



זכרון ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXIII, Number 1

February 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.**
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. February 23 Berkeley:** *My Travels and Genealogical Research in Poland.* Robinn Magid, SFBAJGS member and Jewish Records Indexing Poland board member, will discuss her travels to Poland as well as the growing and available genealogical resources for conducting research into Polish Jewish ancestors.
- Mon. February 24 Los Altos Hills:** *Searching the Ellis Island Database and 1930 Census with Fewer Tears.* Dr. Stephen P. Morse, the creator of the One-Step Search Tools for searching the Ellis Island Database and the 1930 Census, will teach us secrets for getting the most from these online databases. His talk will be illustrated with examples.
- Sun. March 16 San Francisco:** *Using the University of California Libraries for Jewish Genealogy.* Jeremy Frankel, President of the SFBAJGS and a fervent user of the University of California Libraries, will talk about Bay Area resources with a special emphasis on the UC Berkeley and UCSF libraries.
- Sun. April 20 Berkeley:** *New York City Genealogy: 19th and 20th Century Sources,* by Stephen Harris, Ph.D. Harris has spent his genealogical career tracking down relatives in New York City, both on site and on line. He will share some of his lesser-known sources as well as new ways to use traditional approaches. Original source material will be available for use after the presentation.
- Mon. April 21 Los Altos Hills:** *Using the Stanford University Library for Jewish Genealogical Research.* Zachary Baker, Curator, Judaica-Hebraica at Stanford University, will discuss the many resources at the Stanford University Library and their value for Jewish genealogical research.
- Sun. May 18 San Francisco:** *Challenges to Researching Your Female Ancestors.* When a woman marries and takes her husband's surname, does the trail to her family disappear? SFBAJGS past president Dana Kurtz will discuss strategies for researching the elusive women in your family tree.

More Genealogy Events of Interest on Page 4

ZichronNote

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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.

Society Address:

SFBAJGS, P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147

President: Jeremy Frankel, (510) 655-6669,
jfrankel@Lmi.net

Vice President: Rosanne Leeson, Leeson1@attglobal.net

Recording Secretary: James Koenig,
jbkoenig6332@msn.com

Treasurer: Marc Seidenfeld, seidenfeld@bigfoot.com

Membership: Larry Burgheimer, (415) 566-5168,
BurgAuer@aol.com

Publicity: Jerry Jacobson, drjj@itsa.ucsf.edu

Program Chair: Rodger Rosenberg, eandr@ix.netcom.com

Cemetery Project Chair: Sita Likuski, sitaL@attbi.com

Founder: Martha Wise

ZichronNote:

Editor: Beth Galletto, galleto@pacbell.net

Proofreader: Naidia Woolf

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

Los Altos Hills: 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

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Genealogy

There has been much in the news these past few months about the potential erosion of our civil liberties since September 11, 2001. The vast majority of the public might not see what all the fuss is about and simply continue with their daily lives. It often takes months, if not years, before we wake up and realize just what we have lost and the long haul it will be to regain those losses.

There is another battle going on about the potential loss of similar rights or privileges that for many years we have taken for granted: these concern genealogists' access to state and federal records. Our ability to access and review these records comes at a time when more and more of these records are going on line and becoming so accessible that it is a constant wonder, not to mention overwhelming.

Just recently I was sitting in the Oakland LDS library looking at the 1930 United States Census. At the time of writing (mid December) over half the country has been name-indexed. Commercial companies are falling over themselves in their efforts to index all the censuses of the United States.

Just recently, the UK 1901 Census web site went "permanent" at www.census.pro.gov.uk/. We know that there are many errors on the site, but these are, for the most part, outweighed by our joy at finding relatives. I have found numerous families of mine who were living in London during 1901.

Recently we have read about "identity theft" and the many scams that are perpetrated on unfortunate innocent people. In many cases, there are flaws in existing systems which allow the unscrupulous to get hold of private information. This usually has nothing to do with the kind of records which genealogists use.

What does this all mean? In the fall issue of *Avotaynu* (Vol XVIII, #3, Fall 2002, page 7), there is an article by Andrew Blumberg, who uses the example of Stephen Morse's Ellis Island site. This was sorely missed when it came down for a few weeks. Imagine what would happen if the plug was pulled on all records up to 100 years old.

This is no fantasy, as the British government already has a discussion paper (Registration Services White Paper) discussing the "need" for greater privacy and the possibility of severely reducing the public's

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SOCIETY NEWS

E-mail Address Updates

Rita Bauer arks123@attbi.com
Ilan Blech iblech@earthlink.net
Paul Concus..... pconcus@earthlink.net
Louis Dombro.....ldombro@attbi.com
Vicky Ferraresi.....vferraresi@pathwayshealth.org
Deborah Friedman.....dsfriedman@earthlink.net
Norman Licht.....norm@normanlicht.com
Marc Monene.....rifleman@alum.mit.edu
Shirley Radding sradding@att.net
E. Diane Ross..... jnddross@earthlink.net
Peter Schattner schattner@alum.mit.edu
Marilyn Shulman.....atriid@juno.com
Dana Shultzdhshultz@sbcglobal.net

Please see Page 15 for a list of bounced e-mails. 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 gallego@pacbell.net so we can keep you up to date.

Welcome, New Members

Stan Berger.....saberger@me.berkeley.edu
Gerald Dittman gldittman@juno.com
Peter Dolgenos pdoldenos@library.ca.gov
Pat Dubrow..... pdubrow@hotmail.com
Jane Emanuelgelio@aol.com
Marcia Hagen.....marciahagen@earthlink.net
Zoe Kahnzoer@earthlink.net
Lynn Krohnelk48@msn.com
Donna Mendelsohn.....donnam@napanet.net
Janet Raznick.....jraznick@msn.com
Norma and Joseph Satten.....sattenn@aol.com
Ron Saxrks3334@yahoo.com
Lawrence White.....lwwhitemd@aol.com
Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah

Volunteers Wanted for SFBAJGS Cemetery Project

The cemetery records for Home of Peace and Hills of Eternity in Colma have been filmed and are now being transcribed by SFBAJGS members. Since most civil death records for San Francisco were lost in the 1906 earthquake and fire, these cemetery records are invaluable to genealogists.

Your help is needed! We need volunteers to transcribe the records, and verifiers to proofread them. Work at your own pace, on small batches of records at a time.

Photos of the ledger pages are on a CD-ROM, and transcribers will enter the information — name, age, burial date, plot location, etc. — on an Excel form included on the CD. Proofreaders will also receive the CD so they can compare the completed transcriptions to the ledger pages.

