

זכרון
ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XVIII, Number 4

November 1998

CALENDAR OF GENEALOGICAL 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 at 1 p.m.**

Fort Mason Center, Marina Boulevard at Buchanan Street, Building C, Room 205

Palo Alto: **Monday, 7:30 p.m.**

Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Road)

Mon. Dec. 21 **Palo Alto:** *Is Your Neighbor Your Landsman? And, Breaking Through Brick Walls.* Come find out which SFBAJGS members share your research interests as we form special interest groups. You'll also have a chance to take advantage of the cumulative knowledge of SFBAJGS members and offer your suggestions to help others make progress in their research. Bring your stumbling blocks and your experience!

1999

Sun. Jan. 25 **San Francisco:** *The Changing Borders of our Ancestor's Lands.* SFBAJGS Treasurer Marc Seidenfeld will help us better understand the historically shifting geographical and political boundaries of Eastern Europe, and the significance of these changes to our genealogical research. **(Note Date Change)**

Mon. Feb. 22 **Palo Alto:** *Understanding Jewish Tombstones.* Michal Friedlander of the Western Jewish History Center will teach us to decipher the symbols and language commonly found on headstones and footstones, and their genealogical value. *(Tentative program)*

San Francisco

Sun. March 21

Sun. May 16

Sun. July 18

Sun. September 27 (Note date change)

Sun. November 21

Palo Alto

Mon. April 19

Mon. June 21

Mon. August 23 (Note date change)

Mon. October 18

Mon. December 20

Other Genealogy Meetings of Interest on Page 4

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People 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, telephone number, and email address.

Back Issues are available for \$5 per issue. Requests should be addressed to the SFBAJGS at the Society address below.

Display Advertising is accepted. The rate for a business card-sized (3-1/2 x 2 inch) insertion is \$10 per issue, quarter-page ad \$20, half-page ad \$35, and a 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 tax-exempt pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Make your check payable to "SFBAJGS" and send to: Sita Likuski, Membership, 4430 School Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

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Founder/Historian: Martha Wise
ZichronNote Editor: Dana L. Kurtz
Copy Editor: Gordon Fine

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.

SFBAJGS Web Site: www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

From the President and
Vice President

by Rodger Rosenberg and Dana Kurtz

Taking Stock and Looking To the Future

Belated L'shana Tova to everyone. We hope everyone had a good New Year celebration.

As the end of the year approaches, I have been thinking about the past twelve months, my first year as president of the SFBAJGS. It's been a terrific time. We've welcomed many new members and continued to see attendance at meetings grow. We've watched, participated and benefited, as the worldwide Jewish genealogical community matures with new resources and an ever-developing sense of common purpose.

As you may have heard, a group of JGS members on the Peninsula has taken on the charge of coordinating programs for both regular Palo Alto meetings and "extra-curricular" activities. We'd like to encourage the same enthusiastic participation by members in San Francisco and the East Bay. The more input you provide, the better the information and support you will receive for your genealogical research! If you would like to offer your ideas for the future of the SFBAJGS, please stick around for a few minutes after the January meeting in San Francisco. If you cannot come to the meeting, or your time is committed to work or family, your thoughtful comments and suggestions are always appreciated.

SFBAJGS founder and historian Martha Wise has moved from the Bay Area to the sunny, warm climes of Palm Desert, California. We wish her good health and happiness in the coming year.

Rodger is working with a small but energetic committee composed of representatives of diverse genealogical and historical groups throughout the Bay Area, to voice our concerns to state and federal representatives about the possible closure of National Archives branch facilities. We met with Senator Dianne Feinstein's office and indicated our reluctance to have ANY records removed from the San Bruno branch as the records are important to our research and California heritage. Personal accounts of uncovering a family's history had the most impact and it was suggested that letters of personal stories be forwarded to Senator Feinstein's office. We encourage you to act on that suggestions and share your own experiences, communicating to your elected officials why it is so important to keep the NARA-San Bruno branch open.

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SOCIETY NEWS

E-Mail Address Updates

Rosanne Leeson	leeson1@ibm.net
Ron Neuman	kenwoodron@aol.com
Renee Tully	tullyr@jps.net

Messages sent to the following people have bounced. Please advise us of your correct email address:

Florence Bell
 Jacque Cohen
 Margalit Modai
 Marika Wertheimer

If you have an email address but have not been receiving occasional SFBAJGS email messages, or your email address has changed, send a message to dLkurtz@ix.netcom.com so we can keep you up to date.

Welcome New Members

Marlene Burah neenie2187@aol.com	Los Gatos
George and Sidra Goldsmit thearc@thearc.com	Tracy
Gilbert Linver Linverj@pacbell.net	San Leandro
Margaret Modai modai@flashnet.net	San Jose
Maggie Paul mpaul@uclink.berkeley.edu	Berkeley
Sheree Roth ssroth@pacbell.net	Palo Alto
Helen Saltman bhsalt@hooked.net	Kensington
Beverley and Martin Shulman	San Francisco
Dana Shultz dshultz@ds-a.com	Piedmont

SFBA JGS Library

The library of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogy Society is available between meetings at the Institute for Masonic Research, 1111 California Street at Taylor in San Francisco. Parking in the building will be validated upon request for persons using the library. The Institute is open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For any questions about the SFBAJGS library, contact Society Librarian Judy Baston, (415) 285-4616, or send email to jrbaston@aol.com. If you wish to request that a particular item be brought to a Society meeting, make sure you let Judy know at least one week before the meeting.

(Many thanks to those who have contributed books to the library.)

New Titles in the Library

	<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>
Commonwealth and Community: The Jewish Experience in Virginia [Barry Klezmer]	Urofsky, Melvin I.	1997
Jewish Cemeteries of Five Counties of Connecticut: The Cohen/Goldfarb Collection, Volume 2 [Barry Klezmer]	Cohen, Rabbi Edward A. and Goldfarb, Lewis	1998
Jewish Cemeteries of the Delmarva Peninsula (Maryland and Delaware) [Barry Klezmer]	Preisler, Julian H.	1995

Looking Towards the Future, cont'd. from page 2

Technology has become indispensable for genealogy research as new Internet resources appear daily and communication with a possible cousin halfway around the world takes only seconds. We should not lose sight, however, of the intimacy of genealogy.

Our research brings us close to the daily lives of our ancestors. Family reunions are organized where

the work of the genealogist is presented to fascinated relatives. All at once, "kinship" takes on a deeper meaning as a child learns a little more about the hardships and joys of the great-grandfather for whom he is named. In our eagerness to learn all we can about the past, let us not forget share that past with the future.

— **Rodger & Dana**

CALENDAR, cont'd.

More Genealogy Events

Local

Tues. January 12, 7:30 p.m. **Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, Regular Meeting.** Congregation Beth Emek, corner of College Ave. and South "M" St., Livermore. Tel: (925) 447-9386.

Wed. January 13, 10 a.m. **East Bay Genealogical Society, Regular Meeting.** Dimond Branch, Oakland Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. email: gwen7@juno.com.

Wed. January 13, **San Mateo County Genealogical Society, Regular Meeting.** Central School, 525 Middle Rd., Belmont. Tel: (650) 572-2929.

Sat. March 20, **San Mateo County Genealogical Society, Sandra Leubking.** Sequoia High School, Redwood City. Tel: (650) 572-2929.

Sat. April 10, **Silicon Valley PAF Users Group: Cyndi Howells of "Cyndi's List" of Genealogical Web sites.** Contact: Carol Harless, Tel: (650) 948-0477, Web: www.genealogy.org/~svpafug.

Regional

Sun. January 17, **Sacramento JGS, Carolyn Brophy: Research Trip to Ukraine, Poland, and Austria.** Albert Einstein Center, Arts & Crafts Room, 1935 Wright St., Sacramento. Tel: Jane Paskowitz, (916) 633-9557.

Sun. February 21, **Sacramento JGS, Joyce Buckland and Judy Persin: Canadian Research and Border Crossings.** Albert Einstein Center, Arts & Crafts Room, 1935 Wright St., Sacramento. Tel: Jane Paskowitz, (916) 633-9557.

Sat. April 17, **Sacramento County Genealogical Society: Cyndi Howells, of "Cyndi's List" of Genealogical Web sites.** Contact: Sammie Hugdens, P.O. Box 265, Citrus Heights, CA. email: samihud@aol.com.

