



# זכרונות *ZichronNote*

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

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*The Ger Mandolin Ensemble: 2011, which performed as part of the 26th Jewish Music Festival in Berkeley, California.*

**ZichronNote**  
**Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area**  
**Jewish Genealogical Society**

**President's Message**

**Let's Get Cooking!**

By Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

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One of the more interesting, dare I say it, mouthwatering aspects of genealogical research is learning about recipes. It's quite amazing how just a few ingredients can really divide people. One group adds one kind of seasoning or flavoring and another group does something quite different. You don't even have to think Ashkenazi and Sephardi; within these two groups are subgroups. We can draw lines certainly far less "moveable" than those of Eastern European countries and intimate that if a family was born on one side or the other, then bubbe's cooking was either like this or like that.

Another kind of recipe goes like this: Take a convivial, easy-to-get-to place for a meeting, plenty of free parking, an interesting speaker talking on a subject that actually relates to the local area, throw in free (kosher, noch!) refreshments—cookies, fruit, water, juice, tea, and coffee—stir it all together with an audience, and what does one get? A successful meeting.

Well, I thought we had all the ingredients for a successful meeting, but I was missing just one thing: the audience. I couldn't even raise a minyan! The turn-out was pretty abysmal—two guest attendees from the synagogue the meeting was being held in (they thought it was an event being put by the shul); one couple who were actually San Francisco members; two guys (nonmembers), one of whom had just begun his genealogical quest and was very interested in the subject; and three other Society members, all of whom came from the East Bay. Nay, one came all the way from Orinda!

So what gives? Because I certainly don't understand. Yes, it was the first sunny Sunday in quite a while—but there will soon be lots of them. The opportunity to hear our speaker is not something that happens all the time! It was quite embarrassing to the few who showed up.

With approximately one third of our membership living in San Francisco, that's nearly seventy members. To think that not even ten percent—that's seven of you—couldn't show up is really telling me and the Board something. But what exactly?

What do we have so wrong? The location? The speakers? The topics? We would more than love to know; we NEED to know. Here's my e-mail address: [jfrankel@lmi.net](mailto:jfrankel@lmi.net). Please write and tell me why you weren't at the March meeting in San Francisco. Thank you.



## SOCIETY NEWS

### New Members

Yvonne Coren.....ycoren@att.net  
Claudia Wolf Eshoo.....claudiaeshoo@comcast.net  
Bill Iracki.....biracki@prodigy.net  
Laura Lee & Arthur Karp.....llkarpond@comcast.net  
Jeffrey Mark Paull.....saxkat@msn.com

In order to continue to receive the SFBAJGS e-zine and *ZichronNote*, please send e-mail updates to [newsletter@sfbajgs.org](mailto:newsletter@sfbajgs.org).

### Stories Needed for *ZichronNote*

Have you had a breakthrough in your family research, solved a family mystery through painstaking research, discovered an amazing resource, or walked where your ancestors walked as part of an interesting family history trip?

We want to read about it in *ZichronNote*. Please submit materials to [newsletter@sfbajgs.org](mailto:newsletter@sfbajgs.org).

### Western States Jewish History Journals Sought

Does anyone subscribe to the Western States Jewish History Association in Los Angeles and receive the WSJH journal? I am attempting to collect a set. If anyone has a collection of them (especially volume 29 onward [1997?–2008]) and is/was thinking of getting rid of them, I would be more than interested in finding them a good home. Please contact me at [jfrankel@lmi.net](mailto:jfrankel@lmi.net).

### International Jewish Genealogy Month

International Jewish Genealogy Month (IJGM) is a program of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (<http://www.iajgs.org/jgmonth.html>). IJGM is celebrated during the month of Cheshvan, which this year falls from October 29–November 26 on the secular calendar. The purpose of IJGM is to make the public aware of the hobby of genealogy and the fact that there is a local Jewish genealogical society that can help them get started on their research.

This year SFBAJGS will promote IJGM with two talks and an open house. On 14 November, Jeff Lewy will present “Book ‘em, Dano! Publishing Your Family’s Story” in Los Altos Hills. On 20 November, Dr. Lara Michels will talk about “Family History at the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life” in San Francisco.

The open house will be 13 November at the Oakland Regional Family History Center. Ron Arons will present “Putting Flesh on the Bones”, about how to find more information about your ancestors and learn about the “why” in their lives. There will also be a number of experts and experienced researchers available, either to help you get started or to give you advice on your thorny genealogical problems.

So put the dates on your calendar and help us celebrate and spread the word about Jewish genealogy!

### Meeting Times and Locations

Unless otherwise indicated, the SFBAJGS meeting schedule is as follows:

- San Francisco:** **Sunday. Doors open 12:30 p.m. Program begins at 1:00 p.m.**  
Congregation Beth Israel-Judea, 625 Brotherhood Way.
- Los Altos Hills:** **Monday. Doors open at 7 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.**  
Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Room 5/6.
- Oakland:** **Sunday. Doors open 12:30 p.m. Program begins at 1:00 p.m.**  
Oakland Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue.

**See Back Cover for Calendar of Upcoming SFBAJGS Meetings**

## CALENDAR

### Genealogy Events

#### Local and Regional

Mon., 18 July, 7:00 p.m. **Sacramento Jewish Genealogical Society.** Marian Kile presents “**Organizing Your Research.**” Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. [http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/html/meetings\\_2011.html](http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/html/meetings_2011.html)

Mon., 15 August, 7:00 p.m. **Sacramento Jewish Genealogical Society.** Linda Lucky presents “**Research Logs: A Powerful Tool.**” Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. [http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/html/meetings\\_2011.html](http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/html/meetings_2011.html)

Fri.–Sat., 7–8 October. **Northern California Family History Expo.** San Mateo County Event Center, 2495 S. Delaware Street, San Mateo. <http://www.familyhistoryexpos.com/viewevent.aspx?eid=36>

Sat., 15 October, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. **Digging for Your Roots.** 18th annual Family History Seminar. 1590 Denlinger Road, Concord. Jackie Hein, [lejaki1957@aol.com](mailto:lejaki1957@aol.com).

