

# זכרון ZichronNote

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

Volume XVIII, Number 3

August 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. Please contact Dana Kurtz if you need directions.**  
Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Road)

- Sun. Sep. 13** **San Francisco:** *Preserving the Stories of Old Photographs.* Philip Adam of Restored Photographics will speak about the various types of old photographs and how to care for them. Philip will also preview his upcoming book of photographs and oral histories.
- Mon. Oct. 19** **Palo Alto:** To be determined.
- Sun. Nov. 1** **San Francisco:** *13th Annual Jewish Genealogy Workshop.* Special four-hour event from **12 p.m. - 4 p.m.** will feature small working groups, classes, translators and more. Mark your calendar to make sure you don't miss this exciting day of research, resources and sharing expertise! [**Note date change**]
- Mon. Dec. 21** **Palo Alto:** To be determined.

#### *Other Genealogy Meetings of Interest on Page 4*

#### **Is There a "Jeff Norman" in your Nathanson Family Tree?**

The Santa Clara County Genealogical Society has come into possession of photographs and documents of a Bay Area musician who performed professionally as "Jeff Norman." The family name appears to have been "Nathanson."

Among the papers are Naturalization Papers for Isadora Nathanson in Douglas County, Nebraska (1906), a diploma from the Columbian School, Omaha, NE for Norman Nathanson and a confirmation service program (1913), a Certificate presented to Norman Nathanson from San Jose High School (1917), "Who's Who in Radio" newspaper clippings, and a certificate from the National Red Cross, San Francisco, to Anna Nathanson. There are a dozen photographs including two photos of children from the 1910s (est.), publicity pictures, and a photo of a girl identified as "Barbara."

The SCCGS is looking for a good home for this collection. If you think you have a family connection, or know anything about Jeff Norman or his Nathanson family, please contact Judy Svoboda at (408) 248-8205.

**ZichronNote**  
**Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area**  
**Jewish Genealogical Society**

ZichronNote is published four times per year, in February, May, August and November. The deadline for contributions is the 1st of the month preceding publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submittals. Submissions may be made by hard copy, 3-1/2" floppy disks or e-mail 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, telephone number and e-mail address.

**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 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 "SFBA JGS" and send to: Sita Likuski, Membership, 4430 School Way, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

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**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.

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

**President's Message**

by Rodger Rosenberg

**NARA and the Summer Seminar: The Bitter with the Sweet**

The last few months have proven to be quite busy. Many of you may have heard or read about the meeting at the National Archives in San Bruno held in June. This meeting was to discuss the possibility of consolidating some or all the NARA branches throughout the country into a central location in the Midwest. At this meeting, some 200 concerned genealogists and civic leaders voiced their opposition to anything like that happening. There has been a lot of discussion about making the change as a cost-saving measure for the federal government. It is very important that each member lets his/her state and federal representatives know how you feel about this. Please write, e-mail, or fax them and let your voice be heard! (Please see *Space Planning at the National Archives and Records and Records Administration* by Randy Stehle on page 9, and the sidebar listing contact information on page 11.)

On a more cheerful note, the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Seminar in Jewish Genealogy was a big success. Approximately 850 participants packed into workshops for the beginner and the advanced researcher. Notable speakers included Gary Mokotoff, Yale Reisner, Susan King, Warren Blatt, Stanley Diamond, and Miriam Weiner. Arthur Kurzweil gave an inspiring talk at the opening ceremonies. I would also like to say how pleased I was to see the strong presence of our Society. The SFBA JGS was second only to our host, the JGS of Los Angeles, in representation. At least 30 of our members were able to attend, and four offered presentations. Congratulations to Roy Ogus, Bob Weiss, and Roseanne and Dan Lesson. You've done us proud.

— Rodger

**From the Editor**

Apologies are tendered for the delay in publishing this issue. The Summer Seminar and other obligations coincided with the usual preparation time for this issue of ZichronNote. Thanks for your patience!

We are eager to hear from you, whether regarding a success story, a new online resource or a seemingly unsolvable puzzle. Please send your articles or ideas for articles to Dana Kurtz. The deadline for material for the November issue is October 1.

**SOCIETY NEWS**

**E-Mail Address Updates**

Donna Dubinsky ddubinsky@earthlink.net  
 Rochelle Schwartz rochelles@resound.com  
 Malcolm Singer macsinger@aol.com

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

Jerry Bernstein Diane Newman  
 Jacque Cohen Marjorie Stern  
 Jerry Delson Marika Wertheimer  
 Kathleen Goldklang

If you have an e-mail address but have not been receiving occasional SFBA 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.

**Welcome New Members**

Larry Burgheimer San Francisco  
 burgamer@aol.com  
 Corin Barsily Goodwin Cupertino  
 corin@concentric.net  
 Theo Graff Greenbrae  
 Jerome Jacobson San Francisco  
 drjj@itsa.ucsf.edu  
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 tangsuedo@aol.com  
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**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 SFBA JGS library, contact Society Librarian Judy Baston, (415) 285-4616, or send e-mail 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.

**New Titles in the Library**

<b><u>New Titles in the Library</u></b>	<b><u>Author</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Finding Your Jewish Roots in Galicia: A Resource Guide	Wynne, Suzan F.	1998
Graven Images	Schwartzman, Arnold	1993
Jewish Cemeteries in Bohemia and Moravia	Heøman, Jan	?
Library Resources for German-Jewish Genealogy	Ellmann-Krüger, Angelika	1998
Poland Atlas	Euro Atlas	1995
Russian-Jewish Given Names	Feldblyum, Boris	1998
Holdings of interest to the Jewish genealogist at the Santa Clara Family History Center; many additional materials	Donated by Conrad Tracy	

**Audio Tapes from the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy**

An Introduction to Holocaust Research	Gary Mokotoff
Beginner's Workshop	Nancy Arbeiter
The Changing Face of Jewish Genealogy	Arthur Kurzweil
The Douglas E. Goldman Jewish Genealogy Center	Diana Sommer
Getting Started: Organizing Your Research	Sheila Benedict
Jewish Genealogical Research at the Jewish Historical Institute	Yale Reisner
Jewish Genealogical Research in South Africa	Roy Ogus
Jewish Genealogical Resources at the Kaunas State Archives	Vitalija Gircyte
Research Tools for Alsatian Genealogy	Dan Leeson
Russian Revision Lists	Boris Feldblyum

## CALENDAR, cont'd.

### More Genealogy Events

#### Local

Sat. August 29, 2 - 5 p.m. **London's Records - Ancient and Modern/Guild Records, Occupations, Business Records.** Menlo Park Family History Center, 1105 Valpariso, Menlo Park. Tel: (650) 325-9711.

Tues. September 8, 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 or (925) 373-6875.

Sat. September 19, Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, **Annual Seminar.** 950 Moncho St., Livermore. Tel: Jolene or David Abrahams, (925) 447-9386.

#### Regional

Sat - Mon. October 3 - 5, Siskiyou County Historical Society, **Conference of California Historical Societies Symposium.** SCHS Symposium, Siskiyou Co. Historical Society, 910 S. Main St., Yreka, CA 96097.

#### National/International

Wed. - Sun. August 19 - 22, Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Ohio Genealogical Society, **Immigrant Dreams: The Settlement of America.** Cincinnati, OH. FGS/OHS Conference, P.O. Box 830220, Richardson, TX 75083. Tel: (888) FGS-1500, Fax: (888) 380-0500; e-mail: <fgs-office@fgs.org>.

Sun. September 13, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Jewish Genealogical Institute of British Columbia, **Fourth Annual Jewish Genealogical Seminar.** Holocaust Centre, Jewish Community Centre, 950 West 41<sup>st</sup> Ave. in Vancouver, B.C. <www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/4441/seminar.html> or send e-mail: <jgibc@geocities.com>.

Thu. -Thu. October 22 - 29, **Jewish Genealogical Research Trip to Salt Lake City.** Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff. SLC Genealogy Trip, 155 N. Washington Ave., Bergenfield, NJ 07621. Tel: (201) 387-3818, e-mail: <garymokotoff@avotaynu.com>.

### 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.

## Library Volunteers Needed!

or

## How to Secure Boundless Access to the SFBAJGS Collection!

Now that the SFBAJGS library has been at its between-meetings home for a number of months, at the Institute for Masonic Studies, 1111 California Street, Society members are taking advantage of the collection with increasing frequency. Terrific!

For this reason, we want to establish a program by which an SFBAJGS volunteer is present at the Institute for Masonic Studies at regularly scheduled intervals to help researchers use our collection of works on Jewish genealogy.

