



# זְכוֹרֹנוֹת

## ZichronNote

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

Volume XXXVI, Number 3

August 2016

#### A Cousin by Any Other Name

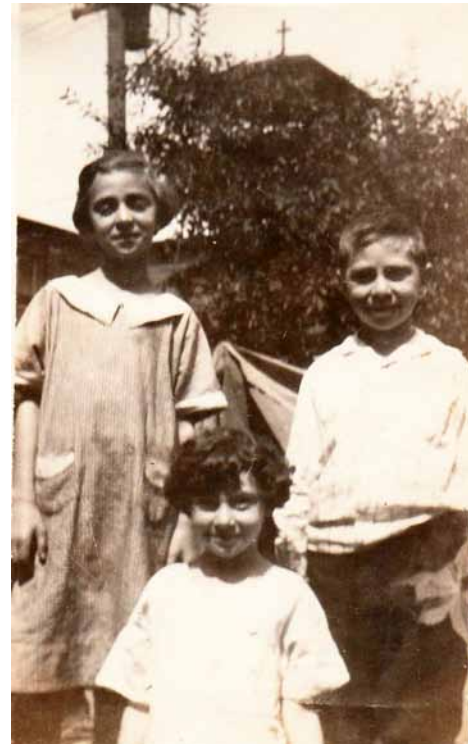
**Beth Galleto tries to determine whether the person listed on her grandfather's passenger list is really a relative. See page 5.**

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*The Selitzky/Sells children in 1921:  
Mary, Bess, and Lou*

**ZichronNote**  
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**Jewish Genealogical Society**

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**President's Message**  
**She Was Amazed!**

Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society is always keen to tout its many benefits to potential members in an effort to get people to join our society.

One benefit is the fifteen (minimum) meetings a year we put on. These can be considered the major "face" of the society, where board members can put names and e-mail addresses to real live faces! Attendees meet and exchange information with one another. And then there is the speaker whom we have invited to share specific knowledge and expertise with us.

We also put out a really good journal (ZichronNote), which always contains interesting, illuminating, and uplifting articles.

There is also another benefit that's not so apparent: access to members with specialized expertise, such as Ron Arons, Judy Baston, Brooke Schreier Ganz, Vivian Kahn, Rosanne Leeson, Heidi Lyss, Robinn Magid, Steve Morse, Roy Ogus, Jeff Paull, Janice Sellers, and Preeva Tramiel.

I mention them because at this year's IAJGS Conference in Seattle, we had 45 members in attendance—and those named above were speakers! During the conference we were also supplied with 37 "unaffiliated" attendees (based on their ZIP Codes). But more about Seattle in a moment.

The flip side of the coin so to speak is what we get out of you. I'll be the first to say that my approach is somewhat flippant, but when people ask why should they join the society, with a smile I say it's because I want their money—or at least as much as they think it's worth parting with.

For a number of years now your board has been able to make year-end donations to worthy genealogical causes. The broad criterion has been groups that obtain, digitize, and index records and put them online. Two beneficiaries that spring to mind are ItalianGen and Kirkuty. The result is that we benefit from all their hard work. I believe it's what they call *quid pro quo*!

But it's all thanks to you, our 220+ members who add a bit extra to the \$23.00 annual dues, who make it all possible—to the tune of \$5,000 every year. This is divided among up to half a dozen recipients each year.

At this year's IAJGS International Jewish Genealogy Conference in Seattle I again attended the IAJGS Annual Meeting in my privileged position as president of SFBAJGS.

During the meeting, Marlis Humphrey, the IAJGS president, urged us presidents to reach out to the

*Continued on page 13*

## SOCIETY NEWS

### **Needed Now: New Cemetery Project Coordinator**

The society is searching for a dedicated volunteer to take over coordination of our Cemetery Project. Through this project we provide data for JewishGen's Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Register (JOWBR, <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/>; see their pages for what we / they do). To accomplish this we coordinate with cemetery offices in the Bay Area and obtain their approval to acquire data, find and supervise volunteers to transcribe the information to *Excel* spreadsheets, and then upload the info to JOWBR.

#### **Skills needed:**

- Detail-oriented
- Responsible, self-motivated
- Able to enlist volunteers
- Able to supervise volunteers

**Time commitment:** sporadic, a couple of hours at a time, usually at your discretion; possibly 8 hours a month, maximum, but not every month

**Appreciated but not required:** Ability to read Hebrew; knowledge of Jewish burial customs

Send a message to [cemetery@sfbajgs.org](mailto:cemetery@sfbajgs.org) if you are interested in helping us maintain this project.

### **Research Scope of SFBAJGS**

The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society does not limit its scope to the San Francisco Bay area. While our meetings take place in various locations in the Bay Area, our research and pursuits include the entire world, as that's where our ancestors came from. Our members have extensive experience with genealogical research in every corner of the globe and with all types of historical records.

### **I Want Conference Stories!**

Did you attend this year's IAJGS Jewish genealogy conference in Seattle? At least 45 members of our society did. And I want to publish your thoughts on the conference in the November issue of *ZichronNote*. Write a paragraph or two on something you learned, what you enjoyed, or the cousin you met at the conference. Let the rest of our members know how attending the conference can help you with your research. Please send your contribution to [newsletter@sfbajgs.org](mailto:newsletter@sfbajgs.org) by **October 15, 2016**.

### **Your Story Belongs in ZichronNote**

Of course, I'm still looking for other articles also. Have you had a breakthrough in your family history, solved a family mystery through painstaking research, discovered a better way to use resource materials, or walked where your ancestors walked? Have you had success or made progress at the Genealogy Clinic with the Mavens? Do you have a brick wall you want to discuss? Have you made contact with a "tenuously, absurdly distant" cousin or a "relative of the heel?"

Tell us your story, share your discovery! We want to read about it in *ZichronNote*. Please submit materials to [newsletter@sfbajgs.org](mailto:newsletter@sfbajgs.org).

In order to continue to receive *ZichronNote* and the SFBAJGS e-blast, please send changes in your e-mail address to [newsletter@sfbajgs.org](mailto:newsletter@sfbajgs.org).

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## **Meeting Times and Locations**

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

- San Francisco:** **Sunday. Doors open 1:00 p.m. Program begins at 1:30 p.m.**  
Rhoda Goldman Plaza, 2180 Post Street  
Parking available in Rhoda Goldman Plaza garage with entrance on Sutter Street.
- Oakland:** **Sunday. Doors open 12:30 p.m. Program begins at 1:00 p.m.**  
Oakland FamilySearch Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue
- Los Altos Hills:** **Monday. Doors open 7 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.**  
Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road Room 5/6

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

## Genealogy Calendar of Events

### Local and Regional

Thursday, 1 September 2016. Sharon Hoyt, CG, "The Man Who Never Came Home: Solving a Mystery with Genealogy." Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz Public Library, Downtown Branch, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz. <http://scgensoc.org/>

Thursday, 1 September 2016. Steve Morse, "Genealogy beyond the Y Chromosome: Autosomes Exposed." Monterey County Genealogical Society. Family History Center, 1024 Noche Buena, Seaside. <http://mccogenso.org/>

Saturday, 3 September 2016. Bob LaPerriere, "Women's Issues on the Immigrant Trail." Solano County Genealogical Society. Moose Lodge, 623 Taylor Street, Fairfield. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascgsi/>

