



# זכרון ZichronNote

## The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XX, Number 2

May 2000

### 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.**  
Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Road)

- Sun. May 21** **San Francisco:** *The Holocaust Center of Northern California.* Assistant Archivist David Goldstein will talk about the HCNC project to microfilm and catalog their collection of more than 500 yizkor books. He will also introduce us to other holdings valuable for genealogical research.
- Mon. June 19** **Palo Alto:** *The Mormon Family History Library and Preparing for the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Salt Lake City.* Janet Broadbent from the Los Altos Family History Center will talk about how to research in a local FHC and how to most effectively use the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. In Part II of the program, members who have attended previous summer seminars will share their experiences and recommendations. If you're planning to attend the July Summer Seminar or hope to visit the Family History Library some day, this is the meeting for you!
- Sun. July 23** **San Francisco:** *Highlights of the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Salt Lake City.* JGS members who attended the seminar will tell us about the exciting new developments in Jewish genealogy and regale us with their adventures.
- Mon. Aug. 21** **Palo Alto:** To be determined.

#### San Francisco

Sun. Sep. 17

Sun. Nov. 19

#### Palo Alto

Mon. Oct. 23

Mon. Dec. 18

#### Upcoming classes offered by the National Archives Pacific Sierra Region

1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. Cost: \$15. To register or obtain information, call: (650) 876-9009.

**Fri. May 12** *Military - Part I: Pre-Revolutionary War to War of 1812, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**Fri. Jun. 22** *Military - Part II: Civil War to World War II, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**More Genealogy Events of Interest on Page 4**

## ZichronNote

### Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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ZichronNote is published four times per year, in February, May, August, and November. The deadline for contributions is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month preceding publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submittals. Submissions may be made by hard copy, 3-1/2" floppy disks or e-mail to dLkurtz@ix.netcom.com.

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**People 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, telephone number, and e-mail address.

**Back Issues** are available for \$5 per issue. Requests should be addressed to the SFBAJGS at the Society address below.

**Display Advertising** is accepted at the discretion of the editor. Rates per issue: business card-sized (3-1/2 x 2 inch) - \$10, quarter-page - \$20, half-page - \$35, full-page - \$60. Ads must be camera-ready and relate to Jewish genealogy.

**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 "SFBAJGS" and send to: Sita Likuski, Membership, 4430 School Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

#### **Society Address:**

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**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.

**SFBAJGS Web Site:** www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

## President's Message

by Rodger Rosenberg

Seven years ago when I first began researching my family's history, most people I met were unfamiliar with the word "genealogy," or assumed it was of interest solely to those whose families arrived in this country on the Mayflower. Two years ago, I heard that genealogy was the fastest growing hobby in the United States. Recently, I read a front-page article in the Wall Street Journal about ethnic research and companies that assist researchers. In March, Time Magazine published an article about genealogy software. What was once a hobby pursued by very few, now seems to be of great interest to everyone I meet.

In 1999 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints launched their genealogy Web site at www.familysearch.com. Within hours, the site crashed from the huge amount of traffic. Thousands upon thousands of eager researchers sought out the important resources on the site and caused crashes for the first few days.

What impact does this heightened activity have on the individual genealogist? While increased numbers of researchers compete for the same resources, there are also likely to be new resources becoming available more quickly, as the funding pool for new initiatives grows. Perhaps even some of the Eastern European archives will recognize the opportunities for their own gain by opening access to repositories and creating finding aids to their collections.

Long-time genealogists have been heard to grumble about the "newbies," their inexperience and unrealistic expectation that everything they need to know can be found online. The "newbies" look askance at the old-timers, baffled that their primary resource is not the Internet and by their interest in seemingly obscure subjects such as European border changes of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Hopefully, the seasoned genealogists will patiently mentor the beginners, teaching them to look beyond computers and the collection of names and dates. Researchers new to our favorite hobby should learn from and acknowledge those who have been working for years, and support new and ongoing research projects from which we all benefit, through volunteering time or contributing funds.

*Avotaynu*, the prominent Jewish genealogical publication, has declared the month of Nisan 5760 (April 6-May 5) as Jewish Genealogy Month, which coincides with Passover. This second annual event is a call to all of us to become more involved in our efforts to learn as much as we can about our families and where we came from, and sharing our experiences with others. Because by doing this, we know ourselves better.

*Rodger*

|                     |
|---------------------|
| <b>SOCIETY NEWS</b> |
|---------------------|

**E-mail Address Updates**

Please note the following updates to e-mail addresses listed in the SFBAJGS Membership Roster.

|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ed Apelzin             | 28edwarda@home.com          |
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| Irving Koppel          | irvingkoppel@hotmail.com    |
| Jonathon Khuner        | jkhuner@ev1.net             |
| Sherry Oppenheim       | gosherry@ihot.com           |

If you have an e-mail address but have not received occasional SFBAJGS messages, or your e-mail address has changed, send a message to dLkurtz@ix.netcom.com so we can keep you up to date.

Messages to the following people have bounced:

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Bruce Bertram  | Devera Witkin  |
| Gilbert Linver | Michael Witkin |
| Jane Schwartz  |                |

Please advise us of your correct e-mail address.

**Welcome New Members**

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Al Baron                     | San Francisco |
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| Vladimir Tetelbaum           | Foster City   |
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**SFBAJGS Family Finder Update**

The surnames and towns being researched by our newest members are listed below. This database is maintained for our membership. If you have a correction or update you would like us to know about, contact: SFBAJGS, 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>         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bergheim            | Poznan, Poland          | Bergheim, Laurence    |
| Block               | Neinstadt, Germany      | Strauss, Judie & Bill |
| Bloom               | Anywhere                | Strauss, Judie & Bill |
| Brazy               | Poland/Lithuania        | Brazy, Betsy          |
| Chalupsky           | Prienai, Lithuania      | Shipnuck, Les         |
| Dombro (Dombromski) | Bialystok, Poland       | Dombro, Louis         |
| Draikin             | Kherson, Ukraine        | Brazy, Betsy          |
| Drosdash (Drozdias) | Karczew, Poland         | Woolf, Naidia         |
| Emrich              | Merchingen, Germany     | Sugarman, Jeffrey     |
| Feigin              | Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine | Strauss, Judie & Bill |
| Flaxman             | Drogichin, Belarus      | Lewak, Dave           |
| Fleischman          | Hungary                 | Strauss, Judie & Bill |
| Flickstein          | Balta, Ukraine          | Lewak, Dave           |
| Geffen              | Vilnius, Lithuania      | Dombro, Louis         |
| Goldberg            | Drogichin, Belarus      | Lewak, Dave           |
| Goldblatt           | Russia                  | Bauer, Rita           |
| Gottstein           | Pilviskiai, Lithuania   | Shipnuck, Les         |
| Haas                | Germany                 | Sugarman, Jeffrey     |

*Continued on page 16*



**CALENDAR, cont'd.**

**More Genealogy Events**

**Local**

Thu., May 18, **Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, Hidden Treasure at Quince (Santa Clara) Family History Library, speaker Carol Haws.** 7p.m. Community Room, Santa Clara City Central Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. [www.katpher.com/SCCHGS/](http://www.katpher.com/SCCHGS/).

Thu., June 15, **Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, Computer Software, Part II: Programs of Interest to Genealogists - Clooz, for document management; AniMap, shows changes in county boundaries over the years; and using MS-Word to organize information.** 7p.m. Community Room, Santa Clara City Central Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. [www.katpher.com/SCCHGS/](http://www.katpher.com/SCCHGS/).

**Regional**

Mon., May 15, **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento, Hebrew Dates and Abbreviations, speaker Rabbi Matt Friedman.** 7 p.m. Albert Einstein Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. For information: Tel: (916) 486-0906, ext. 361. [www.jewishgen.org/ajgs/jgs-sacramento/](http://www.jewishgen.org/ajgs/jgs-sacramento/).

Wed., June 21, **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento, How to Use the Resources of the Family History Center.** 7 p.m. Family History Center, 2745 Eastern Avenue, Sacramento. For information, Tel: (916) 486-0906, ext. 361. [www.jewishgen.org/ajgs/jgs-sacramento/](http://www.jewishgen.org/ajgs/jgs-sacramento/).

**National/International**

Wed. - Sat., Sept. 6-9, **Federation of Genealogical Societies, A World of Records: Rediscovering Old Millennial Sources with New Millennial Techniques.** Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City. For information, FGS Business Office, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940; Tel: (888) FGS-1500; Fax: (888) 380-0500; e-mail: [fgs-office@fgs.org](mailto:fgs-office@fgs.org); Web site: [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org).

**20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Jewish Genealogy: Salt Lake City, UT**

**Sunday - Thursday, July 9-13**

Presented by the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. For information: IAJGS Seminar, Box 99, Bergenfield, NJ 07621: Tel: (201) 387-7200; Fax: (201) 387-2855; e-mail: [seminar@iajgs.org](mailto:seminar@iajgs.org); Web site: <http://iajgs.org/slcy2k>.