You can help with the indexing if you:

- (1) have a PC or Mac computer with a CD-ROM drive;
- (2) use either Netscape or Internet Explorer;
- (3) have Microsoft Excel.

There are instructions on the CD that explain how to enter the information into Excel.

If you would like to be part of this important project, or want to know more about it, please contact Sita Likuski at sitaL@attbi.com or phone 510-538-4249.

Storm Causes Meeting Cancellation

After a severe winter storm left Congregation Beth Am without power, the December meeting of the SFBAJGS had to be cancelled at the last minute. Our apologies to all those who made the trek and were turned away. Plans were made to repeat the program January 27. Since *ZichronNote* is a quarterly, it cannot report such changes in a timely manner. For the latest information, visit the SFBAJGS website at www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs.

FREE: The SFBAJGS is Giving Away Its Collection of Newsletters

Beginning in January 2003, many years' worth of newsletters from Jewish Genealogical Societies in the U.S. and around the world will be brought to SFBAJGS meetings. Members are encouraged to take home any or all that are of interest to them. These are terrific publications filled with resources, stories, and news.

Volunteer Coordinator Sought

The SFBAJGS is seeking a Volunteer Coordinator to assist other members in getting involved with JGS projects. The SFBAJGS Board will provide support, and the time commitment is flexible. If interested, please contact Jeremy Frankel at jfrankel@lmi.net.

CALENDAR, cont.

Sun., June 15, Berkeley: *Creating Multimedia Presentations of Your Genealogy*. Speaker: Ron Arons.

Mon., June 16, Los Altos Hills: *ShtetLinks — Your Ancestral Shtetl Online*. Speaker: Phil Spiegel.

Sun., July 13, San Francisco: *Washington D.C. Resources for Your Jewish Genealogy*.

Sun., August 17, Berkeley: *Highlights of the Washington D.C. Seminar on Jewish Genealogy*.

Mon., August 18, Los Altos Hills: *Highlights of the Washington D.C. Seminar on Jewish Genealogy*.

Sun., September 21, San Francisco: *Highlights of the Washington D.C. Seminar on Jewish Genealogy*.

Sun., October 19, Berkeley: *Using the University of California Libraries for Jewish Genealogy*. Speaker: Jeremy Frankel.

Mon., October 20, Los Altos Hills: *Challenges to Researching Your Female Ancestors*. Speaker: Dana Kurtz.

Sun., November 16, San Francisco: *SFBAJGS Annual Genealogy Workshop*.

December: No meeting.

More Genealogy Events

Local

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

State

Sun., March 16, 1:30 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles. Why Do Holocaust Research?** Presented by Peter Lande of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Simon Wiesenthal Center, Weisenthal Center Theater, 1399 So. Roxbury, Los Angeles. (818)771-5554. www.jgsla.org

EDITOR'S NOTES

Have a Good Year, Genealogically Speaking

by Beth Galletto

Genealogy can be a solitary activity. Information sharing among knowledgeable fellow Jewish genealogists can bring new insights and valuable inspiration. Resolve to attend more meetings of the SFBAJGS this year.

The SFBAJGS Board of Directors and Program Director Rodger Rosenberg have started the year well, with a lively and interesting slate of programs planned for the entire year. This issue contains the 2003 calendar, beginning on the front page and continuing to the left of this column. Please note that these programs are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, consult the Society's website at www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs.

This February issue is put to bed in January, so the January program is not listed in the calendar. Information from January speaker Steven Friedman is included in this issue on page 5.

This issue also contains Part II of Jim Koenig's interesting article on Jewish population growth, "Counting Jewish Noses," on Page 10. Part I was published in the November, 2002 issue.

At the beginning of 2003 new California state laws went into effect that will make it more difficult for genealogists to obtain vital records in California. Look for an article on this topic in the May 2003 issue of *ZichronNote*.

As editor of *ZichronNote*, I will consider articles of genealogical interest for publication in future issues. Please send submissions to galletto@pacbell.net.

Jewish Genealogy Month Is April 3 - May 2

Each year *Avotaynu* sponsors Jewish Genealogy Month, a time to put extra emphasis on promoting family history research among Jews. In 2003, Jewish Genealogy Month will be April 3 - May 2. As always, it coincides with the Hebrew month of Nisan, the month that includes the family-oriented holiday period of Passover. *Avotaynu* will again prepare a poster to be distributed to all Jewish genealogical societies worldwide and to be placed in Jewish institutions to promote genealogy. This year's theme will be "Where Once We Walked." It will symbolically depict the areas of the world where Jews once walked, but few Jews walk today. Previous posters can be viewed at www.avotaynu.com/poster.htm.

Successful Interviewing for Preserving Family History

by Steven Friedman

Steven Friedman, an oral historian, has been recording and preserving people's reminiscences for more than 10 years. His book, *Golden Memories of the San Francisco Bay Area*, the oral histories of nine local elders, was published in May 2000 and is currently in its second printing. He has led a weekly life history session at a local retirement facility since 1993, at which fifteen to twenty people gather and share stories from their past. He also taught elementary and middle school Jewish studies at the Brandeis Hillel Day School in San Rafael for 12 years. He is a freelance writer and helps people preserve their family history, and is a member of the Southwest and Northwest Oral History Associations and the Association of Personal Historians. The following information is taken from his presentation at the January 19 meeting of the SFBAJGS at Fort Mason in San Francisco. He can be reached at (415) 459-6071 st8runner@hotmail.com, www.geocities.com/allstoriesplus.

Interviewing Tips

- Before you interview anyone, provide advance warning.
- Prepare for the interview. Think out your questions beforehand.
- Bring a tape recorder. Bring a notebook and pen.
- Start with easy, friendly questions.
- Use family photographs. Ask to see family treasures and heirlooms.
- Don't be afraid of silence.
- Be sensitive to what you discover.
- Try not to interrupt.
- Ask for songs, poems, and unusual memories.
- Avoid yes or no questions.
- Follow-up questions are a must.
- Use prompts such as "And then what happened?" or "Can you tell me more about that?" to encourage elaboration.
- Pay attention to body language.
- Avoid double-barreled questions. (Rather than asking, "Where were you born, and can you describe your family?" ask one question at a time.)
- Practice interviewing beforehand.

Helpful References for Oral Historians

Keeping the Struggle Alive: Studying Desegregation in Our Town: A Guide to Doing Oral History, by Bernadette Anand, Michelle Fine, Tiffany Perkins, and David Surrey. These are the oral histories of the community's history of desegregation done by students in a New Jersey public middle school. Published by the National Middle School Association www.nmsa.org and Teacher's College Press.

