



# זכרון ZichronNote

## The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXI, Number 4

November 2001

### CALENDAR OF GENEALOGICAL EVENTS

#### Meetings of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

**Please note:** Unless otherwise indicated, the meeting schedule is as follows:

**San Francisco: Sunday, Doors open 12:30 p.m. Program begins at 1 p.m.**

Fort Mason Center, Marina Boulevard at Buchanan Street, Building C, Room 205

**Palo Alto: Monday, 7:30 p.m.**

Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Road)

**Los Altos Hills: Monday, 7:30 p.m.**

Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road

**Sun. November 18 San Francisco:** *Beth Hatefutsoth: Past, Present and Future.* Douglas E. Goldman will talk about the Douglas E. Goldman Genealogy Center at Beth Hatefutsoth, Israel, which houses the largest collection of microfilms of Jewish vital records from Poland outside of the LDS Family History Library.

**Note Room Change.** *Program will take place in Building C, Room 235.*

**Mon. December 17 Palo Alto:** *Spelling Jewish Names.* SFBAJGS Recording Secretary Jim Koenig will reprise his outstanding San Francisco discussion of Jewish surnames, their roots and histories. In this valuable presentation, Jim highlights the challenges genealogists face when researching family names, and strategies to overcome them. Jim is a member of the American Names Society.

**Sun. January 13 San Francisco:** *Beyond Names and Dates: Discovering the Life and Times of Your Ancestors.* Author Emily Rose will illustrate how "to read" foreign-language documents, and what information the researcher can find in the documents. While Rose uses documents she uncovered in German-speaking archives researching rural Jews, the techniques, suggestions, and hints will help anyone doing family research. During five summers, Rose researched her family, the local Jewish communities, and the history of the Jews in the Kingdom of Württemberg from 1730 to 1880 and uncovered over 600 primary documents.

**Note: Date Change  
to Second Sunday in  
January**

**Mon. February 25 Los Altos Hills:** *Using Public Libraries to Research Jewish Genealogy.* Rosanne Leeson will outline resources that you may not realize are available in your own city or town. This will be the first meeting at Beth Am. Come early to get a tour of the extensive Beth Am library. The program starts at 7:30.

**More Genealogy Events of Interest on Page 4**

## ZichronNote

### Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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ZichronNote is published four times per year, in February, May, August and November. The deadline for contributions is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month preceding publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submittals. Submissions may be made by hard copy, 3-1/2 inch floppy disks or e-mail to galletto@pacbell.net.

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**People Finder** queries are free to Society members. Non-members may place queries for \$5 each, limited to 25 words not including searcher's name, address, telephone number and e-mail address.

**Back Issues** are available for \$5 per issue. Requests should be addressed to the SFBAJGS at the Society address below.

**Display Advertising** is accepted at the discretion of the editor. Rates per issue: business card-sized (3-1/2 x 2 inch)-\$10, quarter-page - \$20, half-page - \$35, full-page - \$60. Ads must be camera-ready and relate to Jewish genealogy.

**Membership** is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Dues are \$20 per calendar year. The Society is tax-exempt pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Make your check payable to "SFBAJGS" and send to: SFBAJGS, Membership, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147.

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**Meetings: Odd-numbered months**-3rd Sunday of each month, 1 p.m. at Fort Mason Center (Marina at Buchanan), San Francisco. **Even-numbered months**-3rd Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m. In 2001: at Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue (near Arastradero and Foothill), Palo Alto. In 2002: at Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills.

**SFBAJGS Web Site:** [www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs](http://www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs)

## President's Message

### Looking to the Future of the Society

by Rodger Rosenberg

In attempting to write this president's message, I have tried many times not to focus on the terrible tragedy that occurred in September. The difficulties in just composing this, I believe, show how all our lives have been forever changed. But at the same time, as it has been said, we try to return to some degree of normalcy.

For our Society, the future promises many new and exciting changes. Thanks to the hard work of Dick Hoffman and Vice President Rosanne Leeson, we will be holding our South Bay meeting at Congregation Beth Am beginning in January. This change will allow us a larger area in which to meet as well as access to the temple's considerable library holdings. We have also formed a close working relationship with Lehr House Judaica in Berkeley. This promises to be an exciting collaboration. There will be workshops and classes as well numerous other opportunities to allow our two groups to learn from each other.

Our library committee continues to work towards donating many of our resources to local repositories throughout the entire Bay Area. And, thanks to the perseverance of Treasurer Marc Seidenfeld and his team, the cemetery project has begun its work!

On behalf of the board and membership, I would like to congratulate Dan and Rosanne Leeson for receiving the Outstanding Contribution via Print Award at the London Conference. Their tireless work with the indexes of the 1784 Alsatian Jewish Census and the 18th century Alsatian marriages has become a priceless contribution to Jewish genealogical researchers.

