



זכרון  
ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area  
Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XVI, Number 1

February 1996

LOCAL GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Meetings of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

- Mon Feb 19** 7:30-10PM **Regular Meeting. *Effective Phone and Letter Writing Strategies***  
A panel discussion and question & answer session moderated by **Steve Olson**  
Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (Near Foothill and Astradero), Palo Alto.
- Sun Mar 24** 1:00-3:00 PM **Regular Meeting. (Note Date Change ) Edward Nute of BLITZ**  
will detail the research services offered by BLITZ. (See article on page 6)  
Fort Mason Center, Bldg C, Room 210, (Marina at Buchanan), San Francisco.  
Doors open at 12:30PM. Free to members, \$3.00 for non-members, applicable toward membership.
- Mon Apr 15** 7:30-10PM **Regular Meeting.**  
Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (Near Foothill and Astradero), Palo Alto.
- Sun May 19** 1:00-3:00 PM **Regular Meeting.**  
Fort Mason Center, (Marina at Buchanan), San Francisco. Doors open at 12:30PM.  
Free to members, \$3.00 for non-members, applicable to membership.
- Mon Jun 17** 7:30-10PM **Regular Meeting.**  
Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (Near Foothill and Astradero), Palo Alto.
- Sun Jul 21** 1:00-3:00 PM **Regular Meeting.**  
Fort Mason Center, (Marina at Buchanan), San Francisco. Doors open at 12:30PM.  
Free to members, \$3.00 for non-members, applicable to membership.
- Mon Aug 19** 7:30-10PM **Regular Meeting.**  
Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (Near Foothill and Astradero), Palo Alto.
- Sun Sep 8** 1:00-3:00 PM **Regular Meeting. (Note Date Change )**  
Fort Mason Center, (Marina at Buchanan), San Francisco. Doors open at 12:30PM.  
Free to members, \$3.00 for non-members, applicable to membership.
- Mon Oct 21** 7:30-10PM **Regular Meeting.**  
Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (Near Foothill and Astradero), Palo Alto.
- Sun Nov 17** 1:00-3:00 PM **Regular Meeting.**  
Fort Mason Center, (Marina at Buchanan), San Francisco. Doors open at 12:30PM.  
Free to members, \$3.00 for non-members, applicable to membership.
- Mon Dec 16** 7:30-10PM **Regular Meeting.**  
Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (Near Foothill and Astradero), Palo Alto.

## ZichronNote

### Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

*ZichronNote* is published four times per year at the beginning of February, May, August, and November. Deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month preceding publication. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submittals. Contributions may be submitted on 3-1/2-inch floppy disks in DOS or Macintosh format or e-mailed to RWeissJGS@aol.com

**Reprinting** of material in *ZichronNote* is permitted when there is no explicit prohibition and provided that source attribution is made.

**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.

**Correspondence** relating to items for publication, or requests for back issues, should be addressed to the Editor.

**Production Note:** This issue of *ZichronNote* was composed on an Apple@Macintosh™ LC III, ClarisWorks™ V4.0 software, and printed on an Apple@Stylewriter II printer.

**Advertising:** Display advertising is accepted. The rate for a 2-column-inch (3-1/2 x 2 inch, business card sized) insertion will be \$10.00 per issue, quarter-page ad \$20.00, half-page ad \$35.00, full-page ad \$60.00. Ads must be camera-ready, relate to Jewish genealogy, and be in good taste.

**Membership** in the SFBA JGS is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Dues are \$20.00 per calendar year. The Society is "exempt" per section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Make check out to "SFBA JGS" and send to: Sherrill Laszlo, Treasurer, 34 Craig Ave., Piedmont, CA 94611.

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**Meetings: Odd-numbered months**— 3rd Sunday of each month, 1:00 PM at Fort Mason Center (Marina at Buchanan), San Francisco. **Even-numbered months**— 3rd Monday of each month, 7:30 PM at Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue (near Arastradero & Foothill), Palo Alto.

**SFBA-JGS Web Site:** <http://www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs>

## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This year marks an important transition in the development of our Society. We enter our sixteenth year with a new, youthful set of officers dedicated to molding the organization to respond to the needs and wishes of our members. This issue of *ZichronNote* reflects the transition, and the subject matter concentrates on articles written for and by our members.

Last year we sent a questionnaire to all members soliciting information on who you are, what are your interests, what kinds of meetings you would like to see, and what you like and don't like about our organization and its journal *ZichronNote*. We were gratified that over half of you responded. Our President Dana Kurtz summarizes your responses in a feature article. She calls for your continuing feedback on projects, workshops, and meeting topics.

This issue is heavy on the benefits of membership: new reference books deposited in our lending library; cassette tapes of our own meetings and summer conferences; substantial discounts on reference books for your home library; and advance notices on meetings, conferences, and heritage tours. We copy from JewishGen a preview of the 14th Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, to be held this year in Boston.

Not all of our readers have computers, and not all of us spend our idle moments browsing the Web, exchanging e-mail and chatting on line. For our readers who may not have had the opportunity to read the now scholarly, now entertaining pieces by our member Dan Leeson, we are reprinting his Jewish genealogical fable. Read it once and have a good laugh. Then read it a second time and pull out some of the research tips and techniques he so cleverly weaves into the story.

Our December Palo Alto meeting featured Karen Zukor, a professional conservator, who spoke on preservation of the valuable genealogical papers we work so hard to locate and collect. For those 85-90 percent of our members who could not attend, Dana Kurtz presents a brief guide to photo and document preservation, and Lillian Wurzel adds a footnote which suggests a good reference for those who wish to dig a little deeper.

My apologies to Lillian for reducing her ASK LILLIAN column in this issue to a footnote, but I needed the space to air what I feel is an important alert concerning the deliberate destruction of records in the State Archives in Hamburg, Germany. We genealogists are more and more being called upon to take responsibility for the preservation of valuable records—not only our own, but also the primary records that our entire community relies on. Pick up your pen or turn on your word processor and get involved.

Robert Weiss

## SOCIETY PAGES

### President's Message

Welcome to a new year with the SFBA JGS. One of my goals as president is to enhance your benefits of membership. This was the primary impetus for the survey you recently received. (See the Survey Summary article on page 9.) We are over 200 members strong, and can provide expertise and experience for each other. I seek to take advantage of your diversity of interests, and offer unique opportunities to enrich your genealogical endeavors.

For example, through the Society you can purchase many of the published, major resources at substantial discounts. These include *Where Once We Walked* and *Jewish Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area..* We eagerly anticipate the publishing of *The Dictionary of Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland* by Alexander Beider, and hope to offer a discount for that as well. These are deals much too good to pass up.

In July, the 15th Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Boston. Expected highlights include lectures by Beider, (see above), and Jayre Roberts of the LDS Family History Library on the Ellis Island records indexing project. In 1997, we are off to Paris! Jewish genealogy expert Gary Mokotoff recently reported on the unexpectedly high percentage of West Coast participants at these seminars. If you are thinking about attending either seminar, please let me know so we can organize a prep session, and perhaps coordinate travel. The Seminar in Washington DC last year was my first, and was tremendously valuable even though I made no breakthroughs in my own research. (Seminars will be held in Los Angeles in 1998, and in New York City in 1999.)

The survey told us that over 34% of members use e-mail. I anticipate sending meeting updates and other timely information using on-line communications. For those who do not use e-mail, we will keep you up to date with mailings to supplement *ZichronNote*. Using e-mail will allow us to use funds for other projects.

Speaking of projects, the Society is involved with quite a few. Gordon Fine leads our participation in the International Jewish Cemetery Project which has ambitious goals— to document cemeteries with Jewish burials, then to index every individual buried there. We can help by surveying our own, local cemeteries. Indexing of Holocaust oral testimonies held by the Northern California Holocaust Center continues, with the aim to catalog every name and town mentioned by those who have told their stories. What phenomenal resources these da-

tabases will be.

Jerry Delson coordinates assistance to Russian immigrants seeking long-lost family. Some of us have lent a hand, tracing families through city directories, census records and phone disks. I received a joyful, teary phone call from a new arrival who found family not heard from since the 1920s, as the result of my half-hour of research. Time you give to these projects is sure to be rewarding. Please don't hesitate to suggest other project ideas. Personally, I hope to index the holdings of the Mormon Family History Library for New York City.

As always, you can reach me by mail, phone or by e-mail at [dlkurtz@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dlkurtz@ix.netcom.com)

### 1996 Society Officers

The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society has a new set of officers. Robert Weiss, president for four years, has served his maximum two terms of office, and has turned over the reins to Dana Kurtz. Bob will retain his position as Editor of *ZichronNote*. The names and addresses of the new officers are as follows:

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415-346-4856  
[GJF@tvlf.com](mailto:GJF@tvlf.com)

**Library Committee Chair :** Judy Baston  
700 De Haro Street, San Francisco, CA 94107  
415-285-4616

**Welcome New Members**

We welcome new members who joined our Society since last November. We hope to see you at our meetings and workshops. Please feel free to communicate your feelings, comments, and suggestions to our officers whether in person or by mail.

