



זכרון ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XVII, Number 1

February 1997

LOCAL GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS Meetings of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Please note: Unless otherwise indicated, the meeting schedule is as follows:

- San Francisco:** **Sunday, Doors open 12:30 p.m., program begins 1 p.m.**
Fort Mason Center, Marina Blvd. at Buchanan Street
Building C, Room 205 (or as indicated below)
Free to members, \$3 for non-members, applicable towards membership
- Palo Alto:** **Monday, 7:30 - 10 p.m. (Please contact Dana Kurtz if you need directions)**
Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Road)

- Mon. Feb. 17 Palo Alto:** *Research and Resources.* Expanded library resources will be available, problem solving working groups will focus on areas of special interest. Bring your puzzles, questions and research to share!
- Sun. Feb. 23 Berkeley:** *Western Jewish History Center.* Archivist Sue Morris will discuss the holdings of the WJHC and explore the mutual interests of genealogists and the Center. **Special East Bay Meeting**, Congregation Beth-El Library, 2301 Vine Street, Berkeley. Phone: (510) 848-3988. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., program begins at 1 p.m. (See directions, page 4)
- Sun. Mar. 16 San Francisco:** *Presenting Your Genealogy.* How to display and present your genealogy and related records. Bring your family trees and other materials to share your ideas with others.
- Mon. Apr. 14 Palo Alto:** *Jewish Immigration to South Africa.* Roy Ogus will discuss the patterns and reasons for the large movement of Eastern European Jews to South Africa **[Note date change.]**

Sun. May 18 San Francisco
Sun. Jul 20 San Francisco
Sun. Sep. 21 San Francisco
Sun. Nov. 16 San Francisco

Mon. Jun. 16 Palo Alto
Mon. Aug. 18 Palo Alto
Mon. Oct. 20 Palo Alto
Mon. Dec. 15 Palo Alto

Other Genealogy Meetings of Interest on Page 4

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 10th of the month preceding publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submittals. Submissions may be made on 3-1/2" floppy disks in DOS, Windows 3.1 or ASCII format, or e-mailed to <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com>.

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Family Finder queries are free to society members. Non-members may place queries for \$5 each, limited to 25 words not including searcher's name, address, phone number and e-mail.

Correspondence relating to publication items or requests for back issues should be addressed to the SFBA JGS at the address below.

Display advertising is accepted. The rate for a 2-column-inch (3-1/2 x 2 inch, business card sized) insertion is \$10 per issue, quarter-page ad \$20, half-page ad \$35, full-page ad \$60. Ads must be camera-ready, relate to Jewish genealogy and be in good taste.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Dues are \$20 per calendar year. The Society is exempt per section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Make check payable to "SFBA JGS" and send to: Sita Likuski, Membership, 4430 School Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Society Address:
SFBA JGS, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147

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

SFBA-JGS Web Site: www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

President's Message

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What a great year we had in 1996! We welcomed nearly sixty new members and ended the year with 250 members. Some are experienced genealogical researchers, but many are just getting started in tracing their families. To me, that's the most exciting time as everyone and everything is out there for you to discover.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage members, new and old, to get involved in your society. We were fortunate to have so many good programs last year, many of them motivated by your responses to the survey we distributed at the end of 1995. Now we need your input again. Be selfish - tell us what you would like to hear. More about computers? specific Bay Area or national resources? techniques and methodology? If you've got a program idea or a speaker you'd like to recommend, tell us and we'll try to make it happen.

In this issue of ZichronNote, you will see some new contributors. Become one yourself! Fresh voices offer new insights and perspectives. We've added what we hope will be a regular feature; "Success Stories". Your own experiences are both fascinating and inspiring. If you've newly discovered a relative or family branch, even if you're not quite sure of the nature of the relationship, tell us how you found them. If you finally identified the people in the photograph with your grandfather, tell us how you did it. What has happened lately in your genealogical research that got you excited?

There are many ways to get involved and you will be hearing more about them at meetings and in future issues of ZichronNote. The rewards are great. In my first year as president, I learned more about genealogical resources and methods than I could have possibly expected, which led to some wonderful discoveries.

Thank you for being a part of our vibrant, growing society. As always you can telephone me at (415) 921-6761 or send e-mail to <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com> with your questions, suggestions and comments. I look forward to hearing from you!

~Dana

SOCIETY PAGES

Member News

Welcome New Members

Edward Apelzin	Petaluma
Daniel Bernstein	San Francisco
Bruce Bertram	Sunnyvale
Mary B. Castiglione	Visalia
Louise Indig	Fremont
Barbara Kautz	Tiburon
A. Beverly Lowe	San Francisco
Roy and Sari Martens	San Francisco
Paul Rubinfeld	San Francisco
Mark Rubinstein	Walnut Creek
Rae Sal Schalit	San Francisco
Arnold Scher	San Francisco
Sandy Aronin Silver	Santa Cruz
James Smith	Livermore
Bobbie Steinhart	Berkeley
Harry and Doris Wolf	Walnut Creek

E-Mail

If you have an e-mail address but have not been receiving occasional SFBA JGS e-mail messages, or your e-mail address has changed, send a message to <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com> so we can keep you up to date.

Thanks, Sherrill

After many years of dedicated service to the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, Sherrill Stern Laszlo has decided to resign from her post as treasurer and devote more time to her family and her profession.

A member since 1985, Sherrill has acted as program chairperson, edited *ZichronNote*, helped coordinate our membership roster and surname index and served as treasurer for seven years. Her contributions are enhanced by her organizational skills, attention to detail, willingness to volunteer and help and her consummate professionalism.

Our most sincere thanks are given to Sherrill for all the hard work and long hours she has given to the SFBA JGS. We hope she will continue to participate in JGS events and wish her every success and happiness.

Donations

Thanks to the many members who generously made donations over the membership dues level. You will soon be hearing how the funds were used.

Patron

David Baerncopf	Ivan Schatten
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Supporting

Lisa and William Brinner	Robinn Magid
Thalia Stern Broudy	Helen Nestor
Melvin Cohn	Ronald Neuman
Harry Cornbleet	Harvey Posert
Donna Dubinsky	Lyn and Alan Rosen
Walt Firestone	Harry Saal
Harriet and Lawrence Fried	Lee and Ted Samuel
Daniel Goodman	Marc Seidenfeld
Merle Krantzman	Randy Stehle
Victor Levi	David Stern
	Lillian Wurzel

Contributing

David Abrahams	Dana Kurtz and Rob Mackenzie
Ron Arons	Rosanne and Dan Leeson
Bruce Bertram	Manfred Lindner
Ann Bornstein	Gail Lowenthal
June and Abe Brumer	Morris Ludwig
Lois Carter	Gail Lutolf
Milton Cooper	Shirley Maccabee
Jerry Delson	Treva Jo Marcus
Sharon Fingold	Ellen Massie
Antoinette Gordy	Ruth Mayo
Marjorie Green	Ellie and Howard Miller
Howard Grindlinger	Roy Ogus
Caroline and Richard Hoffman	Evelyn Perl
Marty Izenon	Shirley Radding
Lenore Jacobson	Ruth Rosenthal
Marcia Kaplan	Irvin Roth
Debra Katz	David Rubin
Marvin Kessler	Jacob and Ruth Rubin
Barry Klezmer and Steven Sterns	Malcolm Singer
James Koenig	Stephen Somerstein
Hedy Krasnobrod	Gail Todd
Bernis and Larry Kretchmar	Julian and Rhea Toole
Patty Krigel	Len Traubman
Judith Krongold	Jerrie Wacholder
	Milo Zarakov
	Eugene Zauber

CALENDAR, cont'd.

More Genealogy Meetings

Regional

Sun. **Feb. 16**, 10 a.m. JGS of Sacramento; *The Garment District in the 30's and 40's-Workman's Circle*. Speaker Madeline Phillips. Albert Einstein Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento, Arts & Crafts Room. Tel: Jane Paskowitz (916) 633-9557.

Fri.-Sat. **April 25-26**, California Genealogical Society; *CGS Fair - Golden Gateway to Your Ancestry*. Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. Tel: (415) 777-9936. See insert this issue.

Across the Country

Sun. **Mar. 2**, JGS Inc.; *Beyond the Basics - A Full-Day Genealogical Seminar*. Hebrew Union College, 1 West 4th St., New York, NY. Write: JGS, P.O. Box 6398, New York, NY 10128. Tel: (212) 330-8257. Pre-registration suggested.

Wed.-Sat. **May 7-10**, National Genealogical Society; *Conference in the States*. Valley Forge, PA. Write: NGS '97, Conference Registration Brochure, 4527 17th St. N., Arlington, VA 22207-2399. Tel: (703) 525-0500; Fax: (703) 525-00525.

