual Brown Bag Workshop*. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Don't miss this terrific day of research, resources and sharing expertise! (See page 3)
- Mon. Dec. 15** **Palo Alto:** *The Santa Clara Public Library* (tentative). Learn about a great, local resource for Jewish genealogy.

Upcoming classes offered by the National Archives Pacific Region

- Fri. Aug. 15** *Chinese Immigration and Chinese in America - How to Find Files*. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Fri. Aug. 22** *Military - Part I: Pre-Revolution to War of 1812*. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Fri. Sep. 19** *Military - Part II: Civil War to World War II*. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Fri. Nov. 14** *Westward Movement*. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Classes held at: 1000 Commodore Drive., San Bruno. To register or for information, call (415) 876-9009.

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>.

Reprinting of material in ZichronNote is hereby granted for non-profit use when there is no explicit limitation and credit is given to the SFBA JGS and to the author(s). All other reproduction, without prior permission of the editor, is prohibited.

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

President: Dana L. Kurtz
(415) 921-6761, dlkurtz@ix.netcom.com

Vice President: Gayle Leyton
(415) 397-0110, tangun@ix.netcom.com

Secretary: Marian Rubin
(415) 668-3404, merubin@aol.com

Treasurer: Marc Seidenfeld
marc.seidenfeld@hints.com

Membership Chair: Sita Likuski
(510) 538-4249, SitaL@aol.com

Librarian: Judy Baston
(415) 285-4616, jrbaston@aol.com

Founder/Historian: Martha Wise, (415) 564-9927

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

©1997 Dana L. Kurtz

Get involved! December 1997 marks the end of the two-year term of the current SFBA JGS officers. Nominations for the positions listed below will be called for at the September and October meetings, with elections to follow in November.

From personal experience, I can attest that participation is a great means to the inside track on happenings in the world of Jewish genealogy. Even better, being a member of the SFBA JGS Board of Directors provides an opportunity to get to know the members of our society. I have made friends and heard great genealogy stories, many of which evolve into wonderful articles in ZichronNote, such as Dan Goodman's success story in this issue. Often these anecdotes teach me about resources and techniques for my own research. Elected positions are:

President	Vice President
Recording Secretary	Treasurer
Corresponding Secretary	

Please consider running for office or nominating another JGS member. Election ballots will be mailed to JGS members in November and must be returned by December 10. It sounds as though this is a long way off, but now is the time to look to the future of the SFBA JGS. If you have any questions about the duties and roles of any office, please contact any member of the board of directors. (See masthead on page 2 for contact information.)

Speaking of elections...the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies held its annual meeting at the recent International Summer Seminar for Jewish Genealogy in Paris. Elections were held to install officers for a two-year term. The results are:

SallyAnn Amdur Sack - President
Karen Franklin - Vice President
Hal Bookbinder - Treasurer
Saul Issroff - Secretary
Howard Margol - At Large
Lawrence Tapper - At Large
Arline Sachs - At Large
Bruce Kahn - At Large

The AJGS membership is comprised of independent Jewish Genealogical Societies. Among its many goals, the AJGS seeks to foster the development of new JGSs and present a unified Jewish genealogical face to the greater genealogical community, archives and other repositories, and interested entities around the world.

~Dana

SOCIETY NEWS

Member News

E-Mail

Address Changes

Shirley Wasserman Hausafus <pearl10571@aol.com>
 Brian Kaye <brkaye@pol.net>
 Paul Rubinfeld <prubin@eng.sun.com>
 Denise Selleck <kdmacsel@aol.com>

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

Loren Bialik Victor Levy
 Rae Sal Schalit

If you have an e-mail address but have not been receiving occasional SFBA JGS 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.

Address Change

Norm and Helene Laefer: (702) 270-3391
 2257 Summerwind Circle, Henderson, NV 89012

Welcome New Members

Judy Abernathy	Brownsville
Elva Behrens	San Francisco
Sherri Bobish	Jersy City, NJ
Nettie Breslin	San Francisco
Joan Edelstein and Dorrie Swanson	Oakland
Albert and Eleanor Fraenkel	San Francisco
Jerome Hamerman	Menlo Park
Eleanor Resnick Katz	Mountain View
Frank and Ellen Kushin	Menlo Park
Sara Allen Laws	Redwood City
Freda Leuin	San Rafael
Norman G. Licht	San Carlos
Julie Polunsky	San Francisco
Rex Sater	Santa Rosa
Noah Sherman	Berkeley
Marjorie Stern	San Francisco
Anne R. Jacobs Walker	El Cerrito

1997 Jewish Genealogy "Brown Bag" Workshop

Our 12th annual Jewish Genealogy Workshop will be held on **Sunday, November 16**. This year we have reserved three rooms at Fort Mason Center in San Francisco, from 1 to 5 p.m. We're just starting to schedule programs and are eager for your input.

Some of the tentative happenings:

- Beginning Jewish Genealogy class
- Open library with resource books, maps, microfiche, photocopier and experts to help lead you through the collection
- Special Interest Group discussions
- European research and travel
- Computer genealogy
- Translation services
- One-on-one assistance - getting unstuck
- Vendor demonstrations
- Door prizes!

Ideas for other activities are welcome.

We are also seeking **volunteers** to serve as special interest group leaders, help coordinate translator and vendor participation, arrange for door prizes, refreshments (donations encouraged!), and staff our welcome table and library.

A successful event depends on your participation! If you have suggestions or can contribute some time, please contact Dana Kurtz at (415) 921-6761, <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.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.

CALENDAR, cont'd.

More Genealogy Events

Local

Wed. Aug. 13, 10 a.m. East Bay Genealogical Society; **Another Look at the Oakland Library**. Tel: Gretchen Kohl, President, (510) 865-7176.

Thu. Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m. Contra Costa County Genealogical Society; **Share Your Resources**. Concord Police Station, 1350 Galindo St., Concord. Tel: (510) 235-7707.

Thu. Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. San Mateo County Genealogical Society-**Computer Group Meeting**. SMCGS Library, 25 Tower Rd., San Mateo. Tel: (415) 572-2929.

Thu. Sept. 4, 1:30 p.m. Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County; **Sentimental Journey - Share Surname Investigations, Ancestor Hunting & Family Reunions**. Aptos Library Meeting Room, 7695 Soquel Dr., Aptos. Tel: (408) 429-3530.

Sat. Sept. 20, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. **SMCGS-Computer Fair**. Sam Trans Building, San Carlos. Tel: (415) 572-2929.

Regional

Mon. Aug. 18, 7 p.m. JGS of Sacramento; **Trip to Poland**. Speaker Arlene Pearl. Albert Einstein Center, Arts & Crafts Room, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. Tel: Jane Paskowitz, (916) 633-9557.

Across the Country

Wed.-Sat. Sept. 3 - 6, Federation of Genealogical Societies, Dallas Genealogical Society; **Unlock Your Heritage - 1997 FGS/DGS Conference**. Dallas, TX. Write: FGS, P.O. Box 830220, Richardson, TX 75083-0220. Fax: (214) 907-9727.

Sat.-Sun. Sept. 13 - 14, San Diego Genealogical Society; **Genealogical and Family History Fair**. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South, Mission Valley, San Diego, CA. Tel: (619) 588-0065; <www.genealogy.org/~sdgs>.

Thu.-Thu. Nov. 6 - 13, **Jewish Genealogical Research Trip to Salt Lake City**. Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff. Write: 155 N. Washington Ave., Bergenfield, NJ 07621.

Foreign Travel

Sun.-Thu. Aug. 31 - Sep. 18, **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>.

JewishGen Family Finder

by Judy Baston

If someone were to ask me about the first steps a Jewish genealogist should take, I'd say without hesitation: Search the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF). After one has done that, looking not only for people researching similar surnames, but also the same or nearby ancestral towns, what should be the second step? Enter your own information, the surnames and towns you are researching, into the JGFF.

You've already done that, you say, when you paid your dues to the San Francisco Bay Area JGS. Proof of that is the listings in the *Family Finder and Membership Roster* that SFBA JGS members enthusiastically received in June. There are however, two distinct family finders, each with its particular appeal and purpose. It's important to make sure that your research information is included and up to date in each.

The SFBA JGS Family Finder includes some 1,500 surname listings and 1,200 listings of locations being researched. Each member of the society should have a copy of this listing. It is particularly useful to find other people, locally, who are researching the same name or the same town.

