



זכרון ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XVIII, Number 2

May 1998

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 at 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. May. 17** **San Francisco:** *Rabbi Alan Lew* of Congregation Beth Sholom will share his experiences researching his own family history.
- Sun. Jun. 14** **Berkeley:** *Publishing Your Genealogy*, a panel discussion. Simple, inexpensive publications and elaborate hardcover editions provide memories to share. Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley. Telephone: (510) 848-0237. **Special East Bay Meeting**, Doors open at 12:30 p.m., program begins at 1 p.m. (See directions, page 6.)
- Mon. Jun. 15** **Palo Alto:** *Techniques for Successful Networking*. This panel discussion will focus on familiar and not-so-familiar avenues for genealogical networking. Special interest groups, use of publications, the Internet and other ventures will be considered.
- Sun. Jul. 26** **San Francisco:** *Highlights of the International Summer Seminar in Jewish Genealogy*. Participants at the recent seminar in Los Angeles will share new-found techniques and resources, and new developments in Jewish genealogy. **[Note date change]**
- Mon. Aug. 17** **Palo Alto:** TBA.
- Sun. Sep. 13** **San Francisco:** *Preserving the Stories of Old Photographs*. Philip Adam of Restored Photographics will speak about the various types of old photographs and how to care for them. Philip will also preview his upcoming book of photographs and oral histories.

Upcoming classes offered by the National Archives Pacific Region

- Fri. May 15** *Military-Part I: Pre-Revolution to War of 1812.* 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Fri. Jun. 5** *Military-Part II: Civil War to WWII.* 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Classes held at: 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. Fees: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.
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. The deadline for contributions is the 1st of the month preceding publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submittals. Submissions may be made in hard copy, on 3-1/2" floppy disks 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 address.

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 business card-sized (3-1/2 x 2 inch) insertion is \$10 per issue, quarter-page ad \$20, half-page ad \$35, and a 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 tax-exempt pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Make your check payable to "SFBA JGS" and send to: Sita Likuski, Membership, 4430 School Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

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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

by Rodger Rosenberg

California Genealogical Society Fair A Success

For those of you who were not able to attend the California Genealogical Society's fair in March, and missed our table and enjoying all the 'nosh,' I am pleased to report on the high level of interest in our Society. Many "newbies" were amazed at the resources available for Jewish genealogy, as well as many "not so newbies" who had a chance to discover some of the latest additions to our ever-growing library - myself included.

An interesting question posed to us, concerned Portuguese Jewish genealogical resources. From the number of requests for information we had, it is apparent that this is a rapidly growing area of research. I am sure we will begin to see scholarly publications on the topic before long. We also had a large number of people stopping by who had just found out that they had ancestors who were Jewish. They were pleased to discover that our Society exists and that so many resources are available.

Other news from the CGS fair includes the Society's receipt of a review copy of Ultimate Family Tree software, for review in an upcoming issue of ZichronNote. I must take my hat off to Dana Kurtz for her "initiative" in obtaining it, and I am eager to see what she learns after she puts it through its paces. We also met with marketing representatives from both Bröderbund software (Family Tree Maker) and Palladium Interactive (Ultimate Family Tree). Both companies are very interested in hearing about how they could better customize their software to meet our unique needs. Finally I want to thank all those who volunteered their time and expertise at our table. YOU made the event a real success!

If you are planning to attend the July Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Los Angeles, I know you will want to participate in a "How to prepare for the Summer Seminar" meeting. This informal gathering will take place on **Sunday, June 28**, at 11 a.m., in San Francisco (location to be determined). Anyone who would like to attend should let me know either by calling (415) 666-0188 or sending e-mail to <eandr@ix.netcom.com>.

Finally, don't forget to visit our library, housed at the Institute for Masonic Studies, in San Francisco. See page 15 for more details.

— Rodger

SOCIETY NEWS

Contributions

Thanks to the many members who generously made donations over the membership dues level.

David A. Baerncopf	Judith Wilen Krongold
Judith Baston	Roseanne and Dan Leeson
William and Lisa Brinner	Martin L. Lefkovits
Joan Brownstein	Manfred Lindner
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Debra Katz	Randy Stehle
Gary Katz	Larry Tesler
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Pearl and Merle Krantzman	Gail Todd
Bernis and Larry H. Kretchmar	Lillian Wurzel
	Milo Zarakov
	Eugene Zauber
	Edward Galland Zelinsky

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.

Welcome New Members

Susan Austin	San Francisco
Jacqueline Braker	Walnut Creek
Adele Donn	San Francisco
Derek Durst	San Francisco
Jane Frankel	Visalia
Betty Goren	Emeryville
Lisa Handwerker	Berkeley
Thea Drell Hodge	Palo Alto
Matt Hoffman	Berkeley
Sybel Schalit Klein	San Francisco
A.J. Malerstein	San Francisco
Diane Newman	Berkeley
Margot Strauss Parke	San Francisco
Sarah Patricia Pausner-Williams	San Rafael
Victoria Reed	San Francisco
Arliss Rest	Blaine, WA
Mary Russell	Menlo Park
Rony Sagy	San Francisco
Ethel Silverstein	San Francisco
Joanna Snyder	Los Gatos
Michelle Zippel Steinhart	Mill Valley
Devera and Michael Witkin	San Francisco
Claire Youkilis	Berkeley
Naftali Zisman	San Francisco

In Memoriam

Armand Cohn, President of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society from 1988 - 1990 passed away recently. Armand's presidency saw the SFBA JGS continue its growth and outreach throughout the Bay Area.

Armand's interests included Western Jewish history and he was a long-term member of the Western Jewish Historical Society. He dreamed of establishing a historical and genealogical center at the Bush Street Synagogue when and if it was renovated and opened as a Jewish museum.

CALENDAR, cont'd.

More Genealogy Events

Local

Tues. May 12, 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. Congregation Beth Emek, corner of College Avenue and South "M" Street, Livermore. Tel: (925) 373-6875.

Regional

Mon. April 20, 7 p.m. Sacramento JGS, **Publishing, Presenting, and Displaying your Family History**, speaker Shirley Mason Cohen. Albert Einstein Center, Arts & Crafts Room, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. Tel: Jane Paskowitz. (916) 633-9557.

Sat. May 16, 8:30 a.m. Stanislaus County Genealogical Society Seminar, **Native American Research**. Modesto Family History Library, 731 El Vista Avenue, Modesto. Tel: (209) 869-3966.

Mon. June 15, 7 p.m. Sacramento JGS, **Preparing for the Summer Seminar in Los Angeles**. Albert Einstein Center, Arts & Crafts Room, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. Tel: Jane Paskowitz, (916) 633-9557.

Sun. - Fri. July 12 - 17, **Hollywood "Chai," the 18th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy**. Los Angeles, CA. Contact Scott Groll. Tel: (818) 786-3239; e-mail: <sgroll@ix.netcom.com>.

National

Mon. - Sat. July 13 - 18, **National Institute on Genealogical Research, 1998 Program**. Washington, DC. Contact National Institute on Genealogical Research, P.O. Box 14274, Washington, DC 20044-4274.

Wed. - Sun. August 19 - 22, Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Ohio Genealogical Society, **Immigrant Dreams: The Settlement of America**. Cincinnati, OH. Contact FGS/OHS Conference, P.O. Box 830220, Richardson, TX 75083-0220. Tel: (888) FGS-1500, Fax: (888) 380-0500; e-mail: <fgs-office@fgs.org>.

Foreign Travel

Sun. - Sun. June 21 - July 5, **Discover Your "Ancestral Roots" in Ukraine**. Cruise Kiev to Odessa, four-day optional extension to Moldova. Contact 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>.

ZichronNote Makes the Connection

by Hugh Dubb

In the November 1997 issue of ZichronNote, Hugh Dubb wrote about his success finding family through JewishGen and Internet connections. This e-mail message highlights the value of publishing your research interests.

You might be interested to learn that the same day my success story was published in ZichronNote, I received a call from fellow SFBA JGS member Leon Rosenthal's wife, Edith. It seems she recognized the name Kassan and also had Baltimore Kassan relatives. As it turns out, we have the same great-grandmother, Mary Kassan.

