

זכרון  
ZichronNote

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

**Volume XXII, Number 4**

**November 2002**

**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

**Los Altos Hills: Monday, 7:30 p.m.** Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road

**Berkeley: Sunday, 1 to 3:30 p.m.** Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Street, North Berkeley.

**Sun. November 17 Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center: 1 to 4 p.m. Genealogy Workshop.**  
Something for everyone! 1414 Walnut Street, North Berkeley, 1 to 3:30 p.m.  
See details on Page 4.

**Mon. December 16 Los Altos Hills: TBD**

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

## ZichronNote

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

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**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: San Francisco:** Fort Mason Center (Marina at Buchanan), San Francisco.

**Los Altos:** Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills.

**Berkeley:** Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Street, North Berkeley.

**SFBAJGS Web Site:** www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

## President's Message

### All Things Change

by Jeremy Frankel

Some big changes are ahead for the SFBAJGS. This is going to take some getting through, so go grab a large coffee (or cup of tea) and settle down. I think it is really important to explain to you all what we are facing in the upcoming year (and farther ahead) and some of the ideas the Board has been sounding out. As always, we not only welcome, but demand your response to the issues laid out below. So please let us know how you feel.

During August, my Berkeley synagogue, Chochmat HaLev, sponsored a series of "brown bag" seminars in downtown San Francisco. Their theme was how to incorporate Jewish ethics into the business world. The last one I attended, led by Rabbi Josh Singer, was about the relationship between the parties making a deal.

This thought was running through my mind as the Board met on Saturday, August 31. We had several major issues that necessitated a lot of discussion as well as a resolution. Much of it hinged on the financial demands upon the Society. I kept thinking, what kind of deal was the Board making with the membership? Would these be short-term fixes, or the kind of planning that would enable the society to chart its path through an uncertain future?

In the past few years, we have had the benefit of resting our laurels on a fairly substantial income, supplemented by generous donations. One of our problems now is that we have costs over which we have no control. For example, with respect to publishing ZichronNote, we cannot control what the paper/printing costs will be, nor circumvent what now seems like an annual increase in postage.

The Board has discussed at great length the idea of "going pdf." This is an electronic version which can be sent as an attachment in an e-mail. As with everything, there are pros and cons. The cons are that there are still members who do not own a computer and could not receive it this way. There are also a number of members who would prefer to receive the printed version. On the pro side, there are no paper/printing or postage costs. It doesn't take up any room in your library, and a "pdf" version is word searchable. You also have the option of printing it out yourself to read.

The Board needs to seek the views of the membership before a final decision can be reached. There are many questions. We can certainly go pdf for a percentage of the membership, but in order to

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**SOCIETY NEWS**

**E-mail Address Updates**

Ensign, Jacque	jacque6@earthlink.net
Kelly, Judy	wwtrkelly@aol.com
Licht, Norman	norm@normanlicht.com
Miller, Howard	howiemil@pacbell.net
Morse, Stephen P.	spmorse@pobox.com
Oser, Howard	HowardOser@Prodigy.net
Raphael, Harold	hr964@pacbell.net

**New Members**

Concus, Paul	concus@math.berkeley.edu
Eckstein, Randy	randdeck@yahoo.com
Kiefer, Harry	haki94530@aol.com
Lemmon, Amelia	alomon2@juno.com
Ramm, Hy	hyramm@mac.com
Spielman, Marvin	mspie62223@aol.com
Wagger, Gerald	gwagger@aol.com
Wiener, Shellie	s_wiener@yahoo.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.

**SFBAJGS Family Finder Update**

The surnames and towns being researched by our newest members are 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.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
ANGER	Bilgoraj, Poland	Eckstein, Randy
ECKSTEIN	Bilgoraj, Poland	Eckstein, Randy
FESSLER	Vatra Dornei, (Roumania)	Wiener, Shellie
GLOGAU	Hamburg, Germany	Kiefer, Harry
GOLEMBE	Lyubashevo, Lakhva, Minsk, Pinsk (Belarus)	Wiener, Shellie
GRUENEBAUM	Frankfurt, Germany	Kiefer, Harry
HOCHSTADT	Vizhnitsa and Putila (Ukraine), Vatra Dornei, (Roumania)	Wiener, Shellie
HOTZNER	Hamburg, Germany	Kiefer, Harry
JACOBSON	UK	Ramm, Hy
KIEFER	Osterath, Germany	Kiefer, Harry
LEMER	Szczebrzeszyn, Poland	Eckstein, Randy
LEVY	Tennessee and Mississippi	Lemmon, Amelia
PACHT	Vizhnitsa (Ukraine), Vatra Dornei, (Roumania)	Wiener, Shellie
RAMM	UK	Ramm, Hy
ROCHMAN	Lublin Gubernia,	Eckstein, Randy
RUBINGER	Vizhnitsa and Putila (Ukraine), Vatra Dornei, (Roumania)	Wiener, Shellie
SCHAPP	Vatra Dornei, (Roumania)	Wiener, Shellie
SCHOENTHAL	Frankfurt, Germany	Kiefer, Harry
SILVERSTEIN	Vatra Dornei, (Roumania)	Wiener, Shellie
SPIELMAN	Karmanov, Poland	Spielman, Marvin
WAGGER	Duinsk, Latvia	Wagger, Gerald
WALLACH	Vizhnitsa (Ukraine), Vatra Dornei, (Roumania)	Wiener, Shellie
WEGER	Duinsk, Latvia	Wagger, Gerald
WEIGEL	Vatra Dornei, (Roumania)	Wiener, Shellie
WIENER	Kolomyya (Ukraine)	Wiener, Shellie
WINDWER	Kolomyya (Ukraine)	Wiener, Shellie
WOFSON	UK	Ramm, Hy
WOLF	Warsaw Gubernia	Eckstein, Randy
WOLFORWITZ, WOLFARIVITZ	Warsaw Gubernia	Eckstein, Rand

**CALENDAR, cont.**

**More Genealogy Events**

**Local**

Sat., November 23, 1p.m. **Sonoma County Genealogical Society. Dating, Restoring and Preserving Old Photos.** Ron Willis, Photo Expert. Lark Hall, Room 2009, Santa Rosa Junior College. [www.scgs.org](http://www.scgs.org)

Sat., January 25, 1p.m. **Sonoma County Genealogical Society.** Bette Kot, author, researcher and teacher. Lark Hall, Room 2009, Santa Rosa Junior College. [www.scgs.org](http://www.scgs.org)

Sat., February 22, 1p.m. **Sonoma County Genealogical Society. Search Techniques: Finding an Ancestor at the National Archives.** Rosemary Kennedy, genealogy specialist, NARA. Lark Hall, Room 2009, Santa Rosa Junior College. [www.scgs.org](http://www.scgs.org)

**State**

Sun., November 17, 1:30 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles. Visits to Our Ancestral Shtetls.** Panel presentation. Bernard Milken Jewish Community Campus, 22622 Van Owens Street, West Hills. (818)771-5554. [www.jgsla.org](http://www.jgsla.org)

Mon., December 16, 7:30 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles. Using the Internet to Find Anyone and Anything.** Ron Arons. Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. (818)771-5554. [www.jgsla.org](http://www.jgsla.org)

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**Annual Workshop Will Have Something for Everyone**

The SFBAJGS Annual Jewish Genealogical Workshop will take place on November 17 at the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Street, North Berkeley, from 1 to 4 p.m. The workshop will include:

- Beginning and Advanced Jewish Genealogical Classes
- One-to-one assistance in scanning and preserving documents and photographs
- Local and International resources
- Special interest group discussions led by experienced researchers
- One-on-one assistance
- Extensive library of Jewish genealogical resources
- Translation services
- Schmooze and snack tables

## Impressions of the Toronto International Conference

### Sharing the Passion

by Sheree Roth

It was truly an honor to attend the IAJGS Conference in Toronto this summer. My experience was profoundly wonderful on many levels. For one thing, I was among so many people who shared my passion for Jewish genealogy and history. The conference was very well organized with terrific speakers, breakfast and luncheon options, Special Interest Group meetings, a vendor area, an exhibit area and their very own internet center. They even had a well stocked lending library. I made good use of the copy machine that was available there. In the evening some terrific films were offered up through the Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

This was my second conference. The first one I attended was in Salt Lake City two years ago. The difference for me between the two is that I attended many more lectures this time. In Utah, I was torn between great speakers and the incredible Family History Library. In Toronto, I was frustrated over which terrific lecture I would attend, when two or more pertinent lectures happened at the same time. I was just too busy to properly tour Toronto, I learned so much from attending the lectures. Since I am researching my own family from many areas in the Ukraine, Galicia and Poland and my husband's from Hungary, I had many different relevant lectures to choose from. Not to mention that all my grandparents ended up in Winnipeg, where they met and married, so the Canadian topics were important to me also.

