

זכרונות ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

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Walking in the Footsteps of our Ancestors

**Beth Galleto completes the story of her trip to Poland and Ukraine.
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Philadelphia Conference 2009



Joyce Field, 2009 recipient of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Lifetime Achievement Award, meets Dr. Dorin Dobrinicu, Director of the Romainian National Archives, at the IAJGS Conference in Philadelphia. Look for a report on Dr. Dobrinicu's conference presentation in the November issue of ZichronNote. For other reports on the conference, see page 13.

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Jewish Genealogical Society

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President's Message
My Grandfather's Medals

By Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

A few weeks ago I received an e-mail from Phil in London, England, who asked, "Would I be right in thinking that your great-grandfather was Gustavus Frankel, who served as a Sergeant in the Royal Army Medical Corps in World War One?"

I wrote back to Phil saying he was close but not close enough. Gustavus was my paternal grandfather. I never knew him because he died in 1945, eight years before I was born. Now that Phil had established the connection between Gustavus and me, he proceeded to inform me that he was a medal collector and a member of the Orders and Medals Research Society. Phil had recently come into possession of a first war trio of medals: 1914-15 Star, British war medal, and Inter Allied Victory medal, all of which had been awarded to my grandfather.

I was staggered to receive this information because I already knew we had several medals that belonged to "Gussie." Often when I was younger and living at home I would reach up into a closet shelf in my parents' bedroom, pull out a leather horseshoe-shaped box and look at some of the family heirlooms. These included my grandfather's Boy Scout knife as well as some medals with their appropriately brightly colored ribbons.

I hadn't really researched my grandfather's military history, so it came as a complete surprise to me that my grandfather had been awarded even more medals. Again, I wrote back, telling Phil that yes, as the family historian and genealogist, I would love to add these to the family heirlooms. A few days later, I called home to London as I do every week or so and surprised my mother with this information.

There was silence at the other end. "What's up, Mum?" I asked. She then told me that prior to starting a complete remodeling the Frankel home, she and my youngest brother went through everything and any items of possible value were put up for auction. Then the penny dropped — fast, way too fast! "Oh no," I cried, "Why didn't you ask me? You had already sent me a package with all his papers. Why not the medals?" My mother responded that she didn't think I would be interested. "But you never even asked me!" To think these medals had been in the family for over 90 years and had now slipped through my fingers just like that. Oy!

I wrote back to Phil and explained what had happened. Through the e-mail I said how

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SOCIETY NEWS

Welcome, New Members

Babette C. Bloch.....bvcb@juno.com
Marla Raucher Osborn.....osborn@nuthatch.org
Mark Sivik.....bsivik7201@aol.com

SFBAJGS Elections: Get Involved and Get More Out of the SFBAJGS

This December marks the end of the two-year term of the current officers of the SFBAJGS. It is time to begin thinking about the future of the Society. It is essential that more members contribute to the success of this organization. Think about what you want from the JGS and how you can participate in making and keeping the Society strong. Not all commitments require large amounts of time.

Elected officers are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Director. This notice serves as the first call for nominations for elected positions. You may nominate yourself or another member. You are strongly encouraged to volunteer in any way that interests you. You will certainly get more out of the Society as an active participant. All of us who have volunteered can attest to that.

Opportunities that can be managed by an individual or shared by a committee include: Membership, Program coordination, Web page maintenance and enhancement, Publicity, Hospitality (arranging for cookies at meetings), *ZichronNote*, Cemetery project. For more information, to nominate yourself or someone else, or to volunteer, contact Jeremy Frankel at (510) 525-4052 or president@sfbajgs.org. Nominations are due by October 1, 2009.

Obituary — Randy Stehle 1954 - 2009

SFBAJGS member Randy Stehle died May 12, 2009. He began researching his family in 1977. Through his research he became an expert in East European Jewish genealogy and acted as a resource for people who were seeking their own roots. His crowning achievement was a book on the history of the Raphael/Rafalin family, a 25-year project that celebrated completion with a large reunion of newfound family. The book, which can be found in major genealogy libraries in the U.S. and Israel, was on display at the SFBAJGS 25th anniversary celebration in 2006. Randy wrote an article about the process of publishing his book that was printed in the August/September 2006 issue of *ZichronNote*. He also wrote an article called "Success Story" for the May, 1997 issue.

Devoted husband, beloved son, brother, uncle, genealogist, historian, all around good guy, Randy lived in the Bay Area his entire life, the last five years in San Mateo with his bride and best friend Robin. Randy's intelligence, sense of humor and

generous nature made him loved, but it was his encyclopedic knowledge of postal history and Jewish genealogy that earned him respect of others throughout the world.

Born in San Francisco, Randy attended Lick-Wilmerding High School and U.C. Berkeley, where he earned a degree in Psychology and an MBA from SFSU. He pursued a career in accounting, working for the last eight years as assistant controller of a property management company. In addition to his interest in Jewish genealogy, Randy's interest in postal history as collector, dealer, and contributing editor for *La Posta* led him to travel all over the country to meet with other collectors.

The Board of the SFBAJGS wishes to express their condolences to his survivors. His death came too soon, and he will be missed.



Randy Stehle

See Back Cover for Calendar of Upcoming Meetings of SFBAJGS

Please note: Unless otherwise indicated, the SFBAJGS 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, Doors open at 7 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. Congregation

Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Room 5/6.

Berkeley: Sunday, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. JCC East Bay, 1414 Walnut Street, North Berkeley.

CALENDAR

Genealogy Events

Local and Regional

Sat., Nov. 21, 10:30 a.m. **San Mateo County Genealogical Society**. Ron Arons presents **Mapping Madness**. Ron will discuss websites providing historic maps and several online mapping tools. For more information visit www.smcgs.org.

State and National

Sun., Sept. 13, 1 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles**. Three part program includes **The Bielsky Partisans, a Granddaughter's Story**, plus IAJGS Conference Highlights and Genealogy Goes to the Movies. Bernard Milken Jewish Community Campus, 22622 Vanowen Street, West Hills. For information visit www.jgsla.com.

Mon., Sept. 14, 7 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento**. Jerry Unruh will discuss **Using the Internet for Genealogy**. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. For more information visit www.jgss.org or call (916) 486-0906 ext. 361.