**LONG EXPOSURES:  
Jewish Life and History Through  
Snapshots From Bay Area Families**

Through June 29 at the  
**Jewish Community Library**  
601-14th Avenue (at Balboa), San Francisco  
(415) 751-6983 ext. 106



*Ida Garfinkle with a doll she brought from Poland. Oakland, CA: May, 1916. Collection of Judy Baston.*

**Three workshops at the Jewish Community Library accompany the exhibit:**

Sunday, April 30, 2p.m.

**Recording Life Histories in Your Family**

Anita Hecht, oral historian, gives tips on how to gather and preserve family stories.

Sunday, May 7, 2p.m.

**Using Photographs to Preserve Your Family History**

Kim Klausner, Archivist of the Western Jewish History Center of the Judah L. Magnes Museum, uses examples from the Center's Collection to demonstrate the dos and don'ts of family photo care.

Sunday, June 11, 2p.m.

**Dating Photographs from Costume:  
The Clues in Changing Fashions**

Bring one of two or your old family photographs, and Melissa Leventon, Curator of Textiles at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, will show you how to date them based on the clothes in the photos.

## Success Story: The Amazing Discovery of My Jewish Roots and Reconnection to My Family

by Victoria Furstenberg Ferraresi

Vicky is a clinical pharmacist and assistant professor of clinical pharmacy at UCSF. She is also a board member of the PTA and a Boy Scout troop leader. When not chasing after her two sons, Vicky is researching **FURSTENBERG, PROCHOWNICK, QULATOWSKY, BAUM, LEWY, SILBERSTEIN, SILVER, FREYSTADT, HEYMAN(N),** and **SCHULVATER**, from Gdansk, Bydgoszcz, Berlin, Shanghai, and Chicago. Recently, Vicky received e-mail from the Landesarchiv Berlin with new information about her family prior to 1874.

Perhaps my story is not all that unusual. But to me, it is truly remarkable. In the last 16 months, I have taken an amazing journey. It begins at the time I first learned that my **Fürstenberg** family left Germany before World War II because they were Jewish, and continues today. I am now aware of 53 Fürstenbergs from Gdansk, Poland, circa 1814 (relationships yet to be determined), and another family branch, the **Prochowniks**, from Bydgoszcz, Poland, who were previously unknown to me.

My parents came to America in 1949 from Shanghai. In the ensuing years, they established themselves, became citizens of the United States of America, dropped the umlaut from the family name, started a family, and bought a home in the suburbs of San Francisco. In short, they became Americans, assimilating into American society. Only English was spoken at home. It was my parents' common language and would identify us as "real Americans." I know that they did not want us to be perceived as foreign in any way. My sister and I were raised as Lutherans, the faith of our father and his mother, and we attended church regularly.

Dad always told us that his father had a business opportunity in Japan in the years before World War II, and so while he was still in school, his parents left Berlin for Kobe, Japan. Dad lived with an uncle and aunt until he finished school, served six months in the German army, traveled around Europe, and then joined his parents in Japan. Then, when the war broke out, they went to Shanghai. He met my mother in Shanghai and they married there in 1948. She was born and raised in Harbin, China, the daughter of a Ukrainian railroad worker and his Polish wife. Christened as a Catholic, my mother was raised in the faith of the Russian Orthodox Church. To us, their life in Shanghai during the war was described as lots of parties, sports, and good times with friends. My grandfather, Ludwig Fürstenberg, died in 1948 in Shanghai. So it was Mom, Dad, and Granny who came to the United States.

Our life was typically American in every way, but with one twist. We had almost no relatives in the United States and very few elsewhere. My mother had family in Australia and somewhere in the Soviet Union. My sister and I were told that all the other Fürstenbergs had died. Some of my grandmother's relatives were still in Germany, her elderly siblings, and one cousin of Dad's

and the cousin's son. But my parents did have a large circle of colorful and lively friends, who were like a family to us. Mostly Russian émigrés from Shanghai, they were a very large part of our lives and we all filled in as family for each other. Many of them were Jewish, and we celebrated every holiday as a family: birthdays, namesdays, anniversaries, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Orthodox Easter, Passover, and Bar Mitzvahs. We shared traditions, food, spirits, and good cheer. Nobody ever talked negatively about the past, only about the good times they had together in Shanghai.

My father talked about his life in Germany only superficially, and I realize now that he never talked about his father. Mostly we heard humorous anecdotes about trouble he got into as a kid, the tedium in school or confirmation classes, or about one of their dogs, that kind of thing. There were vague references to a cousin who came to visit from America when Dad was about eight years old, and a few stories about dad's uncles, but that was about it. He did have a large number of family photographs, which included his grandparents, Leopold and Helene Fürstenberg, parents, cousins, and friends, dated about 1912 and later. Dad's life as a child is rather well documented on film for someone born in 1916. The pictures of some relatives are labeled, but far too many are not.

Dad passed away in 1993 and left no personal papers. I have only death certificates for him, my grandmother, and mother. I can't exactly say when, but at some point I grew to have an uneasy feeling about his past. I actually thought that he might have had some sort of Nazi connection he was hiding from us. It was with this in mind that I asked my second cousin whom I visited in Germany in December 1998, "Why did my dad and his parents leave Germany?" To which he replied, "because the Fürstenbergs were Jewish!" This news came to me as somewhat of a shock, but also as a relief. I was much happier to hear that this was his secret, and not something sinister. Probably the bigger surprise was that everyone in my "extended family" of friends, including those of my generation and our few remaining relatives knew. My sister and I seemed to be the only ones who did not.

And so my search for my family and intense interest in genealogy began. I first wrote to my dad's elderly

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**Amazing Discovery, cont'd. from page 5**

(Christian) cousin, who still lives in Berlin, and spoke to the widow and son of his best friend from his Shanghai days. This is the story that emerged: at some point in 1938, at the age of 22, my father went to enlist in the German army. He was a loyal German citizen, a member of the Lutheran Church, and he wanted to serve his country. He was told "you are Jewish, come back in a few days with proof that you are not Jewish." He was threatened with arrest. Knowing he was unable to provide any proof, he could not go back. He was hidden by his mother's brother and his wife (Christians). Sometime later my grandparents disappeared. The family that remained in Germany was unaware of what happened and found out only after the war that my dad and his parents were in Shanghai.

At this point I was not using e-mail or the Internet. I had been too busy with other things but now I knew I had to get online. I started looking at genealogy Web sites and my husband planned a trip to Berlin in conjunction with a business trip in March 1999. Just before we left, I came upon an old photo album that had belonged to my grandmother, which I remembered seeing before. Pasted on the inside back cover was the funeral notice for Ludwig Fürstenberg, although I did not recall having paid much attention to it earlier. Written in German, the bereaved family is listed as wife Else, son Heinz, and sister (SISTER!), Rosa Rauch. Nobody ever mentioned a sister before. Even more intriguing was the opposite page. The pages of the album are black and something obviously had been pasted there and subsequently been torn away. I assumed this was an accompanying page of the funeral announcement. The remnants of three words can still be seen (listed with my guesses as to the words and their context):

"Vol" – must be Volk, or people; who else would you mention but more family and friends?

"\_auer;" – the line across the top must be the remnant of a capital letter, so I guessed "T" and looked up T\_auer, looking for words that would make sense in this context. I found the word Trauer, German for mourners! The semicolon must have indicated a listing of more mourners.

Finally, below that word in bold type, the remnants of a name that I interpreted as "Prochornick."

Now I was really curious – who was Rosa and who are the Prochornicks?

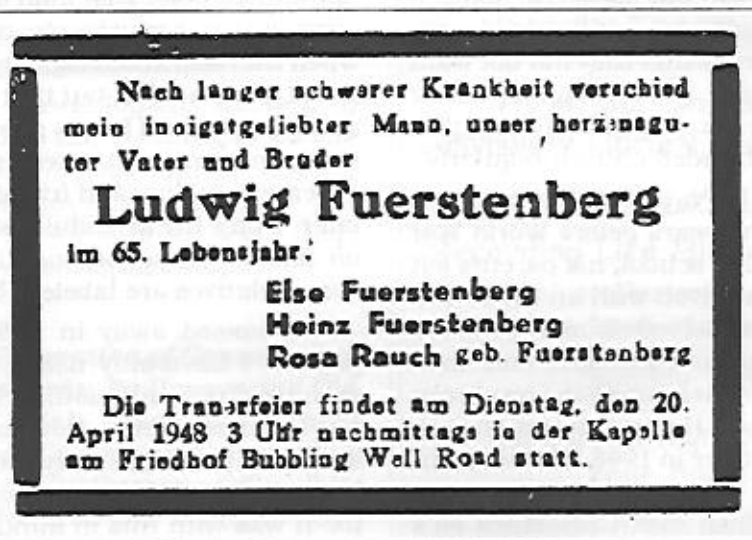
Once in Berlin, we serendipitously came upon a copy (in English) of the *Goldapple Guide to Jewish Berlin* (Andrew Roth and Michael Frajman, Berlin, Germany, Goldapple Publishing, 1998). It listed various archives, libraries, and cemeteries where one could do genealogical research. But first we visited with Dad's cousin (the daughter of my grandmother's sister). We had copied every photo that we had, and she was able to identify only a few people unknown to me – Rosa and my grandmother's father (her grandfather). She explained that in the 1920s, unlike today, the families got together only for birthdays and holidays, and she really never knew the Fürstenbergs other than my grandfather. She did have very fond memories of Onkel Ludwig (my grandfather) and his sense of humor, and of his sister Rosa. It gave me a nice connection to them that I never had before. She was able to share some nice family memories and fill us in on my grandmother's family.