Ready From Within: Septima Clark and the Civil Rights Movement and *Like it Was: A Complete Guide to Writing Oral History*, by Cynthia Stokes Brown. The guide is straightforward and filled with much useful information. Published by Teacher's and Writer's

Collaborative, NYC.

Telling Your Own Stories, by Donald Davis. This slender volume contains hundreds of ideas and prompts to elicit stories and memories. Published by August House Inc. 800-284-8784.

Capturing Memories. Cathy Fulton and her husband operate a wonderful business to help people preserve family history and write family memoirs. Check out their website — www.capturingmemories.com — and consider ordering their "Memory Kindling" booklets and their Life Time Lines packet.

To Our Children's Children, by Bob Greene and D. G. Fulford. This book contains thousands of questions on a myriad of topics and is probably the best single resource to jog anyone's memory. This volume is a sure-fire way to prepare you for an interview. This book belongs in your home library. It is available at most bookstores.

Astonishing Century, by Bob Joyce. This rapid reference guide to the events and people of the 20th century is wonderful. It is highly useful for jogging memories, in complementing interview questions, or in workshops or group reminiscence sessions. Published by Pygmalion Press, 1509 S. Raitt Street #C, Santa Ana, CA 92704. HawthorneH@aol.com

For All Time, by Charley Kempthorne. This is a complete guide to writing your family history, and it is a must for your home library. Call 800-685-7330 to order. The book retails for \$15.95.

Family Histories, by Nancy Pengra. An easy, step-by-step guide to capturing your family's precious memories NOW...before they're lost! This book is available from her website, www.storypreservation.com. The website alone is worth a visit. It is filled with links to hundreds of great family history and genealogy sites.

Keeping Family Stories Alive, by Vera Rosenbluth. One of the most complete primers on "discovering and recording the stories and reflections of a lifetime" that I've seen. It covers everything from audio- and video-taping interviews to interview techniques to

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LOCAL RESOURCES

L.D.S. Libraries in Santa Clara and Menlo Park

by Jeremy Frankel, President, SFBAJGS

I have grouped these two libraries together principally because they have made a concerted effort to provide the most complete coverage to the General Register Office's Index to Births, Marriages and Deaths for England and Wales. Santa Clara LDS Library has the indexes from their inception date of July 1837 up to 1900.

Menlo Park continues to add to their collection from 1866 onwards; for Births to 1950, Marriages to 1974 and Deaths to 1983. For anyone researching their English or Welsh roots, this is a wonderful "one-stop shopping" (well okay, two-stops!).

These indexes are compiled on a quarterly basis from the "returns" sent in by the local registrar. Hence there are four A-Z indexes per year. Additionally, as the Registrar gave families seven weeks for them to register an event, it is very possible that a birth or death taking place within seven weeks of the end of a quarter could be registered in the next quarter. Marriages however, were always recorded in the quarter year they took place. Yes, it is almost as confusing as it sounds!

If one's ancestors had emigrated and settled in New York City, you can look at the Department of Health's NYC indexes to Births, Marriage and Deaths. Santa Clara has coverage of these records from 1888 to 1965. The Mormons also microfilmed many of the certificates, so check the catalog before ordering them from the NYC authorities.

Other items of interest at Menlo Park are a complete set of the Godfrey publications of reproduction Ordnance Survey maps covering London. These are at such a large scale that most individual properties can be seen. There are different editions ranging from the 1870s to the 1910s.

They also have the 1900/01 Business Directory for London on CD, and one for Manchester (same date) also on CD.

Finally, Santa Clara also has a very good set of microfiche of the California Marriages and Deaths.

As always, call ahead to check for opening days/times and be aware that the Menlo Park's collection is constantly being updated by its enthusiastic staff.

Menlo Park: (650) 325-9711

Santa Clara: (408) 241-1449

Hadassah Lieberman to Be Banquet Speaker at Annual Conference

Hadassah Freilich Lieberman, wife of Senator Joseph Lieberman, will be the banquet speaker at the 23rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Washington, D.C., July 20-25. Mrs. Lieberman was thrust into the national spotlight as wife and campaign partner of Senator Lieberman, who was the Democratic vice-presidential candidate in the 2000 presidential election.

She will address the conference on genealogical, not political, themes. Mrs. Lieberman, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, will provide a first hand account of her family's experiences in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust and as immigrants starting a new life in America. Her father, who was a rabbi, survived a slave labor camp; her mother survived Dachau and Auschwitz. The family fled Eastern Europe in 1950, settling in Massachusetts where her father continued his role as a community rabbi.

Additional information about the conference can be found at www.jewishgen.org/dc2003.

Names from Pages of Testimony

Zvi Bernhardt, Yad Vashem

Often we get requests from various groups to receive a list of names from Pages of Testimony for a list being compiled of the perished from a given town. Our answer tends to be "No" for the following reasons:

1. The Pages of Testimony database is dynamic, it is constantly being added to and updated. Any list culled from it only reflects the situation at that time.

2. It is important, when using information from Pages of Testimony, to see the handwritten source and to be conscious that this is the source. (I know, I know, it is not yet available over the net, but it will be someday, earlier than the cynics think) There are a couple of reasons for this:

a) Pages of Testimony are an excellent source of material, but they are just that: Pages of Testimony, based on people's memories. It is important, when using the information from Pages of Testimony, to be aware of their source.

b) Pages of Testimony are not just a source of information, they are first and foremost a form of commemoration. There is a profound difference between reading the information on your uncle in an Excel file, and seeing it on a Page of Testimony in your father's handwriting.

