



זְכֵרוֹנוֹת
ZichronNote

The Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XIV, Number 2

May 1994

LOCAL GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 29-
May 5 13th Summer Seminar/4th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy
Jerusalem, Israel.
- Sun May 22
1:00 PM **Regular Meeting. Recap of the Israel Seminar**, by a panel of members who
attended, Jewish Community Library, 14th Avenue at Balboa, San Francisco.
- Mon May 23
7:30 PM JGS of Sacramento Meeting: *How Our Forefathers Lived- Archeology Finds in Israel*
Howard Goldfried. Board Room, JCC, 2351 Wyda Way, Sacramento
- Mon Jun 20
7:30 PM **Regular Meeting. Recap of the Israel Seminar**, by a panel of members who
attended, Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue near Foothill Blvd. and
Arastradero Road, Palo Alto.
- Sun Jul 24
11:00 AM **Workshop. 4-Hour Workshop.** Get help in solving your research problems.
Jewish Community Library, 14th Avenue at Balboa San Francisco.
- Mon Aug 15 **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto.
- Sun Sep 25
1:00 PM **Regular Meeting. Childhood in a Shtetl** Lecture and booksigning by the author
Abraham Gannes Jewish Community Library, 14th Ave. at Balboa, San Francisco.
(See review on page 7 of this issue.)
- Mon Oct 17 **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto.
- Sun Nov 20 **Regular Meeting.** San Francisco. *Please mark your Calendars*
- Mon Dec 19 **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES WORKSHOP SERIES

The National Archives Pacific Sierra Region will present a series of workshops at the Archives, 1000
Commodore Drive, San Bruno. Register in advance to guarantee your place in the class and save money.
The fee is \$12.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the door. Contact Rose Mary Kennedy at 415-876-9009.

- Fri May 20
9AM-Noon Military Records Part I. Overview of the types of available records and how to access.
Includes a segment on Merchant Marine records. Includes all services.
- Fri Jun 3
9AM-Noon Military Records Part II. How to interpret and what you can do with the records you
got from Part I. Where to go for more. A hands-on workshop. Limited enrollment.
- Fri Jul 15
9AM-Noon Beginning Genealogy
- Fri Aug 12
9AM-1PM Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records

THE SOCIETY PAGE

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Joel Cehn	Oakland
Arleen & Leon Chasson	Los Altos
Rachel Friedman	Napa
Florence Mann	Los Altos
Ruth Milsner	San Francisco
Stella Paton	San Francisco
Shirley Wasserman Hausafus	San Jose
Ben Weinstock	Brooklyn, NY

CORRECTIONS TO YOUR ROSTER

Barney Rubin: phone is (510) 838-7238
Lillian Wurzel: phone is (408) 984-3718

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This issue of *ZichronNote* contains an 8-page pull-out section on my favorite unfulfilled project—a guide to the resources for Jewish genealogists in the Bay Area. I have appealed to many of you to help me in producing such a guide, in the manner of the New York JGS, and later by JGSs in Philadelphia, Boston, Washington, Los Angeles, etc. Most of these groups prepared their guides in preparation for Summer seminars in their respective cities. I have always felt that our area's resources are significant, although relatively unknown not only to Jewish genealogists outside the area, but also to our own members. I cite two examples.

The collection of yizkor books at the Holocaust Center of Northern California numbers over 550 and is growing daily, but this resource is seldom mentioned in outside publications.

When *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* was published in 1991, their description of the resources in the Bay Area were extremely sketchy and outdated, having been based on the article "Guide to San Francisco, California Area Sources" in the Fall 1986 issue of *Search*.

For the last five years I have collected materials pertaining to our area's research facilities. But I needed an impetus to creating a useful summary for use by other researchers. This impetus came from two separate sources. I committed to giving a talk at the California Genealogical Society's annual Family History Fair. The theme of the fair was "Bay Area Gold Mine for Genealogical Research." The second impetus was our involvement in the collection of Jewish cemetery lists to support the national project coordinated by Arline Sachs of the JGS of Greater Washington.

My first step in the preparation of a guide is to list these facilities with current addresses and phone numbers, with a brief description of the specific collections for Jewish genealogical research. This I

have done, and the article appears as pages 9-16 of this issue.

From time to time we invite a speaker and publish a detailed article in *ZichronNote* on an individual facility. The second step in the process is to incorporate this in-depth information into a format similar to the New York resource guide.

And the third step will be to involve more Society members in doing research on individual facilities in their neighborhoods. I will be approaching some of you to help with this next phase. Please call me if you are interested.

The cemetery project is another important community project with which our Society should be heavily involved. We had a running start with the work that the Cemetery Committee was doing, but the pace has slowed down since Dan Peletz' untimely death. I am hoping that the very informative and entertaining talk by Wayne Rose we had the privilege to hear at our February meeting will inspire us to start on the second phase of this project, ie, the listing of the individual Jewish burials.

Member Dr. Leslie Malkin has completed his indexing of Wayne Rose's records of San Jose deaths and burials. We have already received a list from member Bill Firestone of the burials in Temple Beth El Home of Peace Cemetery in Santa Cruz, and one from David Abrahams for the Jewish section of Roselawn Memorial Park in Livermore. I thank you all for all those genealogists out there who will eventually benefit from your efforts.

1995 SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON, DC

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington has announced that the 1995 seminar will be held from June 25-29. In choosing the date, the JGSGW president stated that "we have been mindful of AJGS concerns about meeting at a time convenient to as many genealogist as possible. We also gave serious consideration to the comfort of the genealogists who would be visiting Washington in mid-summer and above all to the availability of JGSGW volunteers for staffing the seminar." (November 29, 1993 letter from Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies)

1996 Seminar in Boston, MA

ZICHRON NOTE INDEX

A cumulative alphabetized subject index has been published of the first thirteen years of newsletter publication of the SFBA JGS. The 40-page combined index of articles in volumes I through XIII of the *SFBA JGS Newsletter* and *ZichronNote* covers the period 1981-1993, and was compiled by Bob Weiss and W. David Stern. It is available for \$1.50 at Society meetings and for \$3.00 by mail.

U. S. & CANADIAN RESEARCH

TIMES-TRIBUNE NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES TO STAY IN PALO ALTO

One hundred years of Palo Alto history will be staying right here. The Tribune Company of Chicago announced this week that it is donating the Times Tribune's archives to the city of Palo Alto. The city will probably distribute the files among the relevant historical associations in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Redwood City and other local cities. The news was welcomed by history buffs, as it had been reported that the San Jose Mercury News and San Francisco Chronicle were making bids for the files.

Steven Staiger, historian for the Palo Alto Historical Association, said the local historical associations have been working in concert to obtain the files, which include clippings by issue area and biographical subject, and photos. "The photo files are what we're drooling over," Singer admitted, since the association has a fairly complete clipping file in its own archives. In addition, the pages of the Times Tribune and its predecessor, the Palo Alto Times, are recorded on microfilm. Retention of the files locally means they will be available for public use, which was a key goal of the city when it formally requested the files, said City Manager June Fleming. "We will make them available to the public as soon as possible," she said.

While the Palo Alto and other historical associations are the logical recipients of the archives, the City Council has not yet discussed the ultimate disposition of the files, said Council member Joe Simitian. "The clear expectation is that there will be preserved as a community resource," he said. Pam Allen, former librarian for the Times Tribune, said the files consist of about 40 large file cabinets, in addition to other material.

In the letter from the Tribune Company to Palo Alto, the company cited the importance of the historical files. "While there have been expressions of interest from other parties, Tribune Newspaper Co. agrees that the 100 years of local history recorded by the Peninsula Times Tribune.....is a priceless legacy that would best reside with the city," the letter said. (Dan Kazak in the *Palo Alto Weekly*, Friday, April 16, 1993)

NEW YORK CITY DEATH RECORDS

Gail Call notifies us that the Santa Clara FHC has ordered for permanent loan two additional films of New York City vital records indexes for which the FHLC has the actual records. The films cover New York City (including Bronx and Brooklyn) deaths between 1888-1895 and 1896-1899. Film numbers are 1,324,912 and 913.

MASSACHUSETTS LAND RECORDS

An article in the Spring, 1993 issue of *Mass-pocha* (JGS journal of Massachusetts) has an article on land records and provides samples of land records documents and lists the registry districts for Massachusetts cities and towns.

MISSOURI & KENTUCKY RESEARCH

The March-April, 1993 issue of *Ancestry* provides detailed information on research in Missouri and a positive two-page review of the book *Kentucky Ancestry: A Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992).

PHILADELPHIA IMMIGRANT LIFE

The Spring, 1993 issue of *Chronicles* includes articles on early East European Jewish immigration into South Philadelphia, and Articles of Incorporation for Jewish groups and their genealogical significance.

PHILADELPHIA ETHNIC BANK RECORDS

The Summer, 1993 issue of *Chronicles* (journal of the Philadelphia JGS) includes an very interesting article on ethnic bank records. The particular records discussed are those found at the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center (PJAC). These same types of records may exist for other cities.

The author of the article, Elaine Kolinsky, states that "there were at least four ethnic banks serving the Philadelphia Jewish community: Lipshutz, Blitzstein, Rosenbaum, and Rosenbluth." These banks helped immigrants buy tickets to the USA for their relatives. "Sales were informal but their records were detailed and complete. The Blitzstein Bank clients were Jews from Russia and Eastern Europe, while the Rosenbaum clients were German-Jews. The Blitzstein Bank sent money, boat tickets or already used passports to individuals in Europe. When the immigrant came to America, he/she paid a small weekly sum until the debt was repaid."

The PJAC has ethnic bank records of the actual ticket order record books of Philadelphia passengers and purchasers of steamship tickets, with record indexes. The records include name of steamship and line, port of departure and arrival, name and address of passenger and purchaser of ticket. It also supplies a date, order number, ticket number, stopovers or direct route and remarks. The listing may give the actual street address, Guberniya, and district. The article provides more details on the records, how to find them, what the Family History Library has microfilmed, etc.

In the same issue of *Chronicles*, Elaine Kolinsky has another very informative article on the PJAC (including the Philadelphia HIAS records).

RECENT SOCIETY MEETING

History and Records of the Jewish Cemeteries in the South Bay Wayne A. Rose

We were fortunate to have Mr. Wayne A. Rose, Administrator of the Home of Peace Cemetery in San Jose, address us for our February 21 meeting in Palo Alto. Mr. Rose, who is also Manager of the Willow Glen Funeral Parlor, is a long-term resident of San Jose who has researched the history of one of the largest Jewish cemeteries between Colma and Los Angeles. This review is a synthesis by Robert Weiss of a meeting handout, meeting notes, and the tape recording of the lecture.

Cemetery Beginnings

The Home of Peace Jewish Cemetery occupies a dedicated portion of the present Oak Hill Memorial Park in San Jose. The original cemetery established at that site in 1839 was the Pueblo Cemetery, the oldest secular cemetery in California. In 1849 surveyors laid out twenty-five acres for a Protestant and Catholic cemetery, and four acres for a Potters Field. Four years later, in 1853, the Common Council of San Jose appointed a committee of "two Protestants, two Catholics and two Jews to aid the county surveyor in selecting enough ground with sufficient and separate space for each faith to bury its dead". This date is marked as the beginning of the Jewish cemetery in San Jose. In 1860 the Common Council appointed a regular cemetery superintendent and a sexton.