Peter Haas	Novato
Michael Goloff	Oakland
Sidney & Babette Bloch	Mill Valley
Malcolm Cohen	San Francisco
Barry Klezmer/Steven Sterns	San Francisco
Marc Seidenfeld	San Bruno
Mark Tonn	Fairfield
Gail Lutolf	Sonoma
Marc Monene	Los Gatos
Alan Wachtel	Palo Alto
Karen Zukor	Oakland
James Koenig	Richmond
Robin Fisher	Montara
Steven Byars	Lockwood, NV
Jeremy Frankel	Berkeley

**Thanks For Your Generous Donations**

Special thanks to the following members whose generous donations will be used for library acquisitions. Materials purchased for our library will be researched and recommended by our Library Committee. An Addendum to the Index of Library Holdings you received in your membership package, will be published in *ZichronNote*, when purchases have been made. We have received donations from 33 people in our society with donations totaling over \$550. This incredible level of generosity represents 16.5% of our membership. Now all we need is a permanent home for this wealth of knowledge. Please note that ideas for acquisitions are always welcomed by the Library Committee. Contact Judy Baston (415) 285-4616.

Name, City Membership-Category

- Norma Agar**, Cupertino-Contributing
- David A. Baerncopf**, Menlo Park-Patron
- Judy Baston**, San Francisco-Supporting
- Gerald B. Bernstein**, Castro Valley-Contributing
- Joan Brownstein**, Kentfield-Contributing
- Joel Cherniss**, San Francisco-Contributing
- Harry J. Cornbleet**, Saratoga-Contributing
- Shirley Epstein**, Palm Beach, FL-Contributing
- Gordon Fine**, San Francisco-Supporting
- Sharon Fingold**, Los Altos-Contributing
- Lawrence Fried**, Palo Alto- Contributing
- Daniel H. Goodman**, Menlo Park-Patron
- Donald R. Gotthold**, Fremont-Contributing
- Carol Hanig**, Lafayette-Contributing
- Marcia Kaplan**, Saratoga-Contributing
- Irwin Keller**, Oakland-Contributing
- Merle Krantzman**, Moraga-Supporting
- Dana Kurtz & Rob Mackenzie**, SF-Contrib.
- Sherrill Stern Laszlo**, Piedmont-Contributing
- Martin Lefkovits**, San Francisco-Contributing
- Manfred Lindner**, Danville-Contributing
- Fred Loewy**, Millbrae-Contributing
- Ruth H. Mayo**, Mountain View-Contributing
- Linda Minsky**, Fremont-Contributing
- Carol Morrison**, Piedmont-Contributing
- Helen Nestor**, Berkeley-Supporting
- Howard M. Oser**, Greenbrae-Other
- Harvey Posert**, St. Helena-Supporting
- Irvin M. Roth**, Sunnyvale-Contributing
- Alan H. Rosen**, Carmel Highlands-Contributing
- E. Diane Ahrens Ross**, San Francisco-Contrib.
- Jacob & Ruth Rubin**, Palo Alto-Contributing
- Rebekah Sachs**, San Francisco-Contributing
- Jane N. Schwartz**, San Jose-Contributing
- Edward Tanovitz**, Oakland-Contributing
- Gail Todd**, Berkeley-Contributing

**New Books in Our Society Library**

The following titles have been added to our Society Library. To use any of them at a meeting or borrow them between meetings call our Librarian Judy Baston at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author or Publisher</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Genealogy & CD-ROM Resource Guide	Automated Research	1995	76pb
Jewish Surnames in Prague (15th-18th Centuries)	Beider, Alexander	1994	46pb
Engel Family, The	Engel, Jan M.	1995	324pb+disk
Migration from the Russian Empire 1875-1882	Glazier, Ira A.	1995	703hc
Migration from the Russian Empire 1882-1886	Glazier, Ira A.	1995	631hc
Genealogy-A Guide to the UC Berkeley Library	Hill, B. L.	1984	75pb
Catalog of Census Returns on Microfilm, 1666-1891	Hillman, Thomas A.	1987	289pb
Old Town, New Town: An Enjoyment of San Diego Jewish History	Kramer, William M., Ed.	1994	96pb
Ship Passenger Lists 1538-1825, A Bibliography of	Lancour, Harold & Wolfe, R.J.	1963	137hc
How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust	Mokotoff, G.	1995	194pb
Where Once We Walked Companion	Mokotoff, G.	1995	197hc
Olschwanger Journal 5744 (No. 1)	Olschwanger, Anna	1983	63pb
Olschwanger Journal 5754 (No. 3)	Olschwanger, Anna	1993	136pb
Oppenheim Family History, The-1750-1995	Oppenheim, Bert	1995	285hc
Unbroken Chain, The	Rosenstein, Neil	1976	716
Tracing your Ancestors in Canada	Roy, Janine	1987	48pb
Russian Language Documents from Russian Poland	Shea, J. D.	1989	79pb

**Audio Cassette Tapes Available on Loan**

The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society has been purchasing and producing audio tapes of selected meetings. These tapes are available on a loan basis to members of the Society. Please call our librarian at least 48 hours prior to a meeting to have the tape at the meeting for your use.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Forum</u>
	Marsha Dennis	97 Orchard Street, (Special Topics Track)	
12/20/93	Abe Gannes	Childhood in a Shtetl	SFBA-JGS
9/18/94	Abe Gannes	Childhood in a Shtetl	SFBA-JGS
3/20/94	Loren Bialik	Finding a Fortune in Your Family Tree	SFBA-JGS
	K. Hart, S. Packman	Gauchet Disease in Ashkenazic Jews	SFBA-JGS
2/17/92	Harry Saal	Genealogical Software (2 tapes)	SFBA-JGS
5/21/95	David Lui	Genealogical Trip to Poland	SFBA-JGS
12/18/94	N. Flores & P. Ludwig	Hispanic Genealogy-Sources of Interest to Sephardic	SFBA-JGS
	Wayne Rose	History & Records, Home of Peace Cemetery, San Jose	SFBA-JGS
1/19/92	Barbara Harris	Holocaust Center (of Northern California)	SFBA-JGS
06/1994	Panel	Israel Seminar	SFBA-JGS
1994	Bob Weiss	Jewish Connections	CGS Fam Hist Fair
2/19/90	Bob Weiss	Jewish Family Names	SFBA-JGS
10/18/93	Yitzchak Kerem	Jews of Greece	SFBA-JGS
4/23/90	Leslie Malkin	Jews of Kaifeng, China	SFBA-JGS
	Joseph Pessah	Karaite Jews	SFBA -JGS
12/06/88		Oral History Introduction	HCNC
10/20/86	Suzanne Wynne	Poland Trip	
	Dan Schlyter	Poland, (European Track)	
03/1995	L. Traubman, G. Todd	Publishing Your Family History	SFBA-JGS
10/23/93	Bob Weiss	Resources for Israel Resources	Sta CI FHC Seminar
2/17/92	Paul Weinberg	Roll Your Own-Genealogy Software	SFBA-JGS
11/15/92	Judith Backover	Something to Remember Them By	SFBA-JGS
10/1991	Jerry Delson	Soviet Union Trip - A Report	SFBA-JGS
	Judith Frazin	Translating Polish Records, (Special Topics Track)	
<b>3rd National Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy - Los Angeles</b>			
P237-1A	David Einsiedler	Researching Rabbinic Genealogy	
P237-2	Lazar	Non-Ashkenazic Jewish Genealogy	
P237-6	Dan Schlyter	The LDS. Genealogical Library and the Jewish Genealogist	
P237-7	Baxter	World Zionist Organization Family Heritage Project	
P237-8	Jack Kugelmass	Writing & Editing as the Key to a Successful Family History Project	
P237-12	Kramer	Tracing Your Jewish Roots West of the Mississippi	
P237-13	Levine	Techniques for Successful Interviews/Oral Histories	
<b>3rd International Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy - Salt Lake City-1991</b>			
#3	Anthony Joseph	British Resources for Ashkenazic & Sephardic Research	
#4	Jurgen Sielemann	Little Known Hamburg Archives Records :Jewish Emigrations 1880-1914	
#5	Eileen Polakoff, et al	Beginner's Workshop (1 of 4)	
#6A	Eileen Polakoff, et al	Beginner's Workshop (2 of 4)	
#7	Eileen Polakoff, et al	Beginner's Workshop (4 of 4)	
#8	Ida Cohen Selavan	Genealogical Resources: Amer. Jewish Archives, Hebrew Union College Library	
#9	Alex Friedlander	How to Translate and Understand Polish & Russian Vital Statistics Documents	
#10	Steven W. Siegel	New York Resources in the LDS Family History Library	
#13	Harry Boonin	Grimsted Made Easy	
#21	Harry Boonin	Russian Jewish Newspapers 1860-1905	
#22	Gary Mokotoff	Holocaust Research	
#25	Alex Friedlander	Jewish Vital Statistics Records in Lithuania & Northeast Poland	
#26	Dennis, Gostin, Siegel	Relatives Lost in America? Strategies for Finding Them	
#29	Harry Boonin	Russia Pogroms 1905	
#32	Sallyann Sack	Introduction to Genealogical Research in Israel	
#33	Sallyann Sack, et al	Genealogical Research in Israel "Beyond The Guide"	
<b>14th International Summer Seminar On Jewish Genealogy - Washington, DC</b>			
#1	Laima Tautvaisaite	Resources & Techniques - Genealogical Research:Lithuanian State Historical Archives	
#8	Patricia Eames	How to Maximize Getting a Favorable Response from Former Russian Archives	
#9	George Boletenko	Beyond the Metrics: Other Genealogical Sources in Russian and Ukrainian Archives	
#14	Bob Weiss	Creating Genealogical Index from Holocaust Oral Testimonies	
#18A,B	Yale Reisner	New Frontiers in "The Old Country": Genealogical Resources in Poland (2 tapes)	
#23	Jacob Karno, Mod.	Organizing New Jewish Genealogical Societies	

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### SFBA JGS March 24 SF Meeting

We have tentatively booked Edward Nute of BLITZ for the March 24 SF meeting. Blitz is a professional research organization, about 4 years old, with an affiliate in St. Petersburg. They specialize in pre-revolutionary Russian research, particularly the archives in St. Petersburg. They are not exclusively involved with Jewish research but have had some success.

