



זכרונות *ZichronNote*

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Sehardic Ancestry in Belarus

Kevin Alan Brook continues his research into the Sephardic presence in eastern Europe with a visit to Belarus. See page 5.

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*Semion Lvovich Abugov, portrait
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President's Message
Jewish Genealogy in Poland

Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

Well, after all these years, it's finally about to happen. We've held the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in just about every major U.S. city. Overseas it's been held in Jerusalem four times, and London, Paris, and Toronto have each hosted it twice.

But now it's going somewhere it's never been before: eastern Europe, and Warsaw, Poland to be specific. Yes, we've known since last summer when it was officially announced, but has it really sunk in what this means?

After all, there could be almost one thousand Jewish genealogists hanging out in the middle of Warsaw, doing what we usually do when we get together. Except that this time it's going to be different. Very different.

For many of us, it's a homecoming of sorts.

Many times we've read in various discussion forums about genealogists who want to visit their home towns, making special trips. They're asking questions about hiring local researchers and visiting the local archives; is there a cemetery? But this time it's different. This is going to be very different.

Yes, I too am planning and hoping to attend. And I also know that just seventy miles west of Warsaw lies Gabin (formerly Gombin), the home town of my Frankel family, who back then were called Frenkel.

In 1890 my great-grandfather Mosek Jacow Frenkel was living there with his widowed father. He was betrothed to Tyla Wytworknik. Maybe on that day (4 June) he walked or took a horse and cart the thirteen miles from Gombin to Radziwie, where he crossed the Wistula River on the only bridge to Plock, where he was married.

Maybe this will be the year I get to (finally) say yes, I've visited my home town, walked the streets, touched the walls of buildings; visited the local cemetery. And yes, taken the obligatory photographs. I sure hope you get to visit your home town.



Society News

New Member

Stacey Henderson .. StaceyHenderson@compuserve.com

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

Have You Renewed Yet?

If you who have not yet renewed your membership in SFBAJGS for 2018, now is the time. You must be a member to continue to receive *ZichronNote*! If you can't remember whether you have renewed, e-mail Membership at membership@sfbajgs.org to ask about your status.

Three reasons to renew:

1. You want to meet other people whose eyes do not glaze over when you discuss your latest genealogical research find, and who may even have suggestions to help!
2. You want to help SFBAJGS with its projects, such as the Cemetery Project, through which information about Jewish burials in San Francisco cemeteries (now in Colma) is being added to the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry.
3. You want to keep receiving *ZichronNote*, with all its informative articles and announcements of interest to genealogists.

2018 Election of Officers

The Election Committee certified that President Jeremy Frankel, Vice President Preeva Tramiel, Treasurer Jeff Lewy, and Secretary Shellie Wiener were elected by the membership for two-year terms. Eighty-eight ballots (64 paper and 24 electronic) were received by the deadline. There were no write-ins or invalid ballots.

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.

In 2017, Kirkuty visited and documented six cemeteries, which includes compiling a list of preserved *matzevot*. The newly documented cemeteries:

Jawor (Jauer before 1945): <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/jawor.htm>; list of *matzevot* http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/jawor_macewy.xls

Kobyła Góra (Haideberg before 1945): <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/kobylagora.htm>; list of *matzevot* http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/kobyła_góra_matzevot.xls

Continued on page 17

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.

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 |
| Palo Alto: | Monday. Doors open 7 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.
Congregation Etz Chayim, 4161 Alma Street |
- See Back Cover for Calendar of Upcoming SFBAJGS Meetings**

Genealogy Calendar of Events

Local and Regional

Tuesday, 22 May 2018. Dr. Kathryn Marshall, "Military Records." Sacramento German Genealogy Society. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, McMurdo Hall, 2391 St. Marks Way, Sacramento. <http://sggs.us/>

Saturday, 26 May 2018. Eastern European Special Interest Group. California Genealogical Society and Library, 2201 Broadway Suite LL2, Oakland. <http://californiaancestors.org/>

Thursday, 31 May 2018. Steen Zipperstein, "Pogrom: Kishinev and the Tilt of History." Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco. <http://www.jewishlearningworks.org/library/library-events>

Wednesday, 6 June 2018. Gail Burk, "Exploring American Ancestors." Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz Public Library, Downtown Branch, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz. <http://scgensoc.org/>

Wednesday, 13 June 2018. Patricia Burrow and Pam Fujii, "DNA Basics for Genealogists: How Three Testing Companies Can Change Your Family Tree." Free but registration required. Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society. Santa Clara City Library, Margie Edinger Room, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. <http://www.scchgs.org/>

Thursday, 14 June 2018. Steve Morse, "Navigating the New York Census With Fewer Tears." Contra Costa County Genealogical Society. LDS Church, 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. <https://cccgs.net/>

Friday, 15 June 2018. Chris Pattillo, "Preserving Your Family History: Things You Can Do Now To Capture and Share Your Family History." Mount Diablo Genealogical Society. Club Room, Creekside Clubhouse, 1010 Stanley Dollar Drive, Walnut Creek. <http://mdgs.webs.com/>

Tuesday, 17 July 2018. Melinda Kashuba, "Tracing California Immigration Using Fire Maps for Genealogy." San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society. Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo. <http://www.srvgensoc.org/>

For more local events, visit <http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/genealogy/calendar/> and <http://www.conferencekeeper.com/>.

State and National

Thursday–Saturday, 31 May–2 June 2018. Genealogy Jamboree. Southern California Genealogical Society. Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank. <http://www.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/>

International

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

Sunday–Saturday, 10 October–8 November 2018 (Cheshvan 5779). International Jewish Genealogy Month. <http://www.iajgs.org/jgmonth.html>

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>

Georgia Genealogical Society. <http://gagensociety.org/events/webinars>

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

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

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

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

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

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 for more information.

Upcoming date:

3 June 2018

Sephardic Jews in Belarus

Kevin Alan Brook

Kevin Alan Brook is the author of the newly published 3rd edition of the history book *The Jews of Khazaria*, whose tenth chapter discusses Jewish origins and migrations, and is a genetic genealogy consultant specializing in using autosomal DNA to track Sephardic descendants around the world. His previous articles in the Sephardic series appeared in the May 2016, August 2016, and February–May 2017 issues of *ZichronNote*.

Descendants of Sephardim settled within the borders of Byelorussia, now known as Belarus. It was part of the Russian Empire in the late 18th through early 20th centuries and before then was part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Sephardim in Belarus assimilated into the Litvak culture of the local Ashkenazi Jews and only small numbers retained their Sephardic surnames.

In 2018, the onomastician Alexander Beider introduced a new hypothesis, that the Eastern European Ashkenazi surnames Efrati, Efrat, Efrus, Efrussi, Efrossi, and Efrosman all likely derive from the Sephardic surname Efrati that was found in Valencia, Spain in the 14th century and in multiple communities in the post-1492 Sephardic diaspora. Eizer Efrosman was born in Gomel (modern Homiel in southeastern Belarus) in 1898, and Sonya Efrosman from Rogachev (modern Rahachow) married Yankel Kapisar in Gomel in 1910. David Efrati and Alexander Tsvi Efrati were buried in a Jewish cemetery in the central Belarusian city of Slutsk in 1872 and 1885 respectively.