In 1861 Temple Emanu-El of San Jose was established. On March 15, 1869, upon petition of twenty-two "Hebrew Citizens of the City of San Jose", approximately three acres of Oak Hill Cemetery were set apart and deeded to the San Jose Bikur Cholim Society in perpetuity, for the sum of one dollar. The cemetery was surveyed and the first official map recorded. Temple Emanu-El owns the cemetery through the Bikur Cholim Society.

In 1896 a Board of Cemetery Commissioners was appointed, a set of *Rules and Regulations of Home of Peace Cemetery, Congregation Bikur Cholim* was printed and circulated, and a "Fund for the perpetual care of graves" established. The price of a grave at that time was set at \$10.00.

The names on the 1869 petition included: Jacob Levy, M. Levy, H. Levy, A. Brown, Jos., Teish, Marcus Stern, M. Blumenthal, John Schoenlicht, S. Ehrlich, M., L., and S. Schlesinger, I. Rich, B. Bromberger, and M. Lubliner. The Board of Cemetery Commissioners in 1896 were A. J. Hart, M. Blumenthal, and John Harris. The changing complexion of the Jewish community of San Jose reflects that of the entire United States, and can be sampled in the later burial records— Sephardic, German, East European, Persian, and now Russian names.

The next century was marked by continuous improvement and beautification of the three acres.

Holocaust memorials, extensive landscaping, road improvements, improved auto access, sprinklers, storm drains and boundary walls have been added. Home of Peace is operated and maintained by Oak Hill Memorial Park. To this date there have been 1,567 Jewish interments at Home of Peace.

Records

The primary Home of Peace records are maintained on index cards in Temple Emanu-El filed by location in the Home of Peace Cemetery. There is limited access to these documents. A working set is maintained at Willow Glen Funeral Chapel filed under plot owner. The records deal primarily with plot ownership. There is a bare minimum of information on the decedent, ie: name and age, place of death, date and location of interment, and funeral director's name. Oak Hill Memorial Park maintains plat books listing names of the owner of the plot and of the name and age of the deceased. From 1955 on Oak Hill maintains a card file with name and age of the deceased, date of birth and death, legal next-of-kin, plot owner, and mortician. These are the only records that are alphabetical by deceased's name. The index cards are co-mingled with those of the rest (non-Jewish) part of Oak Hill. A searcher would have to search 60,000 cards for information on the 1,500 Jewish burials.

Mr. Rose told us some fascinating stories about this 140-year old cemetery—some of which are bound to chill a genealogist. There is some uncertainty in the plot maps. Wayne personally walked the three acres in an attempt to verify the Oak Hill Cemetery index card records. This three-week chore took him seven years. He cautions us not to believe everything we find on a tombstone or in a written record. Spelling of names in Hebrew varies and is not to be trusted. One burial record records the location of the grave of "Mr. Brown's Mother-in-Law". And one monument has the inscription "Mother & Father".

The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society (SCCH&GS) walked Oak Hill about thirteen years ago. These records were microfilmed and may be found in the California Room of the Santa Clara City Library. They are also

available from the LDS FHL. The Jewish records are comingled with the non-Jewish.

Comparison of the observations of a cemetery walker with the burial records discloses that some of the grave markers are not where they are expected. Tombstones shift or are moved. Bodies are disinterred and moved. Early wooden tablets burned in periodic grass fires. And scattered stones have been found whose origins are unknown. Names are recorded with no grave location. Mr. Rose estimates that approximately 12-15 burials are uncertain.

Wayne Rose has records in his office from some defunct South Bay mortuaries, including Family, Wards, and Monohan's Mortuaries. The records from Place Funeral Home on Santa Cruz Avenue and the West Valley Chapel on Main Street in Los Gatos were donated to the Forbes Museum in Los Gatos.

Khevera Kadisha

The Chevra Kadisha (burial society) of the South Bay performs their holy duty for orthodox burials under the guidance of Congregation Am Echad in San Jose. There is a need for *shomrei* to accompany the body and recite Psalms (*Tehillim*). Volunteers should call Ruth Novice 408-266-2654 or Mary-Jo Elman 415-424-9031. It is not known what records may exist from the current khevera kadisha or its predecessors.

Other Topics

Mr. Rose discussed other topics of interest in response to questions from the floor. Some of the topics were: cremations, funding of indigent burials, burial of stillborns, burial of suicides, and burial of non-Jewish spouses.

Shalom Gardens, Los Gatos

Our speaker, Mr. Rose, briefly described another location for Jewish burials in the South Bay. Shalom Gardens is the Jewish section of the Los Gatos Memorial Park, "A Cemetery For All Faiths", owned by Darling & Fischer Mortuaries. There have been over 600 Jewish burials there since 1975. Burial records are found on the premises on index cards.

Availability of Meeting Tape

An audio tape of the meeting is available to Society members. Call our librarian Dana Kurtz 415-921-6761 at least 48 hours prior to any meeting and the tape will be available at the meeting.

(Figure at right)

Copy of the "Petition of Hebrew Citizens for Deed for Cemetery Grounds" filed March 15, 1869, San Jose, CA.

To The Hon. the Mayor and
Common Council:

The undersigned
Hebrew citizens of the city of
San Jose, respectfully represent
to your hon. body that there
has been set apart in Oak
Hill Cemetery a piece of land
as a Hebrew cemetery, and
there being but one organiza-
tion in this city which could
properly take charge of the same
namely the "San Jose Bikkur Cholim
Society" and as said Society
have spent and propose to spend
a large sum of money in laying
out and beautifying said
cemetery, wherefore, we pray
that your hon. body will cause
a deed to issue to said Society
for said land so set apart.

San Jose, March 12th 1869

Jacob Levy. S. Brown
Morris Stern. J. Paul
Jos. Feisk M. Levy

Ch. Lubliner.
A. Rich
D. Hill
W. Hill
M. Kink
H. J. J. J.
B. Brantager
D. J. J. J.
S. Church
M. Schlesinger
L. Schlesinger
S. Schlesinger
John Shoenlicht
Jacob Brantager

BOOK NOTICES

CATALOGUE OF MEMOIRS (VOLUME 3) THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE ORAL HISTORY LIBRARY

The Oral History Library of the American Jewish Committee was founded in 1969 to document the American Jewish experience in the twentieth century. Now housed at the Jewish Division of the New York Public Library, the collection chronicles the lives of more than two thousand memorists whose varying backgrounds, origins, careers, and talents create a rich tapestry of living history.

The interviews are divided into two broad categories: General Biography, consisting of the memoirs of prominent American Jews in various fields, and Special Collections, arranged according to theme. Some of them include American Jews in Israel, American Jews of Sephardic Origin, Eldridge Street and the Hebrew Orphan Asylum, Holocaust Survivors, Jews of New York, Lautenberg Collection of East European Jewish Communities, Soviet Jewish Emigres and many more.

The Catalogue of Memoirs (Volume 3) features seven new special collections, entries for more than 800 previously unlisted memoirs, a summary of the contents of each memoir, an alphabetical index of the entire collection (more than 2,000 memoirs) as listed in Volumes 1, 2, and 3, and a guide to the use of the AJC Oral History Library.

This appears to be a valuable resource to check if you are at the New York Public Library. If you wish to own your own Catalogue of Memoirs, you may order them at the following rates: Vol. 1-\$5 each; Vol. 2-\$10 each; Vol. 3-\$15 each; All three volumes-\$25. per set. Make checks payable to: AJC Oral History Library, 165 East 56 Street, New York, NY 10022

IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR RESEARCH OUTLINE

The *San Mateo County Genealogical Society Newsletter* of May, 1993 announces that the Family History Library has produced a new research outline called "Tracing Immigrant Origins Research Outline." According to the article, the outline provides general search strategies and basic records groups as well as suggestions for beginning research in various countries. It consists of 31 pages and costs \$0.50. You can get a copy at the Oakland FHC or you can order by mail. The minimum charge by mail is \$2.00 per order. Order from the Correspondence Unit, Family History Library, 35 North West Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150.

JEWS OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH by Rachel Heimovics

Jews of the American South: Genealogical Resources. 1993. \$4.50 Including shipping. A resource guide for tracing information on Jews who lived in the South. The information is arranged by city and state, and includes listings of individuals with expertise in specific geographic areas who have agreed to serve as contacts for assistance. The author is past president of the Southern Jewish Historical Society and a member of the JGS of Greater Orlando. Order from JGSGO, P.O. Box 520583, Longwood, FL. 32752 (*Dorot*, Vol. 14 No. 3, Spring 1993)

SHORT TAKES

- *Jewish Sights of Bohemia and Moravia*, by Jiri Fiedler. Book review published in the Fall, 1993 issue of *Morasha*.
- *Bridges to an American City: a Guide to Chicago's Landsmanshaften, 1870-1990*, by Sidney Sorkin.
- *Guide to the Primary Source Materials on the Milwaukee Jewish Community in the Milwaukee Urban Archives*, October, 1993. Summary of contents published in the October, 1993 issue of *Family Finding*.
- *Poles and Russians in the 1870 Census of New York City*, by Marlene Silverman, 178 pp., 1993, \$26.00 including shipping (write to Landsmen Press, Suwalk-Lomza Interest Group for Jewish Genealogists, 3701 Connecticut Ave NW, Apt 228, Washington, DC 20008). Book review published in the Summer, 1993 issue of *DOROT*.
- *How to Locate Anyone Anywhere-Without Leaving your Home*, by Ted Gunderson, 238 pp., 1989. Help in tracing lost relatives, family tree, old friends, adoption records. Listings on vital record offices and LDS FHCs. \$8.95 paper GE-156, Hearthstone Bookshop, Potomac Square, 8405-H Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309, 703-360-6900.

AND REISSUES

Two good reference books have been revised and republished:

- *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Marriages, Deaths and Divorces* has been reissued by the US Department of Health and Human Services. \$2.25 from the US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 or from your local government printing office.
- *They Came in Ships* by John Coletta has just been revised and expanded. The reviewer in *Mass-pocha* calls this "the best book on locating your immigrant ancestor." \$9.95 + \$2 s/h from Ancestry, Inc., PO Box 476, Salt Lake City, UT 84101.

BOOK REVIEWS

CHILDHOOD IN A SHTETL, by Dr. Abraham P. Gannes

Published October 1993 by Ganton Books/
Professional Press, 10821 Northforde Drive,
Cupertino CA 95014, \$15.95 + 1.30 tax + 2.00 P/H
Dr. Abraham Gannes is a renowned scholar and a
respected member of Congregation Beth David,
Saratoga, California. His book was introduced at a
book signing party at Congregation Beth David on
October 17. [Dr. Gannes was the featured speaker at
the SFBA JGS December 20, 1993 meeting in Palo
Alto, and will appear again at our September San
Francisco meeting-Ed.]