As BLITZ is involved in the publishing and distribution of potentially valuable books, they were encouraged to bring catalogs and books for members to look at. We will receive a catalog in advance. BLITZ has taken a booth at the upcoming March Family History Fair.

You can find them through the FEEFHS home page, under Russian Genealogy. There is a hotlink to BLITZ. Here's a bit of the information one finds there:

The Russian-Baltic Information Center - BLITZ is a Russian American company located in St. Petersburg and in San Rafael California. BLITZ provides genealogy searches, archival research and information services. BLITZ is also rapidly becoming a well respected publishing house of historic and archival reference books and is involved in assisting Russian archives in computerizing their records.

Genealogy search requests are processed through BLITZ -USA in California, thereby eliminating the hassles of Russian communication and money transfer as well as misunderstandings about the expectations of their clients. Communication of information is done by e-mail and fax and genealogy searches can usually be completed in 4 - 6 weeks.

A recent catalog of the location of Jewish materials reports that Jewish documents are kept in ten archives in Moscow and nine archives in St. Petersburg. Elsewhere in Russia, there are at least 12 different archives with Jewish materials and 37 in Ukraine and 14 in Belarus.

The largest historical archive in Russia is located in St. Petersburg, the capital city of Tsarist Russia. The Russian State Historic Archive has some 7 million items covering the pre-revolutionary period, i.e. the period from the beginning of the 18th century to 1917. Among the RSHA holdings are materials about Jewish settlements and agricultural colonies including town plans and maps. In some cases, town maps are accompanied by a numbered index to the families living in each house.

Most materials concerning Jewish history in Russian are kept in various central and regional State archives and their branches. Unfortunately,

many Jewish archival materials were destroyed during the two world wars and also during the terrible pogroms which took place in Ukraine and White Russian in 1917-1921.

After the 1930's during the period of the official anti-semitism in the Soviet Union, the collecting and cataloging of Jewish archival materials practically ceased. The process of opening documents of Jewish origin for use by researchers has only recently begun. This work is going slowly and it is not known exactly what kinds of documents still exist and which archives have such documents.

### Other Bay Area Genealogical Meetings

**Sat Feb 10**— San Mateo County Genealogical Society, *Sharing Your Work*, SMCGS Library, 25 Tower Road, San Mateo

**Sat Feb 10, 8AM-4PM**—Commadore Sloat DAR and Monterey FHC, *A Genealogist's Toolbox* \$20.00 includes lunch and syllabus. Call Karen Clifford 408-373-5206

**Sun Feb 11, 10:00AM**—JGS of Sacramento, Speaker Rabbi Reuven Taff, Albert Einstein Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. Call Jane at 916-633-9557

**Wed Feb 14, 10AM**—East Bay GS, *Research Techniques* Mormon Center, 4780 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland

**Tue Feb 20, 10AM**—San Ramon Valley GS, *Where There's No Will There's a Way*, speaker Judy Svoboda, Danville Woman's Club, 242 W. Linda Mesa Ave., Danville

**Thu Feb 22, 7PM**— *How To...* Class by Kinoko's, (Where to place pictures when you print a book), Concord/Walnut Creek FHC, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord.

**Fri-Sat Mar 8-9**—*Find Your Forebears* California Genealogical Society's 11th Annual Family History Fair, San Francisco. **We will have a table at this exciting event. See enclosed Flyer.**

**Sun Mar 17, 10AM**—Business Meeting, Albert Einstein Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento.

**Sat Mar 23, 9-11AM**—*Learn to Copy your Own Photos*, \$15.00 includes one roll of film (undeveloped) and **12-3PM**—*Photo Day* Bring your genealogical photos for copying. \$2.50/ photo, \$25/roll. Call Cath 415-366-5059 for appointment.

**Sat Mar 23, 8AM-4:30PM**—*Records and Research: Following the Genealogical Path* with Christine Rose. Sonoma County GS Seminar, Veterans Memorial Building in Santa Rosa, \$15.00 at the door. Call Maggi Andrews 707-538-1775

## SUMMER SEMINAR PREVIEW

### Boston Seminar

15th Annual International Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy July 14-19, 1996 Park Plaza Hotel, Boston

The Annual Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy is coming to Boston for the first time. This is the premier event in Jewish genealogy -- over 500 people from around the world are expected to attend the week-long conference. The Summer Seminar is held in a different world city each year -- past conferences have been held in London, Salt Lake City, New York, Toronto, Jerusalem and Washington, and in 1997 the conference will be in Paris.

The Summer Seminar will feature over 40 speakers from around the world, in four days of lectures and workshops. All aspects of Jewish genealogy and history will be covered. Among the featured speakers are Jayre Roberts, head of the Ellis Island records indexing project at the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City; Alexander Beider, author of "A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire"; Yale Reisner, Director of Research and Archives at the Jewish Historic Institute, Warsaw; and many others. The presenters are the foremost experts in Jewish genealogy and history, including professors from acclaimed Boston-area universities, and noted speakers from the U.S., Canada, South America, Europe and Israel.

Topics range from beginner to expert, and include various aspects of U.S. and Canadian research; immigration and naturalization; British, German, Hungarian, Polish, Russian, Lithuanian, Ukrainian and Romanian research; a status report on current LDS (Mormon) microfilming in the former Soviet Union; reports on accessing documents in Eastern European archives; laws and practices in Czarist Russia; Holocaust research, rabbinic and Sephardic research; newly available resources worldwide; translation workshops; computer and Internet use in genealogy; and the history, language, and culture of our ancestors.

Lectures will be held in the morning and evening, leaving the bulk of the day open for attendees to go out to do their own research at the many valuable research institutions in the Boston area, including the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston Public Library, Massachusetts Archives, Bostonian Society Library, National Archives New England Region, Brandeis University's Goldfarb Library, American Jewish Historical Society, Hebrew College, and Harvard University Libraries.

Shuttle buses will be provided from the Park Plaza Hotel, located at Stuart and Arlington Streets

in the Back Bay, to the suburban research sites; the other institutions are all within walking distance or accessible via public transportation from the conference hotel.

Vendors will exhibit their wares at the hotel throughout the week, but concentrated on Sunday, the opening day. There will be Judaica book dealers; calligraphers; genealogy publishers; genealogy and database software; photography, preservation and restoration supplies; and other vendors.

Demonstrations of many computer software packages for genealogists will be running, for hands-on use, so you can try before you buy.

The resource room at the conference hotel will be open all week. It will feature hard-to-find books and reference material, resources brought from around the world. A dozen computer and microfiche workstations will contain the latest CD-ROMs and computer databases, including the International Jewish Cemetery Project; the Jewish Genealogical People Finder; the Litvak prenumerantn database; and the REIPP database of over 50,000 19th-century Polish-Jewish birth, marriage and death records.

A partial, tentative list of speakers and presentations includes:

- \* Prof. Dov Levin, expert on Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, author of *Pinkas HaKehillot* (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem)
- \* Yale Reisner, Archives Director, Jewish Historic Institute, Warsaw
- \* Susan King, Founder of JewishGen, the computer network of Jewish genealogists
- \* Jayre Roberts, LDS Family History Library, on Ellis Island records indexing project, and East European microfilming status.
- \* Alexander Beider, acclaimed author on Jewish names, on Ashkenazic given names, tendencies and peculiarities, 11th-19th centuries
- \* Jeff Cymbler, on Polish-Jewish research, and cemeteries in Poland
- \* Miriam Weiner, Routes to Roots, certified genealogist, columnist, specialist on Ukraine, Bessarabia, Galicia
- \* Gary Mokotoff, publisher of "Avotaynu", author of "Where Once We Walked", creator of the JGFF
- \* Jonathan Shea, on translating Russian records
- \* Bruce Kahn, on Internet resources for Jewish Genealogy
- \* Judith Frazin, on how to use an LDS Family History Center, and translating Polish vital records documents
- \* William Schoeffler, on US-Canadian Border Crossing records
- \* Walter Hickey, National Archives Pittsfield, on Naturalization records
- \* Frank Leister, creator of Reunion software
- \* Ted Gostin, using Russian Business Directories

- \* David Mishkin, on photography topics for genealogists
- \* Arline Sachs, on the International Jewish Cemetery Project
- \* Lawrence Tapper, Canadian National Archives
- \* Dr. Michael Feldberg, Executive Director, American Jewish Historical Society
- \* Dick Eastman, Manager, CompuServe Genealogy Forum
- \* Richard Panchyk, on Jewish Marriage and Migration in 19th-Century Austria-Hungary
- \* Harry Boonin, on how to publish your family history
- \* Bob Weiss, President, Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies
- \* Maureen Taylor, User Services, New England Historic Genealogical Society
- \* David Dearborn, NEHGS Reference Librarian, on City Directories and Urban Research
- \* Jerome Anderson, NEHGS, on Canadian Census Records
- \* John Whittaker, on CD-ROM databases for genealogists
- \* Nancy Arbeiter, Beginner's Workshop
- \* Ellen Smith, Curator, American Jewish Historical Society
- \* ChaeRan Freeze, on archives in Ukraine; the history of Jewish metrical records, laws and practices in Czarist Russia; and unexpected sources for genealogical research in the Pale of Settlement.
- \* John Garrard, U. of Arizona, author, "The Bones of Berdichev"
- \* Marion Smith, History Office, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
- \* Dr. Sol. Gittleman, Provost, Tufts University

A detailed schedule of speakers and topics will be available at a later date.