Jews surnamed Abugov, the Russified Ashkenazi version of the Sephardic Abohab, lived in the Belarusian municipalities of Klimovichi (modern Klimavichy in eastern Belarus), Bykhov (modern Bykhaw in eastern Belarus), Grodno (modern Hrodna in northwestern Belarus), Berezino (modern Byerazino in central Belarus), and Igumen (modern Chervyen' in central Belarus). For instance, Mikhail Zakharovich Abugov was born in Bykhov in 1901 and was executed by the Soviet government during Joseph Stalin's dictatorship. Semion Lvovich Abugov was born in Berezino in 1877 and worked as a painter and art educator in Leningrad, Russia before his death in 1950.

Mikhlya Algaze, a member of the Sephardic rabbinical family Algazi, was born in Brest (southwestern Belarus) in 1910, but her father Shaya was also associated with the more northerly small town of Volpa. Dovid Al'gaze married Rokhlia in Mogilev (modern Mahilyow) in 1890.

The Sephardic surname Abarbanel and its shortened form Barbanel were held by Jewish families from several municipalities in Belarus. Feiga Abarbanel of Orsha (northeastern Belarus), daughter of Leia Abarbanel and

granddaughter of Erukhim Abarbanel, died in Mogilev in 1892. The city of Vitebsk (modern Vitsiebsk in northeastern Belarus) was the 1888 birthplace of Mendel Abarbanel, who became a published Yiddish poet in 1918 and moved to Kiev, Ukraine in the 1920's, where he died in 1957. Shmul Barbanel of Brest was born in 1904.

Khaika Portugal was born in Mogilev in 1884. The surname Portugal was also attested in Vitebsk. As of 1911, M. E. Portugol worked in the textile industry in the Goretskii district (modern Horki in eastern Belarus). A voter named Elya Partigez whose father was Leiba resided in Kobrin in southwestern Belarus in 1912, and, by coincidence, in the same year an Elia Partigez whose father was Leib was a voter in Pruzhany, 24 miles away.

The Jewish man Itsko David Dilion was living in the township of Krevo (modern Kreva in northwestern Belarus) as of 1858. As with the Ashkenazi surnames Dylion and Delion, Dilion appears to derive from the Sephardic surname de León.

The Ashkenazi Galante, Galanti, and Galantyi families descended from the Sephardic Galante family that had a presence in Turkey and Greece. Some members of these families lived in Białystok in northeastern Poland. Within Belarus, members of these families were found in the Grodno region, including Grodno itself, which is 51 miles from Białystok. Yankel Shmuel Galante, son of Eliash, lived in Grodno as of 1858, when he was 20. Chaim Shlomo Galanti is buried in Grodno Cemetery. Three generations of the Galantyi family lived in the nearby town of Bol'shaya Berestovitsa (modern Vyalikaya Byerastavitsa) circa the 1850's. Their patriarch was Abram Galantyi, son of Nevakh.

Abraham Abele Rosanes was a preacher and writer who lived in the city of Minsk (central Belarus) until his death in 1827. Among his topics were Jewish holidays and ethics. Singer and Seligsohn claimed that Abraham's father, Rabbi Tzebi Hirsch Rosanes of Galitzian Poland, descended from the Sephardic Rosanes family that originated in the seaport of Rosas in Catalonia in northeastern Spain and had offshoots in Portugal and Turkey after the 1492 expulsion from Spain.

A cluster of matches in the Middle Eastern maternal (mtDNA) haplogroup R0a2m is suggestive that their most recent common ancestor was probably a Sephardic Jewish woman. Multiple Ashkenazi Jews, including one whose direct maternal line traces to Parichi in eastern Belarus in the 1910's, are exact matches in their mtDNA Full Coding Region screen in Family Tree DNA to the Ecuadorian Patricia Hurtado and a Moroccan and have only one genetic mutation separating them from a Mexican and from additional Ashkenazim including Martin Cooper, whose maternal grandmother was Rita Meister, an Ashkenazi woman who was born in Bobruisk (modern Babruysk in the Mahilyow region of eastern Belarus) in 1905. Hurtado has genealogically traced her direct maternal line as far back as Juana Rodriguez Carreño, who was born in 1512 in Badajoz in Extremadura in western Spain. More distant matches to this cluster include Sephardim from Tunisia, Libya, and Syria and two members of the Sephardic Converso-descended community of Mallorca, Spain called the Chuetas (Xuetas).

Bennett Greenspan, Family Tree DNA's founder, has a Sephardic lineage himself, but in his case a paternal one: a branch of the Y-DNA haplogroup J-M267. In his 67-marker STR screen, he and some other Ashkenazim, including those whose patrilineal ancestors lived in Bobruisk and Chashniki (a town in the Vitebsk region of northern Belarus) match Manuel Tenorio, a New Mexican Hispano Catholic whose direct paternal line traces to Juan Tenorio of Sevilla, Spain in the 1600's, and several more Hispanics, including another who descends from Juan Tenorio. In his 111-marker STR screen, Greenspan has a genetic distance of -8 from the Hispanic Nicolas Rodolfo Echeverria Dominguez, and in the SNP test called "Big Y" the indication is that the two men share a common ancestor who lived about 1,000 years before their births. Their line is also shared with a Bulgarian Jew and with a Guamanian whose direct paternal line, de Leon Guerrero, stems from a Spanish Jew who converted to Catholicism.

The aforementioned Y-DNA cluster that bridges families from Europe, the Americas, and the Pacific is reminiscent of a phased triangulating autosomal DNA segment I found in January that links some Ashkenazi Jews with five Latin American Hispanics (including four Mexicans) and a Filipino. The advantage of autosomal DNA is that an autosomal segment's common ancestor lived within the past 600 years.

I identified twenty triangulating identical-by-descent segments of Sephardic origin in the autosomal DNA of Theodore Pilchik, an Ashkenazi man whose parents, Morris Pilchik and Clara Sapoznik, were born in Stolin, a town in southern Belarus near the modern Ukrainian border. Eighteen of those segments match Mexicans, seven match Puerto Ricans, one matches a Panamanian, and one matches a Colombian. Two segments link Mexicans and Sephardic Jews and one of those also includes a New Mexican Hispano match. Carriers of one of the most interesting segments include one Mexican, one Brazilian, and seven Portuguese people, some of whom belong to a genetic cluster from the Azores Islands. A particularly diverse segment's carriers include two Mexicans, four New Mexican Hispanos, five Puerto Ricans, one Cuban, and one Peruvian.

I have obtained the consent of the named DNA tester for whom I made discoveries using GEDMatch to have his results discussed, and he has seen and approved the paragraphs I wrote about him. All of the other DNA testers named in this article either gave me permission to name them or were already named in previous written works.

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Autosomal DNA Transfers: Which Companies Accept Which Tests?

Roberta Estes

Roberta Estes writes about genetic genealogy at <http://www.dna-explained.com/>. This article was originally posted on the "DNAeXplained — Genetic Genealogy" blog at <https://dna-explained.com/2017/04/11/autosomal-dna-transfers-which-companies-accept-which-tests> on 11 April 2017 and is reprinted with permission.

Somehow, I missed the announcement that Family Tree DNA now accepts uploads from MyHeritage. Other people may have missed a few announcements too, or don't understand the options, so I created a quick and easy reference that shows which testing vendors' files can be uploaded to which other vendors.

Why Transfer?

