

זכרון ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXIII, Number 3

August 2003

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.**
Jewish Community High School, 1835 Ellis Street. Jewish Community Library open on second floor. Free parking: enter parking area from Pierce Street.
- Los Altos Hills:** **Monday, Library opens at 7 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.** Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road
- Berkeley:** **Sunday, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.** Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Street, North Berkeley.

Sun. September 21, San Francisco: *Highlights of the Washington D.C. Seminar on Jewish Genealogy.* Did you attend the Washington D.C. Conference? If so, come share your experiences. Were you unable to attend? Come hear about the latest announcements and findings at this conference review. Learn about the terrific resources in our nation's capital and what they may hold for your own genealogy. **Note new location at Jewish Community High School.**

Sun. October 19, Berkeley: *Using the University of California Libraries for Jewish Genealogy.* Jeremy Frankel, president of the SFBAJGS, will talk about local Bay Area resources with a special emphasis on the UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco libraries. Jeremy has spent countless hours availing himself of the microfilms, maps, and other treasures that can be found in our own backyard.

Mon. October 20, Los Altos Hills: *Challenges to Researching Your Female Ancestors.* When a woman married and took her husband's surname, did the trail to her family disappear? Dana Kurtz, SFBAJGS Past-President, will discuss strategies for overcoming the roadblocks to researching the female ancestors in your family tree and will present effective tactics and sources.

Sun. November 16, San Francisco: *SFBAJGS Annual Jewish Genealogy Workshop.* Classes! Library Resources! Ask the Experts! Exciting details to come. Save the date! Time and program to be determined. For details as they develop see SFBAJGS website at www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs/

December: No meeting.

More Genealogy Events of Interest on Page 4

ZichronNote
Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

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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 \$23 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: SFBAJGS, Membership, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147.

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Meetings:

San Francisco: Jewish Community High School, 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco.

Los Altos Hills: Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills.

Berkeley: Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Street, North Berkeley.

SFBAJGS Web Site: www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

President's Message
SFBAJGS in the Gardens

by Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

SFBAJGS in the Yerba Buena Gardens! Yes, for the first time (at least in my short memory) the Society participated in a public, outdoor event, "Israel in the Gardens," the annual Israel Independence Day celebration which takes place every year in downtown San Francisco.

For those who have yet to attend, this is one of the largest annual gatherings of Jewish people in San Francisco. The estimate is that some 12,000+ people attend. What was quite intriguing was the range of accents. Quite a number with Russian accents were very interested in the Society and the concept of researching one's "roots."

This year's theme was "reunions," and Society member David Blumberg, who was also on the Organizing Committee for "Israel in the Gardens," was definitely of the opinion that we ought to appear there. David pulled some strings to get us in and kindly underwrote the cost of the table. Oh, yes, I mustn't forget the extra booth umbrella he found; the sun was there all day (no fog!!) and we had to protect the computers as well as the volunteers.

Nicki Gilbert, our contact person and one of the event organizers, bent over backwards to accommodate us at the last moment with the placement of our tables and the ordering of electrical power, telephone links and all the myriad little things which go to make this event a success.

Now we had to get our act together really fast. I spoke to Albert Ho, owner of the M.A.C. computer store in Berkeley (www.macberkeley.com), where I bought my computer and all the peripherals. He agreed to loan the Society two laptop computers gratis! My partner, Melissa Penn, then contacted our internet service provider, LMI of Berkeley (www.lmi.net) and they agreed to provide us with two dial-up accounts for the day.

Melissa also contacted Leister Productions of Mechanicsburg, PA, who make "Reunion" (the genealogy software) specifically for the MAC (www.LeisterPro.com), and arranged for overnight delivery of their literature for us to display.

The Board had already approved the idea of the Society having a 3 feet by 5 feet color vinyl banner with our name, logo and web address. The logo needed some special computer graphic work done so it could be enlarged. This was carried out by Jason Weiner, who teaches at the California College of Arts of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. The Society also wants to

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SFBAJGS Elections and the Future of the Society

This December marks the end of the two-year term of the current officers of the SFBAJGS. It is time to begin thinking about the future of the Society.

It is essential that more members contribute to the success of this organization. Think about what you want from the JGS and how you can participate in making and keeping the Society strong. Not all commitments require significant amounts of time.

Elected officers are:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Corresponding Secretary
- Recording Secretary

Other opportunities can be managed by an individual or shared by a committee. They include:

- Membership
- Program coordination
- Publicity
- ZichronNote (our newsletter)
- Librarian/Library committee
- Web page maintenance and enhancement
- Hospitality (arranging for cookies at meetings)

This notice serves as the first call for nominations for elected positions. You may nominate yourself or another member. You are strongly encouraged to volunteer in any way that interests you. You will certainly get more out of the Society as an active participant. All of us who have volunteered can attest to that.

For more information, to nominate yourself or someone else, or to participate as a volunteer please call Rodger Rosenberg at (415) 666-0188 or email eandr@ix.netcom.com. **Nominations are due by October 1.**

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CALENDAR, cont.