Many of the speakers will be available for consultation. For instance, Alexander Beider is bringing his database of Polish surnames, used in the compilation of his soon-to-be-published "A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland", and there will be sign-ups for individual meetings.

In addition to the featured presentation, there will be many additional meetings: Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Birds-of-a-Feather (BOF). These are gatherings of people with common interests: those interested in a certain town or region, users of a particular software package, adoptees, special research interests, etc.

There will be walking tours of Jewish and historic Boston on Sunday and Friday, led by noted historians; and the closing banquet on Thursday evening will feature entertainment and a buffet of foods from our ancestors' homelands.

Registration for the Summer Seminar is \$115, if received before May 14, and \$150 thereafter. The Registration Form was printed in the Fall 1995 issue of "Avotaynu", and in other JGS publications. To receive a copy of the registration form, write to Carol Baker, 7 Wiswall Circle, Wellesley, MA 02181. Phone (617) 237-6369, FAX (617) 237-1039, or e-mail 73663.1637@compuserve.com.

For more information, contact the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, P.O. Box 610366, Newton Highlands, MA 02161-0366, or call (617) 283-8003. For the most up-to-date info on the Summer Seminar, visit our World Wide Web pages at "<http://www.jewishgen.org/seminar.html>".

**Keep July 6-9, 1997 clear for the  
16th Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy  
in Paris, France and Beyond.....**

**Jewish Genealogical Reference Books Available at Discount**

Reference books purchased in quantity from Avotaynu, Inc. through the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society may be obtained at a significant discount, and free of shipping charges. Send your check to our Treasurer, Sherrill Laszlo for the books you desire. As soon as we have the requisite number of orders we will send in the order. You may pick up your purchase at a Society meeting when it arrives.

Title	Author	List	Discount	Disc.Price	# Req'd
Where Once We Walked	Sack/Mokotoff	\$69.50	20%	\$55.60	5
Dictionary of Jewish Surnames.Russian Empire	Beider	\$75.00	20%	\$60.00	5
Biographical Dictionary Canadian Jewry 1909-14	Tapper	\$35.00	40%	\$21.00	5
Following the Paper Trail	Shea/Hoffman	\$29.00	20%	\$23.20	5
WOWW Companion	Mokotoff	\$25.95	20%	\$20.76	5
Document Victims, Locate Survivors..Holocaust	Mokotoff	\$25.95	20%	\$20.76	10
Genealogical Research in Israel (Rev)	Sack	\$35.00	20%	\$28.00	10
Jewish Surnames from Prague	Beider	\$11.00	40%	\$6.60	10
NY Resources Guide	Guzik	\$30.00	20%	\$24.00	5

Any other titles that appear in the Avotaynu Catalog, including maps and microfiche, which are ordered along with a bulk order, will not be discounted, but shipping will not be charged.

## 1995/1996 Survey Summary

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Over 50% of our Society membership took the time to return this survey. Here is a summary of the results, including a description of our membership, their preferences, and what they would like our Society to be and do.

**Total Number of Respondents:** 115  
(Note: Except where indicated, percentages reflect the portion of respondents to the particular question. Number in parentheses is total vote.)

### SOCIETY PROFILE

**- Length of membership in the SFBA-JGS:**  
 <1 year 15% (17) 4-5 years 17% (19)  
 1-3 years 54% (51) > 5 yrs. 24% (27)

**- Attendance:**  
 28% (31) have not attended a meeting in the past year  
 18% (18) have attended meetings in both San Francisco and Palo Alto  
 40 people attended only in San Francisco  
 19 people attended only in Palo Alto

For the following 3 questions, respondents often chose more than one response.

**- Where will you attend/not attend a meeting?:**

	Will Attend	Will Not Attend
San Francisco	28%	6%
Palo Alto	20%	16%
Oakland	15%	20%
San Mateo	14%	14%
Berkeley	14%	19%
North Bay	9%	25%

- 76% (71) indicated they would not attend meetings in San Francisco more often if they were offered.

- Most people are comfortable with the current meeting days and times:

Those who prefer Palo Alto, also prefer meeting in the evening.

For San Francisco on Sunday, afternoons (beginning 1pm or later) were preferred to morning meetings (beginning 10am or 12pm), 71% to 29%.

Based on the above, we have no plans to change the meeting schedule. We are, however, exploring the feasibility of adding occasional meetings in the East Bay. It was obvious from your comments, that the desire for this is great. For many, neither San Francisco nor Palo Alto is a convenient alternative.

These and the other responses show that the Society is mainly divided into two groups, with most members not attending meetings for various reasons, and a smaller group of more active particip-

ants. The most common reasons given for not attending, were distance and time.

Transportation was another issue mentioned, and we are looking for someone to coordinate a ride sharing program. (If you can help, please let a board member know.)

**- Meeting format/content:**

91% (88) would attend an informational presentation

76% (72) would attend a workshop

67% (62) would attend a panel discussion

71% (60) are interested in a research field trip

A schmooze session was of interest to only one-third of respondents, with 40% indicating they would not attend.

Great interest was expressed in having a regular question and answer session, where "experts" can provide guidance and suggestions. Problem solving is high on everyone's list, and we will try to incorporate this into our meetings.

More than half the respondents are interested in a Saturday workshop at the Mormon Family History Center in Oakland. We are currently seeking to schedule one, and will keep you informed as to date, time, and sign-up procedure.

Nearly 60% expressed interest in a beginning genealogy workshop, and we will pursue this as well.

**- The top ten topics that interest you are (chosen from 22 choices):**

Foreign research sources

How to order from US and foreign archives

Non-local US research sources

How to best use the Mormon resources

Jewish migration patterns; in Europe & to the US

Local research sources

Computer; on-line resources

Political/geographic history of Eastern Europe

Organizing your genealogical papers

Family chart/tree making

There was a question as to what Converso genealogy is. Conversos were Spanish and Portuguese Jews who were forced to convert to Christianity in the late 14th - early 15th Century. Some of those who dispersed to other countries, later returned to Judaism. Some families maintained their Christian faith, but also kept some Jewish family traditions. While Jews descended from Conversos are a minority today, their history is a fascinating one. (Thanks to Rosanne Leeson)

**- ZichronNote :**

Overwhelmingly, you enjoy our newsletter.

Mostly, you would like to see: More information about resources, especially local; a regular " how-to" or " tips" section; member input - stories of success, failure, and experience; mainly, articles that directly impact your research.

Concerns were voiced as to the readability of the calendar, and the inclusion of multi-page name lists, which are of interest to only a few, and might find a different forum than *ZichronNote*. Notwithstanding the above, many of you eagerly await, and then devour each issue.

**- Foreign JGS publications:** 94% (96) do not use these potentially valuable resources. Please consult your library listing for a guide to publications we receive. These include newsletters from JGSs in Britain and Australia.

**- Library:**

Obviously, the greatest concern of us all is an accessible, permanent home for our valuable library. We continue to pursue possibilities throughout the Bay Area. Neither Sutro Library, The Mormon Family History Center in Oakland, the Jewish Community Library nor The California Genealogical Society has space available. If you have a specific suggestion, please speak to a board member - keep in mind, we need security and reliability to protect our collection.

With your dues notice/survey/ballot, you received a listing of current holdings. Additional acquisitions are noted in each issue of *ZichronNote*. At present, the library is housed in the home of Bob Weiss. We bring the most desired books to each meeting. If there is a particular resource you would like to see at a meeting, please call our Librarian at least 48 hours before meeting time to request it.

### COMPUTER USE PROFILE

81% (86 individuals) use a computer

31% (20) are using Family Tree Maker (DOS and Windows versions)

22% (15) are using Reunion (Mac and Windows)

21% (14) are using PAF (Mac and DOS)

Mac users have fewer choices than DOS/Windows users and overwhelmingly choose Reunion. Twelve other applications were noted, from specifically genealogical software to spreadsheets, relational databases and word processors. A number of people indicated they use more than one application to keep track of their research. As for platform, DOS/Windows is the choice over Macintosh by better than a 2-1 margin.

**-On-Line Profile** (percentages reflect portion of respondents who are on-line, not total respondents.)

66% (70) are on line which translates to at least 35% of the total membership.

59% of on-line users have chosen one of the three major services (Prodigy, America On Line or CompuServe) as their service provider. Most others have chosen an Internet Service Provider. (Some users access the on-line world via more than one source.)

37% - America On Line

22% - Internet Service Provider

14% - CompuServe

10% - Local BBS

8% - Prodigy

85% (58) use e-mail. However, we have obtained e-mail addresses for over 75 members (38% of total membership). As this number is sure to increase, we look forward to keeping in closer touch with members via e-mail.

52% (33) read JewishGen. There is some unfamiliarity with what JewishGen is, and it is different things to different people. This on-line, on-going dialog is a valuable research tool, which provides a forum to ask your research questions of anyone, worldwide, who reads JewishGen. (Current estimate ~2,300) You can post the names and towns you're interested in, ask if anyone can help you with a phone directory look-up, or inform everyone of a fabulous resource you've uncovered.