Wednesday, 7 September 2016. Beverly Sollars, "World War II War Brides." Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society. Santa Clara City Library, Redwood Room, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. <http://www.scchgs.org/>

Saturday, 10 September 2016. "Introduction to the CGS Vertical Files." California Genealogical Society and Library, 2201 Broadway Suite LL2, Oakland. <http://californiaancestors.org/>

Saturday, 10 September 2016. Richard Rands, "Introduction to Southeastern Research." Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group. LDS Church, 875 Quince Avenue, Santa Clara. <http://www.svcgg.org/>

Sunday, 11 September 2016. Melinda Kashuba, "Researching Railroads and Their Records." Sacramento Central Library, Galleria West Meeting Room, 828 I Street, Sacramento. <http://www.saclibrary.org/>

Sunday, 18 September 2016. Karen Paige, "California State Library Archive." Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento, Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/>

Wednesday, 21 September 2016. Janice M. Sellers, "Grandma, Who Are You?: Finding the Maiden Names in Your Family Tree." El Dorado Hills Genealogical Society. Santa Clara City Library, El Dorado Hills Library, 7455 Silva Valley Parkway, El Dorado Hills. <http://www.edhgs.com/>

Saturday, 24 September 2016. Janice M. Sellers, "Reading and Transcribing American Colonial Handwriting." California Genealogical Society and Library, 2201 Broadway Suite LL2, Oakland. <http://californiaancestors.org/>

Saturday, 24 September 2016. Bo Crane, "The Life and Time of Dennis Martin, San Mateo Pioneer." San Mateo County Genealogical Society. Grace Lutheran Church Hall, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo. <http://www.smcgs.org/>

Tuesday, 27 September 2016. Michael Lacopo, DVM, "Methods for Identifying the German Origins of American Immigrants." Sacramento German Genealogy Society. McMurdo Hall, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Marks Way, Sacramento. <http://sggs.us/>

Saturday, 1 October 2016. Lynn Brown, "Immigration and Naturalization Records." Solano County Genealogical Society. Moose Lodge, 623 Taylor Street, Fairfield. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascgsi/>

Sunday, 2 October 2016. Glenda Gardner Lloyd, "City Directories: A Problem-solving Approach." Sacramento Central Library, Galleria West Meeting Room, 828 I Street, Sacramento. <http://www.saclibrary.org/>

Saturday, 15 October 2016. John Philip Colletta seminar, "Moveable Ancestors: Emigration, Immigration, and Naturalization." Contra Costa County Genealogical Society. Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caccgcs/>

Sunday, 16 October 2016. Jim Baker, "I Thought He Was My Ancestor: Avoiding Genealogy Mistakes." Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento, Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/>

Tuesday, 18 October 2016. Janice M. Sellers, "Read All about It!: Using Online Newspapers for Genealogical Research." San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society. LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo. <http://www.srvgensoc.org/>

Monday, 24 October 2016. Steve Morse, "One-Step Website: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools." Oakmont Genealogy Club. Oakmont Village, West Recreation Center, Santa Rosas. <https://sites.google.com/site/oakmontgenealogyclub/>

Saturday, 29 October 2016. CSGA board meeting and joint seminar with San Mateo County Genealogical Society. Speakers Cath Madden Trindle, "Alphabet Soup: Records of the Great Depression", and Janice M. Sellers, "Why Would They Put It Online If They Didn't Want Me to Use It?: Copyright Issues for Genealogy." **Free.** Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo. <http://www.csga.com/>, <http://www.smcgs.org/>

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## Who Was Joseph Silisky? The Mystery of the Unknown Cousin

Beth Galletto

Beth Galletto 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. She recently retired from being a freelance copywriter and editor and now has more time for genealogy. She was formerly the editor of *ZichronNote* and the SFBAJGS Webmaster and has relocated to Washington, D.C.

In 1911 my mother's parents, newlyweds Zalman and Chana (*née* Levitin) Osherov, came to the United States from Pochep, in what was then the Chernigov gubernia (province) of Russia. Documents from their arrival at the port of Philadelphia said they were going to stay with a cousin, Joseph Silisky, at 1915 Division Street, Chicago.

I had never heard of the name Silisky before finding the archived copies of my grandparents' travel documents 90 years after their voyage. Was this Joseph really a cousin? If so, was he related on the Levitin or the Osherov side of the family?

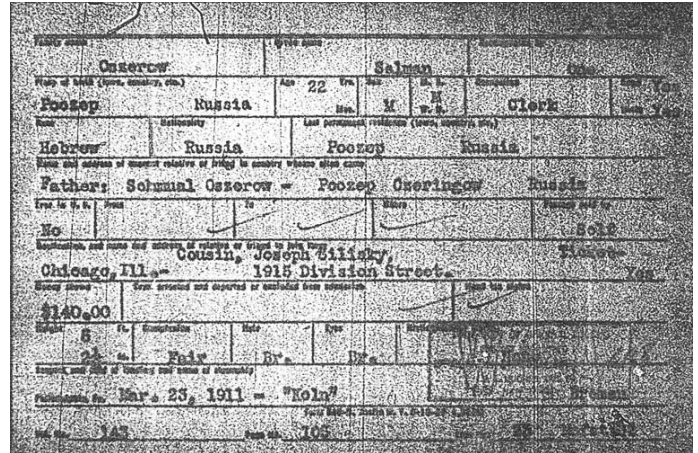
My grandparents had stayed briefly in Chicago and then moved to Nebraska. My grandfather filed his World War I draft registration in Omaha as a medical student. By 1920, their name Americanized to Osheroff, he and his family lived in the tiny town of Ericson, Nebraska, where my grandfather was the only doctor (and his family were the only Jews).

By 2001, any relatives who remembered how Joseph Silisky was connected to my grandparents had long since died. Beginning research on this mystery cousin, I soon found a Joseph Selitzky in the 1910 U.S. census for Chicago, but finding no other relevant documents, I gave up and went on to more fruitful research on known family members.

Fast forward 15 years. Realizing how much easier online genealogical research had become, I resumed the quest. Since the Russian name might be spelled in English as Selitzky, Silitzky, Siletsky, Siletzky, etc., I used wildcard searches on Ancestry.com. My search had results right away—not just one, but two Josephs showed up in the 1910 U.S. census for Chicago.

One, Joseph Selitzky, 36, married to Esther, lived at 2217 Potomac Avenue and worked in a fish store. The second, Joseph Selitsky, 28, married to Anna, lived at 2015 Canalport Avenue and was a saloon keeper.

The census information for Joseph and Esther said they had three children: Mamie, Harry, and Abraham. Joseph had immigrated in 1902. Mamie and Harry, born in Russia, immigrated in 1906 with their mother. Three-year-old Abraham was born in Illinois. In-laws by the



Arrival card for Salman Osherow showing that he was going to cousin Joseph Silisky in Chicago

name of Jacobs—suggesting that Esther's maiden name was Jacobs—were living in the same apartment.

The other Joseph and his wife Anna had one daughter named Kleofasa. This Joseph had immigrated in 1900 and his wife in 1905. The census information indicated that they both came from Lithuania. A mother-in-law whose last name was Gailus was living with them.

To determine which was "my" Joseph, I needed more information.

Additional research yielded several records pertaining to Joseph and Esther. A World War I draft registration showed Joseph Selitzky, with wife Esther, living and operating a livery stable at 2412 West Division Street in 1918.