Just so that everyone is on the same page, if you test your autosomal DNA at one vendor, Vendor A, some other vendors allow you to download your raw data file from Vendor A and transfer your results to their company, Vendor B. The transfer to Vendor B is either free or lower cost than testing from scratch. One site, GedMatch, is not a testing vendor but is a contribution/subscription comparison site.

Vendor B processes your DNA file that you imported from Vendor A, and your results are then included in the database of Vendor B, which means that you can obtain your matches to people in Vendor B's database who tested there originally and others who have transferred. You can also avail yourself of any other tools that Vendor B provides to its customers. Tools vary widely between companies. For example, Family Tree DNA, GedMatch, and 23andMe provide chromosome browsers, while Ancestry does not. All three major vendors (Family Tree DNA, Ancestry, and 23andMe) have developed unique offerings (of varying

quality) to help their customers understand the messages that their DNA carries.

Ok, Who Loves Whom?

In Figure 1, the vendors in the left column are those performing the autosomal DNA tests. The vendor row (plus GedMatch) across the top indicates who accepts upload transfers from whom, and which file versions. Please consider the notes below the table.

- Family Tree DNA accepts uploads from both other major vendors (Ancestry and 23andMe), but the versions that are compatible with the chip used by FTDNA will have more matches at Family Tree DNA. 23andMe V3, Ancestry V1, and MyHeritage results utilize the same chip and format as FTDNA. 23andMe V4 and Ancestry V2 utilize different formats with only about half of the common locations. Family Tree DNA still allows free transfers and comparisons with other testers, but since only about half of the same DNA location are in common with the FTDNA chip, matches will be fewer. Additional functions can be unlocked for a one-time \$19 fee.
- Neither Ancestry, 23andMe, nor Genographic accepts transfer data from other vendors.
- MyHeritage does accept transfers, although that option is not easy to find. I checked with a MyHeritage representative, who provided me with the following information: "You can upload an autosomal DNA file

From Below to >>	Family Tree DNA Accepts	Ancestry Accepts	23andMe Accepts	MyHeritage Accepts	LivingDNA Accepts	WeGene Accepts	Genographic Accepts	GedMatch Accepts
Family Tree DNA		No	No	Yes	Future	?	No	Yes
Ancestry	V1, V2		No	V1, V2	Future	?	No	V1, V2
23andme	V3, V4	No		V2, V3, V4	Future	Yes?	No	V2, V3, V4, V5 in Genesis
MyHeritage	Yes	No	No		Future	?	No	Yes
LivingDNA	No	No	No	No		?	No	In Genesis only
WeGene	No	No	No	No	No		No	Yes
Genographic	Before Nov 2016	No	No	No	No	?		No

Figure 1: Whether Vendors Accept Transfers from Other Companies (chart updated 28 September 2017)

Note that on 9 August 2017, 23and Me began processing on the Illumina GSA chip, which is not compatible with earlier versions. As of late September 2017, only GedMatch accepts that upload and only in its Genesis sandbox area, not the normal production matching area. This is due to the small overlap area with existing chips. You can read more about the GSA chip and its ramifications at <https://dna-explained.com/2017/09/05/concepts-imputation/>.

from your profile page on MyHeritage. To access your profile page, login to your MyHeritage account, then click on your name which is displayed towards the top right corner of the screen. Click on 'My profile.' On the profile page you'll see a DNA tab, click on the tab and you'll see a link to upload a file." . . .

- LivingDNA has released an ethnicity product and does not have DNA matching capability with other testers. Living DNA imputes DNA locations that it doesn't test, but the initial download includes only the DNA locations actually tested.

- WeGene's Web site is in Chinese and it is not a significant player, but I included it because GedMatch accepts its files. WeGene's site indicates that it accepts 23andMe uploads, but I am unable to determine which version or versions. Given that its terms and conditions and privacy and security information are not in English, I would be extremely hesitant before engaging in business. I would not be comfortable trusting on online translation for this type of document. SNPedia reports that WeGene has data quality issues (<http://snpedia.com/index.php/Testing>).

- GedMatch is not a testing vendor so has no entry in the left column, but it does provide tools and accepts all versions of files from each vendor that provides files, to date, with the exception of the Genographic Project. GedMatch is free (contribution based) for many features but does have more advanced functions available for a \$10 monthly subscription. The GedMatch Genesis platform is a sandbox area for files from vendors that cannot be put into production today due to matching and compatibility issues.

- The Genographic Project tested its participants at the Family Tree DNA lab until November 2016, when it moved to the Helix platform, which performs an exome test using a different chip.

- The Ancestry V2 chip began processing in May 2016.
- The 23andMe V3 chip began processing in December 2010. The 23andMe V4 chip began processing in November 2013. The V5 chip began 9 August 2017.

Incompatible Files

Please be aware that vendors that accept different versions of other vendors' files can work only with the tested locations that are in the files generated by the testing vendors unless they use a technique called imputation.

For example, Family Tree DNA tests about 700,000 locations which are on the same chip as MyHeritage, 23andMe V3, and Ancestry V1. In the later 23andMe V4 test, the earlier 23andMe V2, and the Ancestry V2 tests, only a portion of the same locations are tested. The 23andMe V4 and Ancestry V2 chips test only about half of the file locations of the vendors that utilize the Illumina OmniExpress chip, but not the same locations as each other since both the Ancestry V2 and 23andMe V4 chips are custom. 23andMe and Ancestry both changed their chips from the OmniExpress version and replaced genealogically relevant locations with medically relevant locations, creating a custom chip.

Update: In August 2017, 23andMe introduced its V5 chip, which has only about 20% overlap with previous chips.

I know this is confusing, so I created a table for chip and test compatibility comparison (see Figure 2 below).

You can easily see why the FTDNA, Ancestry V1, 23andMe V3, and MyHeritage tests are compatible with each other. They all tested utilizing the same chip. However, each vendor then applied its own unique matching and ethnicity algorithms to customer results, so your results will vary with each vendor, even when

	Early Custom Chip	Illumina OmniExpress	Custom Chip	Illumina GSA	Illumina Exome	Unknown
Family Tree DNA		All				
Ancestry		V1 May 2016	V2 May 2016			
23andMe	V2 < Dec. 2010	V3 Dec. 2010	V4 Nov 2013	V5 Aug 2017		
MyHeritage		All				
LivingDNA				New		
WeGene						X
Genographic		Bef Nov. 2016			Nov. 2016	

Figure 2: DNA Chip and Test Compatibility Comparison (chart updated 28 September 2017)

	Each cell = 100,000 SNP locations										
	1-100	100-200	200-300	300-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-800	900-1000	1000-1100	
Family Tree DNA Test											
Ancestry Test											
Common Locations											
Imputed Locations											
Total DNA Compared											

Figure 3: Comparison of Common and Imputed Locations between Family Tree DNA and AncestryDNA

comparing ethnicity predictions or matching the same two individuals to each other.

Apples to Apples to Imputation

It's difficult for vendors to compare apples to apples with incompatible files.

I wrote about imputation in the article about MyHeritage at <https://dna-explained.com/2017/02/21/myheritage-broken-promises-and-matching-issues/> and also more generally at <https://dna-explained.com/2017/09/05/concepts-imputation/>. In a nutshell, imputation is a technique used to infer the DNA for locations a vendor doesn't test (or doesn't receive in a transfer file from another vendor) based on the location's neighboring DNA and DNA that is "normally" passed together as a packet.