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>
ALPERT	Sosenka, Belarus; Detroit, MI; Maine	Dubrow, Pat
BAGEL	Chernovtsy, Ukraine	Berger, Stan
BERGER	Chernovtsy, Ukraine	Berger, Stan
BERNSTEIN	Hrubieszow, Poland	Berger, Stan
BOUKOFSKI		Kahn, Zoe
CAHEN		Kahn, Zoe
COSTRELL	Kurenets, Belarus; Detroit, MI; Maine	Dubrow, Pat
DITTMAN	Lisets, Ukraine; Brooklyn, NY	Dittman, Gerald
DOLGENOS/DOLGONOS/DOLGENAS	Kiyev, Skvira, Ukraine; New York	Dolgenos, Peter
DUBROW(SKY)	Belarus; Montreal, Canada; Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA	Dubrow, Pat
EMANUEL	Buzau, Ploesti, Romania	Emanuel, Jane
ERENBERG	Russia	Dubrow, Pat
ESTEE	Napa Valley, CA	Kahn, Zoe
FRIEDBERG		Kahn, Zoe
FRIEDMAN	Skvira, Ukraine	Dolgenos, Peter
GETLESON		Kahn, Zoe
GOLDSTEIN	Austria	Dolgenos, Peter
GOODMAN	Napa Valley, CA	Kahn, Zoe
HAAS		Kahn, Zoe
JASNER	Ukraine	Emanuel, Jane
KAGAN(OW)	Belaya Tserkov, Ukraine	Emanuel, Jane
KRAVIETSKY	Belarus, Poland, Russia	Dittman, Gerald
LEVEL		Kahn, Zoe
LEVINE	New York	Dittman, Gerald
LEVY	St. Helena, CA	Kahn, Zoe
LIPSHUTZ	Belarus; Montreal, Canada; Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA	Dubrow, Pat
MALEK	Hungary; England; Detroit, MI	Raznick, Janet
MINDEL	Rietavas, Lithuania	Sax, Ron
NISZEWICKY	Ruzhany and Pavlovo, Belarus	Hagen, Marcia
OKA	Ukraine; New York	Dolgenos, Peter
SAX	Rietavas, Lithuania	Sax, Ron
SCHNEIDER	Brooklyn, NY	Dittman, Gerald
SHRAGGE (SCHRAGE)	Radekhov, Ukraine	Emanuel, Jane
SCHWAR(T)Z		Kahn, Zoe
SLAVIN	Vilnius, Lithuania	Hagen, Marcia
STRAUS	St. Helena, CA	Kahn, Zoe
TILLES	Vilnius, Lithuania	Hagen, Marcia
WEINBERGER		Kahn, Zoe
WEINLANDER		Kahn, Zoe
WEISS	Carei, Romania	Emanuel, Jane
YASNAGORODSKY	Ukraine	Emanuel, Jane
ZOLOTUSKY/ZOLUTUSKY	Skvira, Ukraine	Dolgenos, Peter

Ethics for Jewish Genealogists

At the annual meeting in Toronto, IAJGS Director Anthony Joseph presented a draft version of a code of ethics for Jewish Genealogists and invited comment from IAJGS members. The few comments that were received were carefully reviewed. However, no substantial changes have been made to the draft version. It has now been finalized and was approved by the IAJGS Board of Directors at their fall meeting.

Preamble:

All human endeavors are capable of corruption and it is therefore appropriate to institute mechanisms to safeguard against behavior that is inimical to the common good. It is felt that the IAJGS should give the lead in setting standards of behavior as applied to the world of Jewish genealogy. It is at least arguable that the study of genealogy itself, if not an "ethical" activity as such, it is a mitzvah in accordance with the Torah principle of teaching knowledge of the people, their tribes and "remembering the days of old." This document is intended to set out guidelines for such standards. It is also offered as a code of "good practice" which may inform readers. Finally, it includes an updated version (in more modern English) of the late Rabbi Malcolm Stern's "Ten Commandments in Genealogy," which remains as relevant today as when they were penned years ago.

Code of Conduct:

- Information acquired should be factual and where doubt exists as to the accuracy of a purported pedigree, the questionability and limitations of the data should be expressed.
- All original sources should be stated to allow

other enquirers the opportunity of verification of the data.

- The examination of all documentation should be undertaken with sensitivity for the quality of the source used. Records in the public domain should be replaced, after examination and any annotation required, in the condition and order that they were found. They should never be retained or handled carelessly.
- If data presented relies on work already previously undertaken, the credit for such work should be given to the originator, which also acts as a disclaimer in the event that it may encompass error(s).
- Should there be financial implications of working in genealogy, the purveyor of services should state the likely costs involved to the client and should only charge the agreed quantum for the research undertaken.
- If data is acquired that seems to contain the potential for harming the interests of other people, great caution should be applied to the treatment of any such data and wide consultation may be appropriate as to how

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1930 Census Finding Aid

By Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

Further to the article on the 1930 Federal Census (*ZichronNote*, November, 2002) readers may be interested to know that there is a published name index to the 1930 Census for New York City. It may prove useful for anyone who doesn't have access to a computer, or who is already in a research library and decides at the last moment to do some research of the 1930 census.

It is a 13-volume set, listing just the head-of-households or single people residing in a house for the five boroughs of New York City. This work was published by HeritageQuest, part of the ProQuest company — the same company that has scanned the *New York Times*.

Sutro Library has a set, including another 11 volumes for the rest of New York State. The National Archives Regional Branch at San Bruno has just the

New York City volumes. The index lists the first and last name, borough, ED number and all the relevant information with which to locate the individual or family in the 1930 census.

I happened to be at the Sutro researching the name of Lazarus Barnett for someone. I had thought there would be quite a number of entries because this was New York City, but I was most surprised to see just one entry listed there — fortunately, the one I needed. What was amusing was that his name was misspelled as Lazaris [sic]!

For anyone researching their family history in New York even earlier, Sutro Library has an 11-volume set listing just the head-of-household for the 1870 Federal Census. Five volumes cover New York City and the rest cover the upstate portion.

In both cases (1870 and 1910) each volume is at least the size of a typical Manhattan telephone directory!

President's Message, cont. from Page 2

ability to access records such as the birth, marriage and death certificates. In the case of death certificates, information such as the address, cause of death, and occupation would be closed for 100 years and only be made known to "family members," a description yet to be determined by a committee! As one British genealogist put it: "...the White Paper signals the end of genealogy as a hobby for anybody who has not got back to an ancestor born more than 100 years before the date the bill becomes law..."

For those of you who have never had to use them, briefly, civil registration in England and Wales began in July 1837. (Scotland and Ireland had separate registration authorities.) Local registrars sent their three-month quarterly "returns" to London where national indexes were compiled for the three events. Hence each year comprises four A-Z indexes. Near Kings Cross in London is the Family Records Centre run by the UK Government www.familyrecords.gov.uk/frc/ (not to be confused with the similarly named Mormon Family History Centers). Inside are several thousand volumes containing the indexes to every birth, marriage and death from 1837 to 2000 for the whole of England and Wales. Anyone can walk in, consult an index and order a certified copy of the certificate. The cost is about \$9.75 and the whole process takes just four working days.

We need to be constantly vigilant about the cherished rights or privileges which we take for granted. What would happen if the plug was pulled on the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) information and 65 million records suddenly vanished? What would happen if the US Government decided that we couldn't access the 1930 Census and pulled it from various NARA archives as well as

commercial sites? It would just take a flip of a switch. We simply can't leave it as always to "the few" to fight our fight. Everyone has to get involved! After all, it's your family that's at stake.

On a lighter note, I was pleased to receive the revised edition of *Where Once We Walked*, a magnificent effort by Gary Mokotoff and Sally Amdur Sack along with Alexander Sharon and Michael Tobias. As an example of the changes and increased number of towns, the new edition is almost 200 pages bigger than the original. I am sure our members will be lining up to use it at the meetings.