Part world history, part Yiddish culture, part
genealogical study, part "zaida" *meises*, the book
chronicles world history when the young Gannes
and his family were enduring the misery and anti-
semitism in middle and eastern Europe during and
after World War I. There are lots of photographs
and reminiscences about each person pictured.

The documentation, both personal and
bibliographic, interweave to make the story of
Gannes' life a tightly woven fabric that reflects
many Jewish family values and stories. Dr. Gannes'
memory is prolific and his detailing gives a bitter-
sweet flavor to the time. Many early immigrants to
North (and South) America are gone and their
stories of the travail, travel, and triumph are lost. It
is a special experience to read Abe Gannes' story
because he was a *bocher*, a man / child ten years of
age when he made his journey. He remembers.

There is an important lesson to be learned from
this book: We need to ask our parents and
grandparents and we need to tell our children and
grandchildren before it is too late. The Diaspora is
the outcome of world history and Jewish survival.
We are here in Silicon Valley because we went to
New York and Galveston, Texas and Montreal,
Quebec and Buenos Aires and Sweden because we
are a people of courage and intellect and humor and
dedication and family.

We read Dr. Gannes' book and we feel the
urgency to take pen in hand, to take a video camera
or a tape recorder and seek the oldest members of
our families to record and listen! Mazel tov to the
Gannes family for encouraging him to do the task
le-dor va-dor. (Enid Malkin, *Congregation Beth
David Star*, Oct. 10, 1993)

Postscript: Miriam Weiner published a favorable
review of *Childhood in a Shtetl* in her column
"More family historians being bitten by the
publishing bug" in the *Philadelphia Jewish
Exponent*, January 7, 1994.

POLISH SURNAMENES ORIGINS AND MEANINGS by William F. Hoffman

Polish genealogical Society of America, 984 N.
Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60622 (312/ 384-
3352), pp 295 pp., 1993.\$16.50

An excellent introduction to its subject, this
book goes far beyond a simple listing of the
presumed meanings of Polish surnames, and
provides clear and thoughtful explanations of their
origins. Particularly useful are elucidations of the
kinds of changes those names have undergone
during Poland's troubled history, with influences
from many sources including Hebrew and Yiddish.
Recent name changes associated with immigration to
the U.S. are discussed very well and can offer many
interesting leads for researchers. While all the
expected scholarly resources of footnotes, citations,
and references are provided, the writing is
unpretentious and disarming. The book is thus a
pleasure to read both for reference and for browsing.
For genealogists researching Jewish families, there
is a concise but useful section on Jewish names in
Poland, with additional comments in an extended
145-page index of surnames by root. Here many
Polish names borne by Jews, but missing from
Kaganoff's dictionary, can be found.

Polish names seem to bristle with a chronic
oversupply of sibilant consonants and a crippling
shortage of vowels. They can be formidable indeed.
This book makes many such names accessible and I
recommend it highly. (Reviewed by David Heller,
Fall, 1993 issue of *Morasha*.)

KORZENIE POLSKIE-POLISH ROOTS by Rosemary A. Chorzempa

240 pp, 1993, \$17.95 plus \$3 shipping.
Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc., 1001 N. Calvert
Street, Baltimore, MD 21202-3897; 800-296-6687
Review published in the Summer, 1993 issue of
DOROT.

UNCLAIMED FORTUNES: How to Get Your Share

Author and SFBA JGS member, Loren J. Bialik
has been a Professional Heir Finder for over 11 years.
His reward has been a share of \$20 Billion in Lost
Fortunes going unclaimed!

In his book, he reveals his secrets of where to
find cases to work on, how to find missing people, and
how to claim rewards for solving these cases.

Book includes actual Unsolved Cases!

Free Information: Mazel Publishing, P.O. Box 460040,
S.F., CA 94146-0040 (415) 821-1606.

HINTS

PAST PICTURE PERFECT by PAT BESCH

Pat Besch is an artist-turned photographer living in St. Amant, LA. Her unending super abundance of family photographs are in the "separated and being stamped" stage now. Plus she has over 20,000 professional negatives to keep track of. You may contact her at- 11459 Highway 431, St. Amant, LA 70774. For reply please send SASE (This article is from *The Family Tree* Vol. IV No. 5, Oct/Nov 1993)

Hi! Hope the last column didn't scare you! I know putting names and places on all your snapshots is daunting, but, let's set up some steps to help you get both organized and started.

First, find several boxes to hold your photographs. Then, fill them with all the pictures you can find. Put entire photo albums in the box. Go through every closet, box, drawer, suitcase, book, wallet, purse—even the insides of hanging pictures. Check the attic, basement, garage, storage shed— even try to get as many photographs as possible from relatives. **IMPORTANT:** while collecting your photos, handle them carefully. If any are stuck together or stuck to glass or paper— it's safer to bring them to a professional to separate—also cheaper than restoration.

Collecting them, you may notice some photographs have problems. Are some faded to the point of nonexistence? Have rats, roaches, mildew, water and other unpleasant aspects of nature had a field day on others? Are some so fragile, that they may crumble to dust at any second? Gently place each in-danger print between two sturdy cardboard pieces and store them in a safe place until you are ready to deal with them.

After locating all the images you can, you will have an idea about the subjects your photographs depict. Possibilities include; very old ones that you have no idea about who is in them (but you're certain that someone in there is a family member), shots of your childhood, friends, pets, vacations and so on. You also have special events such as births, [brises, bar/bat mitzvahs], graduations, weddings, anniversaries and deaths. Choose any number of categories you may want. Then divide your prints into them. You can store each group in sealable plastic bags.

When you are ready, put historical information such as, date, location, occasion and names of people on the back of all photos using a Sharpie ultra-fine point pen. Hint: if the back is too dark,

put a piece of sticky-back paper (archive safe, please) there and write on it. This also works for those pictures where the ink may bleed through.

Remember my comment in the last column about lazy people? If you have more writing ahead of you than your hand will handle— get a stamp made. A personal computer will store the information, then print it easier, but a rubber stamp is cheaper! Have a stamp made for each large category of photographs.

For instance, let's say you have 200 prints of you, your parents and your siblings. Have the general information put on a stamp size that fits most of the prints, being sure to include blank spaces for additional information. Using a special quick drying photograph ink— stamp all 200 prints. Use your Sharpie to put in extra information and take out items that don't apply. See how easy?! Because your work is in small groups— you don't have an unstartable task ahead of you.

As you complete each group, slip them into triangular photo tabs attached to archival paper. Place them in archival plastic covers and store in a binder of some type. Don't worry about order at this time. Just concentrate on getting the information down and stored in one location. That's job number one.

Once this task has been completed, you have three options. The first is to just leave your photographs as they are now. This is good, since all the information is there for easy reference. You have done the most important part and the future will appreciate your work. A second option for less busy people is to arrange the photographs in chronological order to make a family history simple to follow. It's easy to do since the prints are in tabs and not stuck down. There is a third choice but it will be time consuming. you must choose the worth of your time now versus the potential for great future value. Make a picture story of your family!

All you have to do is to put a related group of prints on one album page and add a personal recollection (eg: Uncle George loves mint tea, Aunt Elsa secretly played the bagpipes in the barn), weather conditions, politics, locations, traditions, pets, rumors, stories, facts— anything that will help the future become involved with your past. (If you already have a P.C. this will be an easy task).

What greater gift to give the future than a written and pictorial record of your family? Sounds conceited, but would Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House* books have had greater meaning with photographs? Which has greater impact on you now; reading about one small step or seeing a photograph of men walking on the moon with a caption of those same words. Take a small step of your own and create a pictorial family history. It will be a giant leap for future generations.

San Francisco Bay Area: Gold Mine for Jewish Genealogical Research by Robert Weiss

This article is the outline of Presentation FR 6 given by the author at the California Genealogical Society's 9th Annual Family History Fair on April 15, 1994. It follows the theme of the Fair, *Bay Area Gold Mine for Genealogical Research*. The author is President of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society. All rights for reproduction of this paper are retained by the author.

The San Francisco Bay Area contains a rich array of resources for the pursuit of Jewish genealogical research. This article lists the local resources categorized by type of institution, and describes their holdings of specific interest to genealogists who may be searching for Jewish quarry. The "Bay Area" is considered to include those areas using telephone area codes 415, 408, 510, and 707, and includes Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Alameda, Marin, Contra Costa, Napa, and Sonoma Counties.

This guide may be used to update your copy of *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy, Volume I*, by Arthur Kurzweil and Miriam Weiner. Just remove these center eight pages and insert them after page 20 of *The Encyclopedia*.

Resources in the area are categorized as follows:

- I. General Sources
 - A. National Archives
 - B. LDS Family History Centers
 - C. Public Library Genealogical Collections
 - D. Institutional Libraries
 1. University of California
 2. Stanford University Green Library
 3. Hoover Institution
- II. Local Historical & Genealogical Societies
- III. California and Local Records
 - A. Federal Courts
 - B. State Courts
 - C. County Resources
- IV. Jewish Libraries
 - A. Holocaust Center of Northern California
 - B. Holocaust Oral History Project
 - C. Jewish Community Library
 - D. Judaica Library, Judah Magnes Museum
 - E. Lehrhaus Reutlinger Center Library
 - F. Stanford Hillel Library
 - G. Western Jewish History Library
- V. Jewish Institutions
 - A. Cemeteries
 - B. Funeral Homes/Khevrot Kadisha
 - C. Synagogues
 - D. Other Jewish Resources

GENERAL SOURCES

National Archives

Covers Northern California, Hawaii, Nevada (except Clark County), the Pacific Trust Territories, and American Samoa.

National Archives—Pacific Sierra Region
1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno 94066
415-876-9009.

M-F: 8AM-4:00PM; W: 8AM-8:30PM
Federal Census microfilms and indexes, State Censuses: CA 1852, CO 1885, MI 1857, NE 1885, NM 1885. Civil War Pension application films 1861-1934, U.S. Army Enlistments 1798-1914. Naturalization and Passenger Arrival records for Pacific Sierra Region. Canadian Border Crossings (St. Albans, VT records) Index 1895-1952 and Manifests 1929-1949. Galveston, TX Passenger Lists and Index. Passenger List Indexes Philadelphia 1800-1906, New Orleans 1900-1952, some New York City 1849-1893. Angel Island Russian arrival case histories. Russian Consular records for San Francisco and Hawaii. See *ZichronNote* Fall 1991 and November 1993 for further information.

LDS Family History Centers

All Family History Centers have the Family History Library Catalog (FHLC) and the International Genealogical Index (IGI). In addition, each branch has a collection of books, maps, and microfilms on permanent loan which reflect the interests of their local users. Most branches also have the Social Security Death Index, FHLC, & Ancestral File on CD.

•**Concord FHC** 3700 Concord Boulevard

•**Fairfield FHC** 2700 Camrose Drive, Fairfield
707-425-2027,
Tu-Th: 10AM-2:15PM, 7-9:30PM, F: 9AM-Noon

•**Fremont FHC** 3551 Decoto Road, Fremont
Tu-Th: mornings and evenings

•**Los Altos FHC** 1300 Grant Road, Los Altos
415-968-1019,
M: 7-10PM; Th: 10AM-3PM, 7-9PM,
Su; 10AM-Noon, 2-5PM by appointment.

