



# זכרונות *ZichronNote*

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

Volume XXXVII, Number 3

August 2017

### DNA Gives You the Hint

**But then you need to do the old-fashioned paper research to figure out the rest.  
Sometimes what you find is unexpected. See page 5.**

#### Also in This Issue

<b>Pierre Hahn, <i>Généalogiste Extraordinaire</i></b>	
Barbara Toby Stack .....	10
<b>International Tracing Service Records Online</b>	
Allison DePrey Singleton .....	12
<b>Movie Review: <i>Obit</i></b>	
Jeremy Frankel .....	14
<b>Some SFBAJGS Member Thoughts on the 2017 IAJGS Conference</b> .....	15
<b>SFBAJGS Contributions to JOWBR</b>	
Jeff Lewy .....	17
<b>More Than One Good Deed at a Time</b>	
Jeff Lewy .....	18

#### Departments

President's Message .....	2
Society News .....	3
Genealogy Calendar .....	16
Family Finder Update .....	19
Upcoming SFBAJGS Events .....	back cover



*Siblings Julie (Friedlander) Steif and  
Sigmund Friedlander, grandparents  
respectively of Ann Fuller and  
her cousin Jo Ann (see page 5)*

**ZichronNote**  
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**President's Message**

**Can You Spare an Hour?**

Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

A few years ago there was a public outcry against the U.S. Immigration service using the term "resident alien" to describe those people who were legal residents in the United States. They had the all same rights that citizens had save for one big difference—they couldn't vote.

After a while the hoo-ha subsided and went away. Today people who live here legally but aren't citizens are still called resident aliens.

This got me thinking about the term "volunteer." I don't really like it, but what else is there to call someone who gives freely of spare time to some cause or project? But what we call these people is far less important than what they can achieve in the long run.

Genealogists have become so used to switching on their computer and diving into myriad databases without thinking about how those records got there in the first place. Ancestry.com has more than 20 billion records and adds something like two million records every day!

The society may not be in the same league as Ancestry, but we are doing the same thing—providing information to create online indices, in our case to Bay Area cemetery burials, so that other genealogists can find long-lost relatives.

We have a number of indexing projects that are close to completion, and we continue to identify more projects. But there is no point to starting a new one if we haven't finished the ones we're already working on.

Just recently, Barry Klezmer (our new Cemetery Project Director; take a bow, Barry) found a cemetery burial register book. It has burials beginning in October 1891. This is really important when one considers that nearly all official records relating to burials in the San Francisco Bay area prior to 1906 were destroyed by the earthquake and subsequent fires.

But! As I mentioned, we can't do it without you. If all our members each gave just one hour to transcribe records, think how much could be achieved in two hundred hours. Hey, how about two hours each? Four hundred hours' worth of transcription! Is this really too much to ask?

Many other Bay Area-related genealogical records have already been indexed or catalogued by other organizations, such as libraries, archives, SFGenealogy, and the California Genealogical Society, to name but a few.

*Continued on page 13*

## Society News

### New Members

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Dennis Paull ..... dpaul@svpal.org  
Kenneth Waldeck ..... kwaldeck@pacbell.net

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).

### Errata

In the February / May 2017 issue of *ZichronNote* (Volume XXXVII, Number 1/2):

On page 8, "My Visit to See the Podivín Torah", the town name is incorrectly spelled "Podovín" in the photo caption.

On page 12, "Casa Mendoza", the author's bio did not arrive in time for publication: "Alan Silverman was born in the East End of London to a Sephardic mother and an Ashkenazi father. He graduated from the University of London in Mathematics and Physics. He started his career by designing nuclear power stations but joined IBM in 1963 and transferred to San Francisco in 1966. In 1980 he became a partner in Coopers & Lybrand and started a practice for the firm testifying as an expert witness on the financial aspects of litigation. He has served on the boards of the Jewish Home of San Francisco, Menorah Park, the Alliance Française in Berkeley, and the Marina Community Association."

In "David Nathan Walter: A San Francisco Pioneer", on page 21, Isador should not have been included in the list of brothers involved in D. N. & E. Walter & Company; on page 24, endnote 20, the first citation should have been omitted.

### Report on the 2017 Bylaws Vote

Ninety-two ballots were received for the bylaws vote by the deadline of 31 July 2017, 91 in favor and one against, with no illegal or blank ballots. The new bylaws were therefore declared to be approved by the membership. The SFBAJGS Board members wish to thank all of the society members who took the time to vote on the bylaws changes and will take under consideration all comments that were made.

### SFBAJGS Elections Get Involved and Get More Out of SFBAJGS

This December marks the end of the two-year terms of the current officers of SFBAJGS. It is essential that more members contribute to the success of this organization. Think about what you want from our JGS and how you can participate in making and keeping the society strong. Not all commitments require large amounts of time. Elected officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. This notice serves as the first call for nominations for elected positions. You may nominate yourself or another member.

We encourage you to volunteer in any way that interests you. You will certainly get more out of the society as an active participant. All of us who have volunteered can attest to that. Opportunities where contributions would be welcome include publicity, membership, hospitality at meetings, and the cemetery project. For more information, to nominate yourself or someone else, or to volunteer, contact President Jeremy Frankel at (916) 380-7953 or [president@sfbajgs.org](mailto:president@sfbajgs.org). Nominations for elected positions are due by **1 October 2017**.

*Continued on next page*

### Meeting Times and Locations

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

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>San Francisco:</b> | <b>Sunday. Doors open 1:00 p.m. Program begins at 1:30 p.m.</b><br>Rhoda Goldman Plaza, 2180 Post Street<br>Parking available in Rhoda Goldman Plaza garage with entrance on Sutter Street. |
| <b>Oakland:</b>       | <b>Sunday. Doors open 12:30 p.m. Program begins at 1:00 p.m.</b><br>Oakland FamilySearch Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue   |
| <b>Palo Alto:</b>     | <b>Monday. Doors open 7 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.</b><br>Congregation Etz Chayim, 4161 Alma Street   |
- See Back Cover for Calendar of Upcoming SFBAJGS Meetings**

## Member News

**Brooke Schreier Ganz** won the IAJGS 2017 Outstanding Program or Project award for the Reclaim the Records project, at <http://reclaimtherecords.org/>.

In conjunction with a celebration of the 700th anniversary of the founding of Lublin, Poland, **Robinn Magid** received a civic medal from the mayor honoring her contributions to the city (more details are available at <http://www.jri-poland.org/>). In separate news, Robinn was named cochair of the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, to be held in Warsaw, Poland from 6–10 August 2018.

**Steve Morse's** One-Step Website was selected by *Family Tree Magazine* as one of the "101 Best Free Websites for Genealogy in 2017" under "Online Genealogy Technology Tools": <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/101-best-websites-2017/>.

## 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 runs from October 21–November 18 on the secular calendar. The purpose of IJGM is to make the public more aware of genealogy and the fact that local Jewish genealogical societies can help them start their research.

This year SFBAJGS will promote IJGM with two talks. On Wednesday, 1 November, Eshel Haritan will present "The Charytan-Berman Family Story: An Unintended Genealogical Quest" in Oakland, especially for IJGM. On 12 November, Judy Baston will talk about "Documenting the Vilna Ghetto Library", also in Oakland.

## 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.

## 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 genealogy videos 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.



## Letter to the Editor

Hi, Janice,

I noticed something in the President's Message in this issue [the February / May issue of *ZichronNote*] that I think needs clarification. Jeremy mentioned checking Find A Grave for Home of Peace Cemetery in Oakland and seeing that it was 99% photographed. That doesn't necessarily mean that 99% of the cemetery has been photographed, though. It just means that of the 2,620 interments [at Home of Peace] for which memorial pages have been created on Find A Grave, 99% include photos. But many more graves could be there for which no memorial exists on Find A Grave.

Case in point: Some time ago, I found Congregation Adas Yeshuran of Stockton Cemetery, a small Jewish cemetery here in San Joaquin County (French Camp), on Find A Grave. It looked tiny. There were just over 50 burials, and only a small percentage had photos. So I figured I'd drive over, photograph the graves that didn't have images on Find A Grave, and document the entire cemetery for JOWBR at the same time. Three trips later, I finally finished, having photographed all 367 graves in the cemetery and added memorials to Find A Grave for the 300+ that were missing. Find A Grave now says the cemetery is 100% photographed, but I know that won't be the case for long—a member of my congregation who died several months ago was buried there after I finished my project, so at some point I'll want to go back and add any new graves.