More Genealogy Events

Local

Thurs., Sept. 18, 7 p.m. **Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society. Evaluating Sources.** Presented by Sandy Shafer. 3345 Lochinvar Avenue, Santa Clara (one block north of Homestead, between Pomeroy and Bing). www.rootsweb.com/~cascchgs/

Thurs., Oct. 16, 7 p.m. **Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society. Using the New England Historic Genealogical Society from Afar.** Presented by Annette Hulse. 3345 Lochinvar Avenue, Santa Clara (one block north of Homestead, between Pomeroy and Bing). www.rootsweb.com/~cascchgs/

State

Sun., Sept. 21, 7 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles. Photographic Restoration Techniques for Genealogists.** Presented by Claire F. Santos-Daigle. University Synagogue, Small Chapel 11960 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles. www.jgsla.org

Mon., Oct. 20, 6:30 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles. LDS FHC Research.** Pre-meeting tutorial by Gerry Winerman. 7:30 p.m., **A NARA Genealogical Town Hall.** Presented by Bill Doty, archivist. Skirball Cultural Center, Magnin Auditorium, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. (818)771-5554. www.jgsla.org

SFBAJGS Moves to JCHS

By Jerry Jacobson, SFBAJGS Publicity Chairman

The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society has successfully negotiated an agreement with the new Jewish Community High School of the Bay to use their facilities for regular San Francisco SFBAJGS meetings.

The building, located at 1835 Ellis Street, was recently purchased by the Keren Keshet Foundation for the JCHS.

At the SFBAJGS San Francisco meeting on July 13, President Jeremy Frankel announced that this would be our last meeting at Fort Mason. The waterfront site had been the organization's San Francisco home for many years, but because of rising fees, poor ventilation, noise from other events, and periodic parking problems, the board began to search for a more suitable facility.

After hearing that the school would be available for use by local Jewish community groups, Frankel and Jerry Jacobson toured the facilities.

Megan Shean, the Facilities Manager and Program Coordinator, took us on the tour and showed us the building, explaining what facilities are there. These include classrooms, a conference room, a large 135-seat lecture hall, and a 'Commons' cafeteria which holds 150 people. As you may have read elsewhere, the Jewish Community Library has also moved there, and is situated on the second floor. There is a secure two-level parking structure, which we will also use.

Frankel thanked Judy Baston, a volunteer at the Jewish Community Library and an SFBAJGS

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**Polakoff and Mokotoff Lead 11th Annual Salt Lake City Research Trip
October 30 through September 6**

Veteran Jewish genealogists Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff will lead their 11th annual research trip to the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake City from October 30 to November 6 this year.

The program offers genealogists the opportunity to spend an entire week of research at the Library under the guidance and assistance of professional genealogists who have made more than two dozen trips to Salt Lake City. It includes a specially arranged three-hour class on the day of arrival, introducing the participants to the facilities and resources of the Family History Library; a mid-week informal group

discussion of progress and problem-solving and access to trip leaders from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the library for on-site assistance and personal consultations.

For those new to genealogy, a beginners workshop on the first morning of the trip introduces them to the wonderful world of Hamburg immigration lists, U.S. passenger arrival lists, naturalization records and census records.

For more information visit www.avotaynu.com or call Eileen Polakoff between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET at 201-387-7200.

Reports on the 23rd International Conference of the IAJGS

Morse Awarded for Web Achievements

Stephen Morse, a member of the SFBAJGS, received an award for Outstanding Contributions to Jewish Genealogy from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), presented during the banquet at the 23rd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in July.

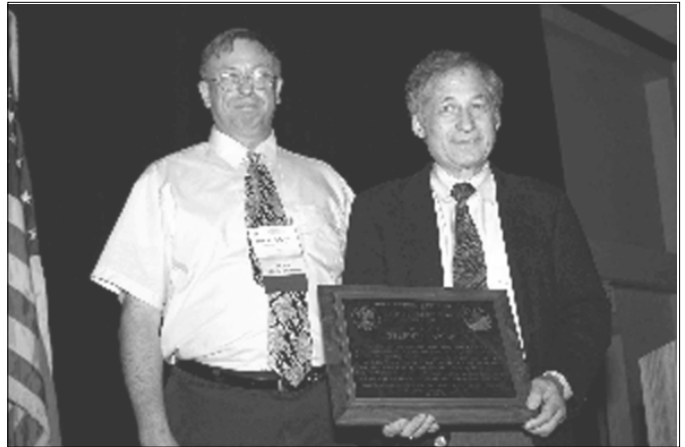
Morse was recognized for his extraordinary work, programming skills, and perseverance in producing his One-Step Research Tools, through which he has unselfishly provided a genealogist-friendly interface to the Ellis Island Database and the 1930 U.S. Census Database. These tools have greatly enhanced the value of these resources to genealogists. His web pages and programs have helped and encouraged countless researchers, Jewish and non-Jewish.

At his website stevemorse.org Stephen Morse makes available a wide variety of tools as a public service. He derives no revenue from any of them.

His Ellis Island tools allow for searching the Ellis Island database in ways not possible from the Ellis Island website directly. His census tools not only contain the most extensive tables in existence for finding addresses in the 1930 census, but also integrate with name indexes from various commercial websites to allow for more powerful searches. His Social Security Death Index tool is a portal that combines the best features of various websites that allow searches into the SSDI database. He also has tools for computing such things as soundex encodings, dates in the Jewish Calendar, and times of sunrise and sunset. His most recent tool is one that allows anyone having a collection of data to build a web-based search application for that data without the need to do any programming.

Stephen Morse is an amateur genealogist who has been researching his Russian-Jewish origins for the past few years. Two years ago he developed some web-based searching aids to enable him to do his own research. To his surprise, his searching aids and websites have attracted attention worldwide.

Morse holds a doctorate in electrical engineering from New York University. He has held research positions at Bell Telephone Laboratories, IBM Watson Research Center, GE Corporate Research and Development, and Compagnie Internationale pour l'Informatique in France. He has been involved in development at Intel Corporation, Alsys Inc, and



Stephen Morse receives his award from Daniel Schlyter of the IAJGS Board of Directors.

Netscape Communications Corp. He has taught at CCNY, Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, UC Berkeley, SUNY Albany, Stanford University, and San Francisco State University. He has authored numerous technical papers, written four textbooks, and holds three patents. He is best known as the architect of the Intel 8086 which is the granddaddy of today's Pentium processor. He has lived in San Francisco for the past 30 years.

