



זכרון ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXV, Number 1

February 2005

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. February 27, Berkeley: *Kvetch & Kvell! A Roundtable Discussion.* Here's an opportunity to share your success and stumbling blocks. Bagels and lox will be served.

Mon. February 28, Los Altos Hills: *A Recent Trip to Lithuania and Latvia.* Presented by Jerry Delson, SFBAJGS Member. Last August, Delson and his wife Esther attended the Second World Litvak Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania. This was his second trip to Vilnius. The previous trip was in 1991, when Lithuania was just severing its ties with the USSR. Jerry's talk will be based on material from the Congress, the visits and the people he met and books that have recently been published. His theme is Lithuanian Jewish history and the current rebirth of its Jewish community.

Sun. March 20, San Francisco: *The Holocaust Center of Northern California.* The Holocaust Center of Northern California is moving into its new home on Steuart Street in San Francisco. Did they discover any new treasures when they packed/unpacked? Holocaust research is vital to our genealogical undertaking as well as our history and community. Come learn more about these vital records.

Sun. April 10, Berkeley: *Digital Voice Recorders for Oral History and Digital Photography to Store Books on CD.* Joshua Levy will explain how to take advantage of some of the latest technology.

Mon. April 18, Los Altos Hills: *Napa Valley Jewish History: The Jewish Historical Society of Napa Valley.* Presented by Zoe Kahn and Donna Mendelsohn, founding members of one of the newest Jewish genealogical and historical societies and members of the SFBAJGS will clue us in to this vibrant community. *Program will also be presented May 15 in San Francisco.*

Sun. May 15, San Francisco: *Napa Valley Jewish History: The Jewish Historical Society of Napa Valley.* Presented by Zoe Kahn and Donna Mendelsohn. See above for more information.

Tentative Dates for Future Meetings: Sun. June 19, Berkeley; Mon., June 20, Los Altos Hills; Sunday, July 17, S.F.; Monday, Aug. 15, Los Altos Hills; Sunday, Aug. 21, Berkeley; Sun. Sept. 18, S.F.

For the latest program information visit www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

More Genealogy Events of Interest on Page 4

ZichronNote

Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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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 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

Taking Note of ZichronNote

by Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

Every three months Society members receive ZichronNote either by mail, or, in the last couple of years, by e-mail as a document in .pdf form. For many members, ZN (as we affectionately refer to it) is the only means by which members know they are still members. Over fifty percent do not attend meetings, for one reason or another. ZN is therefore their only tangible "benefit of membership." Hence it is vitally important that the content reflect the activities and successes of the Society.

Not only do our 250+ members receive ZN, but as Dana Kurtz (SFBAJGS treasurer) reminds us in online SFBAJGS News bulletins, approximately 100 other JGSs, historical societies and libraries receive it by e-mail. Obviously, ZN is the official mouthpiece of the Society.

The quarterly journal *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, which is mailed out to some 3,000 subscribers, regularly includes several pages of summarized accounts from JGS house journals from around the world. In the most recent issue (Fall 2004) ZN garnered a whole page-length column to itself highlighting the articles from the last two issues (May and August, 2004).

I consider this a tribute to Beth Galleto, our able editor, and to all those who contributed news items and articles for those issues. However, this success doesn't mean that we can all sit back expecting this high standard to continue without the input of our members. I should also mention Dana Kurtz, who prints the mailing labels, and Larry Burgheimer, who places a label on each ZN, sorts them by zip codes, and transports them to the bulk mailing center.

Everyone has a story to tell. It doesn't have to be several pages long; it could revolve around a single incident; or one of those "ah ha" moments when things suddenly coalesce and fall into place. It could be a new website you discovered and found informative and useful. Whatever it might be — pass it on. This is one of the major reasons for belonging to the Society. Our strength lies in the fact that the more of us there are, the more we can learn from each other.

And the best way to disseminate research techniques, websites, and other information is via ZichronNote.

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SOCIETY NEWS

Dues Are Due

Membership dues for 2005 were payable on January 31, 2005. If you have not sent in your renewal, please do so as soon as possible.

A few reasons to renew:

1. Receive *ZichronNote*, either by regular mail or electronically.
2. Receive e-mail updates and announcements.
3. Support the Cemetery Database project.
4. Benefit from the experience of others.
5. Be a part of a group of people who will be as excited as you are when you explain how you finally found Great-Uncle Jacob.

