



זכרון ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXIII, Number 4

November 2003

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.**
Jewish Community High School, 1835 Ellis Street. Jewish Community Library open on second floor. **Free parking: enter parking area from Pierce Street.**
- Los Altos Hills:** **Monday, Library opens at 7 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.** Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road
- Berkeley:** **Sunday, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.** Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Street, North Berkeley.

Sun. November 16, San Francisco: *SFBAJGS Annual Jewish Genealogy Workshop.* Keynote speaker Stephen Morse will discuss his latest Internet search aids. Plus beginning and advanced classes, library resources, Ask the Experts, and more. For details see page 4 or visit the SFBAJGS website at www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs/

December: No meeting.

Tentative Schedule for 2004:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Sunday, January 18 - San Francisco | Monday, June 21 - Los Altos Hills |
| Sunday, February 15 - Berkeley | Sunday, July 25 - San Francisco |
| Monday, February 23 - Los Altos Hills | Sunday, August 15 - Berkeley |
| Sunday, March 21 - San Francisco | Monday, August 16 - Los Altos Hills |
| Sunday, April 18 - Berkeley | Sunday, September 12 - San Francisco |
| Monday, April 19 - Los Altos Hills | Sunday, October 17 - Berkeley |
| Sunday, May 16 - San Francisco | Monday, October 18 - Los Altos Hills |
| Sunday, June 20 - Berkeley | Sunday, November 21 - San Francisco |

More Genealogy Events of Interest on Page 4 and 10

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 first 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 galleto@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 \$23 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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President's Message

A Year of Accomplishments

by Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

I am writing this as I approach the end of my two-year term as president. By the time this issue of ZichronNote is published, the elections will be upon us. I have indicated a willingness to run for re-election. Members will be gratified to know that the Society has weathered the economic storms of 2003. Most of my goals as president have either come to fruition or are well on the way to being met. Our membership is stabilized and indeed we appear to be attracting new members. This is a good sign but it will always be the most important thing all of us can do — keep talking about the Society to people we know and encourage them to join.

In San Francisco we made the move from Fort Mason to the new Jewish Community High School of the Bay and our 2003 Workshop will be held there on November 16. Bring your foreign language documents for translation and bring your valuable photos for Ron Arons to scan into a CD. The cost will be \$10 per five photos. This feature was a big success last year.

The move now means that the Society meets at three Jewish related facilities. (See the front page for names and addresses.) Each place has a library we can support and for which we can purchase appropriate genealogical material for the community to use as well as for our members when we have our meetings there. We are still talking with other libraries about accepting the books that won't be going to the three we are supporting.

So what do I think the Society should be focusing on for 2004 and beyond? No doubt that increasing our membership will always be the number one goal. Word of mouth is a great way, but we are also putting on our new "public face." This year it took the form of our appearing at the "Israel in the Gardens" event in San Francisco in June. This was followed by a similar event, the Palo Alto Street Fair, in September. By all accounts we were very popular and many people expressed an interest. We have to convert that interest into memberships. Are there other ways in which we can get the word out? If you have any suggestions, do not hesitate to contact me or other Board members.

Another important goal is to increase our efforts with the Cemetery Name Index Project. We have made a good start, but there is still some way to go. Now that the future of JewishGen is secure, they now have another half million names to upload onto

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Bounced E-mails

If your name is on the following list, email sent to your address as listed in the Society roster bounced. Please send your new email address to Beth Galleto at galleto@pacbell.net so that you can continue to receive notices from the SFBAJGS.

Martha Greene.....martha1424@aol.com
 Shirley Wasserman Hausafus....pearl10751@aol.com
 Irene Lowe.....lowe@yahoo.com
 Margot Parke.....turtlemarg@worldnet.att.net
 Les Shipnuck.....shipnuck@mccliersf.com

Welcome, New Members

John Kosecoff.....johnkosecoff@earthlink.net
 David Silber.....davesilber@aol.com
 Marilyn Teplow.....mteplow@aol.com

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June Brumer.....jlbrumer@sbcglobal.net
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 Betty Goren.....deebeeg@juno.com
 Judy Kelly.....WWTRKELLY@comcast.net
 Irwin Sagenkahn.....irwins@infionline.net
 Marc Seidenfeld.....seidenfeld@access4less.net