•**Menlo Park FHC** 1105 Valparaiso Avenue,
Menlo Park 415-325-9711
Tu-Th: 9:30AM-9:30PM; F-Sa: 9:30AM-4PM;
Su 9AM-4:30PM members

•**Oakland FHC** 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland
94602, 510-531-3905
Tu-Th: 9:30AM-9:30PM; F: 9:30AM-5PM; Sa:
Noon-5PM
Have approximately 5,000 books including *Where
Once We Walked*, *Encyclopedia of Jewish
Genealogy*, etc. Vital records California & local
area. SS Death Index 1962-1989. California
censuses 1850, 1860, 1870. Oakland census 1902.
AIS Census Indexes for: U.S 1607-1849; Midwest
& West 1850-1906; U.S. Mortality Schedules.
Inventories of numerous local libraries.

•**San Bruno FHC** 975 Sneath Lane, San Bruno
415-873-1928
W,Th: 9AM-4PM; W: 6:30-9:30PM; Sa: 12:30-4PM
This branch, located near the Federal Archives,
specializes in 1890 census substitutes.

•**San Jose FHC** 4977 San Felipe Road, San Jose
408-274-8592
Tu-Th: 9AM-9PM; Sa: 9AM-3:00PM

•**Santa Clara FHC** 875 Quince Street, Santa
Clara 95051 408-241-1449
Tu-Th: 9AM-4PM, 6-9:30PM; F: 9AM-9:30PM;
Sa: 9AM-4PM
Card catalogue of holdings, Basic "how-to" books
such as *Handy Book*, *Source*, *Library*, etc. with
microfiched copies of 200 most-used genealogical
research references. PERSI Index. List of holdings
of the Sutro State Library. Film number registers
for immigration, naturalization, military and census
films. Research papers. Some rolls of Hamburg
Passenger List. Accelerated Indexing Systems (AIS)
indexes to pre-1906 special censuses, tax lists, mili-
tary lists, etc. Many New York City and Massachu-
setts vital records, New England Naturalization
Index. Maps of old Poland on microfiche in perma-
nent collection. English census indexes, Boyd's
Marriage Index to 7 million English marriages. See
ZichronNote (Spring 1990, Fall 1991, Feb 1992),
for further descriptions of holdings.

•**Santa Cruz FHC** 220 Elk Street, Santa Cruz
408-426-1078
Tu: 9AM-3PM; W,Th: 9AM-9PM; Sa: 9AM-Noon

•**Seaside FHC** 1024 Noche Buena, Seaside
408-394-1124
Tu,W: 9AM-9PM; F,Sa: 9AM-5PM

Public Libraries

Use of the public library for Jewish genealogical
research, including the use of interlibrary loan
services, was the subject of a talk by Rosanne
Leeson written up in *ZichronNote* in November
1991. Local public libraries should be consulted for
local histories, city, business, biographic, and
telephone directories, maps, newspaper archives,
etc. Specific holdings of local public libraries of
interest to Jewish genealogists are given below.

The Sutro California State Library
480 Winston Drive, San Francisco 94132
415-731-4477
M-F: 10AM-5PM

Large collection of city directories, telephone
directories, and local (state, regional, county and
town) histories. Full set of DAR Lineage Books.
Many family histories. Federal censuses 1790-1910.
San Francisco ship's passenger lists 1893-1957.
Indexes to Ship Passenger Arrival Lists for major
Eastern ports, pre-1900. Newsletters from
genealogical and historical societies. Indexes,
guides, bibliographies, and "how-to" books. Many
Jewish genealogical references have been donated to
Sutro by the SFBA JGS.

San Francisco Public Library History Room
Civic Center, San Francisco 94102
415-557-4567
Special Collection Department, Third Floor
Tu-Sa: 1-6PM; Th,Sa: 10AM-Noon
Newspaper Room on 3rd floor. 415-558-3206.
Newspapers on film, index to *San Francisco
Chronicle*, hard-copy city directories & phone books

Oakland Public Library-Oakland History Room

125 14th Street, Oakland 94612
510-238-3222
Tu: 10AM-5:30PM; W,Th: Noon-8PM;
F: Noon-5:30PM; Sa,Su: 1-5PM.
Good collection for Alameda County. Oakland city
directories, newspapers, maps, vital records. 19th
Century newspaper indexes, birth and death
certificates with index, Alameda County Great
Registers. Oakland obit file for 1951+.

San Jose Public Library

180 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose
408-277-4815
M-W: 9am-9pm; Th-Sa: 9am-6pm; Su: 1-5PM
California, San Jose, Santa Clara County Room,
3rd Floor, 408-277-4867
Tu: 6-9PM; W, Th, Sa: 2-5PM

San Mateo County Library History Room

1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City 94063
415-780-7030

Tu, Th: 1-5PM; W: 5-9PM

California Information File (550 fiche covering 1864-1986) includes indexing of early newspapers, periodicals, biographies, manuscripts, etc. San Francisco Newspapers Index (669 fiche covering 1904-1949). *San Francisco Chronicle* Index (277 fiche covering 1950-1980). Deed indexes 1859-1920. 1920 Census San Mateo County. Extensive newspapers and directories for the area.

Santa Clara Public Library California Room

2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara 95051
408-984-3236

M,Tu,Th: 9AM-9PM; Fr,Sa: 9AM-6PM; Su: 1-5PM
SCCHGS consultant daily 1-3, 7-9PM

Emphasis on California. Census film and microfiche collections. Santa Clara County Cemetery Headstone records including Jewish cemeteries in San Jose and Los Gatos.

Sonoma County Public Library

3rd & E Street, Santa Rosa 95401, 707-545-0831

M: Noon-9PM; Tu-Sa: 9:30AM-6PM, W to 9PM;

Su: 2-6PM. Sonoma Cty Rm Tu: 2-5PM, W: 3-6PM

Institutional Libraries

**University of California Bancroft Library,
Main Library-The Doe Library**

UC Campus, Berkeley 94704

Bancroft: 510-642-6481; Doe Map Room: 642-4940

Newspaper/Microcopy Room: 642-3536

M-F: 9AM-5PM; Sa 1-5PM;

Law Library: 642-4044, M-F: 8AM-5PM

World class map and newspaper collections. SF & Bay Cities Jewish Blue Book. Major repository of Jewish research literature. (Majority of UCB Judaica is in storage & requires prior knowledge of what you are seeking.) Microfilms from "German Jewish Periodicals from the Leo Baeck Institute". "Biobase" key to English-language biographical lexicons. Printed catalogs of major US Hebraica and Judaica collections. Robbins Collection in UCB Law Library has enormous collection of rare rabbinic texts. Limited collection of standard Jewish lexicons and Encyclopedias. National Union Catalog. Main stacks and storage facility require UC library card.

Stanford University Green Library

Stanford University Campus, Stanford 94305
415-725-1064

Roger Kohn, Judaica Curator, 415-725-1054

M-Th: 8AM-Midnight; F: 8AM-6PM; Su: 1PM-

Midnight. Hours vary with school year.

General genealogical references. Taube-Baron Collection of Judaica contains much material of use to Jewish genealogists. Family histories, Rabbinic genealogies, yizkor books, historic references.

Hoover Institution Library & Archives

Stanford University Campus, Stanford 94305
415-723-1754

Central Collection of publications in Western, Slavic, and Middle-Eastern languages in Hoover Tower open M-F 10AM-4:30PM. Periodicals and newspapers.

The Library and Archives contains manuscript and archival collections, photographs, and ephemera. Courtyard level of the Herbert Hoover Memorial Building, open M-F: 8:15AM-4:45PM. The Russian/Soviet and East European Collection is one of the world's largest, including over 430,000 monographs, 7900 periodical titles, and 2000 newspaper titles from Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, etc. See *ZichronNote* Summer 1991 and November 1992 issues for summaries of the collections of potential interest to Jewish genealogists.

**HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETIES**

California Genealogical Society Library

300 Brannon Street, Suite 409, San Francisco 94107
415-777-9936

W, Th, Sa 9AM-4PM, (\$5.00/day to non-members)

Heavy emphasis on New England and Eastern States. Full set of Civil War Pension applications. Many city directories. Oakland Great Register 1924-1957 or so.

California Historical Society Library

2099 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco 94109
415-567-1848

W: 10AM-12, 1-4PM. (\$2.00 for non-members)

Emphasis on Early California and the Western States. Manuscripts and photographic collections as well as published collections dealing with Jews in California.

California Society of Colonial Pioneers

456 McAllister Street, San Francisco 94102
Collection covers 1783 to 1918.

East Bay Genealogical Society Library

405 14th Street, Oakland 94612, 510-451-9599

M: 9AM-4PM, W: 9AM-Noon

Cemetery & mortuary records, vital records, with emphasis on Alameda County.

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave, Pleasanton 94566, 510-462-3535
M-Th: 10AM-9PM; F,Sa: 10AM-5PM; Su: 1-5PM.

Napa Valley Genealogical Society Library

1701 Menlo Street, Napa 94558
Tu,W: 10AM-4PM; Th: 10AM-9PM (-4PM 3rd Th);
2nd & 4th Sa: 10AM-2PM. \$3.00 non-member fee.
All states and some foreign, but emphasis on Napa and adjacent counties.

Northern California Jewish Historical Society

921 South El Camino Real, San Mateo 94402
415-347-3210, Armand S. Cohn

San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society Library

415-424-1622, Bob Weiss, President, holds extensive society library & list of member-held resources. Available by appointment to Society members.

San Mateo County Genealogical Society Library

1017 Middlefield Road, Redwood City 94063
(Basement of the old Redwood City Public Library)
W & Sa: 1-4PM

Sino-Judaic Institute

223 Lexington Drive, Menlo Park 94025
415-323-1769, Professor Albert Dien, President
(moving in a few months)

Society of California Pioneers

456 McAllister Street, San Francisco 94102
415-861-5278
M-F: 10AM-noon; 1-4PM by appointment only.
Some books on Jews in California including biographies and photo collection of California pioneers filed by surname. Large collection of pictures, paintings, lithographs, prints and photos, with some 12,000 negatives from which prints may be made for a processing fee.

Solano County Genealogical Society

Old Town Hall, 620 E. Main Street, Vacaville
707-452-1295, Library 707-446-6869
M: 10AM-2PM; 3rd Sa: 10AM-2PM
Heavy emphasis on Solano County and surrounding area. California Marriages 1960-85, California Death Index 1940-1989.

Society of Mayflower Descendants in Calif.

405 14th Street (@ Franklin), Oakland 94612
510-451-9599

M: 9AM-4:00PM; W,Th: 9AM-Noon. Donations.
Heavy emphasis on New England. All early Massachusetts vital statistics Town census after 1850 for some states, many city, township, county and state histories.

CALIFORNIA & LOCAL RECORDS

Federal Courts

Indexes to federal court cases can be found in various repositories. In general, indexes to records of the old circuit courts, 1789-1912, containing early federal cases and naturalizations, as well as records of the district courts from 1789 to the present, can be found in the National Archives in San Bruno.