A yellow stripe across the mailing label of this issue means we have not yet received your payment. The May issue of *ZichronNote* will be sent ONLY to members in good standing. Please send your check for \$23, made payable to "SFBAJGS," to: SFBAJGS - Membership, P.O. Box 471616 San Francisco, CA 94147.

If you have any questions about your membership status, contact Membership Chair Larry Burgheimer at burgauer@aol.com.

One-on-One Help with Your Family Tree

First Sunday research aid at the Jewish Community Library resumes February 6 from noon to 2 p.m. Experienced researchers from the SFBAJGS will be available to help Jewish genealogists knock down their brick walls. The sessions take place at the Jewish Community Library, located at 1835 Ellis Street in San Francisco, on the first Sunday of each month: February 6, March 6, April 3, May 15, and June 5, from noon to 2 p.m. Parking is free. Enter the garage on Pierce between Ellis and Eddy and press the buzzer.

Whether you're trying to find your great-grandmother's elusive town or your grandfather's passenger manifest, you can take advantage of the library's extensive reference collection and Internet connection to countless searchable databases — all with one-on-one guidance from experienced genealogists.

Longtime library volunteer staffer Judy Baston and other veteran researchers from the SFBAJGS will help with brainstorming and problem-solving. Bring your materials and your questions to the Jewish Community Library the first Sunday of each month, from February through June. For more information e-mail library@hjesf.org

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 Galletto at galletto@pacbell.net so you can continue to receive notices from the SFBAJGS.

- Gerald Wagger
- Carol Morrison
- Jane Raznick
- Donn Martin
- Lois Clauson

Welcome, New Members

- Joanne Goodman..... joge5@earthlink.net
- Muriel Khasen..... murielkhasen@comcast.net
- Art Poskanzer.....amposkanzer@lbl.gov
- Lynn E. Rhodes.....Lynnerhodes@cs.com
- Meir Shapriameir77@yahoo.com
- Janice Sellersjanice@seismosoc.org

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- Barry Klezmer.....klezmer1@yahoo.com
- Katherine Weiss...katherineweiss1@comcast.net
- Janet Raznick.....jraznick@comcast.net

Planning to Attend the IAJGS Conference? Let Us Know

If you are registering for the IAJGS Conference in Las Vegas, please e-mail dlkurtz@ix.netcom.com to let us know. A section of the SFBAJGS website will be created to keep a list of conference attendees, to make it easier for SF area attendees to make plans for travel and accommodations.

Please indicate your interests and whether you would want to participate in a lunch or dinner gathering of SFBAJGS members at the conference. The SFBAJGS website is located at www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

CALENDAR, cont.

More Genealogy Events

Local and Regional

Tues., February 15, 7 p.m. **Santa Clara County Genealogical Society. Preservation of Family Papers, Books and Other Artifacts.** Presented by Eric Norveson, Archivist for Evergreen Valley College. Santa Clara Public Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. www.rootsweb.com/~cascchgs/

Sat., February 26, 1p.m. **Sonoma County Genealogical Society. Genealogy Sites on the Internet.** Presented by Tony Hoskins. Lark Hall, Room 2004, Santa Rosa Junior College. www.scgs.org

Sat., March 26, 1 p.m. **Sonoma County Genealogical Society. Genealogy and DNA,** presented by James Radar. Lark Hall, Room 2004, Santa Rosa Junior College. www.scgs.org.

Sat., April 23, 9 a.m.to 4 p.m. **Sonoma County Genealogical Society. Patterns and Process in Genealogy,** all-day seminar presented by Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, FUGA, nationally known genealogical lecturer and writer. Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Road Santa Rosa. Preregistration recommended. www.scgs.org.

State and National

Sun., February 27, 10 a.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento. One-step Web Searches to Find Your Family History,** presented by Stephen P. Morse, creator of the one-step search tools for navigating the Internet. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento, CA. E-mail: jgs_sacramento@yahoo.com or leave a message at 916-486-0906 ext. 361 for more information.

Sun., March 20, 10 a.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento. Genealogical Records – Determining the Ones We Want, Where They Are and How to Use Them,** presented by genealogist Pam Dallas. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento, CA. E-mail: jgs_sacramento@yahoo.com or leave a message at 916-486-0906 ext. 361 for more information.