Wed.-Sat. **Sept. 3-6**, Federation of Genealogical Societies and The Dallas Genealogical Society; *Unlock Your Heritage - 1997 FGS/DGS Conference*. Dallas, TX. Write: FGS, P.O. Box 830220, Richardson, TX 75083-0220. Fax: (214) 907-9727.

Foreign Travel

May 1997, 15-day trip to Vilnius, Kaunas, Lithuania and Riga, Latvia. Side trip to your ancestral town can be arranged. Write: Howard Margol, 4430 Mt. Paran Pkwy. NW, Atlanta, GA 30327-3747. Tel: (404) 261-8662; Fax: (404) 261-5722; e-mail: <homargol@aol.com>.

July 13-17, *5th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy*, Paris, France. Contact: Philip Abensur, Pres., Cercle de Genealogie Juive, 14 rue Saint Lazare, 75009 Paris, France. Tel/Fax: 01 40 23 04 90; Minitel: 3615 GENEAL0J; e-mail: A. Convers <100766.2212@compuserve.com>

Aug. 31 - Sep. 18, *Discover Your "Ancestral Roots" in the Ukraine*. Cruise Kiev to Odessa and four-day optional extension to Moldova. Write: Shirely Rose, Travel-Rite Inc., 816 Glenmere Way, Los Angeles, CA 90049-1304. Tel: (310) 471-1943; Fax: (310) 476-9553; e-mail: <dream@aol.com>.

Are Your SFBA JGS Dues Overdue?

Are your dues paid? Membership dues for 1997 were payable by January 15. If you have not yet sent in your renewal, please do so as soon as possible.

A pink stripe across the mailing label of this issue, we have not received your dues. The May issue of *ZichronNote* will be sent only to members in good standing.

Please send your check for \$20, made payable to "SFBA JGS," to:

Sita Likuski, Membership Chair
SFBA JGS
4430 School Way
Castro Valley, CA 94546-1331

To appear in our improved, 1997 Society Family Finder, you may submit up to 16 surnames and associated towns. Please make sure the spelling of town names and the current country are correct by verifying them in *Where Once We Walked* or another atlas or encyclopedia.

SFBA JGS in Berkeley Sunday, February 23, 1997

Directions to Congregation Beth-El, 2301 Vine St.

San Francisco:

Bay Bridge to I-80 east toward Sacramento

Marin County:

I-580 (bridge) to I-580/I-80 towards Berkeley

East Bay: I-80 to Berkeley

- Exit I-80 at University Ave. in Berkeley and head for UC Berkeley (east toward the hills).
- When University ends, turn left onto Oxford St.
- At third stop light, turn right onto Cedar St.
- Take first left onto Spruce St.
- Then take first right onto Arch St.
- The synagogue is on the corner of the next block, at Arch and Vine Streets.

Parking is available on either of these streets, but the temple will be unlocked at the Vine St. entrance ONLY. The library is down the hall to the right of the side entrance at street level.

Ride Sharing

Many members have indicated their desire to attend JGS meetings, but feel the drive is too long, too difficult in the dark or otherwise inconvenient to be undertaken alone. We would like to help members make a connection for sharing rides.

If you are interested in attending a meeting and would like a ride, or can occasionally offer a ride, please call Dana Kurtz at (415) 921-6761 or e-mail <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com> to make arrangements.

Success Story: A Needle in the Genealogical Haystack

by David Rubin

David Rubin is a newcomer to genealogical research and the SFBA JGS. He works in Development at the University of San Francisco, having spent the first 30 years of his life steeped in the rich traditions of East Coast Jewry. The pursuit of his genealogical roots has provided him with a sense of connection to his maternal grandmother who passed away several years ago and will always be missed.

The Best Known Grandparent with the Least Information

It made sense to start my genealogical research with my maternal grandmother's family. She was, after all, the only grandparent who I had known; the other three had died either before I was born or soon thereafter. Even though most considered my grandmother as crabby and cantankerous, she doted on me as the favorite grandson and I, in turn, was crazy about her. There was an added advantage to beginning the research with her side: her maiden name - **MAJDANCZIK** - was so uncommon that other genealogists seeking the same name were sure to be related to me. Or so I thought.

I had looked up the Majdanczik name on the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder list that is posted on the Internet and was disappointed to find no others investigating it. I dutifully submitted it as the first, and provided my name, address and e-mail address in the hope of making contact with some future researcher. I was especially keen on learning exactly where it was that my grandmother had come from, the town of origin that I learned genealogists dub their ancestral shtetl.

As months went by, I learned of the riches that are available to genealogists, starting with the National Archives and Records Administration in San Bruno, and progressing to the courthouses of Manhattan to which I made a special pilgrimage during a three-month paid sabbatical from my job. Along the way, I uncovered passenger arrival records, census information and naturalization papers that revealed volumes about my heritage - on all branches of my family tree except for the Majdancziks. I began to characterize my great-grandmother as a shifty and suspicious woman who had somehow managed to elude census takers and leave behind precious little information about her origins. I even found, in one courthouse, the mention of a civil case from 1938, in which my great-grandmother was sued by a certain Aaron Levine. Much to my chagrin, the actual file had been discarded several years ago.

The Document that Led to My Grandmother's Illegible Shtetl

Then one day my mother phoned to say that she had found among my deceased grandmother's possessions a tattered old piece of paper. It was some sort of official-looking card with which my great-grandmother apparently had disembarked from the boat to America. It gave only her name and the name of the individual who would be meeting her at the harbor, but it was dated September 3, 1907. At last I had a piece of data that enabled me to return to the National Archives in search of her passenger arrival record, which would in turn give me the name of her town of origin, my ancestral shtetl.

At the Archives, my whole body trembled as I finally found the actual page that listed not only my grandmother but my great-grandmother's arrival in this country. My grandmother, an extremely cynical and unsentimental woman, had never told us much about her past, but of the few details she had related, one was the story of how she carried her younger brother, my Great-Uncle Abe, into this country in her arms. The microfilmed ship's log that I now viewed listed a Majdanczik, Ester, age seven, followed by Avram, age five. I saw in my mind's eye, my grandmother as a girl of seven carrying my Great-Uncle Abe down a wooden plank onto dry land.

Now I became really excited as I scanned across the page seeking their town of origin. My delight and suspense turned to frustration as I tried to decipher the barely legible handwriting of the ship's official of the S.S. Kroonland. All I could surmise was that the town's name started with a "G" (or maybe it was an "L") and ended with "d-o-k." My grandmother had once mentioned, in a rare moment of nostalgia, that her family had come from Kamenetz, and when I pursued this remark too eagerly, asking whether she meant "Kamenetz-Podolsky", she insisted emphatically that it was simply "Kamenetz" and then she clammed up. This wasn't in keeping with what I was now reading on the passenger arrival record, and I questioned the veracity or accuracy of that same ship's official with the sloppy handwriting.

The Possible Relative Who Identified Grandmother's Shtetl

Then, just about a month ago, I received e-mail from a man who had read a posting of mine on JewishGen. In it I had mentioned the illustrious and elusive Majdanczik name. The e-mail I received began "I have a friend who just emigrated to America from Russia two years ago. His name is 'Maydanchik', which is the Russian equivalent of the Majdanczik name you are searching. He may be a cousin, and would be delighted to hear from you." A phone number for Vasily Majdancsik followed. I had gotten used to calling strangers in my genealogical pursuits, so I picked up the phone and gave Vasily a ring.

I was greeted by a man with a thick Russian accent. He had been told of the possibility of my calling by the same friend who had contacted me regarding the similarity of our names. We chatted for several minutes, during which he told of having survived the Nazi invasion of Ukraine by fleeing to Moscow with his mother. He asked how he could help me.

"Well," I began "I am extremely interested in learning the name of the town that my grandmother actually came from. She once mentioned it was Kamenetz but -"

"Kamenetz!" Vasily interrupted excitedly. "That's the town I was born in! Kamenetz Podolsk! Kamenetz was the big town, and then we had family in the surrounding shtetls." He then went

on to recite a list of the shtetls surrounding Kamenetz. The third one he mentioned was Gorodok. Begins with a "G" and ends with a "d-o-k": Now it was my turn to interrupt him, as I visualized the sloppy handwriting on the passenger arrival record, and realized that it had now been deciphered.

"Gorodok! That's it! That's the name of my grandmother's home town!"

We continued our conversation with great animation, trying to establish the exact link between his family and my Great-Grandfather Meckel Majdanczik. Even though we were unable to do so in that initial telephone call, we have spoken to each other several times since then in the hope of establishing the exact link.