I encourage all our members to become more involved in the activities of our Society to assure that everyone has a voice in what we do. Finally, on behalf of the entire board I want to express my sympathies to those who may have lost a loved one on that tragic day in September. We hope that the future will bring us all peace.

*Shalom,*  
*Rodger*

## SOCIETY NEWS

### E-mail Address Updates

Please note the following updates to an e-mail address listed in the SFBAJGS Membership Roster:

Martin Gewing	martingew@hotmail.com
Vicky Ferraresi	vferraresi@midpen.org
Jim Koenig	jbKoenig@msn.com
DavidAbrahams	dmabr1@home.com

If you have an e-mail address but have not been receiving occasional SFBAJGS messages, or your e-mail address has changed, send a message to galleto@pacbell.net so we can keep you up to date.

### Recent additions to the SFBAJGS Library

- ❑ *A Beginner's Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Great Britain*, by the JGS of Great Britain, donated by Marcia and Henry Kaplan.
- ❑ *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names*, by Alexander Beider.
- ❑ Two maps: Old Ordnance Survey Maps, Whitechapel, Spitalfields and The Bank, 1894 and 1913, donated by Jeremy Frankel.

## South Bay Meetings Are Moving

by Rosanne Leeson

The meetings of the SFBAJGS which have been held in Congregation Kol Emeth of Palo Alto for a number of years will be moving to Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills, just up Arastradero Road, as of 2002. The first meeting to be held at Beth Am will be on Monday evening, February 18.

We have been finding ourselves increasingly crowded in the Kol Emeth facility, as well as subject to interruptions from other groups. This has been very disturbing both to our guest speakers and to the members in attendance.

In addition, the space in San Francisco in which we were housing our library materials is no longer available. This also forced us to look for new space.

At Beth Am we will have a pleasant room available for our meetings as well as access to their outstanding library. The current holdings of the SFBAJGS library have been under study for several months by a special Library Committee. The decision was made to disperse many of our holdings to four other sites around the Bay area: Sutro Library, Jewish Community Library (SF), the JCC-Berkeley-Richmond, and Beth Am. We will retain many of our unique holdings in a core collection that will continue to be brought to meetings.

In a later issue we will provide a map and directions

to Beth Am, for those who are not familiar with it, as well as a diagram showing where our room is located and where the parking areas are. We are also preparing a list of books that are being sent to other places, as well as a list of items to be discarded, for anyone who might be interested in claiming them.

The Beth Am library is one of the finest synagogue libraries in Northern California. The library, which has over 6,800 books, serves the religious school, adult education and outreach programs as well as the entire congregation and the community-at-large.

The library may be used during the week during regular temple office hours. If the library is locked, please ask a secretary to have it opened. Books may be checked out on a self-service basis for three weeks, with a possible renewal period of another three weeks. Instructions are posted inside the library. Books and materials may be returned at any time. Book returns are located outside next to the patio door, and also inside the library at the workroom counter. There are both a reference collection and a circulating collection. This last includes audio and video tapes, which may be borrowed for one week.

**CALENDAR, cont.**

**More Genealogy Events**

**Local**

Thurs., November 15, 7 p.m. **Santa Clara Historical and Genealogical Society, Locating Manuscripts**, Santa Clara Library temporary quarters at Bing and Lochinvar. [www.katpher.com/SCCHGS](http://www.katpher.com/SCCHGS).

Sat., November 24, 1 p.m. **Sonoma County Genealogical Society, Tracing Immigrant Ancestors**, with speaker Evelyn Ross, assistant director for staff development at Santa Rosa Family History Center. Lark Hall, Room 2009, Santa Rosa Junior College. [www.scgs.org](http://www.scgs.org).

Sat., March 23, 2002, All day. **Sonoma County Genealogical Society, Spring Seminar** with James L. Hansen, FASG, nationally known genealogical lecturer and writer. Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, Santa Rosa. [www.scgs.org](http://www.scgs.org).

**Regional**

Sun., November 11, 1 to 4 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Orange County, Annual Workshop**. Includes beginners table, translation services, access to various resources. Leisure World Clubhouse, Art Gallery, 2307 Via Mariposa, Laguna Woods. [www.jewishgen.org/jgsoc](http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsoc).

Sun., November 18, 10 a.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento, The Collection of Box Taxes in 19th Century Lithuania/The Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the 18th Century Census and Tax Lists** (Talk presented at London Conference.) Speaker is David Hoffman, Ph.D., noted Los Angeles genealogist who traced his family back to the 16th century using these resources. Arts and Crafts Room at Albert Einstein Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. [www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento](http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento).

Mon., November 26, 7:30 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles, Eastern European Records at the Family History Library**. Speaker is Thomas K. Edlund, Associate Professor at Brigham Young University and former senior librarian of Slavic Bibliography at the FHL. Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles. [www.jgsla.org](http://www.jgsla.org).