So a good addendum to Jeremy's admonishment to "get out there and volunteer", at least as far as cemeteries are concerned, is to get out there physically, because what you find online might be less than what's actually out there.

Deborah Blankenberg

### Your Story Belongs in *ZichronNote*

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? Did you meet a cousin at the annual conference, or make 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).

## Identifying the Source of a Close DNA Match

Ann L. Fuller, Ph.D.

Ann L. Fuller is an Affiliate Scholar at Oberlin College and a Geni.com volunteer curator. She grew up in Chicago, Illinois, earned an M.A. in history and a Ph.D. in plasma physics, and served for 28 years as executive director of a social services agency serving low-income persons in Oberlin, Ohio. She started doing genealogy as a retirement activity in 2007 by joining Geni.com, the then-new genealogy-social networking site, and has since expanded her research interests into multiple geographical areas and DNA. She has been a member of SFBAJGS since 2010.

Over the last few years, my family and I have tested our DNA with Family Tree DNA (FTDNA). All of us took the Family Finder test (autosomal DNA, or auDNA), which identifies DNA matches coming from all family lines going back generally about five to six generations (assuming no endogamy). One match led me to connect that person with five great-grandchildren of Herman Leo Friedlander and Sarah Klein.

### DNA Match

On 3 May 2017, FTDNA notified me of a close Family Finder match between a woman named Hannah<sup>1</sup> and me; my two sisters, Susan and Mary; my first cousin Bill; and my second cousin Jo Ann. FTDNA estimated that everyone, except for Bill, was Hannah's 2nd-3rd cousin. All of us, except for Hannah, are great-grandchildren of Herman Leo Friedlander (1829-1893) and Regina (Rebecca) Weiss (1834-1911).

Autosomal Matches to Hannah				
Name and Relationship to Author	Total Match (cM)	Longest Segment (cM)	X Match	Estimated Relationship
Me	162	20	Yes	2nd-3rd cousin
Sister, Susan	160	24	Yes	2nd-3rd cousin
Sister, Mary	173	63	Yes	2nd-3rd cousin
1st Cousin, Bill	131	26		3rd-5th cousin
2nd Cousin, Jo Ann	177	24	Yes	2nd-3rd cousin

**cM (centiMorgans):** unit for measuring genetic linkage, defined as the distance between chromosome positions for which the expected average number of intervening chromosomal crossovers in a single generation is 0.01.

**X match:** a match to someone on an X chromosome. Men have only one X chromosome, while women have two.

Not only does this family group show a close total match to Hannah, a detailed view of the matches on individual chromosomes using the FTDNA chromosome browser shows overlapping, especially on chromosome 16 and the X chromosome, making it likely that the DNA segments are coming from a common source.

Since an autosomal match can come from any family line, its source can be hard to determine, especially for

endogamous populations such as Ashkenazi Jews. Hannah had Friedlander listed as one of her family names, however, which is a name that we share; it seemed most likely that our connection was therefore through that family. Intrigued by this match, I set out to document the connection and identify our common ancestors. The following is the story of the process I followed, what I discovered, and some of the lessons I learned.

### Finding and Documenting the Relationship

My first step was to e-mail Sam, the manager of Hannah's kit and her maternal first cousin, for information about her family tree. He told me that Hannah, who does not use e-mail, had done the DNA test only as a favor to him so that he could have more information for researching her maternal relatives, their joint family. He also said that Hannah had known nothing about her paternal grandmother, not even her name. Sam had only recently discovered it was Regina Friedlander. In order to aid my search for relevant records for Regina, he gave me information about the family into which she had married, as he had limited information on the Friedlander family.

Luckily I had a detailed Friedlander family tree showing the descendants of Moishe Israel Friedlander and Sarah Klein, researched by Jo Ann's father (and available on Geni.com). I set out to determine if Regina Friedlander Kaufman fit on that tree and if so where.

I started by searching for relevant records for Regina on sites such as Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. I found an 1888 Hamburg passenger list for a Regina Friedlander who came from Kesmark, Hungary (now Kežmarok, Slovakia), but I was not sure if she was the right person. I also found the 1898 record for Regina's marriage to Harry (also known as Henry) T. Kauffman in Chicago and a 1900 United States census record.

The information on the 1900 census suggested that Regina was Harry's second wife; the mother of Hannah's father, Martin Kaufman (born in 1900); and the stepmother to Harry's three older children from his first marriage—Lizzie, Abraham, and Hanna, born in Missouri between 1888 and 1893. Regina's immigration year is listed as 1888

NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Exclude every person living on June 1, 1900. Omit children born since June 1, 1900.	RELATION. Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.										NATIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.		
		Color or race.	Sex.	DATE OF BIRTH.		Age at last birthday.	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of years married.	Mother of how many children.	Number of these children living.	Place of birth of each person and parents of each person enumerated. If born in the United States, give the State or Territory; if of foreign birth, give the Country only.			Year of immigration to the United States.	Number of years in the United States.	Naturalization.	
				Month.	Year.						Place of birth of this Person.	Place of birth of FATHER of this person.	Place of birth of MOTHER of this person.				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
Nauffman Henry St 6	Head	A M	Dec	1860	39	M	3					Russia	Russia	Russia			
Regina	Wife	A F	May	1874	26	M	3	1	1			Hungary	Hungary	Hungary	1888	18	
Leggie	Daughter	A F	Dec	1888	11	S						Missouri	Russia	Russia			
Abraham	Son	A M	Aug	1890	9	S						Missouri	Russia	Russia			
Hanna	Daughter	A F	July	1893	6	S						Missouri	Russia	Russia			
Martin	Son	A M	Jan	1900	12	S						Illinois	Russia	Hungary			

United States 1900 Federal Population Census, West Town, Chicago City, Cook County, Illinois, 1 June 1900, Enumeration District 326, page 1A, lines 16-21 (edited image)

and her birth as May 1874. So far, I have been unable to find census records beyond 1910 for this family.

I needed more information in order to make further progress. Sam had told me that in 1901 Regina gave birth to a daughter named Frieda (Fritzi). He offered to contact Fritzi's daughter, Goldye, a woman he had met once on a chance encounter on a trip to Mexico. Though not related to him, she was Hannah's first cousin and Regina's granddaughter. She and Hannah had lost touch<sup>2</sup>, so Hannah was not sure if Fritzi was alive, but Sam found her phone number online and reached her. In their conversation, she mentioned relatives named Regina<sup>3</sup> and Florence Follender and others with the surname Weil. With those clues in my mind, I found the 1900, 1910, and 1930 United States censuses for Lazar and Esther Follender with children Florence, Regina, and William; an 1896 marriage record for Esther Friedlander and Lazar Follender; a 1927 Schurz High School yearbook; and Esther Follender's death record.

Once I saw the name Friedlander in the Follender marriage record, I hypothesized that Esther and Regina had been sisters. Both, according to their respective 1900 censuses, had come to the United States in 1888, though possibly not together.

Esther's parents were listed as Jacob Friedlander and Rose Zimmerman in her death record. The informant was Ralph N. Merl. Who was he? Family member, friend, stranger?

Returning to the Friedlander tree, I noticed that my great-grandfather Herman Leo Friedlander had two brothers named Jacob and Elihu. While Elihu had many known descendants, including several named Regina (one of whom was Regina "Fallander"), there was no information about Jacob other than his name and 1850 birth year.

My next effort was to track these Friedlanders back to Hungary if possible. Little is known about the Friedlander family before they settled in Hungary (now Slovakia). They are believed to have originally come from Moravia, but we have no documentation to prove this, only indirect evidence, e.g., the Yiddish they wrote is Germanic in origin. The first time they appear in Hungarian records is 1869. They lived primarily in Sáros, Szepes, Zemplin, and Abauj-Torna counties, located in north-central Hungary.