Recently, I told this story to an acquaintance who had a copy of the reference book on the origin of Jewish names in the Russian empire. Looking up Majdanczik, he found an entry that explained it very specifically as a name given to Jews working at a resin factory in the area of Ushiksy in the Ukraine at the beginning of the 19th century. I received this information with a mixture of fascination and disappointment. It now appears that Vasily and I may have no more in common than the fact that our ancestors both worked in the same factory in the Ukraine nearly two hundred years ago.

But at least I now know the name of my ancestral shtetl: Gorodok. And I owe it to Vasily.

Volunteers Needed

Seeking On-Line Connection

Now that the JewishGen Family Finder is available on the World Wide Web, through JewishGen at <www.jewishgen.org>, anyone with Web access can insert, delete or modify his or her own listing.

(For instructions, send an e-mail message to <jgff2@jewishgen.org>. Leave the subject and body of the message blank.)

We are looking for volunteers to help non-connected members enter their information and perhaps perform an occasional look-up. We expect that this will not require a significant time commitment. Of course, modifications to Family Finder can still be done the old-fashioned way, by U.S. Mail. Forms are available on-line or from the JGS. Send changes and new entries to:

JewishGen Family Finder
12 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100
Houston, TX 77046

ZichronNote Indexing

An index to back issues of *ZichronNote* has been printed and includes issues through 1994 (available for \$2). We would now like to update the index to include 1995 and 1996. The simple format already exists, and we need your help to bring us up to date.

If you are interested in acting as a JGFF liaison, or can help index the more recent issues of *ZichronNote*, please contact Dana Kurtz at (415) 921-6761 or <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com>.

PAST MEETINGS

Top 10 Travel Tips

At the December and January meetings, we heard from four SFBA JGS members who have traveled to their ancestral towns. Their stories were exciting, and fascinating. Hopefully they also offered some insights into how to plan for such a trip, what to expect, and how to be prepared for the unexpected!

Each speaker has provided their "Top 10" list of suggestions for you to keep in mind as you contemplate a trip to your ancestral town.

Rosanne Leeson - Scherwiller and elsewhere, Alsace, France - 1994

- 1) Obtain maps of the region or town you are traveling to.
- 2) Read up on the history of the area in the Encyclopedia Judaica, travel books for the region and general histories of the country.
- 3) Learn some phrases and words of genealogical import, in addition to the standard phrases such as "thank you," "please," "where is....."
- 4) Try to make contact with others who have roots in the same area or town, through JewishGen and similar services. Some may already have visited, and can provide very valuable information, tips and contacts.
- 5) Contact any archives well in advance to learn hours of operation, any restrictions or necessary documents for admission, copy facilities or lack of same!
- 6) Bring paper, pens and pencils (not always easily obtained), also a mini-tape recorder (with plenty of tapes and batteries) which can be very useful for registering impressions, conversations and information on the fly! I have done this while walking through an old cemetery - noting row number, names, etc.
- 7) Bring proper attire for cemetery crawling, such as thick-soled walking shoes and heavy socks, gloves, a hat for shade, as well as bug spray and sun lotion.
- 8) Of course, bring a camera - but don't forget lots of film and batteries!
- 9) If possible, bring some powdered graphite, used to bring out data on old, worn tombstones.
- 10) Bring any photos (copies!) of family members who came from the town you're traveling to, in case an older citizen can recognize someone.

- 11) Bring a family tree to help show any possible relationships.
- 12) Bring some small (to us) gifts such as a picture book of where you live in the U.S., to make a connection and some stationery so they will write! Giving cash might be very demeaning to them, but a little something, even a ball pen to write with can be a great treat!

Dana Kurtz - Veisiejai, Lithuania - 1996

- 1) Contact the local or nearest (to your destination) Jewish community before you go. They may be able to arrange for a Jewish guide/translator or other assistance.
- 2) Write to archives, and other contacts many months before you travel. Tell them when you plan to be in their town and that you would like to meet with them. If you send a family tree, make sure it is very abbreviated, showing only significant individuals, important dates and occupations.
- 3) Research the history and geography of the country or region, not just your town. Try to visit the neighboring towns; our ancestors were quite mobile.
- 4) Use the JGFF and other resources to locate others who have traveled to you area and identify others interested in your town. Gather the names they are researching and any information or stories. It will make your visit richer if you can recognize names and events.
- 5) Bring small gifts to give: postcards, baseball caps with insignia; gum/candy for kids; anything with your home town, "California," or "USA" on it; also \$1, \$5, \$10 bills; and a few blank checks.
- 6) Bring a tape recorder with lots of extra batteries and tapes. Keep it going whenever possible. Don't worry about not understanding the language - it can be translated later.
- 7) Bring photos of your family members that were born in that town (COPIES ONLY). The cousin I found shrieked when shown the photo of my great-grandmother "That looks exactly like my grandmother!" (The two women were at least 2 generations apart.)
- 8) Bring a letter to the mayor of your ancestral town from the mayor of your hometown. It can help to open doors. Ask politely about records

other than birth, marriage and death; suggest land maps, resident lists, etc.

- 9) Send yourself a postcard from your town.
 - 10) Take many, many pictures, but make sure you see the "sights" without the camera in front of you. It's a very emotional trip; take the time to soak it up. If you can, give yourself an extra day to go back into your town after a night's sleep. This affords you the opportunity to experience something you might have missed, and to walk the ground your ancestors walked.
- 7) Buy a travel dictionary and learn a few phrases, as very few Poles speak English. Have paper and a pen handy when shopping, so that clerks can write the cost of an item.
 - 8) Have several copies of your family tree to give out.
 - 9) Take a few San Francisco souvenir key rings and pot holders to give .
 - 10) Your success in the archives may depend upon your guide's previous relationship with the staff. Start your search for a guide with our own Society members who have made the trip. Check JewishGen's TravelLinks web page.

Marian Rubin - Rzeszow, Poland - 1995

- 1) This is a trip of memory and emotion, so allow yourself time to "feel." The essence of the trip lies in the moments in which one most vividly feels "I am here, where my family was." If you are standing where a synagogue or a cemetery stood, you know that your relatives were also on this spot. Visualize dozens or hundreds of Jews moving about the town.

Take time for a quiet walk and recall the family names and stories. Think about the conditions under which they lived, and recall the dates and points in the area pertaining to the Holocaust.

- 2) If you are going to try to get records, bring your list typed on your letterhead stationery. Group your names according to birth, marriage and death records, and list them in chronological order. Have two extra copies.
- 3) Have envelopes with you in case you want to give monetary gifts. Convert some money into bills the equivalent of \$1, \$5 and \$10. Several of us decided against in-person gifts to the head of Krakow's Jewish community and decided to send checks when we got home. Sadly, the check I sent was never cashed and I wished I had left my gift when I was there. You may want to give something to those who care for a cemetery or synagogue or to a community kitchen.
- 4) If your town's yizkor book has a town map, photocopy it to have with you.
- 5) It adds something to the trip to talk with Jewish tourists you encounter, and to hear their information and stories.
- 6) Buy extra stamps for airmail to the U.S. (for envelopes) and buy a few air letters. When you return home and write to someone from whom you want an answer, enclose the stamps or letter so that he/she doesn't have the expense.

Barry Klezmer - Medzyrzec(z) Podalski, and Warsaw, Poland, Vienna, Austria - 1995

- 1) Buy *The Berkeley Guide--Eastern Europe* which is the best book-guide; it includes maps, language skills and Jewish sections. An excellent book.
- 2) Buy the *Thomas Cook Rail Guide for Europe* which covers England to Russia.
- 3) Bring a video camera, extra tapes and batteries.
- 4) Bring gifts from home (especially San Francisco-related items) for friends, families and those at the archives.
- 5) Arrange for bilingual guides, especially those with a car and knowledge of your town's history, if you can find one.
- 6) Prepare multiple variations of your itinerary; allow extra room for things that don't go as you might have planned.
- 7) Write to the official U.S. tourism office of the places you will be visiting. They may have information on specialized guides and tours.
- 8) Write ahead to the archives and establish a contact, preferably with a director or manager, prior to visiting,
- 9) Learn basic foreign language phrases to show both respect and politeness to those from whom you are asking for help, lodging and information.
- 10) Bring an ATM card. Many countries accept them and now have cash machines. Transfers between banks will always provide you with the best rate of exchange and you won't have any of those pesky exchange fees.

Where's Theodore? Where's Ellis? Naming Practices to Predict and Find Past and Present Generations

©1996 Gordon J. Fine

Gordon Fine has been researching his family's history for four years and he chairs the cemetery committee. His father's, Theodore's, family from Lithuania are the **BORNSTEIN, BRODIE, FINE, HORWITZ** and **WOLK** families. His mother's family from Belarus and Ukraine are **EDELSTEIN, MEASNIKOFF, POTYK** and **WOLKOV**.

