

זכרון ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXV, Number 2

May 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. May 15, San Francisco: *Napa Valley Jewish History: The Jewish Historical Society of Napa Valley.* Zoe Kahn and Donna Mendelsohn, founding members of one of the newest Jewish genealogical and historical societies and members of the SFBAJGS, will clue us into this vibrant community.

Sun. June 19, San Francisco: *The Holocaust Center of Northern California.* The Holocaust Center of Northern California has moved into its new home on Steuart Street in San Francisco. Did they discover any new treasures when they packed/unpacked? Holocaust research is vital to our genealogical undertaking as well as our history and community. Come learn more about these vital records.

NOTE: Meeting location has changed. Meet at the Holocaust Center of Northern California, 121 Steuart Street, between Howard and Mission Streets.

Mon. June 20, Los Altos Hills: *Using Newspapers for Your Genealogical Research.* Pamela Dallas, Certified Genealogist, will talk about the better-known as well as less-recognized aspects of using newspapers as resources for genealogical research.

Sun. July 17, San Francisco: *Topic to be determined.*

Mon. Aug. 15, Los Altos Hills: *Report on the International Conference of Jewish Genealogy in Las Vegas.* Learn the latest discoveries from the annual international meeting of Jewish genealogists.

Sun. Aug. 21, Berkeley: *Report on the International Conference of Jewish Genealogy in Las Vegas. See above.*

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

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

Meeting Distant Relatives

by Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

Many of you will have read Janice Sellers' article on the value of meeting with family members (ZN February 2005). Just a week after that issue of ZichronNote came out, I received an e-mail from a London cousin, Jeff Leader. We had been in e-mail contact for three years. Jeff wrote to say that he and his daughter were flying out to visit his first cousin in Oxnard. Within minutes I had the flight booked from Oakland to Burbank and a car rented for the day.

I had known about the "Oxnard cousin" for some time, but he hadn't been interested in maintaining any kind of relationship. Perhaps the fact that he was an ex-cop and now ran his own private detective agency had something to do with it.

There was quite a rain storm kicking up as I landed in Burbank and I had a heck of a journey driving on 101 with moments of zero visibility. But by the time I got to Oxnard the rain stopped and the sun came out.

Jeff met me and we connected really well with our genealogy obsession. We spent quite a while going over what I had researched. While we were chatting, Jeff asked, "Do you know Ben, my cousin's dad?" I said no, I knew of him but hadn't really given him much thought. Time for a genealogical recap: four Levy brothers had immigrated from Kalisz, Poland over a 20-year period beginning in the early 1880s to London, England. Jeff's line descended from Harris, while my side descended from Abraham and, as far as I knew, the two branches had never intertwined socially or otherwise.

Jeff called Ben, who lived "just two minutes away." A few minutes later in walked a tanned, well-dressed 82-year-old who extended his hand and greeted me like the long-lost cousin I was. Turns out Ben used to be a barber in Clapton, London (where coincidentally my Levy grandparents used to live). In the 1950s he decided he came out to California, bought into a share of a barber shop in the Beverly Hills Hilton, and, as they say, "made good."

We sat down and immediately Ben began reminiscing. He may have been from the "other line" but he did know my family! I almost fell off my chair when he said that he remembered my grandfather as a young man with black hair and a small mustache. Immediately I pulled out my Levy album and showed him the photograph of my grandparents on their wedding day. That brought tears to his eyes and gave me goosebumps.

Continued on page 12

SOCIETY NEWS

Welcome, New Members

Jeff Lewy..... airbair@aol.com
Alan Silverman..... silvermanetal@aol.com
Richard Zimmerman.....
richard_zimmerman@alumni.stanford.org

Family Finder Update

Correction: BRAININ of Krustpils, Latvia should have been listed for member Janice Sellers.

Spreading the "G" Word

by Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

One of the many functions of the president of this organization is to represent the Society within the Jewish community of the San Francisco Bay Area. This can happen in several ways, one of which is to give presentations on Jewish Genealogy to synagogues and other communal groups.

I found myself giving three presentations in February: on the 9th to the East Bay Genealogical Society at the Oakland Mormon Library, on the 13th to the Mens Club of Fremont's Temple Beth Torah, and on the 17th to Walnut Creek's Congregation B'nai Shalom.

It always surprises me just how little people know about genealogy, but then I inhabit the genealogy world some 25 hours a day, eight days a week! It really pleases me to be able to gently walk an audience through the first few steps of how one tackles the family genealogy.

Thanks to the handout created by Dana Kurtz and former member Marc Seidenfeld, the task of making this presentation is almost foolproof. This handout is so well-organized that any Society members could use it to give a presentation to their specific community groups.

The presentations usually follow a simple format. After the introduction, you launch into the "dispel the myth" section, and then all the hands start shooting up with questions. Then you are on a roll, attempting to answer the questioner and keep to the order of the handout. There is always an element of "jumping around" with topics as the audience

Bounced E-mails

If your name is on the following list, email sent to your address as listed in the Society roster bounced. Please send your new email address to Beth Galleto at galleto@pacbell.net so you can continue to receive notices from the SFBAJGS.

Megan George
Gloria Heller
Rebekah Sachs
Gerald Wagger
Eugene Zauber

E-mail Updates

Lois Clauson.....lois.clauson@comcast.net
Martha Greene.....mergmng@sbcglobal.net
Harry Keifer.....haki94530@comcast.net
Donn R. Martin.....earthlinkend@earthlink.net
James R. Smith.....Jim@HistorySmith.com

becomes aware of just how much information there is out there, and the fact that with just one piece of paper you can trace your family back to 1800 (something I have accomplished with two families). Topics such as the census, vital records, communicating with one's family, the Internet, and JewishGen are fully covered, along with the value of joining a genealogical society.

The questions never cease (even after the official presentation is over) and of course, they are the kind one has heard so many times before. It really is fun and worthwhile to know that we can show people that this is something they can do relatively easily.

Many of them do get hung up on the names syndrome, and one has to gently lead them through the immigration process and explain that no-one's name was really changed at Ellis Island.

I heartily recommend that all of our members get involved with their local synagogue group and get the word out. Not everyone may be able to spell "genealogy" or even their family name, but once they're over that hurdle, who knows where it will lead and what they will find!

CALENDAR, cont.