(See Page 15 for another Morse web achievement.)

Other IAJGS Achievement Awards included:

Outstanding Publication:

This award was presented to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County for its 156-page *Beginners and Intermediate Genealogical Workbook*, a compilation of genealogical resource materials. This workbook provides an impressive array of information, examples, and instructions, and has proven to be a most useful tool in encouraging individuals to pursue their Jewish genealogical research, and in providing them with the instructions and procedures to do so.

Outstanding Project:

This award was presented to the JGS of Montreal for its exceptional efforts in indexing Jewish vital records from Montreal and Quebec.

In 1943, the Drouin Genealogical Institute microfilmed all available vital record registers of Quebec including the Jewish registers of Montreal, Quebec City and Sherbrooke, and Civil Records of Montreal, Lachine, Outremont and Westmount in

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which there are entries identified as Jewish. Quebec is the only jurisdiction in North America where the vital records were kept on a confessional or religious basis thus making the indexing of solely Jewish records possible.

Indexing the 1841-1942 Jewish vital records of Quebec in the Drouin collection was a four-year project of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal. The database contains more than 75,000 entries, principally births and marriages as well as approximately 4,300 deaths. The project involved not only the photocopying of thousands of index pages - where they existed - and subsequent data entry, but also a frame-by-frame examination of all the records to create indices where there were none, entering given names where they were not recorded in the indices, verifying that names in the indices corresponded with those in the records, and adding actual dates of birth for delayed registrations.

The project was led by JGS-Montreal President Stanley Diamond and owes its success to the tireless data entry work by Ruth Peerlkamp Diamond and the database and search engine development by JGS-Montreal vice-president Alan Greenberg.

Lifetime Achievement:

This award was presented to Marian Weiner, who has devoted her life and significant talent to

identifying and researching resources for Jewish genealogical research. Her negotiations and collaboration with archivists has yielded a trove of data about the location of, and access to, important records. She has selflessly shared her knowledge through lectures, articles, books, interviews and the Routes to Roots Foundation website, motivating countless people to research their Jewish ancestry.

The IAJGS previously honored Ms. Weiner with awards for her two books: *Jewish Roots in Poland* and *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova*. She is considered the pioneer in identifying, cataloging and publishing inventories of Jewish and civil records in Poland, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Lithuania.

Through her company, Routes to Roots, Weiner has organized customized individual and family tours to the "old country" and through archive research, has discovered documents enabling people to trace their family history back into the 1700s. The Routes to Roots Foundation website at www.rtrfoundation.org features a searchable database of archive documents in the foregoing five countries, searchable by town name.

The IAJGS has recognized excellence in the field of Jewish genealogy through the presentation of outstanding achievement awards annually since 1998.

Next Year in Jerusalem

Come meet your Israeli cousins!

24th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Jerusalem--July 11-16, 2004

Jerusalem--where it all began

Jerusalem--unique archival and family history sources

Highlights--how-tos, DNA genealogy, community research
(Sephardi, Russian, Polish, Slovakian, French, Egyptian...)

Official language of the Conference: English

For details, note our website: www.ortra.com/jgen2004/

A Personalized Summary of the Washington D.C. Conference

by Beth Galleto, Editor, *ZichronNote*

The 23rd annual IAJGS Conference in Washington, D.C. offered wonderful opportunities for learning and for research. Centered in the midst of so many stellar repositories of information, it was a perfect location for a gathering of more than 1,200 Jewish genealogists. A truly international gathering, it brought together representatives of Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina, Ukraine and Romania, as well as most of the 50 states. The conference was ably organized by Sheri Meisel, Ben Okner, and Eli Savada, along with scores of volunteers.

The conference provided the occasion for JewishGen to announce some major advances that can be found at www.jewishgen.org, the JewishGen website. They include the "All Poland" and "All Romania" databases, and the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR).

The All Poland Database is a searchable database of over two million records for Poland, from a variety of sources including vital records, business directories, voter lists, passenger manifests, Yizkor books and other Holocaust sources. It is a joint project of Jewish Records Indexing - Poland and JewishGen.

The All Romania Database is a searchable database of over 40,000 records for Romania and Moldova (Bessarabia), from a variety of sources including voter lists, census records, business directories, vital records, diplomatic records, yizkor books, and others.

JOWBR is a database of over 300,000 entries from cemeteries and burial records worldwide, from the earliest records to the present. The initial set of data contains over 600 cemeteries from 25 countries. The database includes burial records and, in some cases, images of the grave stones.

A computer room and a resource room were available to conference attendees, and it was in the computer room that I discovered what was, for me, the most interesting resource. During the conference and for about two weeks afterwards, Yad Vashem in Israel provided a link to scanned images of its Pages of Testimony. For those who were not able to view them during that short time, it was announced that the Pages will be made available to the public in 2004.

I discovered and printed out Pages for members of my mother's family who were murdered in Russia and for others with family names who may be related

to me. They provided information that clarified some relationships and ages. Some of the living relatives who submitted the Pages were known to me, but not all of them. The next step is to try to locate them or their descendants.

So many activities and lectures were planned for each day of the conference that it was frustrating not to be able to be in several places at once. In addition, we wanted to take advantage of the various information repositories in Washington, D.C. I devoted one day to a bus trip to Archives II in College Park, Maryland. This new, beautifully designed facility contains certain military records, FBI records, consular records, U.S. Information Agency photographs, and other records of situations in which individuals interacted with the Federal Government.