A 1920 census for Joseph and Esther showed them living at 2522 Wisconsin Street with Mamie, Aaron, Abe, Mary, Louis, and Bessie. No occupation was shown for Joseph. The two oldest children were a bookkeeper and a worker in a belt factory.

By 1930 Joseph had died and Esther was listed in the census as a widow, living at 412 North Washtenaw Avenue with Aaron (a postal clerk), Mary (an usherette), Louis, and Bessie.

In the 1940 census, Esther was living with her sons Aaron and Louie at 2121 North Campbell Avenue. Aaron, 35, was a broker in his own real estate firm, and Louie, 25, was a bartender and part owner of a tavern.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }  
COUNTY OF COOK, } SS. Probate Court of Cook County, January Term, A. D. 1913  
the 9th day of January, A. D. 1913  
COURT BEING IN SESSION.

PRESENT, Hon. CHARLES S. CUTTING Judge of the Probate Court of Cook County.  
MICHAEL ZIMMER Sheriff of Cook County.

Attest: JOHN A. CERVENKA Clerk of the Probate Court of Cook County.

In the matter of the estate of }  
Joseph Selitsky, deceased. } GRANT OF ADMINISTRATION.

On reading and filing the petition, duly verified of Annie Selitsky  
of the County of Cook, in the State of Illinois, from which it appears to the Court that Joseph Selitsky  
of Chicago in said County, died intestate on or about the 3rd day of January  
A. D. 1913, leaving Real and Personal property and effects in said County, the value of which does not exceed the sum of Fourty Five Hundred Dollars; that the petitioner is the widow  
of said decedent, and prays that George Chernauchas may be appointed to administer upon said estate.

And it appearing to the Court that all the allegations of said petition are true, on motion, it is ordered that the said George Chernauchas  
be appointed administrator or of the estate of the said Joseph Selitsky  
deceased, upon filing his bond as such administrator or in the penal sum of Five Thousand Dollars, with good and sufficient surety, conditioned as the law directs.  
Whereupon said George Chernauchas presents his said bond, duly executed with James Jankowski and Louis Kasper as his sureties, and takes and subscribes the oath of office of such  
administrator. And the Court having examined said sureties, and being satisfied of their responsibility, it is ordered that said bond be received and approved,  
and that letters of administration be issued accordingly.

And it is further ordered that Charles Gulbin, Edmund Ryan, and John J. Whiteside  
be appointed to appraise the personal estate of said decedent subject to appraisal, and that a warrant be issued to them therefor.

JUDGE.

1913 probate document for Joseph Selitsky, Anna's husband

When I searched for more information about the other Joseph, married to Anna, I found their marriage in the Chicago marriage index. It shows Joseph Seletsky, 25, marrying Anna Galeris, 23, on February 1, 1908. But there did not seem to be a draft registration or any further census information for this Joseph.

Then I found two ledgers showing probate filings in 1913 for a Joseph Selitsky who died January 3, 1913, leaving his widow, Annie, with property valued at \$4,500.

This surprising death at age 31 explains why I found no further information about the Joseph who married Anna. His name lived on, however. A record in the Chicago birth index showed a Joseph George Salitsky, born March 19, 1913, whose parents were listed as Joseph Salitsky, 30, and Anna Geilus, 27. The record did not mention that the father had died two months before his son's birth.

A 1920 census showed Joseph and Clara (formerly Kleofasa) Siletsky, ages 6 and 10, as stepchildren living with Paul Walintis, his wife, Anna, and his son, Paul, less than 3, at 710 West 31st Street. Evidently Anna had remarried.

Further, a 1930 census showed young Joseph and Clara with Paul and Anna Walintis and Paul Jr., living at 710 West 31st Street, together with several apparently unrelated boarders and renters who had also immigrated from Lithuania.

A 1940 census showed Anna Walintis, widowed again, still living at 710 31st Street. Joseph Selitsky, 27, and his wife, Matilda, lived there, too, as did Paul Walintis, his wife, Francis, and some lodgers and renters.

These censuses all indicated that both Joseph and Anna originally came from Lithuania. Since my grandparents came not from Lithuania but from a region in western Russia, I concluded that the Joseph who married Anna and passed away so prematurely was probably not my grandmother's or grandfather's cousin.

To try to pinpoint the place of origin of the Joseph who married Esther, I searched for their immigration documents—without success. I did find a passenger manifest for Abrahm Selitzky, 25, a tailor, traveling on the U.S.S. *Russia* from Libau to Ellis Island on September 11, 1910. Abrahm's last residence was indicated as Pozap, Russia, and his nearest relative in the old country was Chaim Selitzky from Pozap, Chernigov. Clearly "Pozap" was an alternative spelling of "Pochev."

The document said Abrahm was going to stay with his brother Joseph Selitzky at an illegible address in Chicago that I finally decoded as Leavitt Street—which is in the same general neighborhood as Division and Potomac, where Joseph and Esther had been recorded on several documents as noted above.

My hypothesis now was that the Joseph who married Esther was Abraham's brother and that both came from Pocheb, the town from which my grandparents came. Chaim may have been Joseph and Abraham's father or their brother.

Looking for more documents for Abraham, I found a World War I draft registration for an Abraham Salitsky, a building worker married to Mary, but since he was 45 years old in 1918 he was not likely to be Joseph's brother, who arrived in 1910 at age 25. But an Abraham Selitzky, 26, listed in the Cook County marriage index for his marriage to Sarah Zolat, age 20, on April 20, 1915, probably was Joseph's brother. Later I found a World War I draft registration for Abe Selitzkuy, 34, a garment maker, living at 1420 North Campbell Avenue with his wife, Sara.

I couldn't find a 1920 census record in Chicago for Abraham Selitzky under any spelling, but a 1930 census showed Abe Selitzky, 45, owner of a tailor shop, living at 1018 East 5th Street with his wife, Sarah; son, Sollie, 14; and daughter, Audrey, 5. Abe immigrated in 1910 and Sarah in 1912. A cousin, Jacob Frumkin, lived at the same address. This information might have been helpful, but unfortunately Frumkin was another name I had never heard connected with my family before.

A 1940 census showed Sara Selitzky, 46, dress operator in some sort of shop, living with Audrey, 15, at 1379 East 57th Street. Sara was listed as head of household and may have been a widow, but the notation regarding her marital status was difficult to read. Was it "m" for married or "wd" for widowed? I couldn't tell.

Then I found evidence that Abe was still alive in 1942: a World War II draft registration form for Abe Selitzky, 57, born in Chernegov, Russia and living at 5151 Cornell Avenue in Chicago. He seemed to be separated from Sara, because in the space for the person who would always know his address he put down "Brown, Cardinal Cleaners" on South Cottage Grove Avenue, although he also said he was unemployed. At some point after that he apparently moved to California. Listings in the California Death Index and the Social Security Applications and Claims Index said that an Abe A. Selitzky, born in 1884, died January 28, 1950, in Los Angeles County.

Since Abraham Selitzky's nearest relative, Chaim, lived in Pocheb, I wondered whether he or other family members had remained there. I turned to the Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names (<http://yadvashem.org/>) and found several Pages of Testimony filled out for residents of Pocheb with names similar to Selitzky. One was for Khaim Selitzki, born in 1880. If he was the Chaim mentioned as Abraham's close relative in Pocheb, this birth date made him likely to be Joseph and Abraham's brother, not their father. Khaim was killed at age 61 in the massacre of Pocheb's Jews that occurred during two days in March 1942. The page was filled out in Russian in 2010 by his granddaughter, Tamara Isakovich née Lokshina, a resident of northern Israel.