The Society held a very successful Genealogy Workshop in Berkeley in November. Of the new faces, some 60 percent joined that day. I want to thank everyone who helped make this a success: the Board, the presenters and the schleppers!

The Board continues its hard work, tackling many issues. Our meetings are as convivial as they are vocal. The end of year report by our treasurer showed our finances to be in the black, though we remain vigilant and continue to be fiscally prudent. Our overseas recipients of ZN will now receive them as a .pdf file. This will save on international postage costs.

Sita Likuski, our Cemetery Project Director, reported that we have 2,500 names transcribed. This is a project we can all participate in. If you can spare a couple of hours a week, then do get in touch with Sita and let her know (sitaL@attbi.com).

Finally, as always, I look forward to meeting you at our monthly meetings, especially the members attending the meetings in Berkeley — new for 2003!

Jeremy Frankel,
President, SFBAJGS

Oral history, cont. from Page 5

preserving the tapes to dealing with family secrets. Published by Hartley and Marks.

365 Tantalizing Story Starters, by Phyllis Rowland. This small but highly useful pocket-size book is filled with 365 questions to elicit stories and clear the cobwebs off distant memories. Available from Phyllis Rowland, (316) 838-1876, Phyllis@memorycatchers.com, www.memorycatchers.com

My Backyard History Book, by David Weitzman. This is a funky and entertaining guide for kids who want to do a family history. Published by Little, Brown, and Co.

Do People Grow on Family Trees: Genealogy for Kids and Other Beginners, by Ira Wolfman. This book is an entertaining and very helpful resource for exploring

your roots and family histories. Published by Workman Publishing, NYC.

How To Tape Instant Oral Biographies, by Bill Zimmerman. This book may be the most accessible guide for kids to preserve family stories. It is loaded with easy-to-understand information on tape recorders, interviewing techniques, and is filled with literally hundreds of questions and ideas to use. Published by Better Way Books, Cincinnati, OH.

Reminisce Magazine, the magazine "that brings back the good times" is advertisement free but filled with wonderful stories, tidbits, snapshots of national and world events and popular culture, cartoons, and recipes from yesteryear. Published by Reiman Publications, (800) 344-6913.

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

Part II

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. Part I appeared in the November, 2002 issue of *ZichronNote*.

Great Changes of the Nineteenth Century

Jewish population in Eastern and Central Europe increased throughout the century at an average rate of just over 2 percent per year. This resulted in a six-fold increase in total Jewish population, to approximately 8 million by the year 1900. This number allows for the emigration of over 1 million persons out of the region, and the conversion of several tens of thousands to Christianity.

Emigration from the region began slowly in response to the political upheavals of 1848 in Austria, former Polish territory, and elsewhere, and accelerated greatly after the assassination of the Tsar Alexander II in 1881. Emigrants moved principally to North America, but also in lesser numbers to Western Europe, South America and South Africa. There was additionally the first organized immigration into Palestine.

In addition to emigration, there was a steady internal migration towards the larger cities of the several Empires; into the German Empire, mostly from Polish territory; into Hungary from Galicia and Ruthenia; and towards the southeastern Ukraine. This is reflected in the growth of Jewish population in such cities as Odessa, Vienna, Budapest and Berlin. Some numbers are illustrative:

Location	Year	Jewish Population
Budapest	1833	13,000
	1900	168,995
Odessa	1795	~240
	1892	112,000
	1900	~160,000
Vienna (Wien)	1753	~700
	1800	~1,200
	1856	15,600
	1880	72,590
	1900	146,926
Berlin	1852	11,900
	1890	79,300
	1900	86,152

Similar growth can be seen for several smaller cities, such as Riga, Berdechev (Berdyczów), Białystok (Belostok), and Kishinev (Chişinău, Kiszyniów). These phenomenal growth rates cannot be explained by a high birth rate. Migration within the Empires is the answer. Much of this migration was to areas and towns that were legally off-limits to Jews. Within Russia, Jews moved into every province of the Empire, including Far Eastern Siberia, Estonia, the Arctic far north, and Azerbaijan on the Caspian Sea.

Several towns experienced up-and-down fluctuations in Jewish population. For example, St. Petersburg, Kiev (Kijew, Kiyiv), Grodno (Hrodna, Gardinas), Posen (Posnań) and Dvinsk (Daugavpils, Düneburg). This reflects the multiple effects of: (a) episodic expulsion orders, (b) periods of crisis, such as pogroms, when people moved elsewhere temporarily; and (c) economic cycles.

Emigration out of Eastern and Central Europe especially impacted regions where poverty was high and personal danger great — largely the belt stretching from Lithuania southward through Volhynia and Podolia, into Galicia, Bessarabia and Romania. As a result, some cities and towns reached their peak Jewish population during the 1880s and '90s and began a slow decline thereafter.

The 1900 Population Estimate

The Jewish population of Eastern and Central Europe, estimated to be nearly 8 million in 1900, was part of a total European Jewish population of slightly above 8.5 million. (Central Europe as used herein excludes the western half of Germany, Switzerland and Italy.)

The following table lists the cities having the largest Jewish population as of that year. Where no reliable figure is available for 1900, the year that has been used is indicated in parentheses. Along with the population is a figure for the percentage of the total population that was Jewish. The name used for each city is the one in official use today, along with the name of the country in which that city is now located. In a separate column are listed alternative names for these cities, along with the languages in which those names appear.

