



זכרון ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXV, Number 4

November 2005

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.**
Jewish Community High School, 1835 Ellis Street. Jewish Community Library open on second floor. **Free parking: enter parking area from Pierce Street.**
- Los Altos Hills:** **Monday, Library opens at 7 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.** Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road.
- Berkeley:** **Sunday, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.** Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Street, North Berkeley.

Sun. November 20, San Francisco: *Field Trip to the Holocaust Center of Northern California.* The Holocaust Center of Northern California has moved into its new home on Steuart Street in San Francisco. Come take a tour of the holdings of the HCNC and see all the valuable materials for your genealogy research. The tour is designed specifically for the SFBAJGS and our interests!

NOTE: Meeting location and time have changed. Meet at the Holocaust Center of Northern California, 121 Steuart Street. Please arrive by 11:30. Program begins at noon. The HCNC is located at 121 Steuart Street between Howard and Mission Streets in San Francisco. Public transit lines include MUNI: K, L, M, N, and BART (Embarcadero Station). Look for additional information on the SFBAJGS website, www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs.

Tentative Meeting Schedule for 2006

Sunday, January 15 – San Francisco	Sunday, July 16 – San Francisco
Sunday, February 19 – Berkeley	Sunday, August 6 or 27 (TBD) – Berkeley
Monday, February 6 – Los Altos Hills	Monday, August 21 – Los Altos Hills
Sunday, March 19 – San Francisco	Sunday, September 17 – San Francisco
Sunday, April 23 – Berkeley	Sunday, October 15 – Berkeley
Monday, April 17 – Los Altos Hills	Monday, October 16 – Los Altos Hills
Sunday, June 18 – Berkeley	Sunday, November 22 – San Francisco
Monday, June 19 – Los Altos Hills	December – no meeting

For the latest program information visit www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

More Genealogy Events of Interest on Page 4

ZichronNote

Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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

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Membership is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Dues are \$23 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: SFBAJGS, Membership, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147.

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President's Message Whither the Future?

by Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

With this issue of *ZichronNote*, the Society elections are upon us. This is a time for us to pause and think. It represents a time of change, a time to reflect on where we have been, what we are doing right, and what we could do better. Election time can also be an opportunity to pat ourselves on the back when things work out as planned.

In the wider world of genealogy there is much discussion about change and where we are going. Some JGS's in the United States have faltered and disbanded. Lack of membership and/or a lack of leadership are two of the reasons cited. Many others are discussing their future and how to survive and grow in this ever-changing world.

The JGS of St. Louis technically disbanded and reformed as a SIG (Special Interest Group) as part of the St. Louis Genealogy Society. In California we have a new JGS: JGS Conejo Valley. Its interim president is Jan Meisels Allen.

With all these thoughts in mind, it was not surprising to me that the challenges facing JGS's comprised a major topic at this year's conference in Las Vegas. JGS presidents or their representatives were asked to attend and offer solutions. If there was a checklist of things societies ought to be doing, you would be proud to know that the SFBAJGS had checked them all! This doesn't mean we can afford to be complacent; your Board is constantly looking at ways to meet the challenge of maintaining and increasing our membership.

There has also been some discussion about the future of the annual International Conferences. There's no doubt about it, this event is one that can only become more expensive as time goes by. With gas prices rising almost daily, who can predict what airline flights will cost in the future? As I write, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies is deliberating over where to hold the 2008 Conference.

Yet another thought that I have pondered is where will Jewish genealogy be in fifty years time? If one were to chart the incredible advances these past ten years, in terms of both technology and the creation of databases, the line would be well off the graph.

So how does the future look? What other records created in the United States will be made available on-line? We already have the federal censuses and a hodge-podge of state and local birth, marriage and death indexes. There is the Social Security Death

Continued on page 9

SOCIETY NEWS

Welcome, New Members

Sara Crystal..... scrapbasket@earthlink.net
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Linda Fine..... haiphi@msn.com
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**SFBAJGS Looks Forward
to 25th Anniversary**

As the SFBAJGS prepares to celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2006, the Board of Directors is looking for the members of longest standing. If you have been a member since 1991 or earlier, please let us know when you joined (to the best of your recollection).

Board member Shellie Wiener has volunteered to chair the celebration committee, and she is looking for your suggestions on how to mark this milestone. Please send her your suggestions. Contact Shellie at s_wiener@yahoo.com. She is also looking for volunteers who want to help out with the celebration.

As part of the celebration, *ZichronNote* will reprint some interesting articles and reminiscences from the early days. Please send your thoughts and memories to galleto@pacbell.net.