Theodore and Ellis are names that repeatedly turn up among the many descendants of my great-great-grandparents Theodore (1831-1920) and Rachel **HORWITZ** (1835-1910) **BRODIE** of Snipiskes (near Vilnius), Lithuania. Two of their sons emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts in the 1870s and their parents and sisters followed in 1882. "Theodore" and "Ellis" are sufficiently uncommon names so that, when the names appear, their antecedents are readily apparent. I have used Harold Rhode's "guidelines" for Lithuanian naming practices to "predict" the existence of other Theodores and Ellises and make other predictions - as yet untested by additional archival research from Lithuania - about prior generations. "Using Litvak Naming Patterns to Derive Names of Unknown Ancestors" *Avotaynu* (Volume XI, Number 3), Fall 1995.

Predicting Ancestors from Their Descendants' Names: Going from Theodore to Todres Brodie

I knew from American records and his grave stone that my great-great-grandfather was Theodore (Todres ben Todres) Brodie. Because traditional Ashkenazic naming practices prohibit passing on a name so long as the giver of the name is alive, no great intuition was necessary to hypothesize that Todres ben Todres had been named for his father. An 1834 revision list (census) from the Lithuanian State Archives confirmed that Todres ben Todres' father had died soon before my great-great-grandfather's birth in 1831.

Harold Rhode's "guidelines" may be summarized as newborns being named, in order of priority, for recently deceased parents (regardless of gender), grandparents and great-grandparents with boys named for men and girls named for women. Once a name has been passed to a particular line, the name is not given again (unless, of course, the name is passed to the recipient's descendant following his or her death). When both grandfathers (or grandmothers) are deceased, double names are given that consist of a first name from the father's family and a second (or middle) name from the mother's family. As discussed below, these "guidelines" leave out uncles, great-uncles, aunts and great-aunts.

I considered these "guidelines" to come up with a hypothesis for the earlier origin of the name Todres. Lithuanian records have taken the Brodie's male line two additional generations before Todres ben Todres. Todres ben Todres' (the Bostonian's) father was Todres ben Israel and Israel's father had been Morduch (Mordecai). No Todres! Therefore the most likely Todres antecedent is: (1) Todres ben Israel's mother's father; or (2) Morduch Brodie's father (Todres ben Israel's great-grandfather). Being named for a great-great-grandparent seems unlikely because other descendants had probably already been named for the great-great-grandparent and the newborn probably had more recently deceased relatives for whom he or she could be named. I hope to learn more about Todres ben Israel's mother's family from the Lithuanian State Historical Archives. Eventually, however, it may be necessary to check an early revision list (1818 for Snipiskes) for anyone named Todres. How many Todreses could there have been in Snipiskes at the beginning of the 19th century?

Finding Relatives from Your Common Ancestor's Name: Where Are the Theodores Now?

Theodore (Todres ben Todres) and Rachel had five known children:

- Louis Aaron (Aaron Leib) (1857-1925) (possibly named after his grandfather Israel ben Morduch Brodie's brother Aaron, and Rachel Horwitz Brodie's father Leib or Aaron),
- Deborah Bessie (Basa Doba) [married name Pokroisky] (1858-1947),
- Ellis (Josel Ilia)(1860-??) (possibly named after his grandfather Israel ben Morduch Brodie's brother Josel),
- Jacob (Israel Morduch) (1862-1900) (possibly named after his grandfather Israel ben Morduch Brodie and great-grandfather Morduch Brodie) and
- Miriam [married name Gerstein] (1871-1951).

Among my great-grandfather Louis Aaron's descendants are his grandchildren Theadora Levy Vernell, my father Theodore Fine (1923-1992) and, named for my father, my new nephew Theodore Charles Fine. One of Deborah's

grandchildren is Theodore Russell Porosky and one of Miriam's grandchildren is Theodore Gerstein Green.

Locating the descendants of Jacob and Bertha Ehrenreich Brodie presented an unusual problem because they became Unitarians in the 1890s and all but a handful of the living Brodie descendants had never heard of this branch of the family. Those few who remembered the Unitarian Brodies couldn't recall any of their first names. Why not try Theodore?

Numerous records (censuses; birth, marriage and death certificates; World War I draft registration; and city directories) provide information about Jacob's only son, Theodore Ehrenreich Brodie (1898-1948), who was named for his then-living grandfather Theodore Brodie. (One can only guess whether Jacob intended to honor or curse his father, who may have considered his son "dead.") I assumed a non-Jewish naming pattern and hypothesized that Theodore Ehrenreich Brodie had a son named Theodore Ehrenreich Brodie, Jr. On that hunch, I checked the American telephone directories for a Theodore Brodie. Only two were listed. I wrote both of them, one in California and the other in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Brodie responded. Theodore Hamilton Brodie had received the first name of his living father and his mother's (rather than his grandmother's) maiden name. Boston-born Bertha Ehrenreich Brodie (1863-1957), who told her grandchildren that the Brodies were of Scottish descent, may have preferred the selection of Hamilton rather than her own maiden name as her grandson's middle name.

Where's Ellis?

Theodore (Todres ben Todres) Brodie's second son Ellis Joseph (Josel Ilia) presents a different problem. He appears to have dropped out of the family in the 1880s. The relative rarity of the name indicates that a number of Brodie descendants born in Boston in the 1880s and 1890s were named after Ellis: Ellis Myer Brodie (1888-1955), Lois Aaron's son; Alfred Elias Porosky (1889-1985), Deborah Pokroisky's son; and perhaps Eleanor Brodie [married name Dryer] (1894-1970), Jacob's daughter and sister of Theodore Ehrenreich Brodie. [Ellis Myer Brodie's name continues with my brother Philip Ellis Fine, Ellis' granddaughter Patricia Ellis Brodie Coffin and (employing a doubly untraditional naming pattern of giving a male name from a living mother) Patricia's daughter, Rachel Ellis Coffin.]

Various explanations for the late 19th century Ellis namesakes are that Ellis died young

(although no Massachusetts death record has been found) or he may have stayed behind in Manchester, England, the (as yet undocumented) stopping place of family stories. Ellis may have married out of the faith and a beloved brother was treated, for naming purposes, as if dead. Theodore H. Brodie had heard that one of the Brodies had gone to an early Alaska gold rush. Alaskan records and writing every Brodie in Alaska (all of whom seem to be of Irish descent) did not locate Ellis Brodie or his descendants. The procedure that worked for locating Theodore H. Brodie has failed, to date, to locate any of Ellis' descendants.

Climbing the family tree back in time may disclose the ancestor from whom Ellis Brodie (1860-??) received his name. The likely candidates are one of Ellis' mother's (Rachel's) grandfathers, rather than Rachel's father, because no Lithuanian records indicate that Rachel's father was named Ellis. Lithuanian marriage and birth registrations provide various names for her father: Michel on her marriage registration; Leib on birth registrations for Louis Aaron (Aaron Leib), Ellis and Deborah. Rachel's father's name is listed as Aria or Aron on Jacob's (Israel Morduch's) birth registration. [Is it possible that the full name of Rachel's father was Leib Aaron or Aaron Leib, and the full double name was given directly to his grandson Aaron Leib (Louis Aaron)?]

Another reason that Ellis' name probably came from his mother's family is that Ellis' younger brother Jacob (Israel Morduch) seems to have received the names of their paternal great-grandfather Israel ben Morduch and great-great-grandfather Morduch. Israel and Morduch, however, seem sufficiently common names that their lineage cannot be presumed without knowing more about the mother's family. However, the 1834 census shows that Israel ben Morduch Brodie, then 76 years old, was still alive. Israel ben Morduch may have died after the deaths of the persons for whom Aaron Leib and Yussel Ilia/Elias were named.

New and Improved Naming Rules to Formulate Hypotheses for Testing by Documentation

Our individual research can better define what the naming rules were so that everyone seeking to learn more about their ancestors may benefit from better educated hunches. We need to have full information about the mother's family, as well as each direct ancestor's siblings, in order to identify the source of someone's name with accuracy. It appears that Theodore (Todres ben Todres) gave

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W.W. I Draft Registration--Another Route

by Jeremy G. Frankel

Jeremy Frankel, originally from London, England, is the author of *New York State Erie Canal Guide* and is a resident alien currently living in Berkeley, California. Jeremy is researching the names **FRANKEL, GOLDRATH, LEVY, KOENIGSBERG, MAZIN/MAZO** and **SWEDELSON**.

The article on World War I Draft Registration records in the last issue of *ZichronNote* brought back vivid memories of my efforts earlier this year to locate my wife's grandfather, Solomon **GOLDSTEIN**'s military record. Readers may be interested in the different route my research took. One should bear in mind as the official records state, the period from registration through draft to induction is considered separate from a person's military record; hence registration materials will not be found in the National Personal Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri. Though draft registration cards can be found in the National Archives, as was emphasized in the *ZichronNote* article, one has to know all the relevant information in order to locate them. If you are not in possession of all of the facts, then try using the method I undertook, using the Mormon microfilm copies of the draft registration records.