Then we hit the archives. First we went to the Zentrum für Berlin-Studien (Center for Berlin Studies) to find out where the Fürstenbergs lived. In microfilmed old address books, we found their address – the same one was listed as far back as 1901, first under the name Leopold, then Ludwig. In the 1939 directory, there was no listing; they had left.

It was getting late and we wanted to go to Weissensee Cemetery. The largest Jewish cemetery in Berlin, we assumed that my great-

grandparents were buried there. We went by streetcar and easily found it, but had arrived only 20 minutes before closing! In the office, we gave the clerk the names we were seeking and he instantly pulled the relevant cards and made copies for us. He gave us a cemetery map and drew directions to the section where they were buried (at the furthest end, of course). We literally ran there and easily found the section. Badly overgrown, with many overturned and broken stones, we searched for the plot. Almost giving up, I turned around and saw Fürstenberg on the back of a gravestone. This was it! Polished granite in perfect

*Continued on page 7*



*Amazing Discovery, cont'd. from page 5*

condition, the gravestone for Leopold Fürstenberg and his wife Helene **QUIATOWSKY** Fürstenberg, with their birth and death dates, and a prominent Star of David at the top. We took photographs and a video, but had to leave, since by now it was past closing time.

The next day we went to the Jüdische Geminde Bibliothek (Jewish Community Library) and looked at a printed copy of the *Jüdisches Adressbuch für Gross-Berlin*. We found the same address listed. Then we looked up "Prochornick." Amazingly, there was a listing for an Eugen Prochownik. His address? Seemingly next door to the Fürstenbergs!

We jumped on the streetcar to visit the addresses. Soviet-era apartment houses greeted us, but there, right next door to each other, were the two addresses as listed in the 1931 Adressbuch. A next-door neighbor in Berlin was also listed as a mourner in Shanghai 17 years later. We knew this was a relative! It was too coincidental. Again more pictures and a video.

After returning home, my husband found JewishGen. I immediately signed up for the discussion group and registered in the Family Finder. I tried to contact another researcher looking for Furstenbergs from Berlin but mail to her address in New York was returned. I posted messages looking for her, and listed Furstenberg and Prochownik at the bottom of the messages. I received a reply from someone else searching for her own Prochownik family. One branch, not related to hers, had Furstenberg connections. She had the death certificate of a man named Prochownik who died in Florida in the 1970s. His mother was listed as Agathe Furstenberg and his birthplace as Germany. The informant on the death certificate lived in Ohio at the time, and we assumed she was his daughter. We both had a tremendous hunch that this was my family. I posted new messages looking for her.

In July 1999, on a hunch, my JewishGen friend called the building manager where Mr. Prochownik lived at the time of his death. His sister lives there now, and it was she, not his daughter, who signed the death certificate. My friend then called the sister, but after a few minutes, she hung up on my friend. I called her too, but she would not speak to me. So, I wrote a letter, describing who I was, who I was looking for, and why. About three weeks later I got a call from someone who said, "Hello, Vicky. I'm your second cousin!" It was Mr. Prochownik's niece, who told me that her mother (age 95) was my father's first cousin, and that her grandmother, Agathe Furstenberg, was another sister of my grandfather, Ludwig. Rosa (a widow), Agathe and her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter had come to America earlier than my parents and settled in Ohio "because we were told to go there."

Following our conversation, I wrote to Dad's cousin and she greeted me warmly. Apparently she had been

very close to my grandmother and they wrote to each other often in the years after they all arrived in America. But one day the letters stopped. Letters from her to my father went unanswered. They assumed my grandmother had died, and until now, she wondered what had happened to the little blonde girls in all the photographs sent to her by my grandmother in the early 1960s. We began a correspondence and she has since filled me in on more family history. My Great-grandfather Leopold moved to Berlin from Danzig with his friend Benno Prochownik from Bromberg. Upon their arrival they visited the Quiatowsky family, and the two friends married two of the Quiatowsky sisters. Of their children, two cousins, Eugen Prochownik and Agathe Fürstenberg married. These cousins were the parents of Mr. Prochownik and his sister, and Leopold and Benno were their grandfathers. And so I feel doubly related to her. She knows that my dad left Berlin first, followed by herself, her brother (Mr. Prochownik) and his wife. Subsequently, all the parents emigrated. My husband and I have since gone to Florida and met Dad's cousin, and she has filled in many of the missing parts of my family tree.

In all this time, I have learned so much about genealogy. Archival information can be obtained without leaving the United States. I could have found all the information I got in Berlin by searching records here. I have since looked at microfilmed records for Gdansk at my local Mormon Family History Center and found Leopold's birth record, his father's name (Daniel Solomon Fürstenberg), the record of Daniel's marriage to Agathe Baum, and Leopold's brother, Siegfried. In total, I've found 53 Fürstenbergs on the two films I have thoroughly reviewed. Most of these are birth and death records. I need to look at marriage records next to make connections between them. I wrote to Weissensee Cemetery and they sent me the complete files of Leopold, Helene, and several Prochowniks who are buried there. They made a very nice family tree of the information they had, which included some Prochownik birth dates and spouses of whom I was not aware.

My goal now is to find out, as accurately as possible, how and when my father and his parents left Germany. I want to understand more clearly their life there (as well as one can from records); what business did my grandfather own, where did they go to school, get married, etc. And, I want to find out about the Quiatowskys. I know absolutely nothing about them, and look forward to that adventure.

JewishGenners have been more than generous with their expertise, and I thank each and every one of them. Every day I learn something from the generous people in this group. Going from knowing almost nothing to where I am now, in just 16 months, wouldn't you agree, is truly amazing.



## The Judd Family Reunion

by Stanley Judd

Stan has been a SFBAJGS member for many years. He is currently researching all **BRILLIANTS** and **JUDELOWITZ/YUDELOWITZ** families who originated in Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland. He recently added a **RAPPAPORT** who married into the Brilliant family. He is also researching **JACOBSON/JANKOWSKY** and **ROTHCHILD**.

My grandfather, Abraham, was born in Joniskis, Latvia, and emigrated to the United States in 1886. He was the first member of his family to come to America. Grandfather came to New York City on his own, leaving behind his wife (whom he'd married in Siauliau, Lithuania), and his parents, Ezra and Sifra, in Mitau, Latvia. Over the next 40 years, he encouraged each member of his family to join him in the U.S., sponsoring all of those willing to come. Grandfather worked for more than a year in New York City, at a job in which he was exposed to toxic fumes. After developing lung problems, Grandfather moved to Denver, Colorado for his health. His wife, with whom he had been reunited in New York City, followed him to Denver after the birth of their first son in 1888. His mother Sifra arrived in the U.S. in 1892, after her husband Ezra died. By 1906, his three brothers, two sisters, and their respective families had all joined him in Denver.

In May 1999, we held the first-ever Judd Family reunion in Denver where the first members of the family to emigrate to the United States had settled. We identified about 430 third- to seventh-generation descendants of Ezra and Sifra, and sent out about 220 invitations (one per family); 120 people attended.

The following guidelines are offered to those considering holding a family reunion. First, a reunion is not a one-person show; you need several people on whom you can depend to follow through. We had seven, one from the descendants of each of the six immigrant siblings, plus a coordinator to handle arrangements in Denver. Major tasks included:

- building an address book for all living descendants with current telephone numbers and addresses;
- canvassing many of the family members for preferences for the date and place of the reunion;
- selecting the date, deciding on group activities, and estimating costs;
- arranging lodging, a family-oriented bus tour of Denver, and a visit to the main Jewish cemetery;
- planning the welcome banquet;
- updating the written family history and printing the family history with the address book; this included preparing a seven-generation family tree to post in the hospitality room and at the banquet; and

- preparing name badges for attendees, including name, branch of the family and relationship (for spouses).

Along the way, we added some special touches. For example, we:

- used large, easy-to-read badges, which were worn on string hung around the neck;
- had a group picture taken at the banquet (between dinner and dessert);
- displayed pictures, as available, from the first two generations along with the family tree;
- provided a disposable camera on each table at the banquet; and
- developed the pictures, and sent prints to a representative of each branch of the family to copy and distribute as they saw fit; if a print included members of more than one family, we sent a print to each family.

Costs, including meals and lodging, were paid directly by attendees. Many stayed with family and others at the hotel where we were able to get a special rate. We charged \$60 per person for the banquet, less for the children's menu. (This covered food, flower arrangements on the tables, and a souvenir.) The spiral-bound family history book and address list cost \$17 per copy (enough to cover printing costs). The city bus tour fee was \$9 per person. Those who wanted copies of the family tree and ancestors' pictures were charged copying expenses, and all were charged \$2 for postage and handling to cover mailing the group picture to family members.