**Marin County Genealogical Society
Seeks Assistance with
Cemetery Transcriptions**

Over the past 25 years the Marin County Genealogical Society has published transcriptions of the stones and markers in every cemetery in Marin County except for the county's largest, Mt. Tamalpais Cemetery in San Rafael. Two years ago the group began work on that cemetery, and so far they have transcribed 2,500 to 3,000 names and dates from Mt. Tam.

There are two Jewish areas in the Mt. Tamalpais Cemetery in which the stones are mostly written in Hebrew, which the Marin County group is unable to read. The group is looking for volunteers who would like to assist with transcribing information from gravestones written in Hebrew. Anyone who is interested in volunteering for this project is asked to contact Jerry D. Moore at (415) 492-0361.

Slate of Officers for 2006-7

The SFBAJGS Board of Directors has accepted the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee. All the nominees are currently serving as officers and have agreed to run again and to serve again if elected. They include: President, Jeremy Frankel; Vice President, Rosanne Leeson; Secretary, James Koenig; Treasurer, Dana Kurtz; and Membership Chair, Larry Burghheimer.

All members will receive ballots in the mail and will be able to vote for the proposed slate. The ballots also include a write-in option. Ballots must be returned by December 31, 2005 to be counted.

**Bay Area Resource Guide,
Second Edition, Now Available**

The SFBAJGS recently published the Second Edition of "Jewish Genealogy Basics and Resource Guide for the San Francisco Bay Area." This edition totals 22 pages of useful information and will be a valuable addition to your genealogy resource library. Cost to members is \$3. The book can be purchased at any SFBAJGS Meeting. If you'd prefer to receive it by mail, add \$1 for postage. (Cost to non-members is \$5 plus \$1 postage.) Send your check, payable to "SFBAJGS" to: SFBAJGS Resource Guide, PO Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94117.

Renew Your Membership

This is a particularly good time to be a member in good standing of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society. The Society plans to make its 25th year an extraordinary one, with special events, presentations, and special editions of *ZichronNote*.

Your renewal envelope will arrive in your mailbox soon, so be sure to respond without delay. For only \$23 per year your membership is a great value.

CALENDAR, cont.

More Genealogy Events

State and National

Sun., Nov. 20, 10 a.m. ***Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento. Mass Jewish Emigration in the Early 20th Century.*** Stuart Tower will discuss his extensive research for his historical novel *The Wayfayers*, a story of 60 young Jewish men and women and their compelling march across 1,500 miles of Europe in the early 1900s. These “fusgeyers” were organized in an almost military fashion and developed a pioneer spirit of self-help. Tower lives in Southern California and has spoken at genealogical society meetings around the world. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento, CA. For more information visit: www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/, email jgs_sacramento@yahoo.com, or call (916) 486-0906 ext. 361.

Sun., Dec. 18, 10 a.m. ***Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento. Navigating the New York Census with Fewer Tears.*** Many of us had relatives in New York during the early part of the 20th century but obtaining census data about them was difficult. Now, thanks to genealogy Web pioneer Steve Morse (see www.stevemorse.org), things are a little easier. On December 18, you can be part of the first audience to hear about his newest one-step research focus: the New York state censuses for 1905, 1915 and 1925. In these censuses the information is arranged by Assembly District/Election District in the actual census microfilms, so having an address, rather than a name, is the key to finding your relative. You need to know the AD/ED where that person resided in the year the census was taken. Morse’s new one-step site for the New York City boroughs provides the means for converting the person’s address into an AD/ED pair. From there, you can go to the correct microfilm roll and find the census entry. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento, CA. For more information visit: www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/, email jgs_sacramento@yahoo.com, or call (916) 486-0906 ext. 361.

One-on-One Help with Your Family Tree at Jewish Community Library

Whether you’re trying to find your great-grandmother’s elusive town or your grandfather’s passenger manifest, take advantage of the Jewish Community Library’s extensive reference collection and Internet connection to countless searchable databases — together with one-on-one guidance from experienced genealogists. Longtime Library volunteer staffer Judy Baston and other veteran researchers from the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogy Society — including Ron Arons, Jeremy Frankel, Beth Galletto, Steve Harris and Marian Rubin — will help with brainstorming and problem-solving.

These help sessions will be held on the first Sundays of November and December, November 6, and December 4, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco. Enter the free parking in the building on Pierce between Eddy and Ellis.