Volunteering needn't take more than a few hours a month - and just think of it! Hours, during which you will have access to the entire SFBAJGS library materials to work on your own genealogy, in a lovely setting. All it takes is an interest in this terrific collection and an hour or so to become familiar with the library.

Help make our library even more useful to our members while working on your own research! Please e-mail me at <jrbaston@aol.com> or give me a call (415) 285-4616 if you are interested or have any questions.

In the meantime, remember that Institute for Masonic Studies volunteers are not familiar with the SFBAJGS collection and may not be able to answer your questions about it.

## SFBA JGS LEADS THE WAY

At the Seminar in Los Angeles, members of the SFBAJGS Board met to discuss how we might support some of the efforts in Jewish genealogy that benefit everyone. One presentation at the Summer Seminar, that had a very strong effect on many of us who attended, concerned JewishGen, one of the very best resources for anyone pursuing their Jewish genealogy. Founder Susan King, presented the JewishGen financial statement for 1997. It surprised many of those present to learn how JewishGen is funded and how it is able to do so much with such a small gross income (\$50,000).

At the close of the JewishGen presentation, we announced that the SFBAJGS would donate \$1,000 to JewishGen to facilitate some of the exciting new resources being developed. It is hoped that other Jewish genealogical societies will follow our lead, enabling JewishGen to continue providing its outstanding services to everyone, without charge.

## Success Story: Beshert

by Lillian Wurzel

Eighty-five year old Lillian Wurzel is an SFBAJGS member of long standing and a first-generation American. Her interest in genealogy grew because none of her grandparents immigrated to the U.S. Her father, a well-organized person, started her off with the exact date of his arrival and his citizenship papers. Her mother told stories about two uncles and an aunt who came to U.S. in 1880s, but about whom she knew only names.

Lillian is researching the **TRAXLER**, **PRINZENTHAL**, **WOHL**, and **WURZEL** names. Currently, she faces her biggest challenge with the Prinzenthal/Traxler branch from the part of Hungary that today is in Slovakia, where records are not readily available.

If you don't know the word, "beshert" means "it was fated." As you will find out, lots of things that happen in doing genealogy are beshert. How else can we explain them? Here are some that happened to me:

**Beshert No. 1:** Some years ago my Aunt Minnie, of blessed memory, headed for her nearby temple's senior center for an afternoon of bridge. But this day, one of her foursome was absent. The director brought over a visitor and introduced her as Evelyn Berkowitz.

While someone was shuffling and dealing the cards, my always friendly aunt asked "where are you from, Mrs. Berkowitz?" She answered "my husband and I just moved here from Milwaukee because one of our daughters lives here." My aunt responded "Milwaukee! My mother told me before I left Europe years ago that she had two brothers and two sisters who had gone to the United States and that the brothers and one sister lived in Milwaukee. (Another sister went to Bridgeport, Connecticut.) Maybe you knew my uncles?"

Evelyn replied "well, I was born in Milwaukee when there weren't too many Jews there, I might know them - what were their names?" Aunt Minnie answered "Max and Joe Traxler." A startled Evelyn responded "Max Traxler was my father and Joe was my uncle!"

**Beshert No. 2:** I'm still working on the Traxler track. One night at our JGS meeting in Palo Alto, we were all asked to share what we were working on and what problems we had encountered, just like a "support group." Maybe someone in the group could help you with your search.

My turn came and I said "I'm still working on the Milwaukee Traxler branches. I just learned one of Max Traxler's grandsons has retired. He and his wife bought a house in Tucson and are planning to winter there. I've written to them, but I have not yet had a reply."

Jerry Delson, one of our active members, spoke up: "What's the grandson's name?" "Adolph Stern," I replied. "Adolph's wife, Lorraine, is my wife's first cousin. We were just in Tucson to visit them, they're great people!" replied Jerry. (Yes, they are.)

**Beshert No. 3:** Still on the search for the Traxlers, a couple of years ago, I put a notice in the "People Finder" of *ZichronNote*, this time trying to find the descendants of my Great-Great-Aunt Fanny (Traxler

Klein, the one from Bridgeport, CT. You know, copies of our *ZichronNote* go to all the other Jewish genealogical societies around the world. At that time, the Arizona JGS, never large or very active, was almost defunct. The president, who received our newsletter, passed it along to a couple of their members.

A month later, my telephone rang and a voice said, "I'm Caryl Shapiro. My great-grandmother was Fannie Traxler Klein. Yes, she used to live in Bridgeport. I have a copy of her death certificate, which I will send to you. It's funny that you live in Santa Clara - my husband is a professor of political science, now semi-retired. I want you to know that we lived in San Jose too, for nine years while he taught at San Jose State! There's something else I want to tell you. My great-grandparents used to go to Illinois and Wisconsin from time to time to visit relatives I didn't know, and to get dental work done by a Dr. Milton Traxler."

Dr. Traxler was Joe Traxler's son! And eventually, his daughter in Chicago, who had a lot of old family pictures, found a photo of two couples sitting on the porch. They were none other than Joe Traxler and his wife Mollie, and his sister Fannie Klein and her husband, visiting from Connecticut. See how valuable our "People Finder" can be?

**Beshert No. 4:** This next episode is how I found a new second cousin (or who found me) in 1990. He was then a professor at U.C. Berkeley, who is now retired (*and a member of the SFBAJGS - ed.*).

He knew very little about his father's side of his family, and had been trying to learn more since his father's death in 1965. After joining the SFBAJGS, several San Francisco members suggested he submit an item for the "People Finder." Sceptically, he asked "what good will that do?" To which they replied "Nu, so what do you have to lose?"

His listing in the February 1990 *ZichronNote* read:

Dr. Willim M. Brinner, Berkeley: Seeking any relatives, descendants, or ancestors of Teresa Wurzel of Bodrogkerezturn, Hungary, later of Schenectady, NY. Arrived in this country around 1897 with children, including Etty, born 1880, Mendel, born 1882 (later known as Fred Brinner) and Sam, born 1884.

*Continued on page 6*

## INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

### Missing Persons From Eastern Europe

Renee Ofner, *JewishGen*

The following is an advertisement taken in the Jerusalem Post, Friday June 12, 1998 edition.

"Keren Kayemeth Leisrael Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) wishes to make it publicly known that it possesses a list of missing persons from Eastern Europe dating to the Second World War relating to land properties which were or are being administered by KKL-JNF.

KKL-JNF is now equipped to handle public queries and invites persons wishing to obtain further information concerning missing relatives to write to us, supplying details of the missing person and his or her family connection.

Letters should be mailed to the office of the legal advisor, Keren Kayemeth Leisrael, P.O. Box 283, Jerusalem 91002. All queries will be considered and answered."

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*Beshert, cont'd. from page 5*

I saw this item as soon as it came out. But the real payoff came from Texas! The request for information was read by Walter Cohen in Austin, past president of the Texas Jewish Genealogical Society. Now, Walter and I are not related, but he and I share a common cousin in Austin – Robert Kahn. Bob is related to me through his father and the Wurzel side (Teresa Wurzel Kahn was his grandmother too), while Walter is related to Bob through his mother's families.

Walter called Bob and said "I think you have a cousin in Berkeley!" Bob called Berkeley and sure enough – Bill is his first cousin. But then Bob told Bill that there's a Wurzel family historian in Santa Clara – only 50 miles away, me.

So Bill, my "new" second cousin and I got together, I came with my charts and lots of family pictures to share with him. His grandmother, Teresa, was my Grandfather Wurzel's sister. And now, once "Lonesome Bill" has about 200 relatives whom he never new before.

So, watch out! If you keep working on your genealogy, something is bound to turn out to be "beshert." After all, don't we say "kol yisroel havarim?" It happens!

## Sam Elpern, In Memoriam

Submitted by Gene Starn

The most admired man in Jewish Romanian genealogy, Sam Elpern, the coordinator of ROM-SIG, died of a heart attack while jogging on July 8, 1998. He was 67 years old. He was the third child of seven siblings, born to Jacob A. and Annette Abramovitz Elpern, on December 27, 1930, in Greensburg, PA. He was named Samuel Norris Elpern, Shlomo Nayich in Hebrew, after his mother's brother and his father's father. He is survived by Joy Livingston Parris and their daughter, Elizabeth Swenson.