Sun., Oct. 18, 10 a.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento**. Roy Ogus will discuss **The South African Jewish Community**. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. For more information visit www.jgss.org or call (916) 486-0906 ext. 361.

Mon., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles**. Ron Arons presents **Mapping Madness**. Valley Beth Shalom Synagogue, 15739 Ventura Boulevard, Encino. For information visit www.jgsla.com.

Sun., Nov. 15, 10 a.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento**. Jim Van Buskirk will present **My Grandmother's Suitcase**. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. For more information visit www.jgss.org or call (916) 486-0906 ext. 361.

Sun., Nov. 15, 1:30 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles**. Author Miriam Romm presents her new book **Ostrich Feathers, A Holocaust Mystery and the Quest for the Truth**. Santa Monica synagogue, 1448 18th Street, Santa Monica. For information visit www.jgsla.com.

Coming in October: The Jewish Community of Shanghai, China

Rena Krasno will present the history of the Jewish community of Shanghai at the SFBAJGS meeting on Monday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills. She will describe life in this community before and during the war. Rena was born in Shanghai in 1923 and lived there until 1949. Her parents, Russian Jews from Siberia, arrived in China in the early 20th century. Her family lived in Shanghai's French Concession where her father, a writer, became a leader of the Ashkenazi Jewish Community.

Rena's education is French. Her real interest was always writing and literature. She has worked as a freelance simultaneous interpreter (six languages) for international organizations and has lectured worldwide. She has had nine books published for adults and children (plus two in Chinese translation). She is now writing a book about Shanghai's French Concession in French, another children's book about the Sichuan earthquake, and a third book based on links in a chain of memories. For more information about her visit www.renakerasno.com.

SFBAJGS Family Finder Update

The surnames and towns being researched by our newest members are listed below. This database is maintained for the benefit of our membership. If you have a correction or update, please write to SFBAJGS at P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147 .

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
BLECHER	Soroka (Moldova, formerly Bessarabia).	Osborn, Marla Raucher
BROWNSTEIN	Kamenets-Podolskiy, Mogilev-Podolskiy (Ukraine)	Osborn, Marla Raucher
FRUCHTER	Rohaytn (Rogatin, Ukraine)	Osborn, Marla Raucher
HORN	Rohaytn (Rogatin, Ukraine)	Osborn, Marla Raucher
LIEBLING	Rohaytn (Rogatin, Ukraine)	Osborn, Marla Raucher
RAUCHER	New York City	Osborn, Marla Raucher
SARFAS	Kamenets-Podolskiy	Osborn, Marla Raucher
SILVER	New York City and Krakow, Poland	Osborn, Marla Raucher

Walking in the Footsteps of our Ancestors, Part II

By Beth Galleto

Beth Galleto is a member of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society and has been editor of *ZichronNote* since 2002. In 2007 she and her cousin Jilliene Schenkel traveled together to parts of Poland and Ukraine from which their families originated. This is the second half of the story of that memorable trip. Part I appeared in *ZichronNote* Vol. XXIX No. 2, May 2009.

After spending several days visiting towns in Poland in which our BOLKER family once lived, my cousin and I got up early and started our trip to Ukraine, perhaps retracing the steps our ancestors had taken in the 1880s. Our guide, Kris, brought along one of his associates, Leczek, to help with the border crossing. He's a cameraman and had just completed a documentary on the Warsaw Ghetto.

We drove through the Lublin Lowlands and Uplands, through cornfields and fields of tobacco and hops. Hay was being bundled in rolls. We didn't visit Lublin, but we heard that between 1936 and 1937 the Polish government took 300 pictures as part of a plan to build a new Jewish Quarter. The photos and documentation survived the war and were on exhibit in Lublin.

We drove past the Madjanek Concentration Camp, one of the five biggest concentration camps in Poland, and through Zamosc, once a large Jewish center. The older city is built in Renaissance style, and the outskirts were Soviet style.

We drove through Belzec, site of an extermination camp, but we didn't stop to look at it. As with Treblinka, the Germans tried to destroy evidence by destroying the camp.

We crossed the border near Hrebenne and managed to cross in what we were told was a record hour and 45 minutes. We had expected it to take much longer. First we showed our passports on the Polish side, then changed money from dollars to gryvnias. On the

Polish side they wanted to look in the back of the car to make sure no one was hiding. Then we got in line to go through the Ukrainian side. A man in a camouflage style uniform handed a paper to each car. Then we waited in line in the car for a long time until we got to the kiosk where the passport control man was. We expected them to go through our things in the car, but they did not. We all had to get out and show our passports, then fill out a paper. They kept half and the other was to stay in our passport until we left.

After driving through farmland we stopped in Zolkiew, where we looked at the ruins of what once must have been a quite beautiful synagogue. A lot of reconstruction is going on in the town but the synagogue remains in ruins. There are no Jews here to rebuild. We also saw a beautiful Catholic Church, though few Catholics live in Zolkiew. There is also a new Slavic Orthodox Church, and an old wooden Slavic church is still in use.

Ukraine seemed very poor compared to Poland. The roads were not well maintained. There was trash on the streets. Many buildings are large Soviet style blocks.

We drove to Lviv, which was our base while in Ukraine, and followed the hotel signs to the Dnister Hotel. The buildings in the old city are all about the same height, as in Paris. All streets are cobbled.

The next morning, checking e-mail at the hotel,

Continued on next page



Ruins of the synagogue at Zolkiew

Footsteps, cont. from page 5

we found that Mariusz (a historian we met in Przasnysz, Poland) had sent three documents from the Civil Records Office in Przasnysz, and two mentioned a town called “Swyniary.” It made me wonder if I had confused Svinarin in Ukraine, the town that was our goal, with Swyniary in Poland. (According to oral history our family was involved in the manufacture of turpentine in a town called Svinarin.) Our Ukrainian guide, Alex, asked if we wanted to go back to Poland with Kris, and we had to make a decision: stay, or go. I decided to continue with the plans as they were, based on the references to Kovel — which is definitely in Ukraine — in various documents our Bolker ancestors had filled out.