Through Edith, I have had the chance to meet two of her sisters living in Southern California, and one of her brothers who lives in Dallas. I have spoken via telephone with another sister in Utah and have made e-mail contact with a fourth sister who lives in Baltimore, whom I plan to see later this year. It has been a delight getting to know the family. All have been most hospitable and have graciously aided me with details on their branches of the family.

Leon and Edith are not on the Internet so had I not written the article I would never have found them. Edith, by the way, was one of 12 children so there are lots more relatives to investigate. They have lived in Hillsborough, about a 15 minute drive down El Camino from us, for 26 years and we have lived in our house for 21. Being lucky is nice.

Corrections

In the February issue of ZichronNote, we mislabeled the map showing the boundaries of enumeration districts in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The map and boundaries are for the 1880 federal census, not the 1800 census as published. We apologize to author Randy Stehle, whose map accompanied his tremendously valuable article entitled "Developing a Finding Guide to the 1880 Federal Census for the Lower East Side of Manhattan."

Randy also pointed out the incomplete list of New York passenger lists and indexes held by Sutro Library. (See page 8 for an update.) We extend our thanks to Randy for personally verifying the Sutro microfilm.

Success Story: How the Photograph of a Child Led to Discovering Cousins Around the World

by Victoria Reed

Victoria Reed discovered the Internet and JewishGen when sick in bed for a week (she had a laptop). In her first year of research she has discovered a wealth of information, predominantly because of the information and instructions available through JewishGen and the spirit of helpfulness from JewishGenners.

She is researching **RABINOWITZ, LISITZKY, SZLOMOVICH, GUREVICH, KAPLAN** and **JERUSHEWITZ** all from the Bialystok area; **LISITZKY** from Vitebsk; **SEDLER** from Zambrow and Ostrow Mazowiecka; **FISH, STIEBER, REISS, KNOLL**, and **NIEMAND** from Galicia, Lvov and Zloczow, **FISH** from Pennsylvania and Manchester, England, and **SOLOMON** from Lynn, Massachusetts and Bohemia.

"Hey Mom, who's this a picture of?" I had come across an old photo of a little girl. She was wearing a dainty white dress and her head was a mass of brown ringlets. "That's my cousin Fannie when she was about three years old," my mother replied. Who was Fannie?

So began a genealogical detective story that concludes with cousins discovered in Australia. The story goes like this.

From a Photograph to Los Angeles Cousins

My mother told me that Fannie's mother Friedl, and my mother's mother, were close cousins but she wasn't sure how they were related. She had not seen the little girl since the time when the photo was taken, and the girl's family had lost touch with my mother's family. My mother, however, had quite a few stories about Friedl's political rabble-rousing in the old country and in New York. Apparently she was almost sent to Siberia for teaching the peasants to read and barely escaped to the U.S.

So now I had the name of Fannie's mother, and I suspected that Friedl had died in the Los Angeles area, which is where my mother lived when the families visited each other. I did a Social Security Death Index search and found a woman whose name and dates seemed to match. I sent away for the death certificate.

When it came, I recognized Friedl's mother's surname as being the same as that of my great-grandfather. I surmised that Friedl and my grandmother were first cousins.

Now came the difficult part. When Friedl died, her body was donated to UCLA for medical research. I called the school and worked my way through a beauracrat telephone tangle, but the school did not keep old records. I then wondered if the place listed on the death certificate as her last residence could still be in the family, and tried some reverse telephone searches on the Internet. No luck.

While at the public library, I spoke to a reference librarian about my dilemma. She mentioned that real estate brokers have access to a CD-ROM that lists

all owners of property in a given town. Armed with this new information, I e-mailed a few real estate brokerage firms in the Los Angeles area, asking for help.

A broker replied and graciously did the look-up for me. As soon as I received the phone number, I called. But – it was the wrong number! Unexpectedly though, it was next door to the house I was looking for, and the man who answered the phone managed to located the correct phone number. I called.

This time, the woman who answered the telephone confirmed my suspicions. She was the widow of Friedl's son (Fannie's brother) and Friedl lived with them before moving to a nursing home while she was in the last stages of illness.

From Los Angeles to Australia and Argentina

Now, how did I find my cousins in Australia from this convoluted trail? The widow told me that the little girl in the photograph was alive! She gave me Fannie's phone number, and she sent me some documents.

Let me add a cautionary warning here. Because of the widow's helpfulness, her deceased husband's children got very angry with her, and although I wrote to them and volunteered to share everything I knew, they never responded.

I called Fannie and she was delighted to hear from me, although she had been too young to remember my mother. (My mother is almost ten years older.) Fannie told me some surprising news – that her mother had two other sisters. One of them had emigrated to Australia, and the other emigrated to Argentina! She was not in touch with these families, but had in her possession two letters, one letter from each country. She sent me copies of both.

One of the letters was entirely in Yiddish, and both letters had legible return addresses and last names. My father translated the Yiddish letter for me. We were able to determine the writer's first name (one of the sisters) and that she had been in poor health when the letter was written 25 years ago.

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Success, cont'd. from page 5

I did a search on the white pages on the Internet for the Australian and Argentine cousins. I could find no listing for the Australians, and posted a query to the JewishGen Discussion Group for someone to do a telephone book look-up for me. A kind soul responded and found a listing in Melbourne with the correct surname. I wrote a long letter and mailed it.

I found listings on the Argentine white pages for both names contained in the second letter, and have only recently mailed my letter to them (I labored over it for quite a while, because I wrote it in Spanish).

About two months later, I received a bubbling, excited letter from, yes, my Australian cousins! In fact, the writer of my new letter had been the original transcriptionist for the Yiddish letter! The sister that had emigrated to Australia had a son, who would be my mother's first cousin once removed, and it was he and his wife who wrote to me. I was so excited that I called Australia, and we had a wonderful introduction/reunion over the telephone.

The wife explained that they had no idea we existed, and the last time they had heard from our side of the family was shortly before Friedl died. We excitedly talked about family hair and eye coloring, and the wife said "Send me a picture - I need a face!" We have promised to keep in close touch and they said laughingly that we'd better

come and visit them soon because "we won't be around for much longer - we're old!"

Persistence and Luck Bring New-Found Family

What is truly amazing and unexpected is that this family remained in Europe and survived the war. They were in Bialystok until 1949, and another sister did not emigrate until the 1960s. I have sent them many questions about family members who stopped writing letters to New York during the Russian Revolution and about the fate of this side of my family during the Holocaust.

As I thought about the steps it took to reach this happy ending, it struck me how many times I was helped by the kindness of completely uninvolved people. By volunteering information or a look-up, perhaps unknown or inaccessible to someone else, we can sometimes become a critical link in the reconstruction of someone else's family chain.

I suppose the moral of the story is: explore every avenue that you can possibly think of, make some assumptions and try them. Sometimes this, aided (perhaps directed!) by providential blessing, will yield the richest reward - the reward of found family.

Addendum: I received a letter from the Argentine relatives on Erev Pesach! A typed, three page letter with the family history and six large composite sheets of photographs. What a blessing!

Santa Clara Family History Center

Our April meeting in Palo Alto featured Conrad Tracy, a volunteer at the Santa Clara Family History Center. Mr. Tracy reviewed the holdings common to all FHCs, and highlighted some of the collections on permanent loan in Santa Clara, including the California, Washington and Oregon death indexes.

One of the many handouts Mr. Tracy provided is a list of records and references available at this local FHC may be particularly helpful for Jewish research. These include the "Register of Berlin, Jewish Records;" "National Inventory of Documentary Sources in the United Kingdom: Hull Record Office, Jewish Schools;" and "Jewish Genealogy Frequently Asked Questions." For a copy of this handout, please contact Rodger Rosenberg.

Our thanks to Mr. Tracy for his time and generous donation of many instructive FHC publications. These research aids can be found in a binder in the SFBA JGS library.

The Santa Clara FHC is located at 875 Quince Avenue in Santa Clara; Telephone (408) 241-1449. Hours are Tues. - Thurs., 9a.m. - 4p.m. and 7p.m. - 9:30p.m.; Fri. 9a.m. - 9:30p.m.; Sat. 12p.m. - 4p.m.