JewishGen is a FidoNet user group: A "place" out there on the World Wide Web, (a graphical portion of the Internet), dedicated to Jewish Genealogy. JewishGen can only be accessed if you have a computer and modem, through either;

(1) a local BBS (Bulletin Board System), (ask your *sysop* how to do this). It's a great place to make contact, post and answer queries, share insights into new resources, and learn about many topics relevant to Jewish genealogy with other Jewish genealogists all over the world;

(2) a connection to the Internet, to the news group `soc.genealogy.jewish`, which is your access to the older FidoNet Echo, JewishGen as well as various other resources, or;

(3) the World Wide Web site, located at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org>

Here, one can also read or retrieve a variety of information files, (currently over 65 topics). These include: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions, A dictionary, How to Begin your Research, Jewish Records from Belarus at the LDS FHL, and a Directory of Translators. There is also a calendar of events (including SFBA-JGS meetings). The amount of invaluable material grows constantly. This site is an absolute must even if you are not interested in the user group portion. (Please ask me if you have any questions.)

**MEMBER PROFILE**

**- How long have you been researching?**

- 11% (11) Less than 1 year-1 yr
- 19% (19) 2-3 years
- 16% (16) 4-5 years
- 26% (27) 6-10 years
- 4% (4) 11-14 years
- 8% (8) 15-19 years
- 14% (14) 20+ years
- 2% (2) Not researching

**- Level of Experience**

- 34% (37) Novice
- 49% (54) Intermediate
- 18% (16) Advanced
- 1% (1) Expert

**- Interests** (Respondents may have chosen more than one)

- 24% (113) My own family history
- 16% (74) Finding long lost family
- 16% (74) Enjoy doing the research
- 15% (72) Finding living relatives
- 11% (51) New opportunities for research
- 8% (36) Family lost in Holocaust
- 5% (24) Research of a particular individual
- 3% (15) Cultural/religious traditions
- 1% (6) Professional genealogist

**- Time Frame of Interest:**

- 77% (72) In the U.S. & prior to immigration
- 22% (20) Prior to immigration
- 1% (1) In the U.S.

**- Top U.S. cities of interest:**

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| New York City (63) | St. Louis (7)            |
| Chicago (19)       | Cleveland (7)            |
| San Francisco (14) | Baltimore (6)            |
| Philadelphia (13)  | Kansas City, MO (4)      |
| Boston (11)        | Minneapolis/St. Paul (4) |
| Los Angeles (8)    | New Orleans (4)          |

**-States** with high interest include: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Ohio, Missouri, California

**- Top countries/regions of interest:**

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Poland (61)          | Germany (30)        |
| Ukraine/Moldova (43) | Galicia (25)        |
| European Russia (43) | Western Europe (25) |
| Baltic States (40)   | Romania (13)        |
| Austro-Hungary (32)  | Prussia (12)        |

**- Foreign languages** - We are blessed with members who can, to various degrees, translate a number of languages. These include: French, German, Hebrew, Spanish, Russian, Yiddish, Polish, Italian, Arabic, Romanian and Hungarian.

**- Publications** most widely read are:

- Avotaynu* (90); Jewish Bulletin (57);
- Landsman*- Suwalk Lomza SIG (10);
- Stammbaum*-German SIG (7);
- ROM-SIG (Romania) (6); *Dorot*-NY JGS (5)

**- Affiliations** other than SFBA-JGS include:

- | JGSs          | SIGs         | Other Gen Socs       |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| New York (10) | Suwalk-Lomza | California GS        |
| Wash. DC (5)  | Romania      | San Ramon Valley GS  |
| Boston (3)    | Galicia      | Sacramento German GS |
| Cleveland (3) |              |                      |

Respondents are affiliated with 50 organizations. Membership in the JGS and/or Special Interest Group for the region/country you are researching can provide much information. Their newsletters often include new sources of information, and offer free family finder queries, among other benefits.

**- Foreign research:** Unfortunately, successes seem to have been few. The best result have been received from the Lithuania State Archives. The professional outfit RAGAS, drew mostly disappointing comments. Two reports of work by Miriam Weiner (professional) are positive. Results from Germany and London show both success and failure: In both cases, much of the research was performed by members themselves.

**- What you do not like** about the SFBA-JGS (selected comments):

- Meetings need to keep a tighter schedule: No official general Q & A session.
- Inconvenience of library availability on days other than meeting days.
- Meetings are too far away.
- Not enough time at meetings for networking.
- ...meetings are not long enough for the yearly frequency...to interact with those who are more experienced and have resources unknown to me that might be useful.
- Would like to see meetings in the East Bay.
- I sometimes eat too many cookies.

**- What you do like** about the SFBA-JGS (selected comments)

- Great people, very enthusiastic.
- Community sharing - discovery of new avenues to research.
- The ability to make connections and interact.
- The informative *ZichronNote*.
- Knowing that there are other people doing similar research.
- The people! The library! The people!
- Hearing what others are doing: How to go about genealogical research.
- Martha Wise's cookies.

## A Jewish Genealogic Fable

By Dan Leeson, Los Altos, California <leeson@admin.fhda.edu>

The following is an amusing little tale written by member Dan Leeson, and widely circulated on JEWISHGEN, the Jewish genealogy list. To provide a few chuckles to our members who are not on line, we reprint Dan's fable here.

In the form of a genuine welcome to all the new members of JEWISHGEN, and also as an expression of pleasure to see so many new people hunting in the forest of Jewish genealogic research, here is a long, think-about-it posting on the general subject of the meaning of life and where to find a death certificate. No one is permitted to take this personally.

So many new people have joined JEWISHGEN that I want to offer them my personal hello and hopes that they will find family going back to Adam and Eve (it's not impossible, you know, though any such results would be considered very speculative). Nothing makes me happier than to find people digging up their Jewish roots.

For the last 100 years, Jews (mostly Eastern-European Jews) doing genealogic study was not considered a very Jewish pastime, and that so many believed this to be true is testimony to our poor knowledge of Jewish history: for 25 centuries and more, Jews have been genealogic *aficionados*, fascinated by the subject! Interest in it went into decline during the latter part of the last century and did not pick up again until about 30 years ago. The reasons for this anomaly are complex and sociologic, probably due in large part to the desire on the part of immigrants to avoid even thinking about the miserable unpleasantness of the life that they had left behind them in what is now nostalgically referred to as "the old country." The idea that someday their grandchildren and great-grandchildren would be searching their brains out to find a maiden name here, a distant cousin there, and even take a visit back to beautiful downtown Slutsk would never, never, never have occurred to them.

Many of the new contributors to the JEWISHGEN list appear to be rather new at what I call the "Yichusology business." That's no crime. We were all new to genealogic matters when we started and I see, in the questions of many of the submitters, the same problems that I had to dig my way out of. The biggest problem that faced me when I began, and that I see facing some of the newcomers, is not genealogic. It is expectational. Let me explain. When I began to find my roots, I was absolutely convinced that "my family's file" was out there somewhere, that it contained all of my history in all branches, and all I had to do was find out where it was located; i.e., genealogy was the hunt for a complete but already-created file that was all about my family.

I envisioned armies of government workers

(Department of Commerce?) preparing my file as I headed towards and through puberty, and when I would be old enough to have this intense interest in where I came from, my file would be there waiting for me. It would tell me my *Bube* Sprintze's maiden name (which my mother had forgotten), and what the original family name of my grandfather, Alazar Yusof ben Avraham had been (my father never really knew), and those thousand questions that would enable me to know who I was and how did I get to where I am. And best of all, this file would document in considerable detail, the travels of all of my ancestors from the year of the destruction of the second temple, maybe even the first. Who's got my file, please? Would whoever has it please notify me by Tuesday next? Would that inconvenience anyone?

So I started my genealogic quest by presuming the existence of such a file and this made my search easy. I would keep asking "where" all my data was and never have to bother with actually researching it. I went to the NY Public Library and asked if they had my file. Then I tried Yeshiva University, the Jewish Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College, the American Jewish Historical Society, and finally the Ponnovez Yeshiva. Hmm. No file.

Maybe I'm asking the wrong questions. It's kind of like trying to locate a misplaced library book. Of course there was no INTERNET then, only mail. So I sent out a million letters asking everyone if they knew where my file was. It would be easy to spot. My *Bube* Sprintze died in Lodz sometime after WW1, and I think my grandfather was from Sidzun or maybe it was Radviliskis, I'm not sure. But he had red hair, that I am certain of. All good data, of course, no silly family stories and other stuff like dates and precise locations. Just solid evidence like "red hair."

But no one seemed to have my file. Did the Department of Commerce spend all of that taxpayer money to make a file on me only to lose it? One day, in the NY Public, I met a woman who was doing her genealogy and she had a file! It was a foot thick and wandered through the middle ages with the same ease that I wandered through Moskowitz and Lupowitz' dairy restaurant. So I asked her where she found her file (mine would be bigger and more impressive, of course, because I'm sure that there was royalty in my family) and she looked at me as if I had asked her where to buy a size 19 bustle frame? "What the hell are you talking about?," she said

graciously, full of the warmth and charm of someone suddenly disturbed. "This file has already taken me 23 years to put together. Every scrap of paper in it was lovingly found by me. What's with you? You think someone has already done your genealogy for you? You have to do it YOURSELF, you yutz!."

I smiled condescendingly at her outburst. Clearly she did not understand. "Of course," I said. "I know that I have to do it, and that is exactly what I am trying to do. I am doing my genealogy by locating my file. When I find it, I will have done my genealogy. It will all be there and my genealogy will have been both found and completed by the act of finding the file and then I can go on to something else in life."

"*Gevalt!*," screamed the lady, causing armies of librarians to say "Ssshhhh." "I have the misfortune to be in the presence of a class A, gold-medal *meshuggah!* There is no file on you, Mr. Crazy, dopey-in-the-head. All there is about you and your family in the world consists of little remnants of what your ancestors left as they passed through this mortal coil." (Now that lady had a flair for language. "Mortal coil" is hot stuff. I wonder how to say "mortal coil" in Yiddish? But I wool-gather.) "What do you mean?," I said.