The imputed regions of DNA are not your DNA, however, and therefore don't carry your mutations, if any.

I created the table in Figure 3 when writing the MyHeritage article to explain the concept of imputation when comparing multiple vendors' files showing locations tested, overlap, and imputed regions. (You can click to enlarge the color graphic in the online version of this article.)

Family Tree DNA has chosen not to utilize imputation for transfer files and compares only the actual DNA locations tested and uploaded in vendor files, while MyHeritage has chosen to impute locations for incompatible files. Family Tree DNA produces fewer but more accurate matches for incompatible transfer files. MyHeritage continues to have matching issues.

MyHeritage may be using imputation for all transfer files to equalize the files to a maximum location count for all vendor files. This is speculation on my part, but speculation based on the differences in matches from known compatible file versions to known matches at the original vendor and then at MyHeritage.

I compared matches (<https://dna-explained.com/2017/02/21/myheritage-broken-promises-and-matching-issues/>) to the

same person at MyHeritage, GedMatch, Ancestry, and Family Tree DNA. It appears that imputed matches do not consistently compare reliably. I'm not convinced imputation can ever work reliably for genetic genealogy, because we need our own DNA and mutations. Regardless, imputation is in its infancy today, and due to the Illumina GSA chip replacing the OmniExpress chip, imputation will be widely used within the industry shortly for backward compatibility.

To date, two vendors are utilizing imputation. LivingDNA is using imputation with the GSA chip for ethnicity, and MyHeritage does so for DNA matching.

Summary

Your best results will come when you test on the platform that the vendor offers, because the vendor's matching and ethnicity algorithms are optimized for its own file formats and DNA locations tested.

That means that if you are transferring an Ancestry V1 file, a 23andMe V3 file, or a MyHeritage file, for example, to Family Tree DNA, your matches at Family Tree DNA will be the same as if you tested on the FTDNA platform. You do not need to retest at Family Tree DNA.

However, if you are transferring an Ancestry V2 file or 23andMe V4 file, you will receive some matches, somewhere between one quarter and one half, as compared to a test run on the vendor's own chip. For people who can't be tested again, that's certainly better than nothing, and cross-chip matching generally picks up the strongest matches because it tends to match in multiple locations. For people who can retest, testing at Family Tree DNA would garner more matches and better ethnicity results for those with 23andMe V2 and V4 tests as well as Ancestry V2 tests.

For the best results, swim in all of the major DNA testing pools, test as many relatives as possible, and test on the vendor's native chip to obtain the most matches. After all, without sharing and matching, there is no genetic genealogy!



Jewish Censuses and Substitutes

Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.

This article is reprinted with permission of the author, who can be reached at ted.bainbridge@gmail.com, and of *Morasha*, published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois. It first appeared in *Morasha*, Volume XXXIII, Number II, Summer 2017, pages 5 and 9.

Finding censuses of Jews on the Internet requires using a variety of search words. For example, searching Ancestry.com's catalog by using the keyword "census" produces a big hit list, but searching all those titles for "Jew" found nothing. Using the keyword "Jews" and then searching the same way for census revealed items whose titles included "Jewish Census." The descriptions below identify ways to find Jewish censuses and substitutes for them.

Ancestry.com

Searching Ancestry's catalog with the keyword "Jew" creates



a hit list of three items, none of which is a census. Using the keyword "Jews" generates a list of more than 100 items, including a few censuses. Using the keyword "Jewish" provides a list of more than 300 items. Many of the items shown are national censuses that are listed only because some citizens were described as Jewish. Some items include Jew in their titles. There is great variety among these items, which include Polish births from 1550, Philadelphia obituaries from 1887, and an index of Jews whose German citizenship was cancelled between 1935 and 1944.

Setting the title word (instead of the keyword) to Jew, Jews, and Jewish will create lists of different lengths. Some of the items are the same as were found in the searches above, but others are unique discoveries. Many data sets are related to the Holocaust.

As title words and as keywords, use every country, region, town or city, synagogue, and ghetto name relevant to the area or person you are researching. This might reveal data sets that aren't censuses but which can serve as partial substitutes for censuses because they contain lists of people. You can find similar items by searching for Holocaust. Searching for list, listed, published, survivors, martyrs, displaced persons, and similar words will reveal items such as "Hungary, Jewish Survivors Listed in Hirek az Elhurcoltakrol, 1945."

The most common substitutes for censuses in the United States are tax lists, voter lists, militia lists, and city directories. Search for each of these, combined with the name of the place you are researching. (The Web sites

of relevant state and county genealogical and historical societies might have what you want or other useful items. Use the "Contact Us" button to ask for information or advice if you need it.) Similar lists might be found for other countries using search terms in their languages as well as in English.

Searches on other sites that house genealogical or historical databases should proceed similarly. Search each useful site again every few months, because holdings increase, cataloguing methods change, sites improve, and bugs get fixed.

Other Internet Searches

A Google search for "census" and "Jewish" claimed to find more than 13,000,000 items. Reading the first 100



titles revealed very few Jewish censuses or references to them, and many mentions of Jews in national or other censuses that were not focused on them. Lists in Bing and Yahoo searches were of almost identical length and content.

The Pennsylvania Archives is a set of 138 books. These books contain transcripts of



a wide variety of governmental and nongovernmental documents from earliest Colonial times through 1848, plus a few items through 1902. They include tax lists, voter lists, militia rosters, and other items that can serve as census substitutes. Searching for Jew, Jews, and Jewish produced a total of only 75 hits in the entire set of books. You can search these books for free at https://www.fold3.com/title_450/pennsylvania_archives#overview.

Libraries

WorldCat (<http://www.worldcat.org/>) is a catalog of library and archive holdings from



around the world. Thousands of libraries are represented, and more than 2,000,000,000 items are listed. A search will

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Genealogy: The Changes 25 Years Have Brought

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.

Recently, the SFBAJGS board suggested that *ZichronNote* reprint an article from 1993, to show either continuity or change in the society over the last 25 years. In reviewing the *ZichronNotes* from 1993, I found that we printed only one or two articles per issue. The articles were interesting, but what stands out is the difference in the rest of the contents of *ZichronNotes* then and now. These differences reflect the enormous changes the Internet has made in our lives and in our genealogy and family history research. This article highlights some of those differences, to remind us how easy it is to forget what life was like “back then” and how we tend to think of any activity or project in the present tense.

If we lose track of those differences in our own lives, even in projects that we ourselves began in the pre-Internet era and continue today, think how easy it is to overlook the circumstances our ancestors faced and assume that their society operated the way ours does today. There are two lessons for us all once we understand that “now” is so greatly changed from “then.”

- We must look more closely at the context in which our ancestors lived and avoid assuming that it was “just like now.” One simple example from my own research: My great-grandmother’s unmarried sister had an electric car—in 1910. No, it wasn’t a Tesla, and I’m sure it didn’t have much range. But she drove an electric because a gasoline engine had to be cranked by hand to start it, and she wasn’t strong enough to do that herself. That story is from a century ago, but it is a reminder that even within our own lifetimes, “now” is greatly changed from “then.”
- We must write down and record how we live and think today, because circumstances will be different again when our children and other descendants look back at us and our time. And they will be astounded at how primitive it all was, even as we may think it is as good as it will get.