Bring your materials and your questions to the Library for the sessions on the dates above. Registration is requested but not required; call (415) 567-3327, ext. 704. For more information email library@bjesf.org

**IAJGS Conference 2006
Calls for Presenters**

Gloria Berkenstat Freund, 2006 Conference Program Committee Chair

The 2006 International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies’ annual conference will be held at the Marriott Marquis in New York City from August 13 to 18, 2006.

Anyone interested in presenting papers at the conference should submit information through the Conference website at www.jgsny2006.org/call.cfm.

All abstract submissions must be submitted via the on-line abstract module process. Email submittals will not be accepted. The proposal deadline is December 1, 2005.

The decision to accept a submission will be heavily weighted toward presentations not given at previous IAJGS Conferences, that provide specific research methodology, and that include specific information for researchers to replicate the success of the presenter in acquiring information.

Sessions will be one hour and 15 minutes, with the last 15 minutes reserved for questions and answers.

Selected speakers will be notified no later than February 1, 2006.

Sentimental Journey: Finding Family in Old Hungary, Part I

by Vivian Kahn

Vivian Kahn, an almost first-generation American, was born in Manhattan. Her father was born in pre-World War I Hungary and immigrated to New York from what had just become the new nation of Czechoslovakia in 1921. Her mother was born on the Lower East Side after her parents arrived from formerly Hungarian communities that are now in Satu Mare and Maramures, Romania. Vivian, who arrived in the San Francisco Bay area from New York City in 1971, is Vice President for SIG Affairs of JewishGen and coordinator of JewishGen's Hungarian Special Interest Group. She lives in Oakland with her husband and son. When she's not searching for **MOSKOVITS**, **NEUMANN**, **KAHAN**, and **BERKOVICS** family members, Vivian is a land use planning consultant.

Once when I was very young I asked my father where he was born. "Kereszt," he replied. All I knew was that this place was somewhere in Hungary and that he had come to New York City with my grandmother and his five sisters and brothers sometime between the first and second world wars and after the death of my grandfather.

I loved horses and went riding with my dad in Pelham Bay Park. He said that when he was growing up he had a horse named Blackie. I was very impressed by my father's equestrian skills. He was able to stay on his horse when it reared up on its hind legs like Trigger. I was also very envious that when he was my age he had lived on a farm and had his very own horse.

My Father's Family

By the time I was six, both of my father's brothers had died. Max, the oldest, had a son who was much older than my brother and I. Our cousin's name was Victor, like my brother and our late grandfather. Uncle Max had been our father's business partner. We never got to know his son Victor because of some mysterious family dispute, but I remembered that my cousin was a lawyer who had an office on John Street in lower Manhattan.

Uncle Lou, the second oldest son, was a furrier and was married to Aunt Selma. They didn't have any children. Uncle Lou gave me three dogs fashioned out of scraps of leftover fur and stuffed with straw. Years later, I extracted the dogs' eyes before giving them to my own infant son.

My dad's oldest sister Blanche was also childless. She was a widow who lived with my grandmother on the upper floor of a duplex in Woodside, Queens. I was bored by my parents' visits to my grandmother and Aunt Blanche. The conversation was mostly in Hungarian, which I didn't understand, so I read or looked through a box of old pictures. "Who are all these people?" I asked. "They all died in the war," was the answer.

Visits to the New Jersey chicken farm where my Aunt Margaret and Uncle Eugene lived were much

more fun. George, their only son, had died in "the war" and we weren't supposed to mention his name. They hid his medals in the chicken coop. Aunt Margaret made pancakes with cottage cheese called *chremsel*, much better *chicken paprikas* than my mother's, and wonderful greasy biscuits called *pogacs*. Uncle Eugene never sat down to a meal without two bottles — one seltzer and the other red wine. They had lots of cats and an old picture of Uncle Eugene wearing a funny-looking uniform and a helmet with a point on top. Aunt Margaret used to save two-dollar bills that she would give to my brother and me before we left for home. Sometimes we would take a detour through New Brunswick on the way home so my father could visit a butcher shop that sold *kolbasy*, a paprika-spiced sausage that he enjoyed but couldn't find in New Rochelle where we lived. I desperately wanted to go live on the chicken farm so I could play with the kittens and help take care of the chickens.

Aunt Margaret had subscriptions to *Life* and *Look* magazines. While my parents talked about grown-up subjects I pored through the pile of magazines and read stories about the trial of a Nazi named Adolph Eichmann realizing that this had something to do with my parents' friends who wouldn't talk about horrible things that happened in Europe. One friend, Roszi, had numbers tattooed on her arm. Aunt Yetta, who came from Czechoslovakia and was not really my aunt but I loved her anyway, wouldn't speak German and hated Germans. My mother said that it was because the Nazis had killed all of her family. When Roszi and Izu and Yetta and Alex and all of my parents' other Hungarian friends got together, they listened to my father's Hungarian gypsy albums, ate *korozott* (spicy cheese spread) and *czirke paprikas* (paprika chicken), and spoke Hungarian.