After posting the Russian version of Tamara's address on ViewMate (<http://www.jewishgen.org/ViewMate/>) and receiving an English translation, I mailed her a letter, explaining our possible relationship and requesting an e-mail response. I knew that after six years she might no longer live at that address, but I hoped she would still be there.

Meanwhile, I learned more about Joseph Silitsky's family in the U.S. Individual searches on each of his children—Mamie, Aaron, Abe, Mary, Louis, and Bessie, born between 1902 and 1916—led to a few more documents. One of them provided the key to contacting Joseph's currently living descendants!

A wildcard search on Ancestry.com for Mary Sel\*ky in Chicago turned up a listing in the Social Security and Claims Index for Mary Selisky, who was born December 25, 1911 and died November 1992—and was also listed as Mary Sells and Mary Bessonny.

REGISTRATION CARD														
SERIAL NUMBER 2615				ORDER NUMBER 1033										
1 ABE		Selitzkuy												
2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: 1420 Campbell Ave Chgo Cook Ills														
Age in Years 34		Date of Birth		1884										
RACE														
White			Negro			Oriental			Indian					
Citizen			Non-citizen			U. S. CITIZEN			ALIEN					
Native Born			Naturalized			Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority			Declarant			Non-declarant		
15 If not a citizen of the U. S. of what nation are you a citizen or subject? Russia														
PRESENT OCCUPATION						EMPLOYER'S NAME								
Garment maker						H. Schuman Bros								
16 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: 734 S. Market St Chgo Cook Ills														
19 NEAREST RELATIVE Name: Sara Selitzkuy Address: 1420 Campbell Ave Chgo Ills														
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE														
P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Red) ab Selitzky														

World War I draft registration for Abe Selitzkuy

The unusual name “Bessonny” was a gift. Searching for Mary Bessonny on Google led me to an account on Geni (<https://www.geni.com/>) that was managed by one of Joseph Silitsky’s great-grandchildren. I contacted her through the site, and she forwarded my e-mail to her sister. With their combined information about their family, I was able to put together a fairly detailed family tree for Joseph’s descendants, who had changed their surname to Sells. They had branched out from Chicago to Wisconsin, California, and Israel. With this new information I was able to find additional documents online. One of my new correspondents sent me some photos of members of her family from the 1920’s. Unfortunately, she did not have a photo showing Joseph and Esther.

One document, the 1920 U.S. census for Mary Bessonny and her husband, Israel, showed them living at 2121 North Campbell Avenue in Chicago, the same address as Esther, Aaron, and Louis. In fact, they appeared a little higher up on the same page of the census.

If Joseph Silitsky was a first cousin to one of my grandparents, my new correspondents were my third cousins, once removed. I still did not have an answer to the question of exactly how Joseph and my grandparents were related, however.

Two weeks after sending my letter to Israel, I was excited to receive an e-mail response from Tamara Isakovich. It was written in Russian but was easily translated through Google Translate (<https://translate.google.com/>).

She wrote that her grandfather Chaim Silitsky had nine children, descendants of three of whom now live in Israel. Though she claimed not to know much about her grandfather’s family, she said she learned from her mother that he had brothers who went to America in the 20th century. The rest of the family planned to go too, but World War I and the Russian revolution left them stranded in Russia. She also said that her mother mentioned that they had a lot of relatives with the surname Osheroff.

Was this the answer to my original question? Tamara’s mention of Osheroff relatives suggested that Joseph Silitsky was a cousin on my grandfather’s side of my family. I hope to gain more information about these Osheroffs in future communications.

I have not yet found living descendants of Abraham, but I was happy to be able to share contact information among each of my new correspondents, hoping this would lead to a reunion between Silitsky cousins who appear to have been separated for generations. Even if I never discover my own relationship to the Silitsky family—and I am still hopeful that eventually I will—undertaking this research would be worth all the effort for the satisfaction I would get from seeing this divided family reunited. If they do get together, and if I find descendants of Abraham (and I have some clues), I suppose this will be in the next episode I write about this research.



*Osheroff family photo from about 1924.*  
*Front row: Zalman (called Samuel Abraham in U.S.), son Bill, wife Chana holding daughter Esther.*  
*Back row: Zalman’s brother Isadore, son Hy, and Isadore’s wife Bessie.*



## Sephardic Jews in Lithuania and Latvia

Kevin Alan Brook

Kevin Alan Brook is a historian in Connecticut who has written on Eastern European Jewish themes, the Karaites, and the Khazar kingdom in books and journals and on his Web site, [Khazaria.com](http://Khazaria.com). His article "Sephardic Jews in Galician Poland and Environs" appeared in the *ZichronNote* May 2016 issue. This article is reprinted with permission from the March and June 2016 issues of *Shem Tov*, the newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto.

Records indicate that some Sephardic Jews settled in the northeastern reaches of Europe. In this article, I would like to establish the trajectories of numerous Sephardic families into the Baltic states. Note that the places discussed are located within the contemporary borders of Lithuania and Latvia but were part of Russia prior to those nations' declarations of independence in 1918.

Sephardim had already arrived in the Baltics just five decades after the expulsions from Spain (1492) and Portugal (1497). The Jews living in the city of Vilkaiviškis in southwestern Lithuania established a synagogue in 1545 whose Holy Ark held Torah scrolls that some congregants had brought with them from Spain.

An early Sephardic inhabitant of Latvia was the merchant Jacob Abensur from Denmark, who lived in the region called Courland (modern western Latvia) and in the city of Riga (in the Livonia region of central Latvia) in the late 1600's.

Several generic family names are known to indicate ancestry from Spain and Portugal. In 1885, Rachel Leye Sfard and her husband, Perets Aronovich, welcomed their son Tovya into the world in the city of Kaunas in south-central Lithuania. Golda Sfard lived in the city of Marijampolė in southwestern Lithuania before she married Icko Meerovich in 1846. Sfard connections to Marijampolė and Kaunas continued in later decades. Bliuma Sfard lived there with her husband, Simen Barunski, as of the first half of the 20th century, and their son Judel married in Kaunas in 1938. A Spanir family resided in the city of Raseiniai in west-central Lithuania in the 1840's and 1850's. Jews with the surname Portugies lived in Vilkaiviškis.

The Sephardic surname Abohab, meaning "donator" in Arabic, transformed into the forms Abugov and Abuhov in Ashkenazi communities. Alexander Abugov was born in 1888 in the city of Šiauliai in northern Lithuania and was working as a merchant when he received his Lithuanian internal passport card in 1920. Movsha Shliomo Abugov and his wife, Khaia Ita, welcomed their children Gdalia and Samuil in Vilnius in 1908 and 1912 respectively, although the family was originally from Mahilyow, Belarus. One of the students attending the Jewish Vocational School in

Dvinsk (now Daugavpils) in southeastern Latvia had the surname Abugov.