One of the offerings that I enjoyed the most was the Breakfasts with the Experts. If you can imagine yourself shmoozing with your favorite movie stars, you will know how I felt. I had the opportunity to thank Miriam Weiner for her immense contribution to Jewish genealogy, as well as ask her about the Priluka towns in the Ukraine. I got to ask Alexander Beider for his take on the surname Buckstern from Bucovina, of which I feel that I am the only one in the world looking for. He offered that if he could find any lists of Jewish names from Bucovina he would consider adding Bucovina to his forthcoming book on Jewish names from Galicia. So, if you see a Bucovina chapter in his book, think of me. I got to sit next to Louis Schoenfeld at one of the breakfasts. All you Hungarian researchers will probably recognize the name. It was a pleasure to meet him and speak with him after all these years of emailing

him and reading about all his hard work. It was fun to talk to Daniel Schlyter of the Family History Library and to see that he is facing the same challenges finding Schlyters that we are facing finding our ancestors.

I learned a lot from all the lectures that I attended. Among them were "Jewish Vital Records Research in Quebec," where I learned of the important work of Ruth Diamond and the Quebec JGS in indexing the Drouin records. Mr. Drouin had microfilmed vital records in Quebec in the 40's with the intention of making a business selling them. After he died his work was forgotten. However, since Quebec clamped a privacy ruling on vital records in 1992, his work is all the more important. I learned about the Kiev archives, about the holdings of the Auschwitz Museum, about the newly created Canadian Genealogy Centre, and about researching in the Transcarpathian region of former Hungary. I attended a truly moving talk by Alti Rodal about her work photographing the cemeteries in Bukovina. She had expected to be working with 20,000 tombstones but found that there were 50,000. She battled overgrown brambles, insects, sun and snakes to get those photos shot.

When I attended the Salt Lake City conference I met Ron Doctor, a fellow Kremenets, Ukraine researcher. Together we started the Kremenets Shtetl CO-OP with the intention of transliterating the 15,000 records microfilmed and held by the Mormon Family History Library. We've accomplished a lot in two years. Our volunteers have translated a couple of years worth of records and a few chapters of the Yizkor books. We have a Shtetlinks website and about 150 members on our email list. Ron is going to Kremenets in a few weeks and will try to organize a cemetery project there. A highlight for me at this conference was our 'Birds of a Feather' meeting where I was able to meet in person some of our CO-OP members.

Probably the nicest thing for me was being able to finally meet and room with my husband's third cousin once removed who shares, if not exceeds, my enthusiasm for genealogy. We have been working together on our shared branches for quite a few years now but this was our first meeting. I am hoping to make attending Jewish genealogy conferences together an annual event. I'm looking forward to going to Washington next summer and Jerusalem in '04. Hope to see you there too!

*Continued on next page*

## High Tech and Other Highlights

by Roy Ogus

Following my annual pattern over the last four years, I attended the annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held in Toronto during August this year. This conference was every bit as good as the four symposiums that I have attended in previous years. This note describes the highlights of the conference that were particularly enjoyable for me.

I found the Conference to be very well-organized and, as usual, packed with an array of stimulating lectures and panel discussions. During the evening sessions, a number of interesting and stirring films were shown. Unlike in previous years, I was able to devote my full attention to the conference activities because I had not planned to complete any extra-conference research in the various Toronto archives and facilities.

One facet of this conference that particularly appealed to me was its high-tech aspect. Several presentations were high tech-related, and the high-tech theme was evident during the opening and closing sessions of the Symposium. In both these sessions, the use of elaborate wide-screen computer graphics presentations greatly enhanced the audience's enjoyment of the proceedings.

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

- Many recurring favorites of the annual Conferences were again available at the Toronto Symposium. These included the status of JewishGen's future plans, the status and plans for the All-Lithuania Database on JewishGen, Bruce Kahn's popular lecture on digital imaging techniques for genealogy, and Oleg Perzashkevich's interesting lectures on the Belarussian Archives resources and facilities.
- There were a number of high-tech-related lectures that I found particularly interesting and enjoyable. First, Stephen Morse gave fascinating presentations of his Ellis Island and 1930 Census search tools. As have many others, I have used Stephen's Ellis Island search tool with amazing success. Even though I was fairly experienced in using his tools, I found his talks very enlightening, and learned a number of useful new tricks and techniques. Soon after the conference Stephen decided to shut his sites down

(pending resolution of his issues with the Ellis Island Foundation) so I feel particularly fortunate to have heard him at the conference.

- A second high-tech-oriented lecture that I found particularly interesting was Edward Rosenbaum's presentation of his shareware suite of tools to aid genealogy research on the Internet. Soon after the conference I managed to install and yield immediate results from his search aid for the Ancestry.com 1910 US Census images.
- I particularly enjoyed the presentation by Judith Caplan titled "How to Read a Hebrew Tombstone Anywhere in the World." I'd previously read a number of articles on this topic, but to me, Judith's lecture was clearly the most comprehensive, enlightening, and well-presented treatment of this subject I've ever experienced.
- Following on the innovation introduced at the London conference in 2001, the Toronto symposium presented a series of successive lectures on one day on the theme "The Millenium of Polish Jewry." These sessions, which included both presentations and panel discussions, presented a most stimulating in-depth coverage of this topic.
- One of the short films shown in the evening was "Uncle Chatzkel," describing the visit of an Australian Jewish family to the filmmaker's 93-year-old great-uncle Chatzkel Lemchen at his home in Vilnius. The film used this visit to chronicle the long and difficult life of Uncle Chatzkel in Eastern Europe. I found this poignant film particularly stirring. It was very well made, and was made even more poignant by my knowledge that Chatzkel had died not long after the visit shown in the film.

Finally, to return to my earlier comment about the high-tech emphasis at the conference, the symposium provided a couple of high-tech support facilities to attendees that I found both useful and appealing. The "Internet café" in the Resource Room featured a large array of terminals with high-speed access to the Internet. Compared to previous symposiums that I have attended, this resource provided both the fastest computer access to the Internet, as well as the shortest average wait time for the availability of a machine. I made full use of this facility!

Secondly, the conference featured a roving photographer armed with a high-quality digital camera. Extremely high-quality prints of pictures

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**Conference**, cont. from previous page

taken of the various speakers, as well as of groups and general scenes at the conference, were made available to attendees for a fee. For me, the crowning feature was the digital video collage of the various images taken throughout the week that was presented at the close of the symposium Thursday night, accompanied by a lively music soundtrack. The audience at the closing session, while tired after a long evening of activities, gave the collage their complete attention as they searched for images of

familiar people and activities as they appeared on the screen.

On the whole, the lectures and panel group discussions 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. All in all, it was a most satisfying and stimulating week for me, and I am already looking forward to the 2003 Symposium in Washington DC next year!

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## **Insights Gained in Toronto: Don't Believe Everything You Hear**

by Naidia Woolf

As a second generation Anglo-Jew whose grandparents came from Poland, I gained some valuable insights at the recent conference, some of which may be of special interest to those whose ancestors emigrated either to the United States or Canada.