I checked on JewishGen (<http://www.JewishGen.org/>) to see if I could find any relevant records. Previously I had found my great-great- and great-grandparents listed in the 1869 Hungarian census: My great-great-grandfather Moishe Israel Friedlander and much of his family were living in Berzevicze in Sáros County (now Brezovica, Slovakia), where they managed a tavern. My great-grandparents Herman Leo Friedlander and Regina (Rebecca) Weiss, were living in nearby Dobo (Dubovica) according to the 1869 census. I was learning that Regina's family lived in nearby towns, Kežmarok and Bušovce. Other related Friedlanders had lived in Prešov.

I searched the Hungarian database, using parental information obtained from Esther Friedlander Follender's death record, for records that contained both surnames, Zimmerman and Friedlander, and located two marriage index records for Rose Zimmerman and Elias Friedlander. One listed the ages of the bride and groom and the other their fathers' names. The groom was born in "Bersowitz", now Brezovica, Slovakia.

In addition, they were listed in the 1869 Hungarian census, living in Bussocz Popradvolgy Szepes (now Bušovce, Slovakia, located 12 km from Kežmarok) with four children (not including Regina and Esther, since they were born after 1869). I also found some marriage, birth,

and death records for their children and grandchildren, including one for a David Weil<sup>4</sup> who married Hani Friedlander, daughter of Elias, thereby connecting to one of the clues that Goldye had provided.

Once I saw these records, I began to think that the statement in Esther Follender's death record that Jacob was her father might be a mistake. From the Hungarian records, it appeared that her father was probably Elihu (Elias). Researchers often deal with mistakes, transcription errors, and false information in genealogical records and develop some intuition about what to believe. Since I don't know who Ralph N. Merl, the informant, was, I couldn't assess the accuracy of his information.

By correlating information from the Hungarian records with that in U.S. records, I began to put the picture together and determine where Regina Friedlander Kaufman belonged on the Friedlander tree and therefore how I, my sisters, and my cousins were related to Hannah and Goldye. Regina Kaufman was the daughter of Elihu/Elias Friedlander and Rose Zimmerman. Regina Follender was her niece. Hannah and Goldye are therefore third cousins to me, my sisters, and my cousins, Bill and Jo Ann. As shown in our family trees, Hannah descends from Elihu Friedlander, whereas the rest of us descend from his brother Herman Leo. Our closest common ancestors were Moishe Israel Friedlander and Sarah Klein.

### **The Death of Regina Friedlander Kaufman**

With a record documenting the connection between my Friedlander branch and Regina Friedlander Kaufman in place, I was hoping to learn more about Regina's life, when she died, and where she is buried, and obtain a photo of her if possible. Martin Kaufman, Hannah's father, never talked to his children about his mother, according to what Sam had learned from Hannah. As a result, and since Regina likely had died before Martin's children were born, those grandchildren had no direct knowledge of their Friedlander grandmother.

I next contacted some of the family members directly. I started by e-mailing Hannah's daughter, Louise. She has an interest in family history but told me that she had no knowledge of the Friedlanders nor did anyone else in her immediate family, including her mother's older brother, David, whom Louise queried. Hannah's older sister, Robin, who had been close to her first cousin Goldye, may have had information in the past but was now suffering from cognitive impairment.

The next day I phoned Goldye, introducing myself and explaining that I was following up on Sam's earlier

conversation with her about her Friedlander grandmother. Goldye, an articulate woman in her late 80's with a good memory, was willing to talk to me and answer whatever questions she could, even though she indicated that no one in her immediate family is interested in this family history. When I asked her if she knew when Regina died and where she was buried, her reply was, "She was murdered." I was stunned by this news. Goldye explained that Henry, who owned several saloons (he is listed as a liquor dealer in the 1910 census), had gotten into an altercation with his nephew. Regina had stepped in front of Henry to protect him and was killed by the nephew, who apparently was never caught. Regina was a young woman, and Goldye's mother, Fritzi, was just two years old. This event took place about 1904. Martin, Hannah's father, would have been three or four years old.

Goldye said that Henry had been married three times. Following up on this information, I found the family in a 1910 census record and a marriage record that showed that Henry married his third wife, a 21-year-old woman named Fannie Millman, in St. Joseph, Michigan on 17 April 1906. Even though Fannie was only two years older than Henry's oldest daughter, Lizzie, she became the stepmother to his children. The 1910 census showed that she had borne one child that did not survive. With this knowledge, I considered that when Martin enlisted for World War I at age 17, he had left home not to get away from his mother, whom he had lost as a young child, but from his stepmother. Both Fritzi and Martin were found to be working and living away from the rest of the family in a rooming house in the 1920 census. I have been unable to find where the other family members were at the same time.

My search for the source of our DNA match to Hannah had ended, but I still had questions and reactions to what I had learned. I set out to find independent verification of the murder through a death certificate, a burial record, and/or contemporaneous newspaper reports.

I found a 10 January 1904 entry in an index of Cook County deaths for a 29-year-old woman named Ragi Kaufman. Since the age was right, I thought this might be Regina. The index listed J. Weinstein as the funeral home and Jewish Waldheim as the cemetery. Phone calls to Waldheim, several nearby cemeteries, and the Weinstein and Piser Funeral Home, which had inherited some of the old J. Weinstein records, yielded no information. I sent for the death certificate and waited to see if Ragi was the right person and what cause of death was indicated.

Meanwhile, I attempted to find articles about the murder, relying on the help of friends who had access to old

newspapers. I had no exact death date: Goldye said only that her mother, Fritzi, was two years old when Regina was murdered, so 1903 or 1904 seemed like the right time frame. I knew that Henry Kaufman had married Fannie, his third wife, in April 1906. Using the death date for Ragi, a friend checked for *Chicago Tribune* articles for the period around 10 January 1904 and found nothing initially. A breakthrough occurred when another friend checked Newspapers.com and found three articles in the Chicago newspaper *The Inter Ocean*. The first, dated 26 December 1903, described the Christmas day shooting in which William Kaufman, Henry Kaufman's nephew, wounded Henry's 16-year-old daughter, Lizzie, and also Regina. The second, written the next day, updated the condition of Lizzie and Regina and the manhunt to find the assailant. The third article, dated 14 January 1904, documented Regina's death sixteen days after the shooting and William Kaufman's status as an outlaw, charged with murder. Lizzie, contrary to initial predictions, survived, as she is listed in the 1910 census living with the family.

The first *Inter Ocean* story described the event as follows:

While trying to prevent the execution of a threat by her cousin to kill her father, Lizzie Kaufman was shot by William Kaufman yesterday and so severely wounded her life is despaired of. With the girl in the attempt to save her father's life was her [step]mother, who was also wounded by their enraged relative.

The shooting took place in the saloon of George<sup>5</sup> [Henry] Kaufman, 1936 Archer avenue, at noon yesterday. William Kaufman was employed by his uncle as bartender, and it was during the distribution of Christmas gifts to the patrons that the attempted double murder occurred.

George Kaufman had arranged to give each of his customers a bottle of wine, and assigned his nephew to distribute the presents. Most of the patrons of the place are colored, and the proprietor charged his nephew with discriminating against this class.

This charge led to a quarrel, in which the saloon-keeper charged his nephew with tampering with the records of the cash register.

"If you call me a thief, I will kill you," William said, and, drawing his revolver, he ran toward his employer. Mrs. Kaufman and her daughter were in the saloon at the time, and they intercepted the bartender. Enraged at their action he pointed his weapon, the police say, at the young woman and shot, the bullet entering her abdomen. She fell unconscious to the floor and across her body fell her [step]mother, who was shot in the right shoulder.