"You imbecile, you! Four hundred years ago one of your ancestors, a tin-smith by trade, made a pot that he sold in the central market in Ehrfurt, Germany at a price that was considered by the buyer to be way too high. Your ancestor was sued by the buyer and taken to court. The court record, (Vol. 524, page 361, sub-folio CIX, city of Ehrfurt, now located in the Federal Archives in Berlin) records his name, the name of the suing party, and the price of the pot as well as the fact that your ancestor was found guilty of price gouging and spent one month in the slammer."

"I don't want that information!," I said. "I want his birth certificate, full name, name of wife (including maiden name), date of death, death certificate, plus the names of all his children as well as the full names of all their spouses. That's what I want. What do I care for a law suit in 1695? And besides, no one in my family was ever in, as you delicately put it, 'the slammer!'".

"You better start learning to love the kind of information that is out there," said my new-found friend, "because that is what you'll get if you are very fortunate. Birth certificates and last names are a relatively modern invention. With any luck there might be a record of this man's circumcision if a *mohel* book were kept in Ehrfurt at that time, but only if the *mohel* book still exists and he were born in Ehrfurt, which I am convinced he was not."

"How do you know all this," I countered, "and

how did my ancestor get to Ehrfurt if he wasn't born there? My family came from Lithuania and Poland." "Like hell they did," my friend replied. "Nobody came from Lithuania and Poland because they came from somewhere else until they eventually went to Lithuania and Poland and, eventually found residence in those countries. And how I know this is because it happened to one of my ancestors and I was telling you this story in the hopes of getting through that thick *Polisher dripke* skull of yours." (Please do not ask for a translation of "*Polisher dripke*." My mother would have been ashamed if she even thought that I knew what that meant.)

"Finding that court record about that pot is what genealogy is all about. And finding out how your Jewish ancestor got to Ehrfurt in the first place is also what Jewish genealogy is all about. It took me four years to find out about the pot and the day I did I treated myself to a bottle of Dom Perignon 1927 and a large plate of very greasy kasha varnishkas!" (In addition to our many other fine qualities, Jews have a very cultivated and discriminating sense of haute-cuisine.)

And ever since that fatal encounter with that lady in the NY Public, I have been looking for those little fragments that my ancestors left in this world as they passed through it. On good days, I find nothing. On bad days I find contradictory information or data that shows unequivocally that I have been slogging through the wrong family for three months. On very bad days the microfilm reader at the local Mormon stake is busted beyond human recognition, the part needed to fix it is in Pakistan, and seated next to me at the only functioning reader is a researcher who asks me if I ever considered the advantages of both a good insurance program and becoming a tree worshiper?

Now this whole megillah is being posted for the sole purpose of trying to help all the new JEWISH-GEN researchers to get their expectations set at the right level. The rules are these:

1. There is no file. The Department of Commerce never heard of you. They are doing the other person's file.

2. Once in a while you'll find a cousin who has genealogic data, but it is probably all wrong, your name will be misspelled, and s/he will have you identified both as a bastard and an adoptee which, according to Jewish law is going to give you and your descendants trouble for the next 7 generations.

3. If it is out there, you have two problems: (1) identifying "there" and, (2) finding "it," whatever it is. When you do find "it" it will probably be a report of the death by venereal disease of your direct paternal 5-times grandfather. Now that's genealogic success!!

4. If you don't know much, other genealogic researchers will help you for about 3 milliseconds and then drop you like a "*heise kartofel*" when they find out you're are not a relation.

5. The joy of genealogy (It's up there on the bookstore shelf next the "The Joy of Sex.") is as much in the search as in the find. Oh the things you will learn about living as a Jew in Turkey in 1542, life in the pale in 1875, the main consequences of the expulsion from Portugal just before the beginning of the 16th century, the exquisite scholarship of my Litvak ancestors in Vilna, the Jerusalem of Lithuania, and a good recipe for cheese *kreplach* (called "salte noces" among the Litvak cognoscenti and made mostly of fat and flour and other artery-clogging things).

So those of you out there who are posting questions such as, "How do I find out about my uncle Mordechai who had blue eyes?", keep posting, but it is very unlikely that anyone will respond to tell you that your uncle Mordechai became the leading brain surgeon in Omaha, ca. 1913 where he did the first Nebraskan brain transplant, putting the brain of a Litvak *schnorrer* into the body of Rumanian Zionist. The resulting composite *schnorred* his way to Haifa where he became mayor in 1921 and still *schnorrs*. He may still be mayor for all I know. And the reason why no one will tell you this story is because it is buried in Omaha newspapers all of which you are going to have to research, yourself, alone, in a dusty corner of the Omaha public library as penance for not realizing what a terrific history your family has.

I conclude by pointing out the obvious. A vast body of literature has grown up about "How to do your genealogy" and even specialized subsets such as "How to do your Jewish genealogy." It can be even more precise: "How to do your German Jewish genealogy." The volume of helpful literature is now so large that becoming acquainted with it has become almost more forbidding than doing your genealogy. The preparation and publication of helpful genealogical literature is a cottage industry in America and elsewhere. Little firms in Arkansas and Utah are cranking out brochures sold for very modest amounts about "Cemeteries in Cape May County, New Jersey" or "Swedish Immigration To Minnesota" (which probably won't help you much).

Suppose you pose to yourself a question as simple as "How do I get my uncle Mordechai's death certificate from Omaha?". Eventually you will learn that there are several books that deal with obtaining vital records from every corner of America. Therefore, doing your genealogy partly involves devoting time to become familiar with the basic genealogic "How" and "Where to" literature.

And that is what the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are trying to do for you. About every 3 months these items are posted on JEWISHGEN. The FAQs describe the basic elements that you need to learn about in order to get off the ground. I know that it's easier to post a question to the board about "Where do I go for Omaha, Nebraska death certificates?" than to do the research needed to get the same answer, but in the long run, and for the serious genealogist, there is no other good long-haul way of working. In order for the many experts on the board to be able to help you, you must know what to do, how to do it, where to search, how to search in those places, what's right, what's not likely to work, etc., etc., etc., before you pose your question. And if you avoid this learning process, those who can help are not going to want to; i.e., they are not motivated to help those who give the appearance of not being ready to do some heavy-duty research on their own.

One of the things that one will learn about from these FAQs is what the "Social Security Death Index" is, and how to get death certificates from Passaic, NJ, and which researchers in Lithuania might be able to help you (and how much it will cost, and who to write to, and what the protocol is when in this mode). There is a lot of sorting out of things that have to take place in your head before you can do optimally productive genealogic work. It is not dissimilar to studying any advanced technical discipline in that one needs time to prepare to study at an advanced level.

It depends if you want to work hard or want to work smart. If you want to work hard, ignore the FAQs, post requests on genealogic lists asking for your grandmother's maiden name, and then sit back and listen to the unproductive silence. If you want to work smart, find the FAQ that deals with documents and records in the country where your grandmother was born, and then start poking there.

Make no mistake; you will also have a lot of silence here too, but it is productive silence. Genealogy is, if I may paraphrase Einstein, 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration. As much as I would like to find someone to do the 99% part, I always wind up doing it myself, and in the long run I am happy that I did do it because the voyage was as fascinating as its conclusion.

Now I must go. There is a microfilm waiting for me in the Mormon stake of San Jose that deals with the Jewish community of Erfurt in the 16th century. Maybe there will be something in it about pot-makers. Probably not. But I am going to look anyway. And who knows ... ?

Oh yes, does anyone know where my file is?

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Alsace Emigration Book

The idea of compiling and publishing a list of emigrants through Alsace to the US occurred to Mrs. Schrader-Muggenthaler while working for a family genealogical society, whose ancestors originated in Switzerland. She has attempted to list all emigrants, not just Jews, into a single file by merging a variety of sources from 1817-1870. In addition to those who lived in Alsace, families who migrated through Alsace on their way from Germany and Switzerland are included in the two volumes.

Volume 1 contains approximately 13,500 entries. They are presented in alphabetic order, and give the purported year of birth, place of birth, purported date of emigration, destination, profession, and source. In addition there is a very brief overview of Alsatian history, an explanation of sources, as well as lists of communities in the Departments of Bas-Rhin, Haut-Rhin (Alsace), and German towns in Baden, Wurttemberg and the Palatinate. There is also an outline map showing the present-day boundaries of these areas.

Volume 2 contains approx. 8,000 entries comprising corrections and additions from the microfilm sources cited earlier, plus names of those who emigrated without permission, and more from private or less accessible sources. There is also a listing of Swiss communities and copies of road maps that help in locating the area and villages where the emigrants lived.

While Mrs. Schrader-Muggenthaler's idea was excellent, the end result is disappointing for a number of reasons:

1. All emigrants were culled from the Alsace Emigration list microfilmed by the Mormons, but these books include only those who indicated the US as the destination. Individuals migrating internally or to another country before or instead of travelling to the US will not be found in this list.

2. The dates given for emigration could have been the date of application for a passport, the date when a male was called to military service or the date that a male may have emigrated with his parents as an infant. A majority of such family departures simply give the name of the father, perhaps also showing "wife, 3 children" with no first names given. For these reasons almost all emigration dates read "01/01/year". This is data of limited value.

3. In some cases, birth years appear to have been derived by counting back from the age given in the passport and may not be accurate.

4. The compiler has issued a caveat regarding problems with phonetic spelling of names by au-

thorities, as well as different German and French names for the same town, and has wisely copied the original sources unaltered. However, these computer-generated volumes have had a variety of typographic errors introduced into them during the preparation of the material for printing.