Before going to the conference I was disappointed to learn that at present, Canadian immigration records are available only up to 1935. This leaves me out in the cold, since my father's cousin Willie KIJAWSKI and his wife Regina would not have arrived in Canada — if not the U.S. — until just before the war. The Reference Library in Toronto (on Yong Street, fourth floor, Special Collections) has an excellent, if distinctly dog-eared, collection of city (including telephone) books for major towns in Canada going back at least 80 years. Fortunately some of the earlier, more dilapidated, city directories have been preserved on microfiche. For two hours I pored over hundreds of records for 1938 - 1946 hoping to come across the name KIJAWSKI (and variants thereof), to no avail. It was an interesting exercise, however.

Most of the immigrants who arrived at ports on the Eastern Seaboard of Canada settled in Montreal, Toronto, Quebec, and Ottawa, with Ontario receiving the highest proportion of Holocaust survivors after the second World War.

One of the tours sponsored by the IAJG was to the Ontario Jewish Archives. These proved to be an excellent resource on Canadian immigration. Offerings include Volumes I - VII of Immigration Case Files of which Volumes IV through VII include inventories of all of the immigration files by Case File Number, individual and sponsor. The individual case files are housed at the Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives, 1590 Avenue, Docteur Penfield, Montreal, Quebec H3G1C5, [www.cjc.ca](http://www.cjc.ca).

While scanning hundreds of indices, I came across two for an immigrant with the same name as the woman seated next to me. (I should be so lucky!) I also found an entry for a Schorr, Marjem, FELDER, Rabbi Gordon. This piqued my curiosity since a Morris SHORN witnessed the death certificate of my maternal grandmother who was interred at the Edmonton Cemetery in North London.

A group of us also toured the Robarts Library, which has a collection of ghetto lists, contained in several volumes, including those for the Lodz ghetto. Unfortunately, our time there ran out so I was unable to take advantage of the library's other excellent resources.

One thing that was continually stressed at the conference was that what we have been told about our ancestors by our parents or other relatives — including their names, marital status, or place of birth — was not necessarily true. Before emigrating, our ancestors sometimes acquired passports or exit visas from other Jews, thereby assuming a different identity. Moreover, they may have given their age as older or younger, to improve marriage prospects, obtain employment in the host country, or simply out of vanity! Dr. Haviva Langenauer, assisted by her Polish-born husband Rabbi A. Bar-Zev, gave a fascinating lecture entitled "Gravestones and Death Certificates: Can You Believe What You Read?" which cast new light on the subject.

The need to take what we were told with a grain of salt was reinforced by Judith Caplan's lively talk, "How To Read a Hebrew Tombstone anywhere in the World: Tombstone Translation Topics or The *Matzevah* (memorial gravestone) Matters." Participants learned how to read/interpret Hebrew inscriptions and the significance of folk art on tombstones. One of the slides — which made me gasp — was of a modern tombstone (I believe in the U.S.) which displayed a large photograph of the deceased. (How our ancestors in the Old Country must have turned in their graves!) This, in addition to the controversial use of decorative motifs, evoked strong reactions such as

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**Conference**, cont. from previous page

“Aren’t we, as Jews, forbidden to use graven images?” In terms of Hebrew inscriptions, I was fascinated to learn that *Ben/Bat Avraham Avinu* (Son/Daughter of our Forefather Abraham) indicates that the deceased was a convert.

The moral is, don’t accept everything you see or hear or read as sacrosanct, even if it appears on a marriage, death certificate, or tombstone ... and be aware that the old, treasured passport you thought was your grandfather’s might not be his!

We have all heard stories about how our ancestors’ names were anglicized or in some way altered by immigration officials at the port of entry: These stories are *bobbe mayseh* (old wives’s tales). Passenger lists were prepared by ships’ captains prior to embarkation and used by immigration at the port of entry to identify and record the names and particulars of arriving passengers.

While on the subject of cemeteries, I should mention Yale Reisner’s fine if sobering presentation on “Shattered Vessels: Scattered Sparks: Recovering Jewish Memory in Poland.” According to Jewish law, cemeteries cannot be sold; however, under the Communists, Polish law decreed that a cemetery “wasn’t” a cemetery after 20 years. Fortunately that law was subsequently overturned, a blessed reprieve to all of us who are concerned about Jewish continuity and who honor the memory of those who came before us. (However, I once read — I believe on the JRI-Poland web site — that the grounds of the Old Jewish Cemetery in Lodz were paved over to be used as a parking lot; I’ve also been told that there are no markers remaining at the cemetery in Karczew, Poland.) Mr. Reisner also mentioned that the Polish government, reacting to the Six-Day War in Israel, deported 60,000 Jews: that they were taken by train to the border and ended up in Israel, the United States, and other countries.

I found Alexander Beider’s talk on “Jewish Surnames in Galicia” to be really helpful. Although my ancestors came from a different part of Poland, I was able to extrapolate some useful information on laws pertaining to Jewish surnames (so-called hereditary names). Beginning in 1787, Jews in Galicia and elsewhere in Austrian Poland (Polish territory that had been absorbed by the Austro-Hungarian Empire) were required to adopt surnames. I was surprised to learn that the name selection process in Austrian Poland was radically different from in the part of Poland under the Tsar, including the Pale of Settlement (the latter being part of Russia proper). If Yiddish or Hebrew surnames existed, they probably pre-dated the law regarding surname assignment and were either female-

derived, nicknames, family or rabbinical names. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in Galicia and elsewhere, surnames were assigned by local military commissions. In many cases, a Jew’s surname was “invented” (the quotes are Dr. Beider’s) by Austrian clerks and bore no relationship to the individual’s family heritage (unlike in the Pale of Settlement where most Jewish surnames were patronymic and derived from Yiddish). As such, they were usually derived from the names of birds, fish, animals, or places and were German-based, rather than — contrary to popular belief — indicative of a person’s physical or personality traits. A few were ridiculous or derogatory, presumably because the unfortunate person being assigned a name had antagonized the military commission! Between 1809 and 1815, during the Napoleonic Wars while E. Galicia belonged to Russia, the *Cahal* (local Jewish councils) were responsible for assigning Jewish surnames.

Dr. Julian Buszgang’s “Perspective on Polish Jewry: Changes and Assimilation” was both educational and fascinating. He used charts to illustrate the gradual socio-cultural changes among Polish Jews as they became more assimilated, beginning around 1800 when Jews were allowed to attend public (non-private) schools. From then on (into the third decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century), attendance at Jewish religious schools decreased. In 1932-1933, following the establishment of mandatory (free or public) six-year elementary and four-year middle schools (gymnasium or trade schools), Jews were rapidly assimilated into Polish society. By 1937-1938, Jewish children represented 16 percent of all school attendance and one-third in private high schools. As further indication of assimilation, fewer Jews declared Yiddish as their primary language. By the early 1930’s, Jews were active in Polish literary and cultural life, in music, the arts, and radio. Jews (some of whom were rabbis) were members of parliament; 37 percent of all lawyers in Warsaw were Jewish; 66 percent of doctors were Jews. Orthodox Jews tended to live in confined neighborhood enclaves. Assimilated Jews were also in the National police and Polish military. By then, most Polish Jews had abandoned religious observances such as keeping kosher. In terms of ethnic identity (citizenship versus ethnicity), a decreasing number reported themselves as Jewish. By the early or mid-1930’s, of the 71 percent of the population that was Jewish, only 24 percent declared themselves as Jewish; by 1936- 1937, of the 80 percent that was Jewish, only 17 percent identified themselves as such. Although inter-marriage was more common in Germany, it still occurred in Poland during the post-war period. The gradual process of assimilation in Poland slowed

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*Conference, cont. from previous page*

down just before the war due to the growth of anti-semitism and Zionism.