ZichronNote Then and Now

In some ways, the sources of data we seek in our family research were the same 25 years ago. Census records, vital records, city directories, newspapers, voter registers, war records—all of them useful then and now. The big difference is access and the speed that access affords. Today,

we go online, and if we can’t find what we are looking for on Ancestry.com, FindMyPast, FindAGrave, FamilySearch, or other favorite Web sites, we go to Google or Cyndi’s List and look for specific sites for where and what we seek. If we can’t find it online in a few minutes, we get frustrated and probably look for something else.

Then, *ZichronNote* tells us that a huge trove of paper records on the same subjects—census records, voter records, vital records, directories, and newspapers—is at the California State Library in Sacramento, where we can look through the original records—but there are no indices, and no photocopying is permitted for the older records. But bring a roll of dimes, so you can feed the photocopier for those records that may be copied. Certain books of records can be sent to your local library via Interlibrary Loan.

Today, consider how quickly we can find our ancestors in an indexed, online city directory or an indexed, every-word-searchable newspaper. Think how long it would take to find an obituary if you had to turn every page in a bound volume of newspapers, even if you knew the date of death. And that would be after presenting a specific request to the reference desk, and then waiting for the library staff to find it and bring it to your table. You were probably limited to asking for only one or two volumes at the same time.

There are instructions for telephone and modem access to computerized library catalogs for the big university libraries, such as Berkeley and Stanford. The instructions include terminal settings for your modem: “even parity, 7 data bits, 1 stop bit, full duplex, preferably VT-100 emulation.” And there are long-distance phone numbers for public and university libraries further from home—New York, New Orleans, Harvard. No mention is made of the long-distance charges you will run up when dialing in and the length of time it will take to find and download the data you seek at a top speed of 9600 bps (bits per second).

The Santa Clara Family History Center notes that it now has microfiche on a Jewish census in Hungary which can be viewed on the microfilm/fiche readers in their library. Now, we could probably find these records online via FamilySearch—and FamilySearch is well on the way to

digitizing and indexing all its films and fiche. It no longer sends microfilms or microfiche to local centers at all.

People searching for ancestors from particular towns, or with particular surnames, have entries in ZichronNote asking if anyone else has information about those towns or surnames. Today, we can just log in to JewishGen and find all this information in the Town Finder or Family Finder.

There are descriptions of new books and magazines of interest to genealogists, usually with an address where you can write to order them. There are also entries on the materials recently collected by genealogical societies in other parts of the country, with the expectation that you might go to those cities to see the materials.

SFBAJGS was helping people with their research by having monthly excursions to the San Bruno branch of the National Archives, where some federal records are kept, some of national scope, but many relating just to Northern California.

The abbreviation "DNA" does not appear, nor the word "genetics." But "Soundex" does.

And if you have material to submit for publication in the next ZichronNote, please send it via a 3½" floppy disk, in Mac format.



So let us be grateful for the progress that has occurred in our lifetimes, and hope that we can put to good use the time we save through immediate access to huge troves of data.



produce a list that is sorted by the distance of the library from your location. If you find an interesting item that is not available at a nearby library, ask your local library to borrow it for you through the Interlibrary Loan system.

William Dollarhide's two-volume Census Substitutes & State Census Records describes records available for each state and where those records are located. Search for censuses that might include your relatives, even though no specifically Jewish censuses are likely to be found. Searching <http://www.worldcat.org/> will show you which nearby libraries have these books.

Search the LDS Church's genealogy library holdings at <https://familysearch.org/catalog/search>. Using the keywords "Jew" and "census" finds 141 items, including the Jewish census of Stuttgart during the Nazi era. Most of the library's holdings are available on microfilm, much of which has now been digitized and is available online. Unfortunately, microfilm no longer circulates, but staff at any Family History Center can show you how to view the records online. Find an FHC near you at <https://familysearch.org/locations/>.



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 or at P.O. Box 318214, San Francisco, CA 94131-8214.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
Feldman	Nemyriv, Ukraine (Niemirów, Galicia)	Stacey Henderson
Flichtenfeld	Mościska, Ukraine (Galicia)	Stacey Henderson
Helmann	Nemyriv, Ukraine (Niemirów, Galicia)	Stacey Henderson
Laske	Kola, Russia	Stacey Henderson
Shiminsky	Kola, Russia	Stacey Henderson

So You Want to Come to the IAJGS 2018 Warsaw Conference? Great! Now What?

Robinn Magid

Robinn Magid is the lead cochair of the IAJGS 2018 Warsaw Conference. She is a board member of JRI-Poland and a frequent speaker at IAJGS annual conferences. Magid was recently awarded a medal from the mayor of Lublin, Poland, for inspiring the cultural identity of her family's ancestral city through her genealogy work. She lives in Berkeley, California. This is a revised version of an article that first appeared in the Winter 2017 issue of *Avotaynu* and is reprinted with permission of the author.

Warsaw, Poland, home of the largest pre-Holocaust Jewish population (80 percent of the Jews alive in the world today have roots in Poland), will be the location of the 38th conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). The conference will be held from Sunday, 5 August through Friday, 10 August 2018. The official hotel for this first international Jewish genealogy conference to be held in central or eastern Europe is the Hilton Warsaw Hotel on Grzybowska Street. English is the official language for the conference.

This article describes the conference in a way that will help attendees plan their trips, understand the daily conference format/timeline, and prepare now to get the most out of this historic genealogy event.

While based in Poland, the IAJGS Warsaw conference will not be exclusively “about” Poland. At this writing, most proposed lectures appear to be about the methods of Jewish genealogy, which are applicable to research in any country or geographical region—even though most proposals appear to use Poland, including both its current and former territories, as working examples. Lands that were once part of Poland include Prussia, Galicia, Belarus, Lithuania, and Ukraine. We are attracting proposals about all of these places, and also Germany, Romania, Russia, and Sepharad. All of eastern Europe—and the rich Ashkenazi civilization Jews developed there—is of central interest to the majority of potential conference attendees, but our aim is to provide a balanced schedule that will benefit all Jewish genealogists, with or without Polish Jewish ancestry.

Topic Areas

As this article goes to press, we do not yet have a complete conference schedule to present. We can, however, describe some general areas of focus that reflect themes among proposals currently in hand. These areas include:

- Expertise, resources, and repositories in eastern Europe for Jewish genealogical research
- Changing borders, borderlands, and migration-tracking challenges for the genealogist

- Memory, presence, and place; dialogue and education about the traces of a Jewish past where no active Jewish community exists today

- Project methods, sharing successes, and personal experiences in Jewish genealogy

- The unique contribution of women to the eastern European Jewish experience and culture

- The Shoah: Reclaiming the names of the lost and honoring those who saved lives

The conference planning committee has received inquiries about travel considerations. Many attendees will use the IAJGS Warsaw Conference as a springboard for visits to their ancestral home towns, whether in Poland or nearby countries. We anticipate that the typical attendee will be accompanied by more family members than is usual at these conferences, and there may be a number of *landsleit* (people from the same ancestral town) for many places of interest. We realize that the pre- and postconference opportunities make planning more complicated for you as the traveler and family genealogist this time around. Not only will you have your personal research agenda, but you will have to accommodate the interests of family members who will compete for your time and attention. Therefore, we are planning a conference that allows for “family time” by starting lectures later, designing a longer lunchtime, and ending the evening early to allow genealogist to spend quality time with their families while not missing key components of the conference.