State Courts

State supreme court and appellate court indexes may be found in the Decennial Digest available in most law libraries and many courthouses. Jurisdiction of wills in California (probate) is the Superior Court. See **County Resources** above for locations

County Resources

Vital, land, probate, and court records are held at the county seat. Vital records and land transaction records are at the count recorder's office. The county clerk usually has probate books and files from the county's superior court, civil court records, and naturalizations. Divorce records could be in either place. The following are locations of the county seats for counties of the Bay Area. Consult local phone directories for telephone numbers and for locations of City Clerks for city records.

- Alameda:** 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland 94612
- Contra Costa:** 651 Pine Street, Martinez 94553
- Marin:** Civic Center Room 190, San Rafael 94903
- Napa:** P.O. Box 880, Napa 94559
- San Francisco:** 400 Van Ness Ave., S. F. 94102
- San Mateo:** 401 Marshall, Redwood City 94063
- Santa Clara:** 70 W. Hedding St., San Jose 95110
- Santa Cruz:** 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz 95060
- Solano:** Hall of Justice, Fairfield 94533
- Sonoma:** 575 Administrat'n Dr Santa Rosa 95401

San Francisco County Clerk

Room 317, 400 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 94102, 415-554-4121, M-F: 8AM-4:30PM
Room 317 contains indices and files for Probate Cases and Civil Cases. Probate Indices are on 4 microfilms (1906-1977), microfiche (1978-1981), and computer printout alphabetical indexes (1982-). Civil Case (including divorce) Indexes are on microfilm. Old Civil/Probate files in warehouse require advance ordering, with charges assessed.

Santa Clara County Recorder

East Wing, County Government Center
70 West Hedding Street, San Jose 95110
408-299-2481. M-F: 8AM-4:30PM
The Recorder's functions fall into 3 main areas:
Recording of property and other transactions, Vital
Records, and Real Property information. Office has
branches in 4 public libraries which can access vital
records and indexes to other county records.

- Morgan Hill Library, 17575 Peak Avenue
Tu: 12-8PM; W: 10AM-5:30PM
- Campbell Library, 77 Harrison Avenue
Tu: 12-8PM; F: 10AM-5:30PM
- Milpitas Library, 40 N. Milpitas Boulevard
M: 12-8PM, Th: 10AM-5:30PM
- Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road
W: 10AM-5:30PM, Th: 12-8PM

San Francisco City Archives

San Francisco Room, 3rd Floor
San Francisco Public Library Building
Civic Center, San Francisco 94102
415-558-3949, Tu, Th, Sa: 10AM-6PM, W: 1-6PM
The Archives holds *San Francisco Examiner* morgue
1906-1980: a genealogical gold mine. Clipping file
alphabetized by name and subject. Notice must be
given to retrieve requested material from storage.

City Hall Historian

City Hall Room 167, Mezzanine Level
San Francisco 94102 (no telephone calls please)
This office is attempting to create a single computer
pre-1906 database of genealogical, biographical, and
historical data. Significant genealogical information
on pre-1906 San Francisco residents, including
(reconstructed) birth, marriage, and death records.
Vital records: California, Oregon, Washington, Baja
California, British Columbia, Alaska, and Hawaii.

JEWISH LIBRARIES

Holocaust Center of Northern California

601 14th Avenue, San Francisco 94118
415-751-6040, Barbara Harris, Director
Su, M, W: 10AM-4PM; Tu, Th: 12-6PM
Research and reference library (no borrowing).
Over 10,000 books in 15 languages. Holocaust
archival materials. Over 500 yizkor (memorial)
books of destroyed Jewish communities in Europe.
Holocaust database and definitive maps.

Holocaust Oral History Project

625 3rd Street, Room 201, San Francisco
415-882-7092, Lani Silver, Director
Over 1400 interviews collected, 800 transcripts
completed, 50 indexed for genealogical research.

Jewish Community Library of the Bureau of Jewish Education

601 14th Avenue, San Francisco 94118
415-751-6983, Fred Isaac, Head Librarian
Su, M, W: 10AM-4PM; Tu: 12-6PM; Th: 12-8PM
World-wide collection of over 28,000 volumes of
Judaica. Circulation and reference departments.
Basic Jewish genealogy references, atlases,
encyclopedias, newspapers, periodicals indexes.
SFBA JGS meets here the third Sunday of odd
months.

Judaica Library

Judah L. Magnes Museum

2911 Russell Street, Berkeley 94705
510-549-6950

Access by appointment only.

7500 books and periodicals in English, Hebrew,
Yiddish, and Ladino. Manuscripts from India and
Arabic-speaking countries.

Lehrhaus Reutlinger Center Library

2736 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 94704
510-845-6420

General Judaica collection with emphasis on
philosophy and history. Periodicals and
newspapers.

Stanford Hillel Library

Old Union Clubhouse, Stanford 94309
415-723-4599, Sally Wieder, Librarian

Western Jewish History Center

Judah L. Magnes Museum

2911 Russell Street, Berkeley 94705
510-549-6950, Ruth Rafael

M-Th: Noon-4PM

Archival research library concentrating on contribu-
tions of Jews to the American West from the Gold
Rush to the present. Oral histories of American
Western Jewish personalities, surname file, source
list, unpublished manuscripts and family
genealogies, basic genealogical books. Holdings
cover the 13 states west of the Rockies. Collection
of Anglo-Jewish newspapers published in the West
since 1860, including almost complete sets of
Emanu-El and *Jewish Journal* and *Jewish
Bulletin.*, with index covering from 1895 to the
1930's. Commission for the Preservation of Jewish
Cemeteries and Landmarks has restored and main-
tains six Jewish cemeteries of the Gold Rush era.
119 feet of records spanning 120 years of **Eureka
Benevolent Society** service before becoming the
Jewish Family Service. Genealogical Archive. 82
feet of SF JCC/YMHA records from 1877. (See
ZichronNote, November 1991, for more)

JEWISH INSTITUTIONS

Cemeteries

Beth Chaim Congregation Cemetery

1027 Diablo Road, Danville 94526
510-935-3730 or 510-934-1122, Asher Levine

B'nai Israel Cemetery

430 Magnolia Avenue, Petaluma 94952
Robert Scolnick 707-762-8874, or
Ann Weinstock 707-762-7560

El Carmilo

(Jewish burials in a non-sectarian cemetery. Burials arranged by Congregation Beth Israel, Carmel)
Asilomar Boulevard, Pacific Grove
408-648-3100 or 408-624-2015, Abra Teitler
This non-consecrated cemetery was used prior to Congregation Beth Israel's obtaining a consecrated area in Gan HaZikaron in Seaside.

Eternal Home Cemetery

(Established 1901. Owned by Sinai Memorial Chapel Chevra Kadisha. Approximately 15,000 burials, 98% of which are Jewish.)
El Camino Real, Colma 94014, 415-755-5236

Gan HaZikaron

(Consecrated area within larger non-sectarian cemetery. Founded 1979. Operated by Congregation Beth Israel, Carmel)
Mission Memorial Park, Ord Grove Avenue, Seaside
408-394-1481, or 408-624-2015, Abra Teitler

Gan HaZikaron (Garden of Remembrance) Cemetery

(Founded in 1983 by Peninsula Temple Beth El)
Highway 92 at Skyline Boulevard, San Mateo
415-341-7701 Steve Weiner, Administrator

Hills of Eternity Memorial Park

(Sponsored by Congregation Sherith Israel including **Portals of Eternity** and **Gardens of Eternity**, incorporated 1860, **Giboth Olom**)
240 El Camino Boulevard, Colma 94014
415-756-3633

Home of Eternity Cemetery

(Sponsored by Temple Sinai)
5000 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland 94611
Office: 2808 Summit Street, Oakland 94609
510-451-3263, Lou Silberman
Records from 1915, some available at Judah L. Magnes Museum.

Home of Peace

(Established 1876. Owned by Temple Beth El, Aptos. Approximately 185 Jewish burials.)
401 Meder, Santa Cruz 95062
408-479-3444, Arnold Levine
SFBA JGS has list of 185 burials.

Home of Peace Cemetery (Est. 1893)

(Sponsored by Beth Jacob Congregation)
4712 Fairfax Avenue, Oakland 94601
510-339-0167, Patrick Feigelson, Administrator
Records from 1904. SFBA JGS has list.

Home of Peace Cemetery & Mausoleum

(Est. 1860. Owned by Congregation Emanu-El, including **Garden of Peace Mausoleum**. Approximately 15,000-20,000 Jewish burials.)
Colma 94014, 415-755-4700
Records available at the Temple. Contact Judith Edmondson 415-751-2535. Pre-1906 record book.

Home of Peace Cemetery

(Est. 1853 as a Jewish cemetery. Owned & operated by Temple Emanu-El, San Jose. Approximately 1560 Jewish burials.) Monterey Road, San Jose
Oak Hill Cemetery, 300 Curtner Avenue, San Jose 95125, 408-295-6446, Wayne Rose, Administrator has records. List being compiled by SFBA JGS.

Kol Shalom Marin Jewish Community Cemetery

(Affiliated with Congregation Kol Shofar)
2500 5th Avenue, San Rafael 94901, 415-388-1818

Los Gatos Memorial Park (Shalom Garden)

(About 600 Jewish burials. Founded in 1975. Privately owned by Darling-Fischer Mortuaries)
2255 Los Gatos-Almaden Road, San Jose 95124
408-356-4151. Mary Tripp, Manager
Records at office, 1975 to present. SCCHGS walked cemetery, films at Santa Clara City Library.

Mountain View Cemetery

(First Hebrew Congregation 1857-1959)
5000 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland 94611
510-658-2588
SFBA JGS has alphabetized list with birth/death data. EBGs has records 1885-1959, index 1857-1957

Oakmont Memorial Park

(Established 1960. Jewish section sponsored by Temple Isiah and other Temples. Approximately 750 Jewish burials.)
2099 Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette 94549
510-935-3311, Pat Carr

Ocean View Sunset Memorial Park

(Consecrated Jewish section)
Eureka 95502, 707-445-3188, Barbara Brewer

Oroville Jewish Cemetery

(Recorded Aug 28, 1877. Managed by Special District, Butte County. Approx. 122 Jewish burials)
1934 Feather River Boulevard, Oroville 95965
916-533-2920, Nancy Trinidad, Manager

Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries

(Restored, and maintained by the Commission for the Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks of the Judah L. Magnes Museum)
510-549-6950, M-F Noon-4PM

- Sonora
- Jackson
- Mokelumne Hill
- Placerville
- Nevada City
- Grass Valley

Records at Western Jewish History Center.

Rolling Hills Memorial Park

(Tel Shalom Burial Association)
(Sponsored by Temple Beth Hillel, Richmond, and Congregation Beth El, Berkeley)
510-526-4158, Ernest Alexander

Roselawn Cemetery

(Est. 1883. Has Jewish section with approximately 17 Jewish burials since 1971. SFBA JGS has list.)
1240 North Livermore Avenue, Livermore 94550
510-581-1206, David McLennan

Salem Memorial Park & Garden Mausoleum

(Owned by Congregation Beth Israel-Judea)
Colma 94014, 415-755-5296, George Bennett.
Records 1895-1957 at Western Jewish History Ctr.