More Genealogy Events

Local and Regional

Sat., May 7, 1-4 p.m. **Santa Clara County Genealogical Society. Genealogy Seminars. Select "The Basics" or "Internet and Census."** Preregister by calling 408-615-2986 or by e-mail at sccggs@hotmail.com. Santa Clara Public Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. www.rootsweb.com/~cascchgs/

Tues., May 17, 7 p.m. **Santa Clara County Genealogical Society. Gathering and Preserving Oral Histories.** Presented by Joshua Levy, a software engineer whose family has been in the South Bay since 1850. Interviewing relatives is one of the first and most important steps in compiling a family history. Levy will help figure out what to include in those interviews and will show an efficient way to record and preserve them using some of the latest technology. Santa Clara Public Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. www.rootsweb.com/~cascchgs/

Fri., July 15, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. **National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Military Records-Part I (Revolutionary to Civil War).** Presented by Rose Mary Kennedy, a genealogy specialist. Takes place at the NARA, Pacific Region, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066. The fee is \$15, payable at the door. For information and registration contact Rose Mary Kennedy at (650) 238-3485 or (650) 238-3488.

State and National

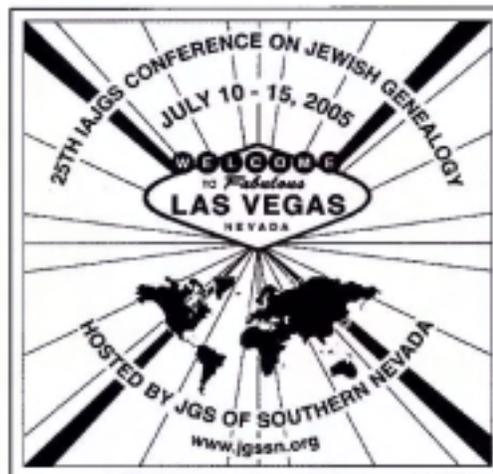
Mon., May 16, 7p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento. How to Make Your Own Ken Burns-style Family History Video, Using Your PC.** Sacramento Jewish Genealogy Society President Mark Heckman will demonstrate how to use moderately priced computer software and hardware to make your own Ken Burns-style video on your family history. You'll be able to incorporate still photos and documents, home movies or other video, music, narration and titles. Ken Burns is the Emmy-award winning documentary filmmaker whose work includes "The Civil War" and "Baseball." His style includes slowly zooming in on his subjects and panning from one subject to another, adding motion to still pictures. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento, CA. E-mail jgs_sacramento@yahoo.com, or leave a message at 916-486-0906 ext. 361 for more information.

One-on-One Help with Your Family Tree

First Sunday research aid at the Jewish Community Library continues from noon to 2 p.m. May 15 and June 5. Experienced researchers from the SFBAJGS will be available to help Jewish genealogists knock down their brick walls. The sessions take place on the first Sunday of each month at the Jewish Community Library, located at 1835 Ellis Street in San Francisco. Parking is free. Enter the garage on Pierce between Ellis and Eddy and press the buzzer.

Whether you're trying to find your great-grandmother's elusive town or your grandfather's passenger manifest, you can take advantage of the library's extensive reference collection and Internet connection to countless searchable databases — all with one-on-one guidance from experienced genealogists.

Longtime library volunteer staffer Judy Baston and other veteran researchers from the SFBAJGS will help with brainstorming and problem-solving. For information e-mail library@bjesf.org



Sign Up for International Conference in Las Vegas

The twenty-fifth Conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies will take place July 10 through 15 at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, sponsored by the JGS of Southern Nevada. **The early registration discount has been extended — register by May 8 to save on the registration fee.**

A wide range of speakers has been organized, presenting topics for every interest. Conference room rates are \$61 per night plus tax. For more information or to sign up on-line, go to www.jewishgen.org and click on the conference logo.

The Rebirth of Jewry in Lithuania: A Report from the World Litvak Congress

by Jerry Delson

Jewish Family Finder, www.jewishgen.org, helped Jerry Delson discover the relative in Vilna who had survived the Holocaust. This contact led to the trips to Vilna in 1991 and 2004. In genealogy, he is trying to construct a Strashun family tree and has also organized three conferences and a series of weekly workshops for the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society. The Delson name is derived from Yudelson. The Yudelsons, who were Litvaks, claim they were formerly de Leon from Leon, Spain. Jerry is an electrical engineer and has taught engineering in Israel. He lives in Palo Alto, California, and programs computers for an electric power utility in Anchorage, Alaska. His E-Mail address is j.delson@ieee.org.

The capital of Lithuania is called Vilnius in Lithuanian and in English. Its Hebrew name was pronounced Vilno, but in modern Hebrew it is now called Vilna. Last August, my wife and I, as descendants of Lithuanian Jews, went to Vilna to attend a World Litvak Congress.

In August, 1938, when Lucy Dawidowicz was 23 years old, she went to Vilna from her home in New York. She had accepted a scholarship from YIVO, the Yiddish Research Institute, to study Yiddish culture for one year at their headquarters. She returned to New York in August, 1939, sailing home just before Europe exploded. Later, in her book, *From That Place and Time: A Memoir, 1938-1947*, she wrote:

“Vilna no longer exists. On its site stands a place identified on the map as Vilnius, capital of Lithuania, a constituent republic of the Soviet Union. Like Troy, the Vilna I knew, the Vilna described in Jewish annals, now lies buried beneath the debris of history, beneath layers of death and destruction. When the Soviets first occupied Vilna in 1940, they Sovietized it, destroying its historic identity and its Jewish particularity. The Germans who followed destroyed Vilna altogether, murdering nearly all of its 60,000 Jews — men, women and children. Since then, nothing has remained of its buildings — the sticks and stones of Jewish architecture. What little the Nazis had left standing, the Soviets, who returned after the war, erased. A visitor to today’s Vilnius can no longer find a trace of what had once been the Jerusalem of Lithuania.”

I had visited Vilnius previously in 1991. I saw the remnants of Jewish buildings. The Great Synagogue, the Strashun Library and all synagogues, except one, had been destroyed. On the site of the old Jewish cemetery, the Soviets had erected a large building for sports. Headstones were used to construct the steps leading to the building. As I stood on these steps, I could read the Hebrew inscriptions, set face-up by the Soviets to show their contempt for Judaism.

