



זכרון ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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Jewish Refugees at Angel Island

A little-known chapter of World War II history

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The Rakuyo Maru, which brought several hundred refugees, including many Jews, to San Francisco on 28 August 1940. Some of those passengers ended up at Angel Island Immigration Station for questioning.

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Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

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President's Message

Presidential Potpourri

By Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

In the old days, around this time of year we would go around the house and move the big hand on the various clocks back an hour; oh, how things have changed. Now I get to stand in front of the stove, the microwave, and everything else which has glowing green numbers, hitting buttons galore as I try to recall how I did the same thing just a few months ago.

And now it's getting darker outside and cooler too. Time to turn up the thermostat and spend a few hours doing those things related to genealogy we have been putting off all summer, like organizing our files and photos. I also like to index the many books that seem to be lying around everywhere. Gee, did I really buy all these books? I picked up *Bread to Eat, Clothes to Wear: Letters from Jewish Migrants in the Early Twentieth Century* and an English edition of Edward Kritzler's *Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean*. I recently finished reading Katherine Greider's fascinating book on the genealogy of a house in New York's Lower East Side that she lived in (see my review in this issue). With all these books I guess that makes me more of a voracious buyer than a reader!

I'm also writing this while I still have very pleasant memories of our first Open House, held at the Oakland Multi-Regional Family History Center. More than fifty people came through the doors in search of their ancestors. They were received by a wonderful group of experts: some from the Society, some Family History Center staff, and some members of the California Genealogical Society. Ron Arons twice gave the presentation "Putting the Flesh on the Bones: Researching Why Our Ancestors Did What They Did." Janice Sellers and Robinn Magid contributed to the very attractive display in support of the Open House at the Oakland Family History Center. The open-house style event was deemed such a success that the Board will discuss hosting it again next year as part of International Jewish Genealogy Month.

This is an odd-numbered year, so that means it's also an election year. The slate has been made up with the nominations of members willing to run for the five electable positions. You can read more about this elsewhere in this issue. As two Board members will be stepping down from their positions, I would like to take a moment to thank both Larry Burgheimer and Dave Howard for their work as Membership Director and Secretary, respectively. We won't, however, be losing their valuable experience, as they will remain on the Board. It has also been my pleasure to work with all the Board Members: Rosanne Leeson, Shellie

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SOCIETY NEWS

New Member

Lois Carter **2brigit4@comcast.net**
In order to continue to receive the SFBAJGS e-blast and *ZichronNote*, please send e-mail updates to **newsletter@sfbajgs.org**.

Stories Needed for *ZichronNote*

Have you had a breakthrough in your family research, solved a family mystery through painstaking research, discovered an amazing resource, or walked where your ancestors walked as part of an interesting family history trip? Have you had a success or made progress at the Genealogy Clinic with the Mavens? Want to write a letter to the editor?

We want to read about it in *ZichronNote*. Please submit material to newsletter@sfbajgs.org.

Ballots Due for Election of Officers

The SFBAJGS Board of Directors has accepted the slate of candidates presented by the Nominating Committee. The candidates are President, Jeremy Frankel; Vice President, Rosanne Leeson; Secretary, Shellie Wiener; Treasurer, Jeff Lewy; Membership, Avner Yonai. If elected Frankel, Leeson, and Lewy will be continuing in office.

All members have been mailed ballots and may vote for the slate, for individual candidates, or for write-in candidates. Ballots must be returned by **31 December 2011** to be valid.

New Location and Time for SF Meetings

It was quite apparent throughout the past year that we have been facing problems at our San Francisco meeting site, Beth Israel-Judea. Attendance was below what we wanted to see. The Board has worked hard to find a solution to this problem, and in 2012 our San Francisco meetings will be held at Rhoda Goldman Plaza, a more central location. We look forward to seeing many members there during the coming year.

SFBAJGS Family Finder Update

The surnames and towns being researched by our newest member are listed below. This database is maintained for the benefit of our membership. If you have a correction or an update, please write to SFBAJGS at P.O. Box 318214, San Francisco, CA 94131-8214.

Surname	Town, Country	Member
GERSHENSON	San Francisco Bay Area, Fremont, London, Poland	Lois Carter
NEWMAN	Petaluma, Santa Monica, New York City	Lois Carter
ZIRKIN	Ohio, Arizona, California, Belarus	Lois Carter

Meeting Times and Locations

Unless otherwise indicated, the SFBAJGS meeting schedule is as follows:

NOTE NEW LOCATION AND TIME FOR SAN FRANCISCO MEETINGS!

San Francisco: **Sunday. Doors open 1:00 p.m. Program begins at 1:30 p.m.**
Rhoda Goldman Plaza, 2180 Post 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.

Oakland: **Sunday. Doors open 12:30 p.m. Program begins at 1:00 p.m.**
Oakland Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue.

See Back Cover for Calendar of Upcoming Meetings

CALENDAR

Genealogy Events

Local and Regional

Monday, 15 January, 10:00 a.m. **Sacramento Jewish Genealogical Society**. Lorenzo Cuesta, "Using Facebook and Twitter in Genealogy." Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. Free. http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/html/meetings_2011.html

Saturday, 21 January, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon. **San Mateo County Genealogical Society**. Steve Morse, "Getting Ready for the 1940 Census: Searching without a Name Index." Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo. Free. <http://www.smcgs.org/>

Saturday, 4 February, 1:00–3:00 p.m. **Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society**. Laura Dansbury, "Tips from Ancestry's Senior Product Manager for Search." Santa Clara County Public Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. Free. <http://www.smcgs.org/>

Thursday, 9 February, 7:00–9:00 p.m. **Contra Costa County Genealogical Society**. Janice M. Sellers, "Using Newspapers for Genealogical Research." LDS Church, 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. Free. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caccogs/>

Sunday, 26 February, 1:30–3:00 p.m. **Sacramento Public Library**. Janice M. Sellers, "Introduction to Genealogy." 828 I Street, Sacramento. Free. <http://www.saclibrary.org/>

Saturday, 31 March. **Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society**. Spring Seminar with George Morgan. <http://www.rootcellar.org/>

State and National

Friday–Sunday, 2–4 February 2012. **RootsTech 2012**. Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah. Technologies and applications that could have an impact on the many emerging facets of family-history-related consumer markets worldwide. <http://www.rootstech.org/>

International

Sunday–Wednesday, 15–18 July 2012. **32nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy**. Hotel Marriott Paris Rive Gauche, Paris, France. <http://www.paris2012.eu/>



Paris in 2012!