For example, when I order microfilms of Jewish records from Lomza or Ostrow Mazowiecka at the Oakland Mormon Family History Center, I can call people from our society's Family Finder who are listed as researching the same town, and let them know that the films are available for them to research, too. In essence, the society's Family Finder enables us to put together our own, informal Special Interest Groups through which we can share information, documents, maps, photos and ideas face-to-face.

Having our own "hard copy" of the Family Finder also enables us to find what we're not looking for. In this day of ultra-focused searches, we're apt to miss important "matches" that we've forgotten we're seeking. Someone at a JGS meeting may be researching the same name as your college roommate, or the same town in which your great-aunt's husband was born.

While the SFBA JGS Family Finder contains, as noted above, about 1,500 name listings, the JewishGen Family Finder now has more than 50,000 listings. In the last eight months, since it has been relatively easy to make on-line submissions of information, more than 2,100 new researchers have entered their data in the JGFF.

Some numbers of JGFF participation, provided by JGFF editor Gary Mokotoff, offer an interesting

continued on page 18

Success Story: How to Find Relatives By Accident

by Dan Goodman

Dan Goodman joined the SFBA JGS shortly after starting research into his family in 1994. He is looking for **GUTTMANN/GOODMAN, LEBIUSH, GARBER** in Suwalki and Kovno guberniyas, Lithuania and **HUTMAN** in Ukraine in the 18th and 19th centuries.

About three years ago I bought a computer. I hadn't a clue about how it was going to be used. One day it was realized that there was nothing on paper that would give our grandchildren any history of their roots. So the brilliant idea came, that since the computer contained a word processor, the investment could be justified by using that program to write a story about their ancestors. So I started putting down "on paper" what I could remember about the family. Little did I realize what had been started. That then led to the fatal mistake: a genealogy program was bought and installed.

It didn't take too long to realize that a family history consisted of more than just telling that in 1881 their third great grandfather, Meyer **HUTMAN**, was killed in the pogroms in Kiev following the assassination of Czar Alexander I. In 1882 or 1883 his widow came to America; she was so poor that she had to put three of her five children into an orphanage in New Orleans. Now the entire effort had taken another turn. It wasn't long before my wife realized she was no longer a "golf widow", but she had become a casualty of the technology age and was a "computer genealogy widow."

Oy, what a family. I had 17 aunts and uncles – and that doesn't include their spouses (all now gone-ab shalom). In my generation, on just the **GOODMAN (GUTTMANN)** side, there were 36 children; 11 of the 36 are still living. The youngest is my sister who is 76 years old and the rest of us range from 81 to 95. I still haven't found the nerve to count how many there were on my mother's side! Of the 11 who are still around most can't remember what they had for lunch – if they remembered to eat – much less details about the family. I am in that category. So the letter writing and phone calls began. I recently heard that the West Menlo Park branch post office may put up a plaque honoring me for my loyal and unwavering financial support of the United States Postal Service.

But it paid off. More than 1,100 members of the family have been found, and that does not include either the machetonem or the roughly 350 descendants of my paternal grandmother's five siblings. Family has been found from Menlo Park to San Francisco – and you get to San Francisco via New York, Mexico, Canada, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. Missing is Antarctica, but who knows!

Never give up hope. In June a note was received from a man named Miller in Syracuse, New York who tells about being in a Jewish Library in San Antonio, Texas several years ago, where he saw an exhibition about pioneer Jewish Texans. He found Joseph H. Goodman from El Paso who married Sarah **ROTHSCHILD** from Syracuse. He was able to contact a granddaughter of Joseph H. Goodman who gave him my name as a source of information on the Goodman Family. Joe Goodman was my father's brother. The connection came because Miller is working on his wife's family, some of whom were Rothschilds! But that is only the beginning. Back to this later.

The Goodman Family started arriving in El Paso, from Lithuania around 1885. Dad's six brothers and two sisters all came to El Paso. The seven brothers spent the rest of their lives and all are buried there. Joe Goodman became a one-man immigration service. He greatly reduced the Lithuanian population by bringing over some 57 Goodman relatives. In fact years ago there was a joke in El Paso that, at a Jewish party, you never said anything nasty about a Goodman because the person you were talking to was probably related. Criticizing each other was permissible.

Uncle Joe had a small wooden cabinet in his office. One drawer was labeled "F. E. Davids." When asked by his now 95 year old daughter Ruth, who F. E. Davids was, he replied with exasperation that it wasn't "a 'he,' it was a 'thing' – F. E. Davids for greenhorns." Ruth then examined the contents of the drawer and discovered that 'F. E. Davids' was 'affidavits.' This helps to explain why Guttmann is Goodman, Shmuel is Samuel and Yitzhak Ben Dalin is Isaac Bendalin.

In El Paso there was a character. Call him Herman for short – that was his given name. Herman had an interesting outlook on life and livelihood. He thought it more exciting to make a dishonest nickel than an honest dollar. For this he managed to spend a couple of terms as a guest of the United States penal system – like a term at Leavenworth and another at the La Tuna Federal Correction Center. Herman would never physically harm a person, but your pocketbook was fair game. His forte was mail fraud or dealing in restricted materials like mercury during World War I and tires during World War II. I always

continued on page 6

Relatives By Accident, cont'd from page 5

referred to Herman as 'my brother's cousin' much to the consternation of my sister-in law.

Now back to Miller. I never knew the exact relationship of Herman to the Goodman family until some information came from Miller. In addition to Rothschild there was a family named Zeeman (not the real name to protect the innocent). Zeeman, who was Herman's father, married Telze Goodman. Miller's wife was also a descendant of the Zeeman family. So from this long round-about way we have determined how Herman and the Goodmans are related.

Clues to family can be hidden in a single word or a brief statement. A cousin related a story that around 1956 he went on a vacation to Mexico City. On that visit he met a family named Guttman who were very hospitable. He said they were related. The Office of the Mexican Consul in San Francisco sent me a page from the Mexico City phone book page that listed the Jewish synagogues. Letters to them ended up with my getting a letter from a Jacobus Guttman who was President of the Jewish Community Center. This has led to a completely new branch of the family of the family. It appears that Jacobus' second great grandfather was a brother to my grandfather.

Another example of this randomness was when I was told of someone that had done genealogy work on a family named **LEBIUSH**. Knowing there was a Lebiush who married a Goodman, I wanted to see those papers. After much begging, pleading, promises and threats, a copy was sent to me. It was hand-written on ten pages of 11" x 17" ledger sheets. Imagine my excitement and amazement when I found the top names on it were my paternal grandmother's parents – my great grandparents!

When we came to northern California in 1945 my father told me to look up a relative in San

Francisco named Ralph Guttman who was in the linen business. At that time family history was not of particular concern to me. So nothing was done. From the family in Mexico City recently a hand-drawn family tree was sent to me. It was drawn on a piece of business stationery – much of it illegible. But it did show connections not only to the Guttman family but also to the family in Syracuse. The business letterhead read "Ralph Guttman – Linens." I never met Ralph Guttman. When he died about six years ago he was living in Menlo Park!

At times the results of searches can be both strange, and often, humorous. Recently an 87 year old relative was located living in Fort Worth, Texas. She told about her father coming to this country around 1890. He was supposed to go to El Paso, but apparently overawed by the vast open expanse of the Midwest, he turned around and ended up in Altoona, Pennsylvania. In trying to find more about him, letters were written to various agencies in Altoona, e.g., tax office, library and the Altoona Fairview Cemetery. The letter to the cemetery was returned with a large postal service stamp which read "Moved, no forwarding address." I wonder what happened to all those nice souls who had hoped to spend eternity at Fairview!

The siblings of my paternal grandmother are known, as are her parents. But the search for the other five to eight siblings of my paternal grandfather goes on. Whether they will ever be found is unknown. But perhaps the data I have collected will interest others in the family to continue the search. Eight generations starting ca.1816 have been identified. Our private Goodman Diaspora literally circumnavigates the globe. Too many died in the Holocaust and lie in unmarked graves. A few were fortunate enough to survive the camps and their children and grandchildren live on.