We did some sightseeing in Lviv, which had once been a big Jewish community. The city is named for Leo, the son of Prince Danylo of Galicia, with a lion as its symbol. Lviv’s population is officially 900,000; unofficially it’s over 1,000,000. We saw old buildings dating from the 12th century and up. Alex told us that Lviv was founded in 1256. Jews were invited to what is now Ukraine by the Polish king, who wanted to develop trades and crafts, in the 16th century.

In an old section of the city we saw where the gate to the ghetto had been. There were indents where mezuzas had been in a couple of doorways. Before the war the Jewish quarter was in two areas. We were told that there were 17 synagogues of which only two survived. In the 1400 to 1500’s the original synagogue deteriorated and the community built a synagogue called Golden Gate at another location. It was built on private property belonging to a Rabbi Rose, and was referred to as the Golden Rose synagogue. The Nazis destroyed this synagogue in 1943. There is now a high fence around the land where the synagogue stood and archeologists are excavating the site.

We drove to the memorial to 136,000 Jews who died in the ghetto or in Janowska Concentration Camp. The monument is difficult to find in the woods and had gray paint spilled on it.

According to Alex the hospital in Lviv, a building in the Moorish style, is called the Jewish hospital, though it is used by everyone. Alex told us that the Jewish cemetery in Lviv was the oldest in Europe. It was destroyed by the Nazis. After the war the Soviets allowed Jews to be buried in the Christian cemetery, so a section of the Christian cemetery has unusual Jewish graves from 1950 – 1960.

Svinarin is located in the middle of a triangle formed by Kovel, Lutsk, and Vladimir Volynskiy. We thought our ancestors may have visited all of these cities, so we wanted to see all three. We did some sightseeing in Lutsk. Alex said the city now has a Jewish population of less than five percent. Before the war it was about 40 percent. A white Roman Catholic Church visible on a hill is located in an old quarter of the city.

A synagogue was built in the 1600’s in the architecture of the Middle Ages. There is now a plaque on the building that Alex translated as saying “1942: In memory of Jews.” During Soviet times the building was used as a gym for KGB and police. Now it is still a gym, open to the public. A house across from the synagogue, located by a creek, had been a mikva.

From Lutsk we finally set off for Svinarin. The highway was in disrepair, with lots of

potholes and mud. We turned off onto a bumpy cobblestone road Alex said was probably built in the 1940s or 1950s. There was no sign marking entry into Svinarin.

The first woman we talked to in Svinarin, Helena, said there had been a turpentine factory there. Her father-in-law Fedosiy looked like he was about 85, but he was born in 1941. He didn’t remember details, but he said the place was still there and they still dig up bits of resin. He said after the war the site burned for two years. He was told that from the Czar’s time there were stumps of pine trees taken from the forest. There were 12 pots where turpentine was distilled from the stumps. After World War II only two or three pots remained as production dwindled. Fedosiy said that the turpentine factory was a

Continued on next page



Jilliene looks in at the excavation of the Golden Rose Synagogue.

Footsteps, cont. from page 6

serious factory before WWI. He also said, "A Jew owned the factory." He didn't remember the owner's name but said he was a good employer, paid the workers well and sometimes gave the workers food for themselves and their families. The factory was owned by Jews, but the workers were Ukrainian. The owner's house was at the site, which is still called "the factory," though it is now farmland.

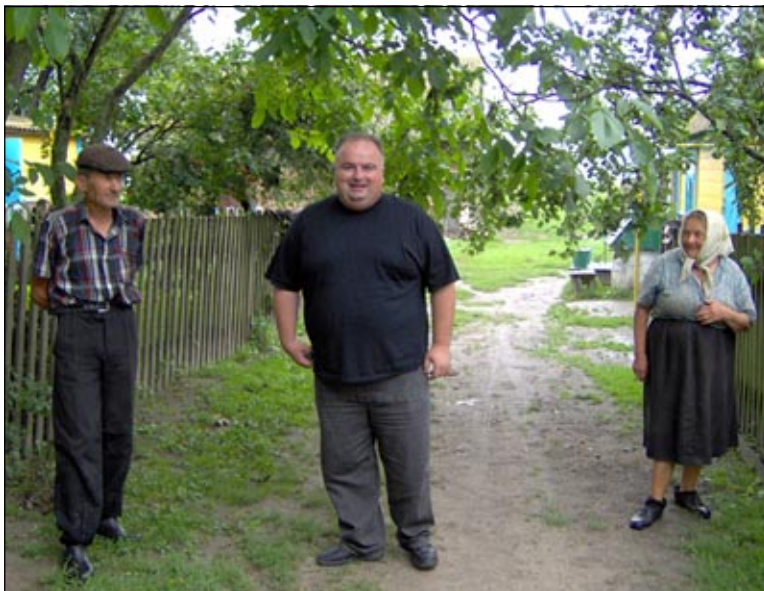
Fedosiy said he knew people who worked at the turpentine factory. He put on his jacket and cap to ride with us in our car to show us where the factory was located. We drove on a dirt path for 10 minutes until it ended in a field. All the area, which is now farmland, used to be forest. He pointed to where a lone tree stands and said it is where the factory was located. A smaller group of trees is located where the workers and their families lived. The turpentine was made after a tree was

cut. He said that when the stumps became rotten, they were used to distill resin. Big barrels of turpentine would be taken to Kovel by horse and wagon. Each barrel held 1,000 liters of turpentine. In Kovel, the barrels would be loaded onto trains.

I had heard that our Grandfather Abraham may have been a barrel maker or wagon wheel maker before he came to the U.S. Alex said the old man was very interested in the old factory, he loves history and he was really enjoying himself being with us and showing us the area. He told Alex it's the first time he ever heard live people speaking English. Other than that he only heard English spoken on television. In 1930 the old man's uncle went to the U.S. for work, but his family never heard from him again.

Helena on her bicycle met our car at what used to be the center of the village before the war. Helena's two front teeth are gold. Her hair is dyed an artificial red color. She introduced us to the village teacher and historian. However, he was young and only knew about the history of the village during and since the war. The only Jewish names he remembered hearing were Chazen and Goldsmith.

