

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

c/o Pete Tannen, 207 States St., San Francisco CA 94114

Volume 1 Number 6

edited by Pete Tannen

July, 1982

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President:	Carolyn Sherfy	521-8593 (Alameda)	Recording Sec:	Madon Perkel	857-9185 (Palo Alto)
Vice President:	Martha Wise	544-9927 (San Francisco)	Corresp. Sec.:	Pete Tannen	861-4045 (San Francisco)
Treasurers:	Pat Futeran	435-1713 (Tiburon)	Member at Large:	Ann Krusholz	345-3571 (San Mateo)

AUGUST MEETING

Special Meeting Location: Palo Alto

DATE: TUESDAY AUGUST 10, 1982

TIME: 7:00 PM for elections & business meeting (ALL members urged to attend)

PLACE: SOUTH PENINSULA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

8:00 PM for formal program

830 East Meadow Drive

PALO ALTO

DIRECTIONS: From San Jose and points south - Exit the Bayshore Fwy (U.S. 101) at San Antonio Road and cross the freeway. Turn right onto Charleston (at first light) and right onto Louis Road (two blocks down Charleston). Turn left on East Meadow to the Jewish Community Center.

From San Francisco and points north - Exit the Bayshore Fwy (U.S. 101) at Embarcadero Road - Green Expressway. Take Green Expressway and turn left on Louis Road (third light). After about 1-1/3 miles on Louis, turn right onto East Meadow to the Jewish Community Center (1/2 block on left).

We are most grateful to the South Peninsula Jewish Community Center for co-sponsoring this meeting with us. It will feature the work of the noted Polish historian and political scientist, Pawel Korzec. Professor Korzec, exiled from Poland in 1968, now does his research under the aegis of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris. For the last few months he has been working from documents at the Hoover Institution of War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University.

Professor Korzec, although he is fluent in several European languages, does not feel that his English is up to lecture level. However, he will attend the meeting and will be available to answer questions. A short talk on Professor Korzec's work will be given to us by our Society member, Jacob Rubin, who is also a native of Poland. Korzec's early work focused on the Polish government's historic views on solving the "problem" of its minorities before WWII. More recently, with the availability of heretofore unpublished materials, he has published in France, "Juifs en Pologne, La Question Juive Pendant l'Entre-Deux-Guerres" (Jews in Poland, The Jewish Question Between the Two Wars). This work exposes the pre World War II Polish government's own secret plans to systematically export the Jews of Poland.

Professor Korzec was born and educated in Lodz, Poland. After the fall of Lodz, on the sixth day of WWII, Professor Korzec was sent as part of an army detachment to aid in the defense of Warsaw. Later he was a resistance fighter in and near Bialystok. Since the war he has done research at archives in Vilna, Gredno, Leningrad, and Moscow, as well as in the United States.

PAST MEETING

Our June meeting featured Carol Marless as our guest speaker. Ann Krumholz, a member of our Board, who had arranged this program, introduced Mrs. Marless, of Los Altos, a well known teacher of genealogical methods. Mrs. Marless teaches on the Peninsula to both Mormon and secular groups. The talk included personal accounts of searching for her ancestors, Germans, who had followed Katherine the Great's plea for farmers to come to Russia, then left for the U.S. with the huge exodus from Russia about 1873, and slowly migrated across the country to California. This talk was not only valuable for its historical background, but was filled with research suggestions and warm anecdotes. In addition, her announcement of the 12,000 new rolls of microfilms from Eastern Europe which will be available in the LDS Library in Salt Lake City before long was welcome news for many of us. These files are from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, West Prussia, Bessarabia, Leipzig, East Germany, and Posen.

In addition to Mrs. Marless' talk, Pat Futoran, our treasurer, gave a brief summary of the recent survey of Russian and Polish records at the Hoover Institute that she and Madge Perkel have undertaken. Pat told of finding information about a WWII Japanese officer, Mr. Shibata, who risked his life in Shanghai in 1943 to save hundreds of Jews from certain death. She suggested that our Society might help in getting some posthumous recognition for Mr. Shibata, and Mrs. Beatrice Kirschenbaum, one of our members volunteered to help look into this project. For additional information about business matters, such as our upcoming elections, please see the Message from Your President, below.