Headline from *The Inter Ocean*, 26 December 1904, front page

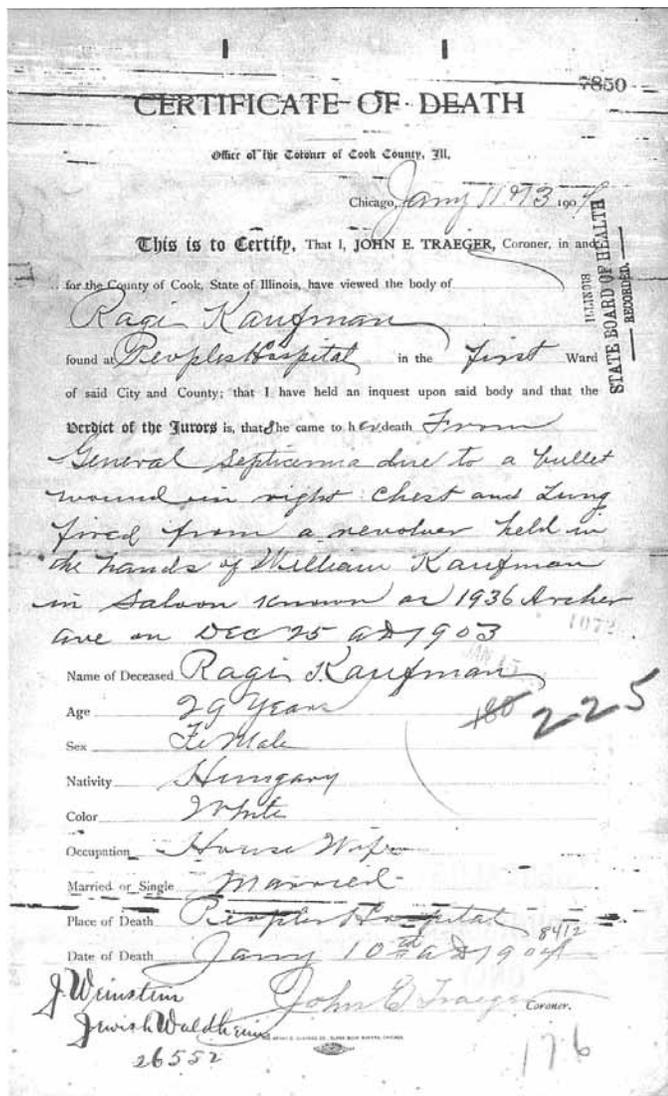
The assailant fled from the saloon and ran to State street, where he disappeared. The police of the Twenty-Second street station were notified of the affair.

The injured women were cared for by neighbors until the arrival of the ambulance of the Harrison street police station. Miss Kaufman was removed to People's hospital and her [step]mother to her house above the saloon.

According to Goldye, William Kaufman, the assailant, was never tracked down. So far I have no independent confirmation of this lack of resolution to the case.<sup>6</sup>

A few days after getting the newspaper articles, I received Ragi Kaufman's death certificate. The result of a coroner's inquest, held 11 and 13 January 1904, it states that Ragi was a 29-year-old white married female, born in Hungary, whose occupation was housewife. The verdict of the jurors was that she died at People's Hospital on 10 January 1904 of "General Septicemia due to a bullet wound in right chest and Lung fired from a revolver held in the hands of William Kaufman in Saloon known as 1936 Archer Ave on Dec 25 AD 1903."

Who would guess that a search for the source of a close DNA match to me and my Friedlander relatives would lead to the painful revelation that Regina Friedlander Kaufman, the match's grandmother, had been murdered? Regina came to Chicago from Hungary as a young woman in search of a better life, but she was cut off in her prime because of a family argument, leaving two very young children and several stepchildren without a mother. One



Ragi [Regina] Kaufman's 1904 death certificate

can only imagine how this trauma must have affected different family members, even to the point of the complete loss of awareness of Regina's existence<sup>7</sup>. Even forgotten, though, Regina has achieved some immortality through her DNA, which lives on in her descendants.

#### Afterword: Some Lessons Learned about Documenting an Autosomal DNA Match

I have described how I identified the common ancestral couple for an autosomal DNA match between five descendants of Herman Leo Friedlander and Sarah Klein and Hannah, a previously unknown relative. To do so, I combined DNA-based evidence with traditional forms of historical and genealogical evidence to develop a multidimensional family narrative. Usually there are many barriers to figuring out the source of an autosomal DNA

match, since it could come from any line or a combination of them. For this example, some conditions converged to make a favorable solution more possible.

- The match with Hannah was large enough that the common ancestral couple wasn't too many generations back.
- Enough Friedlander descendants had been tested, and I had access to their results. The inclusion of second cousin Jo Ann pointed to the Friedlanders as the direction to focus on.
- Sam, the manager of Hannah's kit, in researching Hannah's tree had recently learned the name of her paternal grandmother and listed Friedlander as one of her family names on FTDNA.
- I had a well developed Friedlander family tree going back to 1800.
- Sam answered my e-mail inquiry about the match. This doesn't always happen.
- Sam was willing to call Hannah and some of her paternal relatives to get some preliminary clues to help me in my search for records.
- U.S. immigration and census records for some of the people existed and were available online.
- It was possible to link U.S. records to Hungarian ones available on JewishGen.org.
- Goldye filled in more information about family members after reading a draft of this article and looking at the records I had obtained.

Still, the process of documenting the match required judgment calls at each step. One can't be too literal in the interpretation of clues and documents. Names change, as do spellings, especially in going from the old country to the United States. Witnesses, interviewers, and transcribers can introduce errors due to faulty information, hearing things wrong, or bad handwriting. Information from living relatives such as Goldye, sometimes at odds with information in the records, had to be weighed against each other.

#### Endnotes

1. Hannah is a living adult female whose identity has been withheld and name changed to protect her privacy. The same approach was taken to her living siblings, designated as David and Robin; her living daughter, designated as Louise; and her paternal and maternal cousins, designated as Sam and Goldye in this narrative. The rest of the names are real.
2. I learned later that deep rifts existed in the family between close relatives.

Continued on page 13

## Pierre Hahn, *Généalogiste Extraordinaire*

Barbara Toby Stack

SFBAJGS board member Barbara Stack has been researching her family roots in Poland and Ukraine off and on since the late 1980's. Her most recent genealogical pleasures have come from reintroducing members of long-separated branches of the family. With a B.A. in Economics (Brandeis University) and an M.A. in Linguistics (University of Massachusetts at Amherst), Barbara has worked as a systems analyst, a fiddler, a youth orchestra ED, and most recently archivist, editor, and writing coach.

Veteran SFBAJGS Board member and indefatigable genealogist, researcher, librarian, project leader, transcriber, and large-scale data aggregator Pierre Hahn recently saw JewishGen publish extracts of 22,000 Jewish marriage records from Alsace, France between 1792 and 1899. For this major contribution to French Jewish genealogy, from inspiration to publication, Pierre has been honored by JewishGen, where he also serves with our own Rosanne Leeson as Coordinators of the French SIG. In addition to these long-term projects, Pierre has served as steward of SFBAJGS's own Cemetery Project, which has entailed, in addition to organizing transcriptions, substantial intellectual property and diplomatic negotiations. And this was all accomplished during his retirement!

I spoke with Pierre in May 2017 and he graciously added some additional written comments after our interview.

Pierre Hahn was born in Paris in 1928, and most fortunately his family was able to depart France in August 1941 and settle in New York City. After the war, Pierre's family decided to stay in the United States: his parents in New York City, Pierre not far away, and his brother Roger on the West Coast. Pierre wrote me:

In France my mother collected birth, death, and marriage announcements of family and friends in a small box. She also sent for a few birth certificates of ancestors. My father wrote down notes for a few family trees. It was a very helter-skelter summation of what they knew. Then my father passed away and my brother Roger and I thought that my mother shouldn't be left alone in New York. So when we emptied her apartment we found all the bits of

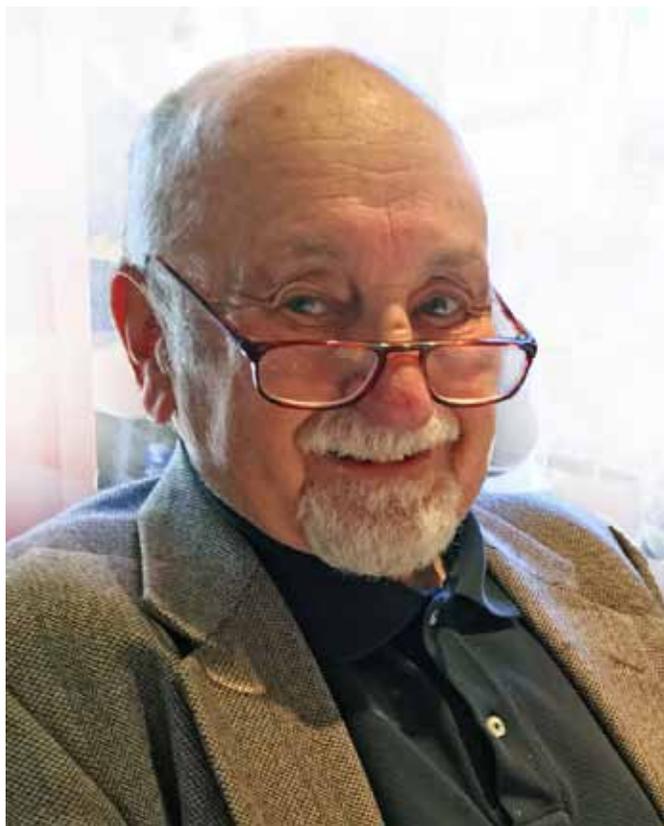
paper. We began to wonder what our family was really like. My brother was a professor of history of science at UCB. I was in the Department of Psychiatry as a graduate civil engineer at SUNY Stony Brook.