We tried to track down the oldest woman living in town, who we were told was 83 (or 93), but when we got to her house some girls told us that she was sick and couldn't see us. Then we went to see the next oldest person, but she didn't remember anything because she was not originally from Svinarin. An old woman we passed sitting on a bench said she was born in 1933, but she said that there wasn't a turpentine factory here.



Fedosiy, Alex, and one of the women of Svinarin discuss the town's history.

We drove further on the dirt road to the house of a woman born in 1921, but her house was locked. We were told she'd gone to her nephew's house. We finally succeeded in telephoning her later that evening but she seemed to have a memory problem.

In all our talking to residents we learned that during World War II the front line between the Russians and Germans was on farmland right next to the village. The

area passed to the Soviets, then to the Germans and then back to the Soviets. With all this the village was completely destroyed. All the houses there now were built — and all trees there now were planted — after the war.

We found a woman who used to be the village librarian in front of a sort of medical center (a small building that was once a house). She had walked there because she had heart pain, but the center was closed. She told us that prior to World War II, about five houses surrounding the center of the town belonged to Jewish families. Jews who owned stores in the village gave credit to people who couldn't pay. She had a girl friend who was Jewish. The girl and her family hid in the forest in a bunker. Someone turned them in and they were walked into the village where they were shot by the Nazis. Local Jews from the village were killed and buried in a mass grave.

This woman was born in 1936. She said that people were sorry for what the Germans were doing to the Jews. Her family had been building a house and had hired Jews, who were good craftsmen. The Germans

Continued on next page

Footsteps, cont. from page 7

came and arrested the Jews. "No Jews returned to the village," she said.

Our next stop was in Kovel. We drove through Turiysk. The countryside was like a return to another age. Healthy chickens scratched in the dirt by the roadside, watched by a proud rooster. Ducks and geese came to the road to watch the cars. Turkeys sat on fences. Goats were tethered to the trees. We often saw cows walking down the road, driven by a young person or an old woman or man, flicking a switch cut from a branch.

Alex took our picture in front of the sign for Kovel, which was the city our great grandparents listed on the ship's manifest as their last city of residence.¹ In 1910, the Jewish community in Kovel was between 15,000 and 16,000, half of the city's population. Alex pointed out where the Jewish Cemetery was once located. It's now a large building which is the Palace of Culture, built by the Soviets. In 1948 the Soviets passed a law that allowed for the major or complete destruction of Jewish cemeteries.

We saw an older woman milking her cow in front of a large block of apartments as we entered Kovel. Alex showed us some old private small homes that were over 150 years old. He said Jews and Poles lived in these houses 150 years ago. As we looked at the old section of town we saw a tower that is shown in the Kovel Yizkor book. Most of the town is new, or at least postwar.

We stopped at the old synagogue, now a sewing factory. As you face the entrance to the building, a Yeshiva was to the left of the entrance. Three circles on the front of the building are marked with stars of David. The staircase and handrail inside the sewing factory are original. The old roof would have been tin. It's now some kind of asbestos or artificial substance.

We drove to the train station because we wanted to find a restroom. The exterior was as it was when our great-grandparents left Kovel for America and so were the restrooms. We had to pay 65 Ukrainian cents to the woman at the table who gave us each a piece of toilet paper. The toilets were Oriental-style, a hole in the ground. The used paper was not flushed, there was a box in which to put it.

A black market currency exchange and an open air market surround the station. People, mostly elderly, were selling vegetables from nearby farms: beets, horseradish, dill, two kinds of mushrooms, dried fish. Alex said he won't buy any mushrooms from this area because he's worried that the radiation from Chernobyl, which is 300 miles away from Kovel, may have gotten into the soil.

On Friday we drove to Vladmir Volynskiy, a city our family may have come through when they left Poland. Alex took a picture of us near a sign outside the town commemorating 100 years of Christianity in Ukraine from 988. Before World War II the Jewish population here was 5,000 to 6,000, half of the total population.

In the town we went to the cemetery, where there is an Ohel (a structure built over a grave) for a Hasidic Rabbi, Moshe Gottlieb. Many famous Hasidic Rabbis were buried in Vladmir Volynskiy. The old cemetery is now a park with an uneven grassy surface and a lot of trees, and paths here and there. There was a sort of digital lock on the door of the Ohel, and no notification of who to see if you wanted to visit. There was graffiti on the Ohel.

As we went through one town on the way back to Lviv there was a market in the square, probably not too different from the markets in which our ancestors participated. The streets were crowded with cars and horse wagons. It looked as if people had their goods, mostly clothing, on tables. A lot of people were milling about. Then we saw horse wagons and people walking back home along the side of the road.

Alex helped restore the cemetery in town formerly called Druzhkopol, now known as Zhuravnicheh. We turned off the highway onto a dirt road to visit the cemetery, which was restored by 14 students, led by Gary Gershfield from Dartmouth College. Alex organized the materials and transportation. They found stones, put up a fence and painted it.² Alex has photographed 60 or 70 cemeteries. He has helped clean and restore four or five of them.

We returned to Lviv and had dinner on the outside terrace. On Saturday we did more sightseeing. Alex said that Lviv was a cultural center with cabaret, dancing, night clubs, and theaters. He called it "a little Paris." Downtown Lviv was modeled after Vienna. In what was the Jewish quarter first floor shops were converted to living quarters during the Soviet era. Now first floor shops are returning. Shop owners are uncovering signage in Yiddish and Hebrew, from businesses before World War II. Some buildings still have bullet holes from the war. We saw a plaque on the house where the Yiddish writer Sholom Aleichem lived in the old Jewish quarter in 1906.

We noticed "Krush Tovas," 1950s housing that was supposed to be temporary. Alex said this was the worst housing under the Soviets because Khrushchev said that by 1980 beautiful homes would be built all over the USSR.

We stopped at a Hasidic Lubavicher synagogue, under construction. There was a fence around it.

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Now Online

By Marilyn Dornhelm

Juicy Bits of Jewish Genealogy

In this column I will share what's new in online indexes, digitized archival material and tools. The main source for these will be JewishGen and the many SIG digests that I check out daily.