Mon., December 17, 7:30 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles, Four Centuries of Jewish Immigration to the Americas**. Speaker is Hal Bookbinder, President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Boulevard, Los Angeles. [www.jgsla.org](http://www.jgsla.org).

**Latest News from the JewishGen Shopping Mall**

*Sandy and Don Hirschhorn, Managers, JewishGen Mall*

The JewishGen On-Line Shopping Mall, an educational and fund-raising arm of JewishGen, can be found on the Web more easily now by going to the familiar [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org) and then scrolling down a little on the homepage until you see the new purple banner for the Mall. Click on this and you're in. Click on "Browse Mall" and scroll down to the store in which you want to shop.

Under Software and CD-Roms, you'll now find *Russians to America, 1850-1896, Passenger and Immigration Lists*, a searchable collection of passenger list information which references approximately 430,000 Russian immigrants who arrived in the U.S., mostly through New York.

Equally exciting is the news that the alpha-indexed versions of the 1910 U.S. Census for New York State and New York City are on their way. Order now at pre-publication prices. New York State will be released about September 3 and New York City in mid-November. Using these CD-Roms, you will be able to search by surname (head of household or other surnames in the same household), age, sex, race, birthplace, locality and county. The film number and page reference are included so you can easily obtain a copy of the original record.

There's more on the non-soundexed states. CDs are available for the 1910 Census for Connecticut, Indiana, Idaho, even the Alaska Gold Rush.

From the 1870 U.S. Census, find *German Households in America*. Check the Mall descriptions for system requirements on all of the above CD-Roms.

In the "Books" store, look for Barbara Khait's new, *Discovering Your Jewish Roots*, published by Heritage Quest, with back cover comments by JewishGen's vice president for operations, Carol Skydell. This is a step-by-step guide leading the newcomer to the resources providing the greatest help in a successful search for personal ancestry. Carol writes, "Krasner-Khait takes the reader by the hand and guides them through the labyrinth of what's out there!"

Click on "Videos" and consider one or two of Aleksandr Feigmanis' many films on Latvia and Lithuania. Each is available in all formats so everyone can view them.

## Discovering My Mother's Family at the London Conference

by Marcia Katzel DeVries

Marcia Katzel DeVries of Concord met cousins on her mother's side of the family for the first time at the 2001 IAJGS Conference in London. Marcia is researching **KATZEL** from Vilkomir, Lithuania and Cleveland, Ohio; **BRAUER** from Lithuania, England and Cleveland; and **BOOKATZ** from Lithuania, England, Philadelphia and Cleveland.

When I first noticed the London conference scheduled on the IAJGS page two or three years ago, I decided that I must go because of my maternal roots in London. This would be my first International Conference.

My mother was born in London, as were all of her 11 siblings. She and only one of her sisters immigrated to the U.S. My mother died 53 years ago when I was 13 years old, and none of her siblings or their spouses are alive. So I decided this was my opportunity to attend lectures and learn from them. I wanted to do some research in London, go to cemeteries, and meet cousins. I hoped to learn about my maternal grandparents, who immigrated from "Russia" to England, find out what they were like, what stories they told and where they were really from.

At the conference, almost all of the lectures were held on the same floor at the Intercontinental Hotel. Unfortunately, I found that I could not attend all of the lectures that interested me. There just wasn't enough time, and some lectures were given in the same time slot as others I wanted to attend. Those I did go to were extremely informative. I especially enjoyed Dr. Marian Smith's lecture about the Immigration and Naturalization Service. I also enjoyed meeting and hearing Vitalija Gircyte, archivist at the Kaunas Archives. The movies that were shown each evening were thought-provoking and stirred the emotions.

One day I wandered into the Library Room at the Conference and found a book with a listing of all British Jewish servicemen who had died in World War I. In it I found the name of my mother's brother, with the date he died, his rank and his serial number. I had hoped to do some research at the Public Record Office or Family Record Center (FRC). The only one I got to was the FRC, and there were time constraints the day I went. However, I was able to look up the record number of my uncle's death certificate in their World War I death books. I ordered a copy while I was there, and about a week after I came home the certificate arrived in the mail.

I signed up for two side trips during the week of the conference, a bus ride to Windsor Castle and a walking tour of the East End. The Windsor Castle tour was a typical tourist trip, but since I was the

typical tourist and on my own, I enjoyed meeting the other people on the bus and discussing where we were all from and what we were learning. Even though the town of Windsor was very "touristy," I enjoyed going through the castle and seeing all the magnificent furnishings, paintings and so many of the historical exhibits there.

The East End tour was a must for me since my mother was born there. I knew the address where she had lived, and wanted very much to go there. Unfortunately the street where she was born and grew up is no longer there. Actually, the lower half of the street is there but now it has a different name. The upper half, which is where she lived, now has apartment buildings totally covering it. The East End is very different now from what it was during the early 20th century, when it was predominately inhabited by poor Jews. A few remaining signs of the old Jewish presence were pointed out by our guide, and I tried to imagine what my mother's life was like then.