We selected May as the most suitable month for the reunion, after most schools had closed for the summer recess and before we ran into conflicts with summer vacations. Although we made personal contact with most families nine months ahead of time to advise them of the date, there were still a few who could not attend. We started with the banquet on Thursday, to accommodate working folk who might have difficulty taking time off and to avoid conflicts with the Sabbath. Unfortunately, the three living members of the third generation were unable to attend. We made sure they had access to the family history book, family tree, and pictures.

If you have any questions, I can be reached by e-mail at stanjudd@aol.com.



## How To Use U.C. Berkeley Libraries for Genealogical Research

by Jeremy Frankel

This article is a personal view by Jeremy Frankel based on his research carried out at the University of California at Berkeley libraries. What follows has not been reviewed by the library authorities nor can it be construed as official policy regarding the use of the libraries. Anyone wishing to use the facilities should acquaint themselves with each library's rules and circulation policies.

UC Berkeley has a huge wealth of sources relating directly as well as indirectly to genealogical research at the UC Berkeley libraries. At the very least, within the university collection lies a tremendous amount of material, which can enhance our understanding of the influences on our families' lives. The nature of the material is such that it doesn't necessarily lend itself to being located merely by searching the catalog. Best use of the libraries can be made by becoming familiar with the collection in general and using the intuition you will develop as you browse the stacks. If you are exceedingly lucky, you may find information in books, newspapers, and maps that not only mention your ancestors, but describe more fully an aspect of their lives which has not been garnered from other sources.

### The UC Berkeley Library Catalog: How to use it, and the interesting non-traditional items found there

#### The UC Holdings

One of the reasons I have written this article promoting the UC Berkeley library system is because of its sheer size. As Berkeley is the oldest UC campus, it therefore has the lion's share of the UC Library collection. A few statistics bear this out. As of February 2000, the UC Library had 10,060,413 titles. Berkeley (including the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) and the Northern Regional Library Facility (NRLF) – more about these resources later), has 4,806,051, and Doe Library at Berkeley has 4,234,500 titles. (UCLA by comparison had 3,799,466.)

#### Gladis and Melvyl – Catalog Searches

Gladis and Melvyl is the famous "double act" that guides you through the UC collection. Gladis, the Global Library Automated Data Information System, is used for searching for material housed at UC Berkeley, including GTU and NRLF. Melvyl is the catalog for the nine UC campus-wide collection. Although Gladis has certain advantages, the main one being that it is more current than Melvyl, I prefer Melvyl because of its more flexible search tools such as Boolean search techniques, where you can use the terms "and," "not," and "or" with the keywords. If you are using the catalog online from home, the technique is totally different; pull-down menus are used to display the keywords by which you wish search.

While it is certainly possible to use the online catalog remotely, there are more advantages to using the catalog terminals on campus. Once you become adept at using the terminals, it is, at least in my experience, much quicker than using the online catalog. Secondly, there are databases available on campus, which are not accessible remotely, such as journal citations. As mentioned below, I once found a relative who was listed as an author of a medical article. You are arguably more likely to find a relative who has written an article rather than a book (if you have a relative who has written anything at all).

#### Examples of Search Techniques

Handouts are available which go into greater detail about how the catalog works and the many different search techniques available. What follows are some of the basic search techniques for using the computer terminals on campus. All words in *italics> are either the ones you type or the display results shown.*

One can begin by undertaking basic searches using author, subject, or title, by using shorthand two-letter codes such as these:

- Fi Pa Aleichem Sholom* (Find Personal Author Aleichem Sholom)
- Fi Su Jews* (Find Subject Jews)
- Fi Tw Temple Beth El* (Find Title Words Temple Beth El)

The first example, *Fi Pa Aleichem Sholom* brings up 253 entries. As we cannot use interlibrary loan, we are only interested in what is at UCB. At the prompt, if you type *at ucb* the number shown is now 112 entries. This is still a large number to look at, but what will make it manageable is to look at them in review mode by typing *d rev*, which reduces each entry to one line; the author followed by a few words of the title. About 15 entries can be shown on each screen. Scroll down page by page by pressing enter.

For example, to look at a entry 16, type *d 16* (display 16) and the full entry appears:

- 16. *Sholom Aleichem, 1859-1916*  
*The Best of Sholom Aleichem/ edited by Irving*  
*Howe and Ruth Wisse.*  
*Washington : New Republic Books, 1979*  
*UCB Doe PJ5129.R2 .A26 1979*  
*UCB Moffitt PJ5129.R2 .A26 1979*

*Continued on page 10*

UC Berkeley, cont'd. from page 9

Usually the entry is given in short mode as shown above. If you type *d 16 long* you get:

16.

Author - Sholom Aleichem, 1859-1916  
 Title - *The Best of Sholom Aleichem/edited by Irving Howe and Ruth Wisse.*  
 Washington : New Republic Books, 1979  
 Description - xxvii, 276 p. ; 24 cm  
 Notes: Bibliography: p. 274-276  
 Subjects: Jews - Europe, Eastern - Fiction.  
 Other entries - Howe, Irving  
                     Wisse, Ruth, 1936-  
 Call numbers: UCB Doe PJ5129.R2 .A26 1979  
 UCB Moffitt PJ5129.R2 .A26 1979

This shows that there are two copies available, one in Doe and another in Moffitt. To go back to review mode, you can again type *d rev*. However, this returns you to the first 15 entries. Let us say you have just looked at number 87, the trick is to type *d rev 87-*, which will begin your review mode with number 87 onwards.

To make your life a little easier, you can also begin your search by typing *Fi Pa Aleichem Sholom at ucb* (underline for emphasis only). This brings up:

Search request: *Fi personal author ALEICHEM SHOLOM*  
 Search result: 112 records at Berkeley, NRLF, or GTU  
                     253 records at all libraries

Now you can type *d rev* and the 112 entries at Berkeley will be displayed.

You can do the same thing for searching in other fields, for example, *Fi Su California and Synagogues* brings up seven records at all nine campuses and two at Berkeley. Item number two is a 190-page book celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco.

2. Voorsanger, Jacob, 1852-1908  
*The chronicles of Emanu-El: being an account of the rise and progress of the Congregation Emanu-El, which was founded in July 1850: and will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary December 23 1900. San Francisco [Calif.: The Congregation] 1900*  
 UCB Bancroft x F869.S3 E53

This book can be found in the Rare Books collection of Bancroft Library, which adjoins Doe Library.

Another problem you will encounter is that many foreign-language books are cataloged in their native language. So, for example *Fi Tw Lithuania and Jews at UCB* returns one record. Typing *D 1* brings up the entry:

1. Greenbaum, Masha.  
*Tikvah 'al pi ha-tehom : Yehude Lita ben geto le-maheneh / Mashah Grinba'um. Yerushalayim : Yad va-shem, c1999*

Series title: *Sidrah la-no'ar 'a. sh. Korts'ak.*  
 UCB Doe DS 135.L5 G735 1999

This is not particularly helpful if one isn't fluent in Hebrew. One possible solution is to request the long description by typing *D 1 long*:

1.  
 Author: Greenbaum, Masha.  
 Other titles: Title on t.p. (title page) verso: *Hope at the edge of the abyss: the Jews of Lithuania from ghetto to camp*  
 Title: *Tikvah 'al pi ha-tehom: Yehude Lita ben geto le-maheneh / Mashah Grinba'um.*  
 Yerushalayim: Yad va-shem, c1999  
 Description: 268p., [8] p. of plates: ill; 21 cm  
 Series: *Sidrah 'a. sh. Korts'ak.*  
 Subjects: Jews - Lithuania - History - 20<sup>th</sup> century  
                     Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) - Lithuania  
 Other entries: *Sidrah la-no'ar 'a. sh. Korts'ak.*  
 Call Numbers: UCB Doe DS135.L5 G735 1999

Another solution is to simply get a dictionary from reference and plow through, trying to translate as best you can.

An example of searching for titles by using keywords is *Fi Tw San Francisco and Synagogues* resulting in three entries, one being *Faith in San Francisco; a Guide to San Francisco Churches and Synagogues* by Barbara Egoian published in 1961. The other two items mentioned in the subject search at Berkeley did not include the item described above. This highlights the familiar problem of how items are cataloged. In other words you have to be very broad-minded in thinking about how something might be cataloged and check all search possibilities.

In another example, *Fi Tw Ukraine and Jews* yields four titles at Berkeley. But if you type *Fi Su Ukraine and Jews* you will be presented with 223 records. The search *Fi Tw Belarus and Jews* reveals no entries, but *Fi Su Belarus and Jews* yields 79 records at Berkeley.

### Genealogical Resources

Although my reason for giving a talk to the SFBAJGS and then writing this article is to highlight what I call the non-traditional sources, I want to mention some of the genealogical aids available. It ought to be emphasized however, that my research has not been to focus on them. In the Map Library you will find Chester Cohen's *Shtetl Finder* and Mokotoff and Sack's *Where Once We Walked*. Doe Library has a complete set of Filby's *Passenger and Immigration Lists*. The Newspaper Library holds a complete set of the *Jewish Chronicle* (London, England).