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.)*

Title	Author/Publisher	Date
City Directories at Sutro Library	Elizabeth G. Kot, Shirley P. Thomson	1996
County Courthouse Book [Jayson Wechter]	Elizabeth Petty Bently	1990
Guide to Background Investigations [Jayson Wechter]	Source Publications	1990
In Memory's Kitchen [Phyllis Green]	Cara DaSilva, ed.	1996
Izmir: List of 7,300 Names of Jewish Brides and Grooms Who Married in Izmir, 1883-1901 & 1918-1933	Dov Cohen	1997
Massachusetts Vital Records at Sutro Library	Elizabeth G. Kot, Shirley P. Thomson	1996
Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area [Marian Rubin]	Warren Blatt	1996
Syllabus to the 15th Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, Boston [Gordon Fine]		1996

**Volumes III and IV of "Migration From the Russian Empire" by Ira A. Glazier are back ordered and should arrive soon.*

PAST MEETINGS

Learning More About Our Ancestors from Family Photographs

by Gordon Fine

Do you remember mini-skirts? bell bottoms? love beads? Can you guess, from my questions, when my formative years were? Melissa Leventon, Costume and Textile Curator for the Museums of San Francisco, has refined those general impressions into a focused study of the clothes and hair styles worn by our ancestors. At the May meeting in San Francisco, Ms. Leventon provided the SFBA JGS with a survey of 19th and 20th century styles that can be used to date family photographs, in many instances, to a narrow date range. Following the lecture, Ms. Leventon delighted JGS members by dating photographs brought by attendees

Fashion magazines, clothing advertisements, dated photographs and portraits, and movie stills provide a chronology of when certain fashions were introduced and how long their popularity lasted. New styles rapidly disseminated from major fashion centers, such as Paris, to other major metropolitan areas such as New York and San Francisco. It took a little bit longer for such publications as Godey's fashion magazines to have an impact on what the ladies wore in Petaluma or Eisiskes, Lithuania. Men's fashions changed much more slowly and subtly than women's fashions.

Another factor to consider, is that your ancestors may have worn old, familiar clothes when having their pictures taken. Not everyone is "au courant." We may find a style we like and stick with it for many years, even long after the style has gone out of fashion. Clothes might also be hand-me-downs. Dating a photograph from these styles would skew the date toward an earlier time.

On the other hand, ancestors may have borrowed or rented clothes for special occasions, graduations, weddings, bar mitzvahs or funerals, which were commemorated by photographs. In those situations, the clothes may be years older than the photograph, or they may have been contemporary.

What are the time indicators to look for in family photographs? Large, high bustles were popular in the early 1870s. The bustle dropped by the late 1870s because it made walking too difficult. However, the horizontal bustle returned in the 1880s, only to disappear in the 1890s.

Dresses from the 1870s featured high waistlines, which dropped to a natural level by the 1880s, and decoration usually appeared on the skirt. The 1890s saw smooth-fronted skirts, gathered in a bell shape in the back. These skirts were often paired with high-collared blouses with puffy, leg-of-mutton sleeves that shrank after 1895.

Women's hair-do's in the 1870s were elaborate, upswept affairs. By the 1880s, bangs appeared and hair was worn higher, caught in a chignon. Elaborate hats were often worn and may have been decorated with feathers. Small bonnets, worn squarely on the head, became popular in the 1890s.

In the 1890s, sports for young women – especially bicycling – became popular. The first bloomers appeared and other fashions took on a more masculine, daring look in the early 1900s. Sleeves and shoulders featured draped fabric, with sleeves often puffed out and gathered at the wrist. Skirts were bell-shaped with a train. High collars were maintained by bone stays.

Technology, in the form of a straight-front corset, enabled the "Gibson Girl" to become the ideal for the period 1900 – 1908. Shoulders and backside were drawn back. Embroidery, lace and pastel colors were featured. Chignons and "pompadour" hair styles were topped by larger hats with deep crowns and feathers, sometimes even whole birds!

Around 1908, fashions began to de-emphasize "Gibson Girl" curves and promote a vertical silhouette. Vertical stripes were popular from 1908 – 1914. In the early teens, the Ballet Russe in Paris provided the source of the Oriental look's lampshade silhouette. Fashionable women wore flared tunics over a skirt or, occasionally, harem pants. Turbans accompanied these exotic outfits. At the same time, skirts narrowed and hobble skirts were most popular around 1912 – 1914, when after 20 years of high collars, bodices took on a "scandalous," v-neck or swallowtail form. Skirts became looser and flared around 1915, with looser and belted jackets. Barrel skirts were popular in the 1920s.

During World War I, skirts rose 2 – 3 inches above the ankle. By 1925, hem lines rose to knee level. The art deco influence resulted in asymmetrical hem, lines and sleeveless dresses were popular, especially for evening wear, featuring blocks of color.

Bobbed hair fashions began in the teens and continued into the "roaring 20s." Brimless cloche hats were worn low, just above the eyes.

continued on page 8

Family Photographs, cont'd from page 7

The slim look continued into the 1930s with natural waistlines and mid-calf, bias cut skirts. Dresses were made of clingy fabrics and had low-cut backs. Women began wearing culottes, trousers and, for the very chic, lounging pajamas. Hair styles and hats varied. Hair was bobbed, curled or waved, and generally was longer and softer.

As for women's bathing suits, bare arms were not shown until the late teens or early 1920s. Wool knit suits were common into the 1920s. By the 1930s, the shorts fashion evolved into a skirt. Men were not seen "topless" until the 1930s even though their bathing suits were two-piece.

The history of men's suits from the third quarter of the 19th century to the present is essentially confined to variations on the sack suit, what we think of as a business suit. Nineteenth century suits were made in many fabrics and colors, including white for sporting and/or summer wear. For formal occasions, men wore frock coats or morning suits. Some suits were double-breasted and half-belted for sportswear, worn with pants or breeches. In the 1880s, jacket buttons were high on the chest, lapels often had braid and trousers had no creases or cuffs. Cuffs appeared in the 1890s, when stiff shirt collars rose almost to the chin. From the 1890s to the early 1900s, long sideburns, mustaches and beards were fashionable. A well-dressed man always wore a hat, the style varying according to the occasion and the wearer's economic circumstances: bowlers, homburgs, straw boaters, top hats and jockey caps (usually tweed).

By the 1920s, men wore lounge suits with creases and cuffs, topped by a homburg. Sweaters were worn with sport coats and "plus fours," longer, baggy breeches.

To learn more, Melissa Leventon recommends Alison Gernsheim's *Victorian and Edwardian Fashion in Photographs*, Francois Bouches' *Twenty Thousand Years of Fashion* and Elizabeth Ewing's *History of Children's Clothes*. These are Dover publications.

Don't overlook the most obvious ways to date a family photograph; inscriptions on the front or back. Ask your relatives to identify the occasion. If the photograph was taken at Great-Aunt Myrtle's wedding, a marriage certificate can date the picture to the day.

Consider who is the youngest person in the photograph? When was he or she born? Dates of death for people in the photograph similarly provide dates after which the photograph could not have been taken.

Studio photographs usually provide the photographer's address. Tracing the address through city directories will provide a date range during which the photograph was taken. The photograph itself can provide a broad date range based on the technology used to take or develop and print the photograph.

Ms. Leventon's analysis of JGS members' family photographs confirmed that a close date range can enhance the value of the photograph. Dating the picture can help identify individuals. We can develop a sense of whether the sitters were stylish for their times, or unconcerned or unable to keep up with fashion. Thanks are due to Melissa Leventon for providing us with a new research tool and a way to place our ancestors in the context of their times.

Melissa Leventon dated the clothes of an elderly couple, in a photograph belonging to the author, to 1894 - 1896. Her analysis enabled him to determine that they were not his great-great-grandparents but in fact belonged to a different branch of his family.

Jewish Soldiers in the Russian Army

by Judy Baston

The names of nearly 30,000 Jews who were killed fighting in the Russian military in World War II are listed in the first three volumes of *Memory Book of Jewish Soldiers Who Died in Fighting Naziism, (Kniga Pamyati Voinov-Yevreev Pavshih v Boyah s Nacismom 1941-1945)*.

Volumes I, II and III of this work - which contain listings through surnames beginning with "S" ("C" in the Cyrillic alphabet), are recent arrivals at the Jewish Community Library, 601-14th Avenue, in San Francisco. They are reference works on the library's Russian bookshelf; they are not currently listed in the card catalog.