National/International

Mon. - Thu. January 18 - 22, **Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy.** Held in the hotel adjacent to the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT. Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, P.O. Box 1144, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. Tel: (888) INFOUGA; Web: www.infouga.org.

Sun. - Fri. August 8-13, **Jewish Genealogical Society (NY), 19th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy.** Write: JGS Inc., 600 West End Avenue, Suite 10F, New York, NY 10024. email: nyc99conf@aol.com; Web: members.aol.com/nyc99conf.

Past Meetings

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

Cecile Kuznitz spoke about the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (the Yidisher Visnshaftlekher Institut) at the October, Palo Alto meeting. A Stanford graduate student who worked at the YIVO archives in preparation for her dissertation about YIVO, Ms. Kuznitz began with a history of the organization then addressed the resources to be found at YIVO, and what YIVO does not have for Jewish genealogical research.

YIVO was founded in 1925 by Eastern European Jewish scholars meeting in Berlin seeking sources of interest for Yiddish-language scholarly Jewish works. Vilna (today, Vilnius, Lithuania), was chosen as YIVO headquarters and an archives and center for academic study of scholarly works on Jewish and Yiddish culture was established. Yiddish was considered vernacular, not scholarly nor cultured, and YIVO sought to bestow academic prestige on both the language and culture. YIVO's academic objectives included:

- collecting and studying Yiddish language and literature;
- documenting the history of Yiddish-speaking communities;
- confronting the problems of contemporary Yiddish-speaking communities;
- producing articles, academic research and journals in Yiddish; and
- employing and training Jewish scholars.

YIVO also addressed economic and social problems, serving the "working class" as well as the narrower, academic community. In the pre-War era, YIVO's departments included philological (language, literature and folklore), history, economics and statistics (social sciences), and pedagogical/psychological (schools and other youth services).

YIVO amassed a library of historical and contemporary materials. The library focused on collecting a copy of everything written in Yiddish. Both archive and library materials were obtained mostly through a network of "zandlers" (collectors) who collected folklore as well as written materials from elders in local communities.

During World War II

During the Holocaust, YIVO was able to maintain a semblance of its existence in Vilna, although it did suffer under both the German and Russian occupations. In 1941, the YIVO building was used for the Nazi selection of Jewish cultural materials to be sent to the Institute for the Study of the Jewish Question, in

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Success Story: My French Connection

by Marjorie H. Stern

Marge is 80 years old, and had only a great-uncle's birth certificate, which piqued her interest in the siblings of her maternal grandmother. A trip to Bucharest, Romania, while under Communist rule, proved unfruitful, as did a cousin's trip to Kiev, Ukraine. As described below however, a trip to France proved more successful. She writes:

"Since this article was written, I have received a New Year's card and letter with additional photos from France. It is so precious as this man, Mr. Bernheim, is my only link to our French past. I would be interested in hearing from anyone else doing research on Bucharest, Bielacherkov, Kiev Gubernii, and of course, the villages of Odratsheim, Marlenheim and Kuttolsheim, Alsace, where we had these wonderful experiences."

Marge is researching **HIGLITZKI/HIRSCH/NADEL**, (apparently Isaac used any or all of these names), in or around Odratzheim, Alsace. Also, **HEFTER** from Kiev Guberniya, **HOESLECH** and **EMMANUEL** from Romania.

Looking for relatives that left Europe a hundred years ago isn't easy, but I had help from my great-aunt's propensity to save memories of her French heritage in the form of letters, snapshots and postcards. My son and I traveled to several little towns near Strasbourg, France in search of my Grandmother Sarah's family and that of my Great-aunt Rosalie, who had married my grandmother's younger brother, Simon. Both families had come from the same village, I was told. The only piece of official paper I had was my great-uncle's actual birth certificate, dated 1878, written in German. Alsace and Lorraine were in German hands when the children of these families were born. Because I was the only one left in either family, I inherited all the letters, postcards and papers saved by my Great-aunt Rosalie.

In July 1998, my third son, Charley, conversant in French, accompanied me to France to look into the actual records kept by the French authorities. He was just as eager as I was to solve the mysteries of why my great-uncle's birth certificate said his father was named **HIGLITZKI** instead of **HIRSCH**, the name by which the family was known in this country; why the certificate was registered in Kuttolsheim though he lived in Odratzheim; and what his real name might have been. Had my great-grandparents really been residents of the village of Odratzheim, 12 miles west of Strasbourg? And where were the rest of the children born – two half-sisters of my Great-great-grandmother Minna **KRUGMANN**, and the four children, including my Grandmother Sarah, born to the "Isac" on the birth certificate?

We based ourselves in a hotel in Strasbourg, and rented a car. Villages in that area are only a mile or two apart, and are tiny compared with our California towns. With the help of a friendly priest, a clerk in the tourist center, and several accommodating secretaries to the *mairie*, or mayor's record keepers, we were able to not only find the locations of the actual houses in which my Great-aunt Rosalie's nephews, Robert and Henri **LEVY**, had located their

boucheries and *charcuteries*, (butcher shops and delicatessens), but actually found one man, half Catholic and half Jewish, who became our chief informant.

Miracle of all miracles, it was he, Mr. Bernheim, now 78 years old, who pointed himself out as a teenage worker for the Levy brothers in one of the copies of the snapshots we had brought along. He told us of the other four shops in nearby villages owned by them; took us to the houses in the basements of which two of the stores had been, now incorporated into the living quarters; introduced us to the present occupants; told us what had happened to his bosses, how they died; showed us the houses the original growing Levy family had lived in; took us to the remote Jewish cemetery where one brother, Robert, was buried; told us the cemetery where the other brother, Henri, was buried; and told us how they had managed to elude the Nazis. Mr. Bernheim's own mother had been taken to Auschwitz by the Nazis, as had all the other Jews in the area, and a memorial stone in the Jewish cemetery listed all their names and villages.

We even saw the blue-painted school, or *schul*, still standing on the road which appeared in a postcard sent to Rosalie in 1899! Mr. Bernheim told us it had once been the school for Jewish children only, and I am sure that is where all the Levy children learned their sums and letters.

We learned much about the Levys, and in fact, were given copies of all six children's birth certificates from the records, which go back to 1784, as well as Aunt Rosalie's brother Lazare's death certificate. But the records revealed no such treasures for my direct antecedents – no more Higlitskis, no Hirschs, no Nadels, the last an alternative name given to me by my now-deceased mother's cousin Jeannette, daughter of Great-uncle Simon.

Those mysteries will have to be solved from this side of the Atlantic, with all your help.

YIVO Institute, cont'd. from page 4

Germany. The remaining materials were to be destroyed. YIVO staff, forced to work for the Germans, hid what they could, smuggling some things into the ghetto and some into the hands of sympathetic Lithuanians. They also hid materials (and weapons) in the YIVO attic.

Post-War

The YIVO building and its hidden collections were destroyed during the war. Ironically, many items in freight cars on their way Germany were recovered. These materials became the foundation of the New York collection.

After the war, the New York-headquartered YIVO broadened its mission to include documentation of the destruction of Europe's once-vibrant Yiddish culture by the Holocaust. YIVO's dedication to this mission came at a time when few wanted to focus on the Shoah. YIVO developed a collection of Jewish immigration materials and the records of American-Jewish institutions (e.g., the American Jewish Committee). YIVO continued to publish Yiddish-language materials although many of the new works were in English. For the past 31 years, YIVO has kept Yiddish alive by offering a summer course in Yiddish at Columbia University.

Following dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1989, YIVO archival materials were found in the damp basement of a Vilna church used as a library. Even though no one in Lithuania could read and catalog the collection, Lithuania claimed the documents as a part of its national heritage. Negotiations resulted in an agreement, which allowed the materials to be brought to New York temporarily for photocopying. As documents and publications belonging to YIVO surface in Vilna, negotiations follow.

Resources: YIVO Holdings

The best way to determine if YIVO has materials that may be of interest to you, is to review the recently published *Guide to YIVO Archives* (see References). This work lists and briefly describes YIVO holdings. The library has lexicons and biographical dictionaries for people involved with Yiddish culture, such as actors, writers, and journalists.

Basic genealogical reference books are available. Eastern European towns may be found in maps, gazetteers and other reference books. The collection also includes several hundred yizkor books and a photograph collection comprised of tens of thousands of images, mostly pre-war, with a great wealth of Polish photographs. Recently, some of the photos have been scanned into a database which is searchable online (see References). The entire collection may be viewed on videodisk at YIVO. As much information as is known about the photos is included.