Rosanne Leeson

The excitement began to build in Washington, D.C. for the 2012 IAJGS conference taking place in Paris 15–18 July, with a special table set up next to the IAJGS table. Several members of the Cercle de Généalogie Juive of Paris, the host organization, were waiting to share their plans to date. These included Bruno Bloch, the current President of the CGJ, committee chair Anne Lifshitz-Krams, and committee members Georges Graner and Sylvie G'Sell. They were assisted by two members of the SFBAJGS, Rosanne Leeson and Pierre Hahn, who are also the Co-Coordinator of the French SIG of JewishGen and members of the Cercle.

An excellent preparation for those planning to come to Paris was a session given by Anne Lifshitz-Krams on the archival and nonarchival resources available for research in France. I am told that her lecture will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Avotaynu*, for those who were not in Washington or who were unable to attend this talk.

The hotel for the event is the Paris Marriott Rive Gauche, which is centrally located and is offering exceptional rates for conference attendees: 119€ a night for one person, 129€ for two people, and these fees include taxes and a breakfast! The rates are extended to five nights before and after the conference itself. All sessions will have bilingual French/English instantaneous translations.

The conference is partnering with the Jewish genealogical societies of Belgium, Luxembourg, and Switzerland, so quite a number of varied experts will be present. A genealogical fair is being planned which will be rather like the National Genealogical Society's fairs here, with not only SIG's but other genealogical organizations also having booths. Many representatives from the rest of Europe have been invited.

The Web site for 2012 is already up at <http://www.paris2012.eu/>. It is possible now to reserve your room at the hotel! There is also a link for anyone who wishes to make a proposal for a session, and a list of those who have already done so. All this much earlier than normal, so you have plenty of time to plan ahead!

We had an enormously enthusiastic response in Washington, and two people have sent me e-mails to report that they have already made their reservations. Plans are being investigated for add-on visits after the conference to elsewhere in France and in the rest of Europe. Check the Web site often for any updates. It should be an exciting and exceptional event!



Jewish Refugees at Angel Island

Eddie Wong

Many Jewish refugees fleeing Europe in 1939 and 1940 were able to obtain exit visas and make their way across Russia to China and Japan, where they boarded ships to San Francisco. Many of them were held for medical inspection and questioning at the Angel Island Immigration Station. The Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF) has begun to research this little-known chapter of history by looking at immigration files of Jewish refugees at the National Archives in San Bruno.

Eddie Wong has been the Executive Director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation since May 2008. He is a graduate of UCLA's film program, where he obtained his BA and MFA. For many years he was a documentary filmmaker and later became the Executive Director of the Center for Asian American Media, which produces and funds films for PBS and also produces the Asian American Film Festival in San Francisco, Berkeley, and San Jose. He will be speaking to SFBAJGS on 18 March 2012 about the Angel Island Jewish refugees.

The Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF) became aware that Jewish refugees had come to San Francisco in 1940 after long and difficult travels escaping Nazi rule in Austria and Germany because of one person: Alice Steiner. Mrs. Steiner responded to a newspaper article in which AIISF solicited former immigrants to Angel Island to come forward with their stories. In 2004, AIISF volunteers interviewed Mrs. Steiner, who was 17 years old when she and her mother, Hilda Edelstein, journeyed from Austria to China to Angel Island. A few years later, Nora Steiner, Alice's daughter, supplied us with additional information and photographs, which are featured in *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America* by Erika Lee and Judy Yung, published in 2010 by Oxford University Press.

Among the diverse stories of Chinese, Japanese, Russian, and Mexican immigrants who all spent time on Angel Island, the story of Jewish refugees has largely been untold. Under AIISF's direction, several graduate students from San Francisco State University's Anthropology Department and other community volunteers have spent hours reading immigration records and searching for news articles.

Preliminary research of ships' logs revealed that in 1939 and 1940, 466 immigrants were listed as being of Hebrew ancestry. We assumed that most of them were coming to the U.S. to join other family members who had left in advance of the Nazi regime. Indeed, that was the case, as we soon discovered by reading the immigration records held at the National Archives at San Francisco, in San Bruno, California.

To date, we have reviewed records and stories about 60 Jewish immigrants from Austria, Germany, Lithuania, and Poland. The eldest immigrant was Zelik Honigberg, a 61-year-old button manufacturer from Lithuania, and the youngest was Margaret Schwarz, a 2-year-old from Germany. Several of the male immigrants had been imprisoned in concentration camps and released on the condition that they never return to Germany or Austria. Many

of the immigrants had spent their life savings on the long journey across Europe and Russia to find safe passage to Shanghai, only to wait months before being able to come to San Francisco.

Our research has focused mostly on passengers of ships that came to San Francisco in 1940 and 1941. From February to November 1940, eleven ships that arrived brought Jewish refugees from Shanghai, Kobe, and Hong Kong. AIISF volunteers have also looked at immigrant files from four ships that came in 1941, just before the close of trans-Pacific travel due to the U.S. entry into World War II. We still need to review ships' records from 1938 and 1939 to develop a fuller picture of Jewish exodus from the Nazi regime as they exacted more extreme measures of discrimination against Jews after consolidating power.

As we read the immigration files, we begin to understand the full extent of persecution of the Jewish people by the Nazis. Professionals such as doctors and lawyers lost their right to practice; ordinary working people were rounded up on the street and taken away to prison; children were separated from their parents as they fled from invading troops. Fortunately, the Angel Island immigrants had relatives and sponsors in the U.S., but many of them still underwent scrutiny by U.S. immigration officials who wanted to verify that these immigrants were not coming into the country as contract laborers or likely to become public charges. Jewish community organizations such as the National Jewish Women's Council and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, as well as the Society of Friends (Quakers), played vital roles in providing travel funds to allow these refugees to be reunited with friends and relatives on the East Coast and in the Midwest.