### Browsing the shelves: Non-Traditional Sources

My browsing has led me to a 1997 directory listing every street directory for England, Wales and Scotland in archives and libraries with large collections: *British*  
 Continued on page 11



*UC Berkeley, cont'd. from page 10*

*Directories: a bibliography and guide to directories published in England and Wales (1850-1950) and Scotland (1773-1950)/ Gareth Shaw and Allison Tipper. 2nd edition. New York: Mansell, 1997. (UCB Doe DA27.5.A12 S47 1997)*

Another book of interest is one that lists graduates from Yale University who were killed in the Second World War. The list is by graduating class, then alphabetically by name. Each person is accorded rank and a brief military history: *Yale Men Who died in the Second World War: a memorial volume of biographical sketches.* (By Kone, Eugene H. with a pref. By Clarence W. Mendell. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1951 (UCB Doe D810.E45 Y35).

There are many books in the library about Jews in war. Books about concentration camps abound. Title word searches (*fi tw*) bring up the results below. The two numbers show how many are at Berkeley (including GTU and NRLF) and in the UC libraries as a whole:

*Auschwitz: 255/458;*  
*Bergen Belsen: 18/42; and*  
*Theresienstadt: 34/68.*

Foreign-language books should not be overlooked. *L'Activité des Organisations Juives en France sous L'Occupation* published by the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine, 1947, has at the back, six pages of names under the heading "Collaborateurs des Organisations Juive en France morts sous l'occupation Allemande Victimes de leur Devoir" ("Collaborators of Jewish organizations in France, who died during the German occupation, victims of their sense of duty") (UCB Doe D810.J4 C4).

The Library also possesses a single volume of the *Jewish Communal Register (of New York City) 1917-18* (UCB Doe F128.9.J5 J52). This book lists many congregations and mutual aid societies. A brief paragraph describes each organization and its president and his biography. At the back are several pages with an extensive member name index.

The Library also has the very interesting book *The Jewish Landsmanshaften of New York* (UCB Doe F128.9.J4 F4). Prepared by the Yiddish Writers' Group of the Federal Writers Project, it was published in New York in 1938. Though written in Hebrew, it does list (in English) hundreds of landsmanshaften in alphabetical order with each secretary's name and address.

#### **Periodicals Database**

The periodicals database includes newspapers, magazines, and professional journals. To locate Jewish periodicals in the catalog use the code PE. For example, *FIPE Jewish and New York at UCB* returns:

*33 records at Berkeley, NRLF or GTU.*  
*88 records found in the Periodicals database*

In addition to the main catalog which encompasses books, maps, and periodicals, there are several databases, such as Medline and Humanities, which catalog articles in professional journals (upon entering Melvyl, type either *MED* or *HUM*). Using the Humanities database opens up a whole new world of research strategies. For example, searching the MLA (Modern Languages) allowed me to locate the 1994 dissertations (each with 200-word abstract) written by my English cousin and his American wife when they undertook their Ph.Ds.

Medline is a database of more than two million medical and health journals and can provide information on Jewish related diseases. Many entries feature citations. If you type *FI SU Jews at UCB*, the screen will display:

*667 citations at UCB, NRLF, or GTU*  
*851 citations in the MEDLINE database*

The first reference is:

*Inflammatory bowel disease in non-Ashkenazi Jews with familial Mediterranean fever (Lancet, 29 Jan 2000)*  
*UCB Public Health R31 .L3*

Another reference of possible interest is #4:

*Title: They Shall Wear Fringes*  
*Journal: Journal of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis*  
*Call No: Ed/Psych RC500.A47*

Type *D 4 Long AB* for the abstract which states (in part):

*The multiple functions of clothes include utility, protection, rivalry, disguise, camouflage, display for seduction purposes, aggression, totemism, and status. Here the focus is on a decorative and distinctive hierarchical aspect of ancient dress, the tsitsit or fringes, whose original function is long absent, but that has endured for 3,500 years....*

Fortunately all the library catalogs use the same letter codes for searching, described previously. Note though, that these databases, with their useful citation abstracts, are freely accessible on campus but not remotely, unless you are a student, faculty, or staff member.

### **Finding Material Related to My Research**

Before explaining how I found information relating to my relatives, I should issue a reminder. Although there are more than four million books and several hundred thousand journals housed at UCB, do not expect to find anything on your family. The main purpose of my presentation to the JGS and this article is to introduce the library to genealogists and expose the wealth of information there, which can be used to better understand the history, geography, politics,

*Continued on page 12*



*UC Berkeley, cont'd. from page 11*

and religion impacting your family and the decision to emigrate to another country. If you really do find something about a particular relative, consider it icing on the cake.

My initial forays into the libraries began when I bought the book *East End 1888* by Professor William J. Fishman who studied one borough in East London, England, and the events which transpired there in just one year. On page 143, I came across an item about how a five-story factory on Commercial Street, tenanted by Messrs. Koenigsberger, furrier, burned down while 200 people were working there (miraculously, all got out alive). This incident aroused my curiosity as my **Koenigsberg** family (my father's maternal family) were furriers on Commercial Street! How could I find out more? I knew that the Newspaper Library has a complete run of *The Times* (London), and thought that the incident might have merited a mention. The fire had occurred on October 18, so I viewed the microfilm reel containing October 19. On page three was the following item "An alarming fire broke out at 10:00 pm last night at 25, Commercial Street, Whitechapel, in a five-floored warehouse, tenanted by Messrs. Koenigsberg and Son, furriers and manufacturers ...." Fishman might have made a spelling error in the name, but I was not yet convinced that this was my family. I wound forward to the next day's paper where the addition of a single letter provided the final clue: "the...official report of Captain Shaw: 'Called at 9:59 pm to 25, Commercial Street, Whitechapel, E., premises occupied by Messrs. H. Koenigsberg and Son, furriers ....'"

The letter "H" told me that this was Harris Koenigsberg, my great-great-grand-uncle. Now that I had a street address, I wondered if this snippet could lead me to additional information. The Map Library holds several hundred microfiche and film of city centers detailed at extremely large scales. The maps were produced for fire insurance purposes - industrial areas in a city could be surveyed for the building materials used in construction. Insurance companies could then perform a better risk assessment. These maps actually indicated by specialized code the number of floors, what the walls and floors were built of, the kind of roof and its profile, skylights, etc.

(In the United States, these maps are generically known as Sanborn insurance maps, whereas in England and elsewhere, the surveyor was the Canadian, Charles Goad.) Central London and the East End are very well represented on these maps and I had no trouble locating Commercial Street. I was very pleased to find the block with #25 annotated as "Furriers." The maps showed me that there were four floors (above the first floor), two skylights, and that a tunneled

passageway connected the front sidewalk with an entrance halfway down the side. Later research (other newspaper accounts) revealed that Koenigsberg had bought #23 after the fire and added it to his business. A name index to these maps actually listed "Koenigsberg."

When performing catalog searches, it is a good idea to note if a certain shelf call number keeps cropping up. This can be a clue that a particular area may well be worth browsing. In fact there can often be no substitute for browsing in such a large facility. The serendipitous nature of stumbling across a nugget of information is an experience that only those who have succeeded will appreciate. Oftentimes something you are looking for can't be realized by title alone or by the contents, but may be hidden within the index. For me this is the real value of using the campus libraries. The Koenigsberg story above is a good example as there was no mention of Koenigsberg in the book's index. So it was by noticing a shelf call number with prefix "HV," relating to the social aspects of the working classes, that led me to discover the following items by Jack London and Charles Booth.

Undertaking a keyword search for "London" (England) I came across *People of the Abyss* by Jack London, written in 1903. London spent several weeks during the summer of 1902 posing as a homeless person, walking the streets of East London, and sleeping on the streets or in shelters for the homeless. The resulting text offers a particularly graphic description of the neighborhood. A photograph of Commercial Street, is accompanied by text:

"Late last night I walked along Commercial Street from Spitalfields to Whitechapel ... continuing south, down Lemn Street to the docks ... And as I walked I smiled at the East End papers which ... boastfully proclaim that there is nothing the matter with the East End as a living place for men and women. It is rather hard to tell ... much of it is untellable ... I saw a nightmare, a fearful slime that quickened the pavement (sidewalk) with life, a mess of unmentionable obscenity...."

As Harris Koenigsberg continued to work until his death in 1921, it is entirely possible that the lights from his warehouse shone down that late summer night in 1902 upon Jack London as he made his way past the "unmentionable obscenity" down to the docks.

And so it was I discovered the social studies carried out by Charles Booth in the 1880s and 1890s. A businessman, he maintained a distant interest in politics and radical causes. He was made aware of the issues of poverty by his wife's cousin, Beatrice Potter. Although Potter will be remembered for her writings on socialism, Jewish genealogists will remember her for her excellent vignette of the Jewish immigrant.