All listings are in Cyrillic, and most contain the person's first name, surname, birthplace, birth and death dates, as well as other information, such as where a person fell in battle. Although the list includes Jews in all Soviet military branches, covering of course, areas that are now in Ukraine and Belarus, it does not include those Jews who were killed as partisans.

The *Memory Book* was issued in 1996 by the Union of Jews and Handicapped Veterans, a Moscow-based organization. They are planning to publish Volume IV, covering surnames to the end of the alphabet, and have also noted their intention to publish additional volumes as more information is made available.

How I Found My American Relatives

by Vladimir Gelfand

Vladimir Gelfand starting looking for his American relatives in 1993, shortly after he arrived from Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, where he had worked as an engineer. Now, retired, he says he is the chauffeur for his granddaughter and plays chess.

For most Soviet Jews including me, when asked in the Russian mandatory employment questionnaire, we respond with apprehension, "I don't have relatives abroad." In our family we never talked about our American relatives, but I knew from my childhood that the three oldest brothers of my mother emigrated to the United States between 1913 – 1931, rescuing themselves from pogroms.

Fortunately, my younger brother was more foresighted than I was. After my mother's death, he took from her papers several photos of people unknown to us. We now know that these photos showed two of the brothers who had emigrated to the United States, the wife of one of them, and their daughter. My grandfather Wolf, and my grandmother Hannah, had a big family. My mother was their twelfth child. We knew the names of the brothers who had left: Semi-Judah, Nocham and Isser. In my memory I recalled the city of Chicago. I thought that one of the brothers used to work in the hat business (although this later proved to be incorrect).

With this small amount of information, I began my search, which took several years, to find these first immigrants of my family to America. Two or three months after I arrived, I was introduced to the extraordinary man, erudite and Volunteer (the capital is not a mistake), Professor Jerry Delson. He had much experience searching for relatives and in designing genealogical trees. Jerry found several generations of his family. He even went to Lithuania to do it. When I met Jerry, he was searching simultaneously for relatives of several new immigrants.

We went together to several resources. Among them were the National Archives (Pacific Sierra Region) in San Bruno and various libraries which have genealogical materials. The most impressive to me was the public library in Santa Clara. We saw lists of the United States census in 1920 and the telephone directories of Chicago for 1920 through 1946. We searched microfilms of the newspapers in which Jews published obituaries. We searched the list of passengers from ships that arrived in New York from Europe, and numerous other materials. In these searches, some people were lucky, and Jerry could give them the telephone

numbers and addresses of their relatives in two or three weeks. My mother's family name, **RIVKIN**, is very common and it can be written in several ways: Rifkin, Rivkin, etc. This complicated our work, and the search of several months gave no results.

I was upset and discouraged! From this moment, my daughter and son began to help in the search. They sent the inquiries to HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). After waiting one year, no result. Then we decided to continue our search by means of help from Chicago synagogues. We asked them to post on their bulletin board our letter and photos of our relatives. We wrote to all synagogues in the city, about 70 in all. We received responses from two of them. In one letter they recommended that we apply to HIAS. In the second letter they promised to publicize our request. Maybe the other synagogues did the same, but they did not inform us.

Then, suddenly... we got the long-awaited letter from Chicago. One of our American relatives recognized his uncle in our photo. With this we began to work to make our genealogical tree. My son wrote the computer program, and it was easy to make corrections in the tree. Now, in the fourth version of the tree, we have about 170 persons from different cities and countries. By the way, the names of brothers in America were Sam, Nathan and Oscar, and the business was shoes, not hats.

This search was very useful even to my American relatives. Some of them even met, for the first time, branches that we found. We began to know each other and to restore family connections. We became very good friends with a wonderful couple, Luba and Morris **GANDMAN** (my cousin and her husband). I have shared with you only a small part of the materials and events that I experienced. Finally, I want to say that the process of searching is very interesting and exciting. It gives the possibility to know better the country in which we are living now. Friends, go ahead and try this yourself!

A SFBA JGS member and former Secretary, Jerry Delson has spent many years helping Jewish immigrants locate long-separated family. Recently, Jerry co-chaired a very successful annual Russian Fair in Palo Alto.

LOCAL RESOURCES

LDS Film Rental Policy

Recently, the Mormon Family History Library changed their policy on microfilm rentals from Salt Lake City. Interpretation of the new policy seems to vary widely across Bay Area Family History Centers. The only consistent change, is that there is no more 6-month rental available. A brief survey of Bay Area Family History Centers provided the following information:

Location	Address	Telephone	Initial Rental	Renewal	Number of Renewals
Concord	3700 Concord Blvd.	(510) 686-1766	4 weeks - \$3.50	4 weeks - \$3.25	one-time
Fairfield	2700 Camrose Ave.	(707) 425-2027	60 days - \$3.50	60 days - \$3.50	2 renewals = permanent loan
Fremont	48950 Green Valley Rd.	(510) 623-7496	4 weeks - \$3.25	OR 10 weeks - \$6.50	2 renewals = indefinite loan
Los Altos	1300 Grant Rd.	(415) 968-1019	3 weeks - \$3.50	permanent - \$7.00	
Menlo Park	1105 Valparaiso Ave.	(415) 325-9711	45 days - \$4.00	60 days - \$3.50	one-time
Napa	2590 Trower Ave.	(707) 257-2887	5 weeks - \$3.50	5 weeks - \$3.25	2 renewals = permanent loan
Oakland	4766 Lincoln Ave.	(510) 531-3905	4 weeks - \$4.35	6 weeks - \$3.25	unlimited
Pacifica	730 Sharp Park Rd.	(415) 355-4986	60 days - \$3.50	60 days - \$3.50	1 renewal, then indefinite loan
San Bruno	975 Sneath Ln.	(415) 873-1928	60 days - \$4.00	60 days - \$3.25	one-time
San Jose	4977 San Felipe Rd.	(408) 426-1078	4 weeks - \$3.50	4 weeks - \$3.25	unlimited
Santa Clara	875 Quince Ave.	(408) 241-1449	30 days - \$3.75	30 days - \$3.75	one-time
Santa Cruz	220 Elk St.	(408) 426-1078	45 days - \$3.75	60 days - \$3.25	2 renewals = indefinite loan
Sebastapol	8100 Valentine Ave.	(707) 829-5965	6 weeks - \$3.50	4 weeks - \$3.50	2 renewals = indefinite loan

Please note that this information was obtained from volunteer staffers who may or may not be familiar with the new policies set in Salt Lake City. In two instances, two calls to an FHC resulted in two different pricing/time schedules. It is recommended that you confirm these rates with your local FHC.

California DMV Message Forwarding Service

Have you ever considered the California Department of Motor Vehicles as a resource for your genealogy? The California DMV will attempt to forward messages much like the letter-forwarding service provided by the Social Security Administration. According to their form, the DMV "is prohibited by law from providing residence address information from its files to those persons seeking to locate someone. In the interest of public service, the department has established a message forwarding service."

Submit Form INF 1211B (rev. 3/95), with a \$5.00 non-refundable fee, and the DMV will forward a short message to the person you are trying to contact (assuming they are found in the records.) You must provide the full name and birthdate; driver's license/ID card number; or vehicle license/VIN number of the person you are seeking.

The DMV reserves the right to review the message for content and to reject any message that, in the opinion of the department, appears to be contrary to the public interest. You will be notified if the message is returned unclaimed, although the DMV will attempt a redelivery if a forwarding address is obtained from the postal service.

Forms are available at local DMV offices, although many of the employees (and supervisors) are unfamiliar with it. They can also be obtained by mail from: Department of Motor Vehicles, Office of Information Services, Public/Commercial OIS-MFS, P.O. Box 944247 MS H264, Sacramento, CA 94244-2470.

*Some information from:
SCGS Root Digger, May, 1995
Solano County Genealogical Society*

Researching South African Jewish Genealogy

by Roy Ogus

A SFBA JGS member for nearly three years, Roy Ogus is researching the surnames, **OGUS**, **ALPERSTEIN**, **RODKIN**, **PERLOFF**, **BLACKER** and **WILLIAMS**, from Lithuania and Belarus.