Our research has taken us to the point where we have learned a little about the circumstances of these immigrants' lives in Nazi-held countries and the sacrifices they made to find their way out. We have the names of the relatives and friends who testified on

their behalf. In some cases, we have been able to look deeper into public records and have discovered World War II draft registration cards, federal censuses, applications for U.S. naturalization, and death certificates. This additional information provides us a glimpse of where these refugees ended up living.

AIISF's goal is to find these immigrants and their relatives and descendants in order to explore more fully these compelling stories of courage and perseverance. This research will involve spending much more time looking at public records, contacting religious organizations and community associations, and reaching out to the broader community through the mass media. In some cases, such as that of Abraham Brumberg, who arrived as a 14-year-old on the *Asama Maru* in May 1941 and became a renowned scholar on Eastern Europe, we have the names of children; his are in Washington, D.C. and Providence, Rhode Island. We should be able to contact them and seek an interview. Mr. Brumberg passed away on 26 January 2008. As his example indicates, time is of the essence if we wish to contact those who immigrated and have distinct memories of their journeys; they are at least 75 years old.

We also may be able to locate descendants by contacting the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society to see if they still have records of the families they helped. Finally, we will solicit information from the community at large by contacting key congregations such as San Francisco's Congregation B'nai Emunah, which was founded by Jewish refugees from Shanghai.

Our goal is to incorporate dozens of these stories on the AIISF Web site as we develop a new online exhibit about the diverse experiences of immigrants to Angel Island. We also plan to develop a new exhibit at the Immigration Station in the future to highlight a few of the personal stories of immigrants, and we would like to include several stories about Jewish immigrants, including those from the 1930's and 1940's.

We look forward to working with you to tell this important story.



2011 International Jewish Genealogy Month

Jeremy Frankel

Sunday, 13 November, saw the SFBAJGS host its first Open House, as part of the Society's contribution to International Jewish Genealogy Month (IJGM). Well over fifty people attended, with another twenty or so experts from your Society, California Genealogical Society, and the Oakland Family History Center. The latter was also our host, whose facilities were made available to us for the afternoon.

Janice Sellers spent several months planning and organizing the whole event which, as far as I could see as I went around, went off without a hitch. Attendees were greeted upstairs in the foyer, where the front desk personnel determined their level of expertise. They were then directed downstairs to the library for specific assistance.

Society member (and current California Genealogical Society president) Steve Harris was on hand to help those requiring research assistance for New York City. Board members Jeff Lewy and Beth Galletto also worked with attendees. Society member Ron Arons gave a presentation entitled "Putting the Flesh on the Bones" twice during the afternoon.

Robinn Magid and Janice were responsible for most of the items in the excellent display which was mounted in the library during the month. It showcased Jewish genealogy through books, photographs, and Judaica for all genealogists who carried out research in the library.

Other events that took place as part of IJGM were Jeff Lewy speaking in Los Altos Hills about how to write and self-publish a family history using one of several online book publishing services, and Lara Michels speaking in San Francisco about the Judah L. Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, which is now being catalogued as part of UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library collection. This will have its official opening in January 2012.

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A Long-ago Jewish Politician in Texas

Jeff Lewy

Jeff Lewy became interested in genealogy to make sense of family photos going back four generations in the U.S. and Europe and to learn about the people in the photos. Most of his family lines arrived in the U.S. in the 1840's and 1850's, mostly in Alabama, before settling in Chicago by 1870. His tree now includes seven or more generations for most of his family names. He is the Treasurer of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society.

When I first learned that my family had not come directly from "Germany" to Chicago in the 1850's and 1860's, as I had always believed, I was very surprised to be told by a cousin that we had a relative who had been the mayor of Temple, Texas in the 1880's. The story was unexpected, as I didn't know any of the family had been in Texas, and none of my other relatives had had political careers.

Like other family stories, I wondered if this was even true and what the "real" story might be. I had already learned that most family lore held a germ of truth, even if the story that reached me might have been altered in the telling through the generations.

I learned quite a bit about Jewish communities in the South through the online *Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities*, supported by the Goldring-Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life. The *Encyclopedia* is dedicated to documenting and preserving the rich history of the Southern Jewish experience in the thirteen Southern states.

It seems quite a few Jews were active politicians in the South. The Web site, <http://www.isjl.org/history/archive/>, describes Jewish communities in many Southern towns and also includes a list of Jewish mayors.

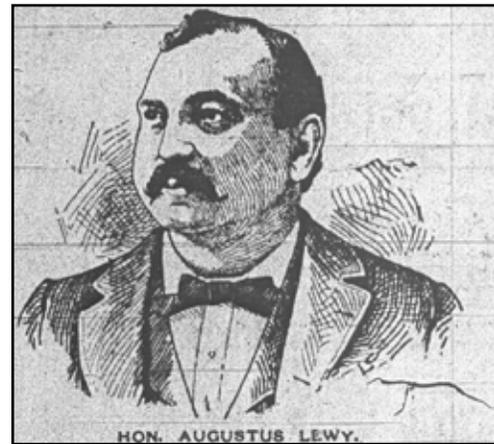
It turns out that my family lore is accurate. My first cousin twice removed, Augustus Lewy, was born in Montgomery, Alabama in 1857. He left school in 1870 and joined the family firm as an apprentice watchmaker. He passed the bar exam in the late 1870's and participated in a few newsworthy cases in Montgomery, including unsuccessfully defending a 12-year-old black girl accused of killing a white child in her care with a dose of morphine.¹ He spent about a year in Galveston, Texas in the early 1880's. He married Dora Cahn in Montgomery in 1882 and then went to Temple, Texas, where he continued to practice law. He and Dora had three girls, Ernestine, Rosalind, and Amy, who were all musically talented and who all lived until the 1960's and 1970's.

Temple is about 70 miles north of Austin and was incorporated in 1882. Lewy was elected City Attorney and served one two-year term. In 1886 he presented charges against the then mayor, J. W. Callaway, who had been seen visiting "houses of ill repute" and had been "found intoxicated" at various times. Callaway was suspended, and Lewy was elected to fill out his

term. Lewy was re-elected and served as mayor until 1889.