Searching for the Correct Microfilm

I first became aware of World War I Draft Registration records after reading about them in *Everton's Genealogical Helper* (Nov.-Dec. 1995), in which the author made use of the microfilmed copies held by the Mormon Family History Centers. I went to the Oakland FHC and checked through the catalog. To be honest it took me a little while to establish which subject headings I needed to look under. The answer was "UNITED STATES - MILITARY RECORDS - WORLD WAR, 1914-1918," then "United States, Selective Service System." One does not look under the state where the person you are researching lived, nor will you find anything under "Draft Registration," or any combination of those words. Maybe these facts would be obvious to you, but as a foreigner, it sometimes takes me a little while to figure these things out.

Once you have found the two headings, a massively long list appears, A to Z by state, and within each state entry, each county's draft board. The next thing which tripped me up (and where I wasted my money) was in not looking closely enough. Solomon Goldstein lived in Sioux City, Iowa. Sioux City is in Woodbury County, so I ordered that microfilm. Wrong! If I had looked more carefully, I would have found that there was

a separate board for Sioux City, and it was that film I needed.

One advantage of ordering a microfilm for a local draft board, is that one can get more "registration cards for your buck." Not only did I find Solomon Goldstein, but also three other Goldsteins. I also found Louis Heeger, who had been a witness in Solomon's Petition for Naturalization, and Louis' brother Lester. Finally, I also found Mendel Hendlin, a grocer for whom Solomon worked (which I had discovered in the 1918 Sioux City street directory). Wasn't I lucky that everyone was in the A to H microfilm!

The June 1917 draft cards differ slightly in layout to the 1918 cards, though both ask pretty much the same questions. The 1917 cards had stamped numbers but no explanation as to their meaning. The 1918 cards revealed all: one was the serial number, and the other was the order number. The order number is important for the next phase of the research. Incidentally, the 1917 card featured a tear-off corner if the individual was of "African descent."

Post-Registration: The Draft

Solomon Goldstein, having registered for the draft in June 1917, had to wait nearly a whole year, until May 1918, before he was actually drafted. It wasn't until July that he was to be "entrained" to Camp Pike, Little Rock, Arkansas. This information came from a document called the "List of Men Ordered to Report to Local Board," also known as the Induction or Docket Book. These records are in the care of the Regional Archives. In my case Iowa comes under the Central Plains Region in Kansas City, Missouri.

Well, it took a couple of letters and phone calls to convince the staff in Kansas City that they do in fact have these records (Record Group 163, Records of the Selective Service System). The official I was dealing with then explained that the Docket books were a "huge pile of paper," that it "would take ages to go through them," and of course, they were not permitted to undertake research for individual inquiries.

At this point I was stymied. However, the next day,

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LOCAL RESOURCES

Western Jewish History Center

by Randy Stehle

My recent visit to the Western Jewish History Center (affiliated with the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley) strongly reinforced the admonition that the most effective visit to an archival repository requires advance planning. First, make sure you know the facility's operating hours correctly. The current schedule for the WJHC is different from that previously indicated in *ZichronNote*. They are: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The types of material available to researchers were outlined in the May 1994 and November 1991 issues of *ZichronNote*.

Second, it is imperative that you call ahead and make an appointment with one of the archivists if you want to do any research. The head archivist is Tova Gazit. The day I visited, Tova's assistant, Sue Morris, was extremely helpful in giving me a tour of the Center's holdings, leading me to materials on the shelves and providing items that were not readily accessible.

I went to the Center to follow a lead on the Polish town from which my **GREEN** and **MARKMAN** ancestors came. A San Diego Historical Society publication told of one of my ancestors from the Green branch who shot his wife in the leg and then killed himself in 1888, in San Diego. The paper referenced *The American Israelite* newspaper as one of its original sources, and I hoped to learn more about these forebears' origins. It turned out the Center did not have this issue of *The American Israelite* (which was published in Cincinnati, Ohio). A third important consideration is to check the archive's holdings before you arrive.

I asked for any other contemporary Jewish newspapers such as *The Jewish Progress* and *The Hebrew* but the holdings did not include the year 1888 and in any event, the sole microfilm/microfiche reader was out of order. A fourth, rarely considered preparation is to make sure that such equipment and photocopying services, are available and working. (I later obtained *The American Israelite* article through interlibrary loan, but it did not provide the missing information.)

Lest you think my visit to the Western Jewish History Center was a disappointment, or that lack of advance planning dooms you to failure, Sue Morris' assistance did provide me with unanticipated finds. Many family members,

including those with the surnames **RAPHAEL**, **WOLFF** and **JACOBS**, came to San Francisco before the 1906 earthquake and fire. Ms Morris helpfully steered me to the Center's surname index, Gold Rush documents and *The Emanu-El*, a Bay Area newspaper unrelated to the San Francisco temple of the same name (although I was bar mitzvahed there). The surname index provided references to my **BRILLIANT** ancestors in a book entitled *Torah and Technology*. The Levinson Collection consists of hundreds of pieces of correspondence between Mr. Levinson and anyone and everyone potentially connected to the Gold Rush. The collection included a 1966 letter from my cousin about her great-grandfather, Mark Brilliant. The index to *The Emanu-El* also provided information, mostly death notices about other relatives.

Following the lessons I learned at the Western Jewish History Center can help you get more out of your visits to research facilities.

[Sue Morris of the WJHC will be our guest speaker at the February 23 SFBA JGS meeting in Berkeley.]

WWI Registration, continued from page 11

I received yet another telephone call, again from the official in Kansas City. She had gone in early that morning, and armed with the aforementioned order number, she had found Solomon Goldstein's entry! It turns out that the "huge pile" was actually filed sequentially by the all-important order number. The fact that she also had more than a passing interest in genealogy helped tremendously.

She sent me the form (and several more) listing twenty-five men, their order and serial numbers, primary industry (occupation) and fitness classification. The top of the form stated that all these men had been inducted into military service on July 24, 1918 and "... have this date been entrained for Camp Pike, Little Rock, Arkansas."

This is as far as my research has taken me in this area. As readers may recall, a serious fire occurred in July 1973 at the NPRC in which Army records of World War I were the most severely damaged. Before I can submit a request to the NPRC, I first have to find out which companies, battalions and division were formed at Camp Pike. When I find out more, maybe the editor will twist my arm to write part two of this saga!

City Directories in the California Genealogical Society Library

The California Genealogical Society library collection includes city directories for many towns in California and a few in other selected states. Although not comprehensive for California history, there are 19th century references for some counties and larger cities and a number of 20th century directories for many California towns.

The CGS Library is located at 300 Brannan Street, Suite 409, in San Francisco. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a \$5 per day charge for non-C.G.S. members to use the library, however the first Saturday of each month is free. Tel: (415) 777-9936.

* - Reprint of eight county directory D - Located in the George Dorman Collection

California Directories

California Business Directories
(whole state): 1871, 1890, 1893
Alameda see: Oakland
Alhambra 1956, 1964 D
Alturas 1977 D
Arcadia 1962, 1964 D
Atascadero 1965, see: Pasa Robles
Bakersfield 1935, 1940, 1951, 1957, 1958,
1959, 1968 D
Berkeley see: Oakland
Burbank 1953 D
Burlingame 1943, 1945
Chico 1958, 1968 D
Colton 1912 (San Bernadino)
Culver City 1949, 1963 D
Delano 1965, 1978 D
Dixon 1973 D
Downey 1963 D
Fairfield 1971 see: Dixon
Fowler 1957, 1962, 1964 D
Fort Bragg 1968 D
Fremont 1974 D
Fresno 1894, 1907, 1913, 1919 1921,
1922, 1927, 1928, 1932, 1935-1938,
1940, 1941, 1942, 1944, 1947, 1949,
1951, 1953, 1955-1962 D
Gilroy 1968 D
Hanford 1939, 1943, 1949 (phone), 1970 D
Hayward 1969, 1971, 1973 D, 1975,
see: Fremont
Hillsborough 1943, 1945, see: San Mateo
Inglewood 1950 D
Kerman 1961, 1963 (phone) D
Lake County 1879*
Lakewood 1952 D
Lennox 1950, see: Inglewood D
Lodi 1965 D
Long Beach 1943, 1957 D
Los Angeles 1872 (reprint) D
Marin County 1879*
Merced 1928, 1935, 1941, 1946, 1948,
1952 D
Millbrae 1943, 1945, see: San Mateo
Modesto 1950, 1952, 1960, 1967 D
Monrovia 1968 D
Monterey 1960, 1968 D
Monterey Park 1965
Morgan Hill 1968
Morro Bay 1965 D
Napa County 1879*
Napa 1974 D