Records from more than 500 landsmenshaftn organizations are also part of the archives. These groups were formed mostly by immigrants from particular towns or regions once they reached the U.S. *A Guide to YIVO's Landsmenshaftn* provides a catalog of this collection (see References).

Other holdings include records from various organizations that assisted immigrants such as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and the Joint Distribution Committee. More than 20,000 National Desertion Bureau files were developed in helping women who were deserted by their husbands. Records for Displaced Persons (DP) camps in Austria, Germany and Italy may also be found.

For the most part, YIVO *does not* hold vital records (birth, marriage, death). Nor do the collections have information on individuals or families, with the exception of some notable Jewish figures and approximately 400 family histories. Some records do exist for a *very few* towns, such as Salonika, Greece, 1920-1939. For the period 1919-1926, some records for some towns in independent Lithuania may be found.

How to Use YIVO

Do your homework! Before visiting YIVO, learn as much as you can about the people and places which interest you. Learn how the records are arranged. Call beforehand, to determine if the records are available, and allow the staff time to have the materials waiting for you.

Very limited assistance is available by telephone or mail. Most materials are not in English, and no staff is available to provide translation assistance, although the staff can help you find a translator. At this time indexes, guides and finding aids are not online. The YIVO Web site does, however, provide a history of the organization, contact and program information, an overview of the library, and an outline of how to use YIVO for your genealogical research.

Note: The YIVO Institute is temporarily closed, pending completion of its new home in the new Center for Jewish History at 15 West 16th Street in New York City. The opening is expected in Spring 1999.

References:

- Web site: www.baruch.cuny.edu/yivo
- *Guide to the YIVO Archives*, Moher & Web, eds. This guide references the approximately 1,400 collections found in the YIVO Archive. It does not include the library, which holds printed materials, including books, journals, and newspapers.
- *Guide to YIVO's Landsmenshaft Collection*, by Schwartz & Milamed
- *From That Place and Time*, Lucy S. Davidowicz (Experiences studying at YIVO, 1938-1947.)

Pinkas ha Kehillot

by Lillian Wurzel

In addition to those names in this issue's People Finder, Lillian is researching the **TRAXLER**, **PRINZENTHAL** from the part of Hungary that today is in Slovakia, **WOHL** and **WURZEL**.

I keep telling everyone who'll listen that history and geography go with genealogy. And there are some great resources available to help you, if you believe me.

For starters, I'd suggest you take some time at your local public library reference section to locate the 16 volumes of the *Encyclopedia Judaica* (call number R296 E56). One day at your library, read the entry under "Archives" – it's very informative.

You'll learn how the State of Israel made plans for, and then legislated, that a series of different archives be established: in 1948, Army Archives; 1949, State Archives; and in 1953, Yad Vashem. The Knesset passed an Archives law in 1955 and established the position of State Archivist as well as plans for a Supreme Archives Council. So what has this to do with you? Don't rush me – all will soon be clear.

"Pinkas" means "register" and there are a variety of these. In a joint endeavor with the Hebrew University, an institute was set up by Yad Vashem for research of the destruction of European Jewry and its history in past decades. The first volume of a series about Jewish communities in Europe appeared in 1969 under the title *Pinkas ha-Kehillot: Romanyah* or "Register of the people (or community) of Romania. Many additional volumes have appeared since then.

Not long ago, I wrote Yad Vashem (P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem, Israel) to ask if there was a Pinkas ha-Kehillot with information about my great-grandfather's home town, once called Dembitz (when part of Galicia), now Debica, Poland.

Not only was there such a pinkas, but they sent me all six pages (in very, very small type), about Debica, at no charge (please do send a contribution to Yad Vashem as a "thank you"). Since it was in Hebrew, SFBAJGS member Marc Seidenfeld, Joyce Field in Indiana, and I shared the expense of the translation. (We each have connections to Debica). What a treasure trove!

I know now that Debica's history goes back to 1326, when it was the seat of a church deacon. In 1358, the king granted the owners of Dembitz (probably Polish counts), the right to set up a city, according to the Magdeburg Charter. Later, the city was given permission to hold yearly fairs and weekly market days.

Dembitz is located on the main route from Krakow to what was once Lemburg, then Lvov, now called Lviv, in Ukraine. Its location had a lot to do with its development.

The Swedish army invaded in 1655 and there was a great fire in 1660, which destroyed nearly all of the

it continued to develop with various businesses: shoemaking, weaving, blacksmithing, etc. The owners of these businesses were organized into guilds.

The decline of Dembitz began in the first half of the 18th century, when bands of soldiers would pass through and battles were fought among Swedish, Russian, and Polish confederate armies. Dembitz had been annexed to Austria in 1772 when all of Galicia became part of Austria. In the first half of the 19th century, there were many crises due to fires, floods, and epidemics which struck every few years, especially in 1830, 1847, and 1854.

In 1846, the urban residents of Dembitz joined with people from neighboring villages in a revolt against the landlords. They burned their castles, killed several noblemen and divided the spoils (grain and livestock) among themselves. The rebellion was put down ruthlessly by the Austrian army. In the latter half of the 19th century, Dembitz revived due to the 1856 construction of the Krakow-Zheshher (now Rzeszow) rail line, which went through the town.

And so on. All this information came from the pinkas on Dembitz. While only a few names of residents are mentioned, I can speculate about my great-grandfather. Did he lose his first wife and son in the epidemic of 1830 or 1847? Did he and his second wife, my Great-grandmother Ethel (née Ancka), who was from Lvov, leave for Hungary about 1848 after the revolt of 1846? I many never know for sure, but I do know a lot more about the place and times in which my great-grandparents lived.

People Finder

Researching all **ZALMANOV/ZELMANOV/ZELMANOFF** descendants. Originally from Rogachev, Belarus. Interested in Ethel Zelman, who married Morrie **BUNOW**. From San Bernadino, in Oakland for decades; now deceased. Contact Dana Shultz, 160 Bell Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611. Tel: (510) 420-8414, Fax: (510) 420-1525, email: dhshultz@ds-a.com.

Looking for any information on Elise **HALPERIN**, born in Nadasd, Hungary. Elise lived in the Bronx, NY and was related to Ilonka (**BERKOWITZ**) **BANDA** of Presov, Slovakia (formerly Eperjes, Hungary). Contact Lillian Wurzel, 2930 Roma Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051.

INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

Seeking Grodno Families

Jeanne Gold, *JewishGen*

I was browsing the Web and don't remember which site I was looking at, but it had to do with synagogues around the world. I had a crazy idea, and wrote to several, asking if there was some way to open communication between them and us to help us find our living relatives in Grodno (today in Belarus). I received the following reply in October.

Dear Mrs. Jeanne Gold,

We've received your letter and we are very sorry for not answering you immediately. We are very interested in your proposal. It was very pleasant for us to hear that there are people in the USA who have roots from Grodno.

Nowadays in Grodno there are 1,200 Jews. Grodno has some Jewish organizations. Now our community "Menorah" is going to organize a Jewish kindergarten. At the present time, my husband, Michael Kemerov, is writing a book about the history of the Jews in Grodno. If you and your friends have got some interesting, important facts or things, photos about the Jewish life in Grodno of the past, and you want to publish them, we will be happy to get some information from you.

I would like to organize those interested and continue communications. Please contact me if you are interested at jeannegold@iname.com or visit my Web site at www.gold-cousins.org.

Proposed Destruction of Canadian Censuses

The Live Oak, July/August 1998

Statistics Canada has decided that the 1901 census is the last one which will be made available to the public. The 1911 census, which normally would have been released to the public in 2003, will not be available to researchers.

The same ruling applies to all subsequent census records held by Statistics Canada which apparently believes it will be easier to ensure cooperation in future enumerations if there is a perpetual guarantee of confidentiality.

The Office of Privacy Commissioner was actually pressing to have the 1911 records destroyed.

Fortunately the National Archives refused to grant Statistics Canada the necessary approval. So the latter simply decided not to transfer its records to the custody of the Archives in 2003.

By so doing, the department has circumvented the 92-year rule. There is absolutely nothing different in the type of information contained in the 1911 census from that shown in the 1891 and 1901 records which we have all seen.

This decision has outraged the archival community, genealogists, and historians. But to no avail. The 1911 census and all future census records will remain closed UNLESS..