San Francisco National Cemetery

Presidio of San Francisco, San Francisco
415-561-2211, -2208, -2986
Jewish veterans are buried in this military cemetery.

Sha'arei Shalom

(Sponsored by Congregation Rodef Shalom)
170 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael 94903
415-459-2500, Betty Nelson

Funeral Homes

Colonial Chapel

2626 High Street, Oakland 94610
510-536-5454
Paul F. Scudder, Director
Specializing in Orthodox services for 53 years.

Halsted Mortuary

Until the late 1930's Jewish burials were conducted by **N. Gray & Company** which subsequently merged with Halsted Mortuary. Halsted has many records but charge for servicing inquiries. Since 1937 most Jewish funerals have been handled by Sinai Memorial Chapel.

Indigent Burial Assistance

(Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay) 3245 Sheffield Avenue, Oakland 94602
Judith Cohen, 510-532-6314

Sinai Memorial Chapel (Founded 1901)

1501 Divisadero Street, San Francisco 94115
415-921-3636

Gene B. Kaufman, Executive Director
Sinai is a not-for-profit organization owned by the Jewish community. Since 1937 it has handled the majority of Jewish burials. Sinai owns and operates a Jewish cemetery in Colma. *Khevra kadisha* records from between 1905 & 1937 may still exist.

Willow Glen Funeral Chapel

1039 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose 95125
408-295-6446
Successor to W. B. Ward Co., Established in 1888.

Chevra Kadisha for Home of Peace Cemetery

(Sponsored by Beth Jacob Congregation)
3778 Park Boulevard, Oakland 94610
Patrick Feigelson, Administrator
510-482-1147 or 510-339-0167

Synagogues

Listed are the oldest of the synagogues and temples in the Bay Area. Many administer Jewish cemeteries and have burial records.

Beth Israel Congregation (Est. 1906)

1630 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 94703
510-843-5246
Orthodox congregation with original membership drawn from First Hebrew Congregation of Berkeley. Records 1909-1979 at Western Jewish History Center.

Beth Jacob Congregation (Inc. Dec. 19, 1893)

3778 Park Boulevard, Oakland 94610
510-482-1147
Orthodox synagogue, organized in 1887, as an outgrowth of the Oakland Hebrew Benevolent Society. Holocaust survivors preferring a traditional shul contributed to post-war revival. B'nai B'rith Lodge records from Western states from the 1860s. Records 1900-1964 at Western Jewish History Center.

Congregation Anshey Sfard (Org. 1897)
1500 Clement Street, San Francisco 94118
415-752-4979

Congregation Beth Israel - Judea (Est. 1860)
625 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco 94132
415-586-8833

Originally known as the **Geary Street Shule**, was the standard Orthodox synagogue of the Russian immigrants years ago. Merged with Temple Judea, a Reform Temple, in 1969. Records 1863-1969 at Western Jewish History Center.

Congregation Emanu-El (Est. Sept. 1850)
2 Lake Street, San Francisco 94118
415-751-2535

Classic Reform Temple founded by German Jews of Bavarian origin. Records 1850+ at Western Jewish History Center.

Congregation Sherith Israel (Est. Apr. 1850)
2266 California Street, San Francisco 94118
415-346-1720

Reform congregation founded by Jews of Polish and English background. Records 1851+ at Western Jewish History Center.

Temple Beth Abraham (Est. 1906)
327 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 94610
510-832-0936

Conservative congregation known as the Hungarian Shul. Records 1929-1959 at Western Jewish History Center.

Temple Beth Shalom (Founded 1886)
642 Dolores Avenue, San Leandro 94577
510-357-3263

Temple Emanu-El (Founded 1861)
1010 University Avenue, San Jose 95126
408-292-0939

Congregation Bickur Cholim founded 1861 to secure a consecrated burial place (see **Home of Peace, San Jose**), provide care for the sick and needy, and to establish a house of worship. Synagogue was dedicated in 1870 and destroyed by fire in 1940. Relocated in 1948 and renamed Temple Emanu-El. Records and photographs 1861-1977 at Western Jewish History Center.

Temple Sinai, First Hebrew Congregation
2808 Summit Street, Oakland 94609 (Est. 1875)
510-451-3263.
Records 1875+ at Western Jewish History Center.

Other Jewish Resources

Hebrew Free Loan Association (Est. 1897)
703 Market Street, Suite 445
San Francisco 94103
415-982-3177
M-Th: 9AM-5PM; F: 9AM-4PM
Call ahead about availability of old records.

Northern California Jewish Bulletin
870 Market Street, San Francisco 94102
415-957-9340

Weekly Jewish newspaper is a continuation of *Emanu-El* and *Jewish Journal* established in 1895 also known as the *San Francisco Jewish Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* office has bound copies of past issues.

Jewish Home for the Aged
302 Silver Avenue, San Francisco 94112
415-334-2500

Records available back to 1914 may be available in the basement. Call first.

bob and bob fine Jewish gifts, crafts & books

151 Forest Avenue, Palo Alto 94301
415-329-9050. M-W: 10AM-5:30PM, Th: to 8PM; Su: 11AM-5PM.
Large collection of historical & genealogical books.

CAVEAT AND COMMENTS

Every attempt has been made to make this survey as complete, accurate, and up-to-date as possible. But the importance of verifying all dates, times, and locations before going to do research can not be too highly stressed. The author is compiling a more extensive directory of Jewish genealogical resources in the San Francisco Bay Area, and appreciates comments, corrections and additions. Send communications including requests for permission to copy to Robert Weiss, 3916 Louis Road, Palo Alto 94303

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APPROACHING JEWISH GENEALOGICAL STUDY IN RUSSIA.

by Anatoli Ilyich Chayesh

Lermontowsky av. 8, apt. 55, 190068 St. Petersburg, Russia

In this invited article, an amateur Russian genealogist reviews what he has learned of Jewish genealogy in Russia from his investigation of the genealogical trees for the Harkavy, Egudin- Igudin-Yagudin, Strashun, Chaysh, Schlesinger and other families. Anatoli Chayesh first presented this report in St. Petersburg at an International Conference on Genealogy in October, 1992. It was published at that time in Russian in "AMI - The Jewish People Live". This translation by Maxim Zhilyaev was arranged by Jerry Delson.

The high level of genealogical knowledge of ancient Jews is well known. A Jewish writer, G.I. Bogrov, noted once that, although the monarch of Russia had nearly no traces, almost any Jew could demonstrate that his family tree started with King David, or show his close relationship with Rothschild or Montefiore.

The current state of Russian- Jewish genealogy is, however, humble. During the war the population in the German-occupied territories was almost exterminated; family records were lost. What had been saved in the other parts of the country is being lost now due to the Jewish emigration. Nobody, now, spends time researching on general problems of Russian-Jewish genealogy. All we currently have are a few private articles with no genealogical commitment (Schneersohn, Hessen, Gintsburg).

Nowadays a rare Jew remembers names of his predecessors, and none knows their biographies. The fact that people lost their memory is explainable. Here is a sample of a questionnaire required in 1949 for university enrollment:

" 14. Do you have relatives or friends living abroad?

16. Have your rights ever been affected by discrimination or have you or a member of your family ever been under a court injunction ?"

Which Jew doesn't have a relative living abroad, and how many Jewish families in Russia could answer "no" to the second question!?! So, when opportunity for an education and a job became dependent on right answers to the above questions, besides an infamous "fifth condition", parents protecting their children ceased to talk about relatives. As part of their lives they suppressed a large portion of the genealogical memory of the population.

This loss is unrecoverable. However, the author's experience shows that one can restore a lot more than may appear possible at first glance.

Jewish genealogy has its specifics. Some time ago Lev Uspenski made a note of an astonishing diversity in Jewish family names, which reflect the

complex and difficult history of the Jewish people. There was a tradition once that Jews with the same family name could not live in the same city or marry each other. This, and the relatively small percentage of the population (by comparison with other ethnic groups) makes it easier to identify a Jew in the various sources. What makes this task difficult is the presence of double, some times triple Jewish family names, middle names, Russified names, etc.

The Jews were forced to live mostly in the western parts of Russia in the "Pale of Settlement". Linguistic specifics of the family names, common use of suffices (for instance: "berg", "feld", "tal", etc.), and family names derived from cities or shtetls simplifies localization of family origins.

A logical start of a genealogical investigation would be to inquire among relatives and study family records. However, repercussions of the war complicate this approach. [This increases significantly the importance of periodicals and other publications.]

Discrimination in the legal code of Tsarist Russia forced Jews into occupations mainly in manufacturing, retail business, medical or legal employment. All of these professions needed advertisement. Thus, there are few Jews whose family names don't appear in the address directories from that time.

It's useful to start the search with the issue "All Russia", which had been published from 1895 to 1913. One usually starts with editions published between 1899 and 1902, which contain alphabetical listings, and then proceeds through the remaining issues. This process helps to localize the next step of the search to particular cities and counties.

In Russia in Tsarist times there were also numerous local directories such as "All Vilna", "All Petersburg", "All Odessa", county address directories, etc. Some of these continued to be published during Soviet times, e.g., "All Petersburg" was published up to 1935.

Telephone directories also exist in almost all Soviet cities. A genealogist can study these directories, starting with early issues and noting

changes in the data. This will supplement other available information.

Another source of material is the 16 volume *Jewish Encyclopedia* (published in English in Jerusalem in 1972), which include data about the most significant Jewish names over the past centuries.

An enormous source of personal data is pre-Soviet newspapers and magazines. Business and medical advertisements, court papers, voters lists, etc. contain thousands of Jewish names. They mention double and triple family names, names of family members, sometimes maiden names etc. The search that uses this source is time consuming but rewarding. It's wise to begin the study with investigation of county reports and Russian-Jewish periodical papers.

Personal information on a district level sometimes can be found in various yearly reports: county and city official reports, charity and business organizations reports, etc. A large collection of these papers is stored in the Russian National Library.

Among the more or less accessible hand-written sources of genealogical data are the tenancy books. These include passport-type data and also mention when and from where the new tenants arrived. In St. Petersburg those books were in use since about 1933, and they are kept now in building offices.

The hand-written documents from government archives are, however, less accessible. There are a number of reasons why:

1. One usually has to have a letter from an official organization to have an access to the archive. Obtaining such a letter is almost impossible for an amateur genealogist because until recently no organization except the KGB was interested in Jewish genealogy.

2. Access to the archive may also be granted by the manager. He usually gives a permit for a very short time and restricts access to a very narrow subject of the archive so that archive employees will not be overloaded with extra work. Moreover, an amateur has no access at all to the most important part of the archive-- the records of birth and marriage. In recent times, the increased interest of Jews abroad in the archives of the former USSR has created a tendency to limit an access. Thus, the most promising direction for this type of research may be completely in the hands of the archive employees.

3. In 1968, Jewish archives were placed under security control due to the Jewish-Arab war. Many of these controls have been lifted. However, we still don't know if all have been freed.