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 Larry Burgheimer at BurgAuer@aol.com.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
ALLERHAND BAIDOFF	Kolomyya, Ukraine Kolomyya, Ukraine	Silber, David Silber, David
DENZIG JANCHILL KIRSCHEN KOREN KOSECOFF/KOSACOFF LIFSCHITZ	Zambrow, Poland, Poughkeepsie, NY Zambrow, Poland, Poughkeepsie, NY Kolomyya, Ukraine, Iasi Romania Ukraine Yaz ne Grotka, Ukr.; Brooklyn, NY; Hartford, New Haven, CT Polotsk, Belarus; Ansonia, NY	Kosecoff, John Kosecoff, John Silber, David Kosecoff, John Kosecoff, John Teplow, Marilyn
LIPPMAN LIPSETT MILNIS ROSENFELD SHEINBERG SIEGEL	Minsk, Belarus Polotsk, Belarus; Ansonia, NY Odessa, Ukraine; New Jersey Yaz ne Grotka, Ukraine Minsk, Belarus; New York Minsk, Belarus	Kosecoff, John Teplow, Marilyn Teplow, Marilyn Kosecoff, John Teplow, Marilyn Kosecoff, John
SILBER STORFER TEPLOW/TEPLITZKY WEISS WEXLER	Kolomyya, Ukraine Kolomyya, Ukraine, Iasi Romania Russia; New Jersey Savran, Ukraine Savran, Ukraine	Silber, David Silber, David Teplow, Marilyn Kosecoff, John Kosecoff, John

CALENDAR, cont.

More Genealogy Events

Local

Sat., Dec. 6, 11a.m.-1p.m. **Solano County Genealogical Society. Ellis Island Database — Passenger Manifests.** Presented by Lester Smith, Vice President and Program Chairman of the Sacramento Jewish Genealogical Society. Fairfield Senior Center, 1200 Civic Center Drive, Fairfield. www.rootsweb.com/~cascgsi/

State

Sun., Dec. 14, 7 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles. Research and Resources in New York City.** Panel presentation. University Synagogue, Klein Hall, 11960 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles. www.jgsla.org

Sun., Jan. 11, 1:30 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles. Jewish Film Festival.** Includes "Wooden Synagogues" and "Meet Me at Brooklyn & Soto," among others. (818)771-5554. www.jgsla.org

Lecture Proposals Requested for 24th Annual IAJGS Conference

The Israel Genealogical Society invites proposals from potential speakers for the 24th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. The Conference will be held July 4 through 9, 2004, in Jerusalem, Israel. English will be the official language of the conference. A number of lectures will be presented in Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English.

Authors wishing to present a paper at the conference are invited to submit an abstract either by e-mail to jgen2004@ortra.com as a Word attachment, or mailed on a diskette in Word format in time to reach the Conference Secretariat by December 31, 2003, together with three original copies. Material should be sent by air mail in a padded envelope marked "Do Not Fold." Proposals, whether accepted or declined, will not be returned. Make sure you retain a copy of your proposal.

For more information visit the conference website at www.ortra.com/jgen2004.

Annual Workshop in San Francisco

**Sunday, November 16, 12 to 4 p.m.
Jewish Community High School, 1835 Ellis Street**

Members free. Admission \$5 for non-members--Fee can be applied to membership (\$23 per year).

12-1:30	<p>Jewish Genealogy: The Basics.....SFBAJGS Past-President Dana Kurtz</p> <p>Advanced Topics in Jewish Genealogy:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Travel to the Old Country..... Robinn Magid</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Genealogy and Genetics.....Dr. Henry Kaplan</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Jewish Genealogical Research in NYC.....Steve Harris</p>
2-3:30	<p>Keynote Address: Dr. Stephen P. Morse - Creator of the One-Step Tools for searching the Ellis Island Database, 1930 Census, and more. Steve will discuss his updated Internet genealogy search aids (www.stevemorse.org)</p>
2-3	<p>Creating Multi-Media Presentations for your Genealogy - SFBAJGS Board Member Ron Arons</p>
All afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jewish Community Library - Entire collection available ♦ One-on-One Assistance ♦ Translation Services ♦ Scanning and CD-ROM burning service: Bring photos and documents to digitize. \$10 for five photos or documents, CD provided. <p><i>Please note that the Jewish Community High School is a kosher facility. If you plan to bring your own snacks, please bring only kosher food.</i></p>