A branch of the Sephardic Algazi family lived in Prienai, a city in southern Lithuania. Leiba Movsha Algazy and Eliyash Volf Algazy were born in Prienai to Shlomo and Mnutka Algazy in 1827 and 1835 respectively. The couple's daughter, Ita Algazy, worked as a teacher's assistant in a Jewish school and married Judel Jablkowski in 1844 in Marijampolė. Szolom Algaze was a rabbi in Prienai in the middle of the 19th century, and one of his sons, Eliezer Yitzkhak Algase, served as a rabbi in Balbieriškis, about 41 km away. Other members of the Algazi family were rabbis in Mediterranean region cities such as İzmir, Istanbul, and Jerusalem. Two children of Volf Algazy and his wife, Gitka, were born in Prienai in the 1860's, while six children of Khaim David Yedvabnitski and his wife, Mnutka Algazy (daughter of Yorki Algazy), were born there in the 1890's and 1900's. A famous descendant of the Algazys of Prienai is the American actor Robert Downey, Jr.



Robert Downey, Jr., 2015, by *Randomideaguy* ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Robert\\_Downey\\_Jr1.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Robert_Downey_Jr1.jpg)). This image is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.

Delion, also spelled Dylion, was the Eastern European Jewish version of the Sephardic surname de León. As of 1890, Itsyk Leyb Delion and his wife and two children, Saul Yakov and Reveka, were living in Kaunas, and Itsyk died there in 1913. Families named Dilion were presumably using a different spelling of the same name. Jewish males with the surname Dilion lived in Kaunas, Ukmergė, Rokiškis, and Vilnius during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Elion, equally Sephardic, was found among Jewish men living in Kaunas, Šiauliai, the town of Kražiai in western Lithuania, the city of Telšiai in northwestern Lithuania, the village of Židikai in northwestern Lithuania, and the city of Žiežmariai in south-central Lithuania during the second half of the 19th century. For example, Yosel Elion, from Žiežmariai, married Khana Leya in Vilijampolė in 1855.

The potential exists that Litvaks surnamed Zakuto and Zakuta were related to the Sephardic Zacutos of 1600's Poland who were presumably related to the 15th-century Spanish Jewish astronomer Abraham Zacuto and to his kin living in Holland, Turkey, and beyond. An example of a Zakuta residing in Lithuania was Abram Jankel Zakuta of Užventis, who died in 1925.

It is also possible that some of the Maiman and Maimon families in the Pale of Settlement were related not only to the Maimans of Galicia but also to the Sephardic Maimon of Greece and Turkey. Some Jews with the surname Maimon resided in Lithuania, and as of 1897 the salesman Abram Mowscha Maiman lived with his wife in Daugavpils, the birthplace of their three children, who also resided there in adulthood.

Alba was used as a surname by both Sephardim and Spaniards. The Jews Movsha Alba and his son, Zundel, lived in the city of Pasvalys in north-central Lithuania as of 1855, when they were unable to work or to pay tax.

A Jew named Yulian Kastro resided in the southern Lithuanian city of Alytus as of 1908. The surname Kastro was also found among Jews in Florina, Greece, and with the spelling Castro among other Sephardic Jews as well as among Sephardic Conversos. The Spanish name Castro translates to "fortress" in English.

Multiple marriages took place in Kaunas in the 1930's between foreign-born Sephardic men and native Litvak women. Yekhuda Khaim Azoulai, born in Safed, Israel to Itsik Azoulai and Khana Dirghi, married Khana Glazer in 1930. In 1935, Moshe Alfasi, born in Jaffa, Israel to Meir Alfasi and Chane Khaliv, married Reiza Porozovski, and two days later Abraham Alfassi, born in Jaffa to Simon and Rivka Alfassi, married Freida Salit. In 1937, Shlomo

Jousev Adahan, born in Jerusalem, Israel to Josif Adahan and Mirjam Amos, married Rive Pris.

George Mason, an American genealogist, learned from oral history that his Jewish 3rd- and 4th-great-grandfathers from 1800's Vilkaiviškis with the surname Mozessohn had ancestors with the surname Orabuena and that this line came from Spain.

Some families in Eastern Europe didn't preserve their original Sephardic surnames, or the names were daughtered out, and some families didn't remember that they had Sephardic ancestors and have no documentation about it. By turning to genetic evidence, we can help uncover a person's partial Sephardic heritage.

All of the recent ancestors of Joshua Weinstein, a retired psychology professor and another American genealogist, were Litvaks who were immersed in mainstream Ashkenazi culture. They lived in the Lithuanian cities of Kėdainiai and Ukmergė and in either Mikališkis, Lithuania or Mikhalishki, Belarus (the latter village is near Lithuania and was part of Vilna province under tsarist Russian rule). Joshua had no knowledge of any Sephardic ancestry prior to testing his autosomal DNA with Family Tree DNA and uploading his data to GEDMatch. On a particular triangulating identical-by-descent segment painted mostly East Mediterranean, he matches fifteen Hispanic people, including a Mexican-American whose roots are all from the northeastern Mexican state of Nuevo León back to the early 1700's at least, well before any Ashkenazim arrived in the region, as they were barred until Spanish rule ended in 1821, but Sephardic Conversos were documented to have settled there in the 1500's and 1600's. Additional Mexicans match the segment, plus a Costa Rican. Their shared ancestor must have been Sephardic. Joshua also has five more triangulating segments matching Mexicans and two triangulating segments matching Puerto Ricans. Hardly any Ashkenazim permanently settled in Puerto Rico before the 1930's, as they were prohibited from entering until the Royal Decree of Graces of 1815 and would have been required to swear allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church until 1870, whereas Sephardic Conversos had been there continuously since the early days of the island's Spanish colony, established in 1508.

Judith Simon, a co-administrator of the two Iberian Ashkenaz projects at Family Tree DNA, grew up fascinated by the oral history related by her culturally Ashkenazi maternal grandfather, Shaya Brozgol (who changed his name to Sam Gold), that his ancestors on his father's side included Sephardic Conversos who left Spain during the Inquisition. Brozgol was born in 1892 in Rēzekne, a city in

eastern Latvia where his ancestors had lived during the 1700's and 1800's, and married another Ashkenazi Jew from there. The family's story of Sephardic heritage led some of Shaya's cousins to move to Spain. Judith and several members of her family had their autosomal DNA tested, and two male paternal descendants of her Brozgol line had their Y-DNA tested. Family Tree DNA and GEDMatch provided matches that confirm the story. Judith, her brother, and her maternal aunt Pearl Freed share a triangulating identical-by-descent autosomal segment with seven Latin American Hispanics, and Pearl has several additional segments that match multiple Hispanics, including Mexican-Americans with deep roots in northeastern Mexico and a Puerto Rican. The Brozgol Y-DNA lineage is also suggestive of Sephardic ancestry, since not only does one of their closest matches (Belarusian Jewish) have an oral history that his paternal line came from the Ottoman Empire, but they also match Hispanics from Mexico and Texas whose most distantly known paternal-line ancestors centuries ago had Spanish first and last names. Estimates vary widely, however, on when the common Y-DNA ancestors of the Brozgol men and the Hispanics lived, making the autosomal results more definitive.

Brian Collins' late father James was not aware he had Jewish heritage, as he had been switched at birth, came home to a Catholic household, and later grew up in a Catholic orphanage. Brian's 23andMe DNA results and those of his siblings led them to discover that James' biological parents were Lithuanian Jews from Daugai and Žiežmariai, although some of the earlier generations lived in Lyntupy in the Vitebsk region of northeastern Belarus. Brian's mother's ancestors going back centuries were Americans of Irish, Scottish, and English descent following several different Christian denominations. Brian carries a triangulating identical-by-descent autosomal segment that's shared by multiple additional Ashkenazi Jews as well as a Jew whose recent ancestors all lived in North Africa (Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria).[A1] It is known that many Sephardim settled in North Africa after their expulsion from Spain in 1492, although a small number of Ashkenazim did so in the 1500's and after, resulting in North African Jewish surnames such as Escanasi, Asquinazi, Squinasi, and Esseknasi. Brian's brothers Ed and John share a triangulating segment of Jewish character with many other Ashkenazim as well as with three non-Ashkenazi Mexicans.