According to his obituary,² "when Mr. Lewy became Mayor of Temple he found the city in debt and municipal affairs badly tangled. During his incumbency he revived the city's credit, redeeming outstanding obligations and put the city on a cash basis, besides building a market house and other improvements, and when he left the mayor's office he did so voluntarily over the protests of the citizens."

The obituary included this half-tone etching.



At the end of his term, Augustus moved to San Antonio in 1892 and practiced law there. He was elected City Attorney in San Antonio in 1893 and District Attorney in 1894, and re-elected in 1896. According to his obituary, "he was an eloquent, able and fearless prosecutor."

In 1897 Mr. Lewy was nominated for mayor by a citizens' movement but lost by a small margin in a three-way contest and returned to the practice of law. In the election campaign of 1901 he was chairman of the City Democratic Executive Committee. He was elected alderman at large in 1901 but was unable to serve his term due to failing health. He died in 1902 of Bright's disease, a kidney ailment.

1. *Wetumpka Times*, Wetumpka, Alabama, 22 February and 17 May 1882.

2. *Daily Express*, San Antonio, Texas, 14 March 1902.



Impressions of the 2012 IAJGS Conference in Washington, D.C.

Beth Galleto and Preeva Tramiel

A Different Conference Experience

Beth Galleto

After attending six or seven conferences, one's focus changes. While at earlier conferences I was determined to attend presentations at every possible opportunity, at the 2011 conference in Washington, D.C. my main goals were networking and having documents translated.

People have been known to find long-lost relatives at these conferences. This year I met a distant relative whom I had never met before, but she was not lost. I have been corresponding with Linda Bell from the Detroit area—first by letter and phone, later by e-mail—for 30 years, but we had never before met face to face. Linda and I have each been working on our own branch of the Bolker family (my father's family, originating in towns in Poland north of Warsaw). We always suspected that the branches were related, but we have been unable to find a common ancestor. A few years ago I asked a male member of her branch and my brother to have Y-DNA tests. The tests show identical DNA at the 67 sites tested, confirming the relationship. Linda has traced her family back six generations, and I have traced mine back five, still without finding the common ancestor. We are reaching back to the 18th century, at which point records are scarcer and people do not have surnames. We agreed that we may never find the link, but together at the conference we were able to look over our research and find some loose ends that we want to explore. We are now more determined than ever to continue our search.

I was also happy to renew my acquaintance with Ania Wiernicka from Poland, who made two interesting presentations on Polish court and notarial records. She had guided my cousin Jilliene and me in an exploration of Warsaw during our trip to Poland in 2007. I was able to show her (and Linda) my photos from the trip, and to discuss what the trip meant for us.

There was also networking on my mother's side of my family. Both her parents came from towns in what was once the Chernigov gubernia, in the region that is now part of the Russian Republic. I attended a BOF group of other descendants of Jews from the Chernigov area.



The translations I got were also related to my mother's family. At a trip to Salt Lake City last year I copied pages from Russian tax censuses for 1882 and 1888 in which I had been able to decode my mother's family names (Oshero and Levitin). At the conference I haunted the translation desk, trying to get as many turns as possible with a Russian translator. The translation sessions were scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis for only 20 minutes at a time, instead of allowing people to sign up for specified time slots as at previous conferences. They said this was because they were not sure when or if the translators would show up. I was nevertheless able to have many of my pages translated.

Besides networking and translations, I also managed to fit in many presentations in addition to those on Polish court records. One was Rafael Guber's presentation called "Shame: What They Really Did to Our Grandmothers." His research shows that female immigrants coming to New York were frequently molested, and worse, by officials at Ellis Island and the Barge Office. This was a great shock to me, and it filled me with even more admiration for the courage our ancestors showed when they left their communities and homes in Eastern Europe and set out for the unknown.

Another learning experience was "Village Jews in the Pale of Settlement", presented by Dr. Neville Lamdan. Most of us habitually refer to all places in which Jews lived as *shtetlach*, but this presentation outlined the ways in which Jews in villages (where most of my relatives were) lived differently from those in *shtetlach*, which were larger towns.

All things considered, for me it was a successful conference.

From Socks in Queens to Sessions in Washington

Preeva Tramiel

My genealogical journey started when I cleaned out my Aunt Pauline's apartment and found the knee socks.

"I tried to throw these out when I lived in the Bronx," I said to my cousin Rifky, "and Aunt Pauline rescued them. It looks like she hasn't touched them since."

Rifky said, "I can't believe it. Look at the junk she saved!"

I got home and went straight to my basement. I figured that if I did not start cleaning my own house soon, my children would be making fun of me in 50 years. So I went through old boxes from the 1980's, and I found a folder of my father's documents.

From 2004 to 2008, I pondered the contents of that folder. The papers were in Hungarian, Czech, Russian, English, and Hebrew. I mooched translation services from everyone I could find who knew one of those languages (thank you, Alex Bauer and Xenia Hammer). I read *The Lost*, and signed up for JewishGen and Ancestry.com. I hired Alex Dunai and visited my father's towns in the Ukraine, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia in 2010.

"You've GOT to go to the CONFERENCE," my friend Sheree Roth kept telling me. "They are SO much FUN." So I decided to go to the IAJGS conference in Washington, D.C. in 2011.

When the Web site went up, I was so enthusiastic, I signed up for everything, with meals. I bought tickets to sessions on *Reunion*, and *Family Tree Maker* for PC and Mac (I had to decide which one to buy, and assumed this would help). I went to the H-SIG and Ukraine SIG breakfasts, and poked my nose into the Polish SIG breakfast because my father-in-law is from Lodz. I took seminars on "The Changing Maps of Europe", "Hasidism and Genealogy", and "Shame: What They Really Did to Our Grandmothers." I frantically tried to keep up with Vivian Kahn during her tour of Hungarian-related Web resources, and quietly took minutes for Marshall Katz at the inaugural meeting of the Sub-Carpathia SIG. I ordered two boxes of books from Gary Mokotoff. It was an overwhelming experience. I missed a few of my workshops because I double-booked, and some days my brain was too full of information to absorb another fact by lunchtime.

At the conference, I learned the differences between JGS, IAJGS, SIG, JOWBR, USHMM, and Radix. The lecture on "Jewish Life in the Ukraine" put the villages and cities I had seen when I went on my trip into perspective. "It's kind of like drinking from a fire hose," I told my husband on the phone. "But it's very, very cool."