Knowing Your Family Towns: A Family Search in Germany

by Larry Burgheimer, edited by Becky Burgheimer

Larry Burgheimer is membership chair of the SFBAJGS. He recently returned from a trip researching his roots in the Black Forest region of Germany. He has been researching his family for 40 years. He is searching for **LEVI-BURGHEIMER, GEISMAR, WURMSER, DUKAS-HAAS, RIS, WEIL, GREILSHEIMER/GREILSAMMER/KREILSHEIMER, BLOCH, LEVI-WACHENHEIMER, MAAS, GUNDELFINGER, DREIFUSS, MEIER, and SEGAL** from numerous towns in Germany and Alsace, France. He is also researching **GOODMAN** from Kiyev Gubernia, Ukraine; **DUKOSOVITCH** from Smolensk, Ukraine; and **GOLDANSKY** from Kaunas/Vilnius Gubernia, Lithuania.

Some Background

Because both my fraternal grandparents died before I was born, I was never able to ask them about our family roots. As a young man, my limited knowledge included the fact that they were both born in the same region of Germany, but had met in the United States in the mid 1890s. My father was American born and had no knowledge of his parents' backgrounds that he could remember. His father, my grandfather, deserted the family in 1914 (when my father was four years old) and was never available for questioning after that. My father was aware that his father had a sister who had moved to San Francisco, and that his mother had a brother in Chicago, as well as two siblings who remained in Europe. Of these, one brother stayed in Germany and a sister lived in Strasbourg, France with her daughter. I also learned that the family originated in the Black Forest in Baden. Such was my limited knowledge of the fraternal side of my family when I entered my 20s.

The First Search

In the fall of 1961, I had just completed my active duty in the U. S. Army Reserves and was planning to enter graduate school in the spring of 1962. The political situation in Laos was heating up and it looked like many army reservists would be called to active duty. I thought a good way to avoid a call-up would be to travel outside of the U. S. I sought and received permission from my reserve unit to travel through Europe for up to six months, which would correspond with my grad school plans. Thus, in October of 1961, I left my home in Kansas City, Missouri for my grand tour.

It was in the second month of the trip — as I traveled by train, with my Eurailpass, along the Rhine River in Germany—that I planned to visit my known relatives in Strasbourg, France. Realizing that Strasbourg in Alsace is across the river from Baden, I spontaneously decided to first take the train to Freiburg — the capital of the Black Forest region — and see if I could uncover some information about my family roots. Freiburg was a quaint old town with an *altstadt* (old city section) where the regional record

center was located. I entered the record center and asked the clerk in my limited German (very little English was spoken then) if they could help me learn anything about my family origins. The clerk said that she would glad to help me — I just needed to know which towns or villages my family had lived in, as all of their records were catalogued according to the residents' surnames, by town. She couldn't help me without the town names, and I didn't know them. I was devastated by this sudden revelation of my lack of knowledge.

Upon meeting my relatives in Strasbourg, I discovered that they spoke only French and German. My German was better than their English, but not good enough to obtain much information. However, I did manage to glean from my cousin Marthe (who was the same age as my father) that my fraternal grandmother's family was from Friesenheim in Baden. Yet when I returned to the U.S., I was unable to locate Friesenheim on any map of Germany. It seemed that my search was over before it had even started.

The Years Pass

Luckily, the tide turned a few years after my tour of Europe, when a high school friend of mine chanced upon an Israeli student of my age who was studying abroad in the U.S. and whose last name was Burgheimer. This friend introduced my family to Frank Burgheimer, who was born in Germany and whose family had fled to Palestine in 1938, where he was raised. It turned out that Frank's grandfather (also a Burgheimer) was still living, in Israel, and through him we confirmed our family connection. We also discovered the name of the Burgheimer family town — Breisach — located some nine miles from Freiburg, where I had first searched for family records in 1961.