Dr. Michael Bernet's workshop, with its intriguing title, "How Much 'Jewish' do you need to do Jewish Genealogy?" geared mainly for those of "relatively limited Jewish background," was very lively, as to be expected by anyone who has ever corresponded with Michael! In (what to me has become) his customary no-nonsense, straight-from-the-shoulder manner, he announced early on, "Don't expect me to spend time giving you a list of resources — they're all in your prospectus!" Then he launched into a description of resources "as simple as a college-level English dictionary, the telephone book, the King James Bible, Google [and] Amazon.com . . . ." (The above quotes are from the good doctor's presentation summary in the Appendix to the prospectus.)

For me, Fay and Julian Bussgang's "Polish Pronunciation and Grammar Workshop" was difficult to follow, in part because I missed the first few minutes and am a greenhorn when it comes to the Polish language. One really needs to attend a language class to absorb that kind (and amount) of material. Fortunately participants were given hand-out materials on the subject; I've kept mine for future reference.

Thanks to Nancy Levin Arbeiter's lecture on "Passenger Records: An In-Depth Review," I learned that the indexing of Canadian border crossing into the U.S. began in 1895 and that only those individuals who had resided in Canada for one to two years and were going to a specific destination in the U.S. were indexed.

Daniel Schlyter's lecture, with its catchy title, "Harry, Hirsch, Hersz, Tzvi: Why So Many Different Names?" provided much food for thought. He

explained that Slavic languages are highly inflected with eight grammatical cases depending on usage. Names are treated like every other word in the language and employ grammatical endings (suffixes). For example, when an "m" is affixed to a name, it means "with" (as in "Itzak - Ickiem"); adding *skiego* means "son of" and *ska*, "daughter of." Similarly in Russian, if a feminine last name has *ich* as a suffix, this is the genitive (possessive) plural, meaning "of the family of \_\_\_\_\_." Jews sometimes had multiple names which they changed, added or even dropped, depending on which country or empire was in power at the time and the laws governing names.

Because I'd signed up for several morning and afternoon tours, I missed several lectures that I otherwise would have attended, including one that went into more depth about Canadian immigration. Other presentations sounded worthwhile, at least on paper, but were not — for me, at any rate. I took a friend's advice by not feeling obliged to stay for an entire session if it wasn't applicable to my line of genealogical research but to move on to something more promising.

While in Toronto, I discovered a Michael KUJAWSKI in the phone book. After returning to San Francisco, I wrote to his mother Esther who had married a Morris KUJAWSKI. (In the early 1950's, at age 17 Esther emigrated to Canada from Poland and subsequently met and married her husband.) I'm now waiting to hear from the family, hoping they might be distant relatives of my ancestors in Lodz, Poland. A long shot, I know.

Hats off to the dedicated, hard-working, and talented individuals who each year provide us with these great resources for Jewish genealogical research!

## Summary of the IAJGS Annual General Meeting

by Hal Bookbinder, President IAJGS

*This is a summary report of the IAJGS Annual General Meeting, held in Toronto, August 7, 2002.*

1) Membership: Several member societies became dormant during the past year (JGS of Hawaii, JGS of Indiana, Morris Area (NJ) JGS), and one new society joined, JGS of Venezuela, bringing our membership to 71. Anne Lee, IAJGS VP, proposed to set a fee structure for non-voting associate members of \$50 for any genealogical society, family association, historical society, library or archive and educational institution; and \$100 for genealogical vendors. This fee structure was approved. The fee structure for regular members remains unchanged.

2) Finance: A detailed financial report was included in the packet distributed to all representatives at the meeting. Michael Posnick, Treasurer, provided and discussed the report. The IAJGS is solvent, but at its present cash flow rate will run out of funds in four to five years. We discussed ways to cut expenses and to raise revenues. There was consensus that the president's reception at the annual conference, while valuable, is costing the IAJGS too much and should be discontinued as presently constructed. The potential for a dues increase was discussed but no change was voted upon.

5) Future conferences: The IAJGS has granted the 25th IAJGS Conference to the JGS of Southern Nevada. It will be held in Las Vegas in the summer of 2005. Conferences had previously been granted to the JGS of Greater Washington (2003) and the Israel GS (2004). A call was issued for member societies to bid on conferences beyond 2005. Those interested should contact Hal Bookbinder for bid requirements. The IAJGS will likely host another conference in Salt Lake City in the latter part of the decade and is looking into the feasibility of a conference in Eastern Europe.

6) Stern Awards: Representatives approved the recommendation of the IAJGS Board that a \$2,000 award be made to the American Jewish Archives Marcus Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. This money will assist its efforts to digitize the Malcolm Stern book "The First American Jewish Families, 1654-1988," create an updated guide to genealogical items at the AJA — such as family trees, synagogue records, orphanage records, etc.— and to digitize and index the United Jewish Cemetery Plot Books and the Weil Funeral Home records and make them available online in a searchable database.

7) IAJGS Board Elections: Seven individuals were nominated for six open board positions, Michael

Brenner (Las Vegas), Daniel Dratwa (Brussels, Belgium), Judy Frazin (Chicago), Anthony Joseph (Birmingham, England), Martha Lev-Zion (Negev, Israel), Daniel Schlyter (Salt Lake City), and Arnie Tolkin (Palm Beach Gardens). Elected to the board were Michael Brenner, Judy Frazin, Anthony Joseph, Martha Lev-Zion, Daniel Schlyter, and Arnie Tolkin.

8) Ethics: A draft Ethics Statement for Jewish Genealogists, as drafted by Anthony Joseph, was distributed at the Annual General Meeting. Feedback about this statement is requested by October 9 (60 days from the annual meeting). The IAJGS Board will consider all feedback before finalizing the Ethics Statement at its Fall Board Meeting. It will then be distributed to all members and posted on the IAJGS web site.

9) Access to Public Records: A committee of volunteers was formed to monitor actions by authorities to limit access to public records. The committee will formulate recommendations for IAJGS Board Action. Joel Spector, IAJGS Secretary, will head this team. Joel will shortly publish more information about the goals and activities of this group. However, one step has already been taken. This past week I sent a letter to various members of the California State Senate, on behalf of the IAJGS, expressing our concern about a pending bill that will severely restrict access to California vital records with the goal of lessening the likelihood of identity theft.

While we agree that this is a serious problem, California Senate Bill 1614 will create significant problems for family researchers. The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) expressed similar concerns about the bill and we coordinated our responses.

### IAJGS Achievement Awards

Annually since 1998, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) has presented achievement awards to recognize outstanding individual and organizational contributions to Jewish Genealogy.

Potential awardees are nominated by one or more of the 70 plus IAJGS member societies, and determined by a committee appointed by the IAJGS Board of Directors. This year's awards were presented by Howard Margol during the banquet held on August 8 in conjunction with the 22nd IAJGS International Conference in Toronto.

*Continued on next page*

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

This award is presented to a living individual for outstanding contributions of major significance and benefit to Jewish genealogy. This year's award was made to Stanley Diamond.

Diamond's negotiating skills and unselfish approach to capturing and sharing the indexing of Jewish records of Poland have made these widely accessible for the benefit of all. His creative molding of genealogical and genetic research techniques has added dimension to the field of Jewish genealogy. As founder and president of the JGS-Montreal and as a prolific writer and lecturer, he has motivated countless people to research their Jewish ancestry.

### **Outstanding Contribution Award**

This award is presented to a person, persons or organization in recognition of a contribution via the Internet, print, or electronic product. This year's award was made to JewishGen for its Yizkor Book Project. Susan King, President of JewishGen, and Joyce Field, Yizkor Book Project Manager, accepted the award on behalf of JewishGen.

The information on Jewish communities in Eastern Europe found in Yizkor books is uniquely valuable for Jewish genealogists. Project volunteers have translated portions of over 500 Yizkor books and other documents from Yiddish and Hebrew, making these valuable resources available to many more genealogists.