We have received travel-related questions asking everything from what the currency is in Poland (the Polish *złoty*) to how to plan a trip that minimizes vacation days from work while accommodating a *shtetl* visit. In addition to reading articles such as this one, we recommend that readers subscribe to the “2018 IAJGS Warsaw Conference” Facebook group and/or join the “Warsaw Discussion” Listserv, both of which are reachable from the conference Web site at <http://www.IAJGS2018.org/>.

In addition, we receive numerous questions about what research will be possible at or near the conference, and inquiries about research that might be accomplished before

the trip. See "Visiting Poland: Everything You Need to Know Before Coming to Your Ancestral Town" by Witold Wrzosinski in the Fall 2017 issue of *Avotaynu*. Wrzosinski's tips are helpful, sensitive, and insightful. Further questions can be asked privately at info@iajgs2018.org.

Planning a conference is a dynamic process. This article represents the situation now, but we are still early in the planning process, and schedules are merely outlines and are subject to change. Readers may notice that the information below has already changed slightly since the last issue of *Avotaynu* (Winter 2017) went to press.

Conference Partners

Conference cohosts and partners are POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute of Warsaw. The Polish State Archives also is cooperating closely. As part of its participation in the conference, the Polish State Archives will bring some interesting archival materials to share close-up and hands-on. Each organization holds significant private collections of interest to any genealogist, in addition to being of research use to those with roots in Poland. Authorities from all three institutions will speak at the conference, and access to their holdings will be made available as part of the "Resource Village" described below. Some of these materials are physical books, and others are databases for which access is not offered online. The traditional IAJGS "Resource Room" will become part of the "Resource Village", a central feature of this unique conference.

The POLIN Museum and the Jewish Historical Institute both have permanent exhibitions with modern interactive formats. Visits to each institution are strongly recommended for conference attendees as well as their families. Detailed special arrangements for the conference will be described in the future, but here is a general outline.

POLIN Museum of the History of the Jews has a legendary "Core Exhibition" described on <http://www.polin.pl/en>. In addition to the Core Exhibition, a temporary exhibit, "Estranged. March '68 and Its Aftermath", is scheduled to be held during the conference. POLIN Museum offers access to a beautiful map of Jewish Warsaw at http://www.polin.pl/sites/default/files/mapa_eng_ed4.pdf. The Museum's

Resource Room is available to the general public, and specialists from the Resource Room will be available for consultations in the conference's Resource Village.

In addition to an active genealogy department, which also is accessible to the visiting public, the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw (<http://www.jhi.pl/en>) has created a permanent exhibit on the famed "Emanuel Ringelblum Archives." The archives was a project created in the Warsaw Ghetto by a group of Jews known as "Oneg Szabat" who secretly met on Shabbat to record what they were experiencing during the war. Attendees at the IAJGS 2014 Salt Lake City conference may remember a presentation there, "Time Capsule in a Milk Can", about this archival material recalling the boxes, including milk cans, that were recovered in the rubble after the war, documenting the people and their daily life in the hell of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Reservations should be made in advance for the Oneg Szabat Permanent Exhibit, which has capacity for only 35 people. Visit <http://www.jhi.pl/en>. To buy tickets for the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute's Permanent Exhibit and to view the August calendar, visit https://tickets.jhi.pl/rezerwacja/terminy.html?grupa=&nr_miesiaca=2018-08.

In addition to the new Ringelblum exhibit, a favorite feature of the Jewish Historical Institute is its outstanding bookstore and cafe. The bookstore is worth a specific visit, as it offers many books of value for the Jewish genealogist. Be sure to save suitcase room for pearls found.

Finally, the Polish State Archives is lending its support for our conference in several key ways, including encouraging its archivists to attend the conference, present lectures, and bring in materials of interest to Jewish genealogists. Although they are not designated as "partners", the conference anticipates hosting additional archivists and librarians from several other countries near Poland. Some plan to participate in panel discussions about international access and digitalization of their holdings. Others will appear as speakers on behalf of the various Jewish genealogy special interest groups and will be announced along with the final conference schedule.



Conference Hotel

The Hilton Warsaw Hotel offers complete convention facilities that will allow us to hold all major conference events under one roof. This will optimize access to the conference for people of all ages, physical conditions, and levels of religious observance. The Hilton is located in a developing part of the city with interesting restaurants and museums nearby. Kosher restaurants and the Nozyk Synagogue are a (vigorous) walking distance from the hotel, and taxis, Uber cars, and light rail trams run nearby as well. Hotel rooms in Poland typically include breakfast/brunch, and our conference hotel will feature an extensive breakfast buffet that will accommodate most diets. A small grocery store and several restaurants are conveniently located next door to the Hilton on an adjoining property.

Most of Warsaw, including the major museums, Palace of Culture, and picturesque Old Town (“Stare Miasto”), is within a close or vigorous walking distance for most age groups. It took me 12 minutes to walk to the Palace of Culture, about 20 minutes to the synagogue, and 29 minutes to POLIN Museum. Last year, I walked to the Okapowa Street Jewish Cemetery in about 10 minutes, then walked on to the POLIN Museum from there. It is manageable for people who walk for exercise. The spectacular Warsaw Uprising 1944 Museum is one short block away.

The films at the Warsaw Uprising Museum are well done, especially the 3D film which is a “fly by” of the destruction done to the city during the war. This poignant museum provides additional context for the Jewish genealogist trying to understand the Polish experience of World War II, as well as for any tourist who would like to understand why Warsaw looks as it does today. The devastation and eventual recovery are dramatic, and the story is well told in this popular museum.

In addition to reserving the 200 standard rooms in the Hilton Warsaw, we have reserved blocks of 50 rooms at each of the following hotels: Westin Hotel, Radisson Blu, and Warsaw Marriott. The Marriott is the farthest away from the Hilton but is near the Nozyk Synagogue. The Westin and the Radisson Blu are also on Grzybowska Street, about three blocks away from the Hilton and closer to the Nozyk Synagogue and kosher restaurants.

Welcome to Warsaw: Sunday, 5 August

The conference begins on Sunday, 5 August 2018, with a “Welcome to Warsaw Day.” We expect to have a small number of introductory lectures in the early morning, including a short orientation to the conference cell phone app. Then for an additional fee we will offer a series of

walking tours, planned by Taube Jewish Heritage Tours, before the heat of the day. Likely destinations include the Warsaw Jewish Ghetto landmarks and the Okapowa Street Jewish Cemetery, which is one of the few intact Jewish cemeteries in Poland, with interesting graves to visit both in terms of the people buried there and as outstanding examples of Jewish cemetery art.

Sunday also will be a good day to visit the POLIN Museum. Consider purchasing an annual pass, as one can easily spend more than one day there. We expect to offer special passes through our conference registration system as the conference approaches. Look for details on the conference site, <http://www.IAJGS2018.org/>.

From 3:00–5:00 p.m. Sunday, registered conference attendees can participate in an extended version of the traditional IAJGS “ShareFair” in the ballroom of the conference hotel. Major Jewish genealogy special interest groups, archivists, librarians, professional researchers, and vendors are invited to participate in this event, which generally serves as a basic introduction to the major groups and themes appearing at the conference in a festive trade-show atmosphere.