My mother moved to Oakland and lived there another eight or nine years before she passed away in 2002. It was then that my brother and I decided that we needed to organize all these papers, and we started to enter data from the collected bits into *Family Tree Maker (FTM)*. And after we had entered all the info, even for people who seemed to

have no family connection, we started to search for any genealogical connections which might exist between the many people in the announcements. Now, 15 years later, it has grown to a little more than 20,000 names. In my *FTM* database about two thirds of the people are connected in some manner to each other. Some people we knew as friends of our parents were found to be related. The family tree is now a family forest. For example, my parents were lifelong friends of another couple, and they took trips together later in life. To this day the families have remained close. Only after they had passed away did we discover that they had a

common Alsatian ancestor seven generations back. But neither the "friends" nor my parents learned of the family relationship.

In 2002 I made a trip to the Luxembourg Civil Records building and researched birth and marriage manuscripts for some of my ancestors. And there were trips to France as well, to the Archives de Paris. And I return to France



every two or three years. Of course, now much of the data are available online.

For the past 10 years or so I have been comoderator of the JewishGen French SIG with Rosanne Leeson. During this period I have been made aware of research problems and solutions for French-speaking Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, and the former French colonies and protectorates. Many of the questions over the years concerned finding vital records. In France there is no national database, so the only way to obtain such a record is to know the exact town where the event occurred.

After my brother died in 2011, a cousin found me on the Internet—Jean-Christophe Leveque (JCL), whose mother had changed their name from Lévy. He also had done systematic Internet research on his family and created various spreadsheets of a single family name across many towns. We agreed that since a marriage record gives the most amount of data, most researchers would like a national database with this information. We determined that a national database of Jewish marriages in France was not a feasible project for the two of us, so we agreed to start with Alsace because both of our ancestors were Alsatian and following the war of 1871–1872 many Alsatian Jews moved to Paris or to central France so as to remain French.

So we began with Lévy marriages for one town in Alsace and then decided to record all the Jewish marriages from that one town, making informed personal judgments as to who was Jewish. It grew from one patronymic to many and one town to all of the towns in one department. We estimate a  $\pm 10\%$  error rate, either in Jews omitted or non-Jews erroneously included. This might also include mixed marriages. We both sat at our computers for a couple of years and used to Skype two to three times a week. I figure Jean-Christophe did 75% of the work. [Note: Pierre is a very modest man.]

The only additional thing I wanted was to find a home for the data where it would be freely accessible. We didn't want to leave it in France because the French, since the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man, do not note religion in public records. The database is derived from the civil records of the two departments whose unindexed record images are online—Department 68, Haut-Rhin,

and Department 67, Bas-Rhin. Right now the database stands at 22,000 marriages. We are finishing a third set of records, Department 57, Moselle, in Lorraine; we now have 5,000 marriages, two thirds of the total. Metz, which has a large Jewish population, will be the last city, and Jean-Christophe has begun the work.

At the 2016 Seattle IAJGS meeting I asked the governing body of JewishGen whether they were interested in these data. If there are errors or omissions I'd be interested in hearing from users. We know it will be useful. We don't need validation.

On 30 March 2017 JewishGenners received an e-mail from Managing Director Warren Blatt announcing the "JewishGen France Database" at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/France/>. The database was created specifically to accommodate the marriage data contributed by Pierre and his cousin, which so far are the only collection of information on the site composed solely of French records.

I asked Pierre about his motivations:

I would call myself an enabler for people who are trying to do their genealogy. You have to have a dedication to what you want to get done. There is no path that is impossible; it just takes longer.

If there are people out there who would like to pick a department and continue this work, this would be very nice. Then we could have a national database for France.

At the 2017 International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies (IAJGS) Conference in Orlando Pierre's contributions to genealogy were officially recognized. We have a treasure here and note that Pierre often attends SFBAJGS sessions in San Francisco and Oakland.

### **Genealogy Lessons from Pierre's Work**

- The enterprise of genealogy often functions best in a community and over generations.
- It is possible to get through the whole box of family papers.
- One can enter names into a genealogy program without connecting them to the main tree and wire them up later.
- Spreadsheets are a very useful organizing tool.



**Invite a Friend to Join SFBAJGS**

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

## International Tracing Service Records Online

Allison DePrey Singleton

Allison DePrey Singleton is a genealogy librarian at the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center. She began her genealogy research at the age of 16 and has traced her ancestors' paths to Indiana from Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, France, Germany, England, and beyond. She views genealogy as lifelong education and continues to strive to learn more while keeping up with ever-changing technology.

World War II wreaked havoc on families in Europe as people fled their homes, others were forced into concentration camps, and entire towns were destroyed. To begin dealing with the vast number of displaced people, multiple organizations worked together early during the war to prepare for the work of finding missing people. By the time V-E Day occurred, millions of people had been displaced by the war and needed assistance. The Allied Forces and nonmilitary organizations, such as the British Red Cross Society and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), began initiatives to help displaced persons. Initially, the International Tracing Service was part of the Department for International Affairs of the British Red Cross, which in turn morphed into the Central Tracing Bureau. The central office of the Central Tracing Bureau moved to its current home in Bad Arolsen, Germany the year after the war ended. By 1948, the name had changed to its current form, the International Tracing Service (ITS).

ITS has served many purposes over the years, including finding displaced persons, assisting with prosecution of Nazis and gaining restitution for victims, and seeking to clarify the fates of people lost in the war. The ITS opened its collections to the public in 2007, and the goal of the institution has been to educate, commemorate victims, and facilitate research. The ITS Web site, <https://www.its-arolsen.org/en/>, is a superior resource for anyone researching displaced persons, World War II, the Holocaust, and family history.

In 2007, each country with a representative on the International Commission that governs ITS received a copy of the then-digitized collection. The U.S. copy is held by the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. (<https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center/international-tracing-service>). Experts on staff will search the collection for information. Priority is given to survivors of the Holocaust and then to families searching for answers on loved ones lost. This collection has not been placed on the USHMM site. One can search it in person or request that an expert conduct the search. One thing you will find on the U.S. Holocaust Museum site is a section devoted to images of child survivors of the Holocaust: <https://rememberme.ushmm.org/>. Identifying the children

75206	Ajda, Bern
79246	Aron, Samuel
102445	Bialer, David
79165	Bier, Eduard
75221	Blass, Hans
61113	Blauslein, Max
46855	Bober, Max
*75233	Bosboom, Andriee
75282	Burday, Josef
79101	Burger, Adolf
14894	Cybin, Felix
75245	Womantkiewicz, Wlil
75205	Drehsler, Georg
67873	Edelsburg, Nadi...
46852	Ehrlich, Leib
61117	Epsztein, Le'ba
*75216	Fajerman, Heinrich
79182	Fajerman, Symcha
75191	Fajman, Jozef
75207	Fingrut, Abraham
102439	Finkel, David
102441	Fried, Leib
79157	Gafno, Leib
47140	Gecht, Josef
61125	Glanzer, Isaac
46845	Goldberg, Aron
75215	Goldglas, Jakob

List of prisoners in Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, 1 January 1938 (document 4086068)

remains difficult and is assisted through contributions from the public. Look to see if you can identify anyone.