Oakland 1887, 1892, 1895, 1896, 1898,
1899, 1904-1906, 1906 (business),
1907-1918, 1921-1928, 1930, 1933-
1935, 1938 D, 1939-1941, 1943, 1967,
1969, 1979 (phone), 1986 (phone),
1987 (phone), 1992 (phone)
Oxnard 1968 D
Pacific Grove 1960, see: Monterey D
Pasadena 1939, 1956 D
Pasa Robles 1965 D
Porterville 1948, 1959
Redwood City 1950, 1953, 1954, 1965 D
Redding 1960, 1968, 1969 D
Rialto 1949, see: San Bernadino
Richmond 1912, 1956, 1961, 1962, 1964 D
Sacramento 1907, 1960, 1962, 1968 D,
1974 (phone)
Sacramento Suburban 1968 D
Salinas 1961, 1969 D
San Bernadino and Colton 1912, 1949 D
San Bruno 1955, 1959 D
San Carlos 1963 D
San Diego 1957 D
San Diego Suburban 1957, 1961 D
San Francisco 1850 (photocopy), 1868,
1871, 1873, 1876, 1878-1880, 1883-
1905, 1906 (business), 1907-1923,
1934-1944
San Jose 1896, 1898, 1905, 1913, 1926,
1927, 1931, 1933, 1955, 1957, 1960,
1975 (phone) D
San Leandro 1956, 1965 D
San Luis Obispo 1931, 1950, 1953, 1963,
1971, 1973 D
San Mateo 1943, 1945, 1959 D, 1968 D,
1971 D, 1973 D
San Pedro 1957 D
San Rafael 1960, 1963, 1965
Sanger 1975 D
Santa Monica 1954 D
Solano County 1879*
Sonoma County 1879*
Stockton 1955, 1956, 1969 D
Susanville 1968 (phone) D
Temple City 1955 D
Tracy 1967, 1978 D
Tulare-Visalia 1955, 1968, 1969 D
Vallejo-Benicia 1973, 1987 (phone) D
Visalia see: Tulare 1955, 1961, 1962,
1963D
Walnut Creek 1966 D
Woodland 1968 D

Yolo County 1879*
Yreka 1968

Other States

AK Pacific Coast Business Directory, 1871
AZ Pacific Coast Business Directory, 1871,
Phoenix 1964
CO Denver 1963
CT Hartford 1962, New Haven 1962
FL Tampa 1963
GA Atlanta 1962
HI Honolulu 1953
ID Pacific Coast Business Directory, 1871
IL Chicago Business Directory 1846
KS Wichita 1962
MA Berkshire (central) 1842, Boston 1963,
Haverhill & Bradford 1859,
Worcester Village Directory 1829
ME Bath, Brunswick 1958, 1969
MI Detroit (east side) 1963,
Grand Rapids 1962
MO St. Louis 1963
MT Pacific Coast Business Directory, 1871
NV Pacific Coast Business Directory, 1871
NJ Atlantic City 1961
NY Buffalo 1962, Rochester, 1963, New
York Register & City Directory 1860
OH Cleveland 1845 (film), Cincinnati City
1825, Suburban 1963, Columbus 1963
OR Pacific Coast Business Directory 1871,
Astoria 1962, Corvallis 1961-62,
Klamath Falls 1961, Medford 1960
PA Philadelphia 1840 (film), Pittsburgh 1961
RI Providence 1962
TN Memphis Directory & General Business
1849 (film)
TX El Paso 1963, Houston 196
UT Pacific Coast Business Directory 1871
VT Addison County, Gazeteer & Business
Directory 1881, Franklin & Grand Isle
Counties, Gazeteer & Business
Directory 1882, Lamoille & Orleans
Counties, Gazeteer & Business
Directory 1883, Rutland County
Gazeteer & Business Directory 1881
VA Norfolk 1961, Richmond 1892
WA Enumclaw 1967, Everett 1961,
Prosser 1961, Spokane Cty. 1909-10,
Sunnyside, Grandview 1961,
Walla Walla 1962, Yakima 1964

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NATIONAL RESOURCES

The IRS Can Help Locate Lost Relatives

While the Internal Revenue Service is best known for requiring payment of income taxes, it can also assist you in locating people. According to the Internal Revenue Manual, Chapter 1272, Section (11)(14), the IRS will forward letters for "humane purposes." These may include: (1) a person seeking to find a missing person to convey a message of an urgent nature such as serious illness, imminent death or the death of a close relative; or (2) a person seeking to find a missing relative.

Send the letter you wish to have forwarded to an IRS Disclosure Office, and enclose a letter requesting that your letter be forwarded to the desired individual. You will also need to provide the subject's full name and Social Security number. Two sentences must be included:

"In accordance with current policy, the Internal Revenue Service has agreed to forward this letter because we do not have your current address. The Internal Revenue Service has not disclosed your address or any other tax information and has no involvement in the matter aside from forwarding the letter."

The IRS will not give you the desired individual's current address or any other information. Nor will they tell you when your letter was forwarded. The local Bay Area Disclosure Office is located at 1301 Clay Street, Suite 800S, Oakland, CA 94612.

Ellis Island Update

By Lillian Wurzel

This year, the 10th anniversary of the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island's original buildings, marks the start of a new campaign by the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Foundation, Inc. Still chaired by Lee Iacocca, the Foundation seeks to raise \$12 million to launch the American Family History Center.

The Center will contain computerized entries of more than seven million immigrants to America: when they came, what ships transported them and where they went from Ellis Island. What a boon to genealogists like us! The Center also anticipates becoming a repository of individual family histories contributed by genealogists (much like the Dorot Center in Israel).

Contributions of \$100, \$50, \$25 or whatever amount you choose are sought for this new phase

of activity. Few people realize that no federal funds were used for the restoration and the "Wall of Honor." Both were funded solely by contributions. The "Wall of Honor" surrounding the Ellis Island buildings now contains over 500,000 immigrant names – the world's most numerous wall of names. A new Immigrant Wall of Honor has been opened and names may be placed for a donation of \$100 or more per name. This wall will close in 1997.

For more information, write: "Statue of Liberty – Ellis Island Foundation Inc., P.O. Box 5200, New York, NY 10164-2880.

Where's Theodore, continued from page 10

the names Josel and Aaron to his sons in honor of his great-uncles. Were uncles part of the naming tradition when direct antecedents were alive? Or was Theodore's passing on the names of his great-uncles an unusual circumstance because they may have helped raise the fatherless Theodore? [The 1834 revision list indicates the infant Todres ben Todres as if he were the head of the household being cared for by one of Yosel's female servants.] Additional research may require the inclusion of uncles, aunts, great-uncles and great-aunts into naming "guidelines."

Additional archival research going further back in time may confirm the hypothesis of the origin of the Brodie family names of Theodore and Ellis. However, the general technique that may come from this exercise is refinement of Harold Rhode's use of hypotheses about naming rules to direct the search. If the male line (which is usually easier to trace) has failed to provide the origin of a particular name, don't give up because the female line is harder to trace. Search for the first name, especially in towns with smaller populations, searching for less common names. Also consider collateral ancestors (aunts and uncles) in each generation. I hope that my future research can answer whether these techniques are feasible and successful. Any and all responses, suggestions or applications of this model to your own family (Litvak or otherwise) are welcome.

Gordon John Fine (1953-)

ben Theodore Fine (1923-1992)

ben Lillian Brodie Fine Brown (1895-1960)

bat Louis Aaron (Aaron Leib) Brodie (1857-1925)

ben Theodore (Todres ben Todres) Brodie (1831-1920)

ben Todres ben Israel Brodie (1800-1831)

ben Israel ben Morduch Brodie (ca. 1758- after 1834 revision list)

ben Morduch Brodie

The Samuel Saga

by Theodore R. Samuel

Lee and Ted Samuel have been researching the Samuel family since 1990, which prompted them to join the SFBA JGS. They are pursuing the families of four brothers each of whom took different surnames: **SAMUEL**, with which they have had great success, **ENGLANDER**, **BREMLER** and **SOLOMON** from Yanowitz in the Province of Posnan.

We finished "The Samuel Saga," our family genealogy book in October 1996 and promptly mailed it out at book rate to family members in Israel, South Africa and all parts of the United States. The book's 179 pages, including charts, maps, photographs and narratives, arrived in Israel in December 1996. In mid-December, we got a reply from my first cousin Malka Haas. She said she had read the book from cover to cover and her final paragraph read, "I hope many readers enjoyed the lot of work you invested in this project, but throughout the book, I feel that you yourself enjoyed it the most." You know what? She's right.