Then, only a few years later, my father stumbled across a family tree in his files that he had completely forgotten about. The tree was drawn up in his own handwriting and he had apparently constructed it in 1931 (at age 21). The only person who could have given him the information for the tree was his

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Towns, cont. from page 5

mother. The tree lists her parents and grandparents, her husband's parents, and the number of children in each family, though it is missing the names of some of the children. On one side of the page is a record of the names of the family's towns of origin, including the Burgheimer family town of Breisach and my grandmother's family town of Friesenheim. Meeting Frank and the discovery of this tree sent me down the path toward some serious genealogical research.

More years passed before we received further information from the Burgheimer family in Israel. Their records go back two more generations, but unfortunately they only saw fit to document the male members of the family. Then, in the late 1990s, with the onset of the Internet and JewishGen, I was able to contact genealogists in the U.S., Belgium, France, South Africa, and Israel. Armed with new data from these sources, I was able to verify the accuracy of the 1931 handwritten family tree. Birth and marriage records from Baden towns became available and my family tree grew from only about a hundred names in 1998 to the 1,800 it contains today. I now know that my fraternal grandparents' families lived in nine towns in the Black Forest and several more in Alsace. A large-scale map of Germany in our SFBAJGS library lists all of the family towns and villages. The families are documented as Levis on both sides, and go back to the late 1600s on both sides, with even some possible connections to the 1500s.

Members of my fraternal grandmother's family were buried in the Schmieheim Cemetery. This cemetery served some seven Jewish communities and has 2,000 graves, the first burial dating back to 1701. I have a copy of the Schmieheim Cemetery book and have located the graves of 32 ancestors so far.

Preparation for the Search

This spring I decided the time had come to make the long-delayed visit to the family sites in the Black Forest. My 28-year-old daughter Becky, who lives in Israel, had shown some interest in our family history, so I invited her to join me. I wanted to encourage her interest without burdening her with hours of poring over records, so I arranged a tour of visits to family sites and decided not to search for new family members. We chose to go in mid-March, a low season for tourism when airfares and lodging would be reasonably priced and the weather would be mild. Moreover, the Iraq conflict was heating up and Israel was vulnerable to missile attack, so having my daughter in Europe seemed like a good safety hedge.

In preparation for the trip, I called up all ten family towns on Mapquest and was able to print out driving directions to each town, going from north to south. Mapquest is quite accurate for countries in Central and Western Europe. From my computerized family tree, I printed out a listing of all family members born in Germany (and Alsace) with the six main family surnames. I then color-coded the tree, each relative according to town of origin, using a different color for each of the ten family towns. I gathered all of my family photographs of the region and photocopied them. I also photocopied the gravestones of the 30+ family members buried in Schmieheim and highlighted the direct-line grandparents (my daughter's great great great great great grandparents). I also made copies of my photos of Breisach and a 1940 sketch of its Jewish ghetto by Hans David Blum (who wrote a book on the Jews of Breisach and is a leading expert on Southwestern Germany). These documents proved invaluable to me on the trip, both for understanding the sites as we visited them, and helping my daughter contextualize the research I had carried out.

The Trip Begins

I left San Francisco for Frankfurt, Germany on March 19, 2003. As the non-stop flight passed over Greenland, the pilot announced that the Iraq War had begun. Fortunately, my daughter was able to take off from Ben Gurion Airport and arrived in Frankfurt the following evening. We met at the airport, rented a car, and drove to Heidelberg that same evening. After a few hours in Heidelberg and Baden-Baden, our family touring began. Over the next few days we drove through all ten family towns and photographed each town's sign (the city limit sign upon entering). The towns were Rheinbischofsheim, Friesenheim, Altdorf, Schmieheim, Kippenheim, Emmendingen, Eichstetten, Ihringen, Breisach, and Biesheim.

In Friesenheim, we looked for the home of my great-grandparents, Shimon and Karoline Greilsheimer, where my fraternal grandmother was born in 1875. We had a photograph of the home from the early 1900s (before 1915) and a commercial photograph of the main street of Friesenheim from about 1915. An "X" had been marked on the street photo to mark where the house was located. The photo shows a canal running down the center of the main street, and this was our main clue to locating the street.

