

Report on SFBAJGS 2024 Activities and Financial Overview

Jeremy Frankel, President and Dana Kurtz, Treasurer

This report to members covers 2024 activities, financial results, and grants to other organizations. We continued running the Society as in the previous year: All our meetings were all virtual, via Zoom. Although we did not gather in person, continuing to meeting online permitted our members and non-members from far and wide who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to benefit from our presentations.

Our virtual audience was larger than our in-person meetings, last held six years ago. Our free, SFBAJGS News was regularly emailed to SFBAJGS members and other subscribers, a total of 883, highlighting our activities, those of other groups, as well as items of genealogical interest.

Our award-winning quarterly journal *Zichron*Note continues to offer interesting and informative articles about Jewish genealogy, the majority of them were written by our members. The volunteer work of our members continued; the principal project was to support the digitizing of the Hebrew, a San Francisco newspaper, covering the period 1864–1906.

A number of our members hold governing positions in other genealogical groups, as well as for various Research Groups within JewishGen,

Although the name is “San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society,” the Board stresses that the moniker “San Francisco Bay Area” simply reflects that the majority of our members reside here. Our members and our interests are worldwide, as were our ancestors and our living relatives.

We can be as valuable to members whose ancestors lived 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, came from “someplace else,” and we have knowledge of and connections to many of those places.

Our members actively continue to research their family histories; with the lure of new information always being added to online databases; and we fielded questions from researchers near and far. Several Society members attended the 43rd IAJGS International Conference on

Jewish Genealogy, held in Philadelphia in 2024. A number of Society members made presentations. Our members continued to make generous donations to the Society in addition to paying dues, affording 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 supported activities in our own backyard consistent with these objectives. For example, ongoing volunteer projects included transcribing data from local cemeteries and funeral homes, and continuing to seek out sources for vital and other records, with the goal of making those data available online for researchers everywhere.

Other work fulfilling these objectives is always taking place wherever Jewish communities and records are located, often far from us.

We are always grateful for our members’ generosity, which enables us to continue our tradition of making donations to other organizations who are working to make new information available to the international genealogical community.

We support projects based on several criteria: 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.

Members are welcome to email President@SFBAJGS.org or Treasurer@SFBAJGS.org with questions.

In 2024 we donated \$4,550
to other organizations.

Treasurer's input to SFBAJGS Activity Report for 2024

Financial Results for 2024

In 2024, the Society generated total revenue of just over \$7,080, including \$3,562 in membership dues and more than \$3,500 in donations and other income sources.

Total expenses for the year approached \$10,700. Key expenditures included the publication of *Zichron*Note, meeting honoraria and Zoom costs, website and email communications costs, Society Project expenses, and the contributions to other organizations as described below.

This resulted in a net loss of approximately \$3,600 for the year. Fortunately, the Society remains on stable financial footing that allows us to invest in the Society's future—supporting projects to develop new resources that benefit our members and the worldwide Jewish genealogical community, and make generous contributions to other organizations with similar missions..

At the February Board meeting the Board approved a more conservative budget forecast for 2025. Like many Jewish Genealogical Societies, we are seeing a modest decline in membership, while operational costs continue to rise in nearly every category.

Despite these challenges, the Society remains committed to prudent financial oversight. The Society's budget and expenditures are reviewed at each quarterly Board meeting, with adjustments made as needed.

We deeply appreciate your continued support, membership, and generosity. If you're interested in learning more about our financial planning or contributing to the discussion, we welcome your input—please email [Jeremy](#) to get involved.

As always, thank you for your dedication to Jewish genealogy and family history. Please don't hesitate to share your questions, suggestions, or ideas for how we can better support your research. We look forward to another year of genealogical accomplishments and hope to return to in-person meetings while continuing to offer virtual outreach through Zoom.



Donations to other organizations working in ways that support our mission

Thanks to our members' generosity, in 2024 we donated \$4,550 to other organization. We present the purpose of our donations and links to these organizations so that you may learn more about their work.

Local

Jewish Community Library

- [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 San Francisco Bay Area.



- [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.

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.



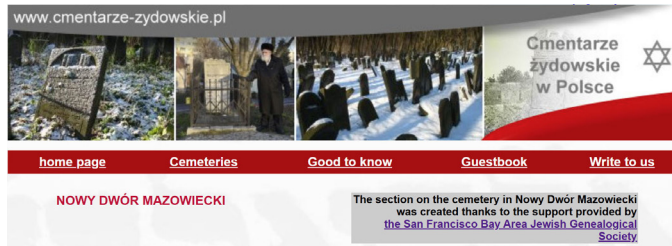
Rabbi Malcolm Stern Memorial Grant

- [IAJGS: Rabbi Malcom Stern Fund](#): to support the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) grants to "...encourage institutions or organizations to pursue projects, activities and acquisitions

that provide new or enhanced resources to benefit those researching Jewish Genealogy.” Past recipients can be found [here](#).

JRI NextGen Poland

- **[Jewish Records Indexing–Poland’s NextGen Project](#)**: to support development of a new website, database, search facility, and data management system. JRI-Poland now contains 5.8 million records from 550 Polish towns.



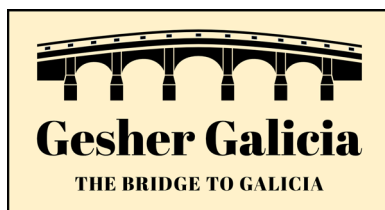
- **[Kirkuty – Jewish Cemeteries in Poland](#)**: to support photography of Jewish cemeteries in Poland, both extant and desecrated, drawing attention to the remaining signs of the pre-war presence of the Polish Jewish community.

JewishGen

- **[JewishGen: to their General Fund](#)**: supporting the primary online site of Jewish genealogical records and instruction for researchers.

JewishGen-erosity French Research Div

- **[JewishGen: French Research Division](#)**: to support the France Database of over 150,000 entries, referring to individuals living in France, Belgium, Switzerland, and former French regions.



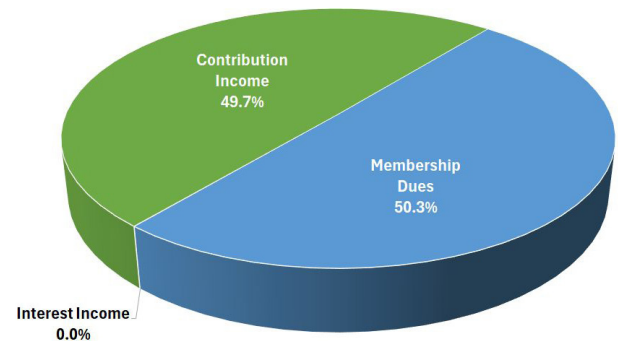
- **[Gesher Galicia](#)**: to support Gesher Gakicia in carrying out Jewish genealogical and historical research on Galicia, formerly a province of Austria-Hungary and today divided between southeastern Poland and western Ukraine. Their site hosts research projects, the searchable All Galicia Database, and more.

JewishGen-erosity — Ukraine Projects

- **[JewishGen – Ukraine Documents Acquisition & Translation Project](#)**: acquires and records for all towns and areas in Ukraine. Supports 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. [Search the database](#).

SFBAJGS Revenue for 2024

2024 Revenue Sources



SFBAJGS Expenses for 2024

2024 Expenses