Sun., 13 November, 1:00–5:00 p.m. **Jewish Genealogy Open House.** Many volunteers will be available to help you with your research. Ron Arons will present “**Putting Flesh on the Bones.**” Oakland Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland. See page 3 for more information. <http://www.sfbajgs.org/>

#### State and National

Sun.–Fri., 14–19 August. **31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.** Grand Hyatt, Washington, DC. Blog at <http://www.dc2011conference.blogspot.com/>. Discussion group hosted through JewishGen; go to [http://www.jewishgen.org/ListManager/members\\_add.asp](http://www.jewishgen.org/ListManager/members_add.asp), sign in, and look under Hosted Projects for the “Subscribe” button. <http://www.dc2011.org/>

Sat., 15 October, 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. **California Family History Day.** California State Archives, 1020 O Street 4th Floor, Sacramento. <http://fhdnews.blogspot.com/>

Fri.–Sun., 2–4 February 2012. **RootsTech 2012.** Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah. Technologies and applications that could have an impact on the many emerging facets of family history-related consumer markets worldwide. <http://www.rootstech.org/>



## Cadastral Maps: A Bonanza for Research in Galicia

Beth Galletto

If your Jewish roots are in what was once Galicia, cadastral maps are likely to be a very useful resource for you. Thanks to Gesher Galicia, the Galicia Special Interest Group (SIG), you may be able to find a detailed map of your family’s town that will show the location of the market square, the synagogue, the cemetery, where your ancestors lived and who their neighbors were, as well as a wealth of other interesting information.

At the 10 April meeting of the SFBAJGS at the Oakland Family History Center, Pamela Weisberger, first vice president and program chair for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles and president of Gesher Galicia, explained what these maps are and how they can be used in family history research. She also described the Gesher Galicia project, begun in 2007, to find and inventory such maps and to make them available to researchers through the Internet.

Part of what is now Ukraine and Poland, Galicia was absorbed into the Austrian Empire as its largest province after the first partition of Poland in 1772. As is customary with governments, the Austrian government was interested in finding out who lived in this large territory so that it could collect taxes from them. Cadastral maps were drawn up in the early 19th and 20th centuries to track properties for tax purposes.

The word “cadastre” is still used today in the real estate industry. Wikipedia says that it is “a comprehensive register of the metes and bounds real property of a country.”

Early cadastral maps were somewhat primitive, but in 1817 a new cadastre was drawn up by professional surveyors and map makers. Some of the cadastral maps that Weisberger showed in her presentation were more than interesting documents—they were works of art. They showed the contours of the gardens on the estate of the nobleman who owned the town. Sometimes trees were indicated, and gravestones were drawn in to indicate cemeteries.

The maps were color coded to show various types of buildings and dwellings. Dwellings were numbered and on some maps names of owners were written in or indicated in a key. For some towns additional sources of information were also available, such as journals tracking each landholder and noting when a property was sold or inherited.

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## Czechs Digitizing Vital Records

Daniela Torsh

The Czech National Archives are digitizing records and preparing to make them available online.

Daniela Torsh was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia to Holocaust survivor parents. The family emigrated to Australia in 1948, and she grew up and was educated in Sydney. Inspired by the birth of her daughter in 1978 she began to research her family history. Since the Velvet Revolution of 1989 she has traveled to the Czech Republic and Austria regularly to search archives and cemeteries and meet with local experts and the remnants of her family. This article was previously published in *Australian Jewish Genealogical Society e-Report*, January 2011.

In a move that will revolutionize the future of Czech Jewish genealogy, the Czech National Archives have begun scanning their vital records (matriky) collection of 4,000 volumes of Jewish births, marriages, and deaths to make these records available on the Czech National Archives Web site (<http://www.nacr.cz/>) in 2011.

The digitization is the brainchild of archivist and historian Dr. Lenka Matušiková, who is in charge of all the religious records held by the National Archives.

Dr. Matušiková has had a long association with the Prague Jewish community. She is a board member and a contributor to *Judaica Bohemiae*, the biannual publication of the Prague Jewish Museum.<sup>1</sup> She is also on the Board of the Terezín Initiative, which is based in the former concentration camp.<sup>2</sup> In 2008 she presented a paper, "Historical Sources for the History of Jews of the Czech Lands Deposited in Czech Archives", in Chicago at the 28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

The digitization of the Jewish vital records began on 18 October 2010 in Prague and is expected to be completed shortly. Dr. Matušiková found the funds within the archive budget for 2011 to have the scanning work done by a private firm.

The next phase of her project is to prepare the interpretive material which will allow public access via the archives' Web site, <http://www.mza.cz/>.

In conjunction with the digitization of the vital records, Dr. Matušiková is seeking funds internationally to restore the precious collection, which after 300 years is in poor shape. The 4,000 matriky were mostly accessioned by the National

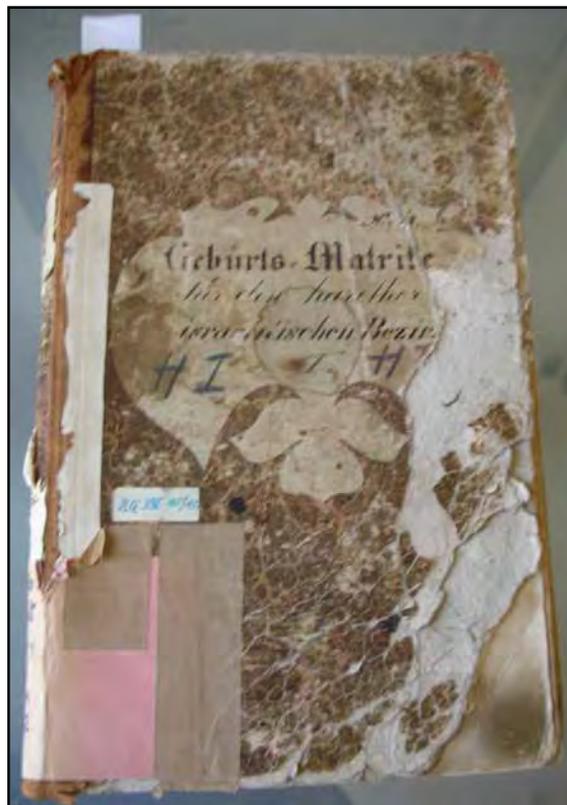
Archives postwar. The Nazis had collected these books when they overran Czechoslovakia in 1939, for use in their proposed Museum of a Dead Race. Not only did they loot and pillage Jewish synagogues, schools, shops, businesses, and homes, they also took all the records they could find (some were hidden by sympathetic Czechs). Along with the rest of the plunder, they stored them in Prague buildings for the duration of the war. The matriky start in the 1700's and go through to the 1950's. The specific dates vary depending on the specific town or city.