A High School Reunion and Great-Uncle Benno Lead the Way

The saga of getting the inspiration to start out project is rather serendipitous, but interesting. I graduated from Galileo High School in San Francisco in June 1941, and through a curious happenstance in 1990, I found myself in charge of organizing our 50th reunion. Our class had never had a reunion before. I was given a few names to call, people who might be prospects for joining the Reunion Committee. One woman, whom I had not seen or spoken to in 49 years, told me she'd be delighted to help, but said, "Don't hang up! My husband thinks he's related to you." "What's his name?" I asked. "Mort Simon," she answered. "We've gone up to Nevada City and Grass Valley, and I'll send you some material we gathered on his family." Mort Simon. Never heard of him! I called my brother and cousins. They never heard of him! A few days later, the material arrived, and lo and behold, I saw the names of my grandfather and great uncles. That prompted a phone call to the only New York cousin we knew, who gave us the telephone number of another cousin, Frank Marcus, whose mother used to tell him family stories when he took her on Sunday drives. "I know exactly who Mort Simon is," said Frank.

"He is a branch of our great-grandfather, Samuel Samuel's first marriage. Uncle Benno, I know, had all that information written down. Since Benno died, Cousin Jane inherited all his material. I'll see if I can send it to you."

Great-Uncle Benno, whom we knew of only through family legend, was responsible for

bringing more than twenty-five members of our family to America from Germany in the 1930s.

The material arrived. Uncle Benno, who had been interested in keeping family records since he was a child, had made up a form that listed the marriages, parents, siblings, deaths and all dates and sometimes his own thoughts, from 1900 to 1941 when he died. Without that material we probably never would have started. Then began the telephone calls, letters and visits to a San Francisco cousin who had hundreds of photographs in her basement that she hadn't looked at in years. Our visit to the archives in Grass Valley and Nevada City provided us with all kinds of wonderful records. The hours spent at the Sutro Library going through the San Francisco Directories from 1850-on helped us tremendously. At Hills of Eternity Cemetery, we found gravestones carrying the year of death. We then went to the main public library and looked through the obituaries of every issue of the *San Francisco Chronicle* for that year until we found the ones we wanted. These obituaries also gave us the names of survivors of the deceased ... and this was only for the California branch of the family.

Getting It All Down On Paper

Letters to the cousins on the East Coast produced more information and more family names and addresses of the German branch of the family. Then my wife Lee and I decided to do a yearly family newsletter, not only publicizing what was happening currently, but requesting that any information and photographs, present and past, be sent to us. We now put out thrice-yearly newsletters. If relatives sent us photos, they wanted them returned, so I immediately went to Kinko's, copied them and returned them within a week, in order to earn their trust.

True we had done a booklet before, in 1991 using only a typewriter and hand-drawn charts, but this one in 1996, we produced on a word processor and it was by far a great improvement. The first version had quite a few inaccuracies and relatives had written to correct them. Moreover, because of the first edition, everyone knew we were in earnest, so more information and photographs arrived, more relatives became involved. We were informed about

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New JewishGen Databases

A number of new databases have recently made available on the JewishGen web site at <www.jewishgen.org>.

Vsia Rossia 1895 - indexed by Bert Lazerow

The contents of the "Vsia Rossia" business directory of 1895, for Chernigov and Poltava guberniyas, have been indexed. Today, these areas are in north-central Ukraine. There are 4,651 separate listings but fewer individuals are involved, as some persons are listed multiple times because they had several businesses.

"Vsia Rossia" ("All of Russia") is a business directory purportedly covering all of Russia. The index is arranged by guberniya (province), then by uzed (district) within each guberniya. Within that are the listings for the capital city; then listings for the outlying area; finally, separate listings for any town with sufficient listings to justify it. Within each listing, government officials come first, then manufacturing trades in alphabetical order, then retail trades.

LDS Microfilm Master for Poland

This system allows you to determine, given the specified coordinates of a town of interest in Poland, which neighboring towns have vital records on microfilm at the Mormon Family History Library (LDS). To use the database, specify a set of coordinates as a central reference point and whether you want to work in miles or kilometers. The system then lists towns within 100 miles/150 kilometers in the LDS catalog in order of distance from your chosen reference point. The direction from the reference point to each town is also given.

To see a list of the LDS microfilms available for each town, select the "FILMS" button. The resulting list will give you the microfilm number(s), years covered and types of record. You can also choose any of the towns listed to act as a new reference point, by selecting the "REBASE" button and you can continue to run the program in this way, continually changing the town of reference.

If you do not know the exact location of your town of reference, you can use JewishGen's "ShtetlSeeker." More information about the LDS holdings can be obtained from the infofile <www1.jewishgen.org/ldsdist.htm> written by Warren Blatt. As has become customary with many JewishGen projects, the LDS Microfilm Master has been made possible through a joint effort of JewishGen, Avotaynu and a number of volunteers.

The Samuel Saga, continued from page 15

each marriage, birth or death in the family as it occurred.

Just before we went to press, we were given the address of relatives in Holly Grove, Arkansas whose family had been there since 1865. We knew we had family there but had never communicated with them. They were overwhelmingly delighted to hear from us and sent charts, narratives and photographs which enabled us to include that branch in the book.

Another cousin visited us from Florida last summer, and brought along her mother's photograph album labeled "Die Heimat." Her mother knew the family would be leaving the town of Janowitz, near Posen, to move to Berlin and had taken precious photographs of the town, the synagogue and the cemetery, now all gone. We immediately took the pictures to Kinko's and had everything copied. As a matter of fact, I was at Kinko's so often, I was on a first-name basis with the staff and when it came time to print and bind the books, Kinko's gave me a generous discount and picked up and delivered everything. We decided to collate the book ourselves. If Kinko's had done the collating on its machines, they would have had to use an additional generation of the photographs which would have diminished the quality of the pictures. We have received many accolades from family members and copies of the book have been sent to the Library of Congress, the Judah Magnes Museum and the Leo Baeck Institute in New York.

Finally, I want to say that in putting such a book together, it helps if your wife was an English teacher, who types, can figure out how to use a word processor and who has a lot of patience. But you know what? My wife enjoyed putting the book together as much as I did. Cousin Malka was right!

(Many thanks to Ted and Lee Samuel who have generously donated a copy of "The Samuel Saga" to the SFBA JGS library. Please contact librarian Judy Baston if you would like to borrow this terrific book.)

The Cleveland Jewish News Obituary Database - compiled by Helen Wolf

This is a database of over 2,000 obituary notices which appeared in the *Cleveland Jewish News*. The index covers 1988 through 1996. For each entry, the index contains the deceased's name, date of death and in which issue of the *Cleveland Jewish News* the obituary appeared. Each entry usually contains the deceased's age, birthplace and - where applicable - maiden name. The name of the cemetery is occasionally noted.

COMPUTER/ON-LINE NEWS

Brother's Keeper - Software

by Ted Alper

As recent SFBA JGS presentations and *ZichronNote* articles have made clear, genealogical software is an incredibly useful tool. Many fine programs are available, and some of the most popular were mentioned by name in other articles. One that wasn't mentioned - but that I like a lot - is Brother's Keeper, which is available for Windows and DOS.

Perhaps most importantly, it's SHAREWARE. For free, you are allowed to download an almost completely functional version of the program from the home page at: ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brothers_Keeper/ (there are other sites that have the program, but this address will have the most recent version).

Brother's Keeper can hold a lot of data - up to a million names, supposedly. Each person can be listed with alternate names, and can have several different associated descriptions for different types of reports (a brief message, a full history, perhaps some family secrets you would want to print for personal use but not for general distribution); you can also attach pictures. Date fields can be customized: I replaced the "Baptized" field with a field for "Immigration." Every date and location can be tagged with a source. Sources are kept in their own table.

You can generate indices, birthday/anniversary lists, mailing lists, mailing labels and source lists as well as all varieties of trees, box charts, group sheets and customized reports. Everything may be previewed before being sent to the printer. If you want to produce a book, you can output reports in Rich Text Format (RTF), which can be further edited or formatted for most major word processors. You can import and export your information in GEDCOM format which can be useful for sharing your information with people using other genealogical software.

Of course, commercial genealogical software generally does all this, too. For most of us, any program will suffice so long as we use it regularly. A comparison of several different genealogy software programs can be found at www.toltbbs.com/~kbasile/software.html, though I note that the review of Brother's Keeper is a few versions behind the latest release.

If after trying the shareware version you don't like the program, you're out nothing but the time you spent. If you DO like the program, you are asked to send the author a \$49 registration fee. In return, you will receive a bound copy of the manual, and a registration number and password that will, when entered into the program, activate a few extra features. Your registration number also entitles you to technical support. In this case, that's direct e-mail contact with the program's author. If a feature you would like is missing, you can ask to have it added! From time to time, new versions of the program become available (I recently downloaded the December 1996 version, which added some new reports and extended RTF compatibility to WordPerfect 7.0, etc.). You do not need to re-register with each upgrade.

