



זכרון
Zichron Note

**The Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society**

VOLUME X, NUMBER 2

SPRING 1990

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 21, 1990

Sutro Library, 480 Winston, San Francisco

7:30 p.m. General Meeting

8:00 p.m. **NORMAN SOHN, Ph.D**

Director, Adult Services, Jewish Family Services Agency

Dr. Sohn will talk about the more than a century of Jewish Family relief services and the records that survive which document them. Twenty two years with the Agency have qualified Dr. Sohn as its historian; his position which places him in charge of client records, make him an archivist as well. He will explain what specific records are available for researching, confidentiality issues and procedures for getting the information you need. Dr. Sohn is also a psycho-therapist in private practice.

June 3, 1990

Jewish Community Library / Holocaust Center Northern California
14th and Balboa Sts., San Francisco

10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **HANDS-ON WORKSHOP**

Research and Problem Solving

June 18, 1990

Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Ave., Palo Alto

7:30 p.m. Peninsula Group: networking, society business

8:15 p.m. **JUDY SZOBODA, Genealogist** will discuss the resources in the Genealogy Room at the Santa Clara Library

June 24-29, 1990

Westwood Plaza Hotel, Westwood, CA

The Ninth Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, hosted by The Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles

July 16, 1990

Sutro Library, 480 Winston, San Francisco

7:30 p.m. General Meeting, Resource Sharing

8:15 p.m. **EVALUATION AND DISCUSSION OF L.A. SEMINAR ON
JEWISH GENEALOGY**

COMMENTARY

Armand Cohen, President

I wish to begin my first newsletter communication to our members by officially thanking Martha Wise, founder of the SFBAJGS, for her tireless and often unrecognized efforts in putting out the Newsletter for the past 8 or so years. It is an awesome task with little glory and a lot of hard work. Although Martha will no longer sit in the Editor's seat, we will look to her for written contributions and her support and wisdom.

The format of the newsletter (and its name) may undergo several changes in the next few issues. The Editorial Board will be experimenting with format, style and content. We welcome the input and opinions of the membership. This issue we are calling *Zichron Note*, which in Hebrew means, memories, memorials, remembrances, records or mementos. We like the connotation; let us hear what you think.

My next problem is how to encourage the 75% of our membership that are simply names on the roster, to get involved. It puzzles me that out of our 100 paid members (up from 80 last year) we only hear from about 25 on any regular basis; I presume this means we have fabulous newsletters.

If that is the extent of your participation, you are short changing yourself. Through more active participation you will learn of the increasingly sophisticated fact-gathering abilities of genealogical societies. We network in person: meetings, speakers, workshops. We network by computer: electronic bulletin boards, common data bases of names and locations currently being researched, and development of a standard method of transferring information from one genealogy data base to another (GEDCOM). We network nationally: multi-day seminars and conferences, national publications. There are JGS's forming in all major countries. What a bargain to be a participating member of a local JGS!

I am also amazed at the diversity of our membership. We represent in microcosm the diversity of Judaism. From 18 to 80; working and retired; religious to strictly secular; married, divorced, single; fifth-generation Californian to newly arrived; professional genealogists (one) to rank amateurs (many); you name it, we've got it. Of course you don't experience any of this flavor if your only participation is receiving the newsletter. We get lots of input, but we need more--we need yours.

I realize that we are widely spread throughout the Bay Area. That is one reason we have meetings in the South Bay on alternate months. We would like to organize similar meetings in the North Bay and East Bay and we will, as soon as we have a show of interest from people in those areas.

Review the Calendar of Events on Page 1 and plan to attend one or more. Help us to put faces with those names on the roster. To get involved call one of the officers listed on Page 8.