### **Outstanding Programming or Project Award**

This award is presented to a person, persons or organization, either in recognition of a single program or series of programs, or of a single project or series of projects. This year's award was made to the JGS of Ottawa, Canada for its Chernivtsi Cemetery Project. Hymie Reichstein, President of the JGS of Ottawa, accepted the award on behalf of the winner.

A three-person team traveled from Canada to the Ukraine, photographing 55,000 gravestones and copying over 1,800 pages of cemetery registers. This project preserves and makes available data on generations of ancestors and provides an invaluable tool for serious research.

### **Outstanding Publication Award**

This award is presented to an IAJGS Member Organization in recognition of an outstanding resource that has been made available to Jewish Genealogists that furthers their research.

This year's award was made to the JGS of Los Angeles for *RootsKey*, its quarterly journal. Hal

Bookbinder, President of the IAJGS and a board member of the JGS of Los Angeles, accepted the award on behalf of the winner.

The quality and scope of its articles demonstrate the highest standards of content and a professional level of presentation and editing. Using a clean and uncluttered format, *RootsKey* provides numerous original scholarly research articles in each issue and a wide array of news items on worldwide Jewish genealogical activities and resources.

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### **Hold July 20-25, 2003 for 23rd Annual Conference**

Planners are already hard at work on the 23rd Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, D.C., scheduled for July 20-25, 2003. A website for the event **[www.JewishGen.org/DC2003](http://www.JewishGen.org/DC2003)** is up and is expanding.

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW) warmly invites genealogists of all levels and interests to attend next year's conference.

The Conference will be held at the JW Marriott Hotel (**[www.marriott.com/wasjw](http://www.marriott.com/wasjw)**), 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. The hotel is conveniently located near major genealogy research institutions, the Washington, D.C. Metro system, Union Station/Amtrak, Ronald Reagan National Airport, two major theatres, and numerous eateries ranging from food court to gourmet tastes. The hotel has 738 guest rooms and 34 suites on 15 levels and will offer special rates for Conference attendees.

Among the features and events planned for Conference registrants are:

- A CD-ROM computer disk that contains the full Conference syllabus and a newly-updated version of JGSGW's well-regarded resource tool, "Capital Collections."
- A special after-hours tour and reception at the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and two tickets for admission to the Museum at any time during the Conference week.
- Unique programs presented by experts from the Library of Congress, National Archives, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, and other major genealogy research institutions.

**President's Message**, cont. from page 2

enjoy the benefit of bulk mail, we need to mail at least 200 newsletters. If the mailing is under that number, then the bulk mail cost shoots up to the first class cost. Some people have suggested sending a pdf version just to the overseas societies with whom we reciprocate, as international postage costs are in the region of \$41 per mailing. That would be a saving of \$164 a year.

Another issue concerns meetings of the SFBAJGS. We had a very successful meeting in Berkeley in August. It obviously met a need, as a third of our membership reside in the East Bay (and beyond). It is only fair that we serve them equitably as we do with our San Francisco and South Bay members. But this proliferation of meetings places an intolerable burden upon Rodger Rosenberg, our program director. An answer would be to have the support of a member in each area assisting Rodger with booking speakers as well as liaising with the meeting places to insure we have the correct room and any equipment the speaker needs.

For now, we have decided to scale back our San Francisco and Los Altos meetings from six to five meetings a year. We are also planning to have five meetings in Berkeley. The Annual Genealogy Workshop will rotate to each area. This year it will be in Berkeley and next year it will be in Los Altos. Reducing the number of meetings by one will make program planning a little easier for Rodger, who may also be able to schedule the same speakers in more than one location. For example, having the post-Conference panel discussion at each location is a way of promoting our members as presenters and lecturers.

We would also love to see more of our members on the other side of the lectern to teach us about what they have been researching. I am sure there are many fascinating stories out there. Many of us have enjoyed (and learned) from the presentations given by Ron Arons, Judy Baston, Henry Kaplan, Jim Koenig and Rosanne Leeson, to name but a few. I'm sure there are more budding speakers out there. Please contact Rodger if you are interested.

Another major issue surrounds the dues. Dues have been set at \$20 for a number of years, remaining the same as costs have gone up. There was much discussion at the last Board meeting about raising dues by \$3, \$5, or even \$10. There were questions such as: Should we risk a large increase because we have not raised dues for so long? Would we face losing members, especially in these trying economic times? Or should we be looking at more innovative methods of raising revenues? I should say that

several months ago the Board had voted to poll the membership for a \$5 increase. (The by-laws state we can raise the dues by 5 percent without a vote of the membership, but anything else requires a vote and a two-thirds majority.)

The Board has now rescinded that motion, passing instead the motion to raise dues by \$3 beginning January 1, 2003. We intend to supplement our income by looking at other ways to raise funds. One suggestion has been to offer, for a nominal fee, the opportunity for members to bring several photographs and have them scanned into a computer and then "burned" onto a CD at this year's Workshop. Members can then store them (and view them) on their computers and can e-mail them to family and friends. We have Ron Arons to thank for this suggestion; and Ron will be at the Workshop providing this service. We think that five photographs per member would be the limit, for a fee of \$5. Funds raised will go into the Society's coffers. I can tell you I will be first in line with my photos! It is this kind of innovative thinking that will make us a more viable organization, better able to weather any future storms of economic uncertainty.

We are also currently engaged in several outreach programs with Congregation Emanu-El, Congregation Shearith, Oakland Hadassah, Lehrhouse Judaica and others. I sincerely hope that the professionalism of our speakers will be repaid by recruitment of new members.

I could go on, but I would much rather read the other articles in this issue's *ZichronNote*. I hope that you all appreciate my repeating the mantra currently going around "that we live in interesting times!" The Board is totally conscious of the rocky road ahead and is working hard to ensure that we get the best value for our dollar.

Coming from England and the "mother of all Parliaments," I was used to sitting back and leaving all the decision-making to those who were elected to the job. However, I am now an American citizen, and I believe it is usual here to have a bit more grassroots input. So, as I usually end my column, the Board and I welcome and look forward to your comments to guide us through these "interesting times."

We would also like to wish to all of you and all your families a happy, healthy, prosperous and genealogically productive 5763.

L'Shana Tova,

*Jeremy*

**PAST MEETINGS**

**Genetics for Genealogists**

by Henry P. Kaplan, M.D., J.D.

Adapted from a presentation to the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society on April 15, 2002.

Our chromosomes are the templates from which we develop. We each have 22 autosomal pairs of chromosomes and one pair of sex chromosomes. A male's sex chromosomes are XY and a female's are XX.

Each male inherits his male ancestor's Y chromosome plus his mother's X chromosome. The Y chromosome is generally stable from generation to generation. Each female inherits her maternal and paternal X chromosome, plus her mother's mitochondrial DNA which is very stable from generation to generation because it does not split and recombine as nuclear DNA does. The male mitochondrial DNA is discarded at fertilization.

Chromosomes are composed mostly of DNA, which is a genetic instruction set composed of a sequence of the chemicals adenine, thymine, cytosine and guanine. As an example, 98 percent of the Y chromosome is "junk" which has little obvious purpose. The remaining 2 percent makes proteins which are assembled into a human being.

A mutation is a change in a chromosome which may represent an insertion or deletion of a DNA sequence. A microsatellite is a brief insertion of a repeated sequence of the chemicals adenine, thymine, cytosine and or guanine. Once a non-lethal mutation such as a microsatellite occurs in a Y chromosome, it will be passed on to following generations of males and the family tree will branch. As new mutations occur, different lineages can be distinguished. Individuals from the original, first and second families are genetically different. By studying mutations, geneticists determine who is related and, through the application of statistics, may be able to assess when the mutation occurred.

Many genetic characteristics are common, so that finding another person with a common characteristic is unremarkable. If twelve or twenty-one microsatellite mutation markers are studied and two match, there is a 50 percent chance of sharing a common ancestor within the past 250 to 350 years.