SFBA JGS in Berkeley Sunday, June 14, 1998

Directions to the Berkeley-Richmond

Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Street

San Francisco:

Bay Bridge to I-80 east toward Sacramento

Marin County:

I-580 (bridge) to I-580/I-80 towards Berkeley

East Bay: I-80 to Berkeley

- Exit I-80 at University Avenue in Berkeley and head for UC Berkeley (east toward the hills)
- Almost as far as the campus, turn left onto Shattuck Avenue.
- Approximately one mile north on Shattuck, turn right, onto Vine Street at the stop light.
- Take first left onto Walnut Street.
- The parking lot for the JCC will be on your left, just south of the JCC.

The Fall Berkeley meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 18. Mark the date!

My Zayde, My Great Aunt Toba, and a Ship Called the *Berlin*

by Jeremy Frankel

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

This is a partial success story. I am writing to belatedly say "thank-you" to my grandfather, who passed away in September of last year.

The story begins some thirteen years ago in London, on the second night of our Passover Seder. My mother's parents and her brother joined us to celebrate the festival. As my mother and Booba cleared the tables, I sat at the dining table opposite my Zayde. I had started to research my family genealogy, and asked him about his family. Zayde was born Hanzel **LEVY** and had changed his name to Israel **LEADER** in 1946. (I have a copy the Change of Name deed.)

Zayde told me that his father, Abraham, was one of four boys. Two of them, Isaac and Harry, married and had eleven children each. The joke was that there were enough children to host a soccer match. Isaac had married someone named Toba or Tobias. Zayde didn't remember very much about her. Abraham also had two sisters. I was told the tantalizing story that they "...fell off the train in Poland..." and died, when the family was emigrating to England. This left only Charles, Abraham's older brother. Zayde, was born two years later in London, in 1908.

Three years ago when I was last in England, I was madly dashing around taking photographs at a cemetery, ordering birth, marriage and death certificates from the national government office (for which my wife never forgave me for spending \$300!) and interviewing relatives. One couple I spoke with on the telephone said that they had a picture of a ship called the *Berlin* on their living room wall. Apparently an aunt had drowned when the ship sunk. She had been either going to or returning from Europe, to settle some family situation. With no other information to go on, it was yet another story relegated to the back burner. (You can imagine how many back burners I now have!) This was the aunt called Toba or Tobias, who had married Isaac Levy.

Early in 1997, I decided to make a concerted effort at researching my Levy roots. In August I contacted my uncle John Leader in London, who responded to my request for information on the Levy/Leader family. My enthusiasm for his letter plummeted when he wrote that Toba was his

father's first wife. This could not be right as John's father Benjamin was the son of Isaac Levy. Strangely enough, an English aunt, Ena Jacobs, who lives in Los Angeles, had related a similar story to me about an aunt of hers, who had drowned either going to or returning from Europe to settle a family matter. I had hoped to prove that Ena and I were related (again) by marriage, but it seemed it was not to be. I followed up with another letter and questionnaire to John. His response was a relief.

"...[A]fter talking to my sister Iris, I found out that all these years I have been under a misapprehension as to my father's first wife ... Jeremy was correct, Tobias was my father's mother (my grandmother) who was lost at sea on the way or returning from Europe."

He said that he thought that it happened in 1907 as his father had married Dora and their first child Toby, born in 1908, was named in memory of Tobias. Something was telling me that now was the time to retrieve this story from that back burner.

Armed with the name of the ship and a year, I went to the UC Berkeley Newspaper Library which has bound volumes of yearly indexes to *The Times* (of London) newspaper. I pulled down the volume for 1907. Where should I begin? I thumbed through to Shipping and was surprised to see a sub-section "Shipping casualties." Scanning the column, I quickly found what I was looking for. The *Berlin* had sunk on the 22nd of February, 1907. Hairs standing on my neck, I retrieved the microfilm for the full edition of *The Times*. The story began:

"We deeply regret to record that the Great Eastern Railway Company's steamship *Berlin*, which left Harwich on Wednesday night for the Hook of Holland, was driven ashore yesterday morning as she was endeavouring to enter the New Waterway at the entrance to the Maas River and that practically all the passengers and crew, to the number of some 140, perished."

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LOCAL RESOURCES

More New York Passenger Arrival Records in the Bay Area

SFBA JGS member Randy Stehle has provided an updated listing of New York passenger arrival records held at Sutro Library in San Francisco. The microfilms are:

- 1820 - 1846 New York City Passenger Index (Publication Set #M261, 103 reels)
- 1/7/1820 - 6/17/1897 New York City Passenger Lists (Publication Set #M237, 675 reels)
- 6/16/1897 - 6/30/1902 New York City Passenger Index (Publication Set #T519, 115 reels)

The Sutro California State Library is located at 480 Winston Drive, San Francisco. Tel: (415) 731-4411. Hours: Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m..

Hamelitz Repositories

by Randy Stehle

After going through a long-distance dance with the New York Public Library to get copies made of some pages from *Hamelitz*, I discovered that it should be available at other institutions. In an article by Rabbi Jeffrey Marx in the Fall-Winter Double Issue (Vol. 4, nos. 2 & 3), pp. 3-10, of *Landsmen*, he lists the following sources for *Hamelitz*:

- Harvard University
- Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, OH
- Jewish National and University Library, Jerusalem
- Jewish Theological Seminary, NY
- Library of Congress, Washington, DC
- New York Public Library, NY
- Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
- University of California at Los Angeles

I called Stanford to see what issues they held. They have the years 1868 - 1904 (publication began in 1860). *Hamelitz* is available on microfilm at the Green Library. Entrance to the library is available to anyone with picture identification (one does not need to be affiliated with the University). The call number is MFILM N.S13039. They are open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. I have not contacted any of the other repositories listed above and encourage others to do so and report their findings.

(See Randy's article "Donor Lists Published in the Hebrew Newspaper Hamelitz" in the November 1997 issue of *ZichronNote* for more information.)

Passport Application Microfilm at the Mormon FHC

Judith D. Bennett, *JewishGen*

For those looking for passport applications, I have had good luck with the Family History Library collection of Passport Application Films, found under Computer Number 437973 in the CD-ROM catalog.

Title: Passport Applications, 1795-1924; Indexes 1830-1831, 1850-1852, 1860-1925. Listed under United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, it is a series of 2,090 microfilm reels. The indexes are alphabetical, by year, on index cards. It ends in mid-1925.

The passport applications are filed by date of application. It can be quite a search. Without an idea of when the passport was issued it will be like looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack.

More About Passports

All passport applications from 1791 through 1925 are in the National Archives. Prior to 1905 passports were not required except during part of the Civil War. However, many people obtained them. Without one, a U.S. traveler visiting the old country could be drafted into military service.

The earliest applications were simply letters of request, but sometimes other papers - such as expired passports, birth certificates, naturalization papers, etc., were filed with them. The application could contain name, place of residence, age, names of family members traveling with the applicant, the court of naturalization, date of arrival in the U.S., port of entry, vessel name, etc.

If the passport was issued in 1925 or earlier, write to the National Archives Passport Services, Research and Liaison Branch, Room 316, 1425 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20524.

Passports issued after 1925 are held by the U.S. State Department. Their Archives requires a \$15 check and notarized request, which includes your name, date and place of birth. You should provide the date and place of birth of the applicant, and an estimate of when the application was filed. If the applicant was born after 1900, include evidence of death or a notarized statement from the applicant.

Write to the Research and Liaison Department, U.S. State Department Archives, 1111 19th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20524. The telephone number at the U.S. State Department Archives is (202) 955-0291.

1997 SFBA JGS Membership Survey

by Dana L. Kurtz

We received 161 surveys, a 60% return. That's a great response and we appreciate the time you took to let us know your interests. The information will be used to plan future programs. Here are some statistics that tell us a bit about ourselves. The percentages used in this summary are based on the number of people responding to the particular question. The total number of responses is shown in parenthesis.

Many members expressed interest in activities in addition to regular JGS meetings, such as museum and repository tours, and the development of small special interest groups (SIGs). We would love to make these things happen, but we can't do it without you. If you are willing to be part of a planning committee - to make a few phone calls, write a notice for *ZichronNote*, host a SIG - please contact Roger Rosenberg.