Since I did not know my way around London and had to rely on a couple of cousins in their free time, I felt that I could have done more research if I'd had at least a month to do it. I did get to two cemeteries, where I took photos of my grandparents' graves and some of my aunts' and uncles' graves.

About two years ago I had received a copy of my grandparents' marriage certificate, through a professional researcher in England. They were married in London at the East London Synagogue in Mile End Old Town on August 6, 1895. This researcher also obtained copies of birth certificates of their children, some death certificates and some marriage certificates. Of my mother's 11 siblings, four died in early childhood, one died in World War I, and some did not have children. Those who did have children had only one or two, so there were very few cousins with whom I could speak.

However, I did meet and spend time with three first cousins and eight second cousins from my maternal grandmother's side. Previous to this visit, I had never known or heard of these second cousins, so it was great fun getting together. My sister joined me from Cleveland, Ohio at the end of the Conference week,

*Continued on page 10*

## Reflections on the London International Symposium

by Roy Ogus

An SFBA JGS member for over six years, Roy Ogus is researching the surnames **OGUS**, **ALPERSTEIN**, **RODKIN**, **PERLOFF**, **BLACKER** and **WILLIAMS** from Lithuania and Belarus.

Following on the heels of a 10-day trip to Lithuania, I attended the annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held in London last July. The conference was an immediate change in pace for me from the Lithuania trip, and it was every bit as good as those that I attended in previous years. (This was my fourth successive annual conference.) This note describes highlights of the conference that were particularly enjoyable for me.

As expected, there were significantly more Europeans in attendance at this conference than had been the case at the US-based conferences that I had attended. To me, this gave the ambience a slightly different tone. More foreign languages were heard spoken. In addition, several of the archivists from the Lithuanian Archives were in attendance, and I enjoyed spending more time with them, having met them the week before during my trip to Lithuania.

I found the conference to be very well-organized and, as usual, packed full of stimulating lectures and panel discussions. In the evenings, a number of most interesting movies were shown. I also visited the offices of the Family Records Centre in London and managed to find several interesting vital records for my research within a few hours.

As is always the case, there were far more interesting sessions available than I could manage to attend, and as usual, I had to constantly choose between equally tempting lectures. To me, a few highlights of the conference program were as follows:

- Many of the recurring favorites of the annual conferences were again available at the London Symposium, including the status of JewishGen's future plans, the status and plans for the All-Lithuania Database on JewishGen, Bruce Kahn's popular lectures on "Genealogy on the Internet" and "digital imaging" techniques for genealogy, and finally Marian Smith's very interesting lectures on various naturalization topics.
- The London conference introduced a new idea in that a set of "themes" was discussed in detail over a number of successive lectures during the course of an entire day. Two particularly interesting themes for me were the sessions on "Immigration, Migration and Transmigration," and the lectures on "Genes

and Genealogy."

Finally some specific favorite lectures for me at the Conference were the following:

- Mendel Kaplan's talk on "Rieteve, Parow, and Ra'anana," which described the transfer of the "soul" of a shtetl from Lithuania to South Africa, and then to Israel.
- David Hoffman's presentation, "The Grand Duchy of Lithuania 18<sup>th</sup> Century Census and Tax Lists," in which David described successes in his research using 18<sup>th</sup> Century documents, and how one can make progress with these documents that do not even contain surnames.
- The discussion of the Jewish aspect of the Lithuanian General Census of 1942, presented by Svetlana Shatalova from the Jewish Museum in Vilnius.

On the whole, the lectures and panel group discussions at the Conference were most interesting. But as always, one of the most fulfilling parts of the conference for me was meeting and interacting personally with my many friends and acquaintances, and the making of new contacts. I met a London-based cousin of mine for the first time (we've been corresponding via e-mail for a few years), and I ran into several old friends as well. All in all, it was a most satisfying and stimulating week for me.

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### Free Searchable Databases at Your Fingertips

by Rodger Rosenberg

While doing some recent research on the web, I came across a website that listed more databases of public records than I ever thought possible. Public Information Resources, Inc. [www.pac-info.com/index.php](http://www.pac-info.com/index.php) links you to over 4,900 free searchable public record databases. These are broken down by state and county and even include many outside the United States. I was able to find lists of licensed business professionals, death row inmates, court cases (searchable by plaintiff names), will registries, land records, voting registries, marriage, birth, and death records. The list goes on and on! If you want see how much public information is available at the click of a mouse, be sure to check this site out.

## Local Genealogists Win International Award for Excellence

### Leesons Recognized for Work on Alsatian Indexes

SFBAJGS Vice President Rosanne Leeson and her husband Dan were among those chosen to receive an IAJGS Achievement Award at the closing banquet of the annual conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies in London in July. They were recognized with an award for Outstanding Contribution via Print for preparing two indexes of important Alsatian Jewish documents. The Leesons have worked tirelessly to make Alsatian resources available to Jewish genealogical researchers.