Since 1945 these valuable documents have been slowly deteriorating, despite their maintenance and storage in the archives. In the early 1990's, when I first found the archives and met Dr. Matušiková, I was appalled and saddened to see the state of many of the

matriky I was then permitted to handle in the reading room.<sup>3</sup> In the post-Communist era the LDS Church wanted to film all the Jewish records in Eastern Europe and were offering a very small payment per record. The Czechs, unlike many other Eastern European repositories, refused permission.

Post-Communism it was slow and difficult to obtain basic information about Jewish births, marriages, and deaths in the former Czechoslovakia. The archives really only allowed academics to research. Genealogists were dissuaded from handling the matriky due to preservation concerns.

After a long meeting with Dr. Matušiková on a trip to Prague in the early 2000's I decided to offer the archives a donation to assist in the restoration of the matriky. She was to decide which volumes were



A matrik from Most, West Bohemia, in original condition.

most in need of conservation, and after signing a contract in 2003, the work proceeded. Over a period of 18 months, I funded the restoration of 18 registers. The archives didn't have enough conservators on staff to do all the work, so they used private conservators and the senior students at the specialist college in Prague where archival conservation is taught. The restoration process was meticulously documented, and as each volume was restored I was given a folder of photographs showing the condition before and after.

When I saw the "new" *matriky* I was dumbfounded. I had never seen such a miracle. Pages that had been ripped were like new, bindings that had disappeared miraculously were replaced, and pages that had been loose had been glued into the volume and you couldn't see where.

On average the cost of restoration then was around \$A1,800 per volume. Dr. Matušiková has estimated that in today's costs it will take around \$US3,300 (€2,400) to restore a single matrik.

Seven years ago the Czech archives had very little or no experience with private philanthropy. It was only a few years after the Communist regime had collapsed. Today philanthropy and sponsorship in the Czech Republic are more common and most welcome. Dr. Matušiková has drawn up a donor agreement which is available from the author, along with details of how to make a donation.

I met Dr. Matušiková again in June 2010 when I was working in the Prague archives, and she revealed her idea to digitize the vital records. I



Conservator Jana Hrivnova with a restored birth matrik from 1784 for the town of Neustadtl (Straz).

offered to help her raise funds and announced the project in my talk to the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Canberra on 4 November 2010. I am hoping that together we will be able to raise a substantial amount of funds to support this significant project, which will ensure that the Czech *matriky* for the Jews of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia will last at least another 300 years.

Anyone who wishes to make a donation is encouraged to contact me at [danielat1@bigpond.com](mailto:danielat1@bigpond.com) so that I can facilitate the process and contact with the archives in Prague.

#### Notes

1. *Judaica Bohemiae* focuses on Jewish history and culture in Bohemia and Moravia from the Middle Ages through to the present. Special attention is paid to the history of the Jewish Museum in Prague and research in its collections. Featuring original specialist papers, it is intended for local and foreign researchers. The papers are published in English and German.
2. Terezinska Iniciativa Institut (<http://www.terezinstudies.cz/>), an international association of former prisoners of Terezin ghetto and other concentration camps.
3. For conservation reasons, the archives now allow access only to the microfilm version of the *matriky* collection, HBMa.



### **The Galitzianer Request for Submissions**

*The Galitzianer* is the quarterly journal of Gesher Galicia. Submissions may be articles and/or graphics, both original and previously published, relevant to Jewish genealogical research in Galicia: articles about recent trips to Galicia, reports on your own research, research techniques, historical and recent pictures relevant to these matters, lists, book reviews, etc.

Electronic submissions are preferred, though not required. Submissions are accepted from both members and nonmembers of Gesher Galicia.

Though submissions are accepted year-round, the deadline for the August 2011 issue is 22 July 2011. To send a submission or if you have any questions, contact Janice Sellers at [janicemsj@gmail.com](mailto:janicemsj@gmail.com). For more information see <http://www.jewishgen.org/galicia/newsletter.html>.

## Meet the SFBAJGS Board: Board President Jeremy Frankel Anchoring the Present in the Past

Beth Galleto

Beth Galleto has been working on her family history since a distant cousin made an unexpected visit in 1978 and sketched out a makeshift family tree on a napkin. When not working on genealogy, she is a freelance copywriter and editor. She was formerly the editor of *ZichronNote* and is currently the SFBAJGS Webmaster.

Most of us remember what started us on the obsessive search for our elusive ancestors. For Jeremy Frankel it began in 1985, when Jeremy's grandfather asked him whether he knew that his great-uncle had been previously married. "It was the second night of Passover. I was sitting around the table with my grandfather, nibbling on bits of matzo, and he said, 'Did you know my brother was married to someone else before Aunt Kitty?'" That's how Jeremy found out his Uncle Charlie had divorced and remarried. He started wondering, "Who was this woman? Did she have any offspring?"

Since that day, Jeremy has been investigating his roots in England, Lithuania, and Poland, and his curiosity has led him to help others with their family histories as well. Jeremy has been a member of the SFBAJGS since 1994 and its president for the past ten years. He has also been a professional genealogist for about ten years.

Just listen to him speak and you know that Jeremy was born in England. Until he was 34 he lived in Edgware, in northwest London, which he says is now one of the most highly populated Jewish areas, with a dozen synagogues. He was trained as a cartographer, and for seven years he worked for the largest aerial survey company in Europe. The company owned a fleet of small planes. Taking photographs from a camera

in the belly of a plane, he used the photos to make maps, not just of England and Europe, but of Saudi Arabia and other exotic locations. When he began to feel that he wanted new challenges he went back to school and earned a degree in land surveying, and he worked as a surveyor for the Greater London Council for seven years.