The organized tour included a lecture from each of the archivists about his or her own section. We had only about three hours to do actual research, which was not enough time. I had ordered two documents in advance from a link the conference organizers provided prior to the conference. It turned out that the documents had not been brought out of storage for me, and it took most of the afternoon to locate them. They turned out to be two letters inquiring into the whereabouts of a person with a family name who may or may not be related. What I learned from this experience is that it takes more than one afternoon to learn how things are filed in the Archives and how to find them among the several floors at Archives II. I plan to return when I can devote much more time to an organized search.

My trip to the Library of Congress was both rewarding and frustrating. I spent Friday afternoon there after the conference was officially over. I had searched for books in the online catalog and found several books about towns from which my family came, as well as some books written by people with family names. When I arrived at the Library of Congress, after getting my ID card and checking my possessions, I was so overwhelmed by the Main Reading Room — one of the most beautiful places I have seen, a shrine to books — that I stayed there most of the afternoon. I spent the last part of the day in the Hebraic section, where some resources had been pulled especially for the conference-goers. I planned to return to the Library of Congress the next day, hoping to visit the Map Room and other places I had not seen, but they were closed on Saturday. So I spent Saturday in the Main Reading Room and the Newspaper Room, where I linked to ProQuest and printed out many newspaper articles from the *New York Times* with family names in them.

Choosing among the various lectures at the

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conference, I decided to be Polish one day and Ukrainian another. Fay Vogel Bussgang's lecture on pronouncing Polish was overwhelming, but I did learn how to pronounce Przasnysz, one of the towns I am researching. It sounds like "Shashnish." Other lectures helped me clarify things I had previously found confusing about the complex historical geography of Eastern Europe.

The conference presented me with much more than can be mentioned in this short article, including new information to follow up, new friends, and new enthusiasm for the search.

Exciting Developments from Romanian Special Interest Group (ROM-SIG)

by Rosanne Leeson

Leeson and Paula Zieselman are co-coordinators of ROM-SIG. Leeson is also vice president of the SFBAJGS.

The Conference organizers from the JGSGW did a marvelous job, and Sheri, Ben and Elias and their team deserve loud kudos for all that they accomplished. There were many interesting speakers, and some from less well-known communities. The SIG Fair was a big success, with people having a chance to go around and to speak personally with coordinators and members of all of the SIGs. As usual, there was almost too much to absorb, too many fascinating talks at the same time, and many local area resources to visit and not enough time to sleep or eat. A complete list of tapes of the lectures is available on: www.audiotapes.com with order information included, if you are interested in any that you missed.

For those of you who were not able to be with us in DC for the Conference, I can tell you that we had a most exciting ROM-SIG meeting!

The room assigned to us was packed, as many more of you actually came than had originally indicated the intent to do so. That was wonderful, as it indicated much interest. Paula and I had been holding on to some news that we wished to break at our meeting. Several months ago, thanks to our member Irene Saunders Goldstein, we had been put in touch with the B'nai B'rith International, and the Director of their Romanian Jewish Heritage Project, Stefan Maier. After discussion among us, and consultations with Joyce Field, JewishGen Vice President for Research, we have decided to combine our efforts to preserve the Jewish heritage in Romania, and to try to convince the Romanian authorities to open

their Archives to genealogists. You can read more about the BBI projects and activities by going to: www.romanianjewish.org/ Click on the blue bar "Contribute to Romania's Jewish Heritage Project" to read all about what they are doing. Not all of the links are yet activated, or in English, but that will be happening soon. You can click on the small blue box on the left to subscribe to weekly email updates for free.

Stefan made an excellent presentation to tell us exactly what were the current plans and state of the Heritage project. This was followed by a number of questions from our members. At last, Prof. Ladislau Gyemant, who was present, asked to take the floor. He then proceeded to offer to share with Stefan's BBI group full access to all of the files and records of the Institute for Jewish History at the University of Cluj, of which he is the Director, as well as offering him office space in a newly constructed building where the Institute is housed. This announcement went off like a bombshell! All of us were on our feet, yelling, applauding, and Irene Goldstein planted a large kiss on Prof. Gyemant's cheek! This had to be one of the most dramatic announcements ever made to the ROM-SIG. We are now connecting Stefan with others who are also interested in trying to convince the Romanian government officials to open the still-forbidden access to their archives.

Do not expect rapid results — or any, as a matter of fact. There is great reluctance to cooperate in any way, whether in the Archives or the various Jewish communities. These last are small, and members are aged, very poor and not in good health. There is much suspicion and fear involved in sharing any records, and sometimes a complete lack of interest. It will be a tough fight, but we are willing to do our very best! If we do not try then, we certainly have no hope at all. Romania is anxious to prove that it is westernized, and deserves to join the EU. So perhaps this is the best time to try.

All in all, it was a most energizing meeting. ROM-SIG members who were present may have more to share, but all seemed to be on quite a high.

An additional thrill was the unveiling of the brand new All-Romanian database on JewishGen. Please do take a look: Go to www.jewishgen.org/databases and click on Romania. This is just the beginning. We have more data to be entered and are hoping for still more to come. Volunteers for data entry in Excel and validation (proof reading) will be needed as we progress, not to mention project coordinators (without them nothing will get done). For those of you who have already indicated your willingness to help, thank you!

The J. Porter Shaw Library, Fort Mason, San Francisco

by Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

Like most genealogists, Jeremy Frankel has a great interest in and love of libraries. This is one of a number of articles he has written about the libraries in the San Francisco Bay Area and their holdings that are of interest to genealogists.

These days, visiting a library is usually all about hi-tech, computer terminals galore, internet, mobile bookshelves and so forth. There's usually an air of busy-ness with patrons going about their research.