Recently, ITS has been digitizing some of the records and making them available on its site, <https://www.its-arolsen.org/en/archives/digital-collections-online/>. Multiple record groups have been put online and organized into different categories. The first is "Miscellaneous", which consists of two subcategories. The first contains the Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland (Reich Association of Jews in Germany) registration cards: <https://digitalcollections.its-arolsen.org/01020401/name>. These Jewish registration were cards used by the Gestapo to deport Jews. The second Miscellaneous subcategory lists "Effects Preserved at the ITS" and is further subdivided into "Concentration Camp",

“Gestapo”, and “Unknown”: <https://digitalcollections.its-arolsen.org/010209/name>. Many of the items included are timepieces and jewelry.

The second digitized category is “Death Marches”, which also consists of two subcategories. One, “Investigations of the Routes of Death Marches and of Burials”, is a working collection that aims to identify the death march routes and burials: <https://digitalcollections.its-arolsen.org/050302/place/map>. An interactive map that allows visitors to click on a tag to bring up corresponding documents is included. The second subcategory, “Attempted Identification”, contains a multitude of types of documents, such as correspondence, eyewitness reports, certifications of deaths, and more: <https://digitalcollections.its-arolsen.org/050302/nav/index/all>.

The third and last category that has been digitized is the Child Search Branch, which mostly consists of correspondence about the branch: <https://digitalcollections.its-arolsen.org/060102/nav/index/all>. With a few exceptions, it does not contain names or pertinent information about the children and would be more helpful to those researching the working efforts of the Child Search Branch or of the countries involved in locating missing children, rather than to those seeking to learn about the children themselves. Historians writing about efforts made to locate children during and after the Holocaust would benefit the most from this information.

There is a great deal to learn about the Holocaust and the aftermath. Many people may not realize that people are still searching for loved ones more than 70 years after the end of the war. As those from the Greatest Generation continue to pass away, the history and the collective memory of what happened during World War II will continue to be passed down to future generations through organizations such as the International Tracing Service. Those who died during the Holocaust will remain with us as historians and genealogists continue to tell their history and their stories.

“Nothing is ever really lost to us as long as we remember it.” — Lucy Maud Montgomery



*President's Message, continued from page 2*

But no one has inventoried Jewish cemeteries, and no one else is likely to do it. It's up to us to make it happen. Next month we will celebrate the Jewish new year. Let's make a Jewish new year resolution to help put the San Francisco Bay area's Jewish burials online so that everyone in the worldwide Jewish genealogical community will benefit from our *mitzvah*.



*Identifying a Close DNA Match, continued from page 9*

3. Regina Follender and Regina Friedlander (Kaufman), despite the name similarity, were two different people. Regina Follender was Regina Friedlander's niece.

4. The Weil family would prove to be important to other members of this family. Two Weil brothers came to Chicago in the 1880's and established what was to become a very successful plumbing company later called Weil-McClain. The Weils were viewed with both reverence and envy, helping some family members establish themselves economically.

5. I have no explanation for why Henry Kaufman is called George in this article, nor have I found any other documents in which he is referred to by that name. Perhaps it was an attempt to provide some anonymity, or simply a mistake on the part of the newspaper reporter.

6. According to Goldye, the police knew where to find William Kaufman but made no attempt to apprehend him, which she attributed to prevailing negative attitudes about Jews.

7. After I finished writing this article and sent it to Goldye, I had several phone conversations with her that gave me more insight into the family. A woman of definite opinions, Goldye asserted that no one in the family told the truth about much; they periodically quit talking to each other and seemed to have little ability to resolve conflicts, so rifts between them remained permanent. Fritzi and Martin had a falling out in their teens which was never repaired, and their paths diverged from that point on. Martin enlisted to serve in World War I, and Fritzi went to live with one of the Weils, where she remained until a bitter disagreement about the death of a dog. The only remaining link between the two families was a friendship between Goldye and her cousin Robin, who made a few unsuccessful attempts to bridge the gap between the families.

Martin and Fritzi processed the trauma of their mother's murder in different ways. Martin, who was already estranged from the rest of the family, repressed it and kept it a secret from his children. They have learned about it recently from their cousin Sam as a result of my research. Fritzi's children were aware of what had happened.

Goldye has remained very bitter about Henry Kaufman. According to her, Henry was more interested in his businesses (saloons and Canadian investments) than he was in providing a stable environment for his children. He married three times, choosing women who would take care of the children; two wives came to unfortunate ends. The first was killed in a fire, leaving five children; the second, Regina, was murdered. Henry's third wife, Fannie, ultimately left him when he lost his money. Regina's family had disapproved of her marriage to Henry in part because of his more humble origins. By then the Friedlanders had risen socioeconomically, settling on the north side of Chicago, away from the areas where newer immigrants lived. They were also concerned about the age difference and thought he had married Regina so that she could take care of his children. According to Goldye, “they were proved right” in their assessment of him.



## Obit

### Movie Review by Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

*Obit*, producer and director Vanessa Gould. Released 2016; running time 93 minutes. Available via Google Play (<https://play.google.com/store/movies/details?id=NaAAaARuCNs>) and YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaAAaARuCNs>) for \$3.99 rental/\$9.99 purchase, and Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B071PF6ZXB>) for \$4.99 rental/\$9.99 purchase. Web site: <https://www.obitdoc.com/>; upcoming screenings: <https://www.obitdoc.com/screenings>.

In late May, I had to travel to the San Francisco area on family business. Once finished I had time on my hands, but when I actually got to San Francisco itself (through the usual tourist bumper-to-bumper traffic) it was nearly closing time for the museums and art galleries I like to visit when in town.

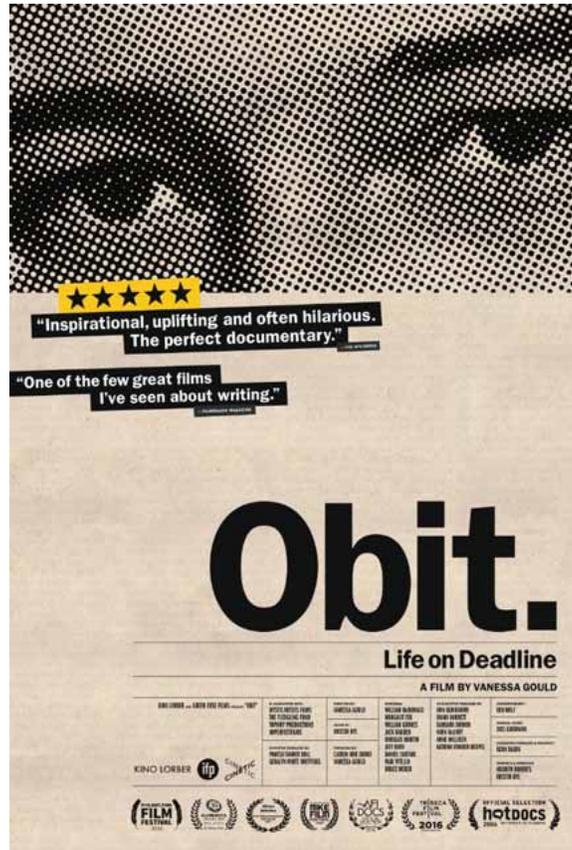
So, what to do? I recalled hearing an interview on NPR weeks before with a couple of writers from the *New York Times*. They were not only journalists but also obituary writers, and they were discussing a documentary that had just been made in which they were featured. It was called, very simply, *Obit*.

Sitting in the car I pulled up my cell phone, entered the words “Obit movie San Francisco”, and up popped the Opera Plaza on Van Ness. There was a showing at 5:00 p.m.; perfect! And I scored a parking spot just a block away!

My very short review to all of you is simply “See it!” You won’t be disappointed. The documentary consists primarily of talking heads, but the background scenes vary at least from *Times* office cubicles to the writers at home sitting at their kitchen table. We also see meetings at the *Times* about which articles and obits will make the page. The director, Vanessa Gould, did an admirable job with just 93 minutes of running time. (Heck, I wish it had been a tad longer.)

The two main interviewees are Margalit Fox and Bruce Weber. Additional writers, including William Grimes, Douglas Martin, and Joe Vitello, also offer the viewer their observations about writing an obituary.