Who We Are

Length of membership in the SFBA JGS

12% - <1 year	16% - 4-5 years
44% - 1-3 years	28% - >5 years

Length of time researching family genealogy

10% - <1 year	25% - 6-10 years
42% - 2-5 years	23% - >10 years

Noting that 56% of respondents are recent JGS members and 52% are fairly new to family history research, shows that we've welcomed many new people with their own experiences, knowledge and interests. It also highlights the growing interest in genealogy. More than nine people replied they have been researching for more than 20 years, with one reporting 50 years at this hobby!

Our Hometowns

Where are you searching?

JGS members are searching for family information the world-over. The areas of greatest interest include (percent represents fraction of total response):

- 15% (83) - Poland
- 11% (62) - Ukraine, Moldova
- 10% (56) - European Russia (Western Russia, Belarus)
- 10% (55) - Baltic States (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia)
- 8% (41) - Austro-Hungary
- 7% (36) - Galicia
- 6% (34) - Germany

Within the U.S., the overwhelming city of interest is New York City. You listed 94 cities in 38 states, where your research draws you.

(82) - New York City, NY	(15) - Los Angeles, CA
(27) - Chicago, IL	(9) - Baltimore, MD

(23) - San Francisco, CA	(14) - Boston, MA
(19) - Philadelphia, PA	(9) - St. Louis, MO

Not to mention Ottumwa, IA, Deadwood, SD, and Great Falls, MT! This information helps us plan library acquisitions and programs. How about a special interest group?

Special Interest Groups

Participation in SIGs is lower than expected. These groups offer an in-depth focus on many different regions and topics. Some publish newsletters which may include vital records extracts, narratives of trips to ancestral towns, new research resources and much more. We encourage you to seek out (or begin!) a SIG that concentrates on your specific interests. The six most popular within our membership are:

Suwalk-Lomza	ROM-SIG (Romania)
Gesher Galicia	Grodno
Litvak SIG (Lithuania)	Magyar Zsido (Hungary)

What We Read and How We Research

ZichronNote

It was rewarding to see how much you enjoy our newsletter. *ZichronNote* is only as good as its content, and we are fortunate enough to have members willing to share their experiences. All sections of the newsletter were given high marks with the highest interest rating given to the following sections:

- 79% - National Resources
- 77% - International Resources
- 76% - Local Resources
- 72% - Computer/Online Resources

The display of interest in computer-related topics will be reflected in this and future issues, as that section is expanded to include more online recommendations, and hopefully, software reviews.

Computers/Online Genealogy

Wow! when asked "If you use a computer, are you online?" the results are overwhelming - 88% use a computer for their genealogy:

- 73% (109) - Yes, online
- 15% (23) - No, not online
- 11% (17) - Don't use a computer

I have working e-mail addresses for nearly 75% of the SFBA JGS. When we asked this question two years ago, only 35% of the membership received e-mail. How quickly we've taken to the technology.

Of course, the most popular web site for Jewish genealogy is JewishGen. Fifty people listed it among their favorites. The list includes:

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1997 Survey, cont'd. from page 9)

- JewishGen <www.jewishgen.org>
- Ancestry <www.ancestry.com>
(Social Security Death Index)
- Switchboard <www.switchboard.com>
(Address and telephone number search of people and businesses)
- Avotaynu <www.avotaynu.com>
(publishers of Jewish genealogical material)
- JewishGen Family Finder <www.jewishgen.org/jgff>
- JGS of Rochester <www.memo.com/jgsgr>
(great links and other information)

Seventy six (76) members expressed interest in JGS assistance in learning to use a computer for genealogy. It is obvious that the integration of the computer into genealogical research is one of the most significant developments in many years. This is an issue we must address.

Languages

We are a multi-lingual group. Among us we can read, translate, write, and speak:

Hebrew	Yiddish	Russian
Spanish	German	French
Polish	Italian	Hungarian
Dutch	American Sign Language	

The most common foreign languages, with varying degrees of proficiency, are French, German, Hebrew, and Yiddish. We won't publish names, but we may contact you and ask if you will share your expertise with other members, on a one-on-one basis.

Ancestral Town Travel and Research

We are beginning to see more members traveling to ancestral lands. Travels have taken us to:

Lithuania	Poland	Ukraine
Hungary	Germany	Alsace
Austria	Romania	London

and elsewhere. If you have journeyed back, share your experiences with us. Consider writing an article for *ZichronNote* about your adventures.

As the political winds change in Eastern Europe, we see more members taking advantage of the accessibility of foreign archives, whether directly or through a private researcher. Your responses point to Lithuania and Poland as having the most responsive archives in Eastern Europe. In the West, members have had great success in London, Israel, South Africa and Germany. Of course, your success may depend on the skill of the researcher, the depth of information you can provide, and of course, luck.

Accordingly, both successes and failures have been reported with private researchers. Bear in mind that hiring a private researcher can be costly regardless of the outcome.

SFBA JGS Family Finder

You have found our Society's Family Finder to be useful - 71%. Most excitingly, 19 members (8%) made a connection with other members as a result of the publication. More than 20% of respondents contacted or were contacted by another member to inquire about possible connections. Perhaps you should take another look! Please do not confuse our publication with the JewishGen Family Finder (below). Submitting your surnames and towns to one, does not mean submission to both. The goal of our local publication is to provide a manageable resource that may lead to local connections whether for family names or ancestral towns. We would like to consider distributing our information on floppy disk. If you are able to assist in this endeavor, please contact Dana Kurtz.

The JewishGen Family Finder

Of those who responded, nearly 25% do not know about the JGFF or do not know how to access it. Whether online or in hard copy, this should be among your first steps in researching your family. It's also a resource you should return to again and again as your research progresses. The JGFF is a listing comprised of more than 50,000 ancestral surnames and towns being researched by Jewish genealogists, submitted by the researchers themselves. Check the JGFF to see if anyone is looking for the same surname you are. Perhaps you will be lucky enough to find the right surname associated with the right town. You can also search for a particular town to find landsleit, perhaps paired with the right surname.

Most importantly, submit the surnames and towns you are researching to make sure that you can be found by someone else! To search, submit new information or modify existing information online, go to <www.jewishgen.org/jgff>.

If you do not have Internet access, a hard copy of the JGFF can be used at our library and at JGS meetings. To submit information, you can obtain a form through the SFBA JGS, from someone with Internet access or by mail. For more information (include a stamped, self-addressed envelope) or to submit by mail, contact: JewishGen, Inc., 12 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, TX 77046.

(See Judy Baston's article "JewishGen Family Finder" in the August 1997 issue of *ZichronNote* for more information.)

Programs We Enjoy

Our meetings are fairly well attended. The most common reasons for not coming to meetings are distance and time conflicts. We encourage carpooling! Use the soon-to-be-distributed

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BOOKSHELF

Some Resources to Check Before the Summer Seminar

by Judy Baston

Because this year's Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy is in Los Angeles, it's likely that a number of people from our Society will attend. These seminars are filled with workshops, presentations and meetings – even more now that regional special interest groups have developed – and it's not easy to find time to do research in local repositories.

A little advance planning can help a researcher decide how to devote precious "free time" to the research that cannot be done here in the San Francisco Bay Area. And even though you must prepare for the unexpected at a Seminar (that's one of the things that makes them so valuable), here are a few suggestions as to how you can use some of the resources of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogy Society's library, as well as some of the resources available on the Internet, to help you decide what research you may want to accomplish while you are in Los Angeles.

Don't forget one of the most basic and most valuable resources for Jewish Genealogy – *Where Once We Walked (WOWW)*. You may have looked at this guide to pre-Holocaust Jewish communities many times before, but if you have discovered any additional ancestral towns in your recent research, make sure you check this book out again. If the listing includes reference to a yizkor (memorial) book for the town, first check with the Holocaust Center of Northern California, (415) 751-6040, to make sure the book is not in their large collection. If it isn't, then you may want to check out the large yizkor book collection at UCLA and other repositories near the Seminar.

If *WOWW* mentions an *Encyclopedia Judaica (EJ)* article for your ancestral town, check the article out at a local synagogue library (most of them have a set of EJ) or at the Jewish Community Library, 601-14th Avenue, San Francisco. Pay special attention to the bibliography at the end of the article. It may alert you to some additional books or other references to look for in Los Angeles.