JANUARY 1990 MEETING
EARLY JEWISH MIGRATION, DR. WILLIAM BRINNER

Dr. William Brinner, Professor of Near Eastern Studies at the University of California, addressed our Society with a fascinating lecture on the early migrations of the various groups of diaspora Jews. There have been many diasporas for many peoples through the ages of recorded history. Early migrations from the Middle East include those of the Phoenicians through the Mediterranean, with large colonies in Carthage, the Arameans into Europe with a colony in Marseilles and the Lebanese diaspora in West Africa. Persian Jews followed the "silk route" to China and formed major colonies China, where remains were found of synagogues with Hebrew inscriptions in the Persian style. A vibrant community of Chinese Jews in Kaifeng existed for over 700 years.

Eastern religions were vying for dominance in the Roman Empire, with Catholicism winning out over the Persian mystery religion of Mithracism in the fifth century. Judaism had spread by this time throughout the Mediterranean to North Africa, Italy and Spain. In the sixth century it spread northward into Ashkenaz, or the Rhine Valley, and in the sixth through eighth centuries throughout the ruins of the Roman Empire. The 11th through 13th centuries were marked by the decline of Jewish and Eastern Orthodox populations by their slaughter by the Crusaders on their way to Palestine. Ashkenazim fled to England from which they were expelled the following century, to the north into Lithuania, east into Poland, and south-east to Regensberg and Prague.

The Muslim conquest of Spain in 711 enabled the rooting of a Spanish-Jewish culture which suffered alternately at the hands of fanatic Moslems from the south or fanatic Christians from the north, but was able to grow and flourish until the Jewish expulsion from Spain in 1492. Fleeing eastward from Spain and Portugal the Sefardim flooded the Mizrachi communities of North Africa, displacing the Eastern Judeo-Berber-speaking Jews from the cities to the mountains. Many of these Sefardim fleeing from Spain were descendents of the Sefardim from Sardis (Turkey) who returned to settle in Turkey. Massive expulsions from England, Spain, France and Germany had Jews migrating in all directions. Picture the situation in Italy with the Ashkenazim fleeing southward, the Sefardim fleeing eastward, and the Mizrachi fleeing northward.

After the expulsion of the Crusaders from Palestine Jews started to return, and after the Spanish expulsion their numbers increased. The talmudic academies in Palestine and in Babylonia nourished the Ashkenazic and Sefardic diaspora communities. Lithuania and Poland and the Ottoman government welcomed these Jews in the 15th century because they needed a merchant class. In the 17th and 18th centuries there was a movement from Poland to Russia but the Chmielnicki massacres starting in 1648 sparked a movement westward into Hungary and Romania and back to the Middle East.

In addition to describing the movements of the three mainstream groups, Dr. Brinner touched on the origins and movements of the Karaites and the Khasars. He enlightened us on the major Jewish languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Judeo-Arabic). It surprised us to learn that there is a major collection of Hebrew and Judeo-Arabic manuscripts in the Sutro library, where our bimonthly meetings are held. This collection was purchased by Sutro and donated to the library with the provision that it not leave San Francisco. Our monthly speakers make us ever more aware of the Judaic resources in our own back yard.

MARCH 1990 MEETING - SAN FRANCISCO
 ORIGINS OF JEWISH FAMILY NAMES. ROBERT WEISS

Robert Weiss, genealogist/historian and leader of the Peninsula Group, presented a thoroughly researched talk on the origins, characteristics, and factors which influenced Jewish surnames. During the Talmudic period names came to reflect the occupations or status in life. Growth in the taking of surnames occurred during the 10th and 11th centuries, but died down during the Crusades. Jews of that period were more interested in anonymity.

By the 18th century it was a necessity imposed by many governments that Jews have surnames. This was to enable them to count and therefore tax the Jews more efficiently. The Jews were limited in the types of names they were allowed to take; there could be no Christian names and no famous sites. The most common names taken at first were names of origins, i.e. countries, cities, etc. Next were those names which told the world

that the family was descended from a rabbi, such as Raban, Rabinski, Rabinoff.