If you wish to voice your displeasure/disagreement with this decision, please write to: Dr. Ivan Felleg, Chief Statistician, 120 Parkdale Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6. email: fellegi@statcan.ca. The Minister of Industry to whom Statistics Canada reports, is: Hon. John Manley, PC. MP, The House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6. email: Manley.J@parl.gc.ca.

Passenger Arrival Soundex Card Mystery

by Dana H. Shultz

On occasion, questions have been posed about U.S. Passenger Arrival Soundex cards which contain the notation "CR#" followed by several digits, rather than a reference to page and line number of a passenger manifest. Unfortunately (for my research), I have found out what this means from the INS:

"...there were many Immigrant arrivals to the United States prior to 1924 for whom the Immigration and Naturalization Service has no record. These individuals made a legal, inspected entry and had no status of a lawful permanent resident.

"They were issued only copies of the Certificate of Registry as proof of their legal entry and this service did not keep a record of these issuance's [sic], hence there is no name on a manifest or any other proof of their entry...."

To me this means 'once we gave him a Certificate of Registry and recorded the number, we discarded any additional information we had about him, so we have nothing more for you.'

The Importance of Joining a Special Interest Group (SIG)

by Marian Rubin

A Special Interest Group (SIG) focuses on genealogy research for a specific geographic region or topic of genealogical interest. Joining a SIG brings you the most relevant information for your research and has become a necessary step in genealogy research. You are connected with other genealogists whose families shared your family's towns, history, and naming patterns.

SIGs notify their membership about the latest information on the location of records for towns in the area, as well as information pertaining to travel in the region, members' experiences in hiring researchers or guides, and members' reports on obtaining records. Some SIGs maintain a list of surnames and towns being researched by their members. Many publish a hard-copy newsletter, while a few are Internet-based and publish an online

newsletter. Most have Web sites, which contain information specific to the region of interest, as well as contact and membership information. (Some charge membership dues.) Several have online discussion groups. A few have no Web site, but a JewishGen Info File is available

The list of special interest groups below, is adapted from the JewishGen Web site. The SIGs with online discussion groups and/or mailing lists are marked with an asterisk (*). Those marked with a diamond (♦) are independent organizations and JewishGen, the Internet host, is not responsible for the SIG's operation.

Remember: new SIGs are being formed all the time. Therefore, this list may not be exhaustive. If you cannot find an existing SIG for your particular area of interest, form one!

***Belarus SIG** – The gubernii of Minsk, Mogilev and Vitebsk. Membership is available only through the online discussion group. email: fox@erols.com; Web site: www.jewishgen.org/Belarus/.

Galicia SIG – Austrian Poland, a province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1772 until 1917, now in southern Poland and western Ukraine. Publishes a quarterly newsletter and family finder for its 750 members. Contact: Shelley K. Pollero, 549 Cypress Lane, Severna Park, MD 21146. Tel: (410) 647-9492; email: rpollero@umd5.umd.edu; Web site: www.jewishgen.org/Galicia/.

***German-Jewish SIG** – Germany and other German-speaking areas such as Austria, parts of Switzerland, Alsace, Lorraine, Bohemia and Moravia. Sponsored by the Leo Baeck Institute. Membership is \$20. Publishes *Stammbaum*, twice a year. Contact: Werner Frank, 4363 Park Milano, Calabasas, CA 91302-1658. Tel: (818) 222-8599; email: werner_frank@sterling.com; Web site: www.jewishgen.org/GerSIG/.

***♦Grodno SIG** – A forum for researchers of Jewish family histories in the historic region known under the Russian Czarist regime as Grodno Gubernia (province). Contact: Amy Levinson, Grodno SIG, P.O. Box 19007, Portland, OR 97280-0007. email: arl@teleport.com; Web site: members.aol.com/grodsig/home.htm.

***♦Hungary SIG** – “Greater Hungary” or pre-Trianon Hungary, includes areas that at one time were predominantly Hungarian speaking. This includes parts of present day Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, and Romania. Publishes *Magyar Zsido*. Contact: Louis Schonfeld, H-SIG, P.O. Box 34152, Cleveland, OH 44134-0852. Tel: (216) 661-3970; email: Lmagyar@en.com; Web site: www.jewishgen.org/Hungary/.

Kielce-Radom SIG – Two gubernias of the Kingdom of Poland (Russian Poland), now in south-central Poland, covering much of the area between Warsaw and Krakow. Publishes *Kielce-Radom SIG Journal*. Membership is \$26. Contact: Gene Starn, Kielce-Radom SIG, P.O. Box 520583, Longwood, FL 32752. email: genes@iag.net; Web site: www.jewishgen.org/krsig/.

***♦Latin America SIG** – A forum for researchers with Jewish family roots in all countries of Latin America. Contact: Rob Weisskirch, email: rweisskirch@fullerton.edu; JewishGen Info File: www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/latamsig.txt.

***♦Latvia SIG** – Latvia. Publishes a quarterly newsletter. Membership is \$20. Contact: Latvia SIG, P.O. Box 280422, Northridge, CA 91328-0422. email: werle@pacifcnet.net; Web site: www.jewishgen.org/Latvia/.

***♦Litvak SIG** – Lithuania. Online Journal. Contact: P.O. Box 1387, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403. email: dnhiowa@aol.com; Web site: www.jewishgen.org/Litvak/.

Continued on page 10

The Refugee Ship "St. Louis"

Scott Miller, *JewishGen*

The refugee ship St. Louis departed from Hamburg, Germany on May 13, 1939, carrying 936 Jews fleeing Nazi persecution. After both Cuba and the United States refused entry to the ship's passengers, the St. Louis was forced to return to Europe on June 6. The ship was able to dock in Antwerp, Belgium, and the passengers were dispersed throughout Belgium, the Netherlands, France, and Great Britain. After the 1940 German invasion of western Europe, the former St. Louis passengers (with the exception of those sent to Great Britain), again found themselves under Nazi rule. A number of these Jewish refugees, who had seen the lights of Miami but were denied entry to the United States, subsequently perished in the Holocaust.

The Survivors Registry of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has embarked upon a

project to find out what happened to each passenger. Following an international sweep of archival materials documenting the fate of many of the passengers, as well as connections made with Jewish communities worldwide, there are several dozen passengers for whom we still have no information.

The Web site, www.ushmm.org/st_louis/list.htm, contains a list of currently unidentified passengers.

Anyone with information about a St. Louis passenger, particularly any of the passengers on the online list, should contact:

Scott Miller
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW
Washington, DC 20024-2150
Tel: (202) 488-0495
Fax: (202) 314-7888
email: smiller@ushmm.org
Web: www.ushmm.org/st_louis/index.htm

SIGs, cont'd. from page 9

Romania SIG – Romania (including Moldova, Bessarabia and Bukovina). Publishes *ROM-SIG News* quarterly. Membership is \$25. Contact: ROM-SIG, c/o Rae Barent, 4257 Saline Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. email: romsig@ibm.net; Web site: www.jewishgen.org/romsig/.

***Sefard SIG** – A forum for researchers of Sephardic genealogies. English is the preferred language. JewishGen Info File: www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/sefard2.txt.

Suwalk-Lomza SIG – Covers these two northeastern gubernias of Russian Poland, now in northeast Poland and southwest Lithuania. Publishes *Landsmen*, four times a year. Contact: Marlene Silverman, Box 228, 3701 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008. Web site: www.jewishgen.org/SuwalkLomza/.

***Volhynia SIG** – A forum to share information and to bring together descendents of Volhynians and others with an interest in Volhynia Gubernia (Ukraine), located in what is now northwest Ukraine, on the border with Poland and Belarus. Contact Mark Heckman, email: mrheckman@yahoo.com; Web site: shangrila.cs.ucdavis.edu:1234/heckman/volhynia/.

Research Projects

♦ **JRI-Poland** - Jewish Records Indexing Poland. A project to create a searchable database containing all available vital record indexes for Jews of Poland. Web site: www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/.

ShtetLinks - Participants create a genealogy web page of their own, devoted to a Jewish community (shtetl). It is then uploaded to the JewishGen Website. Web site: www.jewishgen.org/ShtetLinks/.

Yizkor Book - The memorial books, assembled by survivors of communities liquidated by the Nazis, give a full account of the employment, customs, and lifestyles of people in a world that is no more. The forum works to facilitate access to those books. Web site: www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/.

ShtetLinks Research Groups:

Bobruisk SIG - A forum to bring together those with an interest in the town of Bobruisk. Contact: Don Mopsick, email: mophandl@txdirect.net; Web site: www.jewishgen.org/shtetlinks/bobruisk/bobruisk.html.