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As described in *Charles Booth's London* by Albert Fried and Richard M. Elman (1968, Pantheon Books), the chapter which Potter wrote "is the only exhaustive description of an ethnic group in Booth's study. The chapter can also be found in Volume 1 of the first edition, pp. 566-90 ..." Doe Library has several editions of all five volumes. Potter also describes a visit with a Mrs. Levy to a local synagogue.

Booth's study was quite exhaustive. He literally went from door to door in the East End carrying out what almost amounted to a sociological study of hundreds of households based upon the 1881 census.

As well as interviewing the "down and outs," Booth and his assistants attempted to interview people in local government, the clergy, business, etc. (Booth made copious notes and kept a large series of notebooks which are held by the British Library of Political and Economic Science, of the London School Of Economics.) An interview with businessman Harris Koenigsberg was published as "Interview with a Sweater, 1893." (As Koenigsberg owned what amounted to be a sweatshop, he and his like were called sweaters). In Booth's volume encompassing London's East End, he writes:

There are a few manufacturing furriers working on skins of their own in the East End as well as in the City. One of these firms has the unenviable distinction of being mentioned by every manufacturer and chambermaster as being the worst sweating firm in the trade...

In *A Documentary History of Jewish Immigrants in Britain, 1840-1920* (1994, Leicester University Press), author David Englander describes many aspects of the immigrant's life by using contemporary accounts:

Koenigsberg, described as the man with the 'unenviable distinction as the worst sweater in the fur trade,' was interviewed for Charles Booth's inquiry into the Life and Labour of the People of London on 14 September and 16 October 1893. The report is revealing for the perspective as for the substance... Koenigsberg: Furrier, dealer, sewer, cutter, blocker. Commercial Street, Whitechapel on a letter of introduction from Canon Barnett. He is reputed to be the greatest sweater in the Trade, is a Jew, small evil-looking" (Booth Notebooks, B96 fos 47-48,75-81).

In yet another account, as described in *Mr. Charles Booth's Inquiry* by Rosemary O'Day and David Englander, Englander writes that Duckworth, one of Booth's assistants:

...called upon a Whitehall furrier armed with a letter of introduction from Canon Barnett, was mistaken for a Factory Inspector and sent off

with a flea in his ear... (Source: Booth Notebooks, B96 fos 47-48,70).

When I mentioned this discovery about my ancestor to SFBAJGS Librarian Judy Baston her response was that the way I had enthusiastically revealed this new information was a case of "reverse yichus!"

### Jewish Chronicle Newspaper

The *Jewish Chronicle* has been a veritable goldmine for me. The newspaper began publishing in 1841 and is the world's oldest English-language weekly newspaper. One could argue that one of its main purposes was to fill the need of the Jewish population as an instrument by which birth, marriage, and death announcements could be made known. As a measure of just how important these public (paid) announcements were, for more than 100 years these announcements appeared on the first three pages. To date, I have located almost 500 citations relating to various surnames of the families I am researching. Of these, 136 are attributable to my Koenigsberg family alone. The announcements also include: bar mitzvahs, engagements, (disengagements!), forthcoming marriages, wedding anniversaries, tombstone consecrations and thanks for condolences. The tombstone consecration announcements are to be prized because English death certificates are not required to state either the undertaker or cemetery. Having discovered where some of my relatives were buried, I was able to dispatch my father, with camera in hand, to take pictures of the tombstones.

Other kinds of "announcements" included New Year's greetings, lists of charitable donors, regular advertisements, and pronouncements such as those made on behalf of the local kashrut authority informing the public that certain butchers were not selling kosher meat. New Year's greetings began at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. After a decade or so, they were organized alphabetically by last name for London, followed by the provinces and then a small number from abroad. They are useful in that nearly all announcements include a family address. The 1910s and 1920s saw a huge increase in charitable donations. There were always pleas for all kinds of situations ranging from soup kitchens in the East End to suffering Polish Jews in Europe. These lists can be four columns of minuscule type to a page, and run to several pages. Some lists were published simply by A-Z, but many other lists were organized first by amount donated, then alphabetically. Kashrut authorities felt no compunction in advertising those butchers who were not licensed, publishing the butcher's name and address. There might be a dozen butchers listed, with these notices usually appearing just before Pesach.

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*UC Berkeley, cont'd. from page 13*

That the *Jewish Chronicle* (and other Jewish newspapers) are now being recognized for the large amount of genealogical data can be seen by the success of a recent publication, *The Jewish Victorian*, by Doreen Berger. This 600-page volume (the first of several), covering 1871-1880, details nearly everyone mentioned and all births, marriages, and deaths for three English Jewish newspapers.

This discussion of my own research experiences began with my discovery of the book *East End 1888* by Professor William J. Fishman. The wheel was to come full circle as I discovered through my genealogical research that the Bill Fishman I had listed in my Levy genealogy (my mother's paternal side) and William J. Fishman were one and the same person.

## **The UC Berkeley Campus and Libraries**

### **Location**

The University of California at Berkeley campus is situated two blocks east of downtown Berkeley. The 40 libraries, many of which are "subject-specific," are housed within numerous buildings dotted around this sylvan setting of some 2,000 acres. The addition of this "mini-city" with a population of 50,000 to the town of Berkeley, creates challenges to residents and visitors alike. One problem is the distinct lack of available parking. If you're lucky enough to find street parking during the week, it will be limited to two hours. There are several public parking lots. The other alternative is to take the bus or BART to downtown Berkeley. Once there, you can walk onto campus or walk to the edge of campus and take a shuttle bus that runs around the perimeter of the campus.

### **Layout**

Three libraries are certainly likely to aid you in your research: Doe Library (named for Charles Franklin Doe, a local lumber businessman), the Newspaper and Periodical Microform Library, and the Map Library. The first two are housed in Doe, and the Map Library is on the basement level of McCone Hall, to the north of Doe. If you enter campus by the North Gate and walk down the sloped path, the building on your left is McCone Hall. Opposite and across the grass is Doe Library with the glass roof of the now defunct stacks rising above the tiled roof. Adjoining Doe to the left is Bancroft Library, which houses the collection of rare and special items. In front of Doe and extending from the access road on the left all the way to the undergraduate (Moffitt) Library on the right, and underground (under the grass) are the three floors of open stacks of Doe Library. During daytime hours (9a.m.-5p.m.) the north side doors are open. After 5pm the doors on the south side stay open until 10pm.

If the idea of exercise appeals to you, start from the downtown BART station, walk up University Avenue to its end, and in front of you is the campus. If you are walking in from the west entrance, go around the D-shaped driveway and up University Drive to the circle. On your right is the long façade of the Valley Life Sciences Building (VLSB). If you take a peek inside, you will see the tyrannosaurus rex with a pterodactyl (the latter in mid-flight) guarding the entrance to the BioScience and Natural Resources Library! The building past VLSB is Moffitt Library on your left, beyond which is Doe Library.

Two other libraries are worth mentioning here, as both are off site. They are the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) and the Northern Regional Library Facility (NRLF). The GTU library is situated on Scenic and Ridge, a block north of campus. As you might infer, the library is host to items that deal with religion. It is quite possible that your library catalog searches show materials you want to inspect which are held here. For example, the American Jewish Year Book (1924-1996).

The NRLF is a cooperative venture between UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC San Francisco, GTU, and the California State Library, to house items which are either duplicates or have low circulation rates. This huge facility (nearly 200,000 square feet) is located at the northern end of the Richmond Field Station, a UCB outpost in Richmond, just off I-580. One does not need any ID to use the facility.

You may find that some items of interest are stored at the NRLF. Through the circulation desk you can request that the desired materials be brought over; it takes a couple of days. However, it is much more efficient to drive there to read the materials on site or check them out. The NRLF is a full-fledged library with a reading room, two photocopiers, and catalog computer terminals. The NRLF is only 15-20 minutes north of Berkeley, easily accessible, and there is plenty of parking.

### **Opening Hours**

When school is in session, Doe and Moffitt Libraries have long opening hours; 9a.m.-10p.m., extending to 2a.m., Monday through Thursday (after 10p.m. exit via Moffitt only). On Fridays and Saturdays, the libraries are open 9am-5pm. On Sundays, the libraries are open 1p.m.-2a.m. During these hours, all the open stacks are available for perusal. When school is not in session these hours are drastically reduced, usually with no weekend hours. Books can be checked out until 10p.m. after which the library is open for study only. The other libraries generally have fewer opening hours. A flyer is printed at the beginning of each session listing each library and opening hours. It is definitely worth calling ahead (or checking the Web site - [www.lib.berkeley.edu](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu)) before setting out.

*Continued on page 15*



UC Berkeley, cont'd. from page 14

### **Library Cards**

As mentioned, there are approximately 40 libraries on campus and you can walk into any one of them without showing any ID, with the exception of Doe and Moffitt. Access requires either a day pass or a library card. Day passes to the stacks can be granted immediately from the circulation desk upon showing ID. You can also obtain a restricted use library card from the circulation desk, which currently costs \$100 for one year. Faculty members at educational facilities within California and full-time public school teachers can obtain a library card for \$25, good for six months. Another option is to join the Alumni Association; one of the privileges is a restricted use library card. (You can join the association on campus at Alumni House.) The advantage of a library card is that you can borrow books (up to 20 at a time) rather than having to read the books on site (and copy the relevant pages at 25¢ a page). It may be much more convenient to borrow the books, read them at your convenience and copy any relevant sections at a commercial copying store (ensuring you abide by the copyright laws). Books can be renewed almost indefinitely if no one else places a request for them. Only students and faculty members enjoy interlibrary loan (ILL) privileges. If you do find a book in the catalog that you wish to read at your leisure, you might check with your local public library to determine whether they can get it for you through ILL.