Most of us knew Sam only through the ROM-SIG newsletter and his e-mail or phone conversations. When ROM-SIG was organized in 1992, Sam was quick to volunteer for the newsletter. Sam became the majordomo of all things involving Romanian Jewish genealogy during those next years. He established ROM-SIG pages on JewishGen, produced a Romanian family finder and negotiated the procurement and translation of the Iasi Jewish censuses of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Rosanne Leeson, who co-chaired the ROM-SIG meeting at the Summer Seminar in Los Angeles, remarked at the wonderful response of ROM-SIG members who stepped forward to keep things rolling along. Sam's daughter, Liz, offered incredible assistance in spite of her personal loss. Gene Starn volunteered to act as transition coordinator, and has announced the establishment of a Sam Elpern Memorial Research Fund, sponsored by ROM-SIG, to be used to further research in Jewish genealogy, especially as it pertains to Romania. Also in Sam's name, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies gave a total of \$2,500 to Batya Unterschatz's work at the Jewish Search Bureau for Missing Relatives and to Yale Reisner of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Poland.

For more information, visit the ROM-SIG Web site at <[www.jewishgen.org/romsig](http://www.jewishgen.org/romsig)>.

## People Finder

Looking for descendants of Morris (Moshe) **WURZEL**, born *Egyek, Hungary*. Brother of Morton (Mordechai) and sister Teraz (Taube). Morris had two sons, Adolph and Sam, both hat makers. The sons came to the United States, possibly New Jersey or the New York area in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Contact Lillian Wurzel, 2930 Roma Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051. Telephone: (408) 984-3718.

## Report from the 18th Annual Summer Seminar in Jewish Genealogy in Los Angeles: July 1998

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Seminar in Jewish Genealogy was hosted by the JGS of Los Angeles in July. More than 800 people attended; 72 different lectures were offered; and many terrific research repositories were made available. There were trips to the Getty Museum and the Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance, and tours of Jewish Los Angeles.

The following reports are made by members of the SFBA JGS who attended the Seminar, providing insights into personal and research experiences.

### **It Was My First Time**

#### Marc Seidenfeld

Attending the International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Los Angeles was a wonderful experience. On the practical side, I met quite a few people whose names were already familiar to me from JewishGen and from the Geshet Galicia special interest group. The networking was great – I was directed to resources that I hadn't really thought about before, learned what was going on regarding research on some of my ancestral towns, and even located my great-grandfather's passenger ship arrival record (something I had not been able to do in San Francisco).

More significantly, I felt for the first time that my own feeble attempts at genealogy are part of a larger and greater effort. Just knowing that so many other people are doing what I am doing, is a form of validation – maybe it means my family is wrong and I am not crazy after all!

Since my return from the Seminar, I have written three letters regarding genealogy, more than I had done in the past six months. I guess you could say that the Seminar inspired me. Now I am looking forward to New York, the site of next year's Seminar. I hope to do some serious research there.

#### Devera and Michael Witkin

For those of you who did not attend the Seminar, we (first-timers, ourselves!) can't begin to beg you enough to save your money and vacation time for next year's seminar in New York – August 13-19, 1999. The seminar was incredibly helpful to us. A small sample of the topics (there were 72 lectures from which to choose!) included "Beginners' Workshop," "Jewish Genealogical Resources at the Kaunas State Archives," "Publishing a Family Newsletter," and "The Changing Borders of Eastern Europe." About 95% of the ones we attended were absolutely topnotch. While many of the attendees availed themselves of the

research facilities in Los Angeles (among the largest Mormon Family History Center outside of Salt Lake City), as first-timers we chose to do our research at home and just learn as much as we could at the lectures.

In our view, the most important information we learned from the professional genealogists who spoke at the lectures was that very few Jews were born, lived and died in the same town. The majority of our people, whether they were from the Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Poland or anywhere in Eastern Europe, moved to other towns, married in other towns, were buried in other towns, and had brothers, sisters, and other family who did not necessarily live in the same town, but lived, married, etc. in differing towns. In addition, we got great leads on what to do with the genealogical information that we already have!

Had we not attended our own SFBAJGS meeting before the seminar to learn what to expect, we would have been lost.

#### Barry Asin

I really enjoyed my first experience at a Summer Seminar. The highlight for me was definitely the presentation by Vitalija Giricyte, Chief Archivist of the Kaunas (Lithuania) Regional Archives. Although she claimed not to have much information, it sounded as if the Archives definitely has records from Krakes, the town my great-grandparents came from. In fact, she recalled seeing many records of families with the same last name as my great grandmother – Sher. Now, I'm anxiously awaiting the results of her research which should take six months or so. There certainly is no substitute for meeting people like Vitalija, face to face.

#### Marj Green

One of the first things we did at the Seminar was look in the Family Finder included in the syllabus for anyone researching the same surnames I was. It really paid off. Except for my cousin, whom I knew was coming to L.A., I didn't find anyone listing my surnames. BUT...as soon as Bruce Kahn loaded the new Family Tree of the Jewish People searchable database on some of the Resource Room computers, I found eight people submitting the same surnames. And, three of them were at the conference!! I met with them, and used my portable PowerBook to e-mail the others. Before the conference was over, I had shared lots of new names, births, marriages, deaths, etc., and, most importantly, I made lots of new contacts working on similar lines and the same ancestral towns.

*Continued on page 8*

*Summer Seminar, cont'd. from page 7*

## **A Little Business and a Lot of Lectures**

Rodger Rosenberg

At the annual President's meeting, it was announced that the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (AJGS) now has 52 member societies world-wide, all accessible by e-mail. A vote was taken to change the name of the AJGS to the IAJGS – the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

There was much discussion about the creation of a paid executive director position for the IAJGS. As the IAJGS has grown so large, it is felt that a volunteer board of directors is no longer able to manage all the business at hand. There are many plans to expand services and resources provided to the member societies. Someone whose energies are devoted to the organization would assist the IAJGS in fulfilling its goals. A description of this position and its responsibilities will be forthcoming. The funding for this position is also being investigated – and possible donor agencies are being identified.

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Among the many workshops offered at the Summer Seminar, I was particularly impressed with Gary Mokotoff's **"Introduction to Holocaust Research."** As publisher of *Avotaynu* and author of a number of important books for Jewish genealogy, Gary is very well versed in this subject and is an effective speaker. His presentation covered a clear step-by-step procedure on how to begin conducting Holocaust research.

Starting with the resources of the International Tracing Service of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Gary suggested contacting your local Red Cross office, which provides forms for you to complete to begin a search. The presentation included examples of the more than 45 million index cards, representing more than three million persons, collected by the IRC by 1955. These cards are as dramatic as they are informative. In some cases, more than one person may be identified on a single index card, and one individual may be referenced on more than one card. Cards were created for each person about whom an inquiry was received, or about survivors who registered.

The cards and full records are housed at the International Tracing Service in Arolson, Germany, with a complete set of the index through 1955 also available at Yad Vashem in Israel. Contrary to previous announcements, the IRC will accept genealogical inquiries. Gary reminded us that patience is an important trait. Responses from the IRC in Arolson can take from one to two years. In his experience, Yad Vashem takes less time to respond.

The Hall of Names at Yad Vashem has three million Pages of Testimony, contributed by Holocaust

survivors, friends and family of those who perished. These documents are written in the language of the person who submitted them, which may be Hebrew, Russian, etc., so you may need to have the Pages translated. As Yad Vashem is not yet well outfitted to support on-site researchers, Gary suggested that sending your inquiry by mail is better than attempting to do research in person. You can request a search by surname, but if more than 200 instances of the surname are found, you will be advised that the surname is too common for their search capabilities. No fee is charged for this service, but a contribution is certainly appropriate. You can browse the microfilm if you visit, but keep in mind that there is only one microfilm reader for all visitors.

Don't forget, that if you or a family member has information about a survivor or victim of the Holocaust, you are encouraged to submit a Page of Testimony for that individual. Gary also noted that without a full name and town, these agencies may not be able to identify the records you are seeking.

Yizkor books are also valuable sources of information memorializing the people and towns of Eastern Europe. Most were published after World War II. They often contain a background of the Jewish community of the town, as well as individual recollections and stories submitted by survivors. In many cases, there are lists of names, usually a necrology and often a list of survivors.

If no yizkor book exists for your town, it is worth reviewing a yizkor book for a neighboring town, or even a book about the entire guberniya. Remember that most of these sources are not written in English, but are most often worth the effort of translation. Most yizkor books include photographs with captions, which may be more easily read than text.

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Dana Kurtz

Zachary Baker, the Head Librarian of the **YIVO Institute for Jewish Research**, gave a number of lectures, including a discussion of the genealogical resources at YIVO.

YIVO's strengths lie in its collections of material about Jewish life and culture in Eastern Europe; Yiddish language and literature; Jewish immigration to the U.S.; anti-Semitism; and the Holocaust. In addition to providing sources for researchers, YIVO has developed an academic arm in these fields, offering courses of study.