American Jewish Historical Society Now On-Line

The American Jewish Historical Society, located in Waltham, Massachusetts has established a web site at www.ajhs.org, to provide news about the Society and related information. Examples of the type of things you will find are:

- Upcoming AJHS events
- Listings of Jewish historical organizations in the U.S. and Canada
- Holdings of the AJHS archives
- AJHS publications
- American Jewish history university courses and who teaches them

The AJHS has also developed an on-line discussion group "dedicated to disseminating information and an ongoing discussion of issues of interest to the American Jewish historical community." To subscribe, send a message to majordomo@shore.net and leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message type (no quotation marks):

"subscribe amjhistory"
to receive individual messages; or
"subscribe amjhistory-digest"
to receive messages in digest format.

To unsubscribe, send the message "unsubscribe amjhistory" or "unsubscribe amjhistory-digest" as appropriate. Posts to the discussion group should be sent to amjhistory@shore.net.

INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

Sephard SIG

A new special interest group has formed as a "Forum For Sephardic Research." The format will be an on-line discussion group, similar to the JewishGen conference. The Sephard SIG will provide "researchers of Sephardic genealogy with a forum for the exchange of information, ideas, methods, tips, techniques, case studies and resources."

To subscribe to the moderated discussion group, send an e-mail to <listserv@jewishgen.org> and leave the subject blank. In the body of the message, type one of the following (no quotation marks):

"sub sefard"

to receive individual messages; or

"sub sefard_d"

to receive messages in digest form.

To unsubscribe, send the message "unsub sefard" or "unsub sefard_d". If you wish to post a message to the discussion group, send an e-mail to <sefard@jewishgen.org>.

To receive more information about Sephardic genealogy and resources, send a blank e-mail message to <sefard5@jewishgen.org> for the JewishGen InfoFile.

Swedish JGS Forms

Kantor Maynard Gerber of the Jewish Community of Stockholm sends this report:

We called a general meeting-lecture in October, to see if there was enough interest to start a Jewish genealogical society. We expected ten to fifteen people to show up, but over forty came! Without making an appeal, people started putting money on the table to start financing the venture. Our next meeting will be in February. We are in the process of writing by-laws, choosing officers, etc. The interesting thing about us is that we have Jews from all over Europe and elsewhere: We have Russians, Germans, Poles, Hungarians, Americans, Swedes, Danes, Romanians and Israelis. Many people believed it was impossible to trace their roots. We are trying to show them that, in many cases, it can be done.

For more information, write to: Kanter Maynard Gerber, The Jewish Community of Stockholm, Box 7427, 103 91 Stockholm, Sweden. Send e-mail to <maynard.gerber@mbox200.swipnet.se> or Carl Henrik Carlsson at <carl-henrik.carlsson.1881@student.uu.se>.

Holocaust Documentation Center in Paris

By Barry Klezmer

When I was last in Paris, I took my family research a step further at the Center for Documentation of Modern Jews. The Center has French Deportation Lists (also available on microfiche and on-line) and an index to those deported, mostly to Auschwitz. The Center also has a print copy of a separate listing of deportations from Belgium. Of greater interest to me was a copy of a list of "foreigners" deported from France. The index included two listings for the name Kleiner (my partner's grandfather's family), listed as Austrian. The names were Taube (his great-aunt) and Jacob (his great-uncle and Taube's brother-in-law). The receptionist retrieved a photocopy of their transport order from the meticulous and well-organized stacks. The receptionist, my partner and I viewed the document in silence.

The receptionist translated the German to French to English for us. The transport order came as a telegram. It was dated 12.8.1942 and issued from Paris. The order called for the transport of 1,000 Jews from the Gars labor camp to Auschwitz. On page V, male inmates 121-150 were listed by name, date of birth, city of last residence, occupation and nationality. Jacob Kleiner was inmate number 137. On page IV of the women's list was number 492, Taube Kleiner. The deportation list also indicated that Taube Kleiner's first deportation took place from Vienna. She was sent to Riga one year after her husband and brother-in-law were sent to Buchenwald and murdered. Of 1,000 deportees from Gars, less than 100 survived selection at the final destination.

I took the advice of the director at the Center and wrote to the museum at Auschwitz to locate the fates of Jacob and his sister-in-law Taube. Knowing the date and origin of a transport can only help when doing Holocaust research. You may contact the center at:

Centre De Documentation Juive Contemporaine
17 Rue Geoffroy-L'asnier
75004 Paris, France
Tel: 77 44 72; Fax: 48 87 12 50

Donations are always appreciated. The Center functions on a limited budget and is primarily dedicated to documenting the Holocaust in France and those it affected.

Yad Vashem Hall of Name Requests

James Gross informs us that in a letter he received from Yad Vashem, Rabbi Schachter advises that requests for pages of testimony should be sent by mail and NOT by e-mail. Yad Vashem is apparently having internal problems processing e-mail which has led to the occasional misplacing of requests.

Additional information can be obtained from the Yad Vashem InfoFile found on the JewishGen web site at <www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/yadva.txt>.

Mail requests to: Yad Vashem, Hall of Names, Attn: Rabbi Schachter, P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem, Israel.

Locating Lithuanians

The Balzekas Museum publication *Genealogija*, Vol. II, No. 2, Fall 1996, advises that a weekly, Lithuanian-published magazine carries advertisements from people searching for relatives. *Gimtasis Kraštas* is distributed throughout Lithuania and subscribers include Lithuanian emigrants in more than thirty countries.

According to *Genealogija*, members of the Lithuanian-American Genealogical Society have had some success locating family in Lithuania. The cost of each ad is \$20 and may be written in English or Lithuanian. Send a check and ad copy to: *Gimtasis Kraštas*, Liauksmino g. 8/3, 2600 Vilnius, Lithuania.

Romanian Researcher

Stephen M. Rosman, President of the JGS of Michigan, recommends Dr. Ladislau Gyemant for research in Romania. Dr. Gyemant is the Director of the Dr. Moshe Carmilly Institute for Hebrew and Jewish History at the University of Cluj-Napoca in Romania. For the past two years, Dr. Gyemant has done extensive work in the Transylvania area of Romania, and has agreed to expand his area of research to include all of Romania. For references, contact Stephen Rosman, 24901 Northwestern Highway, Suite 313-B, Southfield, MI 48075; Tel: (810) 355-4212; Fax: (810) 355-9267. For more information contact Dr. Ladislau Gyemant, Str. Tarnita 1, Bl. B5 Sc. III, AP 28, 3400 Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Tel: (011) 40-63-167256 (residence); e-mail: <gyemant@mccarmilly.soroscj.ro>.

BOOKSHELF

Genealogy in Current Literature

by Lillian Wurzel

The Shadow Man, (Random House, 1996) was written by Mary Gordon, a well-known writer of fiction who teaches at Barnard College, New York. She has written a memoir of her father David Gordon, who died in 1957 when she was seven years old. Now in her mid-forties, she set out to reconstruct her father's life.

Gordon entitled it *The Shadow Man* because she discovers, with pain at each new revelation, that almost everything she knew about her father whom she loved so dearly, was not true. He had told her he was born in Lorain, Ohio, attended Harvard after high school, then went on to Oxford and that he was a devout Catholic. A writer, though not of great distinction, he also published a comic magazine called *Dogs*. So, she starts in - an amateur genealogist just like you and me. She visits national archives; goes to Lorain, Ohio; checks census records; and eventually uses the help of Arlene Rich, President of the JGS of Cleveland.

Mary Gordon discovers that her father was born in Vilna, Russia at the end of the 19th century and came with his poor, Jewish immigrant family to Lorain, Ohio. At that time, his name was Israel Gordon. He did not finish high school but dropped out to go to work to help support his family; he did not go to Harvard or Oxford; and he converted to Catholicism and was a vocal anti-Semite. He did publish the comic magazine, but also a soft pornographic one!

How she reconciles her new picture of her beloved father into her life is splendidly, painfully but honestly told. It's a wonderful book. Many of our families have "shadow men" (even some "shadow women") in them. There are two or three in my family - maybe not just like David Gordon, but all lived some variation of the theme of attempting to adjust to an unhappy, unfulfilled and disappointing life.

IF YOU WISH TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR DUTCH ANCESTORS

- date of birth, circumcision, marriage, death, burial, profession etc. - or have a pedigree made, please contact for further information and quotation:

R. S. Cortissos

Kanteel 104, 1083 DC Amsterdam, Holland
Telephone: 31.20.6116068 Telefax: 31.20.6425153
specialist in Sephardi genealogical matters and
President of the Dutch Jewish Genealogical Society

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