SPECIAL JUNE MEETING

On June 28 our Society held a special meeting, co-sponsored by Peninsula Temple Shalom in Burlingame, featuring Steven M. Siegel, the co-editor of Toledot - The Journal of Jewish Genealogy. Mr. Siegel spoke on "New York Resources for the Jewish Genealogist". He gave detailed information on the history, collections, and general helpfulness of YIVO, the Leo Baeck Institute, and the New York Public Library. YIVO (Yiddish Scientific Institute) (1048 Fifth Avenue) was founded in the 1920's in Vilna, Poland to preserve and document the Yiddish language and culture. It has relocated in New York after the war and includes a library and archives. The Leo Baeck Institute (129 East 73rd St.) was founded after WWII by German Jews as a central collection place for their historical material. The New York Public Library (Fifth Ave. & 42 St.) has many divisions featuring Judaica, Maps, Newspapers (N.Y. and major U.S. cities), City Directories (N.Y. and major U.S. cities), and Local History (with birth & death indices). Other sources discussed by Mr. Siegel include: The Genealogical and Biographical Society, the New York Municipal Archives, the the N.Y. City Clerk's Office, the National Archives Branch (Bayonne, NJ), the American Jewish Archives (Cincinnati, OH), and the American Jewish Historical Society (Waltham, MA). After presenting a very informative talk, Mr. Siegel was kind and patient enough to spend an hour answering questions from the audience. Thank you Steve!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ELECTIONS: Elections will be held at our August meeting. Only those people who have paid their 1982-83 dues will be eligible to vote. Nominations for office were opened at our June meeting and will remain open until balloting begins for each office.

Nominations thus far are:

Presidents:

Carolyn Shervy

Treasurer:

Pete Tannen

Martha Wise

Recording Secretary:

Madge Perkel

Vice President:

Pat Futoran

Corresponding Secretary:

open

If you think you might be interested in running for office but would like to know more about an office, contact any current board member. I encourage all members who are interested in our Society to seek an office. The duties are light and the rewards are great. Officers should attend our biennially board meetings whenever possible. It would be so much better if we had at least two people running for each office. Remember that this is your Society! At our June meeting a motion was made and passed that our officers serve a term of two years. It was also moved and passed that our officers consist of five elected positions, as follows: President, Vice-President (whose duties will include serving as Program Chair), Treasurer (whose duties will include serving as Membership chair), Recording Secretary (responsible for minutes), and Corresponding Secretary.

NEWSLETTER: In addition to these offices, your Society needs three or four people to help put out our biennially newsletter. Up until now, all of the work of putting out the newsletter has been performed by Pete Tannen with a little help from your President (and Pete's computer). We need reporters, an editor, a publisher (someone to have our publication xeroxed or printed), and a circulation department (someone to mail it out). Pete and I have had a lot of fun doing the newsletter this past year and now wish to put our energies on behalf of our Society in another direction. Please call if you would be willing to help with any part of the newsletter.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: If you are unable to attend our August meeting, I urge you to request an absentee ballot. The following procedure has been established for absentee ballots: (1) Call any board member to get a list of the current nominations. You may vote for a write-in-candidate as long as you have that person's permission and willingness to serve if elected. (2) An absentee ballot will consist of two separate pieces of paper. The first is your reason for voting absentee and will include your name and address (all of which will remain confidential). The second is your ballot which is a piece of paper on which you vote for one candidate for each office. This piece of paper should NOT identify the voter. (3) Send your ballot and reason for voting absentee in the same envelope to: Pete Tannen, San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, 289 States St., San Francisco, CA 94114. (4) If you have not already paid your 1982-83 dues, include them with your ballot. No one will be allowed to vote if they have not paid their dues.