### **Campus Cafés**

We all know how easy it is to not notice the time while browsing the shelves. You may find that you want to take a break, have a bite to eat, and stretch your legs. The campus features several café-type establishments dotted around. In the northwest corner and on top of the Bechtel Engineering Hall, is an open-air café with a variety of hot and cold foods and drinks. Numerous fast-food type restaurants are located within The Lair, the student union building (on the south side of campus, at Bancroft and Telegraph). Another restaurant is located inside the Environmental Design Library, and the newest addition is the Free Speech Movement Café on the first floor of Moffitt, which is open until 2a.m.

### **Library Bookstore**

The Library Bookstore is not to be confused with the bookstore where students purchase their materials for classes. This bookstore is where outdated and duplicated materials end up for sale at almost bargain basement prices. While many items are very technical, there are paperback novels and poetry, reference books, and books on every subject one can imagine.

For several years I desired a particular geographical gazetteer, the *Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the*

*World*. I was beginning to think that the print run number matched exactly the number of libraries that owned a copy. I had been told by an antiquarian bookstore that a copy would sell for "a few hundred dollars." Imagine my joy one day upon seeing a discarded 1952 edition for only \$20 sitting on the top shelf of the reference book section. (By way of comparison, a new three-volume updated edition was released last year with a list price of \$600!)

## **Logistics**

### **Street Parking**

The streets around campus feature two-hour parking meters or are within residential zones, which allow two-hour parking, after which the car must be moved. There is an open city parking lot on Berkeley Way behind Radstons office store on Shattuck, which features four-hour parking meters.

### **Public Parking Lots**

There are three public multi-story parking lots in Berkeley: a two story lot on Kitteridge, half a block west of Shattuck; another at Allston and Center, half a block west of Shattuck; and another between Durant and Channing, one block south of campus, west of Telegraph.

### **Campus Perimeter Shuttle Bus Service**

The P Line bus costs a flat fare of 25¢ and operates weekdays, when school is in session. The run begins at 6:52a.m., ending at 6:05p.m. A nighttime service operates from 6p.m.-9p.m. The shuttle runs around the perimeter of the campus from Berkeley BART, north on Oxford, east on Hearst (ask to get off at North Gate), south on Gayley, west on Bancroft (pick-up outside the ASUC stop), ending up back at BART. Check the schedule or call Transit Operations at (510) 642-5149 for information.

### **Getting to NRLF**

From Berkeley or San Francisco, head north on I-580 and take the Bayview exit. At the stoplight, turn left over the freeway and follow the road to the stop sign. Go straight on the frontage road for a half-mile to South 47<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn left, then immediately turn right towards the entrance to the Richmond Field Station. The guard station is invariably empty. Drive in and where the street bears around to the left, continue straight. The road curves gently to the left between two rows of trees. At the end is the NRLF and parking lot.

### **Remote Access to Library Catalogs**

For non-UCB affiliated library users, the library catalog can be accessed online at [www.lib.berkeley.edu](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu). The Web site address for Melvyl is [www.melvyl.ucop.edu](http://www.melvyl.ucop.edu). If you have telnet configured for your browser then the address is <telnet://gladis.berkeley.edu> or <telnet://melvyl.berkeley.edu>.

*Continued on page 19*

**SFBAJGS Family Finder Update, cont'd. from page 3**

| <u>Surname</u>          | <u>Town, Country</u>   | <u>Member</u>         |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Herman                  | Kovel, Ukraine   | Sugarman, Jeffrey     |
| Hirshovitz/Hirsh/Hirsch | Klaipeda, Lithuania  | Bauer, Rita           |
| Hurowitz                | Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine  | Bauer, Rita           |
| Hurwich                 | Rakhov, (Ruguvy), Ukraine  | Brazy, Betsy          |
| Hurwitz                 | Courland, Latvia   | Bergheim, Laurence    |
| Kier                    | Drogichin, Belarus   | Lewak, Dave           |
| Kyjawski                | Lodz, Poland   | Wolf, Naidia          |
| Levitt                  | Vitebsk, Belarus   | Dombro, Louis         |
| Levy                    | Poland, England  | Bergheim, Laurence    |
| Lewak                   | Drogichin, Belarus   | Lewak, Dave           |
| Lieberman               | Balbieriskis, Lithuania  | Lewak, Dave           |
| Löwy                    | Strakonice, Czech Republic; Wien, Austria                                  | Reber, Jane           |
| Markowitz/Markovich     | Dnepropetrovsk, Gorodnya, Ukraine;<br>Dubrovno, Belarus; Kaunas, Lithuania | Bauer, Rita           |
| Meiche                  | Kaunas, Lithuania  | Shipnuck, Les         |
| Miermovich              | Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine  | Strauss, Judie & Bill |
| Mishuris/Mishurismann   | Balta, Ukraine   | Lewak, Dave           |
| Mondschein              | Prienai, Lithuania   | Shipnuck, Les         |
| Naftalin                | Prienai, Lithuania   | Shipnuck, Les         |
| Rothchild               | Neinstadt, Germany   | Strauss, Judie & Bill |
| Rubenstein              | Vitebsk, Belarus   | Dombro, Louis         |
| Rubinstein              | Rumsiskes, Lithuania   | Shipnuck, Les         |
| Safirstein (Saperstein) | Karczew, Poland  | Wolf, Naidia          |
| Shelubsky               | Prienai, Lithuania   | Shipnuck, Les         |
| Shereshevsky            | Moscow, Russia   | Bergheim, Laurence    |
| Siperstein              | Pinsk, Belarus   | Brazy, Betsy          |
| Somach                  | Pilviskiai, Lithuania  | Shipnuck, Les         |
| Sommer                  | Aleksandrow Kujawski, Poland   | Sugarman, Jeffrey     |
| Strausser               | Poland   | Strauss, Judie & Bill |
| Sugarman                | Vilnius, Lithuania   | Sugarman, Jeffrey     |
| Tennenbaum              | Anywhere   | Strauss, Judie & Bill |
| Toberman                | Balta, Ukraine   | Lewak, Dave           |
| Tobias                  | Jonava, Lithuania  | Strauss, Judie & Bill |
| Tzippershtein           | Pinsk, Belarus   | Brazy, Betsy          |
| Winzelberg              | Galicia  | Lewak, Dave           |
| Wolf                    | Lodz, Poland   | Wolf, Naidia          |
| Wolpert                 | Kaunas, Lithuania  | Shipnuck, Les         |
| Wurthheimer             | Galicia  | Lewak, Dave           |

Congratulations!

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## **“A-FILES” UPDATE 2000: Congressman Tom Lantos Wins Battle to Keep Immigration Records at National Archive in San Bruno**

by David Abrahams

This article updates a prior *ZichronNote* (May/August 1999) report on the status of “A-Files” (also known as Alien Registration Case Files), and immigration records. This update, with contributions from Jennie Lew and Jeanie Low, [of the Chinese American Historical Society] should be of interest to anyone whose immigrant family arrived at the Port of San Francisco, or other points of entry.

The A-Files document immigrants of many nationalities who arrived in San Francisco between 1940 and the present. These include the “Shanghai Jews” who escaped the Holocaust and spent the War years in China. A-Files are largely those original Record Group 85 (Chinese Exclusion era) individual case files that were obtained by the INS after the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1943 and refiled into a separate collection known as “Alien” files. At present, all A-Files created nation-wide have been consolidated at Lee’s Summit, Missouri for storage, except those housed at the National Archives Records Administration (NARA) Pacific Sierra Region facility in San Bruno. Angel Island in San Francisco Bay was a major port of entry – the West Coast equivalent of Ellis Island – and produced the largest collection of Chinese “A-Files” in the country. The records, however, are of immigrants of many nationalities.

In October 1998, and in April 1999, NARA promised representatives of the Bay Area genealogical and historical communities that the A-Files at San Bruno’s Federal Records Center would remain there pending a decision as to whether or not all A-Files would be made part of NARA’s permanent collection. In October 1999, Scott Hastings of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), confirmed that files requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by researchers, family members, and others, were being transferred to Lee’s Summit.

During the past year, lobbyists for the genealogical and historical communities held meetings with Scott Hastings; John Carlin, Archivist of the United States; and Congressman Tom Lantos and members of his staff in California and Washington, D.C. The lobbyists let these government officials know of the community’s opposition to transferring the A-Files out of San Bruno and urged NARA to schedule the older A-Files (1940-1970) for inclusion in its permanent collection. As a result of those meetings and a letter-writing campaign, a news brief (summarized below) was issued by Congressman Lantos’ office on February 29, 2000:

Congressman Tom Lantos, following discussions with Doris Meissner, INS Commissioner, announced that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) will modify record-handling procedures to assure that immigration files which originated in San Bruno will be retained in that regional archive and records center facility. (The “A-Files” include documentaiton of young Tom Lantos’ entry into the United States following the Allied liberation of Hungary.)