We entered the town and were forced to stop at the only traffic light. During this pause my daughter gazed over to her right and I to my left. By coincidence, with this brief glance I noticed that the street to the left had a canal. After some muddled

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The J. Porter Shaw Library, Fort Mason, San Francisco, Part II

by Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

Because of unexpected interest he received from his article on the J. Porter Shaw Library in the San Francisco Maritime Museum (*ZichronNote*, August 2003), Frankel wrote a second article, to more fully identify the materials held there and their usefulness for genealogical research.

In the last issue of *ZichronNote* I described the J. Porter Shaw Library, the library of the National Maritime Museum, as "a rare oasis amidst the hustle and bustle of a city's busy life." Today I want to provide more details about the holdings of this unique library.

City Directories

The use of city directories is so well-known that an explanation is hardly necessary. The obvious use is to confirm the residential address of someone prior to looking them up in a federal or state census. The one caveat is to check and see when the directory was published. Just because it is the 1910 edition, for example, doesn't mean an address is correct for that year. The information may well have been gathered the previous year; and, as we know, in those days people moved around very often.

The library has San Francisco city directories from 1883 to 1951 in open stacks. The first 20 years were published by Langley, and the remainder were published by the more well-known Polk Company. There are some gaps, but the run is fairly good from 1890 onwards.

A few unusual directories in the collection are the *Pacific Coast Business Directory* for 1867 and *The San Francisco Directory* for 1868 and 1879.

Journals and Magazines

The Library subscribes to journals and magazines galore — over 200 titles at the last count! A wide range of journals cater to many aspects related to boats, ships and the sea, from wooden boats, through tugs, ocean travel etc. One category that may prove specifically useful includes *Seaport*, the magazine of New York City's South Street Seaport, with a more historical angle based upon the city rather than the craft. These are worth perusing for background material. For example, in the Fall 2002 issue of *Seaport*, there was an article about "Five Points" (made famous in the recent movie, *The Gangs of New York*.) Recent archaeological finds have shone new light on this area, a well-known 19th century slum.

Other journals that have nothing specific to do with maritime include: *American Archivist*; *American History*; *The Argonaut* (Journal of the San Francisco

Museum and Historical Society); *The Oral History Review*; *Preservation* (National Trust for Historic Preservation); *Prologue* (the quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration). A really "out of left field" journal was the *ARSC Journal* (Association for Recorded Sound Collections) which in its latest issue (Spring 2003) features an article on "Soviet Recordings of Jewish Instrumental Folk Music, 1937-39."

Newspapers

To quote from the Library's own description: The Library's extensive newspaper holdings include the maritime portion, in subject arrangement, of the archives of the *San Francisco Chronicle* (ca. 1906-1984) and the *San Francisco Call-Bulletin* (ca. 1925-1955); local newspapers (facsimile, microform, and hardcopy), 1847 to date (including the most complete run extant of the *San Francisco Daily Shipping Guide*); the California State Library's index to San Francisco newspapers, 1840s to 1986 (4 million citations, including 20,000 vessel names); two indexes and a subject arrangement of local news articles (1858-1971); and whaling-related 19th and 20th century newspapers.

There is also the *Daily Alta*, a business newspaper, which is on microfilm for the period 1949-1891. The *Daily Alta* listed daily arrival and departures of ships in San Francisco. The east coast equivalent can be found in the *New York Maritime Register* (1869-1941) also on microfilm.

Ships' Registers

Against two walls, eleven bookcases sag under the weight of nearly 250 years of ships' registers. The bulk is taken up by *Lloyds Register* (1764-1992). Two other series include the *Record of American and Foreign Shipping*, and the *List of Merchant Vessels of the United States*. The latter cover the last 20 years of the 19th century.

These registers typically include the name of the vessel, method of power, home port, tonnage. Some registers also include the name of the master, when and where built, and the owner. Later editions of *Lloyds* also provide previous ship's names and ownership and a more detailed description of the power motive.

Continued on next page

Towns, cont. from page 6

maneuvering, we got the car parked, pulled out our photo of the town street scene, and were able to identify the street as Hauptstrasse (Main Street). To our surprise, we realized that we were standing in nearly the exact spot where the photo appeared to have been taken.