South Africa's Jewish community is large and important. Although we may not know it, many of us have South African connections because our ancestors' siblings or cousins emigrated there. During the great wave of emigration from Eastern Europe (1881 - 1930s), many Jews, especially Lithuanians, left for the economic opportunity and freedom of South Africa. Some stayed at the transportation hub in England while other emigrants went to Argentina, Canada or America. Following the recent emigration of many South African Jews during the period of racial unrest, the end of apartheid has revitalized our cousins' homeland.

Introduction

I am a former South African who has lived in the Bay Area for more than 25 years. While growing up in South Africa, I knew little about my father's side of the family, with whom we had minimal contact. I knew that they were originally from Lithuania, but at that stage of my life, I had little interest in learning more details, where the family came from and why they had emigrated. It would, of course, have been much easier to have learned all this at the time, since many of the older relatives were still accessible.

It was not until fairly recently that my interest in family history became stronger. However, I was faced with the task of having to research these roots both from a great distance and without the help of most of the older family members who were now either deceased or whose whereabouts were unknown to me.

I was therefore forced to rely almost completely on archived documentation to reconstruct my family's story. I was quite surprised to find that an extensive number of South African records were available and were accessible from abroad.

This article is a summary of what I've learned. I also present an overview of South African history that is meant to provide a backdrop for the discussion of Jewish migration to the country and assist in the pursuit of South African Jewish genealogical research.

South African History

South Africa lies at the southern tip of the African continent, about three times the size of California in area, with a current population of approximately 43 million. In April 1994, an historical election took place, resulting in the

peaceful transition of governmental control from the previously white-dominated parties to a fully multiracial legislature. This has had a profound effect on the country, with political, social and economic ramifications in all walks of life.

Prior to 1600, the key inhabitants of the region were the Bushmen and Hottentot people in the west and the Bantu (blacks) who lived in the east, who migrated down from the interior of Africa. European interest in the Cape of Good Hope, on the southernmost tip of South Africa, arose from its strategic location on the sea route from Europe to the East Indies. In 1652, the first European settlers from the Dutch East India Company set up a supply base at the present site of Cape Town, for its ships on their way to the Far East. Soon afterwards, some employees left the firm and started independent farming in the surrounding area. They became known as *Boers* (farmers). They were soon joined by French and German settlers. By 1795, the whites had spread to a distance of about 500 miles from Cape Town and the colony had a total population of about 60,000.

Their descendants are Afrikaners (people of Dutch, German and French descent) who speak Afrikaans, which derives from the Dutch language. Afrikaners now comprise about 60% of the white population, people of European descent, who number about six million. The remaining two-fifths are mainly of British descent and speak English as their native language. Their forebears arrived in the 1820s. Jews are usually included as part of the English group.

After France conquered the Netherlands in 1795, the British occupied the Cape Colony to keep it out of French hands. In 1814, the British were formally given the Cape by the Netherlands.

The Boers soon came to resent British colonial rule, in part because English was the only official language. In 1834, Britain abolished slavery throughout its empire ruining a number of Boer farmers who depended on slave labor to work their farms.

This dissatisfaction came to a head in 1836 when there was a mass exodus of Boers from the Cape Colony into the interior of the country. The journey, called the *Great Trek*, brought the Boers into direct contact with the Bantu peoples living there. This resulted in many clashes and much

bloodshed. Eventually, the Boers settled in areas now known as Natal, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal.

During the 1850s, Britain annexed Natal, but recognized the independence of the Transvaal and OFS republics. In 1870, an extremely rich diamond field was found where Kimberley now stands in the Cape. This resulted in a mass influx of people from Britain and elsewhere, as fortunes were sought. Mining, diamonds, gold and other minerals soon became the basis of the economy. Disputes between the Boers and the British followed and Britain annexed the Kimberley area in 1871, and the Transvaal in 1877. The First Anglo-Boer War took place in 1880, resulting in a victory for the Boers.

In 1886, the huge Witwatersrand gold field was discovered in the present-day Johannesburg area, bringing an even larger influx of foreigners. By 1895, half of the Transvaal population was foreign-born. Relations between Britain and the Boers continued to deteriorate and in 1899, the Second Boer War broke out when Transvaal and the OFS declared war on Britain. In 1902, the war ended with a British victory, and the Transvaal and OFS became British colonies. In 1910, Britain allowed the four colonies, the Transvaal, Cape, Natal and OFS, to form the Union of South Africa, a self-governing country within the British Empire.

During World War I, South Africa fought Germany alongside British forces. From 1914 through the 1930s, a strong rise of Afrikaner (as the Boers now came to be called) nationalism occurred. During World War II, South Africa was again part of the Allied Forces, but there was a strong sentiment to remain neutral, due to sympathies with Germany.

In 1948, the Afrikaner Nationalist Party won the general election for the first time, and its *apartheid* program (separation of the races) was instituted. There was strong international opposition to these policies, which suppressed and eventually banned all black opposition parties. In 1961, South Africa left the British Commonwealth and in the ensuing years, economic and other sanctions were continually applied against the country to pressure the government into relaxing or abolishing its apartheid policies. Significant internal unrest was prevalent throughout the country.

In 1994 a breakthrough occurred in the internal negotiations between the Nationalist government and the African National Congress, the dominant black political organization. The historic April election resulted in the implementation of a multiracial government under President Nelson Mandela.

Jewish Migration to South Africa

The first Dutch settlers in 1652 reportedly included two Jews, but they soon converted to Christianity, because the Dutch East Indies Company allowed only Protestants to reside in the Cape.

Although Jewish links to South Africa start quite early in the country's history, legal immigration began only at the beginning of the 19th century when freedom of religion was permitted. About 16 Jews were among the British settlers in 1820, and more followed soon afterwards. In 1841, Benjamin Norden founded the first Jewish Congregation in Cape Town. By 1880, about 4,000 Jews lived in the country.

During the period 1880 – 1910, the first large wave of Jewish immigration took place. Significant numbers of Jews began to arrive from Lithuania for various reasons:

- Pogroms, conscription, natural catastrophes, disease and worsening economic conditions were key reasons for the exodus.
- Financial opportunity due to the discovery of diamonds and gold in South Africa and the resulting boom economy were strong attractions.
- Railroad development in Lithuania provided access to all-weather ports in Latvia (such as Riga and Libau). English shipping companies such as the Union and Castle Lines had set up offices in Lithuania, making transportation readily available.
- English shipping companies were making regular trips to South Africa from England, providing ready transportation for Jews who had arrived in England from Lithuania.

The South African Census of 1911 enumerated about 47,000 Jews, almost all of whom were from Lithuania.

A second wave of Jewish immigration occurred during the 1920s. The majority of these immigrants were also from Lithuania. The deteriorating conditions following World War I and the Russian Revolution, spurred emigration. U.S. restrictions on immigration, imposed in 1921, diverted to South Africa many Jews who had intended to immigrate to the U.S.

In the 1930s, South Africa restricted immigration in general, and the rise of Afrikaner nationalism, which was sympathetic to Germany, led to more restrictions on the entry of Jews. In spite of these restrictions, about 8,000 Jews from Germany and central Europe were permitted to enter before World War II began.

From 1970 to 1992, there was a large exodus of Jews from South Africa due to the deteriorating political situation. About 39,000 left, but 10,000 Israelis immigrated to South Africa during the same period.

The peak Jewish population was about 120,000, constituting 2.7% of whites. The current population of 106,000, represents 1.7% of the white population.

Contemporary Jewish Community

The contemporary Jewish community in South Africa has some distinctive characteristics:

- Predominantly of Lithuanian origin, the community is very homogeneous. It is overwhelmingly Ashkenazi with a small Sephardi population in Cape Town.
- A relatively low level of intermarriage and the community is somewhat socially isolated from the general population.
- Relatively affluent and well educated, a high value is placed on education.
- An emphasis on traditional and Zionist ideals, with a very strong support of Israel.
- Typically not directly involved in national politics, Jews were prominent in the anti-apartheid and liberation movements.
- About 80% are part of Orthodox congregations, however these cover much of the Conservative view as well. There is a small Reform affiliation.

The official central body in the community is the South African Jewish Board of Deputies which represents all major Jewish organizations and congregations to the government.

Key Sources of Genealogical Information in South Africa

The country is now organized into nine provinces. Prior to the 1994 elections, there were four provinces, which had been in existence since 1910. This prior organization is of greater relevance to genealogical research, since most of the archival documentation has been organized and is stored in relationship to the four provinces: Cape Province, Transvaal, Natal and the Orange Free State (OFS).