The documentary is interspersed with office meetings, case studies, and lovely interviews with Jeff Roth, the



last *Times* morgue staffer, or “clip filer” to give him his official title. (There’s also a lovely interview with him in the *New York Times* at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/14/insider/in-the-times-morgue-millions-of-news-clippings-and-prints.html>).

As I sat there watching the film, I was mentally nodding in agreement. As genealogists we are very aware of trying to get a person’s life story right. *Obit* doesn’t shy away from errors that were made and how they were corrected. A big difference between the obituary writers and us is the luxury of time. We spend days and weeks, whereas they have just a few hours before the deadline looms.

The writers also adamantly pointed out that an obituary is not about death. Yes, it mentions the passing of a person, but ninety

percent of an obituary is about the person’s life and what it was he did to garner an obituary as a final “send off” in the illustrious *New York Times*.

The “family business” I mentioned at the beginning of this review included my acquiring a free copy of *The End of the Tour* DVD, the 2014 movie about David Foster Wallace. Perhaps it was *bashert* that his short life (he died at the age of 46) was one of the case studies in the documentary.

The closing credits, with voice-overs, appeared (at least to me) to be reminiscent of the *New York Times* masthead, as they scrolled upward.

If anyone missed the big-time review of the documentary by the *New York Times* you can read it at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/25/movies/review-obit-documentary-new-york-times.html>.

Go see it, you won’t be disappointed!



## Some SFBAJGS Member Thoughts on the 2017 IAJGS Conference

Orlando, Florida, 23–28 July 2017

### Phyllis Berenson

My seventh IAJGS conference gave me new opportunities and information:

- In spite of the typical Florida summer weather, I was happy to be there to meet three recently found second and third cousins, all lovely people.
- I was invited to speak about my two recent trips to Ukraine at the Ukraine SIG luncheon. That required me to learn PowerPoint—which I now love!
- We held the 8th annual Mogilev-Podolskiy Area BOF meeting. It was very successful, with enthusiastic attendees who offered to help with needed tasks.
- As Ukraine SIG town leader for Mogilev-Podolskiy and Shargorod, I arranged to acquire records for those towns and other nearby towns that don't have a town leader, in order to have the records translated and added to JewishGen. In the process I may have volunteered to also be town leader for Kamyanets Podolskiy.
- As always, it was great to meet and talk with other attendees I've met over the years.
- And not to be missed was the spectacular March of the Penguins: the entrance of the Antarctica JGS, led by Ron Arons and his insane troupe.

### Beth Galletto

This year's conference had one big message for me: Go back and look again at the research you have already done, because there is much recently uncovered information out there. JRI-Poland is going back and adding information to previously posted indices. Ukraine SIG is purchasing, translating, and uploading masses of new documents. Try new search methods, and previously hidden information will surface. As if to demonstrate, on ProQuest day in the resource room I found an article in a 1914 Omaha newspaper with the title "Mother Left With Six Children Seeks Missing Husband." It confirmed a family story that a particular distant cousin had deserted his family. I had not found this article previously because his name was given as "Isaac" instead of "Joseph", as I knew it. (I found the article by searching for the last name within a limited time period.) Get busy, researchers, your work is never done, and you may still find a way to break down your brick walls!

### Susan MacLaughlin

This was my first IAJGS, and it's hard to sum up my experience in a couple of lines. Everyone was friendly, welcoming, and helpful. Being in Orlando meant meeting people with whom I've corresponded by e-mail, such as Chuck Weinstein from Ukraine SIG and Marion Harris Werle (Marion's mother and my late mother-in-law were best friends).

I followed the Ukraine SIG track on Tuesday and was impressed with how well organized the group is. They make it easy to say "yes" to getting involved. Some of my favorite sessions were the "roots trip" presentations, complete with photos. They gave practical tips for traveling and inspired me. And I loved hearing Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. speak; he was much more personable and funnier than I expected.

### Robinn Magid

Who'd ever guess that at one conference, I would: meet a first cousin of my grandfather; take my 26-year-old son on Disney's "Carousel of Progress" from my childhood; teach "JRI-Poland 101" at 9:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning and get about 100 people, mostly newbies; hang out with my SFBAJGS friends in the hallways; attend fabulous lectures such as Randy Schoenberg's "Teaching Genealogy" presentation; and be introduced as cochair of the IAJGS 2018 Warsaw conference? All in one week! What a great hobby we have! The 2018 conference will be in Warsaw from 6–10 August 2018: Be there or be square!

### Janice M. Sellers

The most informative talks for me at the conference were the two keynotes. The first, on opening night, was about Alexander Hamilton and his relationship to Jews and the American Revolution. Not having seen the musical *Hamilton*, I was unaware of just how interesting of a life Mr. Hamilton ("the bastard orphaned son of a whore and a drunken Scotsman") had led, and the speaker, Robert Watson, was incredibly entertaining. The second keynote was a little drier, but Alexander Beider and Harry Ostrer presented convincing evidence of the actual *Jewish* origins of Ashkenazim, contrary to proponents of the Khazarian theory. It goes to show how much there still is to learn, even about topics you thought you were familiar with.

Follow updates for the 2018 IAJGS conference, to be held in Warsaw, Poland from 6–10 August, at <http://www.iajgs2018.org/>.

## Genealogy Calendar of Events

### Local and Regional

Saturday, 2 September 2017. Kathryn Marshall, "FamilySearch.org's Historic Records Collections and Family Tree." Solano County Genealogical Society. Moose Lodge, 623 Taylor Street, Fairfield. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascgsi/>

Thursday, 7 September 2017. Dr. Jan M. Joyce, "Solving Your Genealogical Challenges Using Creative Hypotheses." Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz Public Library, Downtown Branch, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz. <http://scgensoc.org/>

Thursday, 7 September 2017. Steve Morse, "One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools." Monterey County Genealogical Society. Family History Center, 1024 Noche Buena, Seaside. <https://mocogenso.org/>

Saturday, 9 September 2017. Sean Conley, "Genealogy Searching in Northern California", and Tony Knight, "Data Longevity." Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group. LDS Church, 875 Quince Avenue, Santa Clara. <http://www.svcgg.org/>

Monday, 11 September 2017. Grant Din, "Angel Island Stories." Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. <http://www.l-ags.org/>

Thursday, 14 September 2017. Kim Miller, "Write Your History in Stories." Oakland FamilySearch Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland. <http://www.oaklandfhc.org/>

Tuesday, 14 September 2017. Janice M. Sellers, "Immigration and Naturalization Records." Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society. Santa Clara City Library, Redwood Room, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. <http://www.scchgs.org/>

Friday, 15 September 2017. Kathryn Marshall, "Latest and Greatest in Genealogy Software and Databases." Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society. 1010 Stanley Dollar Drive, Walnut Creek. <http://mdgs.webs.com/>

Saturday, 16 September 2017. Lisa Gorrell, "Focused Research: Using Research Plans." San Mateo County Genealogical Society. Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo. <http://www.smcgs.org/>

Sunday, 17 September 2017. Melinda Kashuba, Ph.D., "Replacing Lost Courthouse Records." Sacramento Central Library, Galleria West Meeting Room, 828 I Street, Sacramento. <http://www.saclibrary.org/>

Friday, 19 September 2017. Kathryn Marshall, "Latest and Greatest in Genealogy Software and Databases." San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society. Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo. <http://www.srvgensoc.org/>

Saturday, 23 September 2017. Seminar, Judy Russell, The Legal Genealogist Seminar. California Genealogical Society. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/judy-g-russell-the-legal-genealogist-seminar-registration-33072744469>

Monday, 25 September 2017. "Newspaper Research." Oakmont Genealogy Club. Oakmont West Recreation Center, Santa Rosa. <https://sites.google.com/site/oakmontgenealogyclub/>

Thursday, 28 September 2017. Barbara Rae-Venter, "DNA Sleuthing: Case Study Lisa Jensen." Marin County Genealogical Society. Marin Family History Center, 220 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael. <http://www.maringensoc.org/>

Thursday, 5 October 2017. Steve Morse, "The Julian Calendar and Its Importance to Genealogists" and "One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools." Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz Public Library, Downtown Branch, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz. <http://scgensoc.org/>

Sunday, 15 October 2017. Vivian Kahn, "Hungarian Research." Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento. Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/>