So it was really nice to "happen upon" a library of the "old school" type. The J. Porter Shaw Library, the library of the National Maritime Museum, definitely belongs in the latter category. It was like finding a rare oasis amidst the hustle and bustle of a city's busy life; like stepping off a busy sidewalk into the quietness of a church when there is no service taking place. The book shelves are mostly stacked against the outside walls, with the central open area given over to tables and chairs. There is one microfilm reader/printer and a photocopier hiding behind a wall, the 21st century is noticeably absent.

The room exudes history with hundreds of century-old leatherbound books and wooden artifacts from ships on display. The windows open out, appropriately enough, onto San Francisco Bay, so the sight and sound of water can easily mix with one's reading and take you back to another time and place.

The library is located on the third floor of Building E at Fort Mason. There is an elevator for those who are not in training for the Bay to Breakers. In keeping with the "theme" of the library, the public restroom (sorry, I mean the head) has fascinating descriptions explaining just why it is so-called, and how the expression "poop deck" came into being!

The Library is stacked full of useful tomes, though many are stored out of sight, but can be easily requested. What I did notice was that they also have a large set of San Francisco city directories on the open shelving (amazing where these things turn up) as well as a very full listing of Lloyds' ships registers and American equivalents going back to 1764, and yachting registers from roughly 1890-1975. They have the Daily Alta, a business newspaper for San Francisco, on microfilm, and whaling newspapers of the 19th and 20th centuries. I had gone to the library to specifically look for the arrival of a ship in June, 1850.

For the technically-minded, within its 17,000 square feet the library houses 32,000 volumes, back runs of some 500 periodicals, 100 bibliographies, 975 interviews and over 100 albums of sea chanteys! Ephemeral collections comprise some tens of

thousands of items. There is also a large collection of fiction and novels relating to the sea.

To quote from their web site: "... The Library's extensive newspaper holdings include the maritime portion, in subject arrangement, of the libraries of the San Francisco Chronicle (ca. 1906-1984) and the San Francisco Call-Bulletin ca. 1925-1955); local newspapers (facsimile, microform, and hard copy), 1847 to date (including the most complete run extant of the San Francisco Daily Shipping Guide); the California State Library's index to San Francisco newspapers, 1840s to 1986 (4 million citations, including 20,000 vessel names); two indexes and a subject arrangement of local news articles (1858-1971).

The Library also has extensive chart collections covering areas of, and trade routes that touch, the Pacific Basin. The charts date from the 19th century to the present, and patrons may request copies of most charts. Currently, volunteers are processing and organizing the chart collections, and creating guides that are available in the Library. Soon they will begin detailed cataloging of the chart collections..."

The library's web site is www.nps.gov/safr/local/lib/libtop.html and its address is Building E, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123. The telephone number is (415) 561-7080.

Hours are Tuesdays, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesdays through Friday 1 to 5 p. m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on federal holidays.

For anyone with either an interest in maritime history in general or in how it relates to California, or who is researching arrival information of ancestors bound for San Francisco, this library is a place not to be missed.

Addresses for Vital Records by State

By Eleanor Gordon, JewishGen

To find the address in each state of the United States where its vital records may be obtained, go to www.vitalrec.com/

Ignore all the "fill in" boxes, which will take you to one or more commercial sites. Instead, on the first screen click on the name of the state you are interested in. The information seems quite complete.

PAST MEETINGS

How to Create a ShtetLinks Web Site or a Yizkor Book

by Phil Spiegel

This is a summary of a presentation Spiegel made to the SFBAJGS on June 16, 2003 in Los Altos Hills.

My parents came to America from Ottynia, Poland (now Ukraine) in the 1920s. At that time there were 1,700 Jews in the town out of a total population of about 5,000. The Jewish community of this town was destroyed by the Nazis. The survivors did not write a yizkor book for it and I had no documentation about the history of the shtetl.

My wife and I visited the Yad Vashem archives in 1991 and were told that they had nothing about Ottynia. At that time my father was still alive and was my only source of information about the town. I was concerned that future generations would have no way to learn about their ancestral shtetl. Fortunately, I joined SFBAJGS and Bob Weiss and Dana Kurtz were very helpful. They showed me how to use "Where Once We Walked."

Miriam Weiner, a professional genealogist specializing in Poland and Ukraine, supplied useful documents including a two page entry about Ottynia in the *Pinkas HaKehillot* (The Encyclopedia of Destroyed Communities) published by Yad Vashem. With the help of my Hebrew teacher, Chana Berman, I translated the entry into English and thus had a history of the shtetl from 1635 to 1942.

I went to meetings of Ottynia's landsmanschaft in New York and obtained photos and other valuable information from some of the survivors. The landsmanschaft was founded in New York in 1900, so I proposed to write a yizkor book in English to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the organization in 2000. The internet and www.jewishgen.org put me in contact with others researching Ottynia. In 1998 I compiled what I had into a shtetlink.

In 1999 my wife and I traveled to Ukraine and with Alex Dunai as interpreter met the current mayor and some people in their 80's who remembered my parents. We also met the mayor of the town, who gave us the book he wrote on the history of the town from the point of view of a Ukrainian nationalist. He also directed us to a Holocaust memorial at the edge of the forest where thousands of Jews from Ottynia, Kolomea and other nearby shtetls were murdered. Photographs from the trip and updated information were added to the shtetlink in 2000 and included in

my book "Remembering Ottynia," which I distributed at the 100th anniversary luncheon.

A survivor from Ottynia, now living in Los Angeles, contacted me after she read the book. She wanted to let me know that she and her sister recognized my aunt and uncle in a photograph that I had been given by a survivor and published with the caption, "The Zionist Youth of Ottynia in the 1930's." My uncle was her brother's best friend and they joined the Soviet Army together.