I still have a few business cards left where I need to pick up the phone and start the conversation by saying, "Hi, I'm Preeva, I'm looking for Adlers and Weisses from Munkach. Could we be related?"



President's Message — continued from page 2

Wiener, Beth Galletto, Janice Sellers, Jeff Lewy, Dale Friedman, Avner Yonai, Larry Burgheimer, Pierre Hahn, and Dave Howard, who have all worked most diligently for the Society.

The Board continues to explore ways in which we can better serve you, the membership. With respect to recognizing the contribution Jews have made to the history of San Francisco, we continue to remain informed regarding the overhaul of Dolores Park, as we think it fitting to see a plaque installed there as a reminder of the time when the two blocks were once used as Jewish cemeteries.

We continue to add to the Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Register (JOWBR) database. If anyone else is interested in joining the subcommittee to help this most important project, do e-mail me. We continue to foster closer links with other Bay Area genealogical groups. The Board is also investigating other projects which would benefit anyone who had ancestors living here. These include the possible creation of indices based upon the holdings of the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life.

As this is the last *ZichronNote* you will receive this year, on behalf of the Board I would like to wish everyone warm wishes for the forthcoming holidays, and we look forward to seeing you all in 2012.



International Jewish Genealogy Month — continued from page 6



All the attendees went away having learned something and having pushed back the envelope of their family genealogy. One man learned he was indeed born in a concentration camp; a woman wept on seeing her father's signature on his naturalization papers.



I would like to thank everyone who worked tirelessly to make the Open House the success that it was. It is quite possible the event will be repeated next year. Watch this space for more details.



The Archaeology of Home: An Epic Set on a Thousand Square Feet of the Lower East Side

A Book Review by Jeremy Frankel

The Archaeology of Home: An Epic Set on a Thousand Square Feet of the Lower East Side by Katharine Greider. Jackson, TN: PublicAffairs Books, 2011. ISBN 978-1586487126.

As many of you may be aware, a number of Borders bookstores were shuttered earlier this fall. I took the opportunity to see what books they might have on offer which piqued my interest.

There wasn't much, but I came away with what turned out to be a very fascinating account of the history and genealogy of a house in New York's Lower East side. The author, Katharine Greider, a journalist, used her professional skills as well as those of a historian and genealogist to research not just the house but the prehistory HUNDREDS of years ago of the land the house stood on (the house wasn't built until 1843) and the families who inhabited it. The fact that two Jewish families lived there gave the book an obvious extra draw to someone like me.

It is apparent that Greider has really done her homework. The thoroughness of her research extended to the lives of the families where they had come from in Eastern Europe as well as in New York. Greider intertwined her own eventual unhappy association with Number 239 with those of the preceding residents.

There are fascinating vignettes of life during those times as she paints a picture of the house as a home and of the people who lived there and the stores and work places in the neighborhood, including the nearby shipbuilding yards.

Not content with simply researching the residents' lives, Greider went in search of their final resting places and describes the kind of scenes we genealogists are all too familiar with, such as overgrown cemeteries and toppled headstones (of course they're lying face down!).

The last chapter of the book shows off her journalistic background and writing prowess as she moves from the postwar period to when she and her family moved into Number 239.

After the war the neighborhood saw the arrival of the Beats, the dreamy poets whose lives then morphed into the rock and roll of the late 1950's and early 1960's. Their lives were followed by the influx of the hippie culture, which suited the somewhat ungraceful aging of the district. Then it all turned in on itself with the increasing seediness and evolving drug scene. Everything became a lot more violent through the 1970's and 1980's.

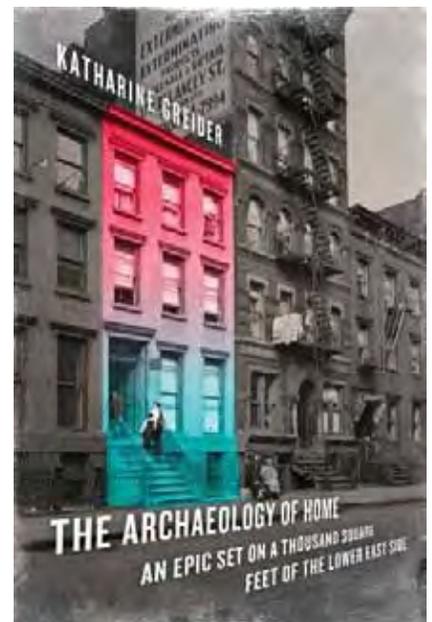
The upshot of this violence was a departure from the neighborhood of the kind of people who would have had a vested interest in looking after the homes. But all this was coinciding with the expiration date of the buildings reaching their "sell by date." Hence nothing was done and slum landlords ruled the day.

As Greider goes on to say, the violence brought forth a backlash and over time the number of rapes, murders, etc. diminished, sufficient for the neighborhood to attract young families whose income was rising with the stock market during the late 1980s and early 1990's, and who had dreams of gentrifying the neighborhood.

It was against this latter backdrop that Greider and her family made their belated entrance into a story which goes back hundreds of years. Their decade-long existence at Number 239 was cut abruptly short when their engineer called Greider up in the middle of the night (after perusing a report on the house) and told her in no uncertain terms to take her children and get out that very moment. (Her husband David was out of town at the time.)

Greider describes the various court scenes where she and her husband and the other co-owners (each one owning a floor) were fighting for a daily diminishing value of the building.

I won't spoil the ending by revealing it, but I do most wholeheartedly recommend this book as a good read, if nothing else. Fortunately there is more, a lot more, with the lives of those two Jewish families. Who knows, maybe someone in the Society can claim them as their own!



Work Locally, Share Globally

Richard Rands

Richard Rands is a professional genealogist residing in Mountain View. He has more than 50 years of experience working on his own family history and helping others trace their ancestors. A graduate of UC Berkeley with a BS in Operations Research and an MBA, he has worked for Hewlett-Packard, Tandem Computers, and the Tech Museum and recently retired as CEO of Computers for Marketing Corporation in San Francisco. Richard is currently president of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, director of the Los Altos Family History Center, and the proprietor of Brute Force Genealogy.