(Editor's Note: In *ZichronNote*, URL notations are in boldface and the "http://" notation is omitted to save space, unless needed to make a link in the pdf version of *ZichronNote*.)

Review for April 13 to August 31, 2009

In the USA

IMMIGRATION

Immigrant Booklet from Yiddish

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/gus.htm

This small book published in 1912 and then again in 1916, by the Immigration Publication Society... was given to immigrants when they first arrived in the United States. Content includes naturalization hints and a condensed compendium of laws affecting conduct in public, marriage, divorce, desertion, lotteries, etc.

From Steve Lasky, JewishGen Digest, August 8, 2009.

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Jewish Immigrant History Book

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/ija-main.htm

A portion of a 1905 book entitled "The Russian Jew in the United States" (republished in 1907 as "The Immigrant Jew in America"). It is a revealing look at the life of the Jewish immigrant.

From Steve Lasky, JewishGen Digest, June 7, 2009.

Photos

A link that has 1000s of photos of old Philadelphia. Search by street name, neighborhood, address, etc. Enter a date or a year. The old photos of these streets and neighborhoods will come up. Some go back over 100 years.

www.phila.gov/records/Archives/PhillyHistory/index.html

From Adelle Weintraub Gloger, Phila '09 Digest, July 17, 2009.

Europe

AUSTRIA

Vienna-Galicia and Bukowina - Obituary notices from the Neue Freie Presse

www.flickr.com/photos/cam37/sets/72157616665259211/

Celia Male (Austria-Czech SIG) is uploading these Jewish family obituaries, with translations, to Flickr.com. These selected obituaries all have Galician/Bukowina connections. They are searchable.

Note: You may find family and/or learn how to recognize and translate obituaries. This distinguished Viennese newspaper (the Neue Freie Presse) is a great source for Austro/Hungarian Jewish obituaries. It has been digitized (1864-1938) and is online for searching at:

<http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno?aid=nfp>

From Celia Male, Austria-Czech SIG, July 2009.

GALICIA

School and Landowner Records for Galician Towns

www.jewishgen.org/galicia/databases/

There are new, searchable databases for the following towns:

Jaworow (Yavoriv), Ukraine 1849 Homeowners Database. 529 unique surnames, 1,474 records total

Kolomyya (Kolomea), Ukraine 1858 Homeowners Database. 908 unique surnames, 1,914 records total

Sniatyn, Ukraine 1858 Homeowners Database. 790 unique surnames, 1,742 records total

Sniatyn, Ukraine 1934 Boys' School Students Database. 349 unique surnames, 590 records total

Sniatyn, Ukraine 1934 Girls' School Students Database. 335 unique surnames, 527 records total

Zbaraz (Zbarazh), Ukraine 1829 Homeowners Database. 506 unique surnames, 872 records total

Zbaraz (Zbarazh), Ukraine 1831 Homeowners Database. 628 unique surnames, 1,050 records total

From Pamela Weisberger, Geshet Galicia SIG Digest, August 1, 2009.

Also see Austria, Vienna Obituary Notices.

GREECE

Isle of Rhodes

www.rhodesjewishmuseum.org

A wonderful site!! Everything about the Jewish Community of Rhodes. Archives, history, maps,

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Now Online, cont. from page 9

documents, Holocaust victims list and more, Cemetery information as well as tombstone photos with translations, audio-visuals, personal recollections, and traditional recipes.

From Patricia Wilson, JewishGen Digest, July 7, 2009.

HUNGARY

Pronunciation Guide

An audio pronunciation guide for Hungarian town names and common names.

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/erc-gtp-hungary.htm

LATVIA

Goldingen [Kuldiga of today] Vital Records.

www.jewishgen.org/courland/goldingen_births_deaths.htm

Unfortunately, the birth years only include 1854 and 1856, and the death records are only for 1854. No other records are extant for Goldingen.

From Martha Lev-Zion, Jewishgen Digest, August 2, 2009.

POLAND

1827-1865 Ostrow Mazowiecka Marriage (Alegata) Extracts

"The full extracts of the 1827-1865 marriage alegata records are now online in the Jewish Records Indexing - Poland (JRI-Poland) database. Alegata (also known as Marriage Supplements or Annexes) are a group of documents that form a more detailed record of the betrothal than the marriage record alone.

The search results include the following information for both the bride and groom:

- *Type, Year, Akt (record)#
- *Surname and Given Name(s)
- *Father and Mother Name(s)
- *Father's Father's Name(s) for most entries
- *Indication if father is deceased.
- *Age, Year and Place of Birth and Birth Akt # in the town of birth
- *Current Place of Residence
- *Occupation
- *Remarks (often the name and date of death of previous spouse).

Since marriages were often between individuals not residing in Ostrow Mazowiecka, the information in these records provides invaluable pointers to

further research in the records of other towns."

From Stanley Diamond, JRI-Poland SIG Digest, August 11, 2009.

Polish Pronunciation Help

Online resources to use:

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Polish/Polish_pronunciation

http://members.fortunecity.com/john_deere/Polish2.html

www.omniglot.com/writing/polish.htm

From Alexander Sharon, Geshet Galicia Digest, August 8, 2009.

UK

The 1911 Census for England, Wales and Ireland

The 1911 census for Wales has just been released and posted on-line at FindMyPast.com. To access the records, go to www.1911census.co.uk/, click "about the 1911 census", then on the left hand side click "The Welsh Records."

The 1911 census is the most detailed census since the UK started to take the decennial census and the first in which the original census forms were preserved, therefore enabling the viewer to see the person's actual handwriting. There are some unique challenges for the Welsh census. . . . On the 1911 census, householders were given the option of filling in the form in Welsh or English. Around eight and a half per cent of the population in Wales spoke Welsh as their first language. The difficulty of searching Welsh records is compounded by the fact that a few common surnames account for a large percentage of the population, and you may need extra information to narrow your search. On the FindMyPast website under Welsh records, they have Welsh translation tables and search tips to assist you, as well as a sample of the census form.

This is a subscription-based site; searches are free, but you pay as you go to view each. Visitors to the website can buy 60 credits for £6.95.

From Jan Meisels Allen, Jewishgen Digest, June 9, 2009.