Dan was awarded for his Index to the 1784 Census of Jews Tolerated in Alsace. The original was organized only by villages, making its use very difficult. The new index was originally published in microfilm by *Avotaynu*. It is now available in book format from the *Cercle de Généalogie Juive* in Paris.

The Leesons were also recognized for their two volume index to the compilation *Mémoire Juive en Alsace* by the late A.A. Fraenckel. This work allows researchers to reach back beyond 1784. It is also available from the *Cercle*, which can be contacted at [www.genealoj.org](http://www.genealoj.org).

Each year the Association presents several awards recognizing excellence in achievements in Jewish genealogy. The following also received awards:

### Nancy Goodstein

Nancy Goodstein received an award for Outstanding Contribution via Electronic Media for her index of Jewish records in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. In addition to all of the generally known records, she located and made more accessible many Jewish records not previously known. These include obscure records not otherwise easily found. The resultant index has been made available through both CD ROM and on the Internet.

### Michael Tobias

Michael Tobias received an award for Outstanding Contribution via the Internet for Jewish genealogical database development. He has rapidly developed the technology behind numerous databases including, among others, the Jewish Records Indexing Poland Database, JewishGen Family Finder, ShtetlSeeker, Family Tree of the Jewish People, and the Discussion

Group Archives. His efforts have made vast amounts of material readily available to the Jewish genealogical community.

### Asociacion de Geneologia Judia de Argentina

Asociacion de Geneologia Judia de Argentina received the Outstanding Publication Award in recognition of *Toldot*, for the scope and quality of its articles. Each issue is filled with original material impressive both in its scholarly content and in its readability.

### JGS of Palm Beach County

JGS of Palm Beach County, Florida received the Outstanding Programming Award. It was recognized for its efforts to spread awareness of Jewish genealogy through its extensive local publicizing of Jewish Genealogy Month, March 25 to April 23, 2001.

### JGS, New York

JGS, New York received the Outstanding Projects Award. It was recognized for several projects aimed at making historical records in the New York area more available to researchers everywhere. These include projects to index Brooklyn naturalization records, burial societies in the New York metropolitan area, and New York landsmanshaftn and other Jewish organizations.

### Peter Landé

Peter Landé received a Lifetime Achievement Award in deep appreciation of his contributions to the world of Jewish genealogy. He was recognized for his selfless assistance to others in pursuing their own research and his efforts in gathering and indexing genealogical materials for the benefit of all. Among these are his outstanding work on identifying resources and creating finding aids at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, his extensive support for the Yizkor Book Project and his ongoing contributions to *Stammbaum*.

**Save the date:  
Toronto 2002: A Meeting Place  
22nd International Conference  
on Jewish Genealogy  
August 4-9, 2002**

## LOCAL RESOURCES

### Get an Early Start on the 1930 U.S. Federal Census

by Michael Steinore

If you are planning to use the 1930 U.S. Federal Census, it is possible to get a head start by determining Enumeration District numbers (hereafter E.D.'s) using rolls of the T1224 microfilm series recently made available at the National Archives facility in San Bruno. Because the 1930 census is soundex-indexed for only a dozen states, all in the Southeast U.S., it is likely you will need to determine the 1930 E.D. using a street address. This is true even if your relatives remained at the same address from 1920 to 1930 because there is no consistent correlation between 1920 and 1930 E.D.'s.

The 1930 E.D. descriptions for the entire U.S. are contained on roll numbers

61-90 of the T1224 microfilm series. They are textual descriptions, not maps. These 30 rolls are therefore likely to be in high demand when the 1930 census is released in April, 2002. If you don't already have a 1930 address for a relative, the San Bruno facility also has a collection of circa 1930

city directories located in the same cabinet as the T1224 rolls. NARA has an online inventory of these city directories at [www.nara.gov/genealogy/citydirs.html](http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/citydirs.html). The census day was April 1, 1930.

Based on my experience determining E.D.'s for Milwaukee, WI (in the top 10 of largest Jewish populations in 1930), it can take about 30 minutes to determine an E.D. for one address. One useful feature of these 1930 E.D. descriptions is that the corresponding 1920 E.D. number is noted in an adjoining column. Therefore, if your relative resided at the same address in 1930 as in 1920, and you know the 1920 E.D., you can locate the 1930 E.D. more quickly simply by scanning the 1920 E.D. column.

In larger cities, it may still be difficult to determine the E.D. if you don't know the cross-street for an address. Some city directories have a map or full street index before or after the main portion of the city directory, which may help to resolve that problem.