INS files in other parts of the country are being centralized in a federal regional record center facility in Missouri. Congressman Lantos’ efforts, in concert with the INS and NARA, will prevent the transfer of San Bruno “A-Files” to Missouri. Congressman Lantos noted “these records have enormous significance particularly for the Chinese-American community in our area. I want to thank leaders of the Chinese-American community in the Bay Area who worked with me on this matter, and also officials of the INS and NARA who understood the importance of this issue and worked with me to make these changes.

Thanks to those responsible for this recent success may be addressed to:

John W. Carlin, Archivist of the United States  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road, Room 4100  
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Commissioner Doris Meissner  
Immigration and Naturalization Service  
425 I Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20536

Congressman Tom Lantos  
2217 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Our next logical step is to lobby these officials and our congressional representatives to ensure that the INS and NARA proceed with plans to make the pre-1970 A-Files part of NARA’s permanent collection in San Bruno and make them accessible to the public. We should also urge our representatives to vote for increased appropriations for NARA to preserve these invaluable records for all time, create finding aids, and provide necessary staffing. As evidenced by this recent victory, government officials do respond if the public makes its strong sentiments known.



## COMPUTER/ONLINE NEWS

### Hamburg Passenger Lists – A New Online Database

by Randy Stehle

The State Archives in Hamburg, Germany has begun the gargantuan task of inputting all the Hamburg passenger list data from 1850 to 1934 into a searchable database. Five million people sailed from Hamburg during this period, many from Eastern Europe. The State Archives' efforts became accessible on the Internet in March 2000 at [www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm](http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm). The direct list for 1890 has been completed, and the indirect list for 1890 and all lists for 1891-1893 are partially complete. ("Direct" ships sailed to their destination without stops. "Indirect" ships made intermediate stops, often in Great Britain.) The first phase of the project covers the years 1890-1914. All years from 1850-1934 will subsequently be included.

Passengers can be searched for by entering a surname and/or a given name. (Caution: their search engine is case-sensitive, so be sure to capitalize the first letter of any name.) The search can be narrowed down by also entering the year of birth and/or the year of departure. A range of dates can be used for either of these two fields. If a passenger is found that meets your search criteria, you can then click on the "Details" column to get a complete record. The most important piece of genealogical information to have when you search is the place of residence before they sailed. Be aware that all information will be in the original German. This includes place names. In German, a double "s" is written as a letter that looks like a capital "B." If you locate a passenger from pre-World War I Poland, for instance, it will be referred to as Russland. The entry will look like "RuBland" on their records, a fact that has puzzled more than one person on the JewishGen Discussion Group. Please take the time to explore the Web site. It includes background information about Hamburg's rise as a port of embarkation, the project itself (which includes a touring exhibit) and present-day Hamburg's efforts to encourage tourism for what they hope will be the Ellis Island of Western Europe.

At present, these records are provided free of charge. Software and hardware for this project have been donated by Oracle, Debis, and Siemens. Twenty-five handicapped employees will enter all data as well as respond to any inquiries made via the Internet. The State Welfare Office will pay these employees, with funds earmarked by law to train handicapped people.

### Online Archive of California

At [www.oac.cdlib.org/](http://www.oac.cdlib.org/), the Online Archive of California provides finding aids to many California repositories, and information about their collections. The site's goal is "to create a searchable online union database of finding aids to archival collections." A partial list of repositories represented:

- California Historical Society
- California State Archives
- California State Library
- Free Speech Movement Collections
- Graduate Theological Union
- Holocaust Center of Northern California
- Hoover Institution
- San Francisco Public Library
- Stanford University
- UC Berkeley
- UC Los Angeles
- UC San Francisco
- Western Jewish History Center

Links to finding aids for a number of out-of-state repositories are also provided. These include:

- The Library of Congress
- Yale University
- Harvard University
- Columbia University

### California Genealogical Society

The California Genealogical Society's Web page at [www.calgensoc.org](http://www.calgensoc.org) includes information about events of genealogical interest, upcoming CGS meetings, membership, and the CGS library, including hours and location. The online library catalog to their collection provides reference to:

- all California U.S. Censuses;
- San Francisco City Directories 1850, 1868-1980;
- San Francisco Record of Probate Actions 1906-1942;
- San Francisco Death Records (pre-1906, scattered);
- San Francisco Land Records 1850-1900;
- Index to vital records printed in the San Francisco Evening Bulletin and other newspapers;
- Index to San Francisco Call Bulletin 1894-1903
- San Francisco Newspaper Index (Chronicle & Examiner) 1904-1980; and
- California – State Library Information File.

A long list of CD-ROMs also available at the library is posted, as is information about the research service provided by CGS members. Experienced CGS volunteers will conduct research for an hourly fee, which is used to support their library.

## Photos of New York City Buildings Circa 1940

Herb Meyers, *JewishGen*

The Municipal Archives of New York City holds photographs of every building in NYC, taken during 1939-1941. "Known as the 'Tax Photographs,' these black and white pictures were taken by the City's Department of Taxes (now the Department of Finance) as part of its real property appraisal system. There is one photograph for each building in the five Boroughs; vacant land was not photographed."

Copies of these photographs can be obtained from the Archives at a cost of \$25 for an 8"x10" print. If you visit the Archives, the photographs are available for viewing on microfilm.

From [www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doris/html/index.html](http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doris/html/index.html), click the "Tax Photos" link for more information and a link to the order form. The Archives can also be contacted at: The Municipal Archives, Dept. of Records and Information, 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007; Tel: (212) 788-8580.

## The Jewish Telegraph Online

*Shemot*, March 2000, JGS of Great Britain

The *Jewish Telegraph* newspaper (Great Britain) is now available online at [www.jewishtelegraph.com](http://www.jewishtelegraph.com). The site includes the Roots Directory where users can read appeals for help in finding family and post their own appeals free of charge. All appeals will appear on the Web site and be featured in the printed *Jewish Telegraph* so long as a full postal address is included.

*UC Berkeley*, cont'd. from page 15

### Renewing Books

Books can be renewed from home, but only via GLADIS. Go to [www.lib.berkeley.edu](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu) and see Online Inventory and Renewal. Type <inv> followed by the patron number on your library card, then the last four digits of your social security number, then press <enter>. To renew an item, type <ren> followed by the line number of that item. If an item is renewable, a new due date will be displayed.

### Go to the Library!

Lastly, in talking with genealogists, it appears that many have never considered using the family names they are researching as authors. Admittedly if the name is a common one, it may not be worthwhile, but I once entered "Festenstein" for a cousin and discovered six books by three authors, all of whom were related to her. In fact she had been in correspondence with one cousin who never admitted he was an author!

## Hungarian Research Site

G. L. Esterson, *JewishGen*

The WEB Archive of Hungarian Genealogy at [www.genealogia.info.hu/english/index.htm](http://www.genealogia.info.hu/english/index.htm) provides information on many sources for Hungarian genealogical research. The Web site is divided into four sections: Introductory; Document Archives - sources in Hungary; WEB Archive of Hungarian Genealogy; and International Resources. Subtopics include Hungarian databases available at or from the site, an index register of Hungarian names, a bulletin board for posting help requests, suggestions for finding professional genealogists to do research, advice for doing research in Hungary, a set of international links for genealogy, and more.

## Ontario (Canada) Archives Online

Daniel Kazez, *JewishGen*

The Ontario Archives has the following vital records on microfilm: Births (1869-1902), Marriages (1873-1917), and Deaths (1869-1927). Each year, the next year's set of records is added to the Archives' publicly available collection. You can obtain these films through interlibrary loan.

From their Web site at [www.gov.on.ca/mczcr/archives/english/](http://www.gov.on.ca/mczcr/archives/english/), click Genealogical Research. Information is provided about how the data were recorded and what you can expect to find on each record. Information about other resources and all holdings of the Archives can also be obtained on this excellent site.

I hope that what I have presented is enough to get most people started on the way to finding material related to their research. There are handouts available in the libraries for both Gladis and Melvyl which detail even more elaborate methods of locating material. (For more detail on search keywords, type *explain fi.*)

Although I don't want to browbeat everyone, it really cannot be over-emphasized just how important (and fun) browsing the shelves can be. Apart from the joy of discovering something related to one's area of interest (or any other interest, remember, this is Berkeley), it should be understood that there is a limited likelihood of being able to find something just by looking on the computer. We are talking about such a large numbers of books that it would be very time consuming to sit in front of a computer and work through every title one finds. It is much quicker to simply go to the stacks (for an area of interest) and scan the shelves for a likely looking title. Even then, searching through the index may not necessarily reveal what you are looking for. But it may well be "hidden" within the text.

## The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XX, Number 2

May 2000

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### Contributors to this Issue

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