Since most people were illiterate, craftsmen, artisans and other professions identified themselves with a sign or logo upon a shield outside their home or place of business. These identifications became the name, in the language of the country. Thus "Tailor" became Chayat (Heb), Schneider (Ger), Portnoy (Slav), Szabo (Hung).

Physical characteristics, personality characteristics, occupations, nationalities, object of nature, the first name of a revered mother: all these became the sources for the family names assumed.

Profession	Arabic (Hebrew)	German Yiddish	Slavic Languages	Spanish (Italian)	Rumanian (Hungarian)
Soapmaker Laundryman	Saban Sebban	Seifer Seiffman			
Carpenter	Najjar (Nagar) Anijar	Tishler	Stoler		Stoleru
Blacksmith Locksmith Tinsmith	Haddad Elhaddad	Schmid Schmidt Schlosser Blecher Blechman	Kowal Kowalski Kuznitz Kuznitsky		(Kovacs)
Merchant Shopkeeper	Tajer (Tagar) Bakal	Kaufman (Koifman) Kramer Markman		Mercante (also in Italian)	
Weaver	Haik Elhaik	Stricker			
Shoemaker		Schuster Shuchman Shumacher	Spoznik		Ciobotaru
Painter - (both artistic and non- artistic)	Sabag Dahan Bendahan	Mahler Farber Farbman	Kraselnick		
Goldsmith Jeweller	Siag Sayag Assayag Amzalag (necklace- maker)	Goldschmidt Silberschmidt (also can end with Schmid or Schmit)			Argentaru
Doctor (medical)	Hakim Tabib Altabeb	Doctor Doktor		(Delmedigo)	
Translator	Torjman (Turgeman)	Dolmetsch (Teitscher)			

LIBRARY BOOK PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION

Barbara Hill, Asst. Librarian, Acquisitions, U.C. Berkeley

Most libraries, both public and academic, have procedures for taking requests to purchase a particular book. At U.C. Berkeley, Book Purchase Recommendation cards are usually stocked at reference and information desks; anyone may suggest a book they think would be appropriate for the Library. If the patron wishes to be notified when the book arrives, he/she may address the card to him/herself. The recommended title is considered for purchase by one or more collection development librarians; if the decision is made to go ahead with the purchase, authorization is given to the Acquisition Department to order the book.

A Book Purchase Recommendation is turned down for one of usually two reasons: 1) the Library already has the book and it was overlooked by the patron; 2) the book is not appropriate for the University's collection. However, if you want a particular book chances are some other scholar is going to want it too, at a future time. The Library will probably purchase it.

The requester need not be an alumni or even have a library card. One should be certain of having the correct author and title, and if possible the publisher, date and price. Language is of no concern since it is expected that academic scholars will know more than one. Patrons will have the greatest success rate if they recommend recently-published books, since many older ones are out of print. The Library does have procedures for searching for out of print books, but the success rate is fairly low, especially for books not published in the U.S. A strong case would have to be made for requesting the Library to search and obtain an out of print book.

EXTENSIVE LOCAL COLLECTION OF POLISH MAPS

Member Gail Call has informed us of an extensive collection of Polish maps available locally. The Tactical Maps at a scale of 1:100,000 were created between 1926 and 1938, and are held on a set of over 500 microfiches at the Santa Clara Family History Library at 875 Quince Street in Santa Clara, near the Santa Clara Library. The microfiche number for the set is 6,312,622. The set includes areas that were part of Poland between the World Wars from 1918 to 1939, and includes areas of Poland ceded to Russia in 1945. Detailed maps of the Western Polish areas which belonged to Germany before 1945 are not included, but can be found in German Empire maps, microfilm number 68,814 at the Family History Library. Gail also notes that you can request a microfilm or microfiche of any book held at the Salt Lake City Library. If it doesn't exist they will film it for you. Forms are available at the FHL.