Jeremy developed a particular interest in the canals and waterways that crisscross England and Europe. He spent his weekends working with a nonprofit organization to restore 1,000 miles of historic canals in England. He began to understand how 300 years ago people worked up to their necks in mud building these canals, aqueducts, bridges, and locks. He also developed an interest in the wildlife that has found a habitat in the waterways and their banks.

Jeremy spent his vacations boating on canals in Holland, France, and other countries. "It's an idyllic way of travel, going a leisurely four to five miles per hour and watching the landscape drift by," he says.

He liked the idea of being "on the road" and Jack Kerouac became his hero in the mid '70's. This influence brought him to the United States for a six-month road trip. "I think everyone should indulge in this once in their life," he says. Along the way he attended lectures and natural park programs and met up with a boat company working on the Erie Canal. He asked them, "How come there's no guidebook to the canal?" and was told that no one had done the work. "My father was a printer and I have ink in my blood," Jeremy says. "I decided to research and write a guidebook to the Erie Canal. It took a year and a half." During this time he was also a crew member on a boat, and he lived in an apartment above the boat company's office. The book, *Erie Canal Guide: Western Section—Tonawanda to Syracuse*, sold out and is now out of print, but there is a copy in the Library of Congress.

This experience led to a job restoring the Glens Falls Feeder Canal in Glens Falls, New York. The canal, first built in 1822, supplies water for the Champlain Canal. "My job was to clean up the towpath and clear rubbish out of the waterway. I got the community involved," Jeremy says. The history of the Champlain Canal became his second book. When the grant for the



restoration project ran out he got a job with Warren County and began to work on a state-sponsored records management study, inventorying archived records, including materials from 1813 to 1991, in upper New York State. His mapmaking and surveying skills came in handy as he drew a floor plan of the location of each of more than 300 offices in various county buildings. A second grant allowed the county to inventory the holdings in six of the twelve towns in the Adirondacks.

He moved back to California in 1993 (he had originally come during his earlier explorations of the U.S.), soon joined the SFBAJGS, and was elected the organization's president in 2001.

Jeremy has strong beliefs about the path a genealogical society needs to take in the 21st century. "Genealogy has been turned on its head from 20, 30, or 50 years ago. So many things have happened. The reason for being a member of a genealogy society is 180 degrees different," he says. While such an organization used to be a way individuals provided information for each other, today the existence of computerized indices and digitized records means that an organization can pool its resources to contribute to other groups engaged in digitizing groups of records. "Now, individuals can't do a lot; but if 200 of us get together we can. We on the Board are always looking at where the Society's income can be directed to projects that benefit everyone."

Jeremy can often be found doing research in the Oakland Family History Center. He is also an avid supporter and user of local libraries and archives. He still enjoys researching local history, and his current projects include a San Francisco-born Jewish boxing glove manufacturer and a Polish Jewish anarchist who cofounded the first sailor's union in San Francisco. He will be speaking about some of his research at the SFBAJGS meeting in October at the Oakland Family History Center.



## The Ger Mandolin Ensemble

Janice M. Sellers

The Ger Mandolin Ensemble: 2011 was a personal project of SFBAJGS Board member Avner Yonai. It commemorated the Mandolin Orchestra of Ger (Gora Kalwaria), Poland, which had included several members of Avner's family who perished in the Holocaust.

Avner worked with the 2011 Jewish Music Festival to have the new ensemble perform as part of the festival. It was a wonderful success. The ensemble played to a packed house at Freight & Salvage in Berkeley on 6 March. The musicians, who included the only person ever to win a Grammy® award for a mandolin performance, presented a wide-ranging selection of music to an enthusiastic audience.

The musicians were Mike Marshall, Avi Avital (the Grammy winner), Eric Stein, Jeff Warshauer, Tim Connell, Chris Acquavella, Sharon Gilchrist, Brian Oberlin, Dana Rath, Adam Rozkiewicz, and Radim Zenkl. They came together from several states and countries and put in many hours of practice beyond their normal routines. They enjoyed participating in the ensemble so much, they have talked about performing together again, in ways that will be meaningful and respectful of the group's origins.

A short video clip from the concert can be seen at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7oT9Q7\\_4y4&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7oT9Q7_4y4&feature=related). There are plans to release a DVD and a CD of the performance.



*Continued from page 4*

The Geshher Galicia project's objectives are to inventory the land records and maps for individual Galician towns; to photocopy or digitally photograph these maps and records; to index the data contained in these records and make them available online in a searchable database; and to overlay images of the maps with modern images such as Google maps. The cadastral maps are very large, so copying or photographing them can be a challenging task.

In some cases cadastral maps are the only information available about a certain town. These were the maps that Geshher Galicia was most eager to acquire, Weisberger said. The SIG is finding maps in the L'viv archives and also in other locations, such as the central archive in Jerusalem. Of the 6,300 communities that existed in Galicia in 1914, the project has so far inventoried 100 communities and obtained records for 50.

For more information see the Geshher Galicia Web site at <http://www.jewishgen.org/galicia/>.



## San Francisco History Expo

The first-ever San Francisco History Expo took place 12–13 February 2011 at the Old Mint in San Francisco. It did not include any genealogical organizations, but still had information of interest to family historians. SFBAJGS Board members attended and had promising things to say.

### Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

With more than one hundred people waiting outside, there was obviously a lot of interest from all quarters to see the first of what is hoped for to be an annual event showcasing the many diverse neighborhoods of the city as well as the infrastructure that holds it together—police and fire services and, of course, the ubiquitous street car railroad. Even the Oakland–San Francisco Bay Bridge Rebuild and Renovation had a booth!

By the looks of things there were tourists, local people, and local historians and transportation buffs. Nearly every room on the first floor was given over to neighborhood booths with exhibits. The Potrero Hill Neighborhood, Presidio Neighborhood, North Beach, and Western Addition were all represented.