Claire, my father's youngest sister and 14 years his junior, had two children. They were about the same age as my brother and me and were what we considered typical American kids who were just like us even though their mom, Claire, also spoke Hungarian.

My father also had a cousin Pearl, who lived on the Upper West Side and had a son named Mickey.

Continued on page 6

Journey, cont. from page 5

Compared to my mother's numerous relatives, including scores of Kahn and Berkowitz cousins and their Yiddish-speaking parents, my father's family seemed rather small — only four first cousins including George, who had died while serving in World War II, and the mysterious Victor, who had no contact with the rest of the family.

My Mother's Family

My mother's parents were also Hungarian but her parents had emigrated to the US before World War I and were living on the Lower East Side by the time my mother was born in 1909. My maternal grandmother Lottie seemed to understand Hungarian but she usually spoke Yiddish with my mother, which was completely unfamiliar to my father. Unlike my paternal grandmother Hermina, Lottie went to shul everyday. Before she came to visit, my mother would pull out the board on which she salted meat to make it kosher. We weren't supposed to tell grandma that after our Sunday afternoon visits we went to a Chinese restaurant on the Grand Concourse and ate barbecued spare ribs and shrimp with lobster sauce. We grew up calling bacon "fried meat" and, according to an old family story, my mother once threw a pan of the treif stuff out the window when her mother made an unexpected visit. My grandma Lottie couldn't understand why I was studying Hebrew. "You pray in Hebrew," she said, "and talk in Yiddish."

The Search Begins

I left home when I was 19 and was 25 when my dad died. We never again spoke about his family and I never asked him about the people whose pictures were in my grandmother's tin box. My mother had a few old pictures of my father's parents and others with cryptic annotations like "cousins or friends from Hungary??" Who were all of these happy young people in the

snapshots with my dad and his brothers and sisters?

By 1992 I had lived on the west coast for more than 20 years and had a son who was growing up with no cousins, aunts, and uncles within 2,500 miles. During a trip to Washington, DC, I made my first visit to the National Archives. It seemed time for him to know something about his roots. Moreover, family history was a topic that I could discuss with my mother without the acrimony that seemed to permeate most of our other conversations.

It took only about an hour to find the passenger manifest for my grandmother Hermina and my father's sisters. The record said that my grandmother was born in Sobrance, Blanka in Sabinov (formerly KisSzeben), Margit in Koish (which I now know was Kassa/Kosice), and Klary in Isouse (which has



My grandmother Hermina, great-aunts Rosza, Gitel, and Karolina, and my great-grandmother Sali Kohn Moskovits. Taken in Ungvar (now Uzhorod, Ukraine) probably about 1890.

remained a mystery to this day). The manifest also identified a relative named M. Moskovits in Michalovce. Could this be my great-grandfather Mordche haLevi? I also soon learned that Michalovce was the current name of Nagymihaly, where my father and his family were living in 1920 according to a note my mother had made on an old photo. Klary (Claire), by then the only one of my father's sibs who was still alive, couldn't recall the name of the place where she was born. After making

contacts with a Slovak genealogy group on-line, I soon found out that Kereszt was now Kristy, Slovakia, and was in eastern Slovakia, very close to the Ukrainian border,

By the mid-1990's I was an avid family researcher and JewishGen devotee. My mother was still living on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and during one visit I made contact with my second cousin Harriet, whose grandfather Moricz was the only one of my paternal grandmother's siblings to come to NYC. Harriet had a picture of an elderly man reading a newspaper. He bore a very strong resemblance to my grandmother Hermina. Moreover, the picture seemed vaguely familiar. Was it among the family pictures in

Continued on page 7

Journey, cont. from page 6

my grandmother's apartment? Harriet and I visited the cemetery in Riverside, New Jersey, where our mutual relatives are buried, and I soon found death certificates for my grandmother and her brother.

The Hungarian Connection

Harriet and I now knew that our great-grandparents were Markus (Mordche haLevi) Moskovits and Sali (Czili, Sara) Kohn. I went back through my stash of email messages and found one I remembered receiving from Paul Klein in Cleveland. He had written about a Markus Moskovits and Sali Kohn from Szobrancz who were in his family tree. Could there have been two couples in this town with the same name? Not likely. I contacted Paul and he put me in touch with Dusan and Pavel Simko, whose great-grandfather Gyula Moskovits had married Paul's relative Terez Klein and was the oldest son of Markus and Sali. At last! The Hungarian connection!