But now it is different. The Lithuanian government

honors its Jews. The transition occurred with Lithuania’s independence from the Soviet Union. In August, 1991, when I was there, Mikhail Gorbachov recognized its independence. I joined in the celebrations. I walked in the park where an orchestra played the national anthem of the countries that recognized Lithuania’s independence. The United States was not among the first, but Israel was. The orchestra played both Israel’s anthem HaTikvah and its popular “Jerusalem of Gold.”

In the 1991 visit to Vilnius, I was the guest of Simon Alperovich. In fact, I slept in his room, while he slept on the floor in his grandson’s room. He and I are related through our common ancestors, the Strashun family. He was and still is the head of the Jewish Community of Lithuania. He and his staff organized both the 2004 Congress and a similar one in 2001.

In 1941, the Nazis, assisted by their Lithuanian accomplices, started their slaughter of the Jews. Before the war, Jews had been living in cities and villages throughout the country. When the Nazis marched into Lithuania, many Jews were killed and others were herded together. A small area or ghetto was set up in each of the main cities. For about two years the killing slowed down as the Nazis used the Jews as laborers in their war effort. As the Germans retreated in 1944, they either killed the remaining Jews or moved them to camps farther to the west.

Last year, Dovid Katz published a magnificent book, *Lithuanian Jewish Culture*. It is about Jewish life, past and present, not about the Holocaust. He quotes historian Yitzhak Arad who says that on the eve of World War II there were a million and a half Litvak (Lithuanian) Jews living in Lithuania and in its bordering countries. Over 90 percent of them were killed.

Vilna Today

Today there are about 4,000 Jews in Vilna who form the Vilna Jewish Community. There is also a

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community in Kaunas (Kovno) with 600 members, in Klaidepa (Memel), with 320 members, in Siauliai (Shavli) with 230 members and a few Jews in four other cities. This is the Jewish fragment that lives in Lithuania today. Immediately after the war, there were about 25,000 Jews in Lithuania. This included Jews who moved there from other parts of the Soviet Union. When the opportunity arose, many left for Israel or for the West. Those who remain include elderly pensioners and young families who grew up under Soviet dominance and are now discovering Jewish culture.

Early History of Lithuania

To understand the rise and development of Lithuania's Jewish community, we must go back about 700 years to the country's early history. The initial influx of Jews dates to the time that a unified Lithuanian nation was being formed. In the 1300's, the leaders who unified and enlarged the country issued decrees that offered protection to Jews and gave them broad civil and religious rights. This brought Jews from Central and Western Europe, where they had been a target of the Crusades and where they had been blamed for the Black Death and were persecuted and ejected.

In Lithuania, protection provided by the rulers was, however, a double-edged sword. It meant that in good times the Jews had rights and protection that could change with a change in rulers. Their support did not come from the general population.

Jews had commercial dealings with their neighboring gentiles, but few other interactions. Jewish children went to separate schools. Jews ate separately and dressed differently. Religion played a major role in daily life of both Jew and gentile. The Church was anti-Semitic and capable of incitement. Jews, however, were given a degree of autonomy. This allowed them to run their local government and to mold a special life.

Lithuanian Jews developed their own dialect of Yiddish. Those who speak this dialect are the Litvaks. The lands in which they lived were not just the present-day Lithuania but rather the region ruled by Lithuania in its earlier years. This includes Latvia, Belarus and the adjacent bordering areas in Russia and Poland.

Orthodoxy was dominant and Jewish religious scholarship thrived. The outstanding religious figure was Eyliohu ben Shloyme-Zalman, who became known as the Gaon of Vilna. A great expert on the Talmud, he died in 1797. The date of his birth is uncertain; it was about 1720. He was a great influence on rabbinical education. He also led the

struggle to prevent Hasidic Jews from spreading their movement into Lithuania, and only a few Hasidic Synagogues were built there.

During our 2004 visit to attend the World Litvak Congress we witnessed a surprising replay of this ancient struggle when we attended a cantorial recital at Vilna's only remaining synagogue. An American Chabad Rabbi refused to leave the building at the end of the recital. He had placed a big sign in English on the front of the synagogue saying, "Give Us Back Our Synagogue." However, the synagogue had never been a Chabad synagogue. Instead, the Choral Synagogue was one of several built in European cities in the late 1800's by congregations that were moving closer to Reform Judaism and constructed a balcony for their choir.

Presentations at the Congress

The Congress included presentations on genealogy and a chance to meet Galina Baranova, the head archivist of the Lithuanian State Historical Archives. The Archives include Jewish birth, marriage, and death records written in Polish or Russian plus some Yiddish. They also include census records.

Birth, marriage and death records for both Poland and Lithuania have been photographed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-Day Saints (Mormon). These may be ordered in microfilm format from their library in Salt Lake City and viewed at LDS Family History Centers. Their catalog can be found at www.lds.org. For Lithuania, from the home page, click Family History > Library > Family History Library Catalog > Place Search > Lithuania > Jewish Records > View Film Notes.

Litvak territory included Suwalki province in northeast Poland. Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, Inc. has indexed the surviving Suwalki province records and is making the index available in Microsoft Excel format. The Lithuanian records are being indexed by the Special Interest Group, LitvakSIG. For more information refer to www.jewishgen.org.

The opening ceremony of the Congress took place at the symphony hall. It started with the orchestra playing the Lithuanian national anthem, followed by Israel's anthem. The hall was filled and there were dignitaries from the government and representatives of the Catholic Church. The President of Lithuania addressed the audience on a large video screen. His remarks were translated into English. He spoke of the many contributions Jews had made to Lithuanian culture and talked about the Holocaust. He spoke of Lithuanians who had murdered Jews. Finally, he spoke of the Government's goal of

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Four Perfect Days in Bohemia

by Jane Lowy Reber

Jane Lowy Reber is a Bay Area photographer and member of the Palo Alto Camera Club and the Royal Photographic Society. She has held many exhibitions both in the U.S. and abroad. She teaches English to foreign students at Stanford and in Spain and has a passion for travel and genealogy.

Last year I received an e-mail with the subject "A relative you didn't know you had." Of course I hesitated. My father had told me that we had no living relatives and he was relieved that his parents, aunts and uncles died before the Nazis took over. But I was glad I opened the e-mail. My "relative" had three photographs of my father: a baby picture with his name written underneath, a picture of him as a young boy with his brothers, and a picture of him as a young man with his aunt in an automobile. The latter was a post card written to "Dear Aunt and Uncle" and giving his new address in San Francisco. That was how I met George. And how did he find me? He looked up my father in the 1930 census.