UKRAINE

Google Maps Updates Its Coverage of Ukraine

Google Maps previously only displayed, for Ukraine, the medium and larger cities, the major highways, and the outlines of the oblasts/districts. Now it looks

Continued on next page

Now Online, cont. from page 10

as though all cities and towns are marked, including some *very* small ones that were not listed before. All of them are now labeled in both the Roman alphabet and in the Cyrillic alphabet. Additionally, more roads have been added, and forests and parks are marked in green.

This level of map detail had been available for Poland for at least a year and for Germany for at least two years.

From Brooke Schreier Ganz, Gesher Galicia, August 8, 2009.

More on ...Google Maps Updates Its Coverage of Ukraine

<http://maps.google.com>

It is best to use the current spelling of the town and add "Ukraine" as a keyword of the search. Searching for the major Ukrainian city of Kamenets Podolskiy (Russian spelling transliterated) produced no results. Adding the keyword "Ukraine" only added a Sponsored Link (advertisement) for trips to the city. Then searching the web using Google for Kamenets Podolskiy identified the current spelling transliterated from Ukrainian as Kamianets-Podilskyi. It was unnecessary to then search Google Maps with the correct Ukrainian spelling. Merely clicking the link to "Maps" produced a map of the area of Ukraine that includes the city.

From "Nu? What's New?" published by Avotaynu, August 16, 2009.

Jewish records in Pozsony now in LDS catalog

www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp

By doing a keyword search for "Jewish records in Pozsony", I found several newly-cataloged films from the Bratislava archive: Stupava, Galanta, Szered, Dunaszerdahely, Joka, Zsigard and Cseszte.

From Marelynn Zipser, H-SIG, August 10, 2009.

The World

CANADA

Border Crossings from U.S. to Canada

Ancestry.com has now added border crossings from the U.S. to Canada (1908–1935) to its collections. Previously it only had crossing from Canada to the U.S. (1895–1956). The new database has more than 1.6 million names. Last year the company added

Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865–1935, which contain more than 7.2 million names.

From Avotaynu April 26, 2009.

1914-1932 Canadian Naturalizations Index

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/naturalization-1915-1932/index-e.html.

Click on "Search" in the left column.

Canadian Naturalization records for the period from 1914 to 1932 are searchable, free of charge, by surname, given name and country-of-origin. The new database includes more than 200,000 people who were naturalized during this period. They came from about 80 countries, and about 1/3 of them were Jewish.

For the entire collection of databases, just go to www.genealogy.gc.ca/.

From Stanley Diamond, JewishGen Digest, July 27, 2009.

Montreal JGS Website Redesigned

<http://jgs-montreal.org>

If you have not checked out our web site recently, please do — it has been redone. There is a lot of helpful information for those researching Montreal and Canadian family.

From Stanley Diamond, JewishGen Digest, July 27, 2009.

NEW ZEALAND

Best Free Research Site

The best free site is a new site, and good place to start.

www.genealogy-index.co.nz/

From Arnold Chamove, JewishGen Digest April 25, 2009.

Holocaust/WWII

AUSTRIA, VIENNA

Original Transport Cards

"In 2002 I received copies of original transport cards (Ustredni Kartoteka-Transporthy) from the "Federation of the Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic" (for my relatives). These cards give the last address, transport and transport number to Terezin and transport number to Treblinka."

Their e-mail contact is sekretariat@fzo.cz.

www.fzo.cz

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From Peter Zimmer, Austria-Czech SIG Digest
May 5, 2009.

Vienna University List

<http://gedenkbuch.univie.ac.at/>

The University of Vienna has now published a searchable database of 2700 persons, mostly Jews, who were discharged or expelled in 1938. Among these persons are professors, students and employees of the university.

From Henry Wellisch, Austria-Czech SIG, June 30, 2009.

FRANCE

Camp de Casseneuile

www.ancrage.org/0704.html

At this website one can find a list of inmates of the Camp de Casseneuile in France. Note: The language is in French but the lists are easy to read, grouped by nationality of inmates. Go through the whole list.

From David Blank, French SIG Digest, June 23, 2009.

GREECE

Isle of Rhodes

The complete list of the Jews of the Isle of Rhodes (Rhodos) who perished in the Shoah, is uploaded at:

www.sephardicstudies.org/keridorhodeslis.html

From Mathilde Tagger, JewishGen Digest.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ancestry.com

Many free and premium Jewish databases are being added to this website. For a listing of these databases which include "Free"/ "Premium" notations, go to

<http://landing.ancestry.com/jewishfamilyhistory/default.aspx#>

JOWBR Update!

This update includes more than 94,000 new cemetery/tombstone records and approximately 12,000 new photos from 16 countries.

www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/

From Nolan Altman, JewishGen Digest, July 21, 2009.

Surnames

www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames/Main.aspx

"This site from the UK that will give you lots of info about the geographic origins of your surname & current info as well. check it out."

From Ann Linder, JewishGen Digest, August 5, 2009.

Translation Help

Another translation site to try,

<http://wordmonkey.info/>

From Ann Linder, JRI-Poland digest, July 29, 2009.

Check these other websites for important additions and updates:

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org

Shtetl websites.

www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/translations.html

Yizkor book translations

President's Message, cont. from page 2

embarrassed I felt. I asked whether there was any way that he, a fellow historian, could look kindly upon this as an unfortunate transgression on the part of my mother. Phil said he had acquired the medals through a second-hand store, which had actually purchased them in the auction. Phil said he would get back to me with a price he thought would be fair. In his next e-mail he wrote, "I have done my homework regarding the medals and I will pitch the price up the middle of my obtained estimates. The price I will quote you is GBP. £325, inclusive of postage and package." Ouch! That's nearly \$570.

Of course there was no way I could let these go, since we don't have many other artifacts belonging to my grandfather. I just kept thinking that there had to be better ways in life to spend nearly \$600!

No doubt there is a moral here: as well as getting in touch with all your relatives about information, you should also remind them that you feel responsible for any artifacts and heirlooms they might have. No matter what other relatives think of them, once they are out of your hands, who knows where they might end up? At least I was very lucky and was able to retrieve my grandfather's medals.