Dusan and Pavel's father, my second cousin Stefan Simko, then in his 80's, still lived in Kosice where his sons were born just after the war. Their uncle Ondrej had also survived along with a cousin Gyorgy, but Iren Moskovits Simko and Aliz Moskovits Kornis, my father's first cousins, had both perished. Dusan was also interested in family history and had written the script for a video about the Sixth Battalion, the Slovak version of the Hungarian labor force. His father had escaped from the Labor Battalion and gone to Bosnia to fight with the partisans. After the war Stefan had returned to Kosice with his wife Kovinka Curic, a Serb Orthodox. Stefan, a doctor who established the first burn clinic in eastern Slovakia, was reportedly the first Jew to be promoted to the rank of general in the Slovak army.

Another major breakthrough occurred a few months later. Aunt Claire (Klary), my father's youngest sister, and her husband Nat had both died and my cousin Carolyn sent an email saying that she had found a box of pictures and some letters that seemed to be in Hungarian. Was I interested? You bet! I arrived home after midnight from a late City Council meeting the night the box arrived and stayed up until almost 3 a.m. sorting the pictures.

The pictures in the box included one taken in Ungvar of an attractive dark-haired woman with five beautiful girls in matching dotted-Swiss dresses. I

recognized my grandmother as the pretty young girl with a straw hat and realized that the picture had probably been taken sometime between 1890 and 1895. Another picture, of my grandmother's sister Roszinka and her husband Deszo Markus, had been taken in Sepsiszentgyorgy (now Sfante Gheorgiu, Romania) in 1912. Another showed my great-aunt Karolina with her sons Bela and Imre, two of the young men my mother had tagged as possible cousins. Yet another picture, taken in Budapest, was of my great-grandmother when she was older. There were also pictures that I recognized as my great-grandfather Markus and some of still yet unidentified relatives. The box also included a pair of sepia images of gravestones labelled Viktor and *apaek* (parents) — the graves of my grandfather and my great-grandparents.



My paternal grandfather Viktor Neuman, whose grave I visited in Michalovce. The picture was taken in Miskolc in 1915.

A friend who had left Hungary after the 1956 uprising translated the letters, which had been sent to my grandmother from Michalovce and Budapest from 1946 to 1949. The letters were from my grandmother's sister Lina, the smallest girl in the picture with my great-grandmother Sara, and from Rosza and Deszo's daughter, my father's first cousin Piroska. Piroska had written to my grandmother in 1949 thanking her for sending a bundle of old clothes. Another letter said that she was in Budapest and had met a wonderful man named Bandi who had a teen-aged son.

Bela and Imre, whose pictures were in our family album, were the sons of my great-aunt Karolina Moskovits Grunvald. Imre, the oldest, survived the war and, according to a 1946 letter, was living in Bratislava and "doing well." One of the pictures showed Imre and Bela with their mother; another, which looked like it was taken after the war, showed a smiling Imre with his mother. Karolina's resemblance to my grandmother was stunning! A few weeks later, I found Bela's name on the Hungarian War Archives' list of Hungarian soldiers who died on the Russian front.

My father and my grandmother Hermina never went back to Michalovce to see the graves of my grandfather Viktor, who died on December 31, 1920, just after my father had left for New York City, and Hermina's parents Sali and Markus. They remained in Michalovce after their daughter

Continued on page 8

SFBAJGS Family Finder Update

The surnames and towns being researched by our newest members are listed below. This database is maintained for our membership. If you have a correction or update you would like us to know about, contact SFBAJGS at P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147, or send an e-mail to Larry Burgheimer at BurgAuer@aol.com.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
CALMANAS	Lespezi, Vurpar, Romania	Ravitz, Freyda
CRYSTAL	Grajewo, Lodz, Piortrkow, Warszawa, Poland; Paris, France; Newark, NJ	Crystal, Sara
DIENSTFRIEND	Krakow, Poland	Dean, Burton
EISNER	Austria/Poland	Dean, Burton
FEIGENBAUM	Ropczyce, Poland	
FRIDMAN	Josvainiai, Kaunas Area, Kedainiai, Zemaiciu Naumiestis, Lithuania	Crystal, Sara
GOLCHIN, GOLOVCHIN, GOLTZIN	Josvainiai, Kaunas Area, Kedainiai, Zemaiciu Naumiestis, Lithuania	Crystal, Sara
KALMANAS	Lespezi, Vurpar, Romania	Ravitz, Freyda
KRYSZTAL	Grajewo, Lodz, Piortrkow, Warszawa, Poland; Paris, France; Newark, NJ	Crystal, Sara
MILBERG	Lespezi, Romania	Ravitz, Freyda
NAFTEL, NAYVEDEL	Josvainiai, Kaunas Area, Kedainiai, Zemaiciu Naumiestis, Lithuania	Crystal, Sara
RABINOWITZ	Kaunas Area, Lithuania; Newark, NJ	Crystal, Sara
RADJMAN	Lodz, Poland	Crystal, Sara
RAVITZ, REWITZ	Debica, Ropczyce, Poland	Ravitz, Freyda
ROTHMAN	Lodz, Poland	Crystal, Sara