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All the hype in recent years urging us to maintain our genealogical data at an online Web site reminds me of election time: lots of promises but little substance.

It is one thing to share a copy of our immediate, documented family tree on a well managed Web site. It is a different thing to rely entirely on a remote, browser-based application to hold the results of our hard work. Popular browser-based data management applications do a nice job of making a family tree look attractive, with pretty screen layouts and wide availability, but if you need to do anything more sophisticated, you are out of luck.

The most effective way to develop and manage your genealogy information is to use one of the popular database programs now available, such as *Ancestral Quest*, *Family Tree Maker*, *The Master Genealogist*, *Personal Ancestral File*, *Reunion*, and *RootsMagic*. All these programs run on your own computer, allowing you to work locally. Later, after you have reached the point where you wish to share your information on the Web, you can easily upload a portion of your database to share with others.

As I work with people who are just starting on their family history, I typically see that they have a box of miscellaneous documents, letters, photographs, and perhaps a couple of albums. The principle concern is to organize the basic family history details as quickly and as easily as possible.

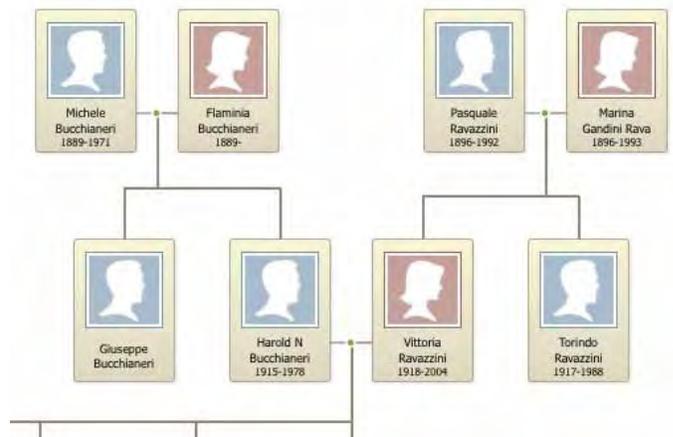
As we dig through the material from the top of the box to the bottom, it is extremely rare that the family history presents itself in neat, lineage-linked, chronological order. The best way to work systematically through a collection of inchoate items is to extract the genealogical details as you go, entering them into a database as independent records, connecting them as the links are revealed. After we have gathered everything we can, and have a better view of the overall picture of the family, we can organize it into a more complete family tree.

It is not easy to build an online family tree in the current browser-based applications when they require that we progress directly from one generation

to the next in chronological order. Connections of some branches of the tree may not be clear from what information is available. Instead, we should enter all the data in a database so we can readily see where our research should focus. Having everything we know about our family history clearly organized in a readily accessible, flexible format, with options to fix mistakes easily, we can use the database to organize the information: insert missing family members; add source documentation; print lists of possible errors; and see the holes, dead ends, and inconsistencies. This will significantly add to the pleasure of creating a well organized family history. As far as I can see, none of the browser-based applications provides these features.

The genealogy programs available for running on your local computer or a Family History Center computer have been around for as long as 30 years. Many have had multiple upgrades, and, more significantly, were developed by experienced genealogists.

This leads me to another reason I feel strongly about working locally and sharing later. All the software programs from which we can choose are full of useful features that make it easy to maintain and polish our family information, help with our research, and produce great-looking charts and reports to show off our work.



For example, suppose you discover you have used an inconsistent spelling of an oft-used place name. The locally run genealogy programs give you a find/replace feature similar to what you see in office software, which makes it a breeze to quickly locate all of the incorrectly spelled place names and replace them with the correct name. The same is true for incorrect surnames. In an online database, you may have to find the incorrect records and make the corrections one record at a time.

Suppose you are planning a trip to the state where many of your ancestors came from, and you would like to make a list of everyone in your database who was born, married, or died in that state. The program on your local computer will make that process a simple matter. An online program typically won't do it at all.

What if you would like to give your grandparents a list of every one of their descendants in your database, sorted by birthdates, so that they will have a reminder of when to send out birthday cards to all their kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids? Not only will the genealogy program on your own computer do that, it will even print a monthly calendar with the names printed on the appropriate days.

Other helpful reports you can usually get from a local software program include a list of your dead-end (end-of-line) individuals, unlinked records, duplicate individuals, and citations linked to source records. You may be able to print out a pedigree chart and a family group chart from an online application, but you will not have the flexibility and number of reports available from a local program.

Some software programs have powerful search features that can be combined with a flexible custom report generator. You can combine a relationship search with a data field search to select very specific subsets of your list of names. A simple search for an individual or a family is a piece of cake if you are using a genealogy database on a local computer.

It is safe to say that if there is a useful feature that will facilitate managing your family history database, you probably will be able to find it in at least one of the programs you can run on a personal computer, whether you use a PC or a Mac.

Finally, the most important aspect of having your data on your own computer: You have 100% control and ownership of the data. No one else can or will change it, unless you allow them access to your computer. At any time, you can select all or a portion of your database to upload to a Web site where others can look at it, but you will know that what you have on your machine is always yours.



Now Online

Marilyn Dornhelm

Juicy Bits of Jewish Genealogy

In this column I share what's new in online indices, digitized archival material, and tools. The following are from August–September 2011. The main sources for these are JewishGen and many SIG digests. Comments are welcome. Send them to mdornhelm@yahoo.com.

USA

GENERAL

Social Security Death Index (SSDI) No Longer Contains "Protected" State Death Records

<http://www.ntis.gov/products/ssa-dmf.aspx>

If a state has a waiting period for public access to death records, such as 25, 50, or 75 years—e.g., New York, New Jersey, Virginia—they are considered "protected." The Social Security Administration has removed approximately 4.2 million records from the SSDI file and will add about 1 million fewer records annually.

Nationwide Grave Locator of Veterans and Family Members

http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1

Information for private burials was collected for the purpose of furnishing the government grave markers. Private burials prior to 1997 are not yet included.

Service Members Buried in Overseas Cemeteries

<http://www.abmc.gov/home.php>

Free Digitized Newspapers

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Choose Advanced Search, then select the paper you want. You can then enter a date range and search phrase.