I have obtained the consent of all the named DNA testers for whom I made discoveries using GEDMatch to have their results discussed, and they have seen and approved the paragraphs I wrote about them.

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Addendum to the version of this article in *Shem Tov*:

A1. Brian Collins has a second North African Jewish match on a different segment. Brian, his brothers Ed and Bill, his sister Gerry, and one of their first cousins and her daughter, along with a second cousin of my mother and several more Ashkenazim, share a segment that phases and triangulates with a Jew who was born in Tunis, Tunisia. This Tunisian Jew shows no sign of Ashkenazi ancestry.



## Because of Eva: A Jewish Genealogical Journey

Book Review by Beth Galletto

*Because of Eva: A Jewish Genealogical Journey* by Susan J. Gordon. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2016. 280 pages. Hardcover, ISBN-13 978-0815634430, \$55; paperback, ISBN-13 978-0815610663, \$29.95; Kindle, ASIN B01EVT7A7Q, \$16.17.

### When Is Forgiveness Possible?

Has this happened to you? While researching your family history, you are suddenly brought to a halt, not so much by a brick wall as by a vast crevice dividing one branch of your family from another. Such divisions are surprisingly common and may continue for generations.

For Susan J. Gordon, there were two such rifts. One followed her beloved grandmother Esta's divorce from her grandfather Aaron Bell in 1938. Another split in her family came when her mother, Sunny, divorced her abusive father, Sid.

Gordon remembers seeing her grandfather Aaron once as a five-year-old, when Sunny took her and her brother to meet him at a Howard Johnson's. "Seated in a turquoise leatherette booth was an old man with white hair as wispy as my memory of him is now," she says.

Such focus on just the right details allows readers to feel as if they are at the scene, and Gordon's stories also contain lively dialogs that—though they must have been reconstructed from the past—sound absolutely true. The book is a model of how to make a family history book come alive.

She could have discussed her grandfather's name change with a just-the-facts presentation such as "by 1910 my grandfather had changed his name from Bialazurker to Bell." Instead, it became part of the story of how Esta and Aaron met. "The only daughter of a tailor with five sons, she wore a beautiful, custom-made ensemble. Aaron was twenty-seven, with hazel eyes and thick dark hair. He was well-dressed and had already shed his mouthful

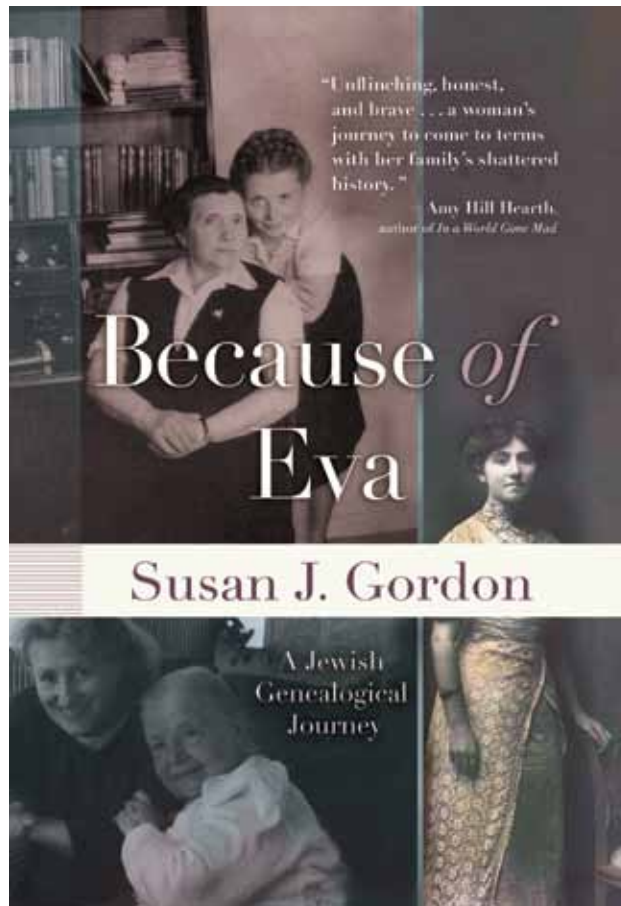
of a name, 'Bialazurker,' for the simple, all-American-sounding 'Bell.'"

Memoir, family history, genealogy, travelogue, and a history of the Holocaust in Hungary and Ukraine—this book is all of the above. Gordon often writes about genealogy and family topics, and her articles have been published in nationally known magazines and newspapers including the *New York Times* and the *Jewish Forward*.

When she was 16, Gordon overheard her mother's response to a phone call from a stranger asking her to visit her father, who was ill. "We're not in touch," her mother responded. Was her grandfather still alive, then? And who was this stranger?

With that long-ago phone call in the back of her mind, Gordon began her search for information about her grandfather in the late 1990's, after his death. She found his death certificate and noticed that it was signed by an Eva Hessing. She discusses the genealogical research that led her from one cousin to another until she learned that Eva was a granddaughter of her grandfather's brother—thus her second cousin—and that she was living in Israel. (A family tree diagram would have been helpful for this part of the book.)

Gordon called Eva to thank her for taking care of Aaron during his last days and discovered that by coincidence she had called on his *yahrzeit*. Eva's version of Aaron was different from the stories Gordon had heard from her mother and grandmother, about how badly he had treated his wife and daughters. Eva called him a *tzaddik*, a



righteous man. After the war, Eva had searched until she found him, going door to door asking shopkeepers in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn whether they knew him. After she found him, she cared for him until his death.

With her husband, Ken, Gordon visited Eva in Tel Aviv in 1999. In this section of the book the stories tumble out, sometimes in a confusing order, much as they must have done when Eva first told them.

Eva's stories describe her and her sister Alice's experiences in wartime Budapest, to which her grandfather had come from Zbaraż (now Zbarazh in Ukraine) in the early 20th century. Before the Nazi take-over of Budapest her parents had managed to escape to Denmark and then to Sweden. They were able to arrange Swedish citizenship for Eva and Alice, but the two were still stuck in Budapest, where they might be arrested at any moment in spite of their citizenship papers. As a blonde with fair skin and blue eyes, "Eva the Swede" could pass as Christian. She risked her life to gather papers in order to forge documents that helped many people. She had numerous hair-raising experiences in which she was saved only by her courage, quick thinking, and often, pure luck.

With the background of Eva's stories, Gordon and her husband began their travels. A large part of the book is a travelogue recounting the Nazi rampage through Jewish Hungary and Ukraine. In addition to Budapest and Zbarazh, the Gordons traveled with their guide, Alex Dunai, through L'viv, Ternopil, Skalat, and Chernivtsi. She notes Alex's repeated remarks at different towns and villages: "There is no synagogue in this town anymore. . . . There are no Jews here, but before, they made up 40 percent (or 50 percent or even more) of the population. . . ."