If there is a citation for records in the LDS Family History Centers, especially if your ancestral research takes you back to Polish Jewish records, it's good to keep in mind that the Los Angeles Family History Center has on

permanent collection the second largest selection of Polish Jewish microfilms in the world.

If you have Internet access, check the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland Web site <jewishgen.org/JRI-PL/> and click on the box reading "LDS Polish Jewish Microfilms." If the film is in the permanent collection in Los Angeles, LA will be indicated after the film's description. And while you're on the JRI-Poland Web site, click on "Search the Database," and enter the Polish Jewish surnames you're researching. If the records for your town are among the more than 200,000 listings entered in the JRI-PL database, you may find index entries for your ancestors' vital records, which could also help focus your research in the Los Angeles Family History Center.

If you are looking for Holocaust-related materials, particularly lists of survivors or those who were killed, check *How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust* by Gary Mokotoff. This volume contains several pages covering the Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives in Los Angeles. With 25,000 books and periodicals, this facility has some deportation lists and other materials not available in the Bay Area.

And if you had family members who were in California by the first few decades of the 20th Century, you may want to check *California Jewish History: a descriptive bibliography*, selected and annotated by Norton Stern. This 1967 volume covers more than 550 works spanning the period from the Gold Rush to post-World War I. The book's index contains all names mentioned in the listings, and the bibliography has assessed the pre-1967 holdings of a number of Southern California repositories, including the Hebrew Union College Library, the Jewish Community Library of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Museum Library, the Los Angeles Public Library, the Santa Monica Public Library and the UCLA Research Library and Special Collections.

Because the book is more than 30 years old, some of the collections listed therein may have changed, and some of the listings for the Los Angeles Public Library may have been damaged in the big fire that took place there. Also, although the book lists such Bay Area repositories as the Judah Magnes Museum and the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley, it does not list the Jewish Community Library or the Sutro Library in San Francisco.

1997 Survey, cont'd. from page 10

membership roster to identify other members living in your neighborhood.

Topics

The top six vote-getters:

- (91) - Mormon Family History Center Resources
(Did you catch our April meeting in Palo Alto?)
- (90) - Online and Computer Resources
- (85) - National Archives in San Bruno
- (84) - Jewish Migration Patterns
- (83) - Political/Geographical History of Eastern Europe
- (74) - New York City Resources

For starters, we've taken care of the first one, in Palo Alto, we'll work on San Francisco, next. Online presentations are tricky. They require an expensive LCD projector, and a convenient, dedicated telephone line through which we can connect to the Internet. Suggestions for speakers on these and other topics are greatly appreciated!

Past Programs

We asked about two years worth of meeting programs. The top vote-getter, for a high level of enjoyment, is no surprise:

- 81% (1996), 79% (1997) - SFBA JGS Workshop
- 79% - Travel experiences of Marian Rubin and Barry Klezmer
- 77% - Jewish Immigration to South Africa - Roy Ogus
- 71% - Deciphering Jewish Tombstones - Michal Friedlander
- 71% - Publishing Your Genealogy (D. Goodman, L. Traubman, M. Rubin, B. Oppenheim)
- 69% - Presenting and Displaying Your Genealogy (J. Frankel, J. Rubin, D. Abrahams)

A nice range of topics! More than two-thirds of our programs received a "highest enjoyment" vote. We strive to make each meeting both enjoyable and informative. Your input and participation are vital in ensuring consistently good programming.

Tours

When asked "would you attend a tour of..." positive responses included:

- 68% (81) - Judah Magnes Museum/Western Jewish History Center
- 61% (73) - Jewish Museum (SF)
- 51% (57) - Jewish San Francisco Walking Tour

We will work on making arrangements for such events. Again, this is where you can help. If you are, or you know of, a candidate who might lead a Sunday walk in San Francisco, please contact Dana Kurtz.

Mormon Family History Center

I was pleasantly surprised to discover that 74% of us have used a Mormon Family History Center. Nonetheless, there was still great interest in

learning more about this resource. The Oakland FHC offers a Saturday morning orientation (the FHC opens to the public at noon). Nearly half of those responding would attend this private introduction.

Local Special Interest Groups

Computer Genealogy would lure 66 people to a meeting, and 68 people to an online discussion. Specific regions for a special interest groups were numerous. Those of greatest interest include:

Galicia	Lithuania	Germany
Hungary	Poland	Latvia
Ukraine	Great Britain	

Of course, all these interested folks are spread throughout the Bay Area. Therefore, we are seeking people willing to host a small group, once in a while, to share knowledge, techniques and experiences. We'll provide the landsleit! If you are able to host an online discussion, we'd like to hear from you.

Kvetching and Kvelling

What You Don't Like about the SFBAJGS

(selected comments)

- Meetings sometimes lose focus.
- I would like to see small, specially oriented workshops, perhaps in peoples' homes.
- I'd like to see a more structured system for access to library materials. (*Done! -ed.*)
- You're too far away!
- I'm too far away!
- It would be nice to have a list of volunteers who would be available for one-on-one assistance.
- Not enough meetings in the East Bay. (*Soon! -ed.*)
- The only thing I can think of is that we're not in New York!

What You Do Like about the SFBAJGS

(selected comments)

- The fact that it exists.
- Great services to members.
- Excellent newsletter. (*Thanks! -ed.*)
- Wonderful information available and interesting meetings.
- The hard work and enthusiasm of the experienced genealogists and volunteers.
- Warmth, general helpfulness and enthusiasm, availability of resources and people.
- The energy and commitment of the members.
- I can count on meeting with knowledgeable, friendly, helpful people who share the same interest I do.
- The principal benefit of any JGS - networking, sharing and the occasional sympathetic understanding about "concrete walls!"
- The sense of belonging to a community having a common pride of heritage and a fervent desire to sustain it.
- Everything!

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SFBA JGS Family Finder Update

Below are the surnames and towns being researched by our newest members. 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, contact: SFBA JGS, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147, or send e-mail to: <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com>.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
Argush/Argooshevitch	Yaryshev, Ukraine	Argosh, Richard
Axelrod/Akselrod	Piryatin, Poltava, Dnepropetrovsk, Svetlichno, Ukraine; Liepaja, Latvia	Kivitz, Philip
Berlin/Berlinas	Utena, Lithuania	Stein, Roger
Bernstein	Grodno, Belarus; Prienai, Lithuania; London	Argosh, Richard
Blum	Brest-Litovsk, Belarus	Steinhart, Michelle Zippel
Brooks	Bobruysk, Belarus	Witkin, Michael & Devera
Crookonich(k)	Annapol, Poland	Silverstein, Ethel
Dallemande	Alsace, Germany	Steinhart, Michelle Zippel
Davis	Poland	Davis, Ron
Dilsheimer	Hardheim, Germany	Parke, Margot Parke
Dolfogle	New York City	Frankel, Jane
Donskoi/Donn	Fastov, Ukraine	Donn, Adele
Dravus/Drewes/Dreyfus	Schneidemuhl, Poland	Russell, Mary
Drell	Anywhere	Hodge, Thea Drell
Durst	Galicia	Durst, Derek
Epstein	Pinsk, Belarus	Steinhart, Michelle Zippel
Fialk	Vilna, Lithuania	Steinhart, Michelle Zippel
Fish	Galicia; Manchester, England	Reed, Victoria
Flash	Galicia	Reed, Victoria
Frankel	Kamionka, Poland?	Kivitz, Philip
Gart	Seduva, Lithuania	Donn, Adele
Gavlin	Bobruysk, Belarus	Witkin, Michael & Devera
Geller	Lyubar, Ukraine	Handwerker, Lisa
Gershfield/Hershfield	Ukraine	Silverstein, Ethel
Golden	Anywhere	Snyder, Joanna
Goldstein	Lithuania	Malerstein, A.J.
Goodman	New York	Goldklang, Kathleen
Greenwald	Lomza, Poland	Handwerker, Lisa
Gruskin	Kedainiai, Lithuania	Ross, Harriett
Gurevich	Bialystok, Poland	Reed, Victoria
Handwerker	Narol, Galicia/Poland	Handwerker, Lisa
Hart	Seduva, Lithuania	Donn, Adele
Hart	Anywhere	Frankel, Jane
Havlin	Strasheny, Kishnev, Moldova	Witkin, Michael & Devera
Jaffee	Lithuania	Braker, Jacqueline
Jermolowske	Portland, OR; Russia	Goldklang, Kathleen
Jerome	Elmira, New York	Reed, Victoria
Jerushewitz	Bialystok, Poland	Reed, Victoria
Jonas	Warszawa, Poland	Malerstein, A.J.
Kaplan	Elmira, New York	Reed, Victoria
Katzenelenson	Bobruysk, Belarus	Argosh, Richard
Kivitz/Kiwetz	Kamionka, Klodzko, Poland?	Kivitz, Philip
Kneller	Kiev, Ukraine	Silverstein, Ethel
Knoll	Galicia	Reed, Victoria
Koenig	France; England	Frankel, Jane
Korzon	Vilna, Lithuania	Witkin, Michael & Devera
Kremer	Birzai, Lithuania	Witkin, Michael & Devera
Kut	Brest-Litovsk, Belarus	Steinhart, Michelle Zippel
Lewin	Berlin, Germany	Steinhart, Michelle Zippel
Liebow	Ostroshtskiy-Gorodok, Belarus	Argosh, Richard
Lifshitz	Tolochin, Belarus	Ross, Harriett
Lisitzky/Lissitzky	Bialystok, Poland	Reed, Victoria
Litvin	Gomel, Belarus	Newman, Diane
Malerstein	Warszawa, Poland	Malerstein, A.J.
Mittleman	Budapest, Hungary	Davis, Ron