4. Usually, Soviet archives give lowest priority to Jewish related documents. Because of this, these documents are been processed last, and many of them are still lying in a pile.

When all the above obstacles are overcome as much as possible, one should start investigation with metrical books. Consider the situation with these books. A government regulation issued on June 2, 1969, limited the time period during which the documentation can be stored in the archive to seventy five years. After that period the documents are supposed to be transferred to the main office of the archive department. These archives are absolutely inaccessible to an amateur, which I think relates to the some privacy considerations. In fact, I managed to obtain my mother's birth certificate from the archive organization only with a great deal of effort and time.

Since the sources mentioned above are almost inaccessible let's talk of the pre-Soviet metrical books, that is books which are older than seventy-five years. A.B.Elpatyevskii made a statement that records (and thus metrical books) are now held for more than twenty *yeshivoth* from the former Soviet Union. Indeed, most of them are in the republics of the former Pale of Settlement. For example the most fruitful records for 1838 to 1914, which also include metrical books, for of Vilenskiy and Kovenskiy *yeshivoth* can be found in the governmental historical archive of Lithuania in Vilnius.

In Russia the trail is more complicated. On August 27, 1969, the Russian Board of Ministers issued a regulation that required placement of metrical books of some synagogues in the Leningrad "Records of Birth and Marriage Archive". How many of those books were sent there and how many of them were released after seventy-five years of being stored in the archive is not known. However, a couple years ago I saw metrical books of 1856-1913 years in the historical archive of St. Petersburg. This means that at least books of St. Petersburg *yeshivoth* have been transferred from the "Records of Birth and Marriage Archives" to the Soviet Republic archive system.

Metrical books are not the only source of information for a genealogist. Discrimination in the legal code of Tsarist Russia demanded governmental employers watch closely almost every Jew from his birth till his death. Duke Urusov, who was loyal to Jews, recalls that when the governor sent him to Kishinev after the famous Jewish pogrom in 1903, the office had to process 10,000 law suits a year. The officials were overburdened with keeping track of Jewish suits, and often used all their free time to complete that task. In contrast, in central Russia officials had considerable amount of free time.

Records of province and city offices, business, retail and manufacturing associations, schools, military offices, etc., are sources of tens of thousands of Jewish documents. A genealogist can find there an abundant field for research. The search, which uses this type of data, demands a genealogist with certain qualifications: knowledge of functionality of fonds (the Soviet grouping of records) and understanding of the Russian legal system, types of various documentation, etc. Without such qualifications the expense of a trip to the Soviet archives won't be worth while.

To conclude this article I need to say of our two tasks: general and particular.

1. The rate of migration of national minorities increased extremely during the last few years. Hardship conditions during the move and severe Custom Law limitations have caused numerous private family records to vanish. So, our first task is to oppose this process. Perhaps, this can be accomplished through creation of special offices in the Republic and regional archives for records of emigrant families. This may be possible if these offices have some financial support.

2. To make a necessary foundation of genealogical research in Russia we will need to recover and process a massive amount of personal data. We need to make a data base of Russian Jews that will include names, locations, dates and some other references.

These problems can be solved only with common efforts of many researchers, that is, we need to organize ourselves. That can be done either by creating a Jewish branch in the Russian Genealogical Society, or making a similar branch in the Society of Amateur Genealogists, or create a Jewish Genealogical Society of our own (for instance, a Petersburg Jewish Genealogical Society, similar to one founded in Moscow).

In general, due to the liberalization of Russian politics with reference to Jews, the Russian-Jewish genealogical development is now more promising than it has ever been in the last seventy-five years.

WHAT'S IT LIKE IN THE TRENCHES?

Using documents found in the Russian State Historical Archive (RSHA) in St. Petersburg, Anatoli Chayesh has compiled an alphabetical list of more than 4,000 names of synagogue officials in Russia between 1853 and 1855. His impression of the RSHA? "It's very tiring to look through lists written in the old style of handwriting by different scribes. Researchers are not given the original file but rather a microfilm. The microfilm reading equipment is old, in poor condition, and almost impossible to use." (*Shem Tov* June, 1993)

EUROPEAN RESEARCH

FREE GREAT BRITAIN BOOKLET

The British Tourist Authority in co-operation with the Federation of Family History Societies and the Society of Genealogists publishes a nifty little booklet for anyone thinking about doing genealogical work at home or in Great Britain: *Britain, Tracing your Ancestors..* Copies may be obtained by writing the British Tourist Authority, Thames Tower, Black's Road, London W5 9EL. (*The Family Tree*)

CZECH AND HUNGARIAN GUIDES

Susan Sherman of Albany, NY recommends a non-Jewish driver-guide she retained when she was in Hungary recently. His name is Robert Farkas; Vaci utca 42; Budapest V ker; 1056 Hungary. He took her through Budapest, other parts of Hungary and Slovakia. Eytan David Lederer of Haifa has recommended Jiri Osanec of the Czech Republic who assisted him in archival research and as a guide in Bohemia. Write: Mr. Jiri Osanec, I.P. Pavlova 26, 77900 Olomouc, Czech Republic. (November 29, 1993 letter from Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies)

HUNGARIAN CENSUS RETURNS

The Fall, 1993 issue of *Mishpacha* includes an article written by Daniel M. Schlyter on Hungarian census returns. He describes the 1848 Hungarian census of the Jews and provides information to help you understand the column headings of the census forms, and help you request the films from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

RELATIVES IN ENGLAND

The *Jewish Chronicle* in London publishes FREE ADS in their "Search" column. Send your family search ad to the newspaper at 25 Furnival Street, London EC4A 1JT England. (From *Discovery*, Winter 1993, via *Branches*, Vol. 6 No 3, March/April, 1994)

GERMAN NAME SUFFIXES ARE CLUES

The following suffixes to German names can contain clues to the region of origin:

bach	southwest Germany
burg	throughout Germany
haus	Westphalia
ecke	Hesse and Thuringia
ingen	Bavaria
ski/zke	Pomerania

(from *CSGA Newsletter* via *SCCHGS Newsletter*, Vol. 36 No. 5, Dec 1993.)

WAR REPARATIONS Ralph G. Bennett, M.D.

Ralph G. Bennett, M.D. is a physician in Hayward, California. He first became interested in his family's history when he discovered that his wife's ancestors were among the first Dutch Jews who settled in Suriname, South America in the 1660's. From genealogy, his interests have broadened to involve scholarly studies in a number of other areas. Dr. Bennett has published over three dozen articles on medical subjects, history, Jewish genealogy, art history, anthropology, and economics.

The Nazi holocaust is one of the most dreadful tragedies that has befallen Jewish families in the modern world. Yet, the records documenting this disaster can prove to be of invaluable help to the genealogist who is in search of information about European relatives who perished. My wife Sherry, for example, is descended from Dutch Jews, and she lost many relatives who were living in Holland during World War II. Recently Sherry recalled that when she was a teenager, she and her cousins on the Levie side of her family had been notified that they were going to receive a cash settlement from the West German government. This settlement was a part of reparations which were being paid to survivors of families who had been murdered by the Nazis during the war. Sherry's recollection of the details was very vague, except she did remember that an agency of the Dutch government had acted as intermediary. They had assisted by locating the family members and distributing the money.

I tried to get more definite information by questioning Sherry's mother, but the only thing that Goldie could tell me was that the money had come to them at a time when it was urgently needed. In 1959, Goldie had been a widow for several years. Her brother-in-law, Sherry's uncle Marcus Levie (who had come to live with them after his brother's death), had just passed away. Whatever money Marcus possessed had reverted to his married daughter, Magda, so the wolf was at the door for Sherry and her mother. At that time Sherry was seventeen and had just started college. Even though she had a partial scholarship, her financial situation looked rather grim; it even seemed that she would have to leave school due to lack of funds and go to work. But just at that crucial moment the letter had arrived from Holland concerning the war reparations, and there was enough money to keep her in school. Sherry also remembered that the other Levie cousins had also received a share, including cousin Magda as well as several more distant cousins that she could barely recall. Goldie remembered hearing of one distant Levie cousin called Jermaine, who had received an extraordinarily large share because she was some sort of double cousin; that is, she was related in more than one way

to the deceased relatives from Holland. Goldie recalled that all the cousins were jealous because Jermaine had received enough money to enable her to retire. At the time, Jermaine was a divorced woman of about 40, and she used the money to take herself off to a Caribbean island where she was able to live quite splendidly. No one had heard from her in years.

As I heard this story I became very excited; I realized that there was an agency in the Dutch or German government that must have extensive records on this Levie family. After all, they had been able to track down all of these living relatives. Quickly I called cousin Magda in New York and the several other cousins I could track down, and tried to find out what they could remember. No one seemed to have a copy of the original documents that had listed all of the relatives, or a record of the share of the fortune that they had received. The only fact that everyone agreed on was that the lion's share had gone to Jermaine, and no one knew her whereabouts.

It had taken all those years from the close of World War II to 1959 for the West German government to get around to making restitution to the survivors of persecuted families. But even though more than another 30 years had passed, I was determined to do some sleuthing and see if I could gain access to the documents that listed all the relationships in the Levie family. My first step was to call the local Netherlands Consulate in San Francisco to see if maybe they could tell me the name of the organization in the Dutch government that handled those reparations. Sure enough, they told me that it was the "Aid to Victims of Persecution." The closest branch was attached to the Netherlands Consulate in Los Angeles. I put in a call to L.A. right away. The woman who answered was very cordial. But, in my excitement to relay the story to her, I'm afraid I overwhelmed her with information. I tried to explain to her about Jermaine who was the double cousin, related to the deceased parties on both her mother's and her father's sides. "Please Dr. Bennett," the woman pleaded "write all of this down and send me a letter, I can't keep track of all of these details." I explained to her how

important it was to me to get this information so that I could trace back the Levie family tree. So that night I wrote a letter to her outlining all the fragments of the story that I knew.

Two weeks passed before a letter arrived from the Aid to Victims of Persecution. Excitedly I tore it open but I was due for disappointment. There was no record in the files of the L.A. office of any members of the Levie family. But of course not! The place the family had lived was New York at the time and so it wasn't too surprising that the West Coast office had no relevant documents. However, the woman I had spoken to in the Los Angeles office had already checked with the New York office and there was no listing there either. Her only suggestion was that I write directly to the main office in Amsterdam, which I did. Following another wait of four weeks, a letter arrived. This time I opened it more cautiously. Sure enough, the Amsterdam office had no record of the Levie family in its files either. They wrote me that the actual researching and administration of the funds had been assigned to various civil notaries in Holland. The one that had handled many of the claims for survivors living in New York City was a Mr. Edward Spier of Amsterdam. Mr. Spier had passed away but his son had carried on in his business and perhaps would have the information. It seemed like a long-shot but I fired off another letter.

Several more weeks passed by and I was beginning to think I would never crack the secret of the Levies. Then one day I received a giant envelope from Mr. Spier Jr. Inside were pages and pages of information on the Levie family! It was accompanied by a drawing of the family tree with all kinds of lines crisscrossing each other indicating a tremendous amount of inter-marriage in former generations. Unfortunately, the whole thing was in Dutch so I could not understand all the information at once, but I could read the names and the dates and get the general idea. The additional information attached to the family tree chart was apparently biographical information about the ancestral cousins of the Levie family. With the help of a translator from the Netherlands Consulate in San Francisco, I was able to unravel the convoluted relationships and open the door back many generations into the history of my wife's family tree.