Reports on the 29th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Philadelphia

Reports from "Tracing the Tribe: The Jewish Genealogy Blog by Schelly Talalay Dardashti," (<http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com>) reproduced in *ZichronNote* by permission of the author.

Philly 2009: JewishGen's Presentation

JewishGen's presentation on what's new at the site (www.jewishgen.org) is always a big draw evening at the annual conference.

Managing director Warren Blatt welcomed people from all over, from Ashkenazi and Sephardic communities, to JewishGen's resources.

There have been changes (the logo, a new stable platform using six new servers at Ancestry, a new Board of Governors) in a year of transition, while the commitment to resources continues. Volunteers are still needed and contributors are sought as well to fund the site.

Warren provided a general overview of the multi-faceted JewishGen. Founded in 1987 as a dial-up service (an electronic forum for PC users) with 150 members, founded by Susan E. King, to an Internet presence in 1993, with databases online in 1996. Thousands of people worldwide centered on Jewish roots and history. Staffed by volunteers until 2004, when it became part of the Museum of Living Jewish Heritage, it is still dependent on volunteers for contributions and projects, while the museum partnership provides viability and stability.

The most popular components of JewishGen include the discussion groups with the general one attracting 30-40 messages per day as well as 30 SIGs and specialized discussion groups, InfoFiles, how-to, FAQ, Yizkor books (translations, necrologies), many important resources, ShtetlSeeker, Family Tree of the Jewish People, Jewish Online World Burial Registry (JOWBR), All-Country Databases, Holocaust Database (with some 2 million records), and some 450 other databases.

Warren said that he spent a week in the winter to relaunch and transit all of JewishGen to six new servers. Since January, JewishGen has been down only one hour, he added. There are still many software issues and they need techie people to help out. The Ancestry/JewishGen agreement also provides for transcription and scanning.

He presented an overview of the new website design, which now includes the home page and a

few top level pages. Soon the Kingdom of Poland Duma voter lists will be added as well as the Yizkor book master name index. . . .(Posted August 5, 2009)

Philly 2009: Polish cemetery projects

The Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) luncheon was held Sunday, with speaker Monica Krawczyk of the Foundation for Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland.

Visit the multimedia site Polin (www.polin.org.pl), which presents the history of Jewish communities — some 1,200 towns — at the English site. The Foundation was founded in 2002 by the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland and the WJRO.

Its mission was to protect surviving monuments of Jewish heritage in Poland, Its important projects include: The Chassidic Route, The Zamosc Synagogue Revitalization Project, To Bring Memory Back, The POLIN - Jewish Jews' Heritage website.

29th IAJGS International
Conference on Jewish Genealogy
Philadelphia
2-7 August 2009



She covered the discoveries of Jewish gravestones taken for roads, embankments and building foundations. Some 30 percent of stones have been destroyed, while another 30 percent have been preserved.

Preservation projects have been conducted by groups (SIGs, associations of immigrants and survivors etc.) and include monuments and memorials, listing names from specific localities. The Foundation also works on cemeteries, signage, memorials, reclaiming of burial grounds, fencing and gates.

A recent project in Zuromin focused on something planned for some time. They had wanted to enclose the open field. This has been done and now a memorial is planned to include all the names of those who had been killed.

Uppermost in such projects is the perspective of Judaism in regards to Jewish preservation and cooperation with interest groups. According to Monica, the most uniting aspect of working with Jewish groups has been the cooperation and coming together of a wide gamut of groups, ranging from the most Orthodox to the most secular.

Continued on next page

Conference, cont. from page 13

They cooperate with the chief rabbi of Poland, Israeli rabbis and Orthodox groups in the U.S. in solving problems based on customs and religious law. One specific case she mentioned is the law against digging in a cemetery (other than for graves), thus as far as landscaping, she said that a bush or tree cannot be dug up by the roots but can be cut off at ground level. This was a new one to me, but then Jewish cemetery laws are not my specialty.

Cooperating in today's projects are local authorities, Jewish communities, NGOs, international Jewish organizations, scouting groups and Polish and international student groups.

Another important aspect is that the group talks to local authorities and gains their cooperation and assistance with projects by explaining that those towns that help with marking cemeteries or other sites will benefit from increased tourism. Economic benefits mean cooperation with local authorities.

They explain to local governments that they have sites visited by many Jewish tourists, and ask, "why don't you promote your site or sites as a tourist destination?" Thus cooperation has been arranged to the extent that localities help build roads, co-fund memorial plaques and generally ingrain in their minds that something should be done. She gave the example of a town with a synagogue but no sign. The town says the Jews aren't interested. Monica's group must bring the two sides together to talk.

There is also cooperation with the Polish antiquities authorities, as road construction reveals gravestones and the subsequent action of what to do with them. They help religious groups decide what to do.

The authorities say that the outside groups have no legal standing, producing sometimes cantankerous fights. Sometimes they obtain very good results. One example showed a walled-in plot of land with the preserved gravestones set in the walls.

Questions were raised as to the disposition of Jewish community property and areas of Poland now in other countries

As genealogists know, discoveries of gravestones can be extremely important for genealogical research. Monica also shared with luncheon attendees that groups in Israel and elsewhere are now fund-raising for various projects. (Posted August 4, 2009)

Ancestry.com: New Jewish collections added

Ancestry's content vice president Gary Gibb, at tonight's Philly 2009 conference, announced the

expansion of the site's online Jewish family history record collection.

The two new collections are the American Jewish Historical Society and the Routes to Roots Foundation for online access to more than 200,000 Jewish records.

Ancestry.com has aligned with the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS), which maintains millions of records that bear witness to the contributions of the American Jewish community to life in the Americas from the 16th century to the present, and Miriam Weiner's Routes to Roots Foundation (RTRF), an internationally-known firm that specializes in Jewish research in the archives of Eastern Europe.

Through relationships with these two organizations, Ancestry.com is digitizing and putting online a unique collection of records that can now be searched alongside the large collection of Jewish records already accessible on Ancestry.com.

"We believe the value in the American Jewish Historical Society's extraordinary holdings lies not only in what we have, but in how we make it accessible," said Evan Kingsley, executive director of the AJHS. "Ancestry.com provides a new and important online access point that makes AJHS' archives that much more valuable. The more our collections are used, the better we're fulfilling our mission."