Downstairs at basement level, visitors thronged the now-empty vaults. No gold bars or coins were to be found, though photographs did show gold bars stacked from floor to ceiling.

A conversation with Kurt Nystrom, the Chief Operating and Financial Officer for the The Mint Project, revealed to me that because of city regulations, only a certain number of rooms could be used. I had made it known to Kurt via an earlier e-mail that the exclusion of genealogical societies was an oversight that I hoped would be rectified. Let's hope that the success of this year's Expo will prise open a few more doors so that more groups with a San Francisco bias can be included if the event is held again.

### Shelley Pollero, SFBAJGS Board Member

My husband and I went to the San Francisco History Expo for about an hour and a half. It was a fun event if you are into history. The building itself is an historic landmark. Without taking in a film, there was enough to do for two hours, maybe a little longer. Attendance was good. Many participants remarked on how much foot traffic there was with minimal advertising. Of course, the weather was REALLY good and brought people out.

I enjoyed talking to the folks presenting/representing their organizations. The building is small but there are vault rooms in the basement that were empty today. Maybe next year! The organizations that were in attendance had lots of visuals.

I did see an extensive San Francisco map today in which the “Jewish” cemetery was already Dolores Park but the area now occupied by USF and St. Ignatius Church were still cemeteries.

Kurt Nystrom, San Francisco Museum and Historical Society COO, said, “The main goal of the History Expo was to bring together the many diverse, historical associations in San Francisco for an event at the Mint where they could showcase their offerings to a much broader public.” The Expo was said to be a resounding success. For more details and photos, go to <http://www.sfhistory.org/index.php?pageid=20>.



If there is a second Expo, and if genealogical societies are permitted to participate, some of the ideas we are considering for a presentation are Jewish contributions to San Francisco's growth and history; a display on Jewish cemeteries, within the context of cemeteries in San Francisco in general; or look-ups in the cemetery records we have contributed to JOWBR.



*Visitors study the J. B. Monaco cache of photographs that were found. Monaco was a Swiss-born local photographer known as the dean of North Beach photographers. He thoroughly documented the results of the earthquake and fire.*

## Now Online

By Marilyn Dornhelm

### Juicy Bits of Jewish Genealogy

In this column I share what's new in online indices, digitized archival material, and tools. The following are from February–May 1, 2011. The main sources for these are JewishGen and many SIG digests. Comments are welcome. Send them to [mdornhelm@yahoo.com](mailto:mdornhelm@yahoo.com).

#### USA

##### GENERAL

*Instructions for Federal Census Takers*

<http://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumInstr.shtml>

*Jewish emigres records 1930-1947*

<http://library.albany.edu/speccoll/findaids/ger017.htm>

Names of hundreds of German and Jewish intellectuals whose files form part of the special collection, "Inventory of the American Council for Emigres in the Professions, Records 1930–1974"

##### CALIFORNIA

*Jewish Refugees Who Came through Angel Island*

<http://aiisf.org/history/ai-jewish-refugees>

A database with information about 132 Jewish immigrants. AIISF would like to interview the individuals and/or their descendants in order to get their full stories.

##### MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

*Boston City Directories on Ancestry.com: An Anomaly*

There are two ways to get to Boston city directories via the Ancestry.com "card catalog": via the collection "Schools, Directories & Church Histories" > "Massachusetts City Directories" > "Boston" > [year]; and via "Schools, Directories & Church Histories" > "US City Directories" > "Massachusetts" > "Boston" [year]. The second route linked to many more years of the Boston Directory than the first route: listings up to 1941 instead of only up to 1924.

##### MICHIGAN

Ferndale

*Machpelah Cemetery Interments*

<http://www.machpelahcemetery.org/>

Hover the cursor over "Burial List" in the left margin to bring up the links.

##### NEW YORK

*1905 New York State Census*

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

Free. Go to U.S. records and scroll down to the New York State 1905 census.

*Name Changes in New York, 1897 to 1901*

<http://books.google.com/books?id=E4U4AAAAIAAJ>

*Supplementary Index to the Session Laws of the State of New York*. Search on a name using FIND in the upper left of the Web site. A listing will appear, with the name highlighted, of each occurrence in the book. Free Google e-book.

*Brooklyn Daily Eagle Almanac*

<http://books.google.com/books?id=qEDOAAAAMAAJ> (1890)

<http://books.google.com/books?id=ss0WAAAAIAAJ> (1916)

<http://books.google.com/books?id=hKQJAAAAIAAJ> (1918)

New York City, Long Island, and general world information. Free Google e-books.

New York City

*NY Street Scenes*

<http://www.vPike.com/>

Put in the address and you will see the street view. Very simple to use. The videos were sourced from Google street views.

*Lower East Side (NYC) 1880-1920, Observations of Life*

<http://www.tenant.net/Community/LES/contents.html>

Collection of articles, documentary sources, and study guides. Readers can learn how people coped with, and sometimes prevailed over, the forces of industrialization, immigration, and urbanization.

##### OHIO

Cincinnati

*American Israelite Newspaper, July 1859–June 1867*

<http://www.israeliteonline.com/>

Browse all weekly issues of this Cincinnati-based newspaper. Not searchable.

*Cincinnati Birth and Death Records 1865–1912*

[http://digitalprojects.libraries.uc.edu/Births\\_and\\_Deaths/index.asp](http://digitalprojects.libraries.uc.edu/Births_and_Deaths/index.asp)

The University of Cincinnati Archives and Rare Books Library is digitizing more than 500,000 birth and death records for Cincinnati and is in the process of making them available online. So far they've completed "A" through "Fill." The digitized records have detailed information and are very searchable.

## EUROPE

### GENERAL

*Recent Map Additions at the Polish Military Geographic Institute Web Site*

<http://english.mapywig.org/news.php>

New is a large set of Austro-Hungarian Empire maps. Because of the maps' excellent quality and detail, the file sizes are large and may take several minutes to download. Many other European maps from the 1700's onward are also available.

### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

*Austro-Hungarian Army Casualty Reports*

<http://kramerius.nkp.cz/kramerius/Welcome.do>

Search by surname, village name, and the word "Verlustliste." The Czech National Library has digitized many documents of interest to Hungarian genealogists.

*Jewish Eisenstad, Burgenland, Austria (Kismarton, Hungary)*

<http://www.burgenland-bunch.org/JH/Eisenstadt/JH-Eisenstadt.htm>

Also view twelve panoramic views of Eisenstadt on the Austria Jewish Museum site, <http://www.ojm.at/panorama>.

Vienna, Austria

*New Databases at GenTeam*

<http://www.genteam.at/index.php?lang=en>

Medical Doctors from Vienna database; indices from Roman Catholic records; some corrections to St. Ulrich parish.

*Student Class Lists from Vienna*

<http://www.stubenbastei.at/absolventem.htm>

A school in Vienna has posted student class lists from 1900–2009. Many Jewish names appear in the earlier years. Notations for the classes of 1938 and 1939 reflect the growing crisis.

*Entire Series of Lehmann Directories, 1859–1942*

<http://www.digital.wienbibliothek.at/nav/classification/2609>

Free and searchable. The site is in German only and requires some patience to navigate, especially for listings in old German script.

### BELARUS

*Memories of Oshmyany and Its Jews*

<http://www.youtube.com/user/peled200#p/u>

Dov Peled, a Holocaust survivor born in Oshmyany, Belarus, has recently uploaded several videos he has compiled about Oshmyany and its Jews.

### CROATIA

*32 Croatian Newspapers 1848–present*

<http://library.foi.hr/nv/default.aspx?G=1&u=>

Searchable by text and date range. The search results are presented with both the image of the newspaper page and the plain text of that page. Google Translate can provide translations of the plain-text results.

### DENMARK

*Danish Jewish Cemeteries Database*

<http://tom.brondsted.dk/mosaiskebegravelser/>

<http://tom.brondsted.dk/mosaiskebegravelser/?lang=en> (English language)

Clicking on "Search Names" brings up an alphabetical list of surnames and the number of graves with the surname. Clicking on a surname reveals detailed information including the name, date of death, cemetery and location within the cemetery. It may also include information such as occupation, father's name and date/place of birth.

### GERMANY

*Homberg an der Ohm, Hesse, Germany BMD 1831–1875*

[reuven.mohr@gmail.com](mailto:reuven.mohr@gmail.com)

Reuven Mohr has prepared a transcription of Homberg an der Ohm BMD records for the years 1831–1875. Since he had no site to upload the file, contact him for the information.

### HUNGARY

Budapest, Hungary

*Book Detailing the Magyarization of Names 1800–1893*

<http://kt.lib.pte.hu/cgi-bin/kt.cgi?konyvtar/kt04112203/index.html>

This compilation of name changes lists a few details such as occupation and children's names. The book can also be browsed, searched, and downloaded from Google books at [http://books.google.com/books?id=\\_GoUAAAAYAAJ](http://books.google.com/books?id=_GoUAAAAYAAJ).

### LATVIA

*Latvia 1940 Telephone Directory*

<http://genealogyindexer.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=1532>

Searchable. Besides telephone numbers, many entries include occupations and street addresses. To facilitate manual searches, there is a locality index at this link to the start of each locality's section. Searching the full text of this directory can yield information that would be difficult to find by merely browsing by surname. For example, you can search by occupation (rabins) or street address ("stabu 61").

*Guide to Jewish Materials Stored in Latvian State Historical Archives*

[http://www.shamir.lv/images/Archive\\_guide\\_eng\(5\).pdf](http://www.shamir.lv/images/Archive_guide_eng(5).pdf)

The first stage of the Guide has been completed, a 103-page PDF document.

LITHUANIA

*Lithuania Internal Passport Records*

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Lithuania/InternalPassports.htm>

Lithuania internal passport records from Panevezys, Siauliai, and Ukmerge 1919–1940 have been added to the searchable database on JewishGen.

*List of Jewish Prisoners in Lithuania 1922–1940*

[http://www.litvaksig.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=article&id=12&Itemid=9](http://www.litvaksig.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=article&id=12&Itemid=9)

<http://panevezys.shutterfly.com/>

Besides the name of the prisoner, files contain information such as place of birth, age, father's name, details of arrest, and in most cases photographs and the file number. For more details about the prisoner, it will be necessary to obtain a copy of the complete file from the Lithuanian State Archives in Vilna. This data will be made available to members of the Panevezys District and other LitvakSIG district research groups for a period of at least 18 months before being added to the All Lithuania Database.

*Online Lithuania News*

<http://VilNews.com/>

This e-magazine hopes to be one of the most comprehensive online resources for Lithuania.

Kaunas, Lithuania

*Kaunas Draftee Lists up to 1916: Surname Frequency Lists*

<http://kaunas.shutterfly.com/>

In addition to information about the person being drafted, they provide details of parents and siblings; often the name of the regiment is given or the family's street address. The list covers draftees registered at Kaunas but they came from many towns, as this was a time of considerable movement to the cities.

Marijampole, Lithuania

*Marijampole, Lithuania, Soldiers 1937–1940*

[http://www.litvaksig.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=article&id=189&Itemid=199](http://www.litvaksig.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=article&id=189&Itemid=199)

Aid allocation data and personal files of the recipients have a wealth of family information. Translated and available to members of the Suwalki District Research Group (DRG), they are arranged in alphabetical order. With the military service information, a researcher can contact the Central Archive in Vilnius and obtain the complete military record of the former soldier.

NETHERLANDS

*How to Get a Mid-1940's Marriage Record from the Netherlands*

First try <http://www.genlias.nl/>, where you may find where they were married. If Genlias doesn't tell you, try <http://www.allegroningers.nl/> or <http://www.thematis.nl/>. If you find the information via Genlias, you can order the files. The site will show you the instructions.