Sunday, 21 October 2017. Seminar, Gena Philibert-Ortega, "Finding Your Female Ancestors." Contra Costa County Genealogical Society. Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Ln, Pleasant Hill. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cacccgs/>

### **Brainstorming with the Mavens**

The San Francisco Jewish Community Library hosts a free genealogy clinic every month (except the summer) 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. 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:

1 October 2017

5 November 2017

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

### **State and National**

Tuesday–Thursday, 5–7 November 2017. Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies Annual Conference. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. <http://cryptojews.com/events.php>

Wednesday–Saturday, 28 February–3 March 2018. RootsTech. Salt Lake City, Utah. <http://www.rootstech.org/>

Wednesday–Saturday, 2–5 May 2018. NGS Annual Conference. Grand Rapids, Michigan. <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Thursday–Saturday, 31 May–2 June 2018. Genealogy Jamboree. Burbank, California. <http://genealogyjamboree.com/>

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

Sunday–Friday, 28 July–2 August 2019. IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Cleveland, Ohio. <http://www.iajgs2019.org/>

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

### **International**

Sunday–Saturday, 22 October–18 November 2017 (Cheshvan 5778). International Jewish Genealogy Month. <http://www.iajgs.org/jgmonth.html>

Monday–Friday, 6–10 August 2018. IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Warsaw, Poland. <http://www.iajgs2018.org/>

### **Free Webinars**

FamilySearch. <https://sites.lib.byu.edu/familyhistory/classes-and-webinars/online-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>

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. <https://www.uscis.gov/HGWebinars>

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



## **SFBAJGS Contributions to JOWBR**

Jeff Lewy, SFBAJGS Treasurer

The JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) is a project to document online all extant Jewish cemetery and burial records, worldwide. This goal may never be fully achieved, but the results to date and the project's continuing progress offer an amazing resource for all genealogists seeking to document Jewish family history.

To date, more than two million records have been transcribed and uploaded for free use. These records come from all over the world, with many from countries you would anticipate, such as Germany, Poland, the United States, and Australia, and others from places you might not expect, including Congo, Zimbabwe, China, Myanmar, and Peru.

SFBAJGS members have contributed more than 30,000 records from local Bay Area cemeteries as part of this ongoing project, and we are now transcribing burial slips issued by Synagogue Sherith Israel in San Francisco from the 1860's and later. These burial slips may act as a substitute for the related death records before 1907 that were destroyed in San Francisco's 1906 earthquake and fire.

We have also created an opportunity to document cemeteries far from home. From your contributions to SFBAJGS, we provide some funding to Kirkuty, a project in Poland run by Krzysztof Bielawski. Kirkuty's goal is to photograph Jewish cemeteries in Poland in their current state. In some cases, the cemeteries are well maintained, while others are just remnants following the depredations of World War II and after.

As an example, Mr. Bielawski photographed the more than 400 gravestones in the well maintained New Cemetery in Szczecin, Poland (formerly Stettin, Germany). He sent us the photos, and we transcribed the data on the gravestones with help from other JOWBR volunteers. This information is now included in the JOWBR records.

With your support, we expect to continue our relationship with Kirkuty and may be able to add still more records to JOWBR.



## More Than One Good Deed at a Time

Jeff Lewy

Jeff Lewy became interested in genealogy to make sense of family photos going back four generations in the United States and Europe and to learn about the people in the photos. Most of his family lines arrived in the United States in the 1840's and 1850's, mostly in Alabama, before settling in Chicago by 1870. His tree now includes seven or more generations for most of his family names. He is the Treasurer of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society.

Genealogy is just one of my hobbies. I also support a number of other nonprofit organizations, working in health, education, families, and advocacy. I have found an easy way to combine my interests and passions by using my genealogy skills in fundraising for those other organizations.

### Silent Auction

Many nonprofits put on events that include silent auctions. Items offered at an auction include dinners at good restaurants, artwork, travel excursions and tours, and many other types of attractive purchases, some of them created especially for the auction and unavailable anywhere else. Patrons attending the event bid on the items offered, often more than the item is worth. All of the proceeds go to the organization hosting the event.

### My Auction Item

I offer ten hours of genealogy assistance. I have a one-page write-up that describes what I am offering and summarizes my genealogy research experience. I provide a "certificate" that the organization can give the winning bidder, who then returns it to me to claim the prize. I usually set an 18-month limit on the prize, to motivate the bidder to get started. The organization asks me to determine a "fair market value" of the prize.

The offer always generates bids, usually a few hundred dollars, which is probably consistent with what I could

earn if the bidder paid me as a researcher. Since all of the proceeds go to the organization as part of its fundraising, the winning bidder may be able to deduct the amount paid in excess of the fair market value as a charitable deduction on income tax returns.

### Assistance Offered

I tailor the assistance to the skill level and interests of the bidder.

If the winning bidder is new to genealogy, I help the person get started and show how to decide on genealogical objectives, how to do research, where to look first, how and where to look both online and in repositories of paper documents, and how to document findings. I also help select software to record the work and build a family tree.

If the bidder is more experienced, I help answer current questions, try to bust through "brick walls", identify new research strategies, and demonstrate how to record sources for research. I generally offer a fresh view of the work to date.

I enjoy the challenge of applying what I have learned to new problems, and I have learned about many new types of records and the special challenges of research in non-Jewish cultures and in countries new to me.

I have been doing this for a number of years, for several organizations I like to support. The organizations ask me to provide this auction item year after year!



## 2018 Obermayer German Jewish History Awards

### Call for Nominations

The Obermayer German Jewish History Awards honor individuals and organizations in Germany who have preserved, raised awareness of, or breathed new life into once-vibrant Jewish history and culture in their communities. The deadline for award nominations this year is **12 September**, and supplementary materials are due by **6 September**.

The awards are sponsored by the Obermayer Foundation in cooperation with the President of the Berlin House of

Representatives, the Leo Baeck Institute, and JewishGen's GerSIG.

Nominees who were not successful in previous years may be eligible for this year's awards. Nominators need only submit an updated application. Instructions are on the Obermayer Foundation Web site.

Additional information about the awards are available on the Obermayer Foundation site at <http://www.obermayer.us/award/>. The call for nominations can be found at <http://www.obermayer.us/award/nominate.htm>.



## 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>
Bachner	Austria	Mitchell Friedman
Beechen	Russian Empire	Dennis Paull
Braunstein	Constantinople, Turkey	Dennis Paull
Braunstein	New York	Dennis Paull
Finkelstein	Russian Empire	Dennis Paull
Gillinsky	Vilnius, Dvinsk	Dennis Paull
Gurevich	Vilnius	Dennis Paull
Kalafer	New York	Mitchell Friedman
Norbut(as)	Lithuania	Karen McElhany
Porusetsky	Pinsk	Dennis Paull
Schratz	Budapest, Hungary	Karen McElhany
Schachnow	Kremenchuk, Ukraine	Dennis Paull
Shachtnovsky	Kremenchuk, Ukraine	Dennis Paull
Snyder	Russia	Mitchell Friedman
Tenenbaum	Koden, Poland	Mitchell Friedman
Uramey	Checksovolika	Karen McElhany

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## Upcoming SFBAJGS Events

**Sunday, 17 September, Oakland:** *Leaving Something of Who You Are.* Kimberly Miller will talk about why you need to document your personal history for your family.

**Sunday, 15 October, San Francisco:** *My Family: I Could Write a Book.* Joan Adler, the executive director of the Straus Historical Society, will show how to publish stories about your ancestors in book form or on a Web site.

**Monday, 16 October, Palo Alto (see page 3 for new location!):** *My Family: I Could Write a Book.* Joan Adler will repeat her presentation from 15 October for our members on the Peninsula.

**Wednesday, 1 November, Oakland:** *The Charytan-Berman Family Story: An Unintended Genealogical Quest.* Eshel Haritan will tell the story of his roots trip to Poland and the three years of research that led up to it, in a presentation scheduled to celebrate International Jewish Genealogy Month.

**Sunday, 12 November, Oakland:** *Documenting the Vilna Ghetto Library.* Judy Baston will venture across the bay to discuss the significance of the Vilna Ghetto Library and the various lists of readers that have survived.

See page 3 for meeting locations and times and page 16 for other events of interest.  
For more program information visit <http://www.sfbajgs.org/>.

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