Keidan SIG - A forum to bring together those with an interest in Keidan, Lithuania, and its 500-year history as a Jewish community. Discussion group only.

American Names/Declaring Independence

by Marian Smith

Marian Smith is the Senior Historian at the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. When asked about her motivation for this article, Ms. Smith replied "I remember I got up early on the 4th of July and just sat down and wrote the whole thing out..." This article was previously published on the IMMI-GRAND internet mailing list and in the *Ancestry Daily News*. It is published here with the author's permission.

Note the following story, which is a perfect specimen of a peculiar quality of the American mind, one bearing no small relation to Independence Day:

"I have a friend who tells the story of her ancestor coming from one of the Slavic countries and he, of course, could speak no English. At Ellis Island when he was being processed and any question was asked, he would nod his head and smile. Since all he did was smile when they asked his name, the clerk wrote down 'Smiley' for his surname. That was the family surname from then on."

Whenever I see one of these "name change" stories, I'm reminded of the beautiful creation stories of the Native Americans, "How the Bear Lost his Tail," for example. These stories contain an important truth. They help us understand our world. But we are foolish if we take each one literally, without further investigation. The idea that all bears have short tails because an ancient bear's tail was frozen into the ice is not a very scientific explanation. Similarly, the idea that an entire family's name was changed by one clerk—especially one at Ellis Island—is seldom supported by historical research and analysis.

American name change stories tend to be apocryphal, that is, they developed later to explain events shrouded in the mist of time. Given the facts of the U.S. immigration procedure at Ellis Island, the above story becomes suspect.

In the story, the immigrant arrives at Ellis Island and a record is then created by someone who cannot communicate with the immigrant, and so assigns the immigrant a descriptive name. In fact, passenger lists were not created at Ellis Island. They were created abroad, beginning close to the immigrant's home, when the immigrant purchased his ticket. It is unlikely that anyone at the local steamship office was unable to communicate with this man. His name was most likely recorded with a high degree of accuracy at that time.

It is true that immigrant names were mangled in the process. The first ticket clerk may have misspelled the name (assuming there was a "correct spelling"—a big assumption). If the immigrant made several connections in his journey, several records might be created at each juncture. Every transcription of his

information afforded an opportunity to misspell or alter his name. Thus the more direct the immigrant's route to his destination, the less likely his name changed in any way.

The report that the clerk "wrote down" the immigrant's surname is suspect. During immigration inspection at Ellis Island, the immigrant confronted an inspector who had a passenger list already created abroad. That inspector operated under rules and regulations ordering that he was not to change the name or identifying information found for any immigrant UNLESS requested by the immigrant, and unless inspection demonstrated the original information was in error.

Furthermore, it is nearly impossible that no one could communicate with the immigrant. One third of all immigrant inspectors at Ellis Island early in this century were themselves foreign-born, and all immigrant inspectors spoke an average of three languages. They were assigned to inspect immigrant groups based on the languages they spoke. If the inspector could not communicate, Ellis Island employed an army of interpreters full-time, and would call in temporary interpreters under contract to translate for immigrants speaking the most obscure tongues.

Despite these facts, the Ellis-Island-name-change-story (or Castle Garden, or earlier versions of the same story) is as American as apple pie (and probably as common in Canada too, eh?).

Why?

The explanation lies in ideas as simple as language and cultural differences, and as complex as the root of American culture. We all know names have been Anglicized in America (even the word "Anglicized" has been Americanized!). As any kindergartener learns, we live in a world where people ask our name then write it down without asking us how to spell or pronounce that name. Immigrants in America were typically asked their name and entered in official records by those who had "made it" in America and thus were already English-speaking (i.e., teachers, landlords, employers, judges, etc.). The fact that those with the power to create official records were English-speaking explains much about small changes, over time, in the spelling of certain names.

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American Names, cont'd. from page 11

Many immigrants welcomed this change. Anyone from Eastern Europe, with a name LONG on consonants and short on vowels, learned that his name often got in the way of a job interview or became the subject of ridicule at his child's school. Any change that might smooth their way to the American dream was seen as a step in the right direction. Perhaps this was the case with Mr. Smiley.

It was the case of another family from Russia, named Smiloff or Smilikoff, who emigrated to Canada at the turn of the century. By the time their son immigrated to the U.S. in 1911, his name had become Smiley.

But some name changes are not so easy to trace. Rather than a different spelling of the same-sounding name, an entirely new name was adopted. These are the most American stories of all.

"Who is this new man, this American?" asked de Toqueville. He was Adam in the Garden, man beginning again, leaving all the history and heartbreak of the Old World behind. The idea that what made America unique was the opportunity for man to live in a state of nature, a society of farmers whose perception of Truth is unfettered by ancient social and political conventions lies at the base of Jeffersonian democratic theory. The New World became a place for mankind to begin again, a place where every man can be re-born and re-create himself. In such circumstances, the adoption of a new name is not surprising.

Nor is it surprising in the cases of immigrants who came to America to abandon a wife and family or to escape conscription in a European army. There were all kinds of reasons, political and practical, to take a new name.

A newspaper in California recently ran the story of a Vietnamese immigrant with a long, Vietnamese name so strange-looking to Anglo eyes. The young man came to this country and began to work and study. He began every day by stopping at a convenience store to buy a "Bonus Pak" of chewing gum. Chewing all those sticks of gum got him through long days of working several jobs and studying English at night. When he finally naturalized as a U.S. citizen, he requested his name be changed to Don Bonus—the surname taken from the "Bonus Pak" and chosen to signify all his work and effort to become an American. He was a new man.

If not for the newspaper story, we would not understand this name change. Mr. Bonus' naturalization papers would simply record the name change but not the reasons behind it. If he had not naturalized, his Bonus family descendants'

generations from now would be at quite a loss to explain the origin of their name.

The documentation of name changes during U.S. naturalization procedure has only been required since 1906. Prior to that time, only those immigrants who went to court and had their name officially changed and recorded leave us any record. Congress wrote the requirement in 1906 because of the well-known fact that immigrants DID change their names, and tended to do so within the first five years after arrival.

Without any record, immigrants and their descendants are left to construct their own explanations of a name change. Often, when asked by grandchildren why they changed their name, old immigrants would say "it was changed at Ellis Island." People take this literally, as if the clerk at Ellis Island actually wrote down another name. But one should consider another interpretation of "Ellis Island." That immigrant is remembering his initial confrontation with American culture. Ellis Island was not only immigrant processing, it was finding one's way around the city, learning to speak English, getting one's first job or apartment, going to school, and adjusting one's name to a new spelling or pronunciation. All these experiences, for the first few years, were the "Ellis Island experience." When recalling their immigration decades before, many immigrants referred to the entire experience as "Ellis Island."

So, on this day when we celebrate the breaking of our bond with the Old World, let us welcome Mr. Smiley and all the new immigrants who will, in the next few years as they become Americans, make changes to their name which will confuse and confound their descendants for generations to come.

Chronology of New York Immigration Offices

At any particular time, only one location was used as the immigrant receiving center for the Port of New York. The dates and locations are as follows:

August 1, 1855 - April 18, 1890	Castle Garden
April 19, 1890 - December 31, 1891	Barge Office
January 1, 1892 - June 13, 1897	Ellis Island
June 14, 1897 - December 16, 1900	Barge Office
December 17, 1900 - 1924	Ellis Island

JGS of Greater Washington, *Mishpacha*, Spring 1998

The Dutch Connection

by Sita Likuski

SFBAJGS Membership Chair, Sita is searching for **DELVALLE**, **MADURO** and **FIDANQUE**, and **BRANDON** relatives.

It was a subject line on JewishGen that probably wouldn't attract many people: *Salom del Valle*. "I wonder if anybody has ever heard of the name Salom del Valle," wrote Rene van Wijngaarden of the Netherlands in his posting.

I certainly had heard of the name. My grandfather's Grandmother Rachel was a Shalom Delvalle. I kept reading:

"Ribca Salom del Valle arrived in Amsterdam by the end of the 17th century with her two sons named Jacob and Mordohay. She was married to Yshac Salom del Valle. [They] came from Peyrehorade (southern part of France near Bayonne), a typical stopover place for Jews who came from Spain and Portugal ...Jacob went to Rotterdam; [Mordohay's grandson Abraham] emigrated to Curaçao in the Carribean."

