



**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

c/o Pete Tannen, 299 States St., San Francisco CA 94114

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APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1983
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: PENINSULA TEMPLE SHOLOM
1655 Sebastian Drive
Burlingame, California

Program: Immigration and Naturalization Records as Genealogical Tools
Speaker: Carolyn Sherfy, President of the SFBAJGS and professional genealogist, will share her expertise on this interesting subject.

LAST MEETING

Ruth Rafael, Archivist of the Western Jewish History Museum, and member of the SFBAJGS, spoke on the holdings of the two libraries at Judah Magnes Museum. She also conducted a tour of the facilities. Our thanks to Ruth.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

As reported in our last issue, the SFBAJGS has instituted a plan for the entire society to meet alternate months at different places throughout the Bay Area depending on the subject matter of the program. In between, the members of the regions are meeting separately to pursue their own regional or personal preferences. The format for the regional meetings is open.

On March 23, the East Bay Region met to organize their group at the home of Bess Sewelson in Piedmont. The next meeting will be held on May 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Dave and Lillian Alterman, 1031 Clarendon Crescent, Oakland. RSVP 444-5894 (this is the polite thing to do). All SFBAJGS members living in the East Bay are requested to attend. Bring your charts and anything else you might want to share.

On March 24 the San Francisco region held their second meeting. The program included a speaker and discussion group. Contact Martha Wise at 564-9927 for more information.

If you are able to host a regional meeting of the SFBAJGS, please contact Carolyn Sherfy at 521-8593.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 14 ... Next meeting of SFJGS
- April 23 ... California Genealogical Society Spring Seminar, San Lorenzo Adult School

July 31-August 4 ... Jewish Roots Tour to Russia ...
September 24-October 8 ... Jewish Roots Tour to Russia ...
For more information:

SUTRO LIBRARY LIVES!

Sutro Library has re-opened at its new, accessible location: 480 Winston Drive, San Francisco 94132 (behind Stonestown Mall), 731-4477. The hours remain 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

1910 CENSUS RECEIVED AT SAN BRUNO

The 1910 Census is now available for your perusal at the Federal Archives in San Bruno. Big deal, you say, they still don't have the films containing the enumeration districts, rendering most of it useless. For this reason, the staff at San Bruno has requested that each of you contact your congressman and inform them of this problem. The source of the mess is not San Bruno but rather the National Archives. This is not the first time the Archives has played the Washington Monument game. It is most important that you call or write your congressman!!

NEW JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

A new society has been formed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania under the leadership of Julian Falk. Mr. Falk is descended from the philanthropic Falk family. If you or someone in your family is from western Pennsylvania, it would be to your advantage to join. Write Julian at 2131 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

JEWISH FAMILY FINDER

- E-1. Eisenberger, Shava, 2845 Moraga St., San Francisco, 94122, 564-7696. Seeking relatives of Abraham and Esther SHAINSKY, from Kiev, Russia.
- R-2. Ribe, George, 48 Park Plaza Dr., Daly City 94015, 994-6618. Searching for persons named RIBA, RYBA and REBA, or relatives of persons with those names.
- S-1. Susan Sherman, 3918 Savannah Court, SSF 94080, 878-0190. Descendants of Marcus and Esther GREENBLATT, cantor and mohel in Philadelphia c. 1900. Children Max (pharmacist in Pittsburgh), Otto (dentist in Johnstown), Louis, Theresa and Ida (married Mr. Germain, owner of Germain's Dept. Store in Brooklyn, N.Y.)
- S-2. Carolyn Sherfy, 918 Willow St., Alameda 94501, 521-8593. Descendants of Moshe and Alta Esther GHEDALE or GIDAL; Fred Ephram SCHWARTZ and Carolin Chava LENDER.
- S-3. Sewelson, Bess, 6 Jerome Ave., Piedmont 94611, 653-6383. Information about Sender ALPERT, Slonia, Pol.; married Freda SCHUCHOTOWICZ (SCHULTZ); their daughter Rifka; Laika ALPERT m. BREWDA.
- S-4. Stull, Nina Scharman, 39512 Platero Pl., Fremont, 94539, 657-1863. Information on LENGFELD(T), Lewis and Henrietta (HONIGSBERGER), born Bamberg, Bavaria, died San Francisco 1891. Moritz SCHARMAN, b. Hungary, d. Oakland 1899. Benjamin ROSENBERG, b. Birz, Russia, d. San Francisco 1918 and Amelia GLASSER, b. Kiev, d. San Francisco 1934.