Weiner's Routes to Roots' Eastern European Archival Database includes references to Jewish and civil records from archival holdings in Belarus, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine.

"The Eastern European Archival Database is the result of a 20-year journey to help record and preserve Jewish materials from five countries," said Miriam Weiner, founder of the Routes to Roots Foundation. "Through this important collection people will be able to discover a variety of documents including property records, census lists, vital records and Holocaust records, which will help them walk in the footsteps of their ancestors."

The AJHS was founded in New York City in 1892, and its holdings include 20 million documents, 50,000 books, paintings and other objects that bear witness to the remarkable contributions of the American Jewish community to life in the Americas from the 16th century to the present.

The Routes to Roots Foundation was established in 1994 to survey, study, research, inventory and document Jewish material, archives and Judaica in Eastern European archives. It fosters and promotes the study and preservation of Jewish genealogical material and assembles, catalogues, publishes and disseminates information from research and study

Continued on next page

Conference, cont. from page 14

of Jewish materials and compiles, maintains and updates library and/or archive of collections of Jewish historical, cultural and genealogical information.

Check out the Jewish collections at Ancestry.com click on <http://landing.ancestry.com/jewishfamilyhistory/default.aspx> (Posted August 3, 2009)

Philly 2009: IAJGS Annual Awards

The annual International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) awards were announced at the conference banquet on closing night. Awards were presented as follows:

Outstanding Programming or Project that Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy: The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, for its genealogy course.

Outstanding Publication by a Member Organization of IAJGS: The New York Genealogical Society, for its *Dorot* quarterly journal, which has been published for 30 years.

Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product: Harry Boonin of Philadelphia for his two books, *The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia* and *Life and Times of Keshet Israel*. He also received a special award from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia, conference co-host, for his work.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Joyce Field was honored for her tireless efforts on behalf of JewishGen's Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Register, Holocaust Database, Yizkor Book Database and content acquisition.

The award committee was chaired by Marc Manson (Michigan), and committee members Daniel Horowitz (Israel), Phyllis Kramer (Florida), Kahlile Mehr (Utah) and Gary Mokotoff (New Jersey).

The Malcolm H. Stern Grant: The Stern Grant committee was chaired by SallyAnn Sack (Maryland), with Saul Isroff (UK) and Rochelle Kaplan (Utah). A \$2,500 grant was awarded to Shamir of Latvia for its project: "The guide to Jewish materials stored in the Latvian Historical Archive."

Its main purpose is to prepare a comprehensive overview of existing materials about the Latvian Jewish community in the Latvian State Archive for a guide that will benefit Jewish genealogists and others.

The archive holds unique materials from the 16th century which have never been catalogued and never made available to the public. Only a few archive workers are aware of the amount of that information.

Shamir is a non-profit organization in Riga, Latvia. Its main goal is to commemorate the memory of Latvian Jews. Its activities are also aimed at genealogical issues, such as renovation of the Jaunjelgava Jewish cemetery to recover more than 300 names of Jews buried there; Latvian synagogues and rabbis (1918-1940); and the current project is the Latvian Jewish Encyclopedia, tracing the history and fate of Latvian Jewry from 1561 to today. (Posted Aug. 7, 2009.)

Footsteps, cont. from page 8

Alex said that the rabbi and his wife live in a building at back of the synagogue.

We visited the museums across the square from the City Hall. There was an exhibit of the history of Jewish life in Lviv and what happened to it. The Germans even had machines made to crush the bones and spread the ashes after cremating bodies. Alex seemed outraged about this. The exhibit also showed some righteous gentiles including an Orthodox Catholic Priest who saved 150 Jews. Upstairs in the museum we had to put on special slippers over our shoes to protect the old parquet floors. This was once the palace of a noble Italian family, who abandoned the house in the 1900s. We were told that UNESCO restored it as part of an ongoing restoration project of the City Hall and surrounding area that started in the 1990s. Beautiful furniture and plaster ceilings, plus paintings of the family, were on display. In the other museum we saw silver work, paintings, and photos showing the art and the history of the city.

On the way to the Lviv airport we passed the Opera House, where someone was filming a movie. We were startled to see huge Nazi banners draped across the building for the filming.

We returned with many photos and even more memories. During this wonderful trip, I learned so much and experienced so many different emotions. Although we still have no proof that our family lived in Svinarin, our trip to the field still known as "the factory" does support that story. If I ever go again, I want to see if I can find a souvenir piece of resin to bring back with me.

1. For a website with pictures of Kovel from the Czar's time to present day see www.bfcollection.net/cities/ukraine/kovel/kovel.html

2. For more information about this project see www.dartmouth.edu/%7Eprojpreservation/druzhkapol/reflections.htm

Calendar of Events

Sun. Sept. 13, San Francisco: *Warsaw-Lviv-Jerusalem: Adventures in "Archiveland" and Beyond.* SFBAJGS member Karen Roekard presents a "how to" guided tour — based on her own experience — on how to use archives in various locations and how to integrate the material you find.

Sun. Oct. 8, Berkeley: *Ukraine Scrapbook — A Journey that Took 105 Years to Plan and Finally Take.* Allan Dolgow presents his trip to Ukraine as a part of his genealogical journey. Starting with the past, he was able to find relatives living in the Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Canada, India, and the United States.

Mon. Oct. 19, Los Altos Hills: *The Jewish Community of Shanghai, China, Before and During WWII.* Rena Krasno was born in Shanghai in 1923 and lived there until 1949. She will present the history of the Jewish community of Shanghai and will describe life in this community before and during the war.

Sun. Nov. 15, San Francisco: *Using DNA for Genealogy — Demystified.* SFBAJGS Board member Dave Howard presents simple, clear answers to all your questions about DNA. Confusing scientific jargon will be demystified and explained in simple terms. Howard has been the Family Tree DNA Group Administrator for the Jewish_Q group and the Horowitz Surname project for more than three years.

For more information about these and other programs of interest, see pages 3 and 4.
For the latest program information visit sfbajgs.org

ZichronNote

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