If your family has suffered a similar loss due to the holocaust, it is possible that the main office in Amsterdam can help you as well. Their address is:

Netherlands State Institute for War Documentation
Herengracht 474
1017 CA Amsterdam-C, The Netherlands.
Telefax 020-278208, Telephone 020-243312.

HOLOCAUST RESEARCH

HOLOCAUST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The new United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC houses the Holocaust Research Institute. While not particularly geared to genealogical research, the Institute does have many resources that are of interest to us.

The Institute's Library has 17,000 books and periodicals; the Archives contains millions of paper and microfilmed documents copies from European archives, including Germany and the former Soviet Union; the Photo Archives has 40,000 photos covering all aspects of the Holocaust; and the Oral History Archives contains 1800 video and audio taped oral interviews with survivors, liberators and other eyewitnesses. In addition, the files of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors are housed here.

Unfortunately for genealogists, this collection is not indexed by name. However, it might still be of use to many of us. For more information, contact the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Holocaust Research Institute, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2150 (*Yichus Y'all*, JGS of Georgia, Summer 1993 via *Lineage*, Summer-Fall 1993)

THE "LISTS" PROJECT

At present, the Library is not prepared to make public its works its work in progress of various published sources that include lists of names of Holocaust victims. They are working on this exhausting project and it is in a rough format. The most complete single resource listing names of Holocaust victims is still Yad Vashem in Israel (3 million names). If you know of any unusual resources that can be documented, the Library welcomes input. Please contact Sarah Ogilvie, 202-488-6118 (*Steve Goldmintz*, *Lineage*, Summer-Fall 1993)

NATIONAL REGISTRY OF SURVIVORS

The National Registry of Holocaust Survivors, a database of well over 80,000 names of survivors and their kin, has been transferred to the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Data from survivors, refugees or their relatives, in the United States and abroad, is still being added. For information or registration forms contact Sara Ogilvie at the Museum, 202-488-6164. (From the Wisconsin Jewish Genealogical Society *Family Finding*, January 1994 via *Branches*, Vol. 6 No 3, March/April, 1994)

READERS' PAGES

Bob,

I had a relative/friend check for some family information at the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People and they were very successful. These were from the towns around Nuremberg and were the materials I had the inventory lists that were transferred first from the community in 1933 and then to the Archives about 1946 plus.

Thanks,
Fred Loewy

Dear Mr. Weiss,

We are taking this opportunity of contacting you once again in regard to our growing collection of objects and data on Jews in American politics. We are most gratified with both the material sent in and leads furnished in response to our previous requests and wish to bring you up-to-date on the growth of our collection and background information. We have a large number of memorabilia... brochures, buttons, balloons, bumper-stickers, T-shirts, pens, etc. The inventiveness displayed in the various campaigns is truly amazing. May we request that you continue thinking of us, should any such objects, data or leads become available to you. Of course, we will be happy to defray your out-of-pocket expenses such as photocopying or mailing charges. Sincerely, Rose Horowitz—Politics Collection, Hebrew Union College—Institute of Religion, 3077 University Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90007-3796.

Dear Sirs:

Thank you very much for the packet of materials related to Ms. Kennedy's lecture in November on National Archives material of value to Jewish genealogists. Not only am I happy to have this valuable information, I really appreciate your making it available and mailing it to me.

Sincerely,
Tonya Young

P.S. That must have been a terrific presentation.

To SFBA JGS:

Y'all are doin' a great job! Just read February '94 ZichronNote! Many thanks-

Norm Coliver

Dear Bob,

After reading about the Jewish monuments in Poland, I have just about made up my mind not to go there. The two villages we were going to visit have nothing to visit—no synagogue, the cemeteries have no visible stones. They are being used for recreative and commercial sites. It gives one a

feeling of great desolation to realize that a whole civilization was wiped out just like that. I think it would be a very depressing journey to see what has happened first hand. Anyway thanks for letting me look it over. It was certainly enlightening.

Ruth Bradlor

Dear Bob,

Thank you so much for taking so much time to select and copy various information from the genealogical information you have. I apologize for being so tardy in expressing my appreciation. There is so much rich information around that the novice doesn't know how to access. The articles you sent to me will certainly be very helpful. Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Carol Morrison

Date: 94-04-06 17:52:23 EDT

From: fmarmor@dorsai.dorsai.org

Subj: Bayside & Mokom Sholom Cemeteries

To: Sita Likuski

Situation is getting serious. Bayside was hit again a few days ago by "vandals" who wreaked the most horrible destruction. This mess is the worst so far. I have not seen it myself just saw the TV reports. 150 tombstones were thrown down. They broke into many mausoleums, broke into the coffins and threw the bones around. Some bones are totally missing and the police think they were taken away. An urn filled with ashes was overturned and the ashes strewn about.

On the Mokom Sholom front things are not going well either. The "owner" says the empty back end is virgin ground and he is planning to sell cemetery lots there. THIS is NOT virgin ground though I have no proof. This is the oldest part of the cemetery and we have uncovered documentation of a free burial area that could only have been in this part of the cemetery. Neither Bayside nor the rest of Mokom Sholom could contain that many graves. The "owner" though, seems to be politically and religiously connected. He is quite sure of himself and says he has documentation to prove this is virgin land. He has also filled in a gully that was there for many, many years and has put gravestones into this gully. I don't know where the gravestones came from but as far as I can determine there were never any graves in the gully.

We need photographs of the cemetery as it was before all the desecration. Please get word out to your members and if anyone has anything to please send it on.

Florence Marmor
74-08 97th Avenue
Ozone Park, NY 11416

FAMILY FINDER

Anna Olswanger, 7117 Harps Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27615, 919-870-0555.

Searching **Alschwanger/Olschwanger** family of **Kretinga, Varniai, and Kovno, Lithuania**, later of **St. Louis, MO**. Also ancestors of **Boris Schatz** (founder of Bezalel Art Academy), of **Varniai, Lithuania**.

Jerry Delson, 660 Ashton Ave., Palo Alto CA 94306, is helping new immigrants find the following relatives. Contact Jerry by telephone: 415-493-0404 or e-mail: sfba@mcimail.com

BLUMKIN, Jacob & Raya, 205 Cooper Place, **New Haven CN** (1960); now in 80s; son-in-law gynecologist.

BORTNIK, Yakov Abramovich, wife Irina; From **Odessa, UKR** lived in France 1920-38; may have moved to America.

GREENBERG, Solomon & Eugenia (née **BILMAN**) to U.S. 1905? **Brooklyn** glass factory; grand-daughters Riva, Manya (Maria), Fenya came in 1921 after parents died in **Odessa, UKR**.

GRODETSKY (GORODETSKIJ), Shiko-Itzko (son of Yankel), b. 1895 **Korostyshev, UKR**. to Chicago 1920, then married & had daughters; Last letter 1948. May have retired in **Miami, FL**.

HEITIN, Harry & Pauline, 967 Pleasant St. **Worcester, MA** (1960), age now 65-75.

LEVENSON, Harry & Madeline; musician (viol); children Laura (b. 1956), Don & Paul (twins 1959).

MAD (MOED, MUD), Shleima-Ber (son of Baruch and Riva), b. 1890 **Korostyshev, UKR**. Married in New York; letters to 1948.

MOLODETSKY (MOLOD), Harry (Gershon) son of Yosiph; b. 1872 **Petroverovka, UKR**; to U.S. (1905) with wife Aida (1880) daughters Gussy (1901), Bella (1904), & Lena (1905). Born in **New York**: daughters Ida (1909), Rose (1914), Dorothy (1917), son Morris (1911). Naturalized 1912.

REGELMAN, Uri, lawyer, (son of Efroim) b. 1888 **Popasnaya UKR**, d. 1972 **Baku, Azerbaijan**. Brothers, sister to N.Y. 1920?, letters to 1938

ROVINSKY (RUVINSKY), Moshe, b. 1888 **Novogeorgievsk, UKR**. to Philadelphia 1915; jeweler, died 1931-1932. In 1922, brought wife Rosa (Raisa) son Nehemia b. 1909, daughter Milya b. 1911; Son Tevia born **Philadelphia, PA** 1923?

SHECHTER, Samuil & Eva (née Frenkel) from **Kherson UKR**. to **Brooklyn** 1917? Son Joseph; daughters Tsilya **KATSELMAN**, Fenya **GOKH (HOKH)**, Bella **SCHECTER**. Last letter 1946.

TRABUCHER, Harry, b. 1889 **Latvia**; 1919 to U.S. Sons 1917, 1927; grandson 1940. 87 or 89 Main St. **Paterson, NJ** (1952).

NAMES

The *Sharsheret Hadorot* January 1993 issue has articles on the **Frumkin, Kara/Caro** and **Rapaport** families. The April 1993 issue has information on the **Shaprut** and **Eger** families.

The Spring, 1993 issue of *Mishpacha* reports that Charles Sonnenborn has written a 220-page book about his **Sonnenborn** family (starting with Moses who lived from 1774-1852). For information, write to the author at 8000 Rising Ridge Road, Bethesda, MD 20817 or 301-365-4515.

CANADIAN VETERANS

If you are looking for information on members of the Canadian Armed Forces, try these addresses: Veteran's Affairs, Access to Information, PO Box 7700, Charlettetown, PE C1A8M9, phone (902)566-8607 and Personnel Records Centre, National Archives of Canada, Tunney's Pasture, Goldenrod Street, Ottawa, ON K1A0N3, phone 613-954-4138. Provide salient details and they will supply what information they can from whatever records they can find. Replies take a month or more. (Contra Costa Genealogical Society, November, 1993)

SEEKING A LAWYER RELATIVE

R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company annually publishes a directory containing the names of virtually all U.S. practicing lawyers called the *Martindale-Hubbel Law Directory*. It gives year of birth, year of admission to legal practice, and a summary of education. If a law firm is given, you can look up the firm and find the exact date and place of birth and additional profession information. The entire set consists of 17 volumes and can be found in all law libraries and most major libraries. (*Mass-Pocha* JGS of Greater Boston, Spring 1993 via *Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society Newsletter*, Summer 1993)

ZichronNote—Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Family Finder queries are free to Society members. Non-members may place queries for \$5.00 each limited to 25 words not including searcher's name, address and phone number.

Correspondence relating to items for publication, and requests for back issues @\$5.00 should be addressed to Bob Weiss, 3916 Louis Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4541.

Meetings Odd-numbered months— 3rd Sunday of each month, starting at 1:00 PM at the Jewish Community Library, 601 14th Avenue (at Balboa), San Francisco.

Even-numbered months— 3rd Monday of each month starting at 7:30 PM at Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue (near Arastradero & Foothill), Palo Alto.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Dues are \$20.00 per year. Make checks out to "SFBA JGS" and send to S. Laszlo, Treasurer, 34 Craig Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611.

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