(Family Finder queries must be submitted to Martha Wise, 1990 20th Avenue, San Francisco 94116, 564-9927, for inclusion.)

GENEALOGICAL COMPUTING

What Microcomputers Can Do

Personal computers take on the tedious task of keeping track of records and files. Family historians spend most of their time sorting through municipal, state, federal, and church records for traces of relatives lost in the shuffles of time and usually compile voluminous notebooks full of scribbled histories and family lines. One man traced his family back to the 1600s, finding 45,000 descendants on one line—a typical organizational dilemma confronting many genealogists.

The word-processing capabilities of microcomputers simplifying inserting, deleting, and rewriting ancestral notes, as well as preparing family history manuscripts, sending off "fill-in-the-blank" forms to other relatives and genealogists, and printing additional pedigree copies.

Computers help genealogists "sort out the mysteries" of relationships, says Howard Nurse, president of Comsoft, a genealogy-oriented software firm. If the appropriate information is keyed into the genealogical database, says Nurse, a computer can literally "connect the dots when it comes to lineage linking." A computer can also generate selective statistics on families such as the incidence of blue eyes, twins, heart attacks, and the like.

Electronic Roots-Swapping

By sharing information among themselves, genealogists can avoid duplications in research. A personal computer moves this sharing process from the era of lost letters, high postal fees, and time constraints into the electronic age. Coupled with a modem, a computer can transfer huge files to another computer or hook genealogists up to electronic bulletin boards.

One such bulletin board is called the Family Historian's Forum and operates out of Virginia (along with a service called Fugitive which lists unpublished genealogical manuscripts). Users of the bulletin board can leave messages for one another, transfer files back and forth, and even compare notes on research tactics and sources.

The Future of Genealogical Computing

Computers are catching on in genealogy for the same reasons they've become so attractive in businesses, homes, and education — decreasing hardware prices and increasing applications. Moreover, a number of genealogy programs have recently been released to make computers even more useful for tracing your ancestors.

Technically, computers are becoming less intimidating to computer novices, adds Diane Dieterle of the Genealogical Library for the Blind and Disabled in Atlanta, Georgia. A number of computer interest groups have formed within genealogical societies to promote the use of the machines as tools. The National Genealogical Society recently approved a computer interest group called CIG (send a SASE to the National Genealogical Society at 1921 Sunderland Place, Washington, D.C. 20036 for more information).

The best single source of information for amateur genealogists is Genealogical Computing, a publication that has neatly intersected family history and computing. The newsletter is published by Paul and Sara Anderock of Data Transfer Associates, a firm specializing in computer services for genealogists.

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Services that allow family historians to use computers without buying one of their own are also springing up around the country. The House of York Computer Ancestry Center in San Jose, for example, offers the use of its Heath computers for "do-it-yourselfers" at varied fees.

The future of genealogical computing looks even rosier. "Most of us see the day when a computerized family history can be more than just statistics and a limited biography. Pictures, voices, images, and wisdom from the past will become part of it," says Nurse. Nurse's firm, Commsort, has recently released a product called the Photocaster, a combination video camera and digitized interface for personal computers that can reduce an image to computer code, store it in memory, and print it out.

Genealogical Computing Resources

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Most of these services are computerized but do not offer a hook-up through your computer modem.

AIS Computer Searches POB 2127, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. This service runs a computer search (\$15) for specific surnames from a database of federal and state census records as well as other documents.