There was no question that this was my family. I knew that Rachel was descended from Yshac Salom del Valle (my 7th great-grandfather) and that her Great-uncle Abraham had emigrated from Amsterdam to Curaçao in 1788.

I emailed Rene my information, and he excitedly emailed back, "I am addicted to Salom del Valle and all that goes with it for the last 25 years. You are the

first of what I call the 'Curaçao branch' I ever met." I hadn't known there still was a Dutch branch!

Thus began a steady correspondence and exchange of information. Ribca and Salom del Valle were Rene's 7th great-grandparents also, so he and I are 8th cousins. In the Netherlands the family name became Van Daelen, the Dutch version of the Spanish del Valle (both meaning "of the valley"). The surname of the Curaçao descendants, who also live in Panama and throughout the U.S., is now Delvalle.

Rene periodically posts his Salom del Valle message on JewishGen and Sephard SIG, bringing new relatives onto "The Delvalle Net" – our online group. Next year, many of the Van Daelen and Delvalle descendants will meet at a family reunion in Curaçao. For some of us, it will be the first reunion in two hundred years!

Curaçao, part of the Netherlands Antilles, is an island off the coast of Venezuela. The first Jewish settlers arrived there in 1651, and the first permanent Jewish settlement began in 1659. They founded Congregation Mikve Israel, the oldest Jewish congregation in continuous operation in the Western Hemisphere.

The Sephard SIG is a JewishGen newsgroup for researchers of Sephardic genealogies. To subscribe, go to JewishGen/ Discussion Groups/ Special Interest (SIG) mailing lists.

SFBA JGS Family Finder Update

The surnames and towns being researched by our newest members are listed below. We hope to maintain this database for our membership. If you have a correction, update or new information you would like us to know about, contact: SFBAJGS, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147, or send email to: dLkurtz@ix.netcom.com.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
Aronovic	Hungary	Roth, Sheree
Banach	Dzialoszyce, Poland	Shultz, Dana
Bergman	Sweden; Poland; New York	Saltman, Helen
Bernholtz/Berkholtz	Poland	Saltman, Helen
Bluestone	Schleen, Poland	Linver, Gilbert
Buckstern	Mitkow, Bucovina	Roth, Sheree
Capp	Kiselin, Ukraine	Shultz, Dana
Cohen	Netherlands	Goldsmid, Sidra & George
Einhorn	Oleyevo Korolevka, Ukraine	Roth, Sheree
Feldman	Lutsk, Ukraine	Shultz, Dana
Fohn	Csokmo, Hungary	Modai, Margalit
Fried	Ketergeny, Ukraine	Roth, Sheree
Gelman	Csokmo, Hungary	Modai, Margalit

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Family Finder, cont'd. from page 13

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
Gershtenman	Lokachi, Ukraine	Shultz, Dana
Goicherman	Kiselin, Ukraine	Shultz, Dana
Goldek	Wolbrom, Poland	Shultz, Dana
Goldman	Romania	Goldsmid, Sidra & George
Grosz	Csokmo, Hungary	Modai, Margalit
Gutenberg	Austria	Roth, Sheree
Inowlocki	Wolbrom, Poland	Shultz, Dana
Jakubovic	Velke Kapusany, Czechoslovakia	Roth, Sheree
Jakubowicz	Wolbrom, Poland	Shultz, Dana
Kelmer	Austria	Roth, Sheree
Klein	Hungary	Roth, Sheree
Kramer	Kelme, Lithuania; Chicago, IL	Goldsmid, Sidra & George
Kriegfeld	Oleyevo Korolevka, Ukraine	Roth, Sheree
Kutenberg	Austria	Roth, Sheree
Lehrer/Lurer	Vladimir Volynskiy, Ukraine	Roth, Sheree
Levie	Netherlands	Goldsmid, S. & G.
Levitt	Kiev, Ukraine; Cleveland, OH	Paul, Maggie
Linver	Schleen, Poland	Linver, Gilbert
Markowitz	Benetine, Slovakia	Roth, Sheree
Mocsari	Gyor, Hungary	Modai, Margalit
Moskovics	Uzhgorod, Ukraine	Roth, Sheree
Paserman	Wolbrom, Poland	Shultz, Dana
Paul	Cleveland, OH	Paul, Maggie
Pavolotsky	Tetiev, Ukraine	Paul, Maggie
Roozendaal	Netherlands	Goldsmid, Sidra & George
Rosen	Russia	Roth, Sheree
Rosenstock	Oleyevo Korolevka, Ukraine	Roth, Sheree
Roth	Uzhgorod, Ukraine; Lieskova, Czechoslovakia	Roth, Sheree
Saltzberg	Warsaw, Poland; Kiev, Ukraine; Chicago, IL; California	Saltman, Helen
Saltman	Kryzhopol	Saltman, Helen
Schmesh	Kelme, Lithuania	Goldsmid, Sidra & George
Schoenberger	Uric, Czechoslovakia; Benetine, Porubka, Slovakia	Roth, Sheree
Segal	Kremenets, Ukraine	Roth, Sheree
Shultz	Kiselin, Ukraine	Shultz, Dana
Shuster/Shusterman	Kiev, Ukraine	Roth, Sheree
Silberman	Romania; Chicago, IL	Goldsmid, Sidra & George
Silverman	Vladimir Volynskiy, Ukraine	Roth, Sheree
Simon	Kelme, Lithuania	Goldsmid, Sidra & George
Smigelsky	Poland; New York; New Jersey	Saltman, Helen
Smulovics	Porubka, Slovakia	Roth, Sheree
ten Brink	Netherlands	Goldsmid, Sidra & George
Wachnovetsky/Wachnow	Kolishkov, Ukraine	Roth, Sheree
Yashinefsky	Rogachev, Belarus	Shultz, Dana
Zajdman	Dzialoszyce, Poland	Shultz, Dana
Zalmanov	Rogachev, Belarus	Shultz, Dana

Using the Library Collection of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogy Society

by Judy Baston

The library collection of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society is housed at the Institute for Masonic Studies in San Francisco. For more information, please see the "SFBAJGS Library" box on page 3.

We have tried to identify some of the basic books in our collection that may be of help to you in areas such as: basic Jewish genealogical research; learning about names; finding your ancestral town; archival inventories; and immigration research.

Although most of the materials in the inventory of library holdings are accessible in the SFBAJGS bookcase at the Institute for Masonic Studies, some specialized materials are in the process of being catalogued. If you cannot find an item, please do not ask the Institute staff as they are not familiar with the materials. Instead, contact the SFBAJGS Librarian. For the present time, access to our microfiche collection will take place only at SFBAJGS meetings, and our audiotope collection is also available only at meetings by advance request.

We hope this will change when we have regularly scheduled hours at the Masonic Institute, during which SFBAJGS volunteers are present to help. One way you can make sure this happens is to volunteer. If you are interested, contact the Society's Librarian Judy Baston at jrbaston@aol.com, (415) 285-4616.

The Basics of Jewish Genealogy

From Generation to Generation by Arthur Kurzweil. Whether you're just getting started or want to refresh your memory about an aspect of research, this volume is a basic guidebook. It contains detailed descriptions of what information (including names of pre-immigration towns) you will find in U.S. birth, marriage, and death certificates, passenger and naturalization records, and other documents. Kurzweil discusses memorial books, Holocaust research, and other sources that many researchers involved with the Internet may tend to forget.

FAQ/Frequently Asked Questions by Warren Blatt. A compilation of the popular "how to" and "where is" feature from JewishGen, including Internet research; how to use repositories such as the LDS Family History Library and the National Archives; and what you can find from Social Security and other records.

Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy by Arthur Kurzweil and Miriam Weiner. This is a state-by-state guide of how to get Jewish genealogical and historical information in the United States and Canada.

The Sourcebook for Jewish Genealogies and Family Histories by David Zubatsky and Irwin

Berent. This list of more than 10,000 Jewish surnames in published genealogies may lead you to other sources of information about the families you are researching.

The Source by A. Eakle and J. Cerni. This guidebook will help you with questions about American sources for genealogy.

What Does That Name Mean?

A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire by Alexander Beider. This volume lists thousands of Russian Jewish surnames that the author found in turn-of-the-century voters' lists. Beider draws conclusions about the origin and meaning of the name and indicates in which districts he found the surname. The book also includes a general introduction about the development of Jewish surnames in the Russian Empire that is well worth reading.

A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland by Alexander Beider. This companion to Beider's earlier work lists Polish Jewish surnames taken from 19th and early 20th century records. He indicates in which districts he found the names and discusses their likely origin and meaning.