I sent a copy of the book to Yad Vashem and received acknowledgement from them that it is a yizkor book. Finally, when "Where Once We Walked" was revised for its 2002 edition, a "YB" for yizkor book was added to its entry for Ottynia.

My activities to generate the shtetlink and yizkor book for Ottynia could serve as a model that could be applied to other shtetls. The chart on the next page is a generic check list of items that one might want to include in the content of the web site or book.

Useful URLs:

www.jewishgen.org is the home page of the Jewish Genealogical Society.

www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/ is the home page of Jewish Gen's Yizkor Book Project.

www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs/yizkor.html has a list of Yizkor Books in the library of the Holocaust Center of Northern California.

www.jewishgen.org/jgff/ is the web site for finding out who else is researching a surname or a community.

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/ is the home page of Jewish Gen's ShtetLink Project.

www.yivoinstitute.org/ is the home page of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

yivo1000towns.cjh.org is the web site of "People of a Thousand Towns: The Online Catalog of Photographs of Jewish Life in Prewar Eastern Europe."

www.jgsny.org/yivo.htm has a list of 918 organizations including all landsmanshaftn listed in *A Guide to YIVO's Landsmanshaftn Archive*.

ShtetLinks or Yizkor Book, cont. from page 10

Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contemporary maps ■ Old maps ■ Other names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mapquest web site ■ Published literature and contributions from JGFF researchers ■ Published literature
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ History of the Jewish community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pinkhas HaKehillot ■ Oral histories from former residents and landsmanschaft members ■ Published literature and contributions from JGFF researchers
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pictures of sites and Holocaust memorials ■ Status of Jewish cemetery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contributions from JGFF researchers, former residents and landsmanschaft members ■ Travel to the shtetl
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Famous people from the shtetl ■ Organizations in the shtetl ■ Occupations of shtetl residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Published literature ■ Photos of groups from old residents and published literature (See yivo1000towns.cjh.org/) ■ Directories of businesses and tradesmen
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Daily life in the shtetl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Oral histories from former residents and landsmanschaft members
Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reasons for emigrating from the shtetl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Oral histories ■ Published literature

Bounced E-mails

If your name is on the following list, email sent to your address as listed in the Society roster bounced. Please send your new email address to Beth Galleto at galleto@pacbell.net so that you can continue to receive notices from the SFBAJGS.

June & Abe Brumer
 Betty Goren
 Martha Greene
 Shirley Wasserman Hausafus

Irwin Sagenkahn
 Margot Parke
 Gerald Wagger

Creating Digital Multimedia Presentations to Share Your Family Stories

by Ron Arons

When not researching his family, Ron Arons works on high tech marketing. Ron talked about multimedia presentations at the June 15 meeting of the SFBAJGS in Berkeley and at the International Conference in Washington, D.C. The notes below are a combination of notes taken at the Berkeley meeting and Ron's hand-out in the conference CD. Ron is researching **SPIER, ARONS/ARONOWITZ, GILLMAN, TARSHIS, STERNBERG, HYMAN, GORDON, LONDON, LEBENSOHN, and GREJS.**

Digital multimedia means bringing various types of media together in one presentation that can combine still images (photos, documents), audio clips (oral histories, music), and video (including old home movies in 8mm film format).

Some basic considerations when making a multimedia presentation of your family history include the following:

Be aware of others' intellectual property rights and protect your own.

The hardest part of creating a digital presentation is getting your still images (photos, maps, and so on, audio, and video into the right file format to be used by a multimedia software program.

One option for learning to use these media tools is to take a course from the Center for Digital Storytelling in Berkeley. A three-day course results in a brief multimedia clip. For more information visit www.storycenter.org.

Multimedia files take varying amounts of space, depending on their format.

For example, the Beatles song "Help!" takes two minutes and 13 seconds to play. Stored in CD Audio format it takes up 23 MB. In MP3 (near CD quality) format it takes up 2.2MB. In WMA (64kbs, stereo, 44khz) format it takes less than 1MB.

A one-hour video clip In AVI format takes 12.9GB! The same video clip in MPEG format takes 1.7 GB. In WMV (15 frames/second) it takes 44 MB.

Software Programs Available:

Photo Touchup / Photo File Format Conversion:

- Photoshop Elements 2.0 (Mac And PC)
- Microsoft's Picture It! (PC Only)
- Windows Paint (PC Only)

Slide Show (General)

- Microsoft PowerPoint (Mac And PC)

Photo Slideshow

- Photoshop Elements 2.0 (Mac And PC)
- Ulead DVD PictureShow 2 (PC Only)
- Many others

Audio File Conversion:

- QuickTime Pro www.quicktime.com (Mac And PC)
- Easy Audio File Converter [Part Of EZ CD-DA Extractor] www.poikosoftware.com/download.html (PC Only)

Digital Video Editing:

- iMovie (Mac Only)
- Adobe Premiere (Mac And PC)
- Pinnacle Systems Studio 8 (PC Only)
- Windows Movie Maker (PC Only)
- Final Cut Pro (Mac Only)
- Roxio Videowave (PC Only)
- Ulead DVD MovieFactory (PC Only)
- Many others

DVD Authoring Tools

- neoDVD (PC Only)
- iDVD (Mac Only)
- Pinnacle Systems Impression DVD Pro (PC Only)
- DVDIt! (PC Only)
- DVD Studio Pro (Mac Only)
- Ulead DVD Workshop (PC Only)
- Dazzle DVD Complete (PC Only)

I recommend Microsoft PowerPoint as a good tool for someone just getting started in multimedia. The program is flexible and easy to learn. Furthermore, it has capabilities that even more advanced multimedia developers will appreciate.