Continued on next page

Counting, cont. from previous page

Cities With the Largest Jewish Population, Eastern and Central Europe, 1900

Name	Population, Percent		Alternative Spellings
Warszawa, Poland	262,824 (1902)	35	Warsaw (E), Warschau (G), Varshava (R)
Budapest, Hungary	68,985	23	Alt Ofen, Pesht (Y)
Odesa, Ukraine	~160,000 (1904)	~32	Odessa (R, E)
Wien, Austria	146,926	9	Vienna (E)
Berlin, Germany	86,152	5	
Łódź, Poland	78,000	~22	Lodz (E, R), Litzmannstadt (G)
Vilnius, Lithuania	63,986	~50	Wilno (P), Vilna (R), Wilna (G)
Thessaloniki, Greece	~60,000	~55	Salonika (E, G), Selanik (T)
İstanbul, Turkey	~55,000 (1904)	~5	Constantinople (G, T), Stamboul
Berdichiv, Ukraine	50,460 (1899)	80	Berdichev (R), Berdyczów (P)
Chişinău, Moldova	~50,000	~33	Kishinev/Kishiniev (R), Kiszyniów (P)
Białystok, Poland	48,552 (1896)	80	Belostok (B), Byelostoki (Ro), (R)
Lviv, Ukraine	44,801	28	Lemberg (G), Lvov (R), Lwów (P)
Minsk, Belarus	43,658 (1896)	41	
Bucureşti, Romania	43,274 (1899)	21	Bucharest (E), Bukarest (G), Bükreş (T)
Vitsebsk, Belarus	39,520 (1897)	60	Vitebsk (R), Witebsk (P, G)
Iaşi, Romania	39,441 (1899)	31	Jassy (R), Yassy (G), Yosser (Y)
Kaunas, Lithuania	37,196 (1902)	~50	Kovno (R), Kowno (P), Kauen (G)
Dnipropetrovs'k, Ukraine	36,600 (1897)	~30	Dnepropetrovsk (R), Yekaterinoslav/ Ekaterinoslav (R)
Daugavpils, Latvia	32,369	43	Dvinsk (R), Dünaburg (G), Dineburg (Y)
Brest, Belarus	30,252 (1897)	69	Brest-Litovsk (R), Brisk (Y), Brześć(nad Bugiem) (P)
Mikoliw, Ukraine	~30,000 (1897)	~29	Nikolaev/Nikolayev (R), Vernoleninsk (R)
Riga, Latvia	~30,000	~12	
Hrodna/Hrodno, Belarus	29,779	55	Grodno (R, P), Gardinas (Li)
Homel/Gomel, Belarus	26,161 (1902)	56	Gomel (R), Gomy (Y)
Kraków, Poland	25,430	22	Krakov (R), Cracow (E), Krakau (G)
Kremenchuk, Ukraine	~25,000	~42	Kremenchug (R), Krzemienchuk (P),
Kirovohrad, Ukraine	24,340 (1897)	40	Kirovograd (R), ZinovievskZinovyevska and Yelizavetgrad/Elisavetgrad (R), Jelisawetgrad (G)
Zhytomyr, Ukraine	24,062 (1891)	35	Zhitomir (R), Jitomir (Ro), Zytomierz (P)
Lublin, Poland	23,788 (1896)	48	Lyublin (R)
Chernivtsi, Ukraine	~22,000	~32	Chernovtsi (R), Cernaui (Ro), Czernowitz (P), Tschernowitz (G), Czerniówce (P)
St. Petersburg, Russia	20,385	1	Leningrad, Petrograd (R)
Kiyiv/Kyiv, Ukraine	~20,000	8	Kiev/Kiyev (R), Kijew/Kijow (G)
Mahilev/Magilev, Belarus	19,398 (1897)	45	Mogilev (R), Mohylew (P)
Babruysk, Belarus	19,125 (1898)	56	Bobruysk/Bobruisk (R), Bobrujsk (P)
Praha, Czech Republic	~19,000	10	Prague (E), Prag (G)
Kherson, Ukraine	~19,000	37	Cherson (G)
Wrocław, Poland	18,440 (1905)	5	Breslau (G)
Pinsk, Belarus	~18,000	65	
Botoşani, Romania	16,660	~35	Botoshany (R), Batishan (Y)

Explanation of Column Headings:**Name:** Current spelling of city and name of country in the language of that country**Population, Percent:** Actual or estimated Jewish population (year is 1900 unless noted differently), and Jewish percentage of total population**Alternate Spellings:** Former spelling or current alternative spelling(s) of name, and language(s) represented:(B) - Belarusian; (E) - English; (G) - German; (H) - Hungarian; (Li) - Lithuanian; (P) - Polish; (R) - Russian; (Ro) - Romanian; (T) - Turkish; (U) - Ukrainian; (Y) - Yiddish

Continued on next page

Counting, cont. from page 11

Taken together, these 40 major population centers total about 2 million persons, or slightly over 20 percent of the Jewish population of the region. However, at that time several other cities had Jewish populations in the range of 10,000 - 15,000. These add another 450,000 - 500,000. This means that about one-third of the total Jewish population lived in major cities or large towns. The remainder, as previously, lived in small towns, villages and in rural enclaves (such as the agricultural colonies of southern Ukraine and Bessarabia). Including all places of over 10,000 total population, the urbanized Jewish population in the year 1900 probably was in excess of 40 percent.

Also as previously, most Jews lived in close contact with other Jews. The principal exceptions would be those who had settled illegally in larger cities or in remote Russian provinces or who remained in rural areas after their fellow Jews had emigrated elsewhere.

A simple alphabetical listing of those cities and towns with 10,000 - 15,000 Jews in 1900 follows. Today's spelling and country name are given first, followed by the alternative spellings and languages. Note that the lists are not complete, and that there are multiple spellings for many Yiddish names, reflecting the complexities of dialect and transliteration into Latin characters.

Balta, Ukraine; Balti, Moldova (Beltsy - U, Beltz - Y) ; Będzin, Poland (Bendin - R, Bendzin - Y); Bila Tserkva, Ukraine (Biala Tserkov - R, Biala Cerkiew - P); Braila, Romania; Brody, Ukraine;

Chełm, Poland (Kholm - R, Kholm - Y); Chernihiv, Ukraine (Chernigov - R, Czernichów - P); Częstochowa, Poland (Chenstokhov - R, Tschenstochau - G);

Galați, Romania (Galatz - G, Y); Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine (Ivano-Frankovsk - R, Stanislawów - P, Stanislavov - R, Stanislau - G); Jarosław, Poland (Yaroslav - R, Jaroslau - G) ;

Kamyanets Podil's'kij, Ukraine (Kamenets Podolskiy - R, Kamieniec Podolski - P, Kamjanets Podilskij - G); Kharkiv, Ukraine (Kharkov - R, Charków - P); Kielce, Poland (Keltsy - R, Keltz - Y); Kolomyja, Ukraine (Kolomyja - P, Kolomyya - R, Kolomea - G); Kremianets, Ukraine (Kremenets - R, Krzemieniec - P, Kshemenetz - Y);

Lomża, Poland (Lomzha - R); Lutsk, Ukraine (Łuck - P); Mohyliv Podilskyj, Ukraine (Mogilev Podolskiy - R, Mohylew Podolska - P); Oradea, Romania (Nagyvarad - H, Grosswardein - G);

Plock, Poland (Plotsk - R, Plozk - G, Plotzk - Y), ; Polatsk, Belarus (Polotsk - R, Polock - P); Przemyśl, Poland (Peremyszl - R, Shemyshl, Pshemishl - Y));

Radom, Poland; Rivne, Ukraine (Rovno - R, Równe - P, Rowno - G); Rostov (na Donu), Russia (Rostow - G);

Sevastopol, Ukraine (Sewastopol - G, Sebastopol - E); Siedlce, Poland (Sedlez - G Shedlets - R); Slonim, Belarus; Slutsk, Belarus (Sluck - P, Sluzk - G, Slutzky - Y); Stryj, Ukraine (Stryy, Strij, Striy - P, R, G);

Ternopil, Ukraine (Tarnopol - P, Ternopol' - R); Tarnów, Poland (Ternov - R); Tighina, Moldova (Bendery - R, Bender - Y); Uman, Ukraine (Humán - P); Vinnitsa, Ukraine (Winnica - P).