THE SOCIETY'S PAST YEAR: As my year as President of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society draws to a close, I wish to thank all of our members for their kind support and to especially thank the members of our Board of Directors for all they have done to increase our membership and build our Society. Pete Tannen has done an exceptional job as Secretary. He single-handedly has instituted a very respectable newsletter which proudly proclaims that the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society is an established and viable institution. He has also set up our membership and mailing lists on his computer and he has agreed to continue to print our mailing labels and membership list. Pat Futera has also done an outstanding job as treasurer. She always correctly and accurately accounts for every penny we spend (most of which goes towards putting out our newsletter). Martha Wise always has the best interests of the Society in mind and has helped with the details of our meetings. She has been responsible for all of the wonderful refreshments at each of our meetings and has spent hours finding and arranging for our meeting places. We all also thank her for starting our Society and seeing it through its first year. Madge Perkel joined the Board several months ago, when the secretary's job became too much for one person. She has kept excellent minutes of both our regular and Board meetings, which will serve as a history of our Society. She is truly an active member of the Board and her help and suggestions have been invaluable to me. Anne Kroschitz joined the Board a few months ago when we needed more help. She has put her able efforts into providing our regular June program, which featured our first outside speaker, Carol Harless. To each and every officer and Board member I offer my humble thanks and heartfelt gratitude.

... Editor's Note ... On behalf of the Board members and members of our Society, I would like to offer special thanks to our President, Carolyn Sharfy, who has worked very, very hard this last year for our Society. As a member of the Board, I have gotten to know Carolyn and am aware of the amount of dedication that it takes to run an organization such as ours. Thank you, Carolyn, for all you have done for us!

FUTURE PLANS: Our plans for the future include more varied programs. There is a chance that we may be able to have another special program in the fall featuring Rabbi Malcolm Stern. Rabbi Stern is a founder and a current officer of the Jewish Genealogical Society in New York and has been called the Father of Jewish Genealogy in America. He is a contributing editor to *Teledot: The Journal of Jewish Genealogy* as well as author of *Americans of Jewish Descent*, published in 1969, a massive and scholarly study of early American Jewish families and their descendants.

NEW MEETING LOCATIONS: Other upcoming plans call for moving our meetings around the Bay Area, to make ourselves better known in the Jewish Communities and to give members a chance to attend a meeting once in a while which is closer to their own homes. We have started this plan by scheduling our August meeting on the Peninsula. If you know of a place where we can meet, please let us know. We still cannot afford to pay for a meeting place, but we will make every effort to show our appreciation and respect to our host organization by leaving it clean and presentable.

. . . Carolyn Sherfy

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER

Our Society is starting an exciting new year - once again it is "dues paying" time. In an effort to facilitate this, and for our members who joined at different dates throughout the year, we are prorating your 1982-83 dues. The new sliding scale rates will be \$10.00, \$7.50, \$5.00, and \$2.50, depending in which quarter of the past year you joined. A statement is enclosed for your convenience. Only current members will receive a statement.

Please help us by paying your dues for the coming year by August 1, 1982. This will prevent any interruption in your receipt of our newsletter and will allow us to project our budget for the coming year. We know that if we are in a position to offer an honorarium we will be able to attract more experienced speakers to our future meetings. I have enjoyed being a part of our Society and getting to know so many wonderful genealogy enthusiasts. Call me if you have any questions regarding your statement. Please . . . drop your check in the mail today.

. . . Pat Futran

WEST COAST GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

On Thursday through Saturday, October 28 through 30, 1982, the West Coast Genealogy Conference will be held at the Buena Park Hotel, in Buena Park, which is in the Los Angeles Area. Rabbi Malcolm Stern, a noted Jewish Genealogist from New York, will be speaking at the Friday Session - Federation of Genealogical Societies. His talk will be on "What's Happening in Genealogy Today". The Friday Session will be an innovative program in leadership training for officers and committee chairmen, offering four sections running concurrently. Each section will give in-depth coverage to a different facet of operating and conducting the business of the genealogical society. Under the direction of Edra Keenan, Program Chairperson, twelve excellent speakers and four co-chairpersons will participate. A display of genealogical society newsletters and a salute to authors of published genealogical books will be featured. On Saturday the Orange County California Genealogical Society will present a program for ethnic and foreign researchers, with genealogists from across the country offering a wide variety of exciting topics. One of the areas of interest will be Jewish Genealogy, featuring Rabbi Stern. On Thursday, the Association of Professional Genealogists has a program including computers, reference tools, history, the LDS Library in Salt Lake, the Sutro Library in San Francisco, genealogy as a business, and much more. For more information about this three day program, write to Southern California West Committee, P.O. Box 442, Fallbrook CA 92028. We especially encourage any of our members who are interested in helping run our Society to attend this interesting conference.