Only approximately 5% of YIVO's catalog is available online (through RLIN, bibliographic network). A new edition of the *Guide to the YIVO Archives* by Fruma Mohrer and Marek Web was recently published. Various collections are described, including meeting

*Continued on page 15*

## **Space Planning at the National Archives and Records Administration**

by Randy Stehle

The rumored possibility of closing the San Bruno facility of the National Archives as a cost-cutting move promoted attendance at a recent public meeting held by NARA's Space Planning Team, to explain its mission and obtain public input. SFBA JGS members, alerted by JewishGen postings about the Waltham, MA meeting, also expressed their desire for more than just a microfilm reading room in San Bruno. Randy Stehle provides an in-depth report of the meeting and his subsequent interview with Sharon Roadway, San Bruno's director.

On March 24, 1998, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Archivist John Carlin formed a Space Planning Team to analyze the current configuration of regional facilities and determine what facilities NARA should have and where they should be located. The 10-year Space Planning Project (1997-2007) will focus on options that: (1) reduce space costs; (2) increase space quantity; (3) improve space quality; and (4) enhance access to records. Towards this end, a series of 13 public meetings has been scheduled to allow all those concerned to hear the latest information, discuss space and facility issues, and share their ideas with NARA officials.

The fourth of these public meetings was held at the NARA facility in San Bruno on June 16, 1998. I attended the meeting and wanted to write about what happened that night. In addition, I was fortunate enough to meet privately with Sharon Roadway, the head of NARA's Pacific Sierra Region, for an hour the following day. I have also spoken to some of the staff in San Bruno and exchanged e-mail with a member of the 1930 Census Committee.

The public meeting lasted a little longer than three hours and was quite lively. Approximately 200 people attended. Several NARA officials opened the meeting by giving an overview of the Space Plan. They said that in order to improve the public's access to their records, they plan to develop their electronic access capabilities to bring the National Archives online to millions of Americans who do not live near a NARA facility and to people worldwide. A pilot online catalog project called NAIL (NARA Archival Information Locator) was mentioned but the intended demonstration was canceled due to the length of the public discussion. The subject of what records can and should be available online was the topic of many of the comments by the public. One point the NARA officials stressed was that the limited funds available in this area would be used to put finding aids and high-use documents online.

### **NARA Attempts to Fulfill its Mission as Demands on its Resources Multiply**

NARA wants to improve the quality of space in which records are stored so they will be preserved for generations to come. Currently NARA provides

appropriate environmental storage conditions for only 21 percent of its more than 5.8 million cubic feet of archival holdings. Several regional facilities have serious quality problems, including backlogs of needed repairs and renovations.

NARA wants to increase the quantity of space so it can continue to add historically valuable records to its holdings. In addition to the archival holdings mentioned above, it also stores about 20 million cubic feet of temporary agency records. NARA has consistently experienced a 2.5 percent growth in demand for records center storage capacity. It estimates that if funding is not provided, storage space demand will exceed capacity by more than 4 million cubic feet by 2007. In addition, many of the current 13 microfilm reading rooms in the regional facilities may not be large enough to meet the demand for service that will arise when the 1930 Census is released to the public in April, 2002. (Most of the states in this census have not been indexed. A 1930 Census Committee has been formed to facilitate its release. I exchanged e-mail with a member of this committee who said that they plan on making a detailed catalog available that includes descriptions of each enumeration district (E.D.) and a microfilm publication that reproduces color images of the Census Bureau's 1930 E.D. maps).

NARA wants to reduce the cost of the space it occupies so money being spent on rent can be used for programs and services for its patrons. NARA operates 33 facilities spread nationwide from Atlanta to Anchorage. These buildings house over 20 million cubic feet of documentary material. This material has increased by more than one-third in the last decade, and more than 500,000 cubic feet of mostly paper-based records are being added each year. The cost of this space and the maintenance of these records have been consuming nearly half NARA's current budget.

### **NARA Commits to a Minimal San Bruno Facility**

NARA officials stressed that no matter what option is decided upon, it is committed to maintaining at a minimum, microfilm research rooms with Internet-accessible computer terminals in the metropolitan areas where regional archives now exist.

*Continued on page 10*

*NARA, cont'd. from page 9*

Sharon Roadway then spoke about the San Bruno facility. She said that it was opened in 1973 after being located at several other spots north of the present location. This facility is almost 209,000 square feet in size and has a capacity of a little over one million cubic feet. Presently, there are 913,318 cubic feet being used, of which 46,000 cubic feet are archival materials. When the facility was built, it was designed to be expandable. She did not say what plans, if any, NARA has about enlarging the existing building. She also mentioned that new underground storage facilities at limestone caverns in Lee's Summit, MO, were under consideration.

### **Patrons Offer Comments and Questions**

After the NARA presentation, the microphone was made available for questions or comments from the floor. About 30 people spoke over the next 2-1/2 hours. The meeting was supposed to end at 9 p.m., but there were still a number of people who had not had a chance to speak by this time. One of the speakers said that they would rather have a chance to talk than to see the NAIL demonstration and get a tour of the facility. Sharon Roadway asked those in attendance to show their preference by applauding for their preferred option. The audience opted to hear more speakers and the meeting lasted to just past 10 p.m.

Members of the San Francisco Jewish Bay Area Genealogical Society attended the NARA meeting. (Many other SFBAJGS members registered their opinions by e-mail). Four of us spoke in the question-and-answer segment. There were a number of general questions about the Space Plan and the future of the San Bruno facility. The general response of the NARA officials was that NO plans have been formalized yet, and these public meetings were being held to get feedback before finalizing anything. They said that there would probably be another series of public meetings when they have the Space Plan closer to completion. One early question dealt with who owns the land where the facility was built. Even though the government owns the land, the National Archives has to pay rent to the Office of Management and Budget.

Many of the questions and comments made by the public focused on access to the original materials stored in San Bruno. Specifically, the Asian-American community was concerned about the Chinese Exclusion Act papers and the Japanese World War II civilian internment camp materials. Their concern was that the original records would be shipped out of state creating hardships for many researchers. NARA's response was that no plans had been made to do this yet. They were told that in case this did happen, anything stored offsite could either be sent

via overnight shipping back to San Bruno or a copy could be requested. The public response was that there was no substitute for having the actual material in San Bruno. They argued that the archivists here are familiar with the voluminous records and are adept at finding requested items. It was pointed out that looking at a photocopy or digitized image of it is not the same as holding the actual item in your hand. In fact, privacy issues with much of this material would prevent it from being accessed online. (One knowledgeable questioner said that digitizing records costs about 50 cents per page, which is cost-prohibitive for many large record groups.) One researcher noted that some of the Chinese Exclusion Act items are three-dimensional objects, such as writing on silk, which cannot be digitized. Virtually every person who spoke for the last hour expressed similar concerns that original material belongs in the area where it was created and should not be sent out of state.

### **"Ready Access to Essential Evidence" Provides NARA's Goals**

The Strategic Plan of the National Archives and Records Administration (1997-2007) is entitled "Ready Access to Essential Evidence," and is available from NARA. Although NARA officials repeatedly emphasized that no final decisions had been made, the Strategic Plan (page 17) anticipates the closure of some facilities:

"Making records accessible no longer requires a far-flung system of facilities. In an age of "Fedex," "fax," and Internet communications options, location is less a factor in providing access. The better strategy will be to consolidate holdings and staff into larger, more efficient facilities that provide better environments for records preservation and for staff activity...We will consolidate archival holdings in a few repositories."

Facility consolidations are a given (page 33):

"To meet the objectives above [by 2006, 100% of NARA holdings will be in appropriate space], NARA plans to establish new regional records facilities with archival environments, expand storage capacity, and phase out some existing inadequate regional records facilities. ...NARA plans to provide equal or better research access to genealogical resources, e.g., establish Genealogical Research Centers in cases where regional facilities are closed due to facility consolidations."

NARA has set a series of targets it hopes to meet in order to accomplish some of the goals in their strategic plan. Some of the more interesting ones are: (1) by 2007, 100% of NARA record holdings will be described

at the series or collection level in an online catalog; (1999: 10%; 2002: 85%); (2) by 2007, 50% of customer contacts for NARA information and services will be made electronically; (2002: 40%); and (3) by 2002, 85% of written requests will be answered within 10 working days, 95% of items requested in the research rooms will be furnished within one hour of request and 99% of self-service customers will be assisted within 15 minutes of signing into a research room.

The Space Plan web site can be accessed at <[www.nara.gov/nara/spceplan.html](http://www.nara.gov/nara/spceplan.html)>. You can e-mail comments about the plan to <[space.plan@arch2.nara.gov](mailto:space.plan@arch2.nara.gov)>, or you can write to: Space Plan, Room 4100 (NPOL), NARA, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001.