It turned out that George also had a Lowy on his tree. This Lowy immigrated to America and was born about the same time as my grandfather. Only my father and his brother came to America. The great mystery is how the three photographs came to be in George's family.

During the past year, George and I have met to try to figure out our connection. I even took the puzzle to the annual Jewish genealogy week in Salt Lake City at the Family History Library and quizzed the researchers there. I have attended this research week for the past three years. This time, because of previous eye surgery, I had difficulty with the microfilms so I concentrated on the array of books about Bohemia. I think I read all the books in English on the shelves. These books cannot be taken out of the library. I didn't find a connection, but I gained a wonderful insight in the life and times of 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th century Jewish communities in Bohemia.

Specifically, I was looking for my family in Kolodje nad Luznici (formerly Kalladei) and Strakonice

(formerly Strakonitz). I found the 1793 census of Jews in Bohemia and learned that Kolodje nad Luznici had the largest Jewish population of all the towns. I didn't find my father's family, but I did find part of my mother's family! Then genealogy took a back seat for a while so I could work on other projects.

When opportunity knocks, you better not look the other way!

For February I had planned a trip to Spain to teach English. In January I got another e-mail from George saying that he would be in Prague for four days in February, and would it be possible to hook up and work on our connection there. I rearranged my flights and we met in London for our flight to Prague.

Knowing I would be in Prague for four days, I sent

a request to researcher Julius Muller (jmuller@toledot.org) with all my family's information that I knew about and arranged to meet him on the first day. Specifically I was looking for my gr-grandfather whose name I knew from a headstone as Baruch Ha-Levi. Julius is a wonderful person with an intense interest in genealogy, total command of English and Czech history...and a car. He came with a listing of eight generations of my father's family, maps and histories of my towns! And...Baruch's name! I was overwhelmed. The next day we arranged for him to take us to my town.

Under leaden skies we went through silent snow-covered landscapes dotted with small houses. Not a soul was to be seen. All was so quiet and

beautiful, rolling hills, flowing streams, snow fences and few cars.

He took us to Kolodje, about three hours south of Prague, and we walked the street by the river that was the Jewish quarter. He told me about the history

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The Pinkas Synagogue, the oldest in Prague. Names of thousands of people murdered by the Nazis are inscribed on its interior walls.

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of the town and my family. He found the locations of the houses where my gr-grandfather lived. This was also the location of the house where my grandfather and his siblings were born. Many family members lived on the same street. He told me their occupations. Clearly he had done a lot of research for this trip. We walked down the snow-covered street and nipped into a tavern to ask directions. Entering the tavern was like stepping into the past, with wood-paneled walls, long wooden tables and benches, and a couple of sit-and-stare fellows enjoying their schnapps. It was still morning and very cold, but I thought it appropriate to check out a glass of Pilsner Urquell, the most famous beer in the world. Julius tried to call the custodian of the Jewish cemetery, but no luck, so we drove on to Strakonice.

Strakonice had changed completely from when I was there 30 years ago. It was a sleepy little town then; now it is a vibrant big city with the Big M and KFC. I was so surprised! Julius said the Jewish quarter, where my father's aunt was born, is no longer there. My grandfather moved to Strakonice from Kolodje, probably when he married, and my father and his brothers were all born there. They lived there until they went away to high school because there was no high school in the town. It was snowing hard when we were there. We saw the castle, had lunch, and then met the custodian of the Jewish cemetery.

Down a snow-covered lane with frantic barking dogs behind fences, we entered the gates of the large cemetery. The pristine snow was knee-high. On a board were pictures of the synagogue, the same photos that I have. The custodian said it was destroyed not too long ago when the roof fell in during a wedding! I saw many headstones of the Furths, founders of the Fez Factory and the Match Factory. Furth is part of my mother's family.

Julius called me over to see a headstone of my gr-grandfather's brother, then to see the headstone of my gr-grandmother. I was beside myself with joy. I had only known her nickname, and there on the

headstone was her full name. I had looked for her in the Mormon Library microfilms from the Vienna archives where the family eventually moved and didn't even find her death date in the hospitals there. She died in Strakonice and was buried there. Finding this was the culmination of a wonderful day.

That is my story, but George had a story, too. Two days later on a bright sunny day, we went to his towns: Rosenberg and Sucive. Rosenberg is close to the Austrian border, and it took over three hours to get there. It is a pretty town with a church and a castle on a hill overlooking the river, a most picturesque sight.

Julius and George walked around while Julius told him where the Jewish quarter was and I photographed the surroundings. Near the restaurant where we had lunch was a cemetery and George was surprised to find two of his ancestors' headstones there.

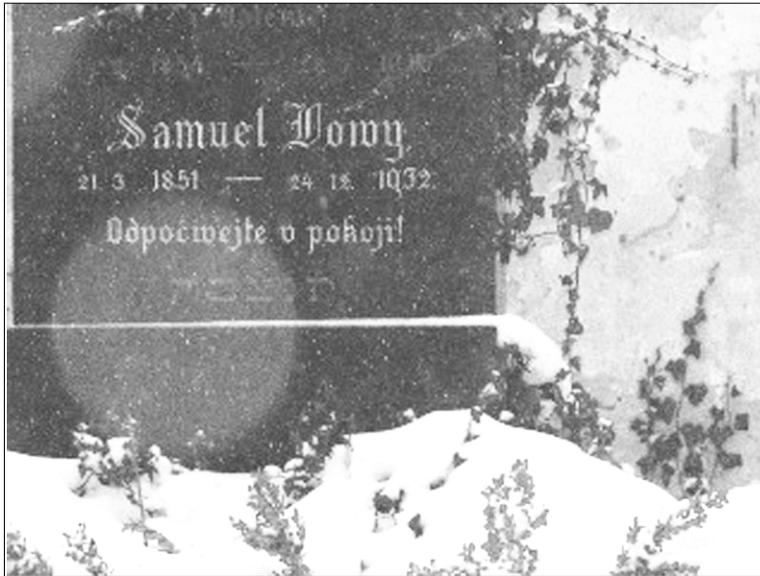
There is no direct route to Sucive, so we spent hours driving through the beautiful snowy landscape, by

dark, dense forests of tall pines, and silent lakes and streams. We passed many very small villages with just a few houses. Nothing stirred. It was very cold.