A Note About Pronunciation:

Certain characters may be unfamiliar to English speakers. These include some from the Romanian language (ș - pronounced 'sh', and ț - pronounced 'ts'), and some from Polish (ę - pronounced as nasal 'en', ł - pronounced almost as 'w', ś - pronounced as 'sh', ć - pronounced as 'tsh', and ż - pronounced as 'zh'), plus a few from Czech, Lithuanian and Latvian (č is 'ch', š is 'sh' and ž is 'zh'). Czech ř is approximately 'rzh', (similar to the Polish letter combination 'rz'). Turkish ş is 'sh' and ç is 'ch'.

In addition, certain Latin letters have different values from English:

C by itself is pronounced 'ts' in Polish, Czech, German, Latvian, Lithuanian and Hungarian. CH is pronounced 'k' in these languages. However, in Romanian, when followed by I or E, C is 'ch', and when followed by A, O or U it is 'k'. The German CK is also pronounced 'k'. In Hungarian, CS is 'ch'; in Polish CZ is 'ch'. In Turkish, C is pronounced as English 'j'.

DZ in Polish is usually pronounced similarly to the English 'j'.

J is pronounced like the English Y in all these languages except Romanian, where it carries the value of French J ('zh'). Therefore J and Y often are interchangeable in German.

W is pronounced as 'v' in all of these languages, except in certain foreign words, where the 'w' sound is attempted.

Z in German is pronounced like 'ts'.

In Hungarian, GY is pronounced 'dg' (as in 'fudge'), S is 'sh', SZ is 's', LY is pronounced almost as English 'yuh', 'ZS is 'zh', and TY is almost the same as 'ts' or 'tsuh'.

English SH is transcribed in German as 'sch', and in Yiddish as 'sh'. However, SCH in Romanian is pronounced as 'sk', and in Czech, Polish, Latvian and Lithuanian as 'skh'.

Several other letters have slight differences, but those are beyond the scope of this brief list.

Some Thoughts About Population Trends Into The Twentieth Century

Odessa had become a major Jewish center by 1900, although St. Petersburg, Kiev and especially Moscow had not; however, all four developed large Jewish populations after the Russian Revolution (1917). The tendency toward urbanization was also to continue in Poland, Austria, Romania and Hungary through the first decades of the Twentieth Century, turning Warsaw, Vienna, Berlin and Budapest into major Jewish population centers. By one estimate, the percentage of Jews living in communities with over 10,000 total population rose to over 60 percent after World War I.

Although there was a decided trend of migration to larger and larger cities, there remained small Jewish villages, and numerous instances of individual Jewish families living isolation, especially

in rural Austria, Hungary and Germany.

Some cities and towns would peak in Jewish population during and immediately after World War I, and then declined significantly. This was especially true of areas that had seen intense fighting, either during the war or in the several civil conflicts that followed (Red-White war in Russia; Polish-Russian war; Greek-Turkish war, etc.).

Sources

Many sources were consulted. However, data for this article come mainly from:

Friesel, Evyatar, 1990, *Atlas of Modern Jewish History* (revised from Hebrew Edition); Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford

Klier, John Doyle, 1986, *Russia Gathers Her Jews: The Origins of the "Jewish Question" in Russia, 1772-1825*; Northern Illinois University Press, DeKalb, Illinois

The Jewish Encyclopedia, 1905, Ktav Publishing House, New York (various articles in several volumes)

Tollet, Daniel, 1992, *Histoire des Juifs en Pologne, du XVI Siecle a nos Jours*; Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, France

Ethics, cont. from page 8

such data is used. A confidential discussion with an ethical authority (e.g. a respected Rabbinic Beth Din) or reference to ethical principles already placed in the public domain (e.g. by a regulating body such as the [British] Association of Genealogists and Record Agents) may be helpful in such circumstances.

Regarding the "right to privacy" versus the "freedom of information" area of potential conflict:

- Data more than seventy-five years old should be regarded as sufficiently historical to be available, without restriction.
- More recent data should be evaluated in the light of sensitivities of the living versus the importance of disseminating information.
- Generally, a request from an individual that certain information about themselves or close relatives be kept private should be respected.
- If it is decided not to publish any particular piece of information, there should be a clear statement to that effect so that the reader is not misled by the omission.

Adaptation of the late Malcolm Stern's "Ten Commandments in Genealogy"

I wish only to obtain true knowledge about any family I am researching.

Family traditions must be interpreted with caution

and only used as clues.

All information must be assessed and not given automatic credibility.

Claims to exalt a family for increased status must be verified.

Unverifiable data must be labeled as such (see commandment 1).

All records must be handled with care and replaced for the next user.

Attribution of sources is essential and permission obtained for use of other researchers' work.

If verifying data involves costs to others these should be reimbursed.

The sensitivities of living people must be respected and the memory of the deceased likewise, but for the latter it is permitted to record the objective facts about them.

You should not claim expertise or become a genealogical teacher without appropriate training and accreditation. [In this context, "accreditation" should not imply holding a formal qualification, although such is an asset, but simply, as it says, sufficient training and experience to confer expertise.]

Ethics statement approved by the
IAJGS Board of Directors, 2 November 2002

COMPUTER/ONLINE NEWS

JewishGen joins the Museum of Jewish Heritage

Effective January 1, JewishGen, located at www.jewishgen.org, has become a division of the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City. The Boards of the Museum and JewishGen approved the plan in December.

An Internet pioneer, JewishGen was founded in 1987 by Susan E. King and has grown from a bulletin board with only 150 users to a major grass roots effort bringing together hundreds of thousands of individuals worldwide in a virtual community centered on discovering Jewish ancestral roots and history. On JewishGen, researchers share genealogical information, techniques, and case studies. With a growing database of more than seven million records, including some material from previous centuries, the website is a forum for the exchange of information about Jewish life and family history and has enabled thousands of families to connect and re-connect in a way never before possible.

"For many Jews, knowledge of their family history perished in the Holocaust; JewishGen fills in the missing pieces of the puzzle," said Dr. David G. Marwell, Museum Director. "Our Museum allows visitors to identify with the themes of 20th century Jewish history and has helped our public to identify with Holocaust survivors and opened new doors of understanding. With JewishGen, we will be able to take our message worldwide."