### Meeting with Sharon Roadway

The day after the meeting, I had the opportunity to speak with Sharon Roadway at length when I went to the San Bruno facility to do some research. She remembered me from the meeting as I had asked a question that stuck with her. I asked her if she had a few minutes to speak with me. Our conversation of a few minutes turned into an hour.

I asked her about the limestone caves in Missouri, and she said that they were not up to archival standards. No material of this type is presently being stored there. The possibility exists that they could be brought up to these standards in the future. In fact, the only facility in the entire country that meets these tough standards is at College Park, MD. I wanted to know what kind of new facilities would be made available to the public when the consolidation process occurs and some older facilities are closed. She said that NARA was hoping that some of the new research rooms could be run in partnership with state and local archives as well as libraries and universities.

I then asked her a follow-up question to the one I posed at the meeting. I was concerned about who would decide which records were to be thrown out. I mentioned that before NARA was created in 1934, the Librarian of Congress, under the auspices of the Useless Papers Act, decided what to toss. For instance, he threw out a lot of postal records, a type of record that other countries like Canada and England kept. At the meeting the NARA response was that a series of archivists reviews any materials that may be discarded. Any material that is to be disposed of is then declared to be waste paper and is recycled. In private, I asked her why there was no deaccessioning mechanism in place. She said that there was no budget for it. There was no way for any material that was going to be discarded to get into private hands. She said however, they were trying to streamline the accessioning process.

*Continued on page 16*

## Make Your Voice Heard!

Write, telephone, fax, e-mail to your elected officials. Listed below is contact information for Federal officials. Let them know your feelings about the proposed closure of NARA facilities. For those not listed, check the following web sites for contact information for your senator/congressional representative: <[www.senate.gov/senator/state.html#c](http://www.senate.gov/senator/state.html#c)> and <[clerkweb.house.gov/mbrcmtee/members/mbrsstate/uolmfram.htm](http://clerkweb.house.gov/mbrcmtee/members/mbrsstate/uolmfram.htm)>

President Bill Clinton  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20500  
Phone: (202) 456-1414  
Fax: (202) 456-2461  
<[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)>

Vice President Al Gore  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20500  
Phone: (202) 456-1414  
Fax: (202) 456-2461  
<[vice.president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:vice.president@whitehouse.gov)>

### Senate

Senator Barbara Boxer  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3553  
<[senator@boxer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@boxer.senate.gov)>

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3841  
Fax: (202) 228-3954  
<[senator@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov)>

### House of Representatives

Rep. Tom Campbell  
2442 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0515  
(202) 225-2631

Rep. Gary A. Condit  
2245 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0518  
(202) 225-6131

Rep. Calvin M. Dooley  
1201 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0520  
(202) 225-3341

Rep. John T. Doolittle  
1526 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0504  
(202) 225-2511

Rep. Anna G. Eshoo  
308 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0514  
(202) 225-8104

Rep. Sam Farr  
1117 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0517  
(202) 225-2861

Rep. Vic Fazio  
2113 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0503  
(202) 225-5716

Rep. Wally Herger  
2433 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0502  
(202) 225-3076

Rep. Tom Lantos  
2217 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0512  
(202) 225-3531

Rep. Barbara Lee  
2108 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0509  
(202) 225-2661

Rep. Zoe Lofgren  
318 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0516  
(202) 225-3072

Rep. Robert T. Matsui  
2308 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0505  
(202) 225-7163

Rep. George Miller  
2205 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0507  
(202) 225-2095

Rep. Nancy Pelosi  
2457 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0508  
(202) 225-4965

Rep. Richard W. Pombo  
1519 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0511  
(202) 225-1947

Rep. George P. Radanovich  
213 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0519  
(202) 225-4040

Rep. Frank Riggs  
1714 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0501  
(202) 225-3311

Rep. Fortney Pete Stark  
239 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0513  
(202) 225-5065

Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher  
1440 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0510  
(202) 225-1880

Rep. Lynn C. Woolsey  
439 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-0506  
(202) 225-5161

## SFBA JGS Family Finder Update

Below are the surnames and towns being researched by our newest members. 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: SFBA JGS, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147, or send e-mail to: <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com>.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
Antell	Ukraine; Seattle, WA	Weisfield, Suzanne
Barzily/Barsily/Barzilov	Hungary; Scotland; New York, NY	Goodwin, Corin Barsily
Basok	Russia; Scotland; New York, NY; Providence, RI	Goodwin, Corin Barsily
Coney	Kolmar, Germany; San Francisco, CA	Weisfield, Suzanne
DuBoff	Russia; New York, NY	Goodwin, Corin Barsily
Eliason	Liepaja, Latvia	Graff, Theo
Eychler/Eichler	Poland	Graff, Theo
Gassenheimer	Germany; Washington, D.C.	Graff, Theo
Gertler/Giertler	Checiny, Kielce, Poland	Graff, Theo
Goldberg	Lodz, Poland; Chicago, IL; San Francisco, CA	Weisfield, Suzanne
Graff/Graf	Liepaja, Latvia	Graff, Theo
Gusdorf	Germany; Washington, D.C.	Graff, Theo
Jacobson	Tukums, Latvia	Jacobson, Jerry
Jager	Poland	Graff, Theo
Janov/Janovsky/Janis	Jonova, Lithuania	Jacobson, Jerry
Kanefsky/Kanevsky	Russia; Ukraine; New York, NY; Long Island	Goodwin, Corin Barsily
Levy	Germany; Washington, D.C.	Graff, Theo
Miller	Bialystok, Poland	Jacobson, Jerry
Mistroff	Russia; New York, NY	Goodwin, Corin Barsily
Nordman	Switzerland; St. Louis, MO; San Francisco, CA	Weisfield, Suzanne
Offenbach	Poland; San Francisco, CA	Weisfield, Suzanne
Ohrenbach/Ohrbach	Mszczonow, Zyrardow, Poland	Graff, Theo
Pach	Germany; Washington, D.C.	Graff, Theo
Plotnick	Bialystok, Poland; Janova, Lithuania	Jacobson, Jerry
Rivkin	Russia; Ukraine; New York, NY; Long Island	Goodwin, Corin Barsily
Rosenzweig	Jonova, Lithuania	Jacobson, Jerry
Rubenstein/Rubinsztajn	Tarczyn, Grodzisk, Poland	Graff, Theo
Solomon	Hamburg, Germany; St. Louis, MO; Chicago, IL	Weisfield, Suzanne
Sussman	Tukums, Latvia	Jacobson, Jerry
VanSanten	Holland; New York, NY; PA; MD	Goodwin, Corin Barsily
Weisfield	Kamenets-Podolsk, Ukraine; Seattle, WA	Weisfield, Suzanne
Weiss	Hungary; New York, NY; Fords, NJ	Goodwin, Corin Barsily
Yager	Poland	Graff, Theo
Zimmerman	Sokal, Ukraine	Zimmerman, Michèle

*More from the Seminar...*

## **Historic Jewish Record Indexing Agreement Signed with Polish State Archives**

Judy Baston

Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) has reached an historic agreement with the Polish State Archives to index Polish Jewish records. JRI-Poland Coordinator Stanley Diamond of Montreal formally announced the new initiative, called the Polish State Archive Project at the Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy held in Los Angeles in July.

The Project is the result of a 1997 agreement between JRI-Poland and the Polish State Archives to create an Internet-searchable database of previously inaccessible 19<sup>th</sup> century Jewish birth, marriage, and death records of Poland. The new initiative builds on JRI-Poland's original and ongoing initiative to index those Jewish vital records of Poland previously microfilmed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS).

The LDS microfilm coverage of Jewish records from Poland generally ends between 1860 and 1870, and contains about two million records. The new agreement covers approximately five million additional records for the latter part of the 19th century. In some cases, this indexing includes records in registers from earlier years that were not included in the LDS microfilming.

The first eight towns for which these indices were made available are Brok, Chorzele, Nasielsk, Nur, Ostrow Mazowiecka, Przasnysz, Pultusk, and Wyszkwow. The indexing is planned on an archive-by-archive basis, determined by the Polish State Archives. The late 19<sup>th</sup> century records for 10 more towns in the area around Mlawa are expected to become available in the early fall.

The JRI-Poland database enables all those with Jewish ancestry to make an initial search through indexes for their family's records using the Internet. Once entries are located, the researcher can obtain copies of the actual records by ordering and viewing the identified microfilm at a Mormon Family History Center. For the records *not* filmed by the LDS, researchers can now order them directly from the Polish State Archives. Such records have never before been made accessible to the public. A form for ordering records listed in these new indices may be downloaded from the JRI-Poland Web Site.