The opening plenary session, including welcoming speeches and a short theatrical presentation, will take place beginning at 5:00 p.m. Details to follow.

Typical Weekday Format

Each weekday (except Friday) of the conference will include at least six presentation time slots, beginning at 8:00 a.m. We plan to complete each conference day around 5:00 p.m. with a light refreshments reception, followed immediately by an evening program from about 6:00–8:00 p.m. The goal is to allow attendees to be done for the day in time to have dinner or an evening out with their travel companions.

In Poland, it is customary to eat dinner late (8:00 to 10:00 p.m.), and since Warsaw is located fairly far north, the sun will set rather late in August. In addition to facilitating experiencing Warsaw nightlife, conference organizers hope to make it simpler for those who pray *mincha* / *ma'ariv* to attend the evening program and then gather for prayer afterward, so they will not miss the main end-of-day event or lecture.

On Thursday, 9 August, all sessions will end by 5:00 p.m. in order to hold the traditional IAJGS closing banquet in the Hilton ballroom. Dinner tickets to the banquet are sold separately, and we expect there will be dinner entertainment, probably with an invited speaker. Banquet tickets will be available through the conference registration

system. Dinners will include a variety of choices and may be ordered as kosher or vegetarian. Sit-down meat meals catered by the Hilton chef, although not kosher, will be “kosher style”, in that they will not mix meat and milk and will avoid any pork and shellfish products. A glatt kosher caterer will be engaged to provide kosher options throughout the conference. Anyone interested in sponsoring a reception or subsidizing kosher options at our conference should contact the organizers at info@iajgs2018.org. (Thank you!)

Depending upon how many lectures are accepted by the program committee, Friday, 10 August, may include scheduled talks until about noon. Because Shabbat comes late during this time of year, we suggest that Friday afternoon is a good time to visit museums and other local sites.

Conference attendees are invited to spend Shabbat with the local Jewish community. In addition to meals being arranged at local synagogues, reservations may be made in advance for at least one of the kosher restaurants. An authentic Shabbat experience in Warsaw in one of several settings is possible if synagogues are given a little advance notice. We can also arrange for Friday night dinners at the conference hotel if there is enough interest in the idea. These plans will develop as the conference approaches, and we will publicize how to reach the synagogues or hotel for advance reservations and payment.

Resource Village

The primary feature of our conference facilities will be a “Resource Village” centrally located in the Grand Ballroom of the conference hotel. The Resource Village will include vendor exhibits, resource room space, translators, mentors, and tables where conference attendees can strike up a conversation with experts, archivists, and genealogy volunteers on topics of interest.

Cohosts POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute of Warsaw will each bring computers to share their proprietary databases with conference attendees. Other organizations also have compiled databases that they do not share via the Internet. Most often these are collections of 20th-century lists such as Holocaust survivor cards (in the collection at the Jewish Historical Institute) or passport applications (indexed by the POLIN Museum). The Resource Village will provide a comfortable setting to allow searching these “proprietary” databases at the conference and assistance from the groups that maintain them.

We expect some of these organizations and vendors to exhibit from Sunday afternoon through Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. We encourage other exhibitors, especially towns and NGO’s from around Poland, to choose a specific day and time to participate by hosting a table in the Resource Village even if they cannot participate in the full schedule. Therefore, conference attendees are advised that each day of the conference will feature unique presentations, and we recommend not missing any day of our conference. Enthusiasm is building for the Resource Village, and it promises to provide an innovative IAJGS conference experience with the ability to perform research at the conference and engage with a diverse group of experts, all under one roof!

New Conference Features

In addition to the Resource Village, the Warsaw conference will feature two more new programming features:

- **Telling Your Story:** Attendees are encouraged to present their town or family stories in a short format called “Telling Your Story.” These will be offered at 30-minute intervals and are intended to allow the retelling of a personal or geographically limited story to a small audience. It may appeal to groups who are about to visit or who have just visited their ancestral *shtetlach* and wish to share their experiences with similarly interested genealogists.

- **Sharing Your Project:** Conference attendees also are encouraged to share project ideas, personal methods, and successes in a 30-minute format for the benefit of a more specialized audience than befits a 60-minute lecture in a large lecture hall.

Scheduling Your Time

Those planning to attend the conference often ask how to schedule their time before and after the conference. A favorite question is “What will I miss if I don’t come to one day of the conference?” Unfortunately, I cannot answer that now. At this time in the planning, we can make only general comments, and they are subject to change. Our general recommendation is to plan excursions to archives, museums, and libraries before or after the conference and to realize that research should be done in advance of visiting an archives to maximize and respect an archivist’s time and patience.

We have contracted with Taube Jewish Heritage Tours to plan group and customized tours both before and after the conference outside the Warsaw area. Taube Tours can be reached at iajgs2018@taubejewishheritagetours.com.

The conference schedule outline includes:

Society News, continued from page 3

- Sunday: "Welcome to Warsaw", early lectures, walking tours, ShareFair from 3:00–5:00 p.m., reception, and opening plenary session
- Monday: general conference lectures, including the Pamela Weisberg Memorial Lecture sponsored by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles in the 5:00–8:00 p.m. time slot
- Tuesday: general conference lectures, including Memory, Preserving the Jewish Past in Europe, and the Relationship between Jews and non-Jews
- Wednesday: focus will include Lithuania and other countries bordering Poland
- Thursday: general conference lectures, culminating in the annual banquet and awards ceremony
- Friday: lectures and meetings early in the day

The conference is occurring during a year of significant commemorative milestones in Poland: 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independent Poland in 1918 following 123 years of Poland's absence from the world map; 75th anniversary of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising; and 50th anniversary of "March 1968", a political crisis that resulted in the final wave of Jewish emigration from Poland amid significant anti-Semitism, including employment firings and expulsion from the country. All these events will figure prominently in the conference agenda.

Summary

The IAJGS Warsaw Conference promises to be a memorable and historic event in the history of Jewish genealogy conferences. Although not exclusively about Poland, Ashkenazi culture and history are sure to feature prominently, considering our location in Warsaw. The conference is being planned to make it comfortable for Jewish genealogists to travel with families and friends, attend the conference, and still have free time to spend with companions.

Accommodations and conference plans will make this conference easily accessible to Jewish genealogists of all ages, abilities, and levels of religious observance. Ideas and programs are still being formulated as of this writing, and readers are encouraged to visit the conference site, <http://www.IAJGS2018.org/>, for more information about the conference, including how to join our closed Facebook group or conference discussion Listserv. Write to us at info@iajgs2018.org if we can be of help to you.



Oława (Ohlau before 1945): <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/olawa.htm>; list of *matzevot* http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/olawa_ohlau_macewy.xls

Przasnysz (Yiddish name Proshnitz): <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/przasnysz.htm>

Sierpc: <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/sierpc.htm>

Strzegom (Streigau before 1945): <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/strzegom.htm>; list of *matzevot* http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/strzegom_macewy.xls

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.

Database Access

A SFBAJGS member has reported that you can use MyHeritage at home with a San Jose Public Library card. This is probably the Library Edition of MyHeritage.

SFBAJGS on Social Media

SFBAJGS has a YouTube channel, <https://goo.gl/Siy5l2>. This gives us an opportunity to share our activities, lectures, meetings, participation in events, Mavens, etc. So far we have three videos on our page, including one shot at the 2015 San Francisco History Expo with Emperor Norton himself! 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.