We got to Sucive in the dark. It is a larger town with a central square. At the local hotel George bought postcards of the town and we warmed up with coffee. Julius said the Jewish quarter was near the church and by the river. Perhaps the Jews felt protected being so near the church.

And the other two days? On the first day it was snowing and we walked carefully around town, ending in a café to warm ourselves with brandy and coffee. On the other free day we stumbled into a restaurant dedicated to "Good Soldier Schweik," where on the walls we found photos, letters, books and a typewriter.

In the end, although we still have not found our connection, we keep searching. For me the journey is more challenging and satisfying than the end.



Grave marker of Jane's great-grandfather's nephew Samuel Lowy in the cemetery in Strakonice.

BOOKSHELF

SFBAJGS Book Collection Distributed to Local Libraries

by Rosanne Leeson, Vice President and Chair of Library Committee

Because the SFBAJGS had been unable to obtain a single library site to accommodate our collection of genealogical books, and because our membership is spread over a wide area, the Board decided more than a year ago to distribute these materials among the three sites where we hold our meetings. This distribution has now been completed. For our members' convenience, the following is a listing of where each book may now be found. Also included are books that were distributed to the Sutro Library in San Francisco. As new books relevant to Jewish Genealogy are published, we may purchase them for distribution to these libraries. Information about new purchases will also be listed in *ZichronNote*.

Stanford University and UC Berkeley also own many of these titles, as do many of the local public libraries. Your closest public library can also provide access to these and many other similar works via interlibrary

loans. A search of the on-line catalogs of the Jewish Community Library, Sutro, Stanford, UC Berkeley and your local public libraries can turn up many other books on related topics that can assist in your research, so don't overlook them!

For your further convenience here is a list of these particular sites:

Sutro Branch, CA State Library:
www.lib.state.ca.us/ Click on Main catalog.

JCL: www.bjesf.org/ Click on Access the BJE Jewish Community Library.

Stanford: www.sul.stanford.edu/ Click on Socrates (SU Catalog).

UC Berkeley: www.cdlib.org/ Scroll down on left column and click on Melvyl Catalog.

In the table below, an "X" indicates a library or libraries at which the book may be found.

Name of Book, Author, Pub. Date	Sutro	JCL	Beth Am	BRJCC
1900 Fed. Pop. Cen., Cat. of MicrofilmCopies, NARA	—	—	—	X
1910 Fed. Pop. Cen., Cat. of Microfim Copies, NARA	—	—	—	X
1920 Fed. Pop. Cen., Cat. of Microfilm Copies, NARA	—	—	—	X
American Jew as patriot, soldier & citizen, Wolf, Simon 1895	X			
Ancestry's Redbook, Eichholz, Alice 1989	X	—	—	—
Architects of Reform, Rosenbaum, Fred 1980	X	X	—	—
Archival sources for Ukrainian-Jewish genealogy, Kronik, A. & Sack, S. 1997	X	—	—	—
Archives/Manuscript Repos.:USSR-Est./Lat/Lith., Grimsted, Patricia 1981	X	—	—	—
Argentinian Jews...emigrated to San Francisco, Ostenweil, Naomi 1997	X	—	—	—
Avotaynu Guide to Jewish genealogy, Sack, S. & Mokotoff, G. 2004	X	X	X	X
Biographical dictionary of Canadian Jewry,1909-14, Tapper, Lawrence 1992	X	X	X	—
CA Jewish History: Descriptive bibliography, Stern, Norton B. 1967	—	X	—	—
California Family Newmark, Newmark, Leo 1970	X	X	X	—
Carved memories: Carved in stone, Goberman, David 2000	—	X	—	—
Census Book, Dollarhide, William 2000	X	—	—	X
Census Returns,1666-1891,Catalog Canad. MicrofilmsHillman, Thomas, Hillman, Thomas 1987	X	—	—	—
Childhood in a shtetl, Gannes, Abraham 1993	X	—	—	—
Collector's guide to early photographs, Mace, O. Henry 1990	X	—	—	—

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*Zichron*Note Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Name of Book, Author, Pub. Date	Sutro	JCL	Beth Am	BRJCC
Create a Jewish genealogical society, Baird, Carol 1998	—	X	—	—
Dictionary of Ashkenazic Jewish names, Beider, Alexander 2001	X	X	X	X
Dictionary of Jewish names & their history, Kaganoff, Benzion 1977	X	X	—	—
Dictionary of Jewish surnames in Poland, Beider, Alexander 1997	X	X	X	X
Dictionary of Jewish surnames in Russia, Beider, Alexander 1993	X	X	X	X
Documents of our ancestors, Meshenberg, Michael 1996	X	X	—	—
Engel family, Engel, Jan 1995	X	—	—	—
Finding our fathers, Rottenberg, Dan 1977	X	X	X	X
Finding your Jewish roots in Galicia, Wynne, Susan 1998	X	X	X	X
Following the paper trail, Shea & Hoffman 1991	X	X	X	—
From a ruined garden, Kugelmass & Boyarin 1998	—	X	X	X
From generation to generation, Rev. Ed., Kurzweil, Arthur 1994	X	X	X	X
Genealogical resources in New York, Guzik, Estelle 2003	X	X	X	X
Genealogical resources in the NY Metropolitan Area, Guzik, Estelle 1989	X	X	—	—
German minority census 1939 - Index, Edlund, Thomas 1996	X	X	—	—
Getting started in Jewish genealogy, Blatt, Warren 1999	X	X	X	X
Guide to archives in Israel, v. 1, Alsberg, Paul 1991	—	X	—	—
Guide to Jewish genealogical research in Israel, Rev. Ed., Sack, Sallyann 1995	X	X	X	X
Guide to naturalization records of the U.S., Schaefer, Christina 1997	X	—	X	X
Guide to Hebrew Manuscript Collection -JTS ,5 vols., Jewish Theological Seminary 1991	—	X	—	—
Guide to the YIVO Archives, Mohrer, F. & Web, M. 1998	X	X	—	—
Hamburg passengers list: King. of Poland-Indirect NY, Moser, G. & Silverman, M. 1997	X	X	—	—
Hebrew & Aramaic Words in the Yiddish Language, Wolf, Moshe 1998	—	X	—	—
Historical Atlas of the Jewish People, Barnavi, Eli 1992	X	X	X	X
History of Sinai Memorial Chapel, Bernstein, Abraham	—	X	—	—
How to Document Victims & Locate Survivors..., Mokotoff, Gary 1995	X	X	X	—
Identity in Dispersion: Latin American Jews Memoirs, Klenicki, L. Ed	X	—	—	—
In Memory's Kitchen	—	X	—	—
Izmir: List of 7300 names of Jewish brides & grooms, Cohen, Dov 1997	X	—	—	—
Jewish autobiographies & biographies..., Zubatsky, David 1989	—	X	—	—
Jewish genealogy, Vol II, Zubatsky, David 1990	—	X	—	—
Jewish personal names, Gorr, Rabbi Schmuel 1991	X	X	X	X
Jewish roots in Poland, Weiner, Miriam 1997	X	X	X	X
Jewish Roots in Ukraine & Moldova, Weiner, Miriam 1999	X	X	X	X
Jewish Surnames in Prague, Beider, Alexander 1994	X	X	X	—
Jewish Vital Records...Lithuanian Archives, Rhode, H. & Sack, S. 1996	X	X	X	—