### SFBAJGS Family Finder Update

The surnames and towns being researched by our newest member is listed below. This database is maintained for our membership. If you have a correction or update you would like us to know about, contact: SFBAJGS, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco CA 94147, or send e-mail to: [burgauer@aol.com](mailto:burgauer@aol.com)

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Member</u>
Goldstein	Zuromin, Poland	Michael Steinore
Kadecki	Poland	Michael Steinore
Katznelson	Bobruysk area, Belarus	Michael Steinore
Kohn	Serbia	Michael Steinore
Levy	Poland/Germany	Michael Steinore
Margolin	Bobruysk area, Belarus	Michael Steinore
Messinger	Serbia	Michael Steinore
Rivkin	Verkhnedvinsk, Belarus	Michael Steinore

**NATIONAL RESOURCES**

**New Searchable Database for Galveston Arrivals**

Those who are unable to locate their immigrant ancestors through the Ellis Island Database should think about whether their ancestors came through another port such as Boston, Philadelphia or Galveston. The Texas Seaport Museum recently opened a database that allows an on-line search of immigrants who arrived through the port of Galveston. It can be found at [www.tsm-elissa.org/immigration-login.htm](http://www.tsm-elissa.org/immigration-login.htm). Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 or above is required to use the site.

According to the information on the site, this is the nation's only computerized listing of immigrants to Galveston, Texas. The database includes names of passengers and members of their traveling parties, age, gender, occupation, country of origin, ship name, dates of departure and arrival, and destination in the United States. Information is also provided for a small number of ship arrivals, listing the ship name, type of ship, master, home port, arrival date at Galveston, port of departure, destination port, tonnage, number of immigrants, ship owner, and citation source.

Searches of the Galveston Immigration Database are based on surnames. If a search does not result in an exact match, a table of names closest to the spelling of the search name will appear on the screen.

The passenger arrival records normally listed people traveling together as a single record, and included several first names. When these records were entered into the database, space limitations allowed a maximum of seven names to be recorded as a family unit. If there were more than seven people in the traveling family unit, the information was split into two records.

The information was transcribed from microfilm records of passenger manifests by the staff of the Texas Seaport Museum. Sources included Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service passenger manifests from the National Archives, books containing additional source material and isolated passenger lists published in *The Galveston Daily News*. Additional sources continue to be researched for future inclusion in the database.

In all, the names of more than 130,000 passengers from the period of 1846-1948 have been entered. The

database lists only those who first disembarked in Texas. Many immigrants came through New York or one of the other East Coast ports and trans-shipped to Texas. Family legend may hand down a Texas port of entry, while immigration records reflect an Eastern port.

An unknown percentage of the records are missing. There are very few entries between 1871 and 1894.

The site includes an FAQ section for those with additional questions.

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**Maryland Museum Has Records of Many Baltimore Arrivals**

*Carol Rombro Rider, JewishGen*

The Jewish Museum of Maryland (formerly the Jewish Historical Society) has a number of records from HIAS of Jews who arrived into Baltimore during the early years of this century. They give the name of the ship, date of arrival, to whom the person was going and sometimes some other genealogical treasures. Check the JewishGen Archives for their address and telephone number. Their research fees are very reasonable. The museum is located at 15 Lloyd Street, Baltimore, Maryland 31202. Its telephone number is (410) 732-6400.

**Book Outlines Landmarks of Life on the Lower East Side**

*Mitch Stone, JewishGen*

The book *The Jewish People in American: A Time for Building, the Third Migration 1880-1920* by Gerald Sorin (1992, American Jewish Historical Society), includes a map of the Lower East Side of Manhattan, with major landmarks of Jewish life and culture. It interestingly demarcates the quarters of the Lower East Side by ethnic sub-districts. This is actually a very tiny reduction of an illustration originally published in *The Promised City* by Moses Rischin.

## PAST MEETINGS

### Morse Shows How to Search the Ellis Island Site with Fewer Tears

by Beth Galletto

In the process of making his own research easier, computer professional Stephen Morse assisted all genealogists who try to use the Ellis Island Data Base website to find their immigrant ancestors. At the September meeting of the SFBAJGS, Morse explained how he came to devise his site and what it can do.

Morse noted that when the Ellis Island site first went on line this spring, researchers found themselves watching a circling magnifying glass for what seemed an eternity as the site attempted a cumbersome search for their ancestors. In the early days the site could not handle all the people trying to access it and often left researchers high and dry with a cryptic error message.

When it did search, the site had many weaknesses. Names were often spelled in unexpected ways in the original passenger manifests. They were then entered into the database by people who did their best to decipher the often-difficult old-style handwriting, but who were not particularly familiar with Jewish family names. There was no soundex. There was no way to search using several parameters at once. Name, date of arrival, age, and ethnicity had to be entered individually, leading to many repetitions of the endlessly rotating magnifying glass.

Morse illustrated his talk with his search for Jonas Feiner from Jassy. After he grew tired of using the tedious EIDB search engine, he developed a tool that interacted with the EIDB search engine but through which a searcher could enter several parameters in one step. He continued to modify his one step page until it was possible to search with just the first letter of the last name.