Having made peace in her mind with her grandfather, Gordon then attempted to do the same with her father. At the end of the book she discusses the value of forgiveness, particularly to the person who forgives. But she asks, "Aren't there actions that are unforgiveable always?" This is a question readers must answer for themselves.

The book includes a photo section, a bibliography, a list of helpful Web sites for Jewish genealogy research, and an index.

Be sure to have plenty of tissues on hand. You will need them.



**Invite a Friend to Join SFBAJGS**

<http://www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs/about.html>

unaffiliated attendees. I stood up and responded that we had already invited them to a photo shoot earlier that morning. I loved the look on her face.

At the end of the meeting I went over to Marlis to wish her well. During the course of the conversation she asked me how the society was faring. I told her that we give away \$5,000 every year. She was incredulous! She then uttered something to the effect that no other JGS does that. We're talking about seventy-four JGS's.

So when the next dues notice comes in the mail or via e-mail, just remember you're part of a wonderful cause, not only researching and learning about your own family but making it a bit more possible for everyone else as well.



Society News, continued from page 3

## Member News

**Robinn Magid** had two articles published in the Spring 2016 issue of *Avotaynu*: "Teaching Jewish Genealogy to Eleven- and Twelve-Year-Old Students" and "JRI-Poland Success Stories."

**Steve Morse's** One-Step Website was included in *Family Tree Magazine's* 101 Best Genealogy Websites for 2016, in the category of Best Tech Tools: <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/101-best-websites-2016>.

*ZichronNote* editor Janice M. Sellers had an article published in the Summer 2016 issue of *Avotaynu*: "Finding and Following the Paths of My Cuban Cousins."

## New Member Benefit

The researcher who photographs the *matzevot* in Jewish cemeteries in Poland for the Kirkuty project, a project which SFBAJGS supports with donations made possible by our generous members, can accept requests from SFBAJGS members in good standing for photography in cemeteries in specific towns. The towns must be in Poland. Send your request to [membership@sfbajgs.org](mailto:membership@sfbajgs.org).

## SFBAJGS on Social Media

SFBAJGS has a YouTube channel, <https://goo.gl/Siy5I2>. So far we have three videos on our page. If you have videos of society or other genealogical events you would like to share online, contact publicity director Janice M. Sellers at [publicity@sfbajgs.org](mailto:publicity@sfbajgs.org).

SFBAJGS also has a Facebook page: <https://goo.gl/23bkt4>. Friend us and visit often for announcements and updates between meetings.



## Genealogy Newsletters Available to SFBAJGS Members

Several Jewish (and other) genealogical societies share their newsletters with other societies. This is the current list of newsletters we have received as PDF files. A benefit of membership in SFBAJGS is that you can request to be on the distribution list for any or all of these. Send a message to Dana Kurtz, our Electronic Newsletter Coordinator, at [newsletterexchange@sfbajgs.org](mailto:newsletterexchange@sfbajgs.org) and let her know which one(s) you would like to receive. Warning: We do not receive all these newsletters on a consistent basis.

JGS/Organization	Last Issue Received	Date Last Received
Argentina	2007	4/8/07
Australia New South Wales ( <i>Kosher Koala</i> )	2016	5/28/16
Australia Victoria	2013	11/25/13
Australia Western Australia	2012	2/4/12
British Columbia	2003	5/9/03
Broward County, Florida	2008	11/23/08
Cleveland*	coming soon!	
Conejo Valley and Ventura County, California	2016	6/26/16
Connecticut ( <i>Quest</i> )*	2016	5/28/16
California State Genealogical Alliance (available through 2016)	2013	6/15/13
Denmark	2007	2007
Great Britain	2014	12/1/14
Greater Philadelphia	2008	4/24/08
Illiana	2016	5/28/16
Illinois	2012	6/24/12
Israel	2011	6/4/11
Maryland ( <i>L'dor V'dor</i> )*	2016	7/16
Miami ( <i>Branches</i> )	2016	4/26/15
Michigan	2007	8/25/07
Montreal	2009	2/12/12
Bergen County, New Jersey	2004	11/20/04
Oregon	2015	12/5/15
Palm Beach County, Florida ( <i>Scattered Seeds</i> )	2016	12/29/15
San Diego	2008	11/23/08
South Africa (society is defunct)	2005	8/18/05
South Africa JewishGen SIG	2015	9/5/15
Southern Nevada	2014	9/21/14
St. Louis Genealogical Society	2016	1/15/16
St. Louis (society is defunct)	2011	6/4/11
Southwest Florida ( <i>Mishpochology</i> )	2016	11/22/15
Sweden	2015	2/7/15
Switzerland	2013	4/13/13
Toronto ( <i>Shem Tov</i> ) (gap between 2008 and 2016)*	2016	6/16
Utah (publication is defunct)	2011	1/15/11
Washington DC	2012	4/7/12
Washington State	2006	1/23/06
Wisconsin	2005	9/13/05

\* New to us.

*Genealogy Events, continued from page 4*

Saturday, 5 November 2016. Cyndi Ingle seminar. California Genealogical Society and Library. Preservation Park, Oakland. <http://californiaancestors.org/>

For more local events, visit <http://sfbagenealogy.blogspot.com/>.

**State and National**

Wednesday–Saturday, 31 August–3 September 2016. “Time Travel: Centuries of Memories.” FGS Annual Conference. Springfield, Illinois. <http://www.fgsconference.org/>

Tuesday–Friday, 6–9 September 2016. Azores and Portuguese Genealogy Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah. [gfscherim@gmail.com](mailto:gfscherim@gmail.com)

Monday–Friday, 12–16 September 2016. 2016 European Family History Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah and online. [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/2016\\_European\\_Family\\_History\\_Conference](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/2016_European_Family_History_Conference)

Thursday–Saturday, 15–17 September 2016. 2016 New York State Family History Conference. Syracuse, New York. <http://www.nysfhc.org/>

Friday–Sunday, 28–30 October 2016. Rensselaer Jewish Farmers Descendants Reunion. Nassau, New York. <http://www.nassausynagogue.org/farmers-reunion>

Thursday–Sunday, 3–6 November 2016. The Holocaust in the 21st Century: Relevance and Challenges in the Digital Age. Claremont, California. <http://goo.gl/3DGfsU>

Friday–Saturday, 4–5 November 2016. 3rd Annual Ukrainian Genealogy Conference, “Research Essentials: Combining the Basics with 21st Century Technology.” Somerset, New Jersey. <http://ukrhec.org/nashi-predky-conference>

Saturday, 22 April 2017. Annual Seminar, Tom Jones. Sonoma County Genealogical Society. <http://sonomagensoc.org/>

Sunday–Friday, 23–28 July 2017. 37th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Orlando, Florida. <http://www.iajgs2017.org/>

Friday–Saturday, 28–29 July 2017. 2017 International Germanic Genealogy Conference. Minneapolis, Minnesota. <http://www.ggsnmn.org/>

Wednesday–Saturday, 30 August–2 September 2017. FGS Annual Conference. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. <http://www.fgsconference.org/>

Wednesday–Saturday, 22–25 August 2018. FGS Annual Conference. Fort Wayne, Indiana. <http://www.fgsconference.org/>

Wednesday–Saturday, 21–24 August 2019. FGS Annual Conference. Washington, D.C. <http://www.fgsconference.org/>

**International**

2–30 November 2016 (Cheshvan 5777). International Jewish Genealogy Month. <http://www.iajgs.org/jgmonth.html>

Friday, 16 November 2016. 8th International Scientific Conference. Conference devoted to evacuation of Jews and others to Kazakhstan, other Central Asian countries, and Western Siberia during World War II. Almaty, Kazakhstan. Call for papers deadline **1 September 2016**. <http://goo.gl/vLVhM8>

**Free Webinars**

Florida State Genealogical Society. <http://www.flsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=253>

Illinois State Genealogical Society. <http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=234>

Legacy Family Tree. <http://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

Southern California Genealogical Society. <http://www.scsgenealogy.com/>

Minnesota Genealogical Society. <http://mngs.org/eventListings.php?nm=38>

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society. <http://wsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=127>



**Brainstorming with the Mavens**

The San Francisco Jewish Community Library hosts a free genealogy clinic every month (except July and August) from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Bring copies of family charts, documents, and other information and let experienced SFBAJGS Jewish genealogists help point you in the right direction in your research. 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco. There is free, secure parking in the building. Call (415) 567-3327 x704 or write [library@jewishlearningworks.org](mailto:library@jewishlearningworks.org) for more information.