AUSCHWITZ DEATH REGISTER

The Soviet Union has put at the disposal of the International Red Cross 46 volumes of documentation described as the "Death Register of Auschwitz" containing 47,000 names of non-soviet citizens annihilated at the Nazi camps, as well as further documentation on 130,000 persons at labor camps during the war. This documentation is being put on microfilm at Arolsen in Germany. Inquiries should be addressed to International Tracing Service (ITS), Grosse Allee 5-9, D-3548 Arolsen, Federal Republic of Germany

(From International Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia Newsletter, Vol. XX*90-91, 1989)

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN LINKS

If you have Czechoslovakian ancestry or relatives or are researching that area you might find the Newsletter of the International Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia interesting. The Newsletter covers news of the Jewish communities in Czechoslovakia and around the world, and has many valuable leads to literature and archival material that would be of interest to the genealogical researcher. A yearly contribution of \$20.00 will make you a member, entitle you to copies of their newsletter and help in the works of the organization. Contact the International Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia, 31 Craven Street, London WC2N 5NP.

(From International Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia Newsletter, Vol. XX•90-91, 1989)

CIRCUMCISION RECORD BOOK, BALTIMORE, MD., 1830s-1860s

The Jewish Historical Society describes the Mohel's record book in their collection in the Fall 1989 issue of their journal Generations. Family names are listed in the article.

(From Vol. 5, No. 1 of Discovery, San Diego JGS)

CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER AND PERIODICAL INDEXES

Member Walter Hertzmann informs us about three sets of Microfiches available at the San Mateo County Library of great value to the California researcher. The three files are as follows:

CALIFORNIA INFORMATION FILE, 721,000 cards, 1864-1986, 550 fiches. File includes indexing of early California newspapers, important periodicals, biographies, manuscript collections and special files on California pioneers and other notables. An estimated 65% is indexed by personal name. A must for the researcher of early California families.

SAN FRANCISCO NEWSPAPERS INDEX, 918,000 cards, 1904-1949, 669 fiches. Index covers state and local news and includes the San Francisco Call, 1904-1913, the Examiner, 1913-1928, and the Chronicle, 1913-1949.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE INDEX, 363,000 cards, 1950-1980, 277 fiches. State and local news from 1950 through August 1980.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES AND REPOSITORIES

There is a new service available locally to computer users with modems. The Friends of the National Archives at San Bruno have established a Consolidated Calendar of all Bay Area genealogical events. The calendar is available on the Comsoft on-line Bulletin Board, which can be reached at (415) 967-6730. This bulletin board has a separate Jewish Genealogy Section. It supports 300- to 2400-Baud communications. Our contact with the calendar is through Marj Haworth, who has been so very responsive to the changes that we give to her. Our Society has been represented on the Calendar since its inception and our events listed as soon as our program chairpersons obtain a speaker. Our May and June meeting speakers were only confirmed on April 19, and by the second day of the Genealogical Fair on April 21 were listed in the calendar. We have a copy of the instructions on the use of the bulletin board at our monthly meetings, and the Friends of the National Archives are giving a seminar on "MODEMS: a Tool for Genealogical Research" at the National Archives in San Bruno on May 12, 1-4:00 PM. Cost is \$10.00 and reservations may be made by calling (415) 876-9009. Hard copy of the calendar is available at our Society meetings for those who do not have a computer. Thank you and keep up the good work, Marj.

JEWS OF METZ

Member Barbara Hill has found a book of civil registration of the Jews of Metz, 1717-1792, in the Main Library at U.C. Berkeley. After researching, she has concluded that it is the only copy of this book west of the Mississippi.