Access to each of the resources cited, varies. Some may only be accessed by a local visit to the particular institution, while others are available to researchers abroad either directly or by mail.

State Archives of South Africa

Prior to the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910, separate archives existed for each of the four colonies. After Union, the colonial archives were transferred to the control of the central

government under a State Archives system. The former colonial archives maintained their separate identities as *depots* of the State Archives.

The key depots of the State Archives system are the Transvaal Archives (Pretoria), the Cape Archives (Cape Town), the Natal Archives (Pietermaritzburg) and the Free State Archives (Bloemfontein). In addition, a so-called Central Archives is also located in Pretoria.

The State Archives maintain a computerized database of references to the key Archives holdings (National Register of Manuscripts (NAREM)). Documents are indexed by surname and the depot in which it can be found is noted. Many different types of documents can be located, including estate documents, naturalization documents and legal proceedings. NAREM is extremely useful for genealogical searches.

Access to NAREM is available at each of the archive depots or by mail request to the particular depot. A few major libraries in South Africa, such as the Cory Library, also provide database access.

With a reference from NAREM, a document can be viewed at the cited archive depot. The depot may be willing to copy the document by mail request. (Some documents have been withdrawn from photocopying due to their fragile condition; the depot may charge a fee for copying long documents.)

South African Office of the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths

The Office of the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths in the Department of Home Affairs holds copies of vital record certificates. This central government office will respond to requests for records by mail. Use of standard forms is suggested when submitting these requests and one should specify that *unabridged* certificates are needed. One should supply a relatively accurate date and place of the event for the requested certificate.

Note that birth and marriage certificates contain a significant amount of useful genealogical data, but "death notices" (see below) contain more useful information than death certificates.

LDS Family History Library Microfilms

The Mormon Family History Library (FHL) has a surprisingly large number of South African documents on microfilm. Importantly, these microfilms are available at Family History Centers worldwide. Key categories of documentation that are available in the LDS films are:

Estate/Probate Documentation

This documentation includes death notices, wills and liquidation/distribution accounts. Other

documents *may* be found in the estate file, such as antenuptial agreements. The death notice is particularly useful since it may contain information on the deceased's place of birth, parents' names, details of marriages and the names and birth dates of children or siblings (if the deceased does not have children). The death certificate does not contain most of this information. Available FHL microfilm of the indexes and actual estate documentation includes:

Cape:	Estates	1834 – 1950
	Estate Registers	1950 – 1989
	(only date of death and estate number)	
Transvaal:	Estates	1873 – 1950
Natal:	Estates	1871 – 1950
OFS:	Estates	1853 – 1950

Applications for Naturalization (Cape Colony only)

Available for 1883 - 1911, these documents have great genealogical value. They include age and birth location, and details of residence both in the Cape Colony and the British Empire, if applicable.

Death Certificates (limited genealogical value)

Available on FHL films for limited time periods and for selected provinces covering:

National coverage:	1955 – 1965
Cape Province:	1895 – 1928
Transvaal:	1864 – 1954

Miscellaneous

These FHL films contain spotty coverage for a few locations and time periods, and are not well indexed:

- Burial, marriage and death information for Cape Town and Johannesburg, including Jewish congregational records
- City and telephone directories (primarily the Pretoria-Johannesburg area) for selected years

South African Master of the Supreme Court Records

The Offices of the Master of the Supreme Court contain estate files for the periods subsequent to those housed in the State Archives depots. There are six Master's Offices including those in Cape Town and Pretoria. If estate files cannot be found in either the State Archives or the FHL microfilms, they can be obtained from one of the Master's Offices. Documents may only be viewed during a personal visit; requests are not entertained by mail.

Burial Information

The Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (AJGS) Cemetery Project database includes data for the three main Johannesburg Jewish cemeteries. Data from other South African cemeteries are forthcoming. The Jewish Helping

Hand and Burial Society (Chevra Kadisha) also has burial information available at their offices in Johannesburg.

Miscellaneous Sources

The Cory Library for Historical Research (Rhodes University, Grahamstown)

This library has extensive materials about the Cape Province, especially the Eastern Cape, and has access to NAREM. Genealogical research can be arranged for a fee.

South African Jewish Board of Deputies (Johannesburg)

This organization holds passenger lists documenting Jewish immigrants to South Africa from 1924 - 1929. Other holdings include an extensive (more than 60 year) collection of indexed newspaper clippings referring to individual Jews, as well as a set of newspaper archives for the main Jewish and Yiddish publications. Board of Deputies information is accessible by local visit or by mail.

Jewish Genealogical and Historical Societies

Societies have been formed in Johannesburg and Cape Town that are willing to help researchers access information in the country.

Museums and Libraries

A number of museums and libraries contain useful information for the Jewish genealogist. These include the Cory Museum (see above), the Jewish Pioneers Memorial Museum in Port Elizabeth, the Jewish Museum in Cape Town and the South African Library in Cape Town.

Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge the continual and generous help that Dr. Saul Issroff, of the JGS of Great Britain, has provided me since I began my research. His InfoFiles on South Africa remain one of the most comprehensive compilations of information on South African Jewish Genealogy available today.

References

The JewishGen InfoFiles on South Africa, <www.jewishgen.org>, are comprehensive on a number of topics. Included is list of valuable addresses and an extensive bibliography. The InfoFiles are derived from an article published in *Shemot*, Volume I,4, 1993.

Other valuable references are: R. T. Lombard's *Handbook for Genealogical Research in South Africa*, Human Sciences Research Council, Pretoria, 1990; and Thomas Jay Kemp's, *International Vital Records Handbook*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, 1994.

SFBA JGS Family Finder Update

By now all SFBA JGS members should have received our 1997 Family Finder and Membership Roster. Our thanks go to Sita Likuski and Jeremy Frankel who put in many, many hours of hard work to put it all together.

Not surprisingly in a publication of this size, there were a few mistakes and omissions. Please take a moment to make the following corrections and updates to your copy.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Member</u>
Abramovich	Sokoly, Belarus	Baston
Arelyin	Prerov (Prerau), Czechoslovakia	Chutick
Barsky	Tulchin (Tolchin), Ukraine	Rubenstein
Bialostotszky	Ozernany (Oezierna), Ukraine	Hanig
Cahen	Wissembourg, Alsace, France; Worms, Germany	Convers
Cerf	Saverne, Alsace, France	Convers
Dahlmann	Surbourg, Alsace, France; San Francisco, CA	Convers
Dalmbert	Wissembourg, Mutzig, Alsace, France	Convers
Dreyfus	Wissembourg, Hochfelden, Alsace, France	Convers
Dworsky (Kohanim)	Raczki, Suwalki Guberniya, Poland; Norway	Malkin
Goldman	Prerov (Prerau), Czechoslovakia	Chutick
Hoffman(n)	Prussia; Baden	Abernathy
Israel(I)owitz	Konstantynow (Kosnitin), Poland	Chutick
Kahn	Saverne, Alsace, France	Convers
Kigel	Poland/Ukraine	Hanig
Kramer	Bedzin, Poland	Chutick
Levy	Rouen; Strasbourg, Marmoutier, Alsace, France	Convers
Maier	Heidelberg, Germany	Convers
Mayer	Hechingen, Germany	Convers
Mondschein	Zbarazh, Ukraine	Hanig
Muller	Delhingen, Bischwiller, Alsace, France; New Orleans, LA	Convers
Niclas	Konstantynow (Kosnitin), Raciborz (Ratibor), Poland	Chutick
Oserowicz, Uszer	Fordon, Poznan, Poland	Oser
Portnoy	Tulchin (Tolchin), Ukraine	Rubenstein
Propheter (Profheter)	Chicago, IL; San Francisco, CA	Abernathy
Roos	Hochfelden, Alsace, France; San Francisco, CA	Convers
Samuel	Herrlisheim, Alsace, France	Convers
Schnitzer	Konstantynow (Kosnitin), Poland	Chutick
Serweta	Lomza, Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland	Baston
Skipoy, Rubenstein	Pliskov (Plyskov), Ukraine	Rubenstein
Sokol/Socol/Socal	Boyarka, Ukraine	Hanig
Swirin/Zvirin	Minsk, Belarus	Kapiloff
Weinberg	Ozernany (Oezierna), Ukraine	Hanig
Weisstein	Potok, Ukraine	Hanig

Address Updates

Andre Convers
4, allée des hauts dimanches
78430 Louveciennes, France
Tel: 01 39 69 30 73; e-mail: <andreconvers@compuserve.com>

Judy Abernathy
P.O. Box 397
Brownsville, CA 95919
e-mail: jabernat@juno.com

Please remember: all information published in the SFBA JGS Family Finder and Membership Roster is solely for use by SFBA JGS members who are pursuing their genealogical research.