Continued on page 11

Name of Book, Author, Pub. Date	Sutro	JCL	Beth Am	BRJCC
Jews in the Province of Posen, Zarchin, Michael M. 1939	X	X	X	—
Jews of San Francisco/Greater Bay area 1849-1919, Cogan, Sara	X	X	—	—
Judaica Reference sources, Cutter, C. & Oppenheim, M. 1993	X	X	—	—
Latter Day leaders, sages & scholars, Rosenstein, E. & N. 1983	X	X	X	—
Library resources for German-Jewish genealogy, Ellmann-Kruger, Angelika 1998	X	X	X	—
Lithuanian Jewish Communities, Schoenberg & Schoenberg 1997	X	X	X	—
Migration from the Russian Empire, 6 vols., Glazier, Ira 1995-98	X	X	—	—
New York Public Library Book of how..look it up, NYPL 1991	X	—	—	—
Old town, New town - San Diego Jewish History, Kramer, Wm, ed. 1994	X	—	—	—
Passenger list - Russian arrivals at Angel Island, Manuscript 1993	X	—	—	—
Pioneer Jews/New life in the Far West, Rochlin, H. & F. 1984	X	X	—	—
Polish Jewish cemeteries, 2nd printing, Rosenstein, Neil 1990	X	—	—	—
Prominent Jews of Lodz, Engel, Jan 1997	X	—	—	—
Researcher's guide to U.S. census availability, Hamilton, Ann B. 1992	X	—	—	—
Resources for Jewish genealogy in the Boston area, Blatt, Warren 1996	—	X	—	—
Russian Consular records - Index & cataloging, Sack, S. & Wynne, S. 1987	X	X	—	—
Russian-Jewish given names, Feldblyum, Boris 1998	X	X	X	X
San Francisco Jews, Old traditions on a new frontier, Narell, Irina 1976	—	X	—	—
Sephardim in the Americas, Cohen, M.A. & Peck, A. 1993	—	X	—	—
Shtetl Finder gazeteer, Cohen, Chester G. 1980	X	X	X	X
Source: Guide book to American genealogy, Szucs, L. & Luebking, S. 1997	X	X	X	1st ed.
Sourcebook for Jewish genealogies..., Zubatsky & Berent 1996	X	X	X	X
Survey of Jewish Historical Monuments in Poland, Schneier, Rabbi Arthur 1993	—	—	—	—
They came in ships, Colletta, John P. 1993	X	X	X	X
Translation guide to 19th century Polish language..., Frazin, Judith 1989	X	X	—	—
Traveler's guide to pioneer Jewish cemeteries, Morris, Susan 1996	X	X	—	X
Unbroken Chain, 2 vols., Rosenstein, Neil 1990	X	X	Vol.1 only	X
Victorian & Edwardian fashion: a photographic survey, Gernsheim, Alison 1981	X	—	—	—
Where once we walked, Rev. Ed., Mokotoff, G. & Sack, S. 2002	X	X	X	X

Missing Books

by Rosanne Leeson

When the inventory of books was made, the books listed below were missing. Please search through your own books to see whether you may have accidentally brought them home or borrowed them and not returned them. Please return them to any SFBAJGS meeting or contact Rosanne Leeson at rdleeson@sbcglobal.net and arrange to return them. There will be no fines and no questions asked.

Barnavi, Eli.	<i>Historical Atlas of the Jewish people</i>	1992
Cohen, Mark R.	<i>Autobiography of a Venetian Rabbi</i>	1998
Ratner, Max, et al.	<i>Bialystoker Memorial Book</i>	
American Jewish Committee	<i>Cat. Of Memoirs/Wm. E. Wiener Library</i>	1978
Wollmershauser, F.	<i>Genealogical Research on Southern German Jews</i>	1993
Ing & McClurg	<i>Genealogy in Metropolitan Toronto Ref. Library.</i>	1993
Central Zionist Arch.	<i>Guide to Archival Collection, Madrich Lekhativot</i>	1993
Keter Books	<i>Immigration & Settlement in Israel</i>	1973
Postal & Koppman	<i>Jewish Tourist's Guide to the U.S.</i>	1954
Narell, Irina.	<i>Our City: the Jews of San Francisco</i>	1981
Roskies, Diane & David.	<i>Shtetl Book</i>	1975
Roy, Janine.	<i>Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada</i>	1987

President's Message, cont. from page 2

Ben then recalled an aunt who had died on the Titanic. I knew that *bube meises* story. I gently corrected him by saying, no, it was the SS Berlin, which sailed from Eastern England to Holland. The ship foundered in the North Sea and all 140 lives were lost. There was even a whole paragraph in the *Jewish Chronicle* about her. Ben said he remembered seeing a picture of her face atop a gravestone. Aha! I whipped out my trusty laptop and showed him the same photo — more tears from Ben and more goosebumps for me.

The unexpected icing on the cake came when Ben remembered that at age six (in 1928) he used to visit my great grandfather's grocery shop in North London. My great grandfather!! Now I had goosebumps all over and they're still there as I write this.