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



Invite a Friend to Join SFBAJGS

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

SFBAJGS Activity Report for 2017

Jeff Lewy, SFBAJGS Treasurer

SFBAJGS enjoyed a fruitful year in 2017. We held 18 meetings with helpful and enjoyable presentations on research sources, techniques, and personal family histories. We also cosponsored five additional presentations in the Bay Area, participated in San Francisco History Days, and held our first-ever indexing party to transcribe burial records. Twelve society members attended the annual IAJGS conference in Orlando in August, seven of whom made presentations at the conference. We are among the six largest societies in IAJGS, and one of the most active in supporting its goals of educating members and others on the techniques and sources for their genealogical research.

Our members are generous donors to the society, giving us the opportunity to support our mission:

- support and improve online sharing of data useful to researchers doing Jewish genealogy
- make formerly closed or unavailable records that support Jewish genealogical research available online
- support efforts to research and remember existing and vanished Jewish communities

We support activities in the local area that are consistent with this mission. Much of this work takes place where the communities and records are located, however, so it would be difficult for us to do the work ourselves. Therefore, we continued our practice of making donations to other organizations that are working in those communities and archives. We support projects based on their value to the broadest possible audience of researchers, the need to preserve and protect fragile sites, and the need to record data where the repositories and archives are newly open or at risk of restricting access.

This year, we donated \$4,050 to ten organizations for their activities. We include their URL's so that you can learn more about their activities if you wish.

Local

- Jewish Community Library in San Francisco: to maintain and expand the very strong collection of materials related to Jewish genealogy and history in the San Francisco Bay area. <http://www.jewishlearningworks.org/jewish-community-library/>
- Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks in the West: to protect and maintain the seven Gold Rush-era Jewish cemeteries

in the Gold Country of the Sierra foothills. <http://www.pioneerjewishcemeteries.org/>

- Oakland FamilySearch Library: to expand its collection of materials for Jewish research and support our Oakland meeting location. <http://www.oaklandfhc.org/>

National and International

- Reclaim the Records: A new nonprofit organization that identifies important genealogical record sets that ought to be in the public domain but which are unfairly restricted by government archives, libraries, and agencies. Freedom of Information and Open Data requests or lawsuits are filed to get that public data released back to the public. They digitize everything they get and put it all online for free. They have already opened a variety of records in New York City, other cities in New York State, New Jersey, and other states where officials have not previously allowed public access. <http://www.reclaimtherecords.org/>

- International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Stern Fund: to increase the availability of resources for Jewish genealogical research. <http://www.iajgs.org/>

- Italian Genealogical Group: to support its ongoing online indexing of New York vital records. <http://www.italiengen.org/>

- Jewish Records Indexing – Poland: to support ongoing digitization and indexing of Jewish records, primarily from Polish archives, and also in Ukraine and other locations where Polish records were formerly recorded. <http://jri-poland.org/>

- Kirkuty: to support photography of Jewish cemeteries in Poland, both extant and desecrated, drawing attention to the remaining signs of the prewar presence of the Polish Jewish community. <http://kirkuty.xip.pl/indexing.htm>

- JewishGen: to its General Fund supporting the primary online site of Jewish genealogical records and instruction for researchers. We also made a separate gift to support a JewishGen project for Romania-SIG, indexing records from archives in Romania. <http://jewishgen.org/>

Transcriptions

We began transcribing burial records from Sinai Memorial Chapel in San Francisco, which supervises Eternal Home Cemetery in Colma and also arranges for burials at other cemeteries in the Bay Area and other cities in the U.S. and overseas.

Financial Results for 2017

Revenues for 2017 were just over \$7,600, consistent with performance in past years, with about \$4,700 in dues from just over 200 members, about \$2,700 in donations, and a small amount of interest and other income. Thank you for these donations, which support our activities and those of other groups doing work of great value to you, our members, and to the worldwide Jewish genealogical community.

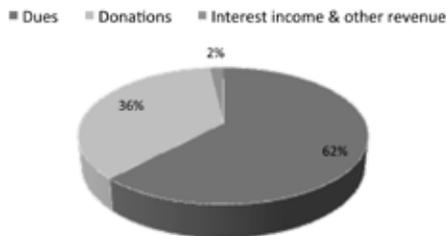
Expenses totaled about \$9,700, generating a loss of about \$2,100. This loss was incurred on purpose to make use of our past surpluses and was primarily a result of the \$4,000 in contributions to other groups. Details of those contributions are described above. Other major categories of expenses were meetings and publicity (\$2,200), costs

of mailing for membership renewals and approval of updated bylaws (\$1,000), and publication of our quarterly ZichronNote journal (\$1,000). All other expenses, including insurance, Web site maintenance, and other administrative expenses, totaled about \$1,500.

Below are simple pie charts showing the primary categories of revenue and expenses.

We want to thank you for your membership, your donations, and your interest in Jewish genealogy and family history. Please let us know if you have any questions on our performance and activities, and how we can most effectively help you with your research. Also let us know if there are any projects or activities you would like to see us undertake or support. We look forward to an enlightening and rewarding year in 2018.

SFBAJGS Revenue - 2017



SFBAJGS Expense - 2017



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Samuel J. Salkin, Executive Director (FDR 3371)

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a 501(c)(3) non-profit Tax ID 94-2948891

Membership, P.O. Box 318214, San Francisco, CA 94131

Thanks for your support!

2018 Membership. Check one: New member Renewing member

Name(s): _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

New Members: How did you find out about SFBAJGS? _____

Dues for 2018:

\$23.00 Regular Membership

\$ _____ Contribution. (Dues and contribution are tax-deductible)

\$ _____ Total enclosed

Make checks payable to SFBAJGS or use these payment options:

Use either **Credit Card or PayPal** Go to link and look under “Membership”

www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs/about.html

Does your employer offer a **Matching Gift** program for charitable contributions?

Newsletter options. Normally we will send you the SFBAJGS newsletter, *ZichronNote*, as a PDF file. If we don't have your email, you do not have a computer, or you cannot download materials, check 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

Continue on reverse side if necessary.

Upcoming SFBAJGS Events

Sunday, 10 June, San Francisco: *Jewish Genetic Diseases*. Dr. Neil Risch will discuss the origins of Ashkenazim and Sephardim and diseases that affect them.

Monday, 18 June, Palo Alto: *From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask*. Steve Morse will make genes, chromosomes, and DNA inheritance understandable and explain how they can help you in your family history research.

Sunday, 22 July, Oakland: *Bring Your Own Brick Wall*. Our annual East Bay meeting where we brainstorm ideas that might help you advance your research and knock down those brick walls..

Sunday, 26 August, San Francisco: *My Attic, Your Story: An Immigrant's Journey*. Roslyn Sholin will show how you can use the information and documents you have found for your family to tell their story in an engaging way.

Monday, 27 August, Palo Alto: *From Cottage to Estate in One Generation: A San Francisco Family*. David Fleishhacker, scion of an old San Francisco Jewish family, will discuss his immigrant ancestor's business success in Gold Country and beyond.

Sunday, 23 September, Oakland: *A Family Web Site: Doing It My Way*. SFBAJGS Webmaster Barbara Stack's take on how you can create a Web site to share your findings and reach out to family members.

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/>.