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The Berlin, cont'd. from page 7

The *Berlin* was making its usual nightly run from Harwich to the Hook of Holland and Rotterdam carrying the night mail as well as passengers. It was the middle of winter when the North Sea is very treacherous. A storm was blowing hard even as the ship left port that night. Just before dawn, as it was about to enter the safety of a protected waterway in Holland, a gale blew the ship onto a stone pier. The *Berlin* broke in half and within a few hours had sunk with a loss of 148 passengers and crew. The news even made the front page of the *New York Times*. Among the passengers had been 19 members of the German Opera Company who had just completed a performance the previous evening at London's Covent Garden.

It next occurred to me that there might be an article in the (London) *Jewish Chronicle*. Looking through the microfilm from late February 1907, I began winding more slowly as I got to the 1st March issue. I did not know what format the story would take. A few lines or a whole page? There might not be anything at all. But there on page 9, was a column and a half about the tragedy noting the Jews who had been on board. Towards the end of the story it read:

"A case which presents some terribly pathetic features has been brought under our notice. Hearing that her mother who resided in Kalish, Poland was seriously ill and at the point of death, Mrs. Levy, of 12 Apsley Street, Stepney, made every effort to borrow the necessary money in order to see her parent. She at length succeeded and, traveling by the "*Berlin*," was destined never to reach the end of her journey. She leaves eleven children, and the husband, a tailor, is ailing and unfit for work. One son is in the Navy, and the ages of all the children range from twenty-one to two years. The body of the unfortunate woman has not been recovered."

Mrs. Levy was Toba (née Schwalbe) who was married to Isaac Levy, my great-uncle. My Aunt Ena is also descended from the Schwalbes as Toba is her paternal grandfather's sister. Ena told me another family story that Toba's father pawned his watch to pay for the ticket. And finally, my Zayde was right all along. It was his Uncle Isaac, and they did have eleven children. Unfortunately, he did not live long enough for me to be able to tell him. He died just one month before I pieced this all together.

Family Finder, cont'd. from page 14

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
Niemand	Zolkiew, Poland	Reed, Victoria
Novominsky	Kiev, Ukraine	Newman, Diane
Obrant	Gomel, Belarus	Newman, Diane
Oletsky	Anywhere	Silverstein, Ethel
Olin	Minsk, Belarus	Argosh, Richard
Pearlman	New York	Goldklang, Kathleen
Prince	New York City	Frankel, Jane
Rabinowitch/Rabinowitz	Bialystok, Poland	Reed, Victoria
Reiss	Zolochev, Lvov, Ukraine	Reed, Victoria
Rittenberg/Ritzenberg	Mosty, Belarus	Donn, Adele
Satsky	Vabalninkas, Lithuania	Witkin, Michael & Devera
Schriebman	Romania	Davis, Ron
Schwartz	Minsk, Belarus	Argosh, Richard
Schwartzberg	Anywhere	Stein, Roger
Siedler/Szedler	Zambrow, Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland	Reed, Victoria
Sobranski	Anywhere	Silverstein, Ethel
Solomon	Bohemia; Lynn, Massachusetts	Reed, Victoria
Solomonikov/Solomaklo	Piryatin, Poltava, Dnepropetrovsk, Svetlichno, Ukraine; Liepaja, Latvia	Kivitz, Philip
Stein	Ozorkow, Poland	Stein, Roger
Steinhart	Baden, Germany	Steinhart, Michelle Zippel
Stieber	Zolochev, Ukraine	Reed, Victoria
Straus	Hardheim, Germany	Parke, Margot Parke
Summer	Anywhere	Stein, Roger
Sussman	Germany	Steinhart, Michelle Zippel
Szломovitz/Szломovich	Bialystok, Poland	Reed, Victoria
Tashman	Anywhere	Snyder, Joanna
Weiman	San Francisco, CA; New York	Goldklang, Kathleen
Witkin	Vilna, Lithuania	Witkin, Michael & Devera
Wolfson	Gomel, Belarus	Newman, Diane
Yoshpe	Lyubar, Ukraine	Handwerker, Lisa
Zippel	Lodz, Poland	Steinhart, Michelle Zippel

Jeremiah's Story

By Jeremiah Jaskolka

Having recently observed Yom Ha Shoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) on April 23, allow me to share with you this significantly abridged version of a speech given on Erev Yom Ha Shoah last year in K'far Saba, Israel by my cousin Jeremiah Jaskolka. "Finding Jeremiah" (Avotaynu, Winter, 1997) discusses how I found him, but his words speak eloquently to what the sense of connection possible in genealogy can mean, especially to a Holocaust survivor. — Judy Baston

I was born in Warsaw. A few months after the Nazis conquered Poland, I was able to escape from them. Like many thousands of others, I managed to flee to Russia. After the war, I married and had children and eventually moved to Israel.

My hope was that someone from my family might have survived and would find me. Therefore, I would not allow myself to change my typical Polish name, Jaskolka, even though whenever I introduced myself, I would have to repeat my name again and again, until it became clear how it was spelled. I stuck to my decision not to change it.

As time passed, my memories grew dimmer, and the mental pictures of my family faded. All the more so, since I had no photos left of my parents or brothers. I had no letters left of that period, and I had nobody to talk to, in order to refresh my memory. In the end, it seemed to me that my past had not existed at all; that I had grown up without having experienced childhood and adolescence. I felt without roots, unconnected anywhere – as if I had originated from nowhere, just one of the Holocaust survivors. Thus, fifty years have gone by.

Of my great original hope were left only a few sparks. At times, I was sure that nothing would change before my death. Suddenly it happened. I received a letter, in a large and thick envelope, from San Francisco. It was from Judith, the granddaughter of my aunt, my father's sister. I had not known her before. I did not know that we

had relatives in the United States. They had immigrated there nearly one hundred years ago.

In her second letter, she mailed me photos of my childhood. Photos of me, my brothers, my parents, aunts and uncles. And then Judith sent me birth certificates 150 years old: of my father, aunt and uncle. I read the text and was stunned.

In my mind's eye I saw a small town with narrow and winding alleys, and houses that were about to topple. I saw the Jewish inhabitants, in black garb, bearded, with side-curls, a scene out of Sholom Aleichem. I saw the office, where a young Jew stood, who was destined to become my grandfather. He was holding in his hand a little three-year-old girl, with large and inquisitive eyes, who would be destined to become Judith's grandmother. It was as if I had been transported miraculously, by means of a time machine, to a distant past, a world that had existed 150 years ago.