Upcoming dates:

9 October 2016

6 November 2016

4 December 2016

8 January 2017

5 February 2017

## IAJGS 2016 Conference Memories

### SFBAJGS Photo Gallery

The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society had a fine showing in Seattle, with forty-five members (at least!) in attendance. Not only did we get together for three big group photographs, for the third one we even had several potential members join in. The true stalwarts were President Jeremy Frankel, Rebecca Elliott, and Steve and Anita Morse, who managed to be in every group photo. Enjoy these Seattle memories, and please help us put names to the few remaining unidentified participants.



#### Sunday, 7 August: First Day of the Conference!

##### Group photo

Front L to R: Janice M. Sellers, Jody Ames, Rebecca Elliot, Sheree Roth

Middle L to R: Preeva Tramiel, Pierre Hahn, Jan Tuerk, Marcia Kaplan, Judith Krongold, Marilyn Dornhelm, Roy Ogus, Eileen Shulman, Randi Eckstein

Back L to R: Sita Likuski, Anita Morse, Steve Morse, Dan Tuerk, Jeremy Frankel, Avner Yonai, Richard Dornhelm

##### Center right

Ken Entin and Vivian Kahn

##### Bottom right

Carol Ware and Deborah Blankenberg



**Top left, Thursday, 11 August**

Marcia Kaplan and Jeremy Frankel

**Center left, Monday, 8 August**

Heidi Lyss and Beth Galletto

**Group photo, Monday, 8 August**

Front L to R: Sheree Roth, Vivian Kahn, Rebecca Elliot, Preeva Tramiel

Middle L to R: Jody Ames, Beth Galletto, Victoria Fisch, Judy Baston, Phyllis Berenson, Lynn Rhodes, Jan Tuerk, Anita Morse, Steve Morse, Randi Eckstein, Betty Wood, Roy Ogus

Back L to R: Marilyn Dornhelm, Mike Feiler, Jeremy Frankel, Barry Klezmer, Gary Patou, Sita Likuski, Ken Entin, ?, Dan Tuerk, Meredith Sellers, Robinn Magid, Richard Zimmerman





**Group photo, Wednesday, 10 August**

Front L to R: Janice M. Sellers, ?, Rebecca Elliot

Middle L to R: Marcia Kaplan, Steve Morse, Anita Morse, ?, ?, Pierre Hahn, Joanie Ciardelli, Preeva Tramiel

Rear L to R: ?, Barry Klezmer, Mike Maidenberg, ?, ?, ?, Jeremy Frankel

**Bottom left, Thursday, 11 August**

Preeva Tramiel and Sheree Roth

**Bottom right, Thursday, 11 August**

Preeva Tramiel gives her presentation

## 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 [familyfinder@sfbajgs.org](mailto:familyfinder@sfbajgs.org) or at P.O. Box 318214, San Francisco, CA 94131-8214.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
Barshevsky	Grive, Poland	Seth Eislund
Bergenstein	Roth/Marburg, Germany	Betty Wood
Grunebaum	Roth/Marburg, Germany	Betty Wood
Haskell	Berlin, Germany	Betty Wood
Haskell	New York, New York	Betty Wood
Horowitz	Lithuania, Russian Empire	Seth Eislund
Izsruk (Eisner in USA)	Pavoloch, Ukraine	Seth Eislund
Perzovsky	Chachersk, Belarus	Seth Eislund
Rozenzweig (Rose in USA)	Russian Empire	Seth Eislund
Sachs	Russian Empire	Seth Eislund
Schloss	Muenster/Dieburg, Hessen Germany	Betty Wood
Simon	Muenster/Dieburg, Hessen Germany	Betty Wood

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Thanks for your support!

**2016 Membership.** Check one:  New member  Renewing member  
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
New Members: How did you find out about SFBAJGS? \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues for 2016:**

\$ 23.00 Regular Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution. (Dues and contribution are tax-deductible)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

**Make checks payable to SFBAJGS or use these payment options:**

**Credit Card or PayPal** – Use either a credit card or your PayPal account. Go to [www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs/about.html](http://www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs/about.html) and look under “Membership” for further directions.

**Matching Gift** – Does your employer offer a Matching Gift program for charitable contributions? The SFBAJGS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and may be eligible!

**Newsletter options.** Normally we will send you the SFBAJGS newsletter, *ZichronNote*, as a PDF file. If we do not have your email, you do not have a computer, or you cannot down-load materials, check the blank below and we will send your newsletter by regular mail.

I am unable to download the newsletter. Please send a printed version by regular mail.

**Want to be more involved with SFBAJGS activities? Please check your areas of interest.**

Membership  Newsletter  Publicity  Program Development  
 Website Maintenance  Congregational Liaison  Meeting Coordination

**Family Finder information.** This will be maintained on file with the SFBAJGS and periodically shared with the membership.

Check here if you do NOT want your information to be shared.

**Please print clearly.** New members: Please fill in as completely as you can.

Renewing members: No need to repeat, just update with new information and changes.

**Surname**

**Location**

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Continue on reverse side if necessary.

## Upcoming SFBAJGS Events

**Sunday, 18 September, San Francisco:** *Grow Your Family Tree: Using the Internet Archive for Genealogical Research.* Michael "Mek" Karpeles will give a general tour of the Internet Archive, with a particular focus on Jewish-oriented collections.

**Sunday, 9 October, Oakland:** *Vivian and Sandy's Excellent Adventure: Family Research Travel in Hungary and Romania.* Vivian Kahn will discuss her 2015 on-the-ground research and meeting members of extended family.

**Monday, 10 October, Los Altos:** *San Francisco's Own Norton I, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico.* Joseph Amster will talk about the history of the man who became Emperor Norton and his long-lasting effects on the city of San Francisco.

**Sunday, 13 November, Colma:** *Tour of Colma's Jewish Cemeteries.* Docents from the Colma Historical Association Museum will give a tour of Home of Peace, Hills of Eternity, and Eternal Home and share information about their history and burials.

**Sunday, 16 November, Oakland:** *Bubbie, Who Are You?: Finding the Maiden Names in Your Family Tree.* In honor of International Jewish Genealogy Month, Janice M. Sellers will share resources to help you research the women in your family.

See page 3 for meeting locations and times and page 4 for other events of interest.

For more program information visit <http://www.sfbajgs.org/>.

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