Tables du Registre d'Etat Civil de la Communaute Juive de Metz
1717-1792

Pierre-Andre Meyer
Paris, 1987, published by the author

Call Number: DS 135
F 85
M 41
1987
Main Library, U.C. Berkeley

Sample page of information

135 Table N

NOM	Prénom	Père	Mère	s	Date	
ENSHEIM	Cerf	Joseph Cerf	Gitlé LEVY WIMPHEN	m	23 05 1745	
	Eglé	Joseph Cerf	Gitlé LEVY WIMPHEN	f	08 09 1741	
	Gitlé	Moïse Joseph	Rachel LEVY WESTHOFFEN	f	16 11 1778	
	Hendlé	Joseph Cerf	Gitlé LEVY WIMPHEN	f	23 06 1743	
	Hintié	Moïse Joseph	Rachel LEVY WESTHOFFEN	f	25 03 1780	
	Isaac	Joseph Cerf	Gitlé LEVY WIMPHEN	m	10 10 1746	
	Joseph	Cerf	Hendlé	m	06 07 1718	
		Moïse Joseph	Rachel LEVY WESTHOFFEN	m	30 09 1792	
	Jutlé	Joseph Cerf	Gitlé LEVY WIMPHEN	f	07 03 1749	
	Keillé	Isaac Joseph	Gitlé TERQUEM	f	11 11 1773	
	Moïse	Joseph Cerf	Gitlé LEVY WIMPHEN	m	28 03 1751	
	Rachel	Joseph Cerf	Gitlé LEVY WIMPHEN	f	01 11 1755	
	ETLING	Abraham	Baruch Abraham	Treinté CAHEN	m	23 01 1741
			Alexandre Baruch	Ranié ABRESCHVILLER	m	24 03 1772
		Lazard Abraham	Sisié GRODVOL	m	30 03 1750	
		Jacob Lion	Esther LAMBERT	m	17 04 1786	
Abraham Nathan		Alexandre Baruch	Ranié ABRESCHVILLER	m	13 06 1785	
Baruch		Alexandre Baruch	Fratié NORDON	m	03 11 1745	
		Abraham Baruch	Rachel TERQUEM	m	13 10 1777	
		Jacob Lion	Esther LAMBERT	m	11 06 1779	
		Lion Baruch	Sara LEVY	m	08 06 1741	
Blimlé		Abraham Baruch	Rachel TERQUEM	f	20 01 1768	
Breinlé		Alexandre Baruch	Fratié NORDON	f	11 04 1754	
Elie		Abraham Baruch	Rachel TERQUEM	m	08 10 1772	
Esther		Lion Baruch	Sara LEVY	f	28 07 1743	
Feillé		Lazard Abraham	Sisié GRODVOL	f	16 11 1753	
Fleur		Abraham	Keillé	f	23 12 1722	
Fogel		Alexandre Baruch	Fratié NORDON	f	29 07 1750	
		Lion Lazard	Michelette LAMBERT	f	21 12 1758	
	Lazard Abraham	Sisié GRODVOL	f	07 02 1759		

Zichron Note is published quarterly by the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society. It is free to all members. Back issues are \$2.00 each.

Family Finder queries are free to members of our Society; others may place queries at \$5.00 each, limit of 25 words. Name, address, and telephone are free.

Correspondence relating to items for publication should be addressed to Editorial Board, c/o Sherrill Laszlo, 34 Craig Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611. Requests for back issues should be sent to Martha Wise, 1990-20th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116.

Meetings are held at two locations: San Francisco on the 3rd Monday of the odd-numbered months at Sutro Library, 480 Winston; and Palo Alto on the 3rd Monday of the even-numbered months at Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue. Both meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Jewish genealogy. Our membership year runs from August 1 to July 31 and dues are \$20.00 annually payable each August. Out-of-area memberships are \$10.00 for those who reside more than 75 miles from our meeting locations. Make checks payable to SF Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society; send to S. Laszlo, Treasurer, 34 Craig Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611.

President: Armand S. Cohn (415) 342-3485
Vice President: Martha L. Wise (415) 564-9927
Secretary; Peninsula Group Leader: Robert Weiss (415) 424-1622
Treasurer: Sherrill Stern Laszlo (415) 655-6789

*San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society*
34 Craig Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611