Jewish Surnames in Prague by Alexander Beider. The author discusses the origin of a list of Jewish surnames found in Prague from the 15th to 18th centuries.

Jewish Family Names and their Origins by Dr. H. and E.H. Guggenheimer. This volume includes Central and Western European Jewish surnames and discusses likely meanings and origins.

Jewish Personal Names by Rabbi Shmuel Gorr. This volume traces the root of many Hebrew and Yiddish given names, and diminutive names and discusses their origins.

Russian-Jewish Given Names: Their Origins and Variants by Boris Feldblyum. This book, based on a volume originally published in Russia in 1911, presents a comprehensive collection of more than 6,000 Jewish given names used in the Russian Empire at the turn of the century. It also discusses the meaning and usage of various names, as well as geographical variations.

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SFBAJGS Library, cont'd. from page 15

Archival Research: Finding Records

Eastern Europe

Jewish Roots in Poland by Miriam Weiner. This well-publicized volume contains photos and other information about pre-World War II Jewish life in a number of Polish towns. For genealogists with roots in Poland, Miriam Weiner presents a long-awaited inventory of which town's records are in which branch of the country's labyrinthine archival system.

Some Archival Sources for Ukrainian-Jewish Genealogy compiled by Alexander Kronik and Sallyann Amdur Sack. This volume lists archival sources for records of 400 towns from throughout Ukraine and describes many of the records that are available for each town.

Finding Your Jewish Roots in Galicia: A Resource Guide by Susan F. Wynne. This book lists archival sources for Galician Jewish records and discusses other resources for doing Galician genealogical research, travel to towns in the area and Holocaust research for Galician towns.

Jewish Vital Records, Revision Lists & Other Jewish Records in the Lithuanian State Historical Archives by Harold Rhode and Sallyann Amdur Sack. This book lists the vital records – birth, marriage, death and divorce, from the Lithuanian State Historical Archives, on a town-by-town basis. Subsequent inventories also include revision (census) lists for Lithuania available at the Kaunas Archives.

Israel

A Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research in Israel by Sallyann Amdur Sack. This book describes the various archives in Israel and describes how a researcher can find information about the Diaspora, the Holocaust, and Israel in these repositories.

Guide to the Archives in Israel by Paul Alsberg. This book gives additional information about what records are available from the various archives in Israel.

United States

Guide to Archival and Oral History Collections: Western Jewish History Center by Ruth Rafael. This outline describes several hundred collections in the Center on the top floor of the Magnes Museum in Berkeley, including a number of Bay Area and other California collections.

Guide to YIVO's Landsmanshaft Collection by Rosaline Schwartz. This volume outlines the materials collected as part of the *Lansmanshaft Project* of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, including constitutions, membership rosters, and other actualia from hundreds of hometown associations.

Guide to the YIVO Archives edited by Fruma Moher and Marek Web. This comprehensive guide describes the collections of the nation's largest repository of information about Eastern European Jewish life.

Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area compiled by Estelle Guzik. This is a guide to the records and documents in the dozens and dozens of archives, repositories and libraries in the New York area.

Your Ancestral Towns

Where Once We Walked by Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack. This gazetteer lists some 25,000 towns with pre-World War II Jewish populations, as well as variations in spelling, geographical coordinates, population, and other sources of information for the town. This should be a first step in research when you're trying to figure out where your ancestors lived or – after you've found an ancestral town, to find out more about it.

Where Once We Walked Companion by Gary Mokotoff. Using a system of geographical coordinates, this volume helps researchers determine what towns surrounded a particular town of interest.

Lithuanian Jewish Communities by Nancy and Stuart Schoenberg. This volume presents short descriptions of various Lithuanian towns in which Jews lived before World War II.

Holocaust Research

How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust by Gary Mokotoff. This book offers suggestions for Holocaust research, including archival sources, lists of survivors and in some cases, information on a town-by-town basis.

Immigration and Passenger Information

Migration from the Russian Empire, v. 1,2,3,4 (5 and 6 soon to be available) by Ira Glazier. These volumes contain an index of passengers coming from places in the Russian Empire to the United States from the years 1875-89. Although not comprehensive, they fill an important gap in these previously-unindexed years of passenger arrival records.

Hamburg Passengers from the Kingdom of Poland and the Russian Empire by Marlene Silverman and Geri Moser. This list includes passengers coming to New York from 1865-73.

Russian Consular Records Index & Catalog by Sallyann Sack and Suzan Wynne. This is an index to microfilm in the LDS collection that includes thousands of documents – primarily covering immigrants from the Russian Empire before 1918 – taken from the system of Russian consulates throughout the U.S.

COMPUTER/ONLINE NEWS

Email Order Alameda County, California Records

Vivian Kahn, *JewishGen*

Vital records for Alameda County, CA (Oakland, Berkeley, Hayward, etc.), can be ordered by email through the Alameda County Web site at www.co.alameda.ca.us.

Charges are \$18 for birth and death certificates, \$12 for a marriage certificate. There is an additional \$5 credit card fee. Certificates will be sent by regular mail at no extra charge or by overnight service for \$15.50.

Romania Web Site

Pat Powers, *JewishGen*

Romania World Genweb, at www.rootsweb.com/~romwgv/index.html, is a great site with wonderful maps, research aids, links to other sites of interest, and suggestions for identifying towns in Romania. Administrative records locations and related information for the Transylvania region is listed online. There is also a surname and query posting forum. This site is well worth anyone's taking a few minutes to look it over, specific Romania interest or not.

Ukraine Web Sites

Kevin Brook, Jeanne Gold, *JewishGen*

Two fairly new sites have been established by the Ukrainian Jewish community to highlight their current activities as well as the history of their religious and cultural life. They are the Jewish Foundation of the Ukraine at www.jfu.kiev.ua/ and the All-Ukrainian Jewish Congress at www.public.ua.net/~jewish/.

The Khazaria Info Center at www.khazaria.com is a "resource for Turkic and Jewish History in Russia and Ukraine." The site offers a history of the Khazars, a list of relevant publications, and links to discussion groups and photograph collections on the Web. Additionally, information is provided about Jews in many European and Eastern European countries through links to Web sites of other organizations.

Correction

In the article "Finding Lost Money" by Sita Likuski in the May issue of *ZichronNote*, the URL for the JGS NY is incorrect. To access their Web site, go to members.aol.com/jgsny/main.htm.

Inquisition and Hispanic Records

Jeff Malka, *JewishGen*

If you're interested in Sephardic records, try the "Inquisicion and other early Hispanic Archives" Web site at www.orthohelp.com/geneal/inquis.htm. You will find useful information about, as well as a listing of, Spanish Inquisition records and repositories, and other related Hispanic records in Spain and South America.

Related resources are also discussed, including "the best genealogical records in Spain ... the most voluminous and hence the hardest to use: notary public records of sales of land, loans of money etc. For any one year there may be 3,000 or more unindexed, difficult-to-read pages of data. The religion of the individual is recorded. However you need to know exactly when and where you are looking. Although Spanish hasn't changed much since the early middle ages, the penmanship can look very strange. The notarial records are worse than most since the scribe INTENTIONALLY made them difficult to read; he earned money by being able to read what no one else could understand.

Lists of Sephardic Family Names and Other Resources

Jeff Malka, *JewishGen*

I have developed the "Sephardic Genealogy Sources" Web site at www.orthohelp.com/geneal/sefardim.htm. Here you will find links to other Web sites and news lists of interest to Sephardic Jewish researchers, book references, and useful genealogy forms I have designed.

A "Search For Names" feature searches lists, compiled by Jeff Malka, of Jewish Sephardic family names that can be found in a variety of books.

JGS of Argentina Online

Paul Armony, *JewishGen*

The Asociación de Genealogía Judía de Argentina, (Jewish Genealogical Society of Argentina), located in Buenos Aires, has established a Spanish-language Web page, at www.marben.com.ar/toldot.

Meeting announcements, contact information, library holdings, and links to many sites of interest to genealogists who are researching in Argentina and Latin America are posted. An extensive index to articles in the Journal *Toldot* is also online. (*Toldot* is available in the library collection of the SFBAJGS.)

Software: Family Tree Maker 5.0

by Dana L. Kurtz

Family Tree Maker 5.0 for Windows by the Banner Blue division of Bröderbund is the latest version of one of the earliest family tree software packages available. Of the many genealogy programs I have seen, Family Tree Maker (FTM) remains by far the most intuitive.