In her search for the roots of the family, Judith located names and dates of birth and death of my forbears, going back seven generations. She sent me a list of these forbears, in a shape of a tree with branches. The data in this genealogy went back to my grandmother's great-grandfather.

No longer did I feel so alone. I stopped being "rootless" and disconnected. Now I, too, have strong and massive roots, spreading over 250 years. I have found a whole magnificent tribe to which I belong, and to which I have returned.

SFBA JGS Library

The library of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogy Society is available between meetings at the Institute for Masonic Research, 1111 California Street at Taylor in San Francisco. Parking in the building will be validated upon request for persons using the library. The Institute is open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For any questions about the SFBA JGS library, contact Society Librarian Judy Baston, (415) 285-4616, or send e-mail to <Jrbaston@aol.com>. If you wish to request that a particular item be brought to a Society meeting, make sure you let Judy know at least one week before the meeting.

New Titles in the Library

	<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>
Guide to the YIVO Archives	F. Moher, M. Web, eds.	1998
Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories.	Weiner, Miriam	1998
Merchants and Jews: Struggle for British West Indian Commerce, 1650-1750	Fortune, Stephen Alexander	1984
Some Archival Sources for Ukranian-Jewish Genealogy	A. Kronik, S. Sack, eds.	1998

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Chesterfield, Connecticut

by Barbara B. Buff

In Chesterfield, Connecticut, in 1892, 21 Russian Jewish immigrant families built a small wooden synagogue naming it "The New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emanuel Society." The Chesterfield group thus became one of the agricultural colonies established by philanthropist Baron Maurice de Hirsch. Until the Great Depression of the 1930s, it flourished as a close-knit community of more than 50 Jewish families. In addition to the synagogue, there was a mikvah, a shochet, a pants factory, a general store, a dance hall, a creamery, and much poverty and hard work. In the summertime, many Jewish "farmers" took in boarders, Jewish families seeking relief from the hot tenements of New York City. Today, only a few individuals recall the once vibrant community of Chesterfield, and these witnesses are fast disappearing.

To honor the memory of Chesterfield's immigrant Russian Jews and to preserve their important chapter in American Jewish history, a few descendants of the original families dedicated a monument at the site of the synagogue in 1986. Today, the New England Hebrew Farmers Association of Chesterfield continues as a small group of descendants, committed to the preservation of this legacy for present and succeeding generations.

NEHFAC plans to publish a book entitled *A Preliminary History of the New England Hebrew Farmers of Chesterfield, Connecticut, 1890-1998*. Long-term plans include celebration of Succot in the year 2000, on the site of the old synagogue, and the establishment of a modest endowment fund to help finance scholarly research into this little-known area of immigration and the role played by the network of de Hirsch colonies scattered across the U.S.

NEHFAC is eager to locate additional descendants and others who are interested, in order to add new members and to build an archive of personal recollections, photographs, and memorabilia. Any appropriate information or materials, as well as inquiries, may be mailed to The New England Hebrew Farmers Association of Chesterfield, c/o Ms. Barbara Ball Buff, 345 East 86th Street, Apt. 18C, New York, NY 10028.

Some of the known Chesterfield families:

Agranovitch	Katzman	Ritch
Ariewitz	Kosofsky	Savin
Bloom	Leveloff	Schaeffer
Cohen	Lillians	Schneider

Edwards	Miller	Simonovitch
Eskowitz	Orenstein	Traystman
Gruskin	Phillips	Winakor
Hirschman	Resofsky	Witt
Kaplan	Ribner	Yavner

Merger of Four Jewish Collections

Four major institutions of Jewish learning will combine their resources at the new Center for Jewish History ("CJH") in New York City. They are the American Jewish Historical Society, the Leo Baeck Institute, the Yeshiva University Museum, and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Two Manhattan buildings are being renovated for the CJH. One is on 16th Street, just west of Fifth Avenue, and the other is an adjacent 12-story structure on 17th Street. The result will be a 105,000 square-foot facility for documentation, preservation, research, teaching, exhibitions and public programs. The anticipated opening of the Center is set for the end of 1998.

"Holdings of the four institutions will include more than 80 million archival items, over 500,000 library volumes, and close to 10,000 artworks and artifacts. Scholars and students will be able to research these materials in the Lillian Goldman Main Reading Room. The Leo and Julia Forchheimer Auditorium will host academic conferences, public lectures, films and cultural and educational events."

For more information, visit the Web site at <www.cjh.org>.

Childhood in a Shtetl

A paperback reprint of *Childhood In A Shtetl* by SFBA JGS member Abraham P. Gannes, will be available at the end of May. The book, a personal, historical, and autobiographical memoir, describes Jewish life in Ukraine during the first decades of this century. It focuses on Dr. Gannes' life experiences as a young child in the pre- and post-1917 Russian Revolution, the pogroms and illegal flight to the United States in 1921.

The first printing of the book in 1993 was sold in the U.S., Israel, Canada, Scotland, England and elsewhere. The growing interest and Internet inquiries about the book prompted the current reprint. As the well-known Jewish genealogist, Miriam Weiner expressed it: "although *Childhood In A Shtetl* describes events related only to W(V)inograd, the scene might be in any of the many shtetls in Eastern Europe."

For more information, contact Dr. Gannes, 10821 Northforde Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014; (408) 253-7426.

COMPUTER/ONLINE NEWS

Finding Lost Money

by Sita Likuski

Who wouldn't want to find "lost money?" The New York State Comptroller's Office has made it easy to do online. The Web site of the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (New York) has a link to the Comptroller's Office Web page, "New York State is Holding Your (or your Relative's) Money."

This is a searchable list of unclaimed funds in New York State. Just fill in a name and, for better results, a city. If there is a "hit," you will see a name and address and the name of the company or agency which originally held the money.

There are search tips (use an initial instead of a first name, use spelling variations) and easy instructions for filing a claim by regular mail. The exact dollar amount is not revealed until ownership is verified. Since the list is "refreshed" every six months, it's worth checking back regularly.

If the name is unusual enough, you might want to use only a last name. For my Fidanque family, for example, my cousin who lived in New York City nearly 30 years ago had a deposit left with the electric company. (The address shown was her apartment at that time.)

Another cousin had money due from an insurance company. I searched the online e-mail directories for him and found his daughter's name. I wrote to let her know her father has money waiting to be claimed, identifying myself as his second cousin. Her response was "wow!" Although the family lives only 70 miles away, we've never met, and she never knew her father had living relatives on his paternal side. She was delighted to learn more about the family. And of course she would tell her father about the "lost money."

Give this Web site a try. You may not find lost money, but it may lead to long lost relatives! The NY State Comptroller's home page is www.osc.state.ny.us/. The JGS home page is aol.members/jgsny/main/htm. (Note, there is no "www"). Click "Other" on their home page for other states with online searches.

Useful New York Web Sites

Branches, JGS of Greater Miami, February 1998

The following Web sites and e-mail addresses provide information on birth, death and marriage certificates, and searching in New York City and New York State. Information includes addresses,

telephone numbers, forms required, hours, fees, what can be searched, etc. Note that these sites do not provide certificates or indexes.

Sites

New York Vital Record information
<www.nygbws.org>

Links to other New York City/State sites
<www.nygbs.org/links.htm>

New York State Department of Health
<www.health.state.ny.us>

New York City Municipal Archives
<www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doris>

Vital Records Index Search Request form
<www.sara.nysed.gov>

E-mail Addresses

New York State Archives
<refserv@mail.nysed.gov>

Vital Records General Information
<nyhealth@health.state.ny.us>

N.Y. State Newspaper Project

Patty Smith/Arlene Parnes, JewishGen

The New York State Newspaper Project provides information about New York newspapers on microfilm in New York libraries, which are available through interlibrary loan. Search for newspapers by county at www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/nysnpcv.htm. Approximately 60 counties are included.

Newspapers are listed by city within the county of publication. For example, within the "Kings County" (Brooklyn) listings is information for *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, published: 1849-1938. Availability is listed as: Cornell University (1849:5:14-1865:12:30), Suffolk Cooperative Library System (1933:11:6), and Hofstra University (1849:5:14-1925:2:25). Additional contact information is provided.