Unlike the indexing of the records in the LDS microfilms, which utilizes volunteers organized into

Shtetl CO-OPs for individual towns, this new project requires fund-raising to cover the costs of photocopying and transliteration work, which is carried out by JRI-Poland's team of professionals in Poland. The Jewish Records Indexing - Poland website may be viewed at <[www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl](http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl)>.

Note: At present there are approximately 40 Shtetl CO-OPs and 300 volunteers. There are, however, more than 400 additional towns to address. If you are interested in forming or joining a co-op, please contact JRI-Poland transliteration coordinator Hadassah Lipsius at <[keshher@aol.com](mailto:keshher@aol.com)>.

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## **Polish Business Directories to be Indexed and Accessible**

Twentieth century information about Jews in Poland will be available to researchers in the new Polish Business Directories Project, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) announced at the 18<sup>th</sup> Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Los Angeles in July.

"The Business Directories of the 1920s and 1930s provide much information about the men and women in most ancestral towns, and how they earned a living," Coordinator Deborah Baseman noted. "There are thousands of pages documenting residents in current and former areas of Poland, including those that are now in the Vilna area of Lithuania, the Grodno area of Belarus, and some parts of the western Ukraine."

"For some researchers, a listing in a Business Directory may be the only reference they can find to their family in more contemporary material. For others, it could be the key to finally learning where scattered branches of their family lived."

Business directories typically include the name of the business or proprietor and his or her occupation, and sometimes the address or street name. They list occupations ranging from doctor and banker to midwife and stall-operator at the weekly marketplace.

In preparation for the project, many of the common occupations have been translated into English from the Polish and French that is used in the listings, and a template has been designed for data entry. Entries will be consolidated into a single searchable database on the JRI-Poland website.

Volunteers will obtain copies of the business directory pages, enter data into the template and submit the completed file to the project coordinator. For further information, contact: Deborah Baseman, JRI-Poland Business Directory Project Coordinator at <[dbaseman@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dbaseman@ix.netcom.com)>.

<b>LOCAL RESOURCES</b>
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## Do You Need the 1890 Census?

By George and Harriet Anderson, *The Livermore Roots Tracer*, July 1998

All of us who use the census for genealogy find out sooner or later that the one we need most for a particular family is the one for 1890 – the one that burned. The LDS Family History Center in San Bruno has done the Bay Area a big favor by making available to the public 974 microfilm rolls of state censuses for that time period. The table below also identifies census substitutes at the National Archive in San Bruno, the Sutro Library and the Oakland Family History Center.

### Catalog of Federal Census Substitutes at LDS Family History Center of San Francisco

975 Sneath Lane, San Bruno, Tel: (650) 873-1928. Hours: Wed., Thu., Sat. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Wed. 6:30 - 9 p.m.

State	Year	Locality	Rolls of Film	LDS FHC, San Bruno	Nat'l. Archives, San Bruno	Sutro Library
CA	1897	Los Angeles		X		X
	1897	San Jose		X		X
	1899	San Diego		X		X
CO	1885	State	All 8		X	
FL	1885	State			X	
HI	1890	Except Oahu		X		
	1896	Oahu		X		
IA	1885	State	All 95	X		
	1895	State	All 122	X		
KS	1885	State	All 151	X		X
	1895	State	All 201	X		
MI	1884	State (part)	20	X		
	1894	State (part)	22	X		
MN	1885	State	All 28	X		
	1895	State	All 59	X		
NE	1888	State	All 56			X
	1888	State	9 of 56		X	
NJ	1885	State	All 45	X		
	1895	State	All 57	X		
NM	1885	Territory	All 6		X	X
NY	1890	NYC Police	All 59	X		
	1892	Upstate	50	X		
ND	1885	(extract)		X		
OK	1890	Territory		X <sup>(1)</sup>		
PA	1890	(extract)	Book, Schuylkill Co. only		X	
RI	1885	State	All 13	X		X
SD	1885	Dakota Territory	All 2			X
	1895	A few counties		X		X
WA	<sup>(2)</sup>	A few counties	20			X
WI	1895	State <sup>(3)</sup>				X

(1) Also at LDS FHC, Oakland. (2) Various dates from 1857-1892. (3) Heads of families only.

*Summer Seminar, cont'd. from page 8*

minutes; synagogue records; political papers; commercial associations; landsmanshaft papers; and papers of Yiddish writers. YIVO also holds papers relating to the Council of Yeshivas in Vilna; some HIAS records; and some documents from the Joint Distribution Committee. Collections are also detailed in *A Guide to Jewish Genealogical Resources in New York*, edited by Estelle Guzik.

YIVO's landsmanshaft archives include materials for a few hundred societies. The collection includes banners, ritual objects, etc., as well as papers. At one point, there were several thousand such societies in New York City. (Baker recommends the *Jewish Communal Directory*, 1918 and the *American Jewish Yearbook – 1908* for listings.)

The photograph archive totals approximately 100,000 images, most of which are identified. Of the remainder, at least provenance is known. Most are from 20<sup>th</sup> century Eastern Europe, with some from the 1890s. A videodisk and CD-ROM have been developed containing approximately 16,000 images. These media are only viewable at YIVO, and are searchable by keyword. The collection also includes postcards.

The YIVO Library contains yizkor books, many types of encyclopedias (including rabbi's); maps; materials for identifying shtetls; and Holocaust resources including the *Register of Jewish Survivors* published in 1945 containing 58,000 names and dozens of printed surname lists from Poland.

The HIAS records include:

- Ellis Island records 1905-1923 – “troublesome cases” such as deportation, illness, and detention;
- Organizational files;
- Case files after 1937 (mostly 1945 – 1950);
- Index cards of arrivals 1909 – 1979 (approximately 110 reels of microfilm); and
- Photos relating to HIAS – mostly not of individuals.

Baker identified the greatest challenge to research at YIVO as the language barrier. Most of the materials are not in English. Also keep in mind that the YIVO staff cannot perform research for you nor act as translators, although a list of freelance researchers and translators can be provided. YIVO does not hold vital records, ship passenger lists, naturalization records or census data.

Currently, YIVO is in temporary quarters at 555 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, in New York City, (telephone: (212) 246-6080, fax: (212) 292-1892), while a new facility is being prepared. The anticipated opening of this new building is 1999. During this period, some materials may be warehoused offsite. If

you plan to visit YIVO, it is recommended that you call prior to your arrival and ask that particular materials of interest to you be brought to the West 57<sup>th</sup> Street facility.

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On the first full day of the Seminar, a panel was presented, on the major **Judaica Libraries in Los Angeles**. These valuable resources are just a quick, inexpensive flight from those of us in the Bay Area.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center Library & Archives, (9760 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, (310) 553-9036, <[www.wiesenthal.com](http://www.wiesenthal.com)>), was founded in 1978 with 50 books. The initial mandate for the growing collection was to focus on all facets of the Holocaust and pre-war Jewish life. In 1993, the mission was expanded to include issues of racism, diversity, human rights, tolerance, and social justice.

Today there are 40,000 books in the collection, 250-300 yizkor books, and 300 magazine subscriptions. The Center is beginning to receive English translations of some yizkor books as those who commission the work are donating copies. The Center collects as many lists as possible, especially for the period 1930 – World War II, including telephone books, the five-volume Lodz Ghetto lists, and the Gedenkbuch. The photo archive contains 35,000 images, including 5,000 photos of the Kovno Ghetto. There are plans to digitize the photo collection. The Center will be a repository of the Shoah Foundation video testimonies. An online catalog of the entire collection is anticipated shortly.

The UCLA Jewish Studies Collection, (*Charles Young Research Library*, (310) 825-2930, and *Henry J. Bruman Map Library*, (310) 825-3135, both located at 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles), contains 180,000 books of which 80,000 are in Hebrew and 20,000 in Yiddish. The yizkor book collection numbers more than 500 volumes.

The Library holds 15-20 old Russian-Jewish periodicals; *The Forward*, 1897 – 1989; periodicals from Jewish communities worldwide; Russian business directories; and more. A sizeable Sephardic collection is maintained. The entire library catalog is searchable online through MELVYL. Approximately one-third of the library collection is in remote storage. If you are planning a visit, it is recommended that you call ahead to determine where the materials are that interest you.

The map library contains the fourth-largest collection of maps in the U.S. Holdings include gazetteers, atlases, and aerial photographs. The collections are mainly post-1945 publications, although some older works are available.