Journey, cont. from page 7

Hermina and grandchildren left for the U.S. and died in 1924 and 1925 respectively. In fact, no one in the family had ever visited these graves. It was time for me to make a visit.

I coordinated my travel plans with Hungarian SIG members Gabi Svatos and Linda Rakoff. For well over a year we exchanged email messages about the places we wanted to visit, hotels, archives, and the resources we needed to consult to plan this expedition. With a recommendation from H-SIG member Meyer Denn in Los Angeles, I also found Jan Hlavinka, a young historian from Medzilaborce, who was very interested in learning more about the prewar Jewish communities of eastern Slovakia.

On August 10, 2005, after many months of planning and research, my husband and I took off from Oakland for a three-week expedition to Hungary and Slovakia to find out more about the places where my father and paternal relatives once lived. The plan was to meet Linda in Budapest, travel to Miskolc and Kosice and then hook up with Gabi in Bratislava.

By now, after several requests to the Slovak archives and with the assistance of Jordan Auslander's colleagues in Uzhorod, I had learned that my paternal grandmother Hermina had at least eight brothers and sisters born in Szobrancz, Hungary, only one of whom, Moricz, my cousin Harriet's grandfather, had come to the U.S. with my grandmother. Gyula, Dusan and Pavel's great-grandfather who had died in Presov in 1926, was born in 1865 and was apparently the oldest. Karolina, who had written the letters from Michalovce in 1946, appeared to be the youngest. From the Yad Vashem database and other Holocaust sources I knew that both of Gyula's daughters had perished in the *Shoah* with their husbands. My father's cousin Piroska, Rosza's daughter, had survived Strasshof with her daughter Marika. What about all of my other cousins? If Piroska, Imre, Stefan, and Ondrej had survived, perhaps there were even more Neumann and Moskovits cousins.

Editor's Note: Watch for the second part of this continued story in a future issue of ZichronNote.

Genealogical Resources from the Godfrey Library

by Rosanne Leeson, SFBAJGS Vice President

The Godfrey Memorial Library is a wonderful online resource for American biography, genealogy and local history! One must join and receive a card and ID to access all of their databases, but the cost is only \$35 a year. They also publish a small newsletter with updated information and send out email notices from time to time. Their resources are overwhelming.

A Brief History of the Library

The Godfrey Memorial Library was founded by Fremont Rider and was incorporated in 1947 as a "...free public library of books, pamphlets, periodicals and other materials in the fields of American biography and genealogy and in cognate fields; to carry on and promote investigation and research in these fields and to publish the results thereof..."

A site was selected on a hill near Wesleyan University and construction for the new library began. Fremont Rider, the library's founder and first librarian, named the building for his brother-in-law, the late Brig. General Stuart Chapin Godfrey, who died in WWII. Just before the library opened on May 6, 1951 Rider's wife Grace (Godfrey) Rider passed away and the Library was dedicated jointly in memory of his wife and brother-in-law.

The Godfrey Library has continued with its mission of collecting and publishing genealogical materials. Its list of titles includes a number of genealogies, reference books and indexes, including the 226-volume American Genealogical-Biographical Index (AGBI). AGBI is still the largest genealogical reference set ever published.

President's Message, cont. from page 2

Index. What other federally or state-created records would be useful to have on-line? Now we pore over passenger manifests (made so much easier thanks to Stephen Morse). Will future genealogists have such a treasure trove to research now that everyone flies? Are such records being kept for the future? Or do airlines even keep them after a flight has landed?

We also have issues of privacy to deal with, which vary from country to country, and in America, from state to state. Will this make the lot of the genealogist harder in years to come? Some states are already restricting access to certain records. I personally think that very little harm is done by making these records available.

