



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Address: c/o Peter Tannen, 577 - 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Published Bimonthly

MARCH 1984

CHANGES

Those of you who did not attend the December meeting may well be wondering why there has been no recent newsletter.

Those who were present will remember that president Joan Simms announced that in future the newsletter would come out quarterly rather than bi-monthly. President Simms also announced that she felt two general meetings a year should suffice since the low attendance at meetings indicated to her that meetings were being held too frequently.

Her proposal was for two general meetings a year with the slack being taken up by the local groups who would be free to hold meetings as often as they chose.

Joan also felt that meetings should not be held in the evening and suggested Sunday afternoon as a more suitable time.

NEXT MEETING: A SUNDAY SEMINAR & BAGEL BRUNCH

DATE: APRIL 8, 1984

PLACE: ALBERT L. SCHULTZ JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
655 Arastradero Road
Palo Alto, CA 94306
493-9400

TIME: 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Board Room

FEE: Members, Brunch Included, \$5.50 (Spouse @ same fee)
Members, without brunch, free
Nonmembers, Brunch Included, \$6.50
Nonmembers, without brunch, \$1.50

RSVP: FOR BRUNCH IS REQUIRED! DEADLINE, APRIL 6, 1984

RSVP PHONE NUMBER: (415) 326-0600 (leave message on tape)

NOTE: Bagel Brunch is dairy and kosher.

Menu: Fresh baked bagels, cream cheese, fresh fruit salad, coffee, tea.

BABYSITTING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR LENGTH OF SEMINAR.

Fee for babysitting: Members, \$1.00 per hour per child
Nonmembers, \$1.50 per hour per child

PROGRAM:

Our program is entitled "How To Seminar No. 1"

Focus is on the practical aspects of doing a genealogy. Main guest speaker is Dr. James Freeman, Chairman, Department of Anthropology, San Jose State University. Topic of Dr. Freeman's talk - How to Collect a Family History. Dr. Freeman has logged hundreds of hours in collecting oral histories of entire families. His observations should be fascinating.

BOOKS: There will be a book table at the seminar offering the latest publishings in Jewish Genealogy.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year is a year of growth for the society. We have many new members as well as those who have renewed. To all of you, thank you.

Our general meetings have been reduced in number to two per year, but have been expanded in scope. The format has been changed to that of a seminar. Please see the meeting announcement for more details.

We have new board members for this year, so please welcome: Kate and Louis Shawl, Members-at-Large; Carolyn Sharfy, Recording Secretary & Librarian; Martha Wise, Vice President & Hospitality Chairman; Mary L. Thompson, Member-at-Large; Miriam Pearl, Member-at-Large & East Bay Coordinator; Walter Hertzmann, Member-at-Large.

There are also other vacancies on the Board. Those include: Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Publicity Chairman. If any of you are interested in these positions, or are interested in sharing a position, please let me know. Note that NONE of these positions requires much time, overall. The average amount of time allotted would be about two hours per month (some require less!). Become part of the team. Feel free to contact other board members as well as myself.

Further, I encourage all of you to set up your own local, regional study groups of the Jewish Genealogical Society. You can meet informally in homes, Jewish Community Centers, Synagogues, or schools. It is very important to share your work with others and get feedback and direction for the future. The society can help your study group by 1) providing names of translators, 2) putting you in contact with mavens (knowledgeable people) with a specialization in your country, 3) speakers for your meetings. Please contact me for more hints and information regarding setting up your own local study group. We especially encourage any established groups such as ORT, B'nai Brith, and Hillel to do so.

Orange County

One of our members who is currently living in southern California has joined the Orange county society as well. She reports that although it is still quite new it is growing apace. Its members she tells us are very enthusiastic and working very hard to make it a success.

Seminars

There will be an international seminar on Jewish Genealogy for the first time this year in Israel. It will be held at the Jerusalem Hilton from April 29th through May 13th. That really should be through May 6th since the time from then on is not scheduled. They suggest visiting relatives, touring Israel, moving to the Tel Aviv etc. This no doubt has to do with better rates for flights of two weeks duration than one. The genealogical society in Washington has been instrumental in planning and organizing this seminar, working in conjunction with interested persons in Israel.

The fourth national seminar on Jewish genealogy will be held in Chicago later in the year. It will take place from July 22nd through July 25th at the Holiday Inn in Evanston. Undoubtedly among other things there will be a report from someone on the seminar in Israel.

The National Genealogical Society's 4th Annual Conference will be held in San Francisco from May 24th through May 26th at the Palace Hotel.

There is a great difference between a seminar and a conference and one thing is certain, something from any seminar, the question is whether it is worth the rather sizable registration fee of \$75.00 in view of the fact that the focus is not on Jewish genealogy but rather on areas often not of much value to us.

Members Forum

We will be instituting a new feature, the members forum. Our society is not flourishing the way many others are. Possibly this is because too few of our members have taken an active interest in seeing that it does. In this column you will be able to express your opinions. Others can answer you if they disagree or back you if they agree but more communication can only be of benefit.

Carolyn who has attended every one of the national seminars and knows many of the leaders of the various societies across the country has made a point of asking why they do so well and the answer invariably is that they have a dedicated group of workers. Of course they have the usual number of those who merely come to meetings but just coming to meetings is in itself important. It reinforces the society. This will be your forum. Please make use of it.

Family Finder

C-2 Rabbi Malcolm Cohen, Congr. B'nai Israel, 1575 Annie St. Daly City, Calif. 94015 (415) 756-5430.

Searching for anyone from Chagarov? Shagarov? in the Kiev area of the Ukraine or any information on this town. Also Bidna, Ukraine.

O-1 Robin M. Orans, P. O. Box 1074, San Bruno, Calif. 94066 (415) 588-0929

Seeking information on the following: Hershel Weinstein born 1864 in Dombroven, Bessarabia, son of Pinchas Weinstein & Devoira nee Sheremet. Sheremet family from Mogliev on the Dneister, Podalia, Ukraine. Kandel from Lods, Poland, whose wife was a born Weinstein. Also the onstein family from Romania. Rebecca bonstein married Hershel Weinstein and her sister married Sholomo Jacobson from Panouer, Israel. Also seeking Shoub from Israel and Oransky from Kiev, Ukraine.

S-1 Carolyn Sherfy, 918 Willow St. Alameda, Calif. 94501 (415) 521-8593. Seeking all descendants of Moshe and Alta Esther Ghedale or Gidal and Fred Ephram Schwartz and Carolin Chaya Lender.

W-2 Martha L. Wise, 1990 20th Ave. San Francisco, Calif. 94116 (415) 964-9927.

Researching the Wertheimer family from Bühl, Baden, Germany.

J-1 Robert C. Jacobus, 844 Capitol St. Vallejo, Calif. 94590 (707) 642-1545 Looking for Rebecca Monahan Jacobus and her sister, Henrietta Herbert who came to Santa Cruz from Georgia after the Civil War. Also any information on Cecilia Levy from the same area.

R-4 Libby Rosenfield, 142 Mateo St. San Francisco, Calif. 94131 (415) 585-0616

Looking for Greengard family which original from Virvalis, Lithuania and surrounding towns. Later in Germany, Israel and the U. S. Also seeking Okonowski, same area.