*Continued on page 16*

*Summer Seminar, cont'd. from page 15*

The University of Judaism, Ostrow Library, (15600 Mulholland Drive, Los Angeles, (310) 440-1238), began as a Judaica Library and now offers an undergraduate program, graduate studies and a rabbinical school. The library contains approximately 115,000 volumes, 40% of which are in Hebrew. The yizkor book collection includes more than 300 volumes. Complete runs of the *London Jewish Chronicle*, *Palestine/Jerusalem Post* and *HaEretz* are available on microfilm. As of 1988, 1.5 million newspaper clippings on topics of a Jewish nature had been collected.

The Library still uses a card catalog, and anticipates replacing it with an online catalog in about a year. A 15-page list of holdings which may be useful for genealogy is available. Some of the collection can be borrowed through inter-library loan.

Hebrew Union College, Frances-Henry Library, (3077 University Avenue, Los Angeles, (213) 749-3426)

was established in 1875 to support the educational programs and faculty research of the rabbinical school. The Library is "conducive to browsing" and contains approximately 250 yizkor books. The entire collection has more than 100,000 volumes, 5,000 reels of microfilm and the library subscribes to 230 periodicals. The collection includes works on Holocaust studies; Biblical studies; Jewish Californiana; American Jewish history and local/city Jewish histories; synagogue records and organizational minutes; Jewish business records; and cemetery records. Microfilmed periodicals include the *Baltimore Jewish American*, the *Boston Hebrew Observer*, the *Cleveland Jewish News*, the *Iowa Jewish News*, *The Forward*, and the *San Francisco Weekly Gleaner* (1857 - 1862).

The Library is part of a 4-campus collection (New York, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Jerusalem) which holds more than eight million pages of documentation.

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*NARA, cont'd. from page 11*

### **NARA Forced to Compete with Private Record Storage Companies**

She brought up a program I had never heard of, called Reimbursable 2000. Congress has passed a law that allows NARA to charge outside agencies rent for the storage of their temporary records effective the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000 (which begins 10/1/1999). These outside agencies will be able to use private sector storage facilities (as long as there are no security or privacy issues), so NARA will have to make their storage rates competitive. Monies generated from this source will go into a revolving fund. She said that the first thing this money will be used for is to replace all the microform equipment in the research room. The good news is that the money will not go into the National Archives Trust Fund (discussed below). One potential downside is that the budgets/appropriations for these outside agencies will have to be increased to cover the storage costs. She thought that this could have some kind of ripple affect on the overall budgeting process. The revenue generated under this program would dovetail with NARA's Strategic Plan. (Page 18): "In consultation with Federal agencies, the Congress, the courts, and the Office of Management and Budget, we will develop alternative approaches to funding record center storage and retrieval services so that the needs of Federal agencies for record center space can be met without draining our funds for other services."

### **The National Archives Trust Fund**

I was interested in why the equipment was so old in the research room at the San Bruno facility. For

instance, the two microform printers were purchased during the 1988-1989 fiscal year. I wondered why the monies collected for copies made onsite as well as fees charged for mail/e-mail requests were not being used to upgrade the equipment. It turns out that all these monies are sent to the National Archives Trust Fund. Some of this money does trickle back to the regional facilities to cover some of the labor costs associated with fulfilling record requests. Most of the money, though, does not.

The Fund was established by Congress in 1941 to receive gifts or bequests to finance specific projects. In 1948, the National Archives Act was amended to allow the Fund to collect the proceeds from the sale of reproductions of records. That year the Rockefeller Foundation gave a gift for financing the reproduction of records that allowed NARA to begin its records reproduction program and effectively to turn the Fund into a revolving fund. The Fund Board consists of the Archivist of the U.S. as chairman, and the Secretary of the Treasury and the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities as members. The Funds' activities include: servicing requests for copies of records; supporting the National Archives microfilm publication program; supporting the compilation and publication of catalogs, books and guides; supporting the operation of museum shops in the National Archives Building and the Presidential libraries; and supporting educational programs.

## COMPUTER/ONLINE NEWS

### The Internet FamilyFinder by Family Tree Maker Online

Bernard Kouchel, *JewishGen*

Family Tree Maker Online now hosts the Internet FamilyFinder search engine for surnames at <[www.familytreemaker.com/iffintro.html](http://www.familytreemaker.com/iffintro.html)>. Enter a name and the IFF searches hundreds of thousands of genealogy pages across the Internet and gives you links to likely matches. Sites located may include:

- Internet Web pages, such as indexes, records, and family histories that others have entered; home pages containing trees, Ahnentafel, and ged2html files; and family association and name association pages, just to name a few.
- Family Tree Maker Online Message Boards, Classified Ads, User Home Pages, reports on User Home pages, and other content.

### State Archives of Michigan

SMCGS Newsletter, April 1998

This is a great site. Not only does it contain what you would expect, but, it has a 1994 Michigan County Clerk's Genealogy Directory. Click on a county and you'll find address, phone number, fax number, hours open, copy fees, and descriptions of available records. Wouldn't this be great for every state?

The Archives also publishes a series of circulars that describe the various type of records for poor homes, land records, licensed professions, mental health records, etc. Questions about the availability of mental health records come up often on electronic mailing lists. Even if you are not researching Michigan local records, you might want to read this information to see what might be available in another state. The following pages give information on their reference policies: <[www.sos.state.mi.us/history/archive/reference.html](http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/archive/reference.html)>, <[www.sos.state.mi.us/history/archive/archgene.html](http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/archive/archgene.html)>, and <[www.sos.state.mi.us/history/archive/circular.html](http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/archive/circular.html)>.

### Missouri State Archives

Mike Ridker, *JewishGen*

The Missouri State Archives has published *A Guide to County and Municipal Records on Microfilm*. Research and copies of documents can be requested in person or by writing to: Missouri State Archives, P.O. Box 778, Jefferson City, MO 65102; by fax at (573)-526-7333/4, or send e-mail to <[archref@mail.sos.state.mo.us](mailto:archref@mail.sos.state.mo.us)>. Their Web site is <[mosL.sos.state.mo.us/gov-ser/arch.html](http://mosL.sos.state.mo.us/gov-ser/arch.html)>.

### Jewish Communities of the World

The World Jewish Congress and Virtual Jerusalem have united to create a fascinating Web site, Jewish Communities of the World, at <[www.virtual.co.il/communities/wjcbook/index.htm](http://www.virtual.co.il/communities/wjcbook/index.htm)>. Information on the Jewish presence in 120 countries is provided, in categories including demographics, history, community, culture and education, religious life, and Israel. Contact information is provided and you are encouraged to submit additional information via e-mail.

### Comparing Genealogical Software

Phyllis Kramer, *JewishGen*

At the Genealogy Software Springboard Web site, <[www.toltbbs.com/~kbasile/software.html](http://www.toltbbs.com/~kbasile/software.html)>, users are encouraged to list the pros and cons of different genealogy software. Manufacturers provide list prices, features, costs, and downloadable demos. Links to software manufacturer Web sites are also provided.

Note that in some instances the version of a software package discussed may no longer be commercially available, as upgrades and the software industry evolve. For example Family Tree Maker 3.4 is reviewed, although version 5.0 was recently released. A negative issue listed about a particular program may have been addressed in a later version. Programs discussed on the site in mid-August included:

Visual Roots 1.1  
Family Gathering 1.0  
Roots IV 1.2  
Ancestral Quest 2.0  
The Master Genealogist/DOS 1.2 and Win 2.0  
Family Origins 5.0  
Family Tree Maker 3.4  
Brothers Keeper, for Win  
Reunion 4  
Personal Ancestral File (DOS and Mac)  
Family Treasures 3.16  
Cumberland Family Tree 1.57  
Family Matters 2.42b

### Ship Manifest Computer Project

*JewishGen*

The Statute of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation has launched a project to create a computer database of ALL ship manifests for vessels arriving in New York between 1892 and 1924 (that means 17 million immigrants will be entered into the database). For more information visit the Web site at: <[www.ellisland.org/history.html](http://www.ellisland.org/history.html)>.

## JewishGen at the Summer Seminar

by Susan King

For those who were not at the conference in Los Angeles, it indeed was remarkable and exciting. JewishGen made several major announcements, including these:

The Family Tree of the Jewish People, online version, accessible from <[www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)>, was presented. This version currently houses only data directly sent to JewishGen. It will take some time before all the data already submitted to IAJGS and Beth Hatefusoith can be incorporated. As with most of our projects, FTJP will go through a few evolutionary periods before it becomes what we all want it to be. But why wait? The online version will be updated constantly as submissions are received. There is a one to two-week lag time from the date of submission until we have the data imported in the engine. Our long-term goal is to automate the imports.