Bursting with excitement, we matched up some of the houses to the photo and set out down the street to find where my grandmother's home had been located according to the "X" on the photo. We came across a house at Hauptstrasse 103 that looked remarkably like the photo of the family home from the early 1900s. The building had been renovated slightly, but we saw enough evidence to convince us that it was the same structure, and it was considerably different from all of the other houses on the block. The owner caught sight of us and came out to investigate. He only spoke German and my German is minimal. While trying to communicate, a car pulled up next to us—the owner's daughter and grandchild. The daughter spoke wonderful English and was delighted to talk to us. She translated for her father, who seemed quite uncomfortable and suspicious, but he confirmed that the house was over

200 years old and that the building at the corner was in fact the old school, information that coincided with data provided by my Strasbourg cousins. I tried to reassure the home's current owners that my grandparents had died in 1919 and that the house was probably sold at that time—hence we could have no claim to the dwelling. This exciting bit of detective work was our first success of the trip.

The next stop was the Schmieheim Cemetery, a scenic spot which comprises 2,000 graves and is in excellent condition. We quickly found the graves of the eight direct-line grandparents, as I had mapped out the row and grave numbers and brought along photocopied pictures of each. We photographed and placed stones on each gravestone, and checked out some of the other family graves. Due to some technical problems, we returned to Friesenheim and Schmieheim to photograph again the next day.

Breisach was the main hometown of the Burgheimers. I knew that the family had lived on the *Judengasse* (Jewish Lane) and obtained the street's current name. We reached the *Judengasse* easily, and located the park where the community's synagogue once stood before it was destroyed on

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Shaw Library, cont. from page 7

I was asked by someone to find out more about her great grand-uncle, who had come around the Horn in 1850 to find his fortune in San Francisco. I used these registers to confirm the name of a sailing ship (an online account had mis-named the vessel) and then I was able to use the *Alta* newspaper to pin down when the ship had arrived in San Francisco (the same online source was off by one week.)

There are many shelves given to books covering all aspects of the sea, including civilian and military use, various foreign navies, submarines, commercial use, and memoirs.

Books for Sale!

As part of a typical trend these days, there is a "Friends of the Library" support service which also maintains a room in the library. This includes hundreds of books that are duplicates or donations and are for sale. Most of them are related to shipping and sailing, but others are totally unrelated to maritime. The money collected goes to support the library, surely an undiscovered gem in San Francisco for anyone who is a bibliophile. So don't leave without buying a souvenir!

President's Column, cont. from page 2

the JewishGen website. JGS's around the world are working on their own cemetery name indexes. I don't want to see our work become bogged down in the mire.

Finally a new topic, but one which is very dear to the future of the Society and in fact, vital to the future of all non-profit societies: how to interest the younger generation. There are a number of people on the Board and among our members who are keen to work on a project focusing on getting young people interested in genealogy. I hope to see a funded curriculum devised over the next year or two that will get teenagers not only interested, but also involved. We hope to impress upon them that they should be capturing the memories of their older relatives now, while they are alive, and before they become just another name on the page. I hope that our connection with the Jewish Community High School will provide the basis for this project.

In closing, I want to say how much it has been a privilege and a pleasure working with the current Board. They are all truly wonderful people with the best interests of the Society at heart. It has also been immense fun meeting with Society members around the Bay Area, hearing their stories and particular challenges.

Jeremy Frankel



Top, Freisenheim Main Street as it looked before 1915 and today. Bottom, Freisenheim home where the author's fraternal grandmother was born as it looked in the early 1900s, and a view of 103 Hauptstrasse as it looks in 2003.

Kristallnacht. The old cemetery behind the park was locked and had a wall on the street sides. Using David Blum's sketched map, we found the Burgheimer

family home and the stable behind the house (which had been an inn) was still there.

We were able to circle the cemetery by way of an alley and crawled through a hole in the cemetery fence (all in the name of genealogy). More than half of the gravestones had been knocked over and broken, the

broken pieces reassembled as mosaics. At first, it seemed that all of the remaining, intact gravestones were engraved in Hebrew, until we came upon one stone that was half in German. Upon closer inspection—difficult due to the creeping lichen—the grave proved to be engraved with the name Julius Burgheimer, born 1865, died 1869. This four-year-old boy was not on my tree. We photographed the gravestone and several others. It was not until I was back home that it occurred to me that my grandfather was born in Breisach in 1863 and his next sister was born in 1867. All of the other Burgheimers had gone to America or other German cities by that time, so it seems that Julius could have been my grandfather's younger brother, who was simply forgotten since he died so young.