Mea culpa: In editing the introduction from Jeremy Frankel, I transposed the German spelling of Vienna. It should read "Wien."

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>.

NATIONAL RESOURCES

New York Public Library Renovations

by Rhoda Miller, JewishGen (5/25/1997)

I was at the New York Public Library (NYPL) the other day and learned that the Main Reading Room will be renovated for the first time in its 100 year history. The work is scheduled to begin in summer 1997 and last until "early 1999." Hopefully, it will be completed in time for the N.Y. JGS summer seminar in 1999!

In the meantime, for those who might be headed to New York to do research, there are plans to provide for ongoing use of facilities, but services will be relocated and there will be fewer seats and slower service. The library has advised the public to use other library facilities whenever possible.

During the renovations, Rooms 119, 120 and 121 will house many essential services, (submitting call slips, accessing CATNYP terminals, CD-ROM databases and the internet), and provide many of the volumes usually available on open shelves. The reading room will be in the Gottesman Exhibition Hall, where books will be delivered to readers. Photocopying services will be in Gottesman as well as other locations. The microforms collection will be in Room 229. The Genealogy and Local History Division will remain in its usual location with full services but access to the room will be changed.

The NYPL has published *Renovation News* to keep users informed and advises that its website will be updated. <<http://www.nypl.org>>.

JGS-Hawaii Off the Ground

by Anne Feder Lee

The first official meeting of the JGS of Hawaii took place on March 19, 1997, followed by meetings in May and July. The first two meetings were devoted to sharing experiences (or lack thereof) in searching for ancestors and family members. Future programs include: visiting the library of a much larger (and well organized) genealogy group here in Hawaii – the Sandwich Isle Genealogy Society; a speaker on the history of Jewish residents in Hawaii; and sharing ideas on how to organize all those papers we collect in doing genealogy.

Presently we have 23 members. We have adopted preliminary bylaws and have joined the AJGS. Dues

for 1997 are \$10. Our annual meeting will be held in December at which time we will elect 1998 officers and formally adopt bylaws. It is quite clear that there is real interest in our group (we think that 23 is a pretty good number for just starting out).

I would like to add that the Sandwich Isle Genealogy Society, mentioned above, is very excited about our being created. They have offered us whatever help they can in the true spirit of Aloha.

I have been described as the "midwife" of our new group, a label which is pretty accurate. This all came about when I realized how lonely it was doing my genealogy with only my computer as company. My family and friends were getting sick and tired of my stories. One day I saw a message on JewishGen from another person in Honolulu. He was enthusiastic in response to my e-mail asking if he was interested in a group. The rest is history.

Contact: Anne Feder Lee, President, JGS-Hawaii, <annelee1@compuserve.com>.

Lithuanian Special Interest Group (LitvakSIG)

by Bernard Kouchel <koosh@bc.seflin.org>

The LitvakSIG, originally limited to the northwest area of Lithuania has expanded to include all of Lithuania. The SIG seeks to encourage and support the preservation and computerization of primary sources of genealogical data for the descendants of the Lithuanian Jewish community. We also hope to develop a cadre of individuals who will work directly on the databases, enabling the data to be placed on the JewishGen web site for public dissemination.

Internet e-mail access to the databases will be available via a JewishGen search engine. E-mail requests to search the database will be available by name, town and other specifics built into the search engine.

To subscribe, send e-mail to: <listserv@mail.jewishgen.org>. In the body of the message enter <subscribe LitvakSIG YourFirstName YourLastName>. To receive postings in digest format, include <set LitvakSIG digest>. Post messages to <LitvakSIG@mail.jewishgen.org>. Please provide a meaningful subject line and sign your article (full name please).

The coordinators for the LitvakSIG are Davida Noyek Handler <dnhiowa@aol.com> and David and Sonia Hoffman <dbh12345@aol.com>. We hope to hear from you.

What's In A Name?

by Lillian Wurzel

Lillian, a long-time SFBA JGS member, is a first generation American. Her genealogical research was prompted by not having known any of her grandparents, since they did not immigrate. Her present focus is on her maternal family, including **PRINZENTHAL** from Koked, Hungary and Nadasd, Slovakia; and **TRAXLER** from Nadasd and perhaps Czaj near Kosice, Slovakia.

Names can be useful in furthering your genealogical research. Here are some examples from my own searches:

I. Three Minnies Point to a Common Grandmother

"Aunt Minnie," my mother's sister, died a few years ago at what we believe was age 97. We never knew her birth date, we're not sure if she knew it! She mentioned once that she used a certain birth date, in order to make herself younger than her husband, after admitting she was actually older than he was.

When I got into genealogy, Aunt Minnie's first cousin in Cleveland, also named Minnie, told me she knew Minnie's birth date as 1888 and added "I was named for my grandmother." (That was important information!) A while later, another relative was found, a first cousin to both Minnies, also named Minnie, who was born in 1888 or 1889.

The name "Minnie" (Mindel) occurring three times among three closely related women of the same generation, gave me several leads:

1. All were named after the same relative;
2. The grandmother of the Cleveland Minnie must have died in 1887 or 1888 (which you can enter in your records as "c.1887, 88" meaning "circa" or "about" the year you list); and
3. Three "Minnies" confirms (or strongly suggests) that they shared a common grandmother who was probably named "Mindel" or "Minnie."

II. Names May be Passed Down in Hebrew - If Not In English

"Tzirl" was my maternal grandmother's name. I do not know when she died, but I remember that when I was much younger, someone had written to my mother and aunt Minnie about Tzirl's death in Slovakia. But when did Tzirl die?

I've learned, when completing pedigree or family charts, always to add the Hebrew name next to the English name, because many of our English names are not translations of our Hebrew names.

Listing Hebrew names of my first cousins (Aunt Minnie's four daughters), I discovered that the youngest cousin, Barbara, born in December 1928 had the Hebrew name "Tzirl!" Time passes and I'm

still searching for family. I find that grandmother Tzirl's sister came to Bridgeport, Connecticut in 1908, following several of her children, Eventually, I located one of her granddaughters, Caryl, in Scottsdale, Arizona. Caryl's Hebrew name is "Tzirl" and she was also born in 1928! Too much of a coincidence I think, so I suspect my grandmother "Tzirl" died in 1927 or 1928.

III. Lesson Learned

Always list Hebrew names along with names in English. This may help you determine the name of a relative in an older generation. Or, it can help you date when a relative died. It can also help confirm that someone you locate in your search, is related to you because of the presence of a common Hebrew name, and the coincidence of a common or close birth year.

Although I have yet to find documentation, it's a good bet that my great-grandmother's name was Minnie and I am hoping to find a 1927 or 1928 death certificate for Grandmother Tzirl.

Prominent Jews of Lodz, Poland

During the Hundred Years Before World War II

This is a combined name index of over 600 families cited in three recently published books regarding the accomplishments and lives of Jewish men and women who shaped Poland's second city. Genealogical comments by *Jan Engel* have been added.

\$7.50 (plus \$1.50 S&H)

(CA residents please include sales tax.)

Genealogical Data Systems

P.O. Box 6852

San Jose, CA 95150

Phone: (408) 264-1280

E-mail: fvd07a@prodigy.com

INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

Austrian Research Resources

by Barry Klezmer

In the August 1996 issue of *ZichronNote*, (Volume XVI, Number 3), I provided a brief account of my research when I was in Vienna. That issue did not contain the address for Herr Walter Pagler, overseer of four Jewish cemeteries in Vienna. He maintains the cemeteries (by private donations), and a database containing nearly 500,000 Jewish names of those buried. He can provide a printout of any surname requested. The surname list contains first name, age at death, occupation, place of residence and place of death, along with cemetery plot location. The time span is from approximately 1700 to the present. Those interested in contacting him may do so by mail or by fax. I would suggest making a donation of about \$20. The donation helps to support his work for four excellently maintained sacred sites. His address is: Mag. jur., Walter Pagler, Zentralfriedhof 1. Tor, A-1110 Wien (Vienna), Austria

Vienna City Archives

Angus Baxter's book, *In Search of Your European Roots* (available in the SFBA JGS library), provides information about another valuable resource in Austria, the Vienna City Archives. The address is: The Vienna City Archives (Stadtarchiv, Wien), Magi-Evidenz, Heimatrolle, Rathaus, A-1082 Wien (Vienna) Austria. It is suggested that when writing to Austria, you include "Europe" on the envelope. Mail has been known to be sent to Australia.