Current evidence is that Jews come from the Middle East where Jewish and non-Jewish populations share a common pool of Y-chromosome

signatures, different from Europeans, North Africans and Sub-Saharan Africans. In 2001, an international team found that Jews appear to be more closely related to the Kurds than to any other population they studied. Although the Cohanim appear to have a unique haplotype which is consistent with the oral tradition passed from father to son, and with an origin 3,300 years ago in single or related males, the Cohan haplotype has also been found among Kurds.

A unique genetic pattern may be perpetuated in a population by chance, because all individuals within the population are descended from a small number of ancestors ("Founder Effect"), or because the pattern carries a protective effect. For example, carrying certain genetic characteristics may protect against malaria or tuberculosis. The Founder Effect may also be responsible for perpetuation of certain genetically transmitted lethal diseases, such as BRAC-related breast cancer among Jews who were isolated socially, religiously and geographically.

Families are often closed-mouthed about their genetic diseases. They may feel stigmatized and believe that a family genetic disease reduces their children's chances for successful marriage. They may be ashamed or believe that serious social consequences such as job and insurance discrimination may result if their genetic diseases become known. In fact, conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease, cystic fibrosis, coagulation abnormalities, red blood cell hemoglobin abnormalities, breast, prostate and colon cancer, have serious health, financial and social consequences — so the fear may be reasonable. For that reason, families may wish to privately annotate their family trees with genetic information, solely for the benefit of their own members. Those who participate in private, commercial or academic research may seek solid assurances that their personally identified information will be kept private. But it will require participation in genetic studies to make the connection between family mutations and diseases with the hope that treatment, cure and prevention will eventually result.

## 1930 Census Research: Step by Step Summary

by Daniel Nealand of the National Archives

. This information was presented at a meeting of the SFBAJGS on July 21, 2002.

**1.** Utilize the NARA 1930 Census Web Page: [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov). Go to Research Room; to Genealogy, to 1930 Census. NARA page has information about soundex and geographic searches, roll indexes, etc.

**2.** Only 12 southern States were Soundexed for 1930 as a W.P.A. Project before the money ran out; other states are not indexed at all.

Soundexed states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky (partial), Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia (partial)

**3.** If your state is included in the 1930 Soundex and you are unfamiliar with the Soundex coding system, please procure and read our handout titled "You Should Read This Before Beginning Your Census Research," and have research room volunteers/staff show you how to work the easy "Soundex Code Finder computer."

**4.** If you are pretty sure your ancestor lived in the same place in 1920 as in 1930, you can find their address's Enumeration District on the all-states 1920 Census Soundex, then use Microfilm Pub T1224 to cross-reference and find the correct 1930 Census ED.

**5.** If no Soundex is available for the location you're going to search, you will need your ancestral family's address. Bring information from Birth and/or Death Certificates, etc. to provide yourself with addresses for your family members; or

**6.** Use City Directories or similar publications to find your ancestor's address. See our extensive set of City Directories microfilm (the index is available in binders on research room table), which may sometimes include smaller towns and rural areas near the cities and towns included.

**7.** Once you have the address, you may need a map to figure out where that address is located. We suggest that researchers locate and even bring to the archives maps which show the area where the address was located, to help match it with the ED.

**8.** This archives has a complete set of 1930 Census ED maps on Microfilm Pub M 1930, Census Enumeration District Maps. However, the microfilm is hard to read due to the poor condition of the maps.

**9.** We also have hard copy laminated 1930 ED Maps for 20 major US cities, plus magnifiers to help you read them (sometimes, even magnified, they are still hard to read).

**10.** Note: If your ancestor lived in a very, very sparsely populated county, you may, perhaps with the aid of a map, be able to locate the address by "surfing the census" directly within the County EDs you consider the most promising.

**11.** The most popular NARA finding aid for the EDs, which we suggest you use in conjunction with maps if possible, is T-1224, Descriptions of Census Enumeration Districts. (Rolls 61-90 for the 1930 Census, with multiple copies located in the cabinets next to the 1930 Census film.)

**12.** See the SP Morse web page at [home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census/](http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census/) For major cities that have neither a name nor an address index, it presents an interactive interface that allows you to "compute" the ED and find the roll of 1930 Census film the ED is on.

*Editor's note: See page 19 for more information.*

**13.** Microfilm Pub M1931: Index to Selected Streets and Enumeration Districts is a more precise and easy to use cross-reference, frequently including which street numbers and cross streets on long-running streets are included in which ED. Unfortunately, there are only seven rolls covering 50 cities. Check the index on the research room table to see if your city is included.

**14.** You may need to work back and forth between the City Directory information, T1224/M1931, and the map(s).

- Search for the most promising ED number(s).
- Cross-check; narrow it down to the correct ED.
- Search within the ED using any additional detail that may be given, like "block number."
- Pinpoint the location for your ancestor's address within the Census ED.

**15.** You are now ready to access the 1930 Census rolls. (The Catalogue with state, county and ED indexes is on the research room table.)

If you have the good fortune to locate your ancestor on the 1930 Census, you might consider volunteering here to help some other poor soul do the same.

Our regional archives research room staff and volunteers will assist you in conducting your research. (Note: Printed indexes to all the microfilm pubs described above are on the large table in the microfilm research room)

## Counting Jewish Noses: 18th and 19th Century Population Data for Cities and Towns in Eastern and Central Europe

### Part I

By James Koenig, SFBAJGS Recording Secretary.

Jim has made presentations on Jewish names at SFBAJGS membership meetings and is a member of the American Names Society. Look for Part II in a future issue of *ZichronNote*.

### Joys and Sorrows: An Introduction To Population Figures

Benjamin Disraeli is reported to have said that there are lies, damned lies, and statistics. Data on Jewish population over the past two-hundred-plus years are not exactly lies, but they do offer room for healthy skepticism.

Censuses were infrequent, sometimes carried out under difficult conditions, and often incomplete. Some were little more than educated guesses. Some censuses counted only males, or adult males, or just homeowners or heads of households, male or female. Extrapolation from these numbers yields highly uncertain results. Census takers occasionally inflated or reduced the actual numbers, to reach agreement with government expectations or policy.

Jews routinely tried to evade the census takers. Why be counted, when enumeration offered in return none of society's benefits but double the burdens of taxation and military service?

There were periodic expulsions of Jews from cities, provinces or even countries: for example, from Kiev from 1655 to 1794, from Prague from 1744 to 1748, and from all the Russian Empire in 1744, until 1772. Jews could not legally live in Moscow until after the Russian Revolution, and as late as 1891 some 20,000 Jews were expelled from that city. Not all edicts of expulsion were carried out, however, and Jews often returned illegally to their old homes. There were 4,500 Jews known to be in Moscow in 1904. The returnees usually avoided the census takers like the plague.

The matter is complicated further by changes in political boundaries, so that a country that had few or no Jewish inhabitants in one year might have large numbers shortly thereafter, or vice versa. The dismemberment of the Polish Kingdom resulted in Russia, Austria and Prussia acquiring over a million Jewish inhabitants between the years 1772 and 1795. The process was reversed after 1918, as the Russian, Austro-Hungarian and German Empires were in turn dismembered, losing over 4 million Jews to independent Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia,

Lithuania and other nations in the process.

Emigration could — and often did — deplete the Jewish population of a town or even a province. The Jewish population of Posnan (Posen), Poland, fell by three-quarters during the period 1880-1930 as a result of emigration and internal migration.

Jews on the move from one district to another might not be counted in any census — or they might be counted twice, once in their original home and again in their new abode.

So there were gains and losses in the Jewish population, some changes being artificial, and some gains due to a natural excess of births over deaths, all somewhat confusing to unravel. This has led many researchers to say, along with the poet W.H. Auden: "Thou shalt not sit with statisticians nor commit/ A social science."