This led to success in his search for Jonas Feiner. He entered the initials "J F," "arrival between 1898 and 1900," "25 to 35 years of age," and "Romanian." This brought up 17 hits, one of which was Jonie Foinsz from Tassy. The handwritten "J" is frequently misinterpreted as a "T." Furthermore, looking at the original manuscript, Morse saw that it really said Jonise Foinar, very close to Jonas Feiner. The manifest said that Foinar was going to join his brother-in-law in Brooklyn, where Morse knew Jonas Feiner went when he arrived.

Even after this success, Morse was driven to make further improvements on the ability to use the EIDB site. Working with Michael Tobias, who began to mine the EIDB for names that were listed under the

"Hebrew" ethnicity, Morse developed his blue search page and associated search engine to search through Tobias' mined data. That search engine adds the ability to do town search and soundex searches, two important features not supported by the Ellis Island search engine.

By using his computer expertise to figure out ways to make the search easier, less time consuming, and more likely to lead to successful results, Morse has done a great service for all Jewish genealogists. His site is located at [home.pacbell.net/spmores/ellis/ellis.html](http://home.pacbell.net/spmores/ellis/ellis.html).

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*London Conference, cont. from page 5*

and we spent the next one and one-half weeks visiting all the cousins. Unfortunately they all said they knew nothing about our grandparents. Most of them were born after our grandparents died, and they said their parents never talked about them. We went to Leeds to visit a cousin who was named after the uncle who died in World War I.

We went to a couple of shows in London and had a wonderful time. My sister and I also took the train to Paris for a two-day, overnight trip. It was the first time for both of us in Paris, and we filled our two days with loads of memories. We stayed in a lovely, small, quiet hotel within walking distance of the Eiffel Tower and the Seine, rode the Metro everywhere, took a boat ride on the Seine, went to the Louvre (which was closed on the day we were there), tried out our high school French on the locals and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

I would love to go back to England, and since I became somewhat familiar with the "tube," which my sister and I used a great deal during our week together, I'm sure I would be able to find my way around London much more easily. However, I think I'll have to satisfy my urge to research at the various institutions by writing to them, at least for the near future.

### Images show the Immigrant Experience

*Marian Levine, JewishGen*

For some unusual photos which clearly depict the realities of the immigrant experience at Ellis Island, Castle Garden etc., I encourage you to take a look at these. Click on "immigration" and then "arrival." Go to [historyproject.ucdavis.edu/imageapplication/MarchandMajors.cfm](http://historyproject.ucdavis.edu/imageapplication/MarchandMajors.cfm)

**COMPUTER/ONLINE NEWS**

**Using the Internet to Better Understand the Lives of Our Ancestors**

by Ron Arons

When not researching his family, Ron Arons works on high tech marketing. Ron talked about using the Internet to get a better understanding of our ancestors at the October meeting of the SFBAJGS in Palo Alto. Ron is researching **SPIER, ARONS/ARONOWITZ, GILLMAN, TARSHIS, STERNBERG, HYMAN, GORDON, LONDON, LEBENSOHN, and GREJS.**

**Introduction to Genealogy, Link Sites**

[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com) Links to thousands of other genealogy websites

[www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org) Most popular Jewish genealogy website

[www.avotaynu.com](http://www.avotaynu.com) Books for sale, index to articles written in past 14 years

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) LDS Library catalog and research guidelines

[www.genuki.org.uk/big](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big) Links to many other websites re Anglo-genealogy

[www.pro.gov.uk](http://www.pro.gov.uk) British Public Records Office

[www.jgsgb.ort.org](http://www.jgsgb.ort.org) Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain

[www.feefhs.org/](http://www.feefhs.org/) Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies

[www.pac-info.com](http://www.pac-info.com) Link site

**General Search Engines**

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) includes search of newsgroup (bulletin board) postings

**Family Finders**

[www.jewishgen.org/jgff](http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff)

[groups.google.com](http://groups.google.com)

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

[www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)

**Births, Marriages, and Deaths (BMD)**

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) Social Security Death Index

[vitalrec.com](http://vitalrec.com) U.S. vital record ordering information

[familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) LDS Library Catalog

[www.jeffreymaynard.com](http://www.jeffreymaynard.com) BMD for Anglo-Jewish community 1880-1895

[www.jgsgb.com](http://www.jgsgb.com) - obits in Jewish Chronicle (England) for 1995-1999

[www.jewishsf.com](http://www.jewishsf.com) - recent BMD for SF Jewish community - use search facility

[www.jewishgen.org/cemetery/](http://www.jewishgen.org/cemetery/) IAJGS Cemetery Project

[freebmd.rootsweb.com](http://freebmd.rootsweb.com)

**Current Directories (Telephone, other)**

[www.infospace.com](http://www.infospace.com) United States

[www.teldir.com](http://www.teldir.com) International directories

[www.192.com](http://www.192.com) U.K. Voter Registration List - includes citizens with unpublished phone #s