One aspect of the horror of Hurricane Katrina that was not highlighted in the mainstream press was the awful damage done to the archives in New

Godfrey Library Online Resources Portal

The Godfrey Portal puts the library's online resources together on one site. Guests are welcome to try the one-stop Portal by clicking on "Go" at www.godfrey.org/. Type in your Godfrey Library Barcode number — the password is Godfrey — click "Go" and you're in.

Guests have access to dozens of critical Internet resources (Vital Records Indexes; Newspaper Indexes; Military Indexes and more) but will NOT have access to databases licensed from HeritageQuest Online; EBSCO; Marquis Who's Who; etc. that are only available to individuals with a Godfrey Scholar library card. Check out their Home Page to get an idea of the resources available. Additions to the list are made frequently.

Anyone can register for a Godfrey Scholar library card. Call (860) 346-4375 to register and start using the online resources immediately. A person may also register online or by mail. A form is available on the library's home page. The annual fee is \$35.

In addition to a formidable number of databases the website also offers access to the library's catalog, which contains 72,171 documents.

Contact information for the Godfrey Memorial Library: 134 Newfield Street, Middletown, CT 06457-2534. Phone 860.346.4375, FAX 860-347-9874, Library@Godfrey.org.

Orleans and other cities. Go to www.coshrc.org/arc/hurricane-MSvisit-photos.htm to see the kind of damage wrought in the south.

While we in the San Francisco Bay Area won't have to suffer hurricanes, we know that an earthquake will wreak havoc that will be just as bad, if not worse. For the sake of future generations, so that they may benefit from all your hard work, do safeguard your research by transferring the information, photographs, cemetery pictures, etc. to CDs — and mailing them to a family member, preferably in another country. A few minutes work will save a lifetime of research. This is perhaps a somber note on which to conclude, but as Jews and genealogists, we have to be forever vigilant and make sure our history doesn't get flooded out or swallowed up by any disaster.

COMPUTER/ONLINE NEWS

Yizkor Book Reports for August and September 2005

Joyce Field, *JewishGen*, Yizkor Book Project Manager

All translations can be accessed through the alphabetical listings at www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/translations.html. New listings are flagged to make it easy to identify them.

We posted translations from two new books and two new entries and 13 updates during August 2005.

New books:

- Monasterzyska, Ukraine
- Sadagora, Ukraine

New entries:

- Iasi, Romania: Pinkas HaKehillot Romania
- Ryki, Poland: Pinkas HaKehillot (translation from English into Polish)

Updates:

- Bedzin, Poland
- Belchatow, Poland
- Brest, Belarus
- Czyzew, Poland
- Dabrowa Gornicza, Poland
- Dembitz, Poland (additional translations from English to Polish)
- Derechin, Belarus
- Dov Levin CV updated
- Gorodets, Belarus
- Minsk, Belarus: historical chapters
- Novogradok, Belarus
- Shumskoye, Ukraine
- Sokoly, Poland

We posted 11 updates during September 2005

- Belchatow, Poland
- Chelm, Poland
- Czyzew, Poland
- Dabrowa Gornicza, Poland
- Dembitz, Poland (additional translations from English to Polish)
- Gorodets, Belarus
- Minsk, Belarus: a significant portion of the history of Minsk has been translated
- Novogradok, Belarus
- Nowy Sacz, Poland
- Radzyn Podalski, Poland
- Zloczew, Poland

We are looking for additional English translations of yizkor books to put online. If you are interested in coordinating a translation project, please contact me privately. You will join a distinguished group of coordinators who have contributed to the Yizkor Book Project and you will make these precious books available to researchers worldwide who are not able to read these books in their original languages.

Please also consider making a donation to the yizkor book translation projects listed at

www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity/v_projectslist.asp?project_cat=23

Your contribution will help pay for the translation of these books, making their information available to all researchers.

Bessarabia Duma List Project Completed

Terry Lasky, *JewishGen*, Bessarabia Duma List Project Lead

The Bessarabia Duma List Project is now completed. Another 55,000+ names have been added, bringing the total to 128,000 names. The Bessarabia Duma project is a listing of all men over the age of 24 who were eligible to vote in the 1906 and 1907 Bessarabian Duma Election. The gubernia of Bessarabia includes all of Moldova and portions of the Ukraine (Black Sea area and the area along the northern border of Moldova). This database is a part of the JewishGen Romania Database, which is found at www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania.

Incredible Resource

by Henry Kaplan

The WPA Federal Writers Project Survey of State and Local Historical Records (1939), which lists Manhattan Synagogues with the name of each organization, the alternate names and English translation as well as the film record form number, card and year is an extraordinary resource. It can be found at home.att.net/~landmanshaft/synagogues.htm.