Compu-Gen Surname Exchange POB 684, Dover, OH 44622. This service lists surnames for \$3 each. Send self-addressed stamped envelope for details.

Genealogical Data Computer-Indexed Family Name Exchange POB 6284, Detroit, MI 48234. This service lists names you're searching for (\$1 per name). Send self-addressed stamped envelope for details.

The Genealogical Helper and Roots Cellar Everton Publishers Inc., POB 368, Logan, UT 84321. The *Genealogical Helper* is a well-known bimonthly periodical. The *Roots Cellar* is a new computerized service which lets you submit your name, address, and one ancestor's name into its database for \$3 (additional names are \$1 extra). Over 70,000 names are listed so far.

Family Tree Services POB 864, Palo Alto, CA 94301. Send \$3.50 for blank forms and instructions. Fill in names and the computer will organize data or print manuscripts.

Ancestral Charts Dashco, POB 501,

Sweeny, TX 77480. This service prints up to 12 generations of your family tree for \$15 plus 20¢ per name.

House of York Computer Ancestry Center POB 54002, San Jose, CA 95134. This is a do-it-yourself center that lets you use its H-89 and instructs genealogists on how to print pedigree charts, family group sheets, or manuscripts and copy disks. Prices vary.

Genealogical Computing Data Transfer Associates Inc., 5102 Fommeroy Dr., Fairfax, VA 22032. *Genealogical Computing* is a bimonthly newsletter including feature stories on genealogical computing, user reports and letters, product reviews, program listings, and more. The newsletter costs \$2.50 per single copy, \$14 for a year's subscription in the U.S. (Canadian and foreign subscribers add \$5 for postage).

The Family Historian's Forum (703) 978-7561 for phone modem hook-up. The Family Historian's Forum is an electronic bulletin board operated free of charge (except phone costs) from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. on weekdays and noon to 6 a.m. on weekends and holidays. The bulletin board is operated by Data Transfer Associates (see above); use of the service is restricted to subscribers to *Genealogical Computing*.

Genealogy Programs

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Appleroots for Apple II \$39.95, CDS Corp., 69 East 10th St. N, Logan, UT 84321

Apple Tree for Apple II \$69.95, J. Fiske

Software Systems Inc., One University Place, New York, NY 10005

Cemetery Inscriptions Program for TRS-80 Model I \$29.95 and \$39.95, P. A. Grasse, 2805 Raven Ave., Wausau, WI 54401

Family Records File System and Text Indexing System for TRS-80 Model II and CP/M Prices vary, J. Gorce, Hierarchal Systems Group, POB DB, College Station, TX 77841

Genealogy for TRS-80 Model III \$48, Frank Larchen, 2950 Espana Court, Fairfax, VA 22031

Genealogy: Compiling Roots and Branches for TRS-80 Model II \$250, John J. Armstrong, 4115 East Loop 315, #207, Greenville, TX 75401

Genealogy: Record Maintenance and Trees for TRS-80 and North Star Prices vary, John Ford, 5561 Esplanada, Santa Maria, CA 93455.

Genealogy for North Star \$45, Biocharts Co., POB 423, Nanuet, NY 10954

Genie for TRS-80 Model II, Apple III, IBM Personal Computer \$450, Sinclair G. Cannon, 895 South 770 West, Woodcross, UT 84087

Gensystems for TRS-80 Models I and III \$128.45, Maurice Dyer, Smartware Systems, 14310 Pembridge, San Antonio, TX 78247

Irish Roots for North Star, Apple II, TRS-80, PET \$110 for single- or double-density disks, Eiron Computers, Eiron House, Park Rd., Dun Loughaire, County Dublin, Ireland

Lineages for Apple computers \$99, Quinsept Inc., POB 216, Lexington, MA 02173

Roots/89 (\$124.95) and **Roots/M** (\$195) for Heathkit H-89 and CP/M Commsort, 665 Maybell Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306