ARIZONA

Birth (1855–1935) and Death (1844–1960) Records

<http://genealogy.az.gov/>

MICHIGAN

Detroit

KehilaLink for Detroit, Michigan

<http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/detroit/>

Many new KehilaLinks (formerly ShtetLinks) are created, but one in the USA is unusual.

NEW YORK

Old Real Estate Records

<http://ldpd.lamp.columbia.edu/rerecord/index.php>

Brooklyn

History of Brooklyn Jewry, 1937 (Google e-book)

<http://books.google.com/books/reader?id=ttU0AAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&pg=GBS.PP1>

Lists organizations and names. Free.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Cincinnati Birth and Death Index 1865–1912 Completed

<http://drc2.libraries.uc.edu/handle/123456789/1>

Cincinnati Grave Photos

<http://www.jcemcin.org/>

The Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati have an online inventory of graves and photos. There is a search function under “genealogy.”

EUROPE

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

Hugo Gold Books Now Fully Searchable

<http://www.hugogold.com/> or <http://www.genealogyindexer.org/>

Viennese Meldezettel Form Lookup Helper

<http://www.scopiebreskford.com/tng/meldezettel.cgi>

Finds the most likely LDS films for any specific surname for the Meldezettel series, 1850–1928, giving an approximate probability of success for each. See <http://www.jewishgen.org/austriaczech/TOWNS/Austria/meldezettel.htm> for more information.

GALICIA

Searchable 1879–1914 Galician Newspaper

<http://jpress.org.il/publications/KMD-en.asp>

Mahziqey Ha-dat/Qol Mahziqey Ha-Dat was published between 1879–1914 in Hebrew. The newspaper was dedicated to surveying ultra-Orthodox life in Lwow (Lemberg) and Galicia. The names of the newspapers translate to “The Upholders of Religion” / “The Voice of the Upholders of Religion.”

New Features Added to All Galicia Database

<http://search.geshergalicia.org/>

Geographic searching and results sorting are now available.

Galicia and Bukovina: A Research Handbook about Western Ukraine, Late 19th–20th Centuries

<http://www.ourroots.ca/e/toc.aspx?id=1563>

Online book by John-Paul Himka, acclaimed authority on Galicia and Bukovina.

GERMANY

German Cemetery Headstone Photos

<http://www.youtube.com/user/OhmsenMichael#p/u/5/EWjnVDAypCI>

High-definition photographs in video form, of all the headstones in Jewish cemeteries of German towns/cities listed on the right side of this page. Tips for watching the videos can be read in an archived JewishGen post: <http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg-jgsys~archview~189810~Stacye+Mehard~121;6>.

HUNGARY

More Hungarian Civil Records at Family Search

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1452460>

The collection now includes images of births to 1920, marriages to 1950, and deaths to 1980 from 23 different counties. The records are not yet indexed but that is in progress. For more information see [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Hungary_Civil_Registration_\(FamilySearch_Historical_Records\)](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Hungary_Civil_Registration_(FamilySearch_Historical_Records)).

LATVIA

1912 Courland Directory Available Online

http://www.jewishgen.org/courland/verkehrsbuch_1912/

The directory is arranged according to city, village, and estate. Read the introduction. The directory is written in Gothic German script, but there are directions to aids to help you read it.

LITHUANIA

Additions to Lithuania Internal Passport Records, 1919–1940

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Lithuania/InternalPassports.htm>

These records have been added to the JewishGen Lithuania searchable database.

Kaunas and Vilijampole 1875–1890 Death Records

<http://kaunas.shutterfly.com/>

NETHERLANDS

Dutch Naturalization Records 1850–1934

<http://www.shgv.nl/naturalisaties.htm>

The site is in Dutch, but the list of names and dates is pretty easy to grasp.

POLAND

Kremenitz

Update to “Concordance of Personal Names and Town Names”

<http://www.kehialinks.jewishgen.org/Kremenets/web-pages/master-surnames.html>

5,200 entries from landsmanshaft booklets published between 1968 and 1982, plus an additional

booklet published in 1995 by the Organization of Kremenets Emigrants. Translations of the Hebrew portions of all eighteen booklets are available at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/kremenets1/kremenets1.html>.

Also see *Holocaust*.

ROMANIA

Grandma Makes Mamaliga (video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Px2qpOqMHCs>

Grandma Amalia kindly volunteered to show us how she makes a mamaliga, the same way her mom in Bessarabia used to make it.

UNITED KINGDOM

1,000+ Will Abstracts Plus Burial Records Added

<http://synagoguescribes.com/blog/secular-records/>

These abstracts cover the 18th and 19th centuries, from towns across the United Kingdom and places as far afield as New York, Jamaica, and Australia. The wills reflect the diversity of Jewish life across two centuries and a massive amount of genealogical information. Burial records have also been added: <http://synagoguescribes.com/blog/advanced-search-3/>. The sister site **CemeteryScribes.com** now has photos of tombstones from cemeteries in East Anglia.

UK Jewish Genealogy Blog, "Jewish Ancestors?"

<http://www.jsgsb.org/uk/blog/>

From the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.

UK National Archives Adds 1902–1922 Nursing Records and More

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/nursing>

<http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/medals.asp>

Searching the records is free but there is a charge to view full transcripts. Other WWI records include 5 million campaign medal index cards, which record an individual's medal entitlement, rank(s) or unit(s), and often the first theater of war in which the person served.

1851 Anglo Jewish Database Update

<http://www.jsgsb.org.uk/1851-database>

WORLD

CANADA

Library of Canada Adds to Child Emigration Database

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/home-children/index-e.html>

Between 1869 and the early 1930's, more than 100,000 children were sent to Canada from Great Britain during the child emigration movement. In the latest update, more than 20,000 names of chil-

dren who came to Canada 1925–1932 were added. The names were extracted from passengers lists held at Library and Archives Canada.

CHINA

Shanghai

East European Jews in the Holocaust

<http://genealogyindexer.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=555>

1939 names and addresses of thousands of Jews who sought refuge in Shanghai.