Still, it is important for genealogists to have some idea of how many of our ancestors lived in any given place at any time; and the unit that we are most concerned with is the village or town or city.

When considering the population of villages or cities, it must be remembered that town and city boundaries also changed with time, usually absorbing suburbs or outlying villages. Also, population figures were often reported for the administrative district, which may have included several villages, rather than for the city itself. This resulted in artificially high estimates of the growth of the Jewish population even on the city level.

These factors hint at the difficulty in arriving at reliable figures. Despite this, we must be reminded that, according to Florence Nightingale, "...the study of statistics is.... a religious service." Not to be derelict in our religious observances, let us examine the existing data.

### Early Estimates of Jewish Population

Data of limited reliability for Eastern and Central Europe probably begin with the Polish census estimate of 1536 (reported in "Histoire des Juifs en Pologne," by Daniel Tollet, published in Paris, 1992). Jews were approximately 2 percent of Poland's

*Continued on next page*

**Counting**, cont. from previous page

population (150,000 Jews out of a total of some 7.5 million). By the year 1600 the Jewish total had risen to about 300,000.

At that time Poland was the largest country in Europe, comprising not only almost all of present-day Poland but also two-thirds of the Ukraine, all of Lithuania, essentially all of Belarus, the southern half of Latvia, and small bits of what are today Russia, Germany, Moldova, Romania and Slovakia. As such, Poland contained nearly two-thirds of all the Jews in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. (This suggests a world Jewish population in 1600 of perhaps half a million.)

Tollet reported that by 1650 the Polish Jewish population had grown to 350,000, equal to 3 percent of that country's total. From these numbers he concluded that the annual rate of growth of the Jewish population was some 5.7 percent, compared to 3.1 percent for the Polish population in general. He also reported that — despite the popular image of Jews as dwellers in rural shtetls — the Jewish population was overwhelmingly urban. For example, in the Voivode (Province) of Krakow, 98 percent of Jews lived in the city of Krakow; and 59 and 58 percent respectively of the Jewish population of Lublin and Posnan provinces lived in the cities of those names.

By 1676, however, the Jewish population had fallen to about 150,000, a decrease of some 180,000 if these statistics are to be believed.

This astonishing decline was caused by what is known in Polish history as the Deluge: a series of disastrous wars fought by Poland against Russia, Turkey and Sweden, plus a prolonged and bloody uprising by Ukrainian Cossacks. The Cossacks murdered tens of thousand of Jews in a six-year period (1648-1654) in the Ukraine, eastern Poland and southern Belarus.

Despite this awful disaster, there was a quick rebound. By the year 1700, it is estimated that the Jewish population of Europe was nearly 700,000, of which about half lived in the Kingdom of Poland. An incomplete census taken in Poland during the mid-1760s counted 588,000 Jews. The true total probably was over 700,000. By 1795, the year in which Poland ceased to exist as an independent country, this number had grown to about one-and-a third million (a not unreasonable 3.5 percent per year growth rate.)

### The End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

In 1795, there were just four independent political entities in Eastern and Central Europe: Russia, Austria, Prussia, and the Turkish Ottoman Empire. Cities and towns were small in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century,

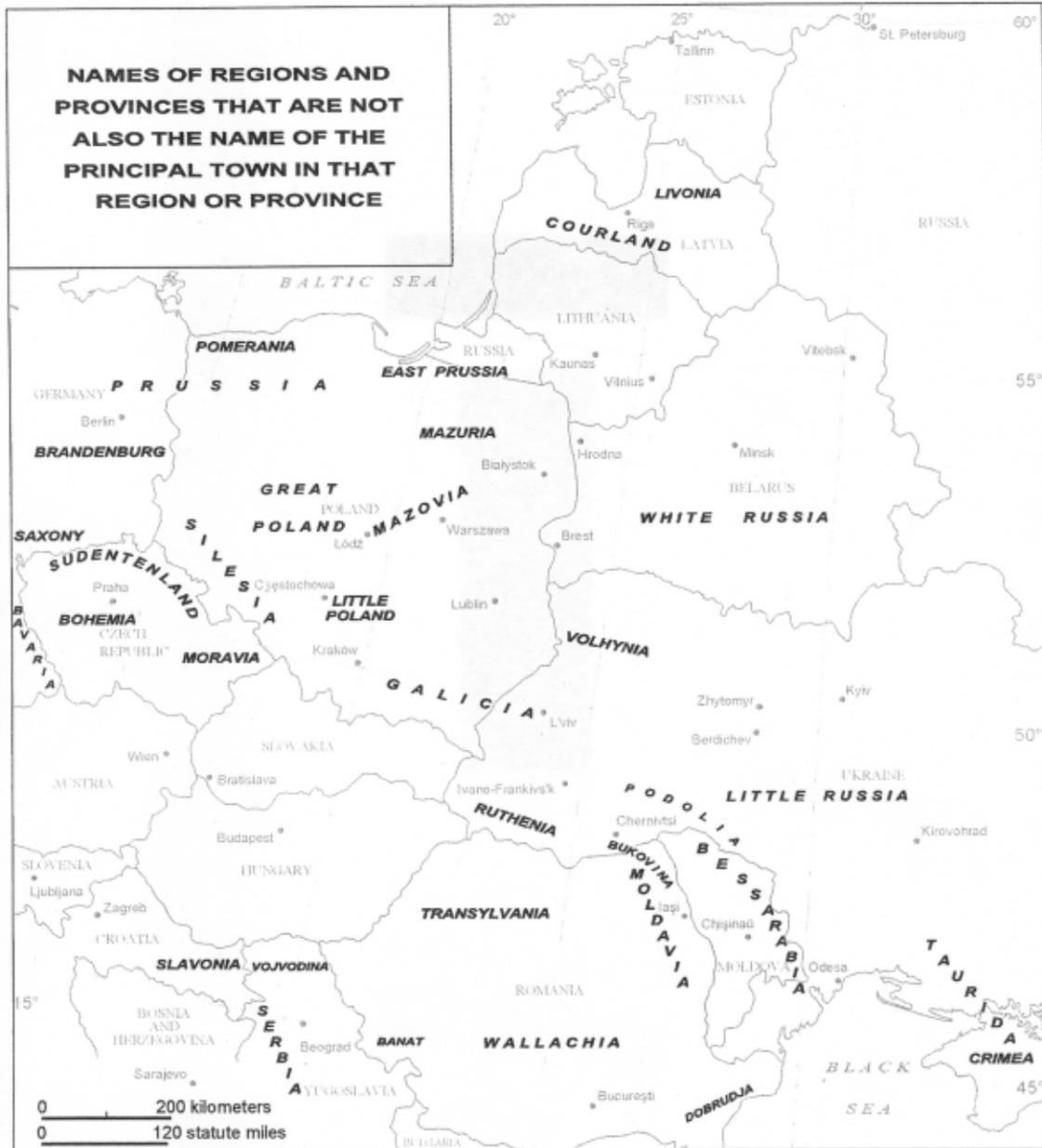
and although Jews were increasingly an urban population, it is not easy to determine with confidence which cities had the largest Jewish population. There reportedly were large Jewish populations in the following cities (today's spelling and country are given first):