So yes, meeting face to face is such an invaluable experience as to be priceless (as a well-known TV credit card advertisement states). Of course it helped tremendously that I was well prepared with all the information to "nudge" Ben along.

The weather was indeed torrential that day and I spent twelve hours traveling (my return flight was delayed three times!) for a five-hour visit, but those five hours were absolutely priceless.

In Other News:

This will be my last chance to announce the upcoming International Conference on Jewish

Genealogy. A very full range of speakers has been announced. Go to www.jewishgen.org/jgs/jgs-southernnevada/Shelley/home.htm for all the information. These conferences are priceless for meeting the faces behind those e-mail addresses as well as many of the "big names" in genealogy, such as Alexander Beider, John Colleta, Miriam Weiner, and of course, our very own Stephen Morse.

Have a great summer. If you're going on vacation, I hope you get to meet with family and have as much fun and excitement as I did.

Jeremy Frankel

President

SFBAJGS

Boston City Directories Digitized

Nine complete volumes of Boston city directories are now on-line, through the The Tufts University project to digitize Boston city directories. The years covered are 1845, 1855, 1865, 1870, 1872, 1875, 1885, 1905 and 1925. They can be accessed at dca.tufts.edu/features/bostonstreets/about/index.html

A Generous Gift to the SFBAJGS

by Rosanne Leeson, Vice President and Chair of Library Committee

The SFBAJGS has always had very generous members, and once again we are the recipients of a wonderful gift! Our longtime member, Ruth Mayo, recently had to move from her home to a smaller facility, and she graciously donated her vast collection of genealogical books and materials to us. On a sunny afternoon, Jeremy Frankel and I went to Ruth's home and left with four huge boxes of books, around 70 in all.

After checking through them I was able to add many of them to the list of books that formerly belonged to the SFBAJGS and are now distributed to all of our meeting places and to the Sutro Library. They were included in the list of those books, which can be found

beginning on page 11. In addition there were some 30 books that we had not previously owned, and a list of libraries to which these items were dispersed is included below.

We hope that you will avail yourself of the opportunity to make full use of these helpful and interesting books before and after our meetings and whenever you need them. There should be copies of virtually everything close to all.

We send our most grateful thanks to Ruth for her generosity and thoughtfulness, and we wish her well in her new home.

In the table below, an "M" indicates the library to which a book from Ruth Mayo's collection was donated, and an "x" indicates other libraries at which the book may be found.

Name of Book, Author, Pub. Date	Sutro	JCL	Beth Am	BRJCC
Annihilation of Lithuanian Jewry, Oshry, E. 1995	-	M	-	-
Atlas of Jewish History, Gilbert. M. 1992	-	M	-	-
Cross and the Pear Tree, Perera, V. 1996	M	x	x	x
Dallas Jewish Genealogical Guide, Chapin, David 1993	-	M	-	-
Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy, Kurzweil & Weiner, ed. 1991	M	x	x	x
Genealogical & Local History Books in Print, Hoffman, M. ed. 1997	M	-	-	-
Going to Salt Lake City...Family History Research, Parker, J.C. 1996	M	-	-	-
Hidden History of the Kovno Ghetto, USHMM 1997	M	x	x	x
Holocaust in Romania, Ioanid, R. 2000	-	M	-	-
Illustrated Atlas of Jewish Civilization, Gilbert. M. 1990	-	M	-	-
Jewish Bialystok, Wisniewski, T. 2000	x	x	x	M
Jewish Community of South Philadelphia, Meyers, A. 1998	M	-	-	-
Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia, Boonin, Harry 1999	x	M	-	-
Jews in Romania 1866-1919, Iancu, C. 1966	-	M	-	-
Maryland Research Guide, Heisey, J. 1986	M	-	-	-
Military Genealogical Sources, Heisey, J. 1986	M	-	-	-
Morton Allan Directory, Allan, Morton 1998	x	M	-	-
Poor Cousins, Manners, A. 1972	-	x	x	M
Provincials, The, Evans, E. 1973	x	x	x	M
Rumkowski and the Orphans of Lodz, Eichengreen, L. 2000	-	M	-	-
Strawberry Mansion: Jewish comm. Of S. Phila. Meyers, A. 2000	M	-	-	-
Timetables of History, Grun, B. 1991	M	x	-	-
Timetables of Jewish History, Gribetz, J. et al. 1994	-	M	-	-
To Give Them Light, Vishniac, R. 1993	M	x	x	x
Tough Jews, Cohen, R. 1998	-	x	x	M
Vanished World, Vishniac, R. 1993	M	x	-	-
WPA Historical Records Surveys Sources, Heisey, J. 1988	M	-	-	-
World of Our Fathers, Howe, I. 1976	x	x	x	M

Lithuania, cont. from page 6

nurturing the remaining Jewish community and making restitution. I knew this speech could not have been given during the years up to 1991 when the country was under Soviet domination.

The Congress took us to Ponar, where 70,000 people, mostly Jews, were shot. It was much the same as when I saw it in 1991, although since then a museum had been placed there to tell the story, including description of righteous gentiles who risked their lives to save Jews.

We were also taken to Kaunas, where we visited Fort IX, built at the time of Napoleon. It had been used for years as a jail, but the Germans used it as a prison and killing ground. At Fort IX, our guide was an Israeli. Her name was Yaarit and she had an amazing story. Her father was part of a small group that escaped from the fort. He had the key role of drilling an opening through an iron door. He joined the partisans but was captured and sent to a camp. There, because he could play an instrument, he received some small favors. This helped him survive, much like the protagonist of the story depicted in the film *The Pianist*.

At Fort IX we also heard George Birman tell his story. He and his wife Pola came from New York to attend the Congress. When he was 10 years old, he and his father were in the Kovno ghetto. They volunteered to work at a gravel pit. George's hobby had been photography, and he brought photos with him. They also brought a wire cutter, which they used to cut through the barbed wire. Before they escaped, his father buried the photos. After the war, George returned and recovered the photos. They are now displayed on the Internet, and the wire cutter is on loan to the Holocaust Museum in Washington. In America, George had a successful career as a Westinghouse engineer.

In Kovno, we visited Sugihara House, the place where a Japanese diplomat issued visas that saved about 6,000 Jews who had fled Poland and were in Soviet-occupied Lithuania. Our group was followed by a bus-load of Japanese. Sugihara, at long last, is now their hero, too.