ISRAEL

Searching Israeli Phone Numbers in English

<http://www.IsraelPB.com/>

LATIN AMERICA

Passenger Lists at CEMLA (Centro de Estudios Migratorios de Latinoamerica)

<http://www.cemla.com/busqueda.php#>

Transcription of passenger arrival lists available free. There is information from 1882–1932, 1938–1945, 1947, 1948, 1949 (partial), and 1950. In the past you could see a list of the surnames, but no other information was available without further inquiry and payment. For many tips on utilizing the site, see this archived message: <http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg-jgsys~archview~188848~passenger+lists+cemla~332;9>.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand (Ryder-Lewis) BMD Online

<https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/>

HOLOCAUST

GENERAL

Holocaust Records from France, Spain, and Africa (Germany)

<http://www.archive.org/details/franceconcentrationcamp>

This collection of records found in the Leo Baeck Collection has lists of persons interred in Spanish concentration camps listed by nationality and also the names of some individual child refugees in France. In addition, there are lots of background information on conditions in the Gur camp and others in France. There are some book copies included in the collection, including a complete listing of names from the book *The Deportation of German and Austrian Jews From France 1942–1944* by Barbara Vormeier ("The Names of the German Jews Deported From France 1942–1944").

CANADA

<http://dornsife.usc.edu/vhi/clipviewer/>

McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, has become the first Canadian institution to offer full access to nearly 52,000 Shoah testimonies record-

ed by Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation. Use the link to search the catalog of interviews.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Holocaust Victims Deported from or through Bohemia and Moravia

<http://holocaust.cz/cz/victims>

<http://www.holocaust.cz/en/victims> (English)

<http://www.pamatnik-terezin.cz/cz/historie-sbirky-a-vyzkum/vyzkum> (more comprehensive, but only in Czech)

The Terezin Initiative Institute maintains a database with some victims' photos and various documents from the police files.

Victims Inscriptions Mural, Pinkas Synagogue, Prague

<http://www.wmf.org/project/pinkas-synagogue>

The text of the inscriptions was compiled from sources such as extant transport papers and registration lists.

GERMANY

Index of Jews Whose German Nationality was Annulled by Nazi Regime, 1935-1944

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2027>

This database was recently added to Ancestry.com and includes many Galitzianers who lived in Germany before World War II. The database was created from U.S. National Archives microfilms of captured German records held at the Berlin Documents Center. Nonsubscribers can search the index and view digital results but they cannot view the original cards, which also include maiden names, street addresses, occupations and annulment dates. Ancestry.com is available free at all Family History Centers and at many libraries.

POLAND

East European Jews in the Holocaust

<http://www.indeks.karta.org.pl/en>

Search for persons by name on the Karta Poland collection, a collection of lists of Jews and non-Jews deported from Eastern Poland in 1939-1941 to parts of the Soviet Union. In many cases additional information is available on the persons identified on the Web site in the multivolume set of books also published by Karta. A fuller description of this source appeared in the Spring 2011 edition of *Avotaynu*.

MISCELLANEOUS

General

Back issues of Israel Genealogical Society Journal Sharsheret Hadorot Now Open to the Public

<http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/13/207/5821.asp>

The journal is published in Hebrew and English every three to four months.

Free Monthly Webinar: Introduction to Genetic Genealogy

<http://relativeroots.net/webinars/intro-ftdna/>

Register for either a live session or a recording.

JewishGen

Screencasts: 5-minute Videos to help JewishGen First Timers

<http://www.jewishgen.org/education/> (bottom of page)

"Prepare For Your Search" (for USA researchers), "JewishGen Educational Courses", "How to Navigate JewishGen", "Find Your Ancestral Town", "Communicate with Other Researchers Using JGFF", "Jewish Records Indexing - Poland", "Jewish Genealogy Websites Part I (JewishGen and IAJGS/JGS)", and "Jewish Genealogy Websites Part II."

2010-2011 Changes to JewishGen

ShtetLinks Are Now KehilaLinks

<http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/>

Some KehilaLinks pages still have text and graphics that say ShtetLinks.

ShtetlSeeker Is Now JewishGen Gazetteer

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp>

Along with the name change, the geographic scope has been expanded and search functionality has been improved.



The Galitzianer **Request for Submissions**

The Galitzianer is the quarterly journal of Geshet Galicia. Submissions may be articles and/or graphics, both original and previously published, relevant to Jewish genealogical research in Galicia: articles about recent trips to Galicia, reports on your own research, research techniques, historical and recent pictures relevant to these matters, lists, book reviews, etc.

Electronic submissions are preferred, though not required. Submissions are accepted from both members and nonmembers of Geshet Galicia.

Though submissions are accepted year-round, the deadline for the March 2012 issue is **15 February 2012**. To send a submission or if you have any questions, contact Janice Sellers at janicemsj@gmail.com. For more information see <http://www.jewishgen.org/galicia/newsletter.html>.

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXXI, Number 4

November 2011

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sunday, 22 January, San Francisco: *Getting Ready for the 1940 Census: Searching without a Name Index.* Steve Morse will talk about the tools already available on the One Step Website that will help people find family members in the 1940 census when it is released to the public on April 2, while companies madly race to create searchable indices.

Sunday, 12 February, Oakland: *Getting Ready for the 1940 Census: Searching without a Name Index.* A repeat of January's timely talk for those who were not able to attend that day.

Sunday, 18 March, San Francisco: *Jewish Refugees at Angel Island Immigration Station.* Eddie Wong, director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, will talk about Jews who fled Europe through Asia and came to the United States through San Francisco and Angel Island.

Sunday, 22 April, Oakland: *Who Do You Think They Were?* A panel of experienced SFBAJGS researchers will help you take those first few steps into the magic and mystery of your family history and genealogy. Along the way we will help you figure out how to research and answer the "who, what, where, when, why, and how" of your family.

Sunday, 13 May, San Francisco: *Google and Genealogy.* Learn how to target your searches using the Google search engine so that they bring you better results. Google's tools include a calculator, language translation, phone book, dictionary, and the ability to notify you when something of interest is posted to the Internet.

Sunday, 10 June, Oakland: *Caring for Your Documents and Photos.* When you are fortunate to have original family documents, you want them to last. A professional paper conservator will discuss what to do and what not to do to give your heirlooms a better chance of survival.

The Los Altos schedule is still being finalized.

Also see page 4. For detailed program information visit <http://www.sfbajgs.org/calendar.html>.