5. Bibliographic citations tend to be vague or unhelpful unless one is familiar with them.

In short, this is a rather amateurish though well-intentioned presentation. And, although the books have strong, cloth bindings, \$24.95 each makes them rather dear for the questionable value of their contents. In short, I could only recommend these volumes as a last resort for those doing genealogical research in this area.

*Alsace Emigration Book*, 2 vols. Schrader-Muggenthaler, Cornelia, comp. Closson Press, Apollo, PA, 1989, 1990.

Reviewed by Dan Leeson, Los Altos, California  
(leeson@admin.fhda.edu)

### Another Sephardic Story

Recently you may have heard of Trudy Alexy's popular book *The Mezzuzah in the Madonna's Foot* (subtitled *Marranos and Other Secret Jews*), Simon & Schuster, 1993, Harper Collins Paperback, 1994.

Now comes Victor Perera's book *The Cross and the Pear Tree: A Sephardic Journey*, Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher, 282 pages, \$25.00.

Perera is a Berkeley writer, born in Guatemala of Sephardic parents. One reviewer said of the book "It is a kind of Sephardi *Roots*". The author traces his family back to Toledo, Spain. The family moved through many countries after the Inquisition— to Portugal, Amsterdam Netherlands, France, and Palestine (where his great-grandfather was the Sephardic Rabbi of Hebron), Egypt, and Guatemala.

You might want to add this book to your bibliography on Sephardim.

### Jewish Women in America

Carlson Publishing is developing a project for a two-volume publication entitled: *Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia* edited by Paula Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore, sponsored by The American Jewish Historical Society. The editors are seeking suggestions for individuals and topics to include. The central tenet of the books is that they are historical. This is not meant to be a who's who of important, living Jewish women.

If you would like to contribute your suggestion(s), please contact Ralph Carlson, President, Carlson Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 023350, Brooklyn, NY 11202-0067, or call 800-336-7460.

## HERITAGE TOURS

### Moroccan Research

submitted by Carol R. Rider  
<CRomRider@aol.com>

The American Society for Crypto Judaic Studies is sponsoring a trip to Brazil in October of 1996. The itinerary makes note of an interesting possible source for those doing Moroccan research. There will be a stopover in the city of Manaus, home to a unique Jewish community. During the Golden Age of the Rubber Boom in the late 1800's, Sephardic Jews originally from Morocco settled in the region all along the Amazon River, many settling in remote villages. Many of these villages still have Jewish cemeteries! The Jewish community in Manaus is very isolated, with many old Sephardic traditions. A local Jew, Rabbi Moyal was thought of as a miracle worker by Jews and non-Jews alike. His tomb is a shrine and people come from all over to leave gifts, light candles and ask for miracles. I have no idea what resources are available for Brazil, but for anyone who is interested, I suggest contacting the Jewish Genealogical Society of Brazil.

### Coast of Turkey Jewish Interest Tour

Nob Hill Travel announces Cantor Roslyn Barak will lead its Jewish Heritage Tour *The Coast of Turkey*, departing May 9, 1996. The 14-day tour includes visits to Jewish sites in Izmir, Sardis, and Istanbul, as well as Antalya, Bodrum, Ephesus, and important sites throughout Turkey. The cost is \$1925 per person, double occupancy in deluxe hotels and includes most meals.

The tour will be escorted by an experienced and licensed English-speaking local expert whose lectures will enable tour members to gain an in-depth understanding of the culture, history and customs of Turkey. For more information contact Estelle Alberts, President, Nob Hill Travel Service at 415-391-8630 or 800-777-8630.

### Lithuania and Minsk

Howard Margol, President of the JGS of Georgia, is organizing an 11-day trip from June 6 through June 16 to Vilnius, Kaunas and Riga. Opportunity will be afforded to tour your shtetl of interest in Lithuania and/or the Minsk area. Visits are planned to various archives and meetings are planned with Jewish leaders of Lithuania. Sight-seeing and tours with translator/guides of places of Jewish interest are included.

The \$2299.00 cost includes round-trip air fare from Atlanta or New York/Newark airport plus most meals, hotels, tour bus, guides, interpreters, and more. The group will be limited to fifteen. A reser-

vation may be made and itinerary received by sending \$100.00 per person to Enterprise World Travel, "Litvack Trip", 1150 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 515, Washington, DC 20036. For additional information call Howard at 404-261-8662.

### Genealogy Trips to Galicia and Lithuania

The Family Research Foundation is sponsoring two or more trips this summer to research Jewish roots in Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, depending on demand. The announcement describes a flexible itinerary which will depend on the responses of the travellers. The trips tentatively leave major U.S. gateways on June 30 and July 28, with trip durations of 8-10 days each destination. Guided tours of Jewish sites, and state, provincial and village archives with English-speaking tour guides are offered with options to branch out to travellers' shtetls and concentration camp sites.

Cost of \$2450.00 double occupancy and including most meals, air fare, tour bus, transfers, guides, to a major center can be guaranteed if reservations and \$250.00 deposit are made before February 15. Contact Allan Eliyahu Mallenbaum, Family Research Foundation, Travel Centre, Box 24, Plainview, NY 11803-0024, Tel 516-349-0425, FAX 516-349-1292.

### Spring Trip to Salt Lake City

Anyone interested in a group trip to Salt Lake City in the spring, contact Sherrill Laszlo at 655-6789, e-mail laszlo@uclink4.berkeley.edu.

### Polish Travel Movies

submitted by Lillian Wurzel

The Golden Gate Geographic Society sponsors showings of travel movies narrated live by the person who made the film. The film on **Poland** will be shown throughout the Bay Area in late-February and early-March. The schedule is as follows:

Belmont	Sun Feb 18	2PM
Carmel	Fri Mar 15	2PM & 7:45PM
Hayward-Chabot College	Fri Mar 8	7:45PM
Marin-Vets Mem. Theater	Sun Mar 3	2:15PM
Moraga-Rheem Theater	Thu Mar 14	2PM & 7:45PM
Mt. View-Center Perf. Arts	Mon Mar 2	2PM & 7:45PM
Oakland-Paramount Theater	Sat Mar 9	2PM
Pleasant Hill-Century Theat.	Fri Mar 1	10:30AM
Pleasanton	Wed Mar 6	7:45PM
San Francisco-Herbst Theater	Sun Feb 25	2PM
San Francisco-Scottish Rite	Sat Mar 2	2PM
San Mateo-Performing Arts	Thu Mar 7	7:45PM
Santa Rosa	Tue Mar 5	2:30 & 7:45PM

Ticket information from Golden Gate Geographic Society, 1200 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA 94010, Tel. 415-347-3636 or 800-247-4447.

## Photo and Document Preservation

©1996 Dana L. Kurtz

Demand is always high for information on preservation of the valuable documents and photographs we collect to document our family histories. Our December meeting in Palo Alto featured a talk on this subject by Karen Zukor. For those of you who couldn't attend, Dana Kurtz presents some tips.

What a thrill it is to hold your grandmother's naturalization papers in your hands; old letters, a diary, photographs of family you barely, or never, knew. In our pursuit of family history, we're sometimes lucky enough to find such treasures that give us new clues, not to mention a tingle down the spine. But can we make sure that these priceless items will be there for future generations, and what can we do about those that are so fragile we're afraid to handle them? Here are some common questions and suggestions and a few guidelines to follow.

Aren't my photos and documents safe once they're stored in albums? Not necessarily. Most paper, including that often found in albums, contains acid, which eats away at a photo or document. You may have noticed that pages of many magnetic albums tend to yellow. This is due to peroxide in the pages, which can transfer to, and stain your images. Deterioration may occur more quickly than if the items were left in a cardboard box. Acids can also be absorbed from adjacent papers. Don't pile your paper keepsakes on top of each other without a sheet of acid free paper or glassine between them.

Photos and documents can be mounted onto acid-free pages and placed into polyvinyl chloride (PVC) free sheet protectors. PVC is a common ingredient in many plastics, which emits a gas that damages images. Better, use inert plastics such as polyester (mylar), polyethylene, polypropylene or triacetate sheet protectors. PVC-free "magnetic albums" are available as are album pages with pockets for many size photos. Items can be mounted with acid-free mounting corners or acid-free tape. Never use rubber cement or other glues or tapes as they contain harmful chemicals, including sulphur. Ideally, the albums will have steel rings and acid-free end sheets too, but most important are the pages and plastics themselves.

Items not suited to mounting can be placed loose in sheet protectors, with or without an acid-free page behind. Alternatively, acid-free boxes and paper sleeves are also available.

What's the best way to handle fragile documents and photos? Make sure your hands are clean and dry. Oils from our skin are not readily removed from paper. As a precaution, protective white cotton gloves are available. Only touch the very edges of the item, but do provide support from underneath when necessary.

Can I write on the back of photos or documents

for identification? Over time, ball-point and felt-tip inks can bleed through the back of paper. Use only a pigma ink pen, (such as Sakura—available in many colors), or a #2 pencil. Use a light touch so as not to cause an indentation and harm the image on the front

How do I remove photos from magnetic albums when they're stuck to the pages? Try using a hair blow dryer set on LOW. Gently work around the edges until the photo separates from the page. Don't let the photograph get too warm.

How about from a tattered backing? Sometimes it's best not to try. If the photo is well adhered to the backing, carefully cut around the edges of the photo, (not cutting the photo itself), to remove the excess backing. This will make it the photo easier to handle - it can then be mounted on acid-free paper, in sheet protectors, to keep it from contact with other photos or documents.