When you receive the order, you'll usually have only the *huwelijksakte*, the marriage record. There you can find the names, occupations, dates and places of birth of the couple, and their parents' names, ages, and occupations. You'll also see the witnesses and their relationships to the couple. For the whole file with all *huwelijksbijlagen* ("attachments"), you'll have to contact the state archive of the province where they married. To find the province for your ancestor's city or village, go to <http://home.planet.nl/~pagklein/almanak.html>. Contact for the state archives for each province is available at <http://www.familiemolema.nl/archief.htm>. Another good resource (in Dutch) is <http://www.voorouders.net/links>.

POLAND

*Polish Records*

<http://metryki.genealodzy.pl/metryki.php>

A great source of information. There are about 20 million pictures with one quarter of them translated by volunteers and searchable on <http://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/>. It is focused on Christian records but between 1808 and 1825, Christian and Jewish records were mixed.

<http://metryki.genealodzy.pl/zs1441d>

Use the right menu to navigate and search for "Urząd Stanu Cywilnego" for 1808–1825.

Also see *World: African Cemeteries*.

Kanczuga, Poland

*Kanczuga Discussion Group*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kanczuga/>

The goal of this new group is to cut down on duplication of research efforts. Available now in the Files section of the group is a Certificate of Incorporation from the First Kanczuger Aid Society (a *landsmanshaft*) in 1902 in New York. All those with family from Kanczuga are welcome to join the group.

Krakow, Poland

*Krakow Family Trees Web Site Update*

<http://www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/Krakow/>

More than 700 families and 70,000 individuals listed.

Przemysl, Poland

*New Przemysl Forum*

<http://przemysl.blogspot.com/2000/01/forum.html>

This is a grass-roots effort not affiliated with any formal organizations. The purpose is to compare notes, supplement the usual research resources, and form a community.

ROMANIA

*Bessarabia 1854 Revision List Update of 12,733 Records*

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania> or <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Ukraine>

Records from Dombroveny, Kaushany, Kishinev, Konstantinovka, Kriulyany, Lomachinets, Lyublin, Nikolaevka-Blagodata, Novoselitsa, Orgeev, Shibka Romanenko, Soroki, Teleneshty, Valya-luy-Vlad, and Vertyuzhany.

Barland and Negresti, Romania

*Jews of Barland and Negresti*

<http://www.lohanul.slizhusi.ro/>

Article on the Jews of Negresti: "Scurt istoric comunitatii evreiesti din Negresti", Prof. Gica Scarlat, *Lohanul* 6, Page 9. Article on the Jews of Barland: "Stramba - ulita evreiasca din Barlad, cunoscutul 'steitl' de odinioara", Martha Esanu, Iasi, *Lohanul* 15, Page 74. The journal is in Romanian.

Iasi, Romania

*Eyewitness Testimony to the Jassy Pogrom of 29 June 1941*

<http://czernowitz.blogspot.com/2011/01/lazar-leibovici-that-sunday-iasi-pogrom.html>

Lazar Leibovici, "On That Sunday of Jassy Pogrom June 29, 1941", is available in English for download.

RUSSIA

*Soldiers in the Czar's Army during the 19th Century*

<http://www.rusarchives.ru/federal/rgvia/>

You need to know exact unit, etc., and results will be in Cyrillic letters, but nicely printed and easy to decipher.

*Identifying Russian Military Uniforms*

<http://marksrussianmilitaryhistory.info/>

"An Index of Russian Army Uniforms" by Marc Conrad is online.

UNITED KINGDOM

*Jewish Will Extracts 1682 to 19th Century*

<http://synagoguescribes.com/blog/secular-records/jewish-will-extracts-18th-19th-century-details/>

Searching by name brings up persons of the selected name who have left a will or are listed in wills left by others. You can browse the full list from the link further down the same page. It is recommended that you purchase or view the original copy held at the National Archives.

*Scotland 1911 Census*

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

There is a charge for viewing an image (1 credit) and one for a copy of the image (5 credits). The site gives more information regarding the charges.

UKRAINE

L'viv, Ukraine

*New Web Site about Lwow*

[http://strubcina.org/page90/p90\\_01\\_en.html](http://strubcina.org/page90/p90_01_en.html)

The "Old Lvov" section is devoted to Jewish Lwow.

## WORLD

AFRICA

*Jewish Refugee Camps and Cemeteries in Tanzania (Tanganyika) and Uganda*

<http://polskiecmentarzefryce.eu.home>

Some Poles who were under Russian occupation during WWII eventually ended up in these camps. Two camps of Jewish interest are Tengeru in Tanganyika and Nyabyeya (Masindi) in Uganda, where there are cemeteries. Page down under the photos to see an alphabetized name list with dates.

AUSTRALIA

*Index to Current Australian Death Notices*

<http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/indexinfo.aspx?ix=ryerson>

Some funeral notices, probate notices, and obituaries, as well.

*Australian WWI Records*

<http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/>

Free from Australian Archives. Records of service in the Australian Army during World War I by the person's place of birth or enlistment. Registration with a user name and e-mail address is required.

*Australian and New Zealand Papers*

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Free. Australian and New Zealand newspapers, book, journals, photographs, letters, and more.

## ISRAEL

*Update on Database of the Mount of Olives Cemetery, Jerusalem*

<http://www.mountofolives.co.il/eng/article.aspx?ID=942&ref=news&CID=430>

The mapping of the cemetery is ongoing. So far, eleven plots have been uploaded, *e.g.*, Georgian plot, Mugrabim (North African) plot, Afghani plot, Persian plot, etc. Search by person's name.

*Complete Revision of Aliyah Bet Ship Listing*

<http://www.paulsilverstone.com/immigration/Primary/index.html>

These ships carried Jewish refugees to Palestine between 1938 and 1948. New information, pictures, sources are included, together with some information on where lists of passengers may be found.

*Palestine Post/ Jerusalem Post*

<http://www.jpress.org.il/publications/PPost-en.asp>

Other Jewish newspapers in Hebrew, English, and French can be found at <http://jpress.nli.org.il/cross-section/allpub-en.asp>.

## HOLOCAUST/WWII

*WWII Aerial Photos and Maps*

<http://www.wwii-photos-maps.com/>

Detailed maps and photos made/taken by Germans and Russians.