Jewish Heritage Online Magazine

Judith Romney Wegner, JewishGen

The Jewish Heritage Online Magazine at www.jewishheritage.com/ dispenses Jewish knowledge on assorted topics at exactly the right level for the intelligent layperson. It tells us everything we wish we'd paid attention to at Hebrew school and much that we wouldn't have heard there even had we been paying attention! Many of the contributors are internationally known in the world of Jewish scholarship.

Ohio Historical Society Web Page

Al Rosenfield, JewishGen

Seeking Ohio records? The Ohio Vital Information for Libraries Center (OVIL) Web site at www.ohiohistory.org/resource/database/ includes two databases of particular interest.

The Death Certificate Index, 1913-1927 and 1933-1937, can provide a date of death and death certificate number, allowing you to obtain a copy of the certificate itself. Indexes for 1928-1933 are in progress.

The Newspaper Index provides a search by title, city, or county of publication, to find microfilmed Ohio newspaper titles held by the Archives/Library, the largest collection of Ohio's newspapers in existence. The microfilm is available through interlibrary loan. Other searchable databases include: Civil War Documents, Historical Organizations, Directory, Manuscripts and Audiovisual Finding Aids, and Ohio Military Rosters.

Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names (TGN)

The Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names at www.ahip.getty.edu/vocabulary/tgn.html allows you to search for place names, place name variations, atlas references, latitude and longitude and other geographic information.

For example entering "Veisiejai" returned:

Europe..... (continent)
Lietuva..... (nation)
Lazdijai..... (district (national))
Veisiejai..... (inhabited place)

No Physical Features: No Political Entities

Entering "Berezno" returned:

Berezno (inhabited place)
Lat: 51.00 N Long: 026.45 E
Europe..... (continent)
Ukrayina..... (nation)
Rovno..... (oblast)

Names:

Berezno (C,V), Berezne (C,V), Ber'ozno (C,V)

Place Types: inhabited place (C)

Sources:

Ber'ozno - Rand McNally Atlas (1989), I-19 [VP]
Berezne - Rand McNally Atlas (1994), I-18 [VP]
Berezno - Times Atlas of the World (1994), 26 [VP]

The database is not exhaustive. "Tykocin" a modest-sized town in Poland was not found. This resource can be useful in locating an ancestral town geographically and determining the correct modern-day archives where records might be kept.

Victorian Census Project

Martha Lev-Zion, JewishGen

The Victorian Census Project at www.staffs.ac.uk/schools/humanities_and_soc_sciences/census/vichome.htm, has computerized the 1851, 1861 and 1871 Census Abstracts for the whole of England and Wales, at the level of the Poor Law Union or Registration District. The project "aims to computerize a number of source documents and related materials relating to Great Britain in the mid-nineteenth century."

These include nineteenth century census abstracts, vital registration data pertaining to births, marriages and death, Poor Law Commissioner returns, and Pigot's and Slater's Typology of England and Wales. Statistics were developed with regard to health and disease, education and literacy, occupations and employment, and migration.

Four subsets of variables relating to the 1831 and 1861 censuses, and the Scottish Registrar General's Annual Report for 1861, can be downloaded from the site. Each data set is in comma-delimited format. Additional resources at this site include an introduction to the Census Enumerator's Books and a hypertext version of Pigot's and Slater's Typology.

A CD-ROM version of the Nineteenth-Century Censuses of Great Britain and Ireland, will be published in Spring or Summer 1998. An atlas of the changing geography of the British Isles over the last 200 years, is scheduled to be published in March 2001 to coincide with the twentieth national census.

Morton Allen Ship Directory Listings Online

This online collection of databases at www.cimorelli.com/vbclient/shipmenu.htm is comprised of the Morton Allen Directory, various newspaper articles, Internet sources, and more.

You can search for ship-related information using a variety of criteria.

- For ships arriving 1890-1930, searches may be made by name, date of arrival, port of departure, or port of arrival.
- From the National Archives catalog M1066 (Vessels arriving at the port of New York from foreign ports), searches for 1820-1850 may be made by route, country, and ship name.

This resource provides invaluable assistance in using family lore and naturalization records to find passenger lists. Another handy tool available at this site is a Soundex Converter and an associated listing of NARA microfilms for that code.

JewishGen Databases

Boston Jewish Advocate Obituaries

www1.jewishgen.org/databases/advocate.htm

This database contains approximately 3,500 obituary notices which appeared in the *Boston Jewish Advocate* compiled by David Rosen. The index currently covers 1990 through February 1998. For each entry, the index contains the deceased's name, maiden name (if given), birthplace (if given), age, the date of the issue of the *Boston Jewish Advocate* in which the obituary appeared, and surnames of related family members mentioned in the obituary.

The *Boston Jewish Advocate* is published weekly. Back issues are available on microfilm (110+ reels) at several libraries, including: Boston Public Library (Boston, MA); Hebrew College Library (Brookline, MA); Lamont Library, Harvard University (Cambridge, MA); [Film NC 497]; Goldfarb Library, Brandeis University (Waltham, MA) [AJHS Depository]; New York Public Library (New York, NY); [*ZAN-*P41]; Library of Congress (Washington, DC); [96/4713]. Possibly also available through interlibrary loan.

A free text search engine is used, and the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex can be applied for surnames.

American Jewish Yearbook Obituary Index

Rosanne Leeson, *JewishGen*

Under an agreement with the publishers, the "American Jewish Year Book Obituary Index: An Index to over 3,000 obituaries of prominent Jews, 1948-1994" may be searched at www.jewishgen.org/search.html. Search results provide surname, given name, year, and volume, taken from Volumes 51-96 of the AJYB. The obituaries are mostly "Who's Who" type entries of varying length. Over the years, a small number of full obituary articles have been published about particularly outstanding figures.

This project was spearheaded by our own Rosanne Leeson. She and her team sought to create a listing of all institutions claiming to have complete runs (from 1899) of the AJYB. It was discovered that so many institutions across the U.S., as well as some in Canada, had holdings that it was an impossibly lengthy task.

Many libraries in the U.S. and Canada, both public and university, may have complete sets of the AJYB. Major Jewish institutions such as Hebrew Union College, Jewish Theological Seminary, Brandeis University, etc., certainly have them. Many synagogues, Jewish Community Centers, Jewish schools and elsewhere may also collect the AJYB. Be sure to check library catalogs.

Brest Ghetto Passport Archive

The Phoenix Project, www.jewishgen.org/databases/brest.htm, seeks to computerize data on the Holocaust drawn primarily from newly opened archives in the former Soviet Union. The Brest Ghetto Passport Archive consists of documents prepared at the order of the Nazi authorities after the capture of Brest in 1941. All Jews 14 years of age and above living in the Ghetto were required to obtain and sign for identity papers, which included their names, ages, and the names and dates of birth of their parents. A photo of each person was taken and anyone receiving an internal passport was required to sign for it. More than 12,000 people were issued passports. These passports and a ledger recording the distribution of passports survived in the archives captured by advancing Soviet troops in 1944.

You can search for surnames using the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex, or search for surnames starting with a particular spelling. You can also do a 'global text' search for a particular word anywhere in the record.

The last column "Signature Info." is of little value in searching for a particular person, but may help researchers because it describes the signature of the person. The possibilities are: the first name was written out along with the last name; the first initial was used with the last name; only the last name was written out; nothing was written "niepismienna"; and the name was written in either Latin, Hebrew or Cyrillic script.

Information about people who were living in Brest prior to the Nazi invasion of June 1941, is eagerly sought by the project. For information regarding the project, contact John and Carol Garrard garrard@u.arizona.edu.

JewishGen Marketplace

The JewishGen marketplace, www.jewishgen.org/market/, is a listing of paid advertisements for services that may be of interest to Jewish genealogists. Categories include: books; photo restoration; publishers; tour operators; computer software; photographers; researchers; translators; memorabilia; postcards; tour guides; and travel agencies.

Selecting "Translators" returned a list of translators and their languages, contact information, and a self-written description.

This is a very new database, and the listings are just beginning to build. Also note that JewishGen does not assume responsibility for the quality of the services presented or the content or the context of any listing in the Marketplace, and reminds users that all risks undertaken are one's own.

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