What about tape across a photo? There's not a lot you can do. If the tape has dried and pulled away from the photo or document, carefully snip ONLY that portion that has peeled. It's best to let a professional restorer or conservator remove any tape still stuck to the photo.

I want to keep an old scrapbook, but the binding is torn or gone. How can I hold it together? White cotton twill tape can be used to tie together damaged bound volumes. Make sure the tape is wide enough to hold all the pieces together.

What about newspaper clippings? Have you noticed that today's newspaper will begin to yellow by tomorrow? Newsprint is among the cheapest paper available, and won't last long. Photocopy the articles you treasure onto acid-free, or bond paper with a mostly-cotton content, while storing the originals in PVC-free plastic. Pass around the copies to friends and family.

What's the best way to display artifacts around my house? In a frame. Make sure the backing behind the item is made of cotton rag board rather than cardboard. Hinged metal picture frames are gentler than glued wooden frames. Plexiglas is kinder than glass as it is less breakable and helps block ultraviolet rays. Place the items out of the path of sunlight, away from sources of heat or cold. Remember, keep a copy and/or negative of the item in safekeeping.

### Documents

Ideally, documents should be kept unfolded, even if that is not their original state. If, however, a

document is brittle, it may be best to leave it folded. If you can do so without adding to the damage, photocopy the document onto archival paper. Better still, photograph the document as bright light from a copier can be harmful. Keep the copy in a sheet protector to keep the toner away from other items.

Do carefully remove any staples, paper clips, rubber bands, tape, etc., that come off easily. Each contains elements, such as rust or oils, that hasten deterioration of paper. Don't use a staple remover; carefully open a staple from the back and slide the paper(s) off the tines while keeping papers flat. Stainless steel staples can be used on strong, flexible paper, but remember; they leave puncture holes.

Don't photocopy photographs. The exposure to bright light accelerates deterioration. Better, have a photographer make a copy negative and generate new prints from that.

Don't store photos or documents in plastic bags, even if in envelopes. The chemicals can migrate to the images. Don't hermetically seal photos or documents as you might a driver's license. Damaging chemicals may be trapped inside. Always allow for a small airflow.

### Storage

All precious documents and photos should be kept in a cool, dry, dark place. Ideal temperature is 65-70°F with a relative humidity around 40-60%. Exposure to sunlight is the single greatest cause of damage. Heat and humidity can curl paper and damage emulsions. Extreme fluctuations in temperature can cause surface emulsions to crack.

Albums are best stored flat on shelves, which will protect items if they come loose. If you're storing an old family album or scrapbook, place it in an acid free box. Items in boxes should not be packed too tightly or too loosely, to allow air to circulate.

### Repair

To repair torn photographs, the best choice is to have a professional do the work. According to the National Archives, so-called "archival" or office-quality pressure-sensitive mending tape should never be used for repair. It does not meet conservation standards, and over time, can become discolored and cause inks to bleed. Sometimes your best bet may be to leave the document or photo as it is, and have a copy made to be viewed and handled. Place the original in a protective, archival environment.

### Negatives, Slides, Film, Video

Film storage follows the same rules as photos. Use PVC-free plastic or acid-free sleeves, envelopes or boxes. Stainless steel boxes are good too. Like the prints themselves, black and white negatives will

last longer than color. Have you noticed that photos from the 60's are already faded and yellowed? The dyes used in color negatives are not very stable, and are more prone to deterioration from the elements.

If you have old movies and are eager to transfer them to video tape, that's fine. However, be sure to keep the original film. Avoid cutting or splicing the original, except as required for conservation. Today's videotapes only promise a shelf life of about 8-10 years. Movie films will last decades. Store the film in acid-free boxes or stainless steel cans - not wrapped in plastic.

### Words of Wisdom

When in doubt, take your precious items to a professional restorer or curator. Benign neglect is better than actively doing the wrong thing. If they've lasted this long, they will make it the week or month it takes to obtain the proper materials. Realistically, of course, you can't do this with every piece of paper, from every occasion. Pick and choose the truly important or cherished photos and documents for the real treatment.

With your priceless memories protected by acid-free papers, in PVC-free plastics, you can pass around this "new" old family album with great peace of mind.

### Suppliers

#### Call or Write for Catalogs

- Light Impressions, 439 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14607: 1-800-828-6216
- University Products, PO Box 101, 517 Main St., Holyoke, MA 01041: 1-800-628-1912
- The Preservation Emporium, PO Box 226309, Dallas, TX 75222-6309: 1-800-442-2038
- The Hollinger Corporation, PO Box 8360, Fredericksburg, VA 22404: 1-800-634-0491
- Conservation Resources Int'l., 8000-H Forbes Pl., Springfield, VA 21151: 1-800-634-6932
- Conservation Materials, 1275 Kleppe Ln., #10, Sparks, NV 89431: 1-702-331-0582
- Print File, PO Box 607638, Orlando, FL 32860-7638: 1-407-886-3100
- Gaylord Brothers, Box 4901, Syracuse, NY, 1-800-448-6160

### Postscript by Lillian Wurzel

Ancestry, P.O.Box 476, Salt Lake City, UT 84110, Tel.800-262-3787 has a new publication by Barbara Sagraves called *A Preservation Guide: Saving the Past and the Present for the Future*. (48 pp. soft-bound, catalog #240, \$6.95+ \$2.00 s/h) Sagraves provides simple guidelines to insure that your fragile treasures will survive for future generations, and provides tips on recovering materials from disasters such as floods and fires.

**READERS PAGE**

**ALERT**

**Annihilation of Nazi-Period Judicial Files  
by the State Archive of Hamburg, Germany**

Prof. Dr. Norbert Finzsch  
Historisches Seminar  
Universitaet Hamburg  
20148 Hamburg  
tel. (04940) - 4123-4838  
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NFinzsch@aol.com

Dear Colleagues,

At the closing of the 1980s the Department of Justice of the City State of Hamburg offered a large collection of files pertaining to criminal cases during the Nazi period to the State Archives of Hamburg. A group of individuals working under the scholarly authority of the State Archives was commissioned to select those files worthy of being put into the records of the archives and those to be destroyed. This process is about to be terminated.

Several scholars, having had access to the files in recent times, detected to their great dismay that substantial parts of files which could have been used to get information on the so-called forgotten victims of the Nazi-state, had been destroyed. The Hamburg files were one of the very few collections of data on the administration of justice under Hitler that had remained intact. It is of utmost importance to keep this information accessible for researchers, the surviving victims and their relatives.

Contrary to the demands of several scholars and institutions, files containing information on the application of the law under the Nazis and on the fate of victims i.e. gays, gypsies, prostitutes, people convicted of sexual relations with Jews, deserters, people convicted of insubordination, disabled persons, forcefully sterilized persons, "asocial" or "professional criminals", "Bible scholars" and the like, have been at least partially destroyed. These files are files that could be used to support demands of victims for indemnity and compensation.

We have no information on the quality and the quantity of the files destroyed thus far. Protests by several scholars from Hamburg, institutions and especially gay groups against this scandalous destruction of the files have been conducted without success.

It is assumed that not all of the files have been destroyed so far, but the State Archives have made it clear that they do not intend to reconsider their initial determination to destroy the remaining files.

Please support our protest against the destruction of further files in order to enable historians and other scholars to work with these sources. Additionally demand that the files of the Department of Justice stemming from the years 1930 to 1935 and after 1945 will be treated in a scholarly manner, thus avoiding the policy to destroy information on the minorities and marginal groups mentioned above.

Point out to the city officials that the State Archive has the duty to provide for financial means and personnel in order to preserve the files at least on modern media as microforms and CD-ROM.

Write to the following address:

An den Ersten Buergermeister  
der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg  
Herrn Dr. Henning Voscherau  
Rathausmarkt 1  
D- 20095 Hamburg, GERMANY

Please send a copy of your letter to me (see letter-head for address). Thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely yours,  
Norbert Finzsch

**Gold Country Jewish Cemeteries**

submitted by Lillian Wurzel

Many are aware that there are five Jewish cemeteries in the "Gold Country" along highway 49. The remains of young Jewish miners and merchants, mostly from Germany, their wives, and some children are buried there. Through the efforts of Dr. Robert Levinson z"l, local historian and Professor of Jewish Studies at San Jose State University, the Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks was established several years ago. The Commission is a part of the Magnes Museum's Western Jewish History Center.

An interesting development has occurred recently. The Jewish cemetery in Marysville, long neglected, has just been deeded to the Commission by the Yuba County Court. This came about after a Yuba County historian and postman Dick Marquette helped locate the deed proving purchase of the site in 1855 by the Hebrew Benevolent Society, now disbanded. With grants from the Bernard Osher Foundation and Sinai Memorial Chapel of San Francisco, restoration of the cemetery will get underway.

There is also a Jewish cemetery in Oroville about which I told the Magnes. One of my friends is a 4th-generation Californian whose grandparents are buried there, and with whom I visited this site.

This year the Magnes will publish *A Traveller's Guide to Jewish Cemeteries of the California Gold Rush* by Susan Morris of the Western Jewish History Center.

(No FAMILY FINDER inquiries were submitted.)

# ZichronNote

זכרון נות

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area  
Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XVI, Number 1

February 1996

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Contributors to this issue: Warren Blatt, Dana L. Kurtz, Daniel Leeson, Carol R. Rider, Lillian Wurzel

*ZichronNote*

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### NOTICE

If your mailing label has a  
Colored Streak  
Please call our Treasurer  
about Membership Renewal