"Genealogy research is much more than just searching for names, dates and places," said Susan King, founder of JewishGen. "It is vitally important that researchers also understand the details of Jewish heritage and history; the Museum provides context for the lives being researched. That's what makes this relationship so exciting. Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust will also allow us to professionalize what has been an all-volunteer effort."

Ms. King, who will report to Dr. Marwell, will be the Managing Director of JewishGen and will remain in Houston where JewishGen is based.

Among JewishGen's features are the Family Tree of the Jewish People containing data on more than two million people; the Yizkor Book Project, an ongoing effort to translate memorial books which contain previously inaccessible information on the fate of Jewish communities and their inhabitants affected by the Holocaust; and the Holocaust Global Registry, a central database of and for Holocaust survivors and

their families. The Holocaust Global Registry is already responsible for re-connecting several families after more than 60 years of separation.

The Museum is located on the waterfront of Lower Manhattan in Battery Park City. The Museum's core exhibition is organized around three themes: Jewish Life a Century Ago, The War Against the Jews, and Jewish Renewal. With more than 2,000 photographs, 800 artifacts, and 24 original documentary films on display, the Museum uses personal stories and artifacts to present 20th century Jewish history and the Holocaust in a context of universal truths that speak to people of all ages and backgrounds. The Museum is in the middle of an 82,000-square-foot construction project that will contain a theater, classrooms, and special exhibition space, among other facilities. The East Wing, set to open in fall 2003, will enhance the Museum's mission of remembrance and education.

Czestochowa, Poland (and 10 Nearby Towns) — 20353 Records

Daniel Kazez, JewishGen

I am pleased to announce that "Phase 1" of the Czestochowa Archive project is now complete. This is the JRI-Poland project to bring 20,353 birth, marriage, and death index records to the web. The following towns/years are covered:

- Czestochowa, years: 1884-95
- Janow, years: 1869, 1871-97, 1883-87
- Klobuck, years: 1849, 1861, 1874, 1885-95
- Krzepice, years: 1826-29, 1878-91, 1890-98
- Lelow, years: 1884-95
- Mstow, years: 1857-58, 1863/69, 1878-84, 1885-95
- Plawno, years: 1890
- Praszka, years: 1868, 1871-96
- Przyrow, years: 1889-95
- Szczekociny, years: 1852, 1884-89, 1893-95
- Zarki, years: 1875, 1878, 1884-1896

Please check here for records of interest to you:

www.jewishgen.org/JRI-PL/jriplweb.htm

Thank you to all who made Phase 1 possible.

Of course, there will be a Phase 2 for this project. I will announce details as soon as possible.

Ellis Island Search Tools Improved

by Stephen Morse

The revised Ellis Island (EI) search tools went live on October 20 including the so-called "gray form" which allows searching by town and sounds-like for any passenger in the database. However there have been severe performance problems with the gray form, and only the very lucky (or the very early risers) were able to get any response at all to their searches.

I am pleased to report that we have finally tracked down and fixed the cause of most of the problems. The gray form is now able to handle the heavy traffic and is returning results very quickly. It is now possible to do searches using the gray form at any time of the day and get back the results in a reasonable amount of time.

I am indebted to Nick Yannucci who answered the plea for help that I had posted on the website. Nick, working together with Erik Steinmetz, was the critical mass that we needed for success. Thanks also to JewishGen for providing the servers to host the EI search tools, and for providing technical support and machine upgrades to fix the performance problems of the EI search tools. If any of you would like to add your thanks with a donation to JewishGen (www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity), I know it would be greatly appreciated and is sorely needed.

My apologies for all the frustrations that the gray form has given to so many people for so long. But now that is behind us, and I wish you all good luck on your searches.

The EI search tools can be accessed from either of the following: home.pacbell.net/spmorse

www.jewishgen.org/databases/EIDB

Finding Information on People

Tom Venetianer, JewishGen

I recently stumbled into Google's Services and Tools page www.google.com/options/index.html.

Besides the well known search facility, Google offers many more searching possibilities. One of them is "Google Answers" answers.google.com/answers/main. You place a question, pay a modest fee and get a very thorough answer. The answers are given by experts who investigate the most important sources, off and on line, to guide you through further searches.

All already-given answers can be browsed for free. I tried the world "genealogy" and came up with over 80 questions and related answers.

1901-1906 Jewish Encyclopedia Online

Gary Mokotoff, Nu? What's New?

The Jewish Encyclopedia of 1901-1906, a 12-volume work of 15,000 articles, has been placed on the Internet at www.jewishencyclopedia.com. Its search engine has full-word indexing; therefore it will identify any article in the encyclopedia that includes the key words you specify.

Old encyclopedias can be valuable in research because they give a perspective on history as it existed in their time period. The encyclopedia represents what was important in Jewish matters at the beginning of the 20th century. There are descriptions of many notables of the second half of the 19th century who do not merit a mention in today's Jewish encyclopedias. The Dreyfus affair, fresh in the memories of the encyclopedia's compilers, merited 29 pages. Alfred Dreyfus was a Jewish French army officer found guilty of treason in 1895 and sentenced to prison at Devil's Island. It was demonstrated that he was the victim of anti-Semitism in the French army and the charges were false.

Another valuable feature of the Jewish Encyclopedia site is that you can view the original pages which often contain pictures of personalities or events. A small distraction is that most letters of the alphabet that have diacritic marks display as question marks (?). Access to the original page permits the reader to see the characters. The project was funded by the Kopelman Foundation. All in all, the work is of high quality.

[Initially reported by Shirley Flaum of Rav-SIG, the Rabbinic Genealogy Special Interest Group]

Reprinted with permission from "Nu? What's New?" the Internet e-zine for Jewish genealogy published by *Avotaynu*.

Bounced SFBAJGS E-mails

Attempts to send e-mail messages to the following people resulted in bounces. If your name is listed below and you want to receive communications from the SFBAJGS, please send your correct e-mail address to Beth Galleto at galleto@pacbell.net.

Bert Berson	Marcia Nord
Shelley Davis	Irv Olender
Martha Greene	Howard Oser
Shirley Wasserman Hausafus	Maggie Paul
David Hyams	Dee Dee Ross
Louise Indig	Les Shipnuck
Fred Loewy	Anne R. Jacobs Walker
Sally Moses	

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Contributors to this Issue

Zvi Bernhardt, Jeremy Frankel, Steven Friedman, Beth Galletto,
Daniel Kazez, Gary Mokotoff, Stephen Morse, James Koenig, Tom
Venetianer, Naidia Woolf

ZichronNote
SFBAJGS
P.O. Box 471616
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