JRI Poland Announces Index of Vital Records from Biskupice, Lublin District

Robinn Magid, JewishGen, Lublin Archives Project Coordinator Jewish Records Indexing - Poland

The Jewish Records Indexing - Poland project is pleased to announce that we've recently developed an index of the Jewish vital records issued in Biskupice, Lublin District, Poland from the last half of the 19th century through 1904. Biskupice is about 10 miles from Lublin and Piaski. These records are kept in the Lublin branch of the Polish State Archives and are not available through the Mormon Library. The records indexed include: 1862-1904 births, 1859-1904 marriages, and 1863-1904 deaths. The 50 surnames most commonly found in the Biskupice Jewish records during this period are: Achterman, Alspektor, Altman, Altspektor, Apfeld, Borenstajn, Bursztyn, Chandelsman, Chitman, Drelichman,

Epelbaum, Erlichman, Feldzamen, Fuks, Gajst, Gerc, Gitman, Glioben, Goldfarb, Goldman, Jerlichman, Kerszenberg, Korn, Kornzajer, Lederman, Mager, Mandel, Melnik, Micflikier, Migdal, Nachman, Najman, Rozenberg, Rozenblum, Rozencwajg, Rubinsztajn, Sukman, Susman, Szeffler, Sznajderman, Szrajbman, Szynger, Tau, Ton, Tuchsznajder, Wagen, Wajcman, Wertchhaus.

If you are interested in learning more about this exciting project including the number of times your surname may be listed in this database or other Lublin area project databases, please contact me directly at: **RobinnM@aol.com**.

New Databases Added to All-Hungary Site

Eric M. Bloch, Robert Neu, and Carol J. Robinson, H-SIG Coordinators

Thanks to work from a number of dedicated volunteers, the All-Hungary Database on JewishGen is growing by leaps and bounds and now contains more than 280,000 records.

The 1828 Hungarian Property Tax Census database project, with close to 30,000 entries, has been completed.

The 1848 Hungarian Jewish Census database recently added 8,000 records, bringing the total records on line to over 73,000. At this point over 90 percent of the records from the seven films available from the

Mormon FHL have been entered. This is the largest of the databases comprising the All Hungary Database. Though not available for all the counties of Hungary, it covers over 50 percent of the Hungarian Jews alive in Greater Hungary in 1848.

Updates to the 1869 Census and the Holocaust Memorial databases were recently made, including over 46,000 records in the 1869 Census database. There are now over 17,000 names in the Holocaust Memorial database, including the addition of names from Baja, Dragelpalank, Mezocsat, Nagykanizsa and Ungvar.

Polish Maps On Line

Phyllis Kramer, JewishGen

I stumbled upon these Polish maps on a Lemko site. They are high resolution maps of the southeastern corner of Poland and a little of Ukraine (including what was once Galicia). The site says the maps were recently released for public use by the headquarters of the Polish Army. They are full color very detailed. **www.lemko.org/maps100/**

Fuzzy Gazetteer

Ilan Ganot, JewishGen

The Fuzzy Gazetteer at **[tomcat-dmaweb1.jrc.it/fuzzyg/](http://tomcat-dmaweb1.jrc.it/fuzzyg/query/)** enables you to find geographic features even when you do not know their exact names. A list of similar names is returned, web-linked to the JRC Digital Map Archive of the European Commission, searching 7,205,433 place names world-wide. The Fuzzy Gazetteer may serve as an aid to the JewishGen ShtetlSeeker at **www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSeeker/**

Photos from Volhynia

J. Spring, JewishGen

Here is a gold mine of pictures of towns and cities from Wolin/Volhynia from the early 20th century. There are a few pictures of synagogues and of the Jewish community (e.g. Kamien Kashirskiy.) Since it has been posted by an artist in Ukraine, Volodimir Marchuk, the captions require translation. You can write to him in English. **www.art.lutsk.ua/art/foto/index.shtml**

Maps of Hungary

Amira Mashiah, H-SIG

A Hungarian website features maps of Hungary and its regions. The viewer can choose a region or city to view at this site: **www.terkepcentrum.hu/index.asp?go=map**

Feature Articles Inside this Issue

Genealogical Resources from the Godfrey Library	Rosanne Leeson	9
Sentimental Journey: Finding Family in Old Hungary	Vivian Kahn	5

Departments

Calendar	1, 4
Computer/Online News	10, 11
President's Message	2
Society News	3

Contributors to this Issue

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