

SFBAJGS Activity Report for 2022

Dana Kurtz, SFBAJGS Treasurer



An IT project management consultant and 30+ year-member, Dana returns to the Board after a long hiatus. In the late 1980s, when searching for her grandmother's birth certificate to ensure a proper 90th birthday celebration, she discovered her grandmother was already 93! Dana provided research for her brother Glenn, author of the highly acclaimed book *Three Minutes in Poland: Discovering a Lost World in a 1938 Family Film*. The story traces Glenn's journey to identify people in movie film shot by their grandfather in a return visit to the town of his birth. The book and film inspired the award-winning documentary *Three Minutes: A Lengthening*. Dana continues researching her ancestors and descendants, still excited to find and connect with "new" family.

Overview

by Jeremy Frankel

This annual report to our members covers our 2022 activities, financial results, and grants to other organizations.

We continued running the society the same way as in the previous year. Our meetings were all online, via Zoom. Although we were not able to meet in person, our meetings expanded our reach to include members and non-members from far and wide who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to hear our presentations. Our virtual audience continued to be larger than our in-person meetings last held in 2019.

Our free online SFBAJGS News was disseminated to members of SFBAJGS and other subscribers about our online activities and those of other groups. Our quarterly *ZichronNote* journal continues to offer interesting articles about Jewish genealogy, many of them written by our members.

We are one of the larger societies in the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), with about 200 members. The volunteer work of our members makes us one of the most active Jewish genealogical societies, and we take active roles in moderating Research Groups online for JewishGen, and participating in other efforts to find and provide public and online access to vital records and other records of genealogical interest.

Our name says we are the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, but we remind you that the "San Francisco Bay Area" part of our name merely means that the majority of our members reside here. However, our members and our interests are worldwide, as are our ancestors and living relatives. We can be as helpful to our members with ancestors in Ukraine, Bohemia, Galicia, Russia or South Africa as to those whose families have been in the Bay Area for four generations or more. All of our families, like yours, originally came from "someplace else," and we have knowledge of and connections to many of those places.

Our members have continued to research their family histories, as more information continues to become available online, and we continue to field and answer questions from researchers near and far.

Several members attended the 42nd annual conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), held virtually in August 2022. Society members helped organize the conference and made presentations.

Our members continue to make generous donations to the Society in addition to paying dues, giving us the opportunity to further our objectives:

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

We support activities in the local area consistent with these objectives. We have ongoing volunteer projects to transcribe data from local cemeteries, and continue to seek out sources of birth, marriage, and death records and make those data available online for researchers everywhere. These projects are described below under "Transcriptions."

Other work fulfilling these objectives takes place wherever Jewish communities and records are located, often far from us. Therefore, we continue 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 access restrictions.

**In 2022, we donated \$5,450
to other organizations.**

Donations to other organizations working in ways that support our mission

As a result of our members generous donations, in 2022, we donated \$5,450 to organizations for their activities. We present the purpose of our donations and links to these organizations 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, especially in the SF Bay Area. <https://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 Sierra foothills. <https://www.pioneerjewishcemeteries.org/>

- **Oakland Regional FamilySearch Center:** to expand its collection of materials for Jewish research which may be available through access via the FamilySearch website https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Center

National and International

- **Italian Genealogical Group:** to support its ongoing online indexing of New York City records, including New York City death records and the index for New York naturalization records. <https://www.italiangen.org/>

- **International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Stern Fund:** to encourage non-profit institutions or organizations, Jewish or not, to pursue projects, activities and acquisitions that provide new or enhanced resources to benefit Jewish genealogists. <https://www.iajgs.org/>

- **Jewish Records Indexing–Poland:** to support ongoing digitization and indexing of Jewish records, primarily from Polish archives, but also from Ukraine and other locations where Polish records were formerly recorded. JRI-Poland now contains 5.8 million records from 550 Polish towns. <https://jri-poland.org/>

- **Kirkuty – Jewish Cemeteries in Poland:** to support photography of Jewish cemeteries in Poland, both extant and desecrated, drawing attention to the

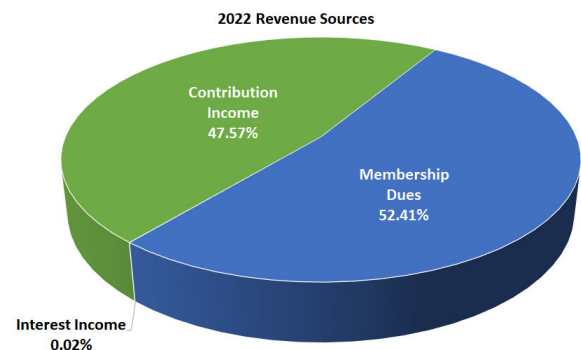
remaining signs of the pre-war presence of the Polish Jewish community. <http://cmentarze-zydowskie.pl/indexang.htm>

- **JewishGen: to their General Fund** supporting the primary online site of Jewish genealogical records and instruction for researchers. <https://www.jewishgen.org>

- **Ukraine – The Krakovsky Project:** to support Alex Krakovsky and his team in gaining access to and scanning metric books, indexes, name lists, revision lists, and censuses in Ukrainian historical government archives. Scans (unindexed, untranslated), are posted to his wiki page. Some of this work continues despite the war in Ukraine. <https://tinyurl.com/bdz5yx4x> (Google Chrome browser can automatically translate the page)

- **Reclaim the Records:** to support their efforts to identify and obtain important genealogical records sets that ought to be in the public domain but which are being wrongly restricted. Everything obtained is digitized and put online for free. <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/>

SFBAJGS Revenue for 2022



SFBAJGS Expenses for 2022