ShtetlSchleppers: In our ongoing mission to "preserve our history for future generations," JewishGen will launch a series of trips to ancestral shtetls. The purpose of these trips will be to document and bring back as much information as possible, to be included on the JewishGen Web site. JewishGen will be working directly with travel wholesalers and vendors and is also looking for seasoned volunteers to lead the groups. A brochure is available at <[www.jewishgen.org/shtetlschleppers/](http://www.jewishgen.org/shtetlschleppers/)>.

The JewishGen 1997 Annual Report, along with 1996 comparative numbers has been made available on our Web site. It basically outlines what we did and how we did it. Our accomplishments are truly based on the knowledge and dedication of a 100% volunteer team! It is truly a joy to work with all our volunteers.

You might also begin to think about the "things" you have stashed away, yizkor books, pictures and information from a trip to your ancestral shtetl, those documents you have filed in "piles" which may contain information from which others could benefit. As we move into the coming year, JewishGen will be planning a major grass roots effort to organize and manage the volumes of information we have all been hiding. It is incumbent on all of us to work together to "preserve our history for future generations." JewishGen is committed to this end ... as our direction and focus will certainly demonstrate. For those who came to Los Angeles prepared, we thank you. The Yizkor Project is "reeling" from the donations of material some of you pulled out of your closets. There will be a host of new ShtetlLinks pages online as soon as we have the chance to get the pictures uploaded to the site. We are well on our way, mission in hand, to accomplish some pretty incredible goals ...thanks to you!

## Software: Ultimate Family Tree

by Dana L. Kurtz

Ultimate Family Tree (UFT) by Palladium Interactive, offers a significant new option in genealogy software. Where to begin with this extensive product that would certainly serve a detail-oriented biographer? A truly complete picture of its features would require many pages and many more hours of experimentation. So, I'll stick with those features I think are fundamental.

Data Entry – When you begin a new file, UFT presents an empty record which is fairly self-explanatory. In this record, enter the name of the individual and parents. Select a button at the bottom to add spouse, children, siblings, and events. As shown in the graphic below, for each individual there are three buttons. "More" leads to fields for name information, address and mailing list utility (including home page!), medical information, and linked multimedia files. "Text" provides free-text fields for biographical text, research notes and footnotes. "Evidence" (described below) allows entry of the source of your data.

Everything that happens during an individual's life is an Event, including birth, marriage, and death. When you add an event, a pick-list is presented with more than 160 choices. UFT seems to have covered all the bases, including events specific to Jews, Mormons, slaves, and others. The extensive list includes each census, police jury minutes, military and Holocaust events, a brit milah and a get! Events have three free-text notes fields: Text, Footnote, and Research Notes.

Note that parents are not presumed to be married unless a marriage event is created for them. Details can be filled in later, but the event itself must be established.

Evidence – UFT's strength is in the recording of Evidence, that is, source information. Evidence fields are available for every event and individual. There are nearly 45 pre-defined source types such as Interview, Article, Census, and Ship Record. Each has components such as Author, Title, Volume, Date, and Page.

You can also evaluate the quality of the source. Consistency, Directness, and Origin of the evidence can be rated and text can be entered in an evaluation conclusion field. Normal and Advanced editing modes are available. Advanced offers many more options including rating the strength of evidence, and text footnotes. In Advanced Editing, you can separately evaluate the accuracy of the day, month, or year of an event. Whew! (The setting can be toggled on and off to display or hide these Evidence details.)

None of these fields are mandatory, however using them imposes good organizational habits such as noting the time, date, place, people, and other circumstances for each piece of information recorded. If you take

your laptop to an archive, entering the microfilm reel numbers at the same time as your findings is easy. Personally, I prefer to take notes longhand, so I am not at risk of a computer crash or inaccurate typing. What if I type "1841" instead of "1871" for a birth date? I'm less likely to make that mistake using a pencil. But I'm certainly in favor of those good habits!

**Charts & Reports** – Box and fan charts can be created. However, it appears that they are extremely limited in the amount and type of information that can be included for each individual. I was unable to display anything more than name, and birth and marriage, date and place. A maximum of two events can be displayed, and you can't choose which events. Similar restrictions seem to hold for descendant, ancestor, and other trees. This limitation of displayed information is a tremendous shortcoming if you use these types of charts to present a wide range of information. The chart styles are attractive, the variations of the fan chart in particular, although I could find no way to change the font.

Reports provide more flexibility. The Family Group Report is excellent and can include all events for each person as well as individual text notes. The Family Journal utilizes each event for an individual to create a narrative of the person's life. Best of all, these reports can be printed to a file and opened in a word processor for editing and embellishment. The ability to use the data as the foundation for a narrative is great. The Research Log and Task List could also prove to be extremely helpful, as long as you remember to keep them up to date.

**Multimedia and the Web** – Scanned images, audio and video clips, can be linked to each individual. Photo trees can be printed and slide shows presented. It's almost too easy to create a basic series of Web pages.

You should however, very seriously consider what information you put on the Web. Do you want your mother's maiden name, a frequently used password, available to anyone? What about other personal information about family members? With our eagerness to make connections, I urge you to err on the side of caution on this issue.

**GEDCOM** – I easily imported a Family Tree Maker (FTM) 3.4 file using GEDCOM, following the instructions in both the FTM and UFT manuals. Some editing of the source data is necessary to take advantage of the Evidence tools of UFT. I have seen no loss of data or data corruption.

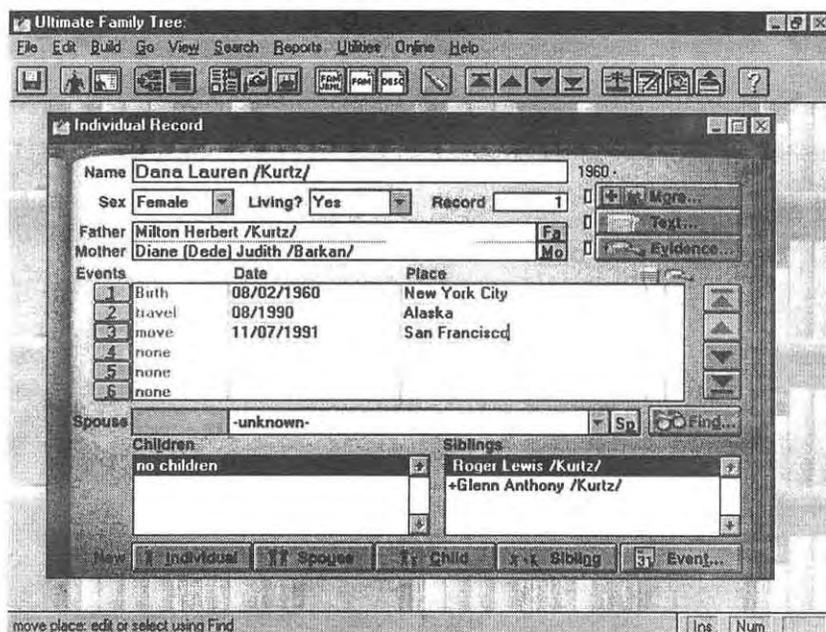
**Other Goodies** – An Event Library of historical events is included and can be modified. The list helps to place your relatives in context of the times in which they lived. Also, if you need to write to an archive for a birth, marriage or death record, the Records Requestor prompts you to fill in the name, date and place of the event and will generate a letter in the appropriate language (with English translation), often with mailing address. Form letters for archives in Lithuania, Poland, the United Kingdom and all 50 states are among those included. Of course, such a letter should ideally provide the names of parents, siblings and other data that might help make a positive identification. But the feature is still quite exciting.

Overall, this is an impressive tool. I was frustrated that the data entry screen does not use all the available screen space. Why make the user squint? But, navigation is very easy considering there are so many places to go! Until you've used the software a while and learned your way around, you may have to hunt to find the right place to put your information.

The bottom line is that your software should be suited to your interests and the type of research you do. If you are a serious researcher and enjoy collecting the facts and details, or you like to produce a family history in prose rather than displayed in a chart, this is a very good choice.

UFT is available in three flavors, with and without various add-ons such as tutorials and image manipulation software. List prices range from \$19.99 to \$59.99. The Basic and Deluxe versions are available for Windows and Macintosh, the Premier for Windows only. A 30-day free trial can be downloaded at <[www.uftree.com](http://www.uftree.com)>.

But wait! In November we'll review the newly released Family Tree Maker 5.0 from Brøderbund/Banner Blue. Please don't hesitate to submit your thoughts on any genealogy software.



# ZichronNote

# זְכֵרוֹנוֹת

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