- **Praha, Czech Republic** (Prague in English and Prag in German) – part of the original Austrian Empire: reportedly over 8,500 Jews in 1784
- **Brody, Ukraine** – in Austrian-acquired Polish Galicia: about 7,200 Jews
- **Lviv, Ukraine** (Polish Lwów, Russian Lvov, called Lemberg by the Austrians) – taken by Austria from Poland: about 6,200 Jews
- **İstanbul, Turkey** (then called Constantinople) – capital of the Ottoman Empire: probably more than 5,000 Jews
- **Leszno, Poland** (Lissa in German) – taken by Prussia: about 5,000 Jews
- **Kraków, Poland** (Krakau in German) – at first an independent city, then part of Austria, with its neighboring community of Kazimierz (in Yiddish, Kuzhmir): up to 5,000 Jews
- **București, Romania** (Bucharest in English, and Bükreş in Turkish) – part of the Ottoman Empire: possibly more than 4,500 Jews
- **Vilnius, Lithuania** (Russian Vilna, Polish Wilno) – taken by Russia: close to 4,000 Jews
- **Salonika, Greece** (also Thessaloniki in Greek, and Selanik in Turkish) – a part of the Ottoman Empire: probably 3,500-4,000 Jews
- **Warszawa, Poland** (English Warsaw, German Warschau, Russian Varshava) – initially taken by Prussia; to Russia in 1810; with its suburb of Praga: more than 3,500 Jews

To these can be added cities with approximately 3,000 Jewish inhabitants each:

- **Brest, Belarus** (Brest Litovsk in Russian, Brześć nad Bugiem in Polish and Brisk in Yiddish);
- **Hrodno, Belarus** (also Grodno in Belarusian and Russian, and Gardinas in Lithuanian); and
- **Raseiniai, Lithuania** (Rossieny in Russian, Rasein in Yiddish) – all three taken from Poland by the Russian Empire

*Continued on page 18=*



Continued on next page

Counting, cont. from page 16

- **Minsk**, Belarus - taken by Russia from Poland
- **Przemyśl**, Poland - (Russian Peremyshl and Yiddish Shemishyl) - taken by Austria from Poland
- **Tarnów**, Poland - also taken by Austria
- **Ternopol**, Poland - (also Tarnopol) - taken by Austria
- **Polotsk**, Belarus - (Polish Polock) - taken by Russia
- **Posnań**, Poland - (German Posen, Yiddish Pevsn) - taken by Prussia

Other places with a sizeable Jewish population at that time (perhaps 1,000 or so) include:

Białystok (Belostok); Berdichev (Berdyeczów); Zhitomir (•ytomierz, Jitomir); Ostróg (Ostrog); Lutsk (Łuck); Slutsk (Sluck); Pinsk (with its suburb Karlin); and Kaunas (Kovno, Kowno, Kauen) - all within the areas taken by Russia from Poland

Stryj (Stryy); Drohobych (Drogobych, Drohobycz); Rzeszów (Reichshof, Zheshov, Rayshe); Buczacz (Buchach); Jarosław (Jaroslau, Yaroslav); Ivano-Frankovsk (Stanislau, Stanislavov, Stanisławów); Kalusz (Kalush); Złoczów (Zlochev, Zolochev); Kołomyja (Kolomea, Kolomyja); Nadwórna (Nadvornaya, Nadvorna) - all taken by Austria from Poland

Kalisz (Kalisch, Kalish); Krotoszyn (Krotoschin) - in the region taken by Prussia from Poland

Pressburg (Bratislava, Pozsony); and Prossnitz (Prostejov) - within Austrian Slovakia and Moravia (not part of Poland originally)

Sofia (Sofiya, Sofya); and Adrianople (Edirne) - within the Ottoman Empire

Some towns were largely or even overwhelmingly Jewish in population, such as Pinsk, Brody, Iasi and Nicolsburg. Others, such as Budapest and Vienna, had separate Jewish districts or streets. Therefore, by and large, Jews lived together.

These 49 named cities and towns had a combined Jewish population of about 110,000 - 120,000 out of a Jewish population in the entire region of perhaps 1.3 million. There were a few additional towns with significant Jewish population within the original Polish Kingdom (44 with Jewish population over 1,000), and in the Ottoman and Austrian Empires. Altogether perhaps 10 to 15 percent of the total Jewish population lived in major settlements.

If towns of any significant total population are added, no matter how small the Jewish population of these places, 25 to 30 percent of all Jews can be said to have been living in urban areas by the year 1800.

Where then did the vast majority of Jews live? Probably they lived in smaller numbers - ranging from a single family to perhaps a few hundred individuals - in a great number of villages and rural communities. Several thousands lived on the rural estates of Polish and Lithuanian noblemen, where they worked as estate agents. Here, again, Jews

Places with 2,000 or more Jewish residents included:

- **Lublin**, Poland - (Russian Lyublin) - originally taken from Poland by Austria; to Russia in 1815
- **Mikulov**, Czech Republic - (Nikolsburg in German) - within the original Austrian Empire)
- **Nest erov**, Ukraine - (also •olkiew in Polish, and Zholkva and Zholkev in Russian) - taken by Austria from Poland
- **Budapest**, Hungary - (Pesht and Alt Ofen in Yiddish) - within the original Austrian Empire

## COMPUTER/ONLINE NEWS

### 1930 Census One Step Site Adds Cities

Joel Weintraub and Stephen Morse continue to add cities to their 1930 street name database, [home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census/](http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census/).

Extending the resources available on microfilm M1931 at the National Archives (See page 14) they have created a website that reads a database of transcriptions of streets located within enumeration districts in major cities. They are continuing to expand the database by adding cities.

There are now more than 240 cities on the website, with only about 14 remaining to be done on their original target list. Weintraub anticipates that by December they will list every U.S. city that had a 1930 population of 45,000 people or more.

### Decoding Notations Found on EIDB

*Elise Friedman, JewishGen*

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

For example, VL stands for Verification of Landing. It means that 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 verifications. These files no longer exist.

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

Note: Credit for the above information belongs to Marian Smith, Immigration and Naturalization Service Historian. This information and much more will soon be available on a website that explains the various handwritten annotations found on manifests.

### Centropa Offers Jewish Heritage Site

*Martha Lev-Zion, JewishGen*

A nonprofit organization based in Vienna, Austria, the Centropa group is headed up by a team of historians, educators, photographers, and other artists and scholars. The site at [www.centropa.org/mainpage/main.asp](http://www.centropa.org/mainpage/main.asp) contains a number of different oral history and photographic archives, in addition to sections dealing with contemporary Jewish life in the region and around the world.

### Digitized Files of New York Times Now Available at Some Libraries

*Pierre M. Hahn, Co-Moderator of French SIG*

ProQuest Information and Learning announced that it has completely digitized every backfile issue (1851-1999) of "The New York Times," including all stories, editorials, photos, and ads. The effort was part of the company's Historical Newspapers program. Content can be searched by keyword and other parameters, or users can flip through pages just as would be done with a printed version. The work covered almost three million pages of text and makes the content available to library or education subscribers to ProQuest.

A number of Bay Area libraries are subscribers.

### Sites Offer Information About Cleveland

*Mindie Kaplan and Renee Steinig, JewishGen*

If your family is from Cleveland, Ohio, you may be interested in the following online sources:

The Historical Marriage Index 1810- April 1998 can be found at: <http://198.30.212.15/>

The Probate Court documents are at: <http://198.30.212.11/>

Cuyahoga County Death Records 1867-1890: [www.rootsweb.com/~ohcuyah2/deaths/coarch/index.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ohcuyah2/deaths/coarch/index.html)

Cuyahoga County Naturalizations: Alien Docket Index; Probate Court, 1859-1901 and Naturalization Card Index; 1818-1931 (mostly Common Pleas Court): [www.rootsweb.com/~ohcuyah2/nats/index.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ohcuyah2/nats/index.html)

The Cleveland Public Library has created an online database, the Cleveland Necrology File, from its collection of local cemetery records and newspaper death notices, 1850-1975. To search it, go to: [www.cpl.org/LinksLibrary.asp?FormMode=DB&Area=Search](http://www.cpl.org/LinksLibrary.asp?FormMode=DB&Area=Search) and enter "necrology." The full text of the original death notices will appear on line.

The library's Cleveland News Index at [www.catalog.cpl.org/CLENIX](http://www.catalog.cpl.org/CLENIX) gives the titles, publication dates, and page numbers for death notices published in the *Plain Dealer* and the *Cleveland Press* since 1976.

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

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