Information Received After the Trip

A few weeks after returning from the trip, I found out about an event planned in Breisach for late June. The event included a re-dedication of the refurbished *Gemeindehaus* (rabbi's and cantors' residence) and a special Jewish Week for descendants and relatives

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Burgheimer ancestral home in Breisach, Germany

Towns, cont. from page 9

of former Breisachers. I was unable to return for this event but began a correspondence with the coordinator of the event, Christiane Walesch-Schneller. Christiane sent me listings of the graves in the new and old Jewish cemeteries, the list of the attendees of the event (two were previously unknown relatives), and literature describing the re-dedication. She informed me of another cemetery called Mackenheim, some distance from Breisach, where the Jews were buried before 1793. I was not aware of this cemetery, and my 17th and 18th century Breisacher forefathers and mothers may likely be buried there.

When I mentioned the family towns that we did visit, Christiane told me about a booklet produced in 1988 about the Jews of Friesenheim (my fraternal grandmother's family town). She kindly ordered the booklet and sent it to me. It was in German but I was able to follow much of the content. The booklet contains records concerning the 35 Jews living in Friesenheim in 1933 — their names, street addresses, and what happened to them. Of the 35, about one quarter were my relatives, three families of which were listed as living on the same street as my great-grandparents.

The most significant entry was for Edgard, Rosa, and Marthe Cerf living at Hauptstrasse 103. Marthe was the cousin I met in Strasbourg in 1961, so I was in touch with her family and knew how they had survived the Holocaust. However, the address where they were listed as residing was the same address as that of the house of my great-grandparents, which my daughter and I had found in March. When I thought about it, it made sense that the Cerf family had been living in that home. My great-grandparents had eleven children. Five died in their first year; the oldest two went to America in the 1890s; the third oldest had a family in another part of Germany; and one died in the 1912 flu epidemic. Of the remaining two, Sara married Edgard Cerf in 1914 and had Marthe in 1915. Sara died within a year and Edgard married his sister-in-law, Rosa (the last remaining sister). As the only family left with a connection to the house in Friesenheim, it made sense for them to live there after my great-grandparents died in 1919. The question that remains is whether the house at Hauptstrasse 103 was sold before they fled in 1939 or if it was confiscated. My search continues.

One-on-one Research Guidance Available at Jewish Library Family History Clinic

Whether you have a question about how to start building your family tree, or you're already involved in research but are stumped by a problem — bring your materials and questions to the Jewish Community Library's Family History Clinic.

The Clinic is slated for noon to 2 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month through the winter: November 2, December 7, January 4, and February 1. It is not a class, but an informal opportunity to receive one-on-one guidance — using the Library's computers to find Internet resources for Jewish genealogy as well as the Library's extensive reference collection.

Longtime Library volunteer staffer Judy Baston and other experienced Jewish genealogists, including Marian Rubin, Ron Arons and Jeremy Frankel, will be available to help find answers to your most pressing questions.

The Jewish Community Library is located on the second floor of the Jewish Community High School of the Bay, 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco. Please park in the building; enter on Pierce Street between Ellis and Eddy, look for the sign that reads JCHS Parking and press the buzzer. Drive up one floor and enter the building. Contact library@bjesf.org for more information.

Library Hours for SFBAJGS Resources

The SFBAJGS has distributed many of its reference materials among the libraries at its three meeting places, and these libraries keep many books and periodicals in their collections that are of interest to Jewish genealogists.

Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
Tuesdays, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursdays, 12 p.m.
to 8 p.m.; Sundays, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills

Tuesday through Thursday afternoons 3:30 to
5:30 p.m.; Open Sunday during religious school.

Berkeley-Richmond JCC, 1414 Walnut, Berkeley

Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.;
Wednesday 5 to 6 p.m.

All these libraries are closed Fridays, Saturdays
and Jewish holidays.