The Archives' holdings include:

- Conscription Lists (Konskriptionsregister), 1740-1820: name, date and place of birth, and often name and address of next of kin;
- Passport Controls (Passkontrollen), 1795-1901: name, date and destination of people who left Vienna for overseas or part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire;
- Citizen Books (Bürgerbücher), 1600s-1900s: names and addresses of people becoming citizens of the city;
- Tax Books (Steuerbücher), 1600-1905: taxpayers, addresses and occupations, indexed by name to 1748, by profession 1749-1905;
- Guild Records (Zunftbücher), 1600s-1800s: partially complete, names of masters and apprentices;
- Wills and other Probate Records (Testamente): early 16th century to the present, indexed;
- Certificates of Domicile (Heimatscheinlisten), 1850-91: identity documents listing place of birth, occupation and address;
- Labor Book Registers (Arbeitsbuch-Protokolle), 1820 – 1891: employee name, address, age, occupation and employer;
- City Directories (Adressbücher), 1797 to present: name, address and occupation; necessary for using census records;
- Pedigrees (Abstammungskartei von Personen Jüdischer Abstammung): family trees containing a half-million names of Austrians with Jewish blood, with many families' information going back to the early 19th century;
- Census Returns (Personenstandsgesetz): The first four national censuses (1869, 1890, 1900, 1910) were for the entire Austro-Hungarian Empire and the most recent seven are for present-day Austria. These records are located at: Central Statistics Office, (Statistisches Zentralamt), Heldenplatz Neue Berg, 1010 Vienna

Other records to be found in the Vienna City Archives include: poorhouse records, orphans' lists, court records, wills, inquests, mortgages and a partial death index of the city from 1648.

JGFF, cont'd from page 4

glimpse of how the world of Jewish genealogy has grown in the last seven years.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Researchers</u>	<u>Entries</u>
1990	1,300	20,000
1994	2,300	30,000
1996 Dec	3,500	40,000
1997 May	4,700	50,500

While it is likely that the largest growth in the JGFF has come from entries made on-line through the JewishGen web site, <<http://www.jewishgen.org>>, you need not use a computer to search the Family Finder or to make sure that your research information is included.

Twice a year, a hard copy of the JGFF is published, and copies are available for research at all SFBA JGS meetings. If you do not use a computer or have Internet access, you can submit the names and towns you are researching by mail, on a form available at JGS meetings or from Membership Chair Sita Likuski.

If you regularly search the JGFF on-line or at JGS meetings, there's a good chance you may find a "match" for the names and towns you're seeking. But if you don't enter your own information in the JGFF, and keep it up to date, how will those long-lost relatives ever find you?

BOOKSHELF

Kid's Genealogy

Adapted from an article by Jonathan Schwartz, Librarian of the Jewish Community Library, 601 - 14th Avenue, San Francisco, from a recent issue of BJE Resources, a publication of the Bureau of Jewish Education.

For Jewish genealogists eager to find ways to interest our children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews in family history, the Havas Children's Library at the Jewish Community Library in San Francisco, has a number of books that can be excellent resources for learning about family history in its broadest sense. Here are a few.

Ira Wolfman's *Do People Grow on Family Trees? Genealogy for Kids and Other Beginners* (Workman Publishing, 1991) is an upbeat guide to the ins and outs of family history. Formatted in newspaper style, with columns, headlines and photos on every page, it introduces the immigration experience and how to learn about family stories in an easily accessible, fun-filled way.

Three books demonstrate how relatives are a major source of family history. *Jewish Grandmothers* (Beacon Press, 1976) is a book of interviews edited by Sydelle Kramer and Jenny Masur. In *Grandpa: A Young Man Grown Old* (Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1980), a photo essay by Harriet Langsam Sobol, the author's teenage daughter Karen, interviews her grandfather. By combining contemporary and vintage photos with well-edited transcripts, the book illustrates one man's life, and introduces the idea of young people interviewing members of their own families.

Still another, *Dear Hope...Love, Grandma* (Alef Design Group, 1993), by Hilda Abramson Hurwitz and Hope R. Wasburn, edited by Mara H. Wasburn, records a real exchange of letters between an eight year old and her grandmother, showing how correspondence with distant relatives can not only be a way to gather information, but to also cement family bonds.

Finally, two books offer contrasting techniques for using physical objects in family history efforts. David Grupper and David G. Klein's *The Paper Shtetl: A Complete Model of an East European Jewish Town* (Schocken Books, 1984) presents one way to show youngsters the world from which their families came. The black-and-white paper foldables of buildings, animals and people can be adapted for individual projects and young people can elaborate on them based on their own family recollections.

COMPUTER/ON-LINE NEWS

Web Sites for Oral History

by Dana L. Kurtz

Recently, I received a number of queries seeking information on organizing and conducting an oral history. I searched the Internet for ideas and found surprisingly few resources. However, those out there offer good insights. Suggestions are welcome!

www.jewishgen.org/infocfiles/quest.txt

JewishGen's InfoFile lists 90 questions. To have it e-mailed to you, send a message to <quest@jewishgen.org>, leave the subject and body blank. You may wish to consider your subject's patience and winnow the list down!

dc.smu.edu/dvjcc/gwSection1.html

The Dallas JGS web site includes a "how to" discussion, a list of questions and book references.

www.lib.berkeley.edu/BANC/ROHO/rohotips.html

www.lib.berkeley.edu/BANC/ROHO/1minute.html

"rohotips" is a list of suggestions and tips for interview preparation. The One Minute Guide to Oral History also has good information.

www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/oralhist.htm

This site provides a good list of questions.

http2.sils.umich.edu/HCHS/ORALHIST.html

The Historical Center for the Health Sciences offers planning suggestions and references.

cs.muohio.edu/Archives/h-business/nov-94/0040.html

This site's topic is "Taking An Oral History."

gopher://riceinfo.rice.edu:1170/11/Projects/History/Oralhistory/oralhistory

Provides an outline of topics and other information valuable in preparing an interview.

atl46.atl.msu.edu/moha.html

[scnc.leslie.k12.mi.us/~charnle2/ohlinks.html#ORAL HISTORY METHOD AND](http://scnc.leslie.k12.mi.us/~charnle2/ohlinks.html#ORAL_HISTORY_METHOD_AND)

The Michigan Oral History Association offers general information and a links page. Some are under construction but promise good information.

Joseph and Anna's Time Capsule: A Legacy from Old Jewish Prague (Summit Books, 1984) by Chaya Burstein, introduces the notion that artifacts are a way to preserve history. Using photos of objects from an extraordinary museum show, Burstein brings to life the story of her two young protagonists. Having read the story, youngsters can be encouraged to collect family heirlooms in order to explore their historical value and use them to tell their own stories.

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XVII, Number 3

August 1997

Feature Articles

How I Found My American Relatives	Vladimir Gelfand	9
JewishGen Family Finder	Judy Baston	4
Learning More About Our Ancestors from Family Photographs	Gordon Fine	7
Researching South African Jewish Genealogy	Roy Ogus	11
Success Story: How to Find Relatives By Accident	Dan Goodman	5
What's In A Name?	Lillian Wurzel	17

Departments

Bookshelf	19	Local Resources	10
Calendar	1, 4	President's Message	2
Computer/On-Line News	19	National Resources	16
International Resources	18	Society News	3

Contributors to this Issue

Judy Baston, Gordon Fine, Vladimir Gelfand,
Dan Goodman, Barry Klezmer, Bernard
Kouchel, Dana Kurtz, Anne Feder Lee, Sita
Likuski, Rhoda Miller, Roy Ogus, Jonathon
Schwartz, Lillian Wurzel

ZichronNote

SFBA JGS

P.O. Box 471616

San Francisco, CA 94147-1616