Data Entry

When you begin a new file, FTM presents an empty record, with fields for husband and wife, marriage and children (see figure). FTM is family-group based, rather than individual-based, as is Ultimate Family Tree (see *ZichronNote*, August 1998). If you are entering an unmarried person, you can select "single" from the Marriage Status drop-down box. If a couple is not legally married, you may choose from options such as "Partners" or "Friends." The husband and wife labels change to reflect your selection. Tabs along the right side of the screen move you to the record for the parents of a husband or wife, or that of a child.

Next to each individual (and the marriage information) is a down arrow labeled "More" which takes you to screens where you can enter details about the person. I tend to think of these pages as index cards unique to each individual. On the Facts page, you can enter an unlimited number of facts or events for a person. Forty events are listed in the fact drop-down box including born, died, bar/bat mitzvah, census, immigration, namesake, and caste! You can also create your own events, which the program will recognize when generating reports and charts.

Of tremendous value is the capacity to enter more than one fact about an event. For example, you can enter two (or more!) different birth dates for one person, and select the "preferred" date to be displayed by default. When you generate reports, you have the option to print these conflicting facts, which can very useful for identifying research goals.

The address page can help you build a mailing list. However, there are no fields for email address or fax number. Although the Phone field can hold 45 characters, this oversight should be corrected. The Notes page allows you to enter free-text which can be formatted (for printing only, not screen display). Medical and Lineage pages provide still more fields for recording information.

Using the Scrapbook button, you can insert a scanned image, graphic, Quicktime movie or other image. You can enter a caption, date, description and other information about the image. The Scrapbook images can be "played" like a slide show, although the captions are not displayed – something else I'd like to see in the next release.

Sources

For each fact, you can (and should!) record your source information. This feature is greatly improved over prior versions, where source information was limited to a single text box. Now there are fields for source title, page text and footnote printing. You can select from a list of source media including interview, census, tombstone, electronic and map. There is a field for author and another for call number, which I will happily use to record a microfilm reel number or other identifier. One thing I would like to see added is greater flexibility in the detail fields. Those listed above do not change to reflect the source media. For example, if the source is a census record or newspaper, I would also like to have a date field.

Best of all, you can have multiple sources for the same information. For example, you may have a marriage certificate and Social Security application both showing the same birth date. In the Quality field you can evaluate the reliability of your source. As a free text field, you do have to keep track of how you are ranking your sources.

Charts, Reports, and Books

Where FTM really shines is in its chart making and reporting capabilities. All reports and trees may be customized for content, text size, font, color, etc. Both ancestor and descendant trees offer tremendous flexibility. You can choose to include as many facts and other information (e.g., medical) as you like. For each fact, you can specify how the date and location/comment information is displayed (if at all), and whether or not you wish to include source information.

Word wrapping allows you to print narrower family trees – a real benefit for those of us used to cutting and pasting 30-page wide family trees! Another new feature is the option to ensure that boxes do not overlap page breaks.

Family Trees can be created in the familiar standard layout or in a new fan style. This very attractive format displays your family like spokes on a wheel, radiating out from the chosen primary individual. My favorite, though, is the hourglass tree, which displays generations previous and subsequent to the selected individual. The hourglass tree too can be generated in standard or fan style layout.

The outline descendant tree offers the most condensed presentation. Depending on the number of fields you choose to include, you usually end up with one or two lines per person. Thus hundreds of people can be presented in just a few pages. This is particularly useful as a quick reference chart while researching.

The familiar Family Group Sheets are great for collecting information and seeing what's missing.

Parents are shown as key individuals, with their parents and children noted. A number of the reports present information as it relates to a selected individual. The Genealogy Report lists the members of each generation succeeding an individual while the Kinship Report shows the relationship of everyone in the database to that person. Again, facts, notes and other fields can be included in the report.

Reports can be selected from the Report Format box and include a birthday list, documented facts (those with sources) and parentage reports. The best may be the Custom report you design yourself, selecting only those fields you want. A new feature called Timeline includes hundreds of historical events, which can be displayed alongside your family milestones, placing everyone in historical context. The events are sorted into categories: Arts, Asia, Economics, Europe, Military, Politics, Religion, Technology, United States, and World. You can choose which categories to include in your Timeline report.

FTM can help you create a book, combining your choice of family trees, reports, facts, scrapbook images, etc., with chapters, index, and other features. The book is compiled in an outline format. Although seemingly straightforward, I was unable to figure out what to do once my outline was set up (nor was it explained in the online help). It seems printing is the only option, with no preview. I'm sure I would like the opportunity to reformat much of the book before committing it to paper.

Research Journal

The Research Journal helps you keep track of the many "next steps" you want to take in your research

by creating a "To-Do" list. You can add items at any time and assign a priority ranking, and a user-defined category to each. By default, though, the Journal seeks to link your Family Finder Report to the online Bröderbund Family Finder Index (another product). If the search finds a possible match to your FTM files, a "To-Do" item is added to your list, suggesting you search the Bröderbund database. These CDs are available for purchase from Bröderbund. I was disappointed to find a soft-sell included here, as well as through the Internet Menu (below).

Internet Menu

The items on this menu, including Biography Assistant, Articles, and My Home Page, connect you to the Family Tree Maker Web site using your Internet service provider and browser. However to use these features, you must register online. While the Family Tree Maker site does provide some excellent resources for free (and deserves a review of its own), these pages also offer many opportunities to purchase additional Bröderbund products.

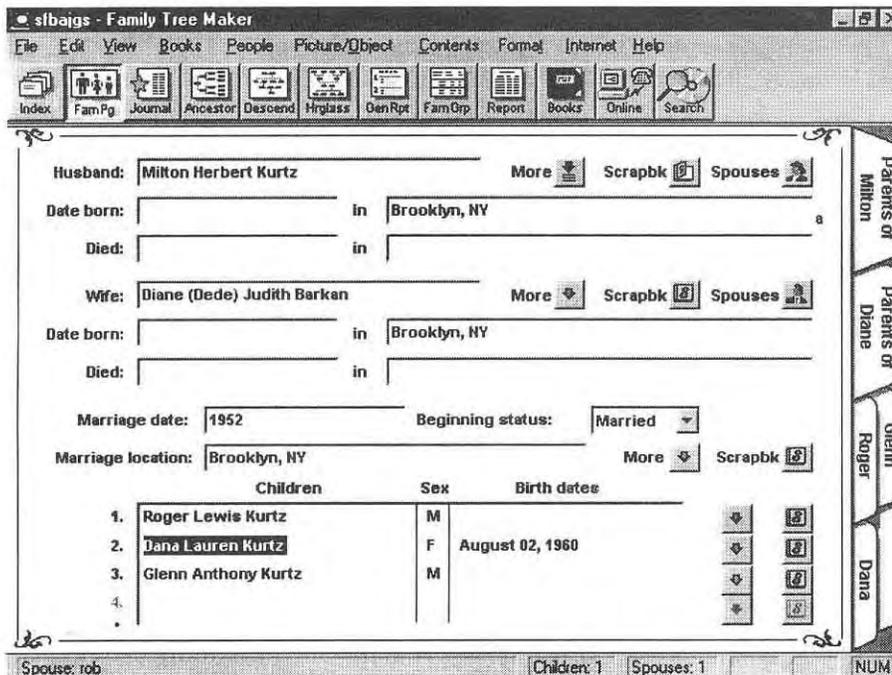
Summary

Family Tree Maker continues to be one of the most popular genealogy software products and deservedly so. It's easy to use, does a great job of keeping your information organized, and generates terrific family trees. The software is sold in a number of flavors, from the basic family tree software, to packages including multiple CDs which may or may not be useful for Jewish genealogical research. List prices range from \$29.99 to \$89.99, and I've seen it at Costco. A PowerMac version is also available for \$99.99. Curious? Download

a demo version from the Web site! (www.familytreemaker.com)

Note – Bröderbund recently released version 5.0b, correcting a number of bugs in version 5.0. Registered users should have received the patch CD. If not, I suggest you contact Bröderbund.

At the end of November 1998, it was announced that The Learning Company, owner of Family Origins software and parent of Bröderbund (Family Tree Maker), had purchased Palladium Interactive, maker of Ultimate Family Tree software. As of early December, no announcement had been made regarding the future of any of these three products. If you are shopping for a new software package, you may wish to contact the manufacturer regarding ongoing service and support for these products.



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