SFBAJGS Participates in Palo Alto Jewish Cultural Street Fair

by Roseanne Leeson, SFBAJGS Vice President

In spite of the over 100 degree heat the fifth annual Jewish Cultural Street Fair, "To Life", organized by New Bridges, was indeed full of life! Grateful thanks are due to our members, Gerry Wagger and Jerry Hamerman, whose generous donations enabled us to participate in this exciting event for the first time. People crowded the streets, milling up and down the several blocks of tents, all kinds of Jewish organizations displaying their activities, wares and lots of delicious smelling foods.

Also undeterred by the heat were the many volunteers from the SFBAJGS, who presided at our tent. Special thanks here go to Marcia Kaplan, Hillary Farkas, Judith Krongold, Sherrie Roth, Jan Engel, Lawrence Gallant, Rochelle Schwartz, Peter Dolgenos and Roy Ogus for coming forward to help, and for doing such splendid jobs. While Lawrence was kind enough to bring along his WiFi, only one person took

advantage of its use. For all of the rest, since there were no electrical or telephone connections to permit us to show the many Internet resources, we did it the "old-fashioned" way. We did it one-on-one! We listened and reponded to the many questions that were asked, we explained, chatted, taught, demonstrated with some of our books, and encouraged everyone to come and visit us at one of our meetings. In brief, we showed how WE do mitzvot!

The result was that many people, and other organizations, are now very much aware that we exist — including New Bridges! According to the Head of the Tents of the Community section we generated more foot traffic and excitement than any other organizational tent. And, over 60 individuals signed up to be notified of our meetings via email.

All in all, a most successful day, and well worth the effort! Let's hope that we can do it again next year.

JRI-Poland Expands Shopping Basket Order System

by Mark Halpern, Director, PSA Order Processing Center

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland has reached an agreement with the Polish State Archives (PSA) to extend its new online order processing system, the "Shopping Basket System," to 13 additional archives and their branches effective November 4.

Since late last year, the JRI-Poland Order Processing Center has worked with the State Archives in Bialystok and its Lomza branch testing a shopping basket system for ordering copies of vital records indexed by JRI-Poland/PSA Projects. This pilot project has been very successful and the system will now be expanded to the following Archives and their branches: AGAD - Central Archive of Historical Records; Bialystok, Lomza Branch; Czestochowa; Kalisz; Krakow; Lublin; Lodz; Poznan; Przemysl; Rzeszow; Siedlce; Suwalki; Warsaw, Grodzisk Mazowiecki Branch, Gora Kalwaria Branch, Lowicz Branch, Mlawa Branch, and Pultusk Branch; and Zamosc.

We expect that the remaining archives and branches not part of the shopping basket system as of November 4, 2003, will be added in early 2004. This includes Kielce and its Pinczow, Sandomierz and Starachowice branches, Piotrkow Trybunalski and its Tomaszow Mazowiecki branch, Plock and its Leczyz branch, Radom, and Torun and its Wloclawek branch.

The system allows researchers to create a "shopping basket" for copies of records to order by clicking on index entries in the results webpage of a

JRI-Poland database search. Orders can be saved and subsequently amended, modified, or deleted. When a researcher is ready to order, payment can be made by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or check or money order in U.S. dollars. There is absolutely no danger that an order can be mistakenly placed while online. At this time, researchers must mail in their order and payment for the order to become official.

For a step-by-step tutorial of the system can go to www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/psa/psabasketinst.htm.

Each record ordered will cost the researcher \$10. However, there is a minimum charge per branch of \$15. (Therefore, if you order one record from Lodz and one from Pultusk, the total charge will be \$30.) JRI-Poland will receive researcher payments and arrange for periodic bank transfers in Polish currency to each Polish Archive branch.

The current "Request for Quotation" system will be eliminated as of November 4. We suggest that researchers cease use of the Request for Quotation system immediately. The objective of JRI-Poland and PSA is to have only one ordering system that works efficiently for researchers.

We at JRI-Poland are excited to introduce this user-friendly system and we thank the management of the Polish State Archives and their branches for their cooperation and their enthusiastic role in the development of this system.

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXIII, Number 4

November 2003

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