*Post-WWII Ship/ Air Transports of Survivors and Refugees*

<http://resources.ushmm.org/itsinventory/>

Search by the city from where/to where the transport went. Then write to Bad Arolsen, Yad Vashem, or USHMM to inquire about the person(s) of interest or ask for the entire list.

*200 hours of 1961 Eichmann Trial on YouTube*

[http://www1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/holocaust/eichmann\\_trial/index.asp](http://www1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/holocaust/eichmann_trial/index.asp)

Witnesses describe events in Galicia. The places listed in these posts are Wieliczka near Krakow, the labour camp of Plaszow near Krakow, Przemysl, and Sanok. Be warned that they are extremely difficult to watch, emotionally.

*Historic Holocaust Records*

<http://archives.jdc.org/sharedlegacy/>

A trove of papers and photographs documenting the lives of Holocaust victims and survivors is now in a searchable database provided by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

*Ghetto Fighters House Holocaust Centre*

<http://iis.infocenters.co.il/gfh/> (Hebrew)

<http://iis.infocenters.co.il/gfh/search.asp?lang=ENG> (English)

Search in Hebrew or English for photos, videos, articles, art collections etc. from Holocaust and pre-Holocaust Europe.

## NEW ZEALAND

*New Zealand Newspapers*

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>

Free. New Zealand newspapers and periodicals from 1839–1945.

## MISCELLANEOUS

*ViewMate Image Archive: A Reminder*

[http://www.jewishgen.org/viewmate/v\\_filterarchivist.asp?order=ID](http://www.jewishgen.org/viewmate/v_filterarchivist.asp?order=ID)

Add a response to older, often unanswered archived images. To find an image of interest, click “Search Archive” and type a specific search term or browse. Click on “VMID” and images will sort by date.

*Google Translate for iPhone*

Speak to translate and it will say and display in 57 languages. Wow. You can still type but if you hit the microphone icon you can speak!

*Genealogy Search Engine with a Galicia-specific Enhancement*

<http://www.bloodandfrogs.com/p/search.html>

Like Mocavo, but when your search query contains the name of a Galician town, it will search for the town and any alternate names for the town, including Hebrew and Yiddish.

*Online Full Text of American Jewish Year Book 5672 (23 Sep 1911–11 Sep 1912)*

<http://www.ajcarchives.org/main.php?GroupingId=10044>

*Foreign Alphabets in Nine Languages*

<http://www.rtrfoundation.org/archdta.shtml>

Page down to “foreign alphabets” and download any of nine extremely helpful guides for German, Hebrew, Hungarian (Magyar), Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian, and Yiddish.



## SFBAJGS Family Finder Update

The surnames and towns being researched by our newest members are listed below. This database is maintained for the benefit of our membership. If you have a correction or update, please write to SFBAJGS at P.O. Box 318214, San Francisco, CA 94131-8214.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
AINBINDER	Moscow, Russia	Yvonne Coren
BEHRMAN	Odessa, Ukraine or Poland	Yvonne Coren
COHN	Dabie, State of Kalisz, Poland	Claudia Wolf Eshoo
FUTORAN/FUTORYAN	Tolna, Kiev, Ukraine	Yvonne Coren
GEM	Baranovichi & Novomysh, Belarus; Minsk	Yvonne Coren
JACOBS	Mariposa, California	Bill Iracki
KALINSKI	Dabie, State of Kalisz, Poland	Claudia Wolf Eshoo
KAM	Baranovichi & Novomysh, Belarus; Minsk	Yvonne Coren
KARP	New York City	Laura Lee & Arthur Karp
LEVINE	Kremenchuk, Poltava, Ukraine	Yvonne Coren
NEWMAN	Mariposa, California	Bill Iracki
POLONSKI/POLONSKY	Ekaterinopol, Shpola, Cherkasy, Ukraine	Jeffrey Mark Paull
RABINOWITZ	New York City	Laura Lee & Arthur Karp
SHAPIRA/SHAPIRO	Pereyaslav, Ukraine	Jeffrey Mark Paull
SHULIMAK	Odessa, Ukraine or Poland	Yvonne Coren
STAROSTA	Odessa; France; Argentina	Yvonne Coren
STEINBERG	Estalanki, Poland	Claudia Wolf Eshoo
STOLOWITZKY	Kremenchuk, Poltava, Ukraine; Baranovichi and Novomysh, Belarus; Minsk	Yvonne Coren
WILCZEK/WOLF	Mlawa, Poland	Claudia Wolf Eshoo
WOLKOWA	Odessa, Ukraine or Poland	Yvonne Coren
ZEIDE/ZEYDA/ZEYDE	Shpola, Ukraine	Jeffrey Mark Paull



*Avner Yonai with the Ger Mandolin Ensemble: 2011.*

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area  
Jewish Genealogical Society

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Calendar of Events

**Sun. Jul. 17, San Francisco:** *Tracing Family Treasure to Reclaim Lost Family Heritage.* After the Auction follows a woman's search for an antique seder plate looted by the Nazis, a quest that leads to threats, murder, the revelation of a diabolical deal, and romance. Author Linda Frank will talk about the fictional story of her book and about the real history behind it.

**Sun. Aug. 28, Oakland:** *Who Do You Think They Were?* A panel of experienced SFBAJGS researchers will help you take those first few steps into the magic and mystery of your family history and genealogy. Along the way we will help you figure out how to research and answer the "who, what, where, when, why, and how" of your family.

**Mon. Aug. 29, Los Altos Hills:** *Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries in the West.* Stephen Kinsey, chairman of the Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks in the West, will discuss the purpose and significance of the commission, whose mission is to preserve and restore the headstones and property of seven Gold Rush cemeteries.

**Sun. Sep. 18, San Francisco:** *Genealogical Records at the National Archives at San Francisco.* Learn more about the National Archives at San Francisco, the repository for records of federal agencies and federal courts in northern and central California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands. Archivist Marisa Louie will share information about records of genealogical interest, including the case files of Jewish refugees detained at Angel Island Immigration Station.

Also see pages 3 and 4. For detailed program information visit <http://www.sfbajgs.org/>.