At the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum, we visited with its curator, Rachel Kostanian-Danzig, whom I had met in 1991. Her book, *Spiritual Resistance in the Vilna Ghetto*, tells the remarkable story of Ghetto organization and the will to live a meaningful life. We feel this book could be an extremely valuable Holocaust text for young Jews. The museum has works by Samuel Bak, a Ghetto survivor who developed his outstanding art career in America.

At the Congress we met a Chinese scholar sent by her university to write about Jews. She came to Vilnius for Dovid Katz's Yiddish Institute and plans to write a second book about her adventures. We met and became friends with Cila Rudashevsky, a nurse from Israel. She was born in Vilna and with her mother was on the ship, Exodus, when it was turned back by the British. After being in a DP camp, they emigrated to Israel.

We also attended the opening of an extensive display by the Jewish artist Rafael Chwoles at the Vilnius Gallery of Paintings. There we heard a concert by the Vilna native, Leonid Dorfman, who played a piano on a balcony of the art gallery courtyard. The gallery was the former Chodkevicial Palace. We attended the dedication of a plaque to Max Weinreich, founder of YIVO, and the dedication of another plaque to the poet Moshe Kulbak. At the National Philharmonic Hall, we heard a jazz orchestra perform in honor of Danielis Pomerancas, the Litvak who brought jazz to Lithuania.

We attended ceremonies and a concert at the Vilnius Town Hall, where the American ambassador spoke. The concert, "The Songbook of Vilne Jews," was performed by the St. Krisoforas Chamber Orchestra and featured Liora Grodnikaite, a marvelous mezzo-soprano. She is the daughter of Masha Grodnikiene, Deputy Chair of Simon Alperovich's staff.

We attended an elaborate banquet at a sumptuous resort hotel, where we were entertained with Yiddish songs by the American baritone Jerome Barry. I sat next to the Lithuanian minister for minorities. Besides concerts and feasting (the food on the trip was delicious), in the Congress sessions we heard papers which described Litvak contributions to Lithuania and the world. Using headphones, we benefited from simultaneous translation.

We greatly enjoyed the visit to the Vilnius Sholom Aleichem Jewish School. This school was reopened when Lithuania regained independence and now has 250 students in grades 1 through 12. The director, Misha Jakobas, addressed us in Yiddish and the students put on a show for us. The school's ORT Technical Centre had the latest computer equipment.

Elie Wiesel said that once you have met and heard the story of a Holocaust survivor, you also become a witness. Thus my wife Esther and I became witnesses not only to the destruction of Lithuanian Jewry but also to its rebirth. It was a great trip. We were so glad that we were there.

COMPUTER/ONLINE NEWS

Additional Yizkor Book Translations Now On-Line

Joyce Field, *JewishGen Vice President, Data Acquisition*

We are delighted to report another successful month for the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project. All translations can be accessed from the index page at www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/translations.html, where all new translations for the month are flagged.

For more information about the new book, on the -Maramures Region, see below.

New entries have been made in:

■Klimontow, Poland; Pinkas HaKehillot, Volume 7

■Mlawa, Poland; Pinkas HaKehillot, Volume 4

Books for the following have been updated:

■Bedzin, Poland

■Belzec: Prototype of the Final Solution

■Brest, Belarus

■Czestochowa, Poland

■Dabrowa Gornicza, Poland

■Dereczyn, Poland

■Gorodets, Belarus

■Hlybokaye, Belarus

■Holocaust in Belarus

■Kletsk, Belarus

■Lita, Lithuania

■Minsk, Poland

■Novogradok, Belarus

■Nowy Sacz, Poland

■Radzyn Podlaski, Poland

■Radomsko, Poland

■Ryki, Poland (including a necrology)

In addition to the translations, the Yizkor Book Project makes available numerous other resources for researchers: the Database, Infocfiles, Necrology Index, Links, and FAQ. All can be accessed from the top of the translations index page.

Translation of "Encyclopedic" Marmaros Yizkor Book On-line

Moshe A Davis (*Project Coordinator - Marmaros Yizkor Book*) *JewishGen*

It is my long-awaited pleasure to announce that as part of the JewishGen Yizkor Book translation project, an initial installment has been posted on-line in the translation of the encyclopedic yizkor book *Sefer Marmaros - 160 Jewish Communities in their prime and in their destruction*.

This yizkor book has been described by Dr. Nachi Keren (author of the recently published Sziget yizkor book) as an "Absolute must for any Marmaros researcher." Access it at www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Maramures/Maramures.html

Sefer Marmaros is an outstanding example of what a Yizkor Book can strive to be. Encyclopedic in scope and well-researched, it covers an entire region in intimate detail. All of the Yizkor Books that have since been written on any of the many towns and cities in the Marmaros region have heavily borrowed from the material originally researched for and published in *Sefer Marmaros*.

Sefer Marmaros is divided into two main sections: The first part of the book consists of seven chapters, which give a comprehensive overview of the Marmaros region as a whole, together with its Jewish history and culture. At present one of these seven chapters is on-line.

The second part of the book consists of separate articles of varying length (some up to about 40 large-format pages) about each of the approximately 160 separate towns and cities in the region that boasted a Jewish population. At present four of these articles are on-line.

PAST MEETINGS

A Memorable Presentation on Napa Valley Jewish Community

by Jerry Delson

I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation by Donna Mendelsohn and Zoe Kahn at our April meeting, and I am fascinated by the book they sponsored, *Under the Vine and Fig Tree, The Jews of Napa Valley*. It is written by Lin Weber and is available from Wine Ventures Publishing, P.O. Box 47, St. Helena, CA 94574, price \$19.95.

I appreciate historical studies for general context on the lives of our ancestors. Studies in history and genealogy converge, however, when they focus on a single community. This occurred in the Napa study.

It is laced with personal accounts elicited by a skillful interviewer. These family stories together with historical research now offer the Jews of Napa an enhanced feeling of community. It is a marvelous accomplishment. Note: This program will be presented again in San Francisco on May 15.

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Contributors to this Issue

Moshe A. Davis, Jerry Delson, Joyce Field, Jeremy Frankel,
Rosanne Leeson, Jane Lowy Reber

ZichronNote

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