[www.martindale.com](http://www.martindale.com) Martindale-Hubble Lawyer Locator

[www.classmates.com](http://www.classmates.com) High school alumni directory

[www.people-finders.ws](http://www.people-finders.ws)

[www.knowx.com](http://www.knowx.com)

[www.lookupusa.com](http://www.lookupusa.com)

**Passenger Ship, Naturalization Records**

[www.ellislandrecords.org](http://www.ellislandrecords.org) Ellis Island Records Database

[www.jgsny.org/kingsintro2.htm](http://www.jgsny.org/kingsintro2.htm) Brooklyn Naturalization Recs 1907-1924

[istg.rootsweb.com/](http://istg.rootsweb.com/) Immigrant Ship Transcribers Guild

**Online Auctions**

[www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)

**Maps - Free, Modern Day, Online**

[www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) street maps of U.S. & more

[www.multimap.com](http://www.multimap.com) Street maps of U.K.

[www.rootsweb.com/~easeurgw/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~easeurgw/) EastEuropeGenWeb

**Maps - Free, Old, Online**

[www.feefhs.org/maps/indexmap.html](http://www.feefhs.org/maps/indexmap.html) Fed of East European Fam Hist Societies

[www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/europe.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/europe.html) Univ. of Texas Map Room

**Maps - Old Printed Maps for Sale**

[www.postaprint.co.uk](http://www.postaprint.co.uk) Vintage maps from around the world

[www.alangodfrey.com](http://www.alangodfrey.com) U.K. maps

[www.rallymap.demon.co.uk/](http://www.rallymap.demon.co.uk/) U.K. maps

[www.generationspress.com](http://www.generationspress.com) Many countries

## The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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## Next Month

### Newspapers & Magazines What Do Numbers on EIDB

[www.jewishsf.com](http://www.jewishsf.com) Jewish Bulletin (Bay Area) **Listings Mean?**

[www.newyorktimes.com](http://www.newyorktimes.com)

*Elise Friedman, JewishGen*

[www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)

Many listings in the Ellis Island Database contain handwritten notations including numbers and dates.

[www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com)

[www.jchron.co.uk](http://www.jchron.co.uk) Jewish Chronicle (London) For example, VL stands for Verification of Landing.

[www.jewishtelegraph.com](http://www.jewishtelegraph.com) Jewish Telegraph (Manchester) In England a clerk checked the manifest at a later date to verify that the person had previously been admitted into the country. The numbers are a file number that included letters relating to such

[www.the-times.co.uk/](http://www.the-times.co.uk/) The London Times

verifications. These files no longer exist.

### Online Bookstores

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

P stands for Permit. This means the person requested a re-entry permit prior to leaving the US again. He had to apply for the permit, pay for it and receive it in advance of his departure from the US.

[www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com) Barnes & Noble

[www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com) aggregation site for online used booksellers

The number immediately after is the permit number that was issued. The date tells when the permit was issued.

### Libraries & Archives

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) LDS Library (SLC)

Note: Credit for the above information belongs to Marian Smith, Immigration and Naturalization Service Historian. This information and much more

[www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org) New York Public Library

[www.nysl.nysed.gov/](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/) New York State Library and Archives, Albany

will soon be available on a website that explains the handwritten annotations found on manifests

[www.sfpl.lib.ca.us/](http://www.sfpl.lib.ca.us/) San Francisco Public Library

[www.oaklandlibrary.org](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org) Oakland Public Library

[www.lib.state.ca.us/](http://www.lib.state.ca.us/) Holdings for CA libraries including Sutro Library

[www.lib.berkeley.edu](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu) UC Berkeley Library

[www.huc.edu/libraries](http://www.huc.edu/libraries) Hebrew Union College

[www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk) List of local studies libraries in U.K.

### Free Lookup Services, Local FHSs, Professionals

[www.iajgs.org](http://www.iajgs.org) List of other Jewish genealogy societies

[www.geocities.com/heartland/plains/8555/england.html](http://www.geocities.com/heartland/plains/8555/england.html) Free U.K. lookup services

[www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk) Society of Genealogists - England

### Free Online Language Translators

[babelfish.altavista.com/](http://babelfish.altavista.com/) English - Fr, Sp, Port, Ital, German

[www.ectaco.com/online/diction.php?lang=7](http://www.ectaco.com/online/diction.php?lang=7) English - Polish (limited)

[www.translate.ru/eng/text.asp](http://www.translate.ru/eng/text.asp) English - Russian

**Jewish/Eastern European SIG  
is part of Sonoma County Society**

The Sonoma County Genealogical Society has a Jewish and Eastern European Special Interest Group that meets monthly. For more information contact Suzanne Waxman at (707) 538-4378 or [sswnola@earthlink.net](mailto:sswnola@earthlink.net).