Trial versions of many of these tools are available for downloading at www.adobe.com, for example.

New Meeting Site, cont. from page 4

member, for making the initial contact between the Society and the school. He noted that Shean was extremely generous in offering the school's facilities for SFBAJGS functions. The SFBAJGS Board hopes the outcome will be a long-term relationship with both the school and the Jewish Community Library.

Plans are to hold the September 21 San Francisco meeting of the SFBAJGS in the high school facility. The garage entrance is located on Pierce Street, and the pedestrian entrance is at 1835 Ellis.

The JCHS of the Bay is a recent entry in the array of Jewish educational institutions in the Bay Area but is already seen as a standout performer. In September, 2001 the school opened its doors to 22 students in temporary quarters in Tiburon, while searching for a permanent site in the mid Bay. Suzanne Dryan Felson, a board member of the Jewish Community Federation, told her mother about the need. Her mother is former Bay Area resident Mem Bernstein, co-founder of Keren Keshet, The Rainbow Foundation. Soon there was an agreement to house

the school in a building complex purchased by Keren Keshet at 1835 Ellis Street in San Francisco.

The newly renovated facility will receive the school's 9th, 10th and 11th grade classes in September, 2003. This beautiful physical plant is staffed by a dedicated faculty and staff led by Rabbi Ed Harwitz, and will eventually have a student body of 400. Their vision includes a rigorous college preparatory curriculum in both general and Judaic studies, open to all Jewish students.

Shean has requested that only kosher or vegetarian food be brought into building and that we use the school parking facility, entered from Pierce Street, so that street parking remains for their neighbors. The school has a full time security staff. When entering, identify yourself as attending the JGS meeting. Judy Baston has arranged for us to use the newly renovated Jewish Community Library for pre-meeting research.

The library will be open at noon on Sundays beginning in September.

President's Message, cont. from page 2

thank Kinko's of Broadway, Oakland for meeting our deadline and rushing the order through. This was a big plus for us because it gave us "presence" and people could see from afar who we were, among more than 100 booths.

During the two days running up to the event, Melissa set to work producing all the literature, badges and sign-up sheets for the day and then get them printed. It was a close call but we were ready.

The Society also wishes to acknowledge the help of the ground staff of the Yerba Buena Gardens. There were special logistic considerations regarding the power and telephone hook-ups. Within a half hour of setting up the tables, we were online surfing the net!

A number of Society members were "press-ganged" into providing their expert advice throughout the day, with their personal knowledge on how to use the books we had on display and how to surf the net with Mac and PC laptops. So, take a bow, Dale Friedman, Jerry Jacobson, Larry Bergheimer, Pierre Hahn, Stan Hertzbach, and Steve Somerstein.

A good number of visitors throughout the day were guided by our experts in surfing the net and trying to "find their family." Using some well-worn databases on JewishGen, several connections were made. One young chap kept Stan Hertzbach busy for almost an hour!

My own, albeit unusual "connections" story involved a woman whom I invited to do a look-up in the JewishGen Discussion Archives for a name in

her family. This is almost a Number One thing to do when researching — see if someone else is researching the same name. She typed in NACHIMOVSKY and the only result was an email which I wrote in November, 2001. I had written alerting people to the fact that a Berl NACHIMOVSKY had changed his name to Barnett COHEN in 1908. So two and a half years later my posting proved useful!

Also encouraging us from the sidelines, through the day were Beth Galleto (ZN Editor), Roger Rosenberg (Past President) and member Andrew Nusbaum.

All in all it was a good day.

Look for SFBAJGS at "To Life" Jewish Cultural Street Festival

The JGS will be one of the community groups participating in the fourth annual Jewish Cultural Street Festival in Palo Alto on Sunday, September 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will take place on California Avenue between El Camino and Park.

Attractions will include 100 artisans, a wide variety of children's craft activities, vegetarian and Kosher ethnic cuisine, cooking demonstrations, six stages featuring live entertainment all day, and more.

For more information call (650) 852-3556 or visit www.ToLifeFestival.org.

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 Larry Burgheimer at BurgAuer@aol.com.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
ALEXANDER	Germany	Berlowitz, Judith
APRIL	Rzeszow, Poland	Lowe, Jonathan
BACKMAN	Kaunas, Lithuania; Annapol, Poland	Silverstein, Ethel Sarah
BASS	Lodz, Poland	Thompson, Mary
BEN JAKOV	Pennsylvania	Levinson, Carl
BERLOWITZ/BERELE(O)VITCH	Orekhov, Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine	Berlowitz, Judith
CROOKAVICH/CROOKAVAIR	Kaunas, Lithuania; Annapol, Poland; Ostrog na Volyn	Silverstein, Ethel Sarah
FISCHL	Austro-Hungarian Empire	Berlowitz, Judith
FRANK	Veisiejai, Lithuania	Levinson, Carl
FRESCHL	Praha, Czech Republic	Berlowitz, Judith
FROESCHLIS	Praha, Czech Republic	Berlowitz, Judith
GALINSKY	Pennsylvania	Levinson, Carl
GATTMAN(N)	Budapest, Hungary	Berlowitz, Judith
GERSHFIELD	Kiyev, Ukraine	Silverstein, Ethel Sarah
GRAF	Rava Russkaya, Ukraine	Lowe, Jonathan
GUTHMAN	Budapest, Hungary	Berlowitz, Judith
JUSTER	Bucuresti, Pungesti, Romania	Weber, Eden
LEDERER	Praha, Czech Republic	Berlowitz, Judith
KNELLER	Kiyev, Ukraine	Silverstein, Ethel Sarah
LEVINSON	Pennsylvania	Levinson, Carl
LEVINSOHN	Germany	Berlowitz, Judith
LEWIN	Posen, Germany, Raguva, Lithuania	Lowe, Jonathan
LINDENBAUM	Rzeszow, Poland	Lowe, Jonathan
LOEWENBERG	Germany	Berlowitz, Judith
LOWE/LOWITCKI/LOWITZKI	Warszawa, Poland	Lowe, Jonathan
NÜSSBAUM	Rzeszow, Poland	Lowe, Jonathan
OLETSKI/OLETSKY	Kaunas, Lithuania; Annapol, Poland	Silverstein, Ethel Sarah
ORNSTEIN	Galati, Romania	Weber, Eden
KROOKAVICH/KROOKAVAIR	Kaunas, Lithuania; Annapol, Poland; Ostrog na Volyn	Silverstein, Ethel Sarah
KUKAURCH	Kaunas, Lithuania; Annapol, Poland	Silverstein, Ethel Sarah
RESCH	Kosice, Slovak Republic	Lowe, Jonathan
RUBINSKY	Lodz, Poland	Thompson, Mary
SAND	Pennsylvania	Levinson, Carl
SEIDEN	Tokaj, Hungary	Lowe, Jonathan
SEIDLIN	Orekhov, Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine	Berlowitz, Judith
SILK	Tokaj, Hungary	Lowe, Jonathan
SILVERSTEIN	Kaunas, Lithuania; Annapol, Poland	Silverstein, Ethel Sarah
STEIFEL	Rzeszow, Poland	Lowe, Jonathan
TRONSTEIN	Kosice, Slovak Republic	Lowe, Jonathan
ZEIDEN	Tokaj, Hungary	Lowe, Jonathan

COMPUTER/ONLINE NEWS

Another Morse Portal

by Gary Mokotoff, *Nu? What's New?*

Stephen P. Morse has done it again. He has created a superior portal to yet another Internet site that is useful for genealogy. The Morse site now includes the ability to obtain a road map or aerial view of any place in the world. It can be linked to from his home page, www.stevenmorse.org

Key in a given latitude/longitude in degrees, minutes and seconds and the Morse portal will provide a road map, courtesy of MapQuest.com, or an aerial view, courtesy of Globexplorer.com. For the U.S. and Canada, it is unnecessary to know the latitude/longitude, because Morse permits identification of a location by street address.

The quality of the aerial views is quite poor for locations in Eastern Europe. Cities as large as Warsaw show little detail, but locations in Western Europe and North American show incredible detail. You can see individual buildings in Berlin, London and Paris. I was able to get an aerial view of my own home that clearly shows the swimming pool on the property of my next door neighbor.

To get the exact latitude/longitude of any place in the world except the United States, I use www.calle.com/world. For locations within the U.S., I use geonames.usgs.gov

When defining a location at the Morse site, be sure to correctly specify whether the latitude is north or south of the equator and the longitude is east or west of Greenwich. I keyed in the lat/long of my ancestral town of Warka, Poland, and asked for an aerial view. I got nothing! I then keyed in the lat/long of the town where I now live in New Jersey and realized I had requested for Warka a global position west of Greenwich rather than east of Greenwich. When I corrected this, I got an aerial view of Warka. The first request was processed correctly. When I erroneously specified west of Greenwich, what I received was an aerial view in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

Reprinted with permission from "Nu? What's New?" the Internet e-zine for Jewish genealogy published by *Avotaynu*.

Fee changes to New York State records

by Gary Mokotoff, *JewishGen*

Many JewishGenners have roots in New York City. Fees for obtaining New York State vital records have been increased. For more information go to www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/consumer/vr.htm

Website Memorializes Jews of Bialystok

by Mark Halpern, *JewishGen*

It gives me great pleasure to announce the creation of a website to honor and memorialize the Jews of Bialystok. The website at www.zchor.org/bialystok/bialystok.htm includes sections on History, Survivors, Heritage, Yizkor Book, Books, Personalities, Persons, Holocaust, Cemeteries, Genealogy, and Region.

This website was conceived by Ada Holtzman from Israel, Tomasz Wisniewski from Bialystok, and Tilford Bartman from the United States. I became a part of this project later. Although both Tomasz and Tilford have contributed much effort and material to the website, it is the dedication, commitment, energy, and skills of Ada Holtzman that has really made this possible.

Of particular value to genealogists are the following:

At www.zchor.org/bialystok/yizkor.htm is a partial list of Bialystok Holocaust Martyrs. The sources are identified with the main source being Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony.

At www.zchor.org/bialystok/telephone.htm is a searchable list of the 1938 Bialystok Telephone book, created and contributed by Tomasz Wisniewski.

At the bottom of the main page is a list of towns in the Bialystok region. Here are links to other sites of interest to Bialystokers including Tilford Bartman's Zabłudow site, Ada Holtzman's Jedwabne and Suprasl sites, Andrew Blumberg's Bielsk Podlaski site, among others.

Istanbul Marriages, Burials On Line

by Daniel Kazez, *JewishGen*

I am pleased to announce a search engine for more than 25,000 Istanbul marriage and burial records: www.asfonline.org/portal/genealogy/turkey/

Note that Istanbul has a very large Ashkenazi population; don't pass up a search just because you don't have Sephardic roots.

Some of the records in this database are not yet complete and/or not yet proofed.

We are deeply indebted to the Jewish community of Istanbul for their interest in (and devotion to) these valuable genealogical records. We owe great thanks to the American Sephardic Federation for hosting this search engine and to David Pool for making the web site and search engine, and to the dozens of volunteers who typed and proofed these records in Turkish, French, Ladino, Hebrew, and Solitreo.

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Contributors to this Issue

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ZichronNote

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