Mon., March 21, 7:30 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles. The Role of the Family Historian: How Social History Can Compliment Genealogical Research,** presented by Joan Adler, Executive Director of the Straus Historical Society. Valley Cities J.C.C., 13164 Burbank Blvd, Van Nuys, CA. www.jgsla.org

International Conference: See page 6

2005 Genealogy Programs at the National Archives in San Bruno

The National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) 2005 series of workshops has been announced. These allow genealogists to improve their knowledge and understanding of federal records and how to get the most information out of them.

All classes are held on Fridays and presented by Rose Mary Kennedy, a Genealogy Specialist, at the NARA, Pacific Region, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066. The class schedule is as follows:

Census Records Research

March 11, 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Research

April 22, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Military - Part I (Revolutionary to Civil War)

July 15, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Military - Part II (Spanish American to Vietnam)

August 9, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Census Records Research

September 23, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For information and registration contact Rose Mary Kennedy, at (650) 238-3485 or (650) 238-3488. The fee is \$15, payable at the door.

Program on Holocaust in Russia Set for February 17 in Los Angeles

Thursday, February 17, at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Ilya Altman, renowned historian and co-chairman of the Russian Research and Educational Holocaust Center in Moscow, will speak on "Ghettos of the USSR." A highlight of the evening will be the showing of the documentary film "The Ghetto of Brest," a 39-minute film (with English subtitles) that has been shown on Russian television and has won the grand prize at several International Film Festivals.

The presentation will take place at the University of Judaism, 15600 Mulholland Drive, Board Room, Second Floor, Los Angeles (Bel-Air), CA 90077. Space is limited, so anyone who plans to attend is asked to RSVP early by e-mail to lpasca@earthlink.net or call (888) 853-6763 or (310) 476-9777. This program is presented by the Sigi Ziering Institute Exploring the Ethical and Religious Implications of the Holocaust at the University of Judaism and the Brest, Belarus Research SIG (Special Interest Group). For more information visit www.uj.edu, or call Larry Schenker, director and moderator of the Brest, Belarus Research SIG, at (310) 441-1488.

The Value of Family History Travel

By Janice Sellers

Janice Sellers is a new member of the SFBAJGS. Her family finder information is listed on page 10.

Some of my most successful family history research took place when I visited relatives I had not previously met. The busiest such trip I ever took was in October 2002, when I piggybacked a family trip onto a business trip. I arranged to stay with my sister in New Jersey. She offered me the use of her spare car during my visit when she found out that I was planning to rent a car. I put 700 miles on her car during a five-day visit and managed to drive in every single borough of New York City and the two counties on Long Island.

Now, don't think that this all happened on the spur of the moment. I started planning this trip several months in advance. When I figured out that it wouldn't cost that much more to add the visit to the East Coast to my business trip, I began calling and e-mailing all the relatives in the area with whom I had been corresponding but had never met. I kept a running list of everyone I was trying to see, those from whom I had heard back and had confirmed, those with whom I was still trying to work something out, and those who had not yet responded. My schedule shaped up over the course of about a month.

I ended up with four visits to New York and to Long Island during the five days of my visit. On two of the days I visited with two different relatives. The day I went into Manhattan, I decided it would be far easier to take the subway, so I didn't drive that day.

In preparation for the trip, I made sure that I had updated all my family trees as much as I could, and I mailed copies to everyone before I left. I also brought copies with me on each visit, along with a list of the most important questions I hoped to have answered.

I had the great pleasure of meeting almost two dozen of my cousins. One of the older cousins (about 85 at the time) set up a luncheon at her condo with her daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter, and sister-in-law. Apparently I was a big hit even before I arrived, because they were so intrigued and excited by the fact that I wanted to come and meet them in person.

The trip was invaluable. I have found that talking to people in person and getting a conversation going seemed to help them remember more. I heard many wonderful family stories. I probably would not have gotten any other way. I made connections I have maintained to this day, with cards and letters. I also got to meet some of those relatives shortly before they died, an opportunity I would have hated to miss.

Oh, and the one day that I didn't go into New York? I stayed in New Jersey and found the grave of my great-grandfather and the ancestral home of my father's mother's family. It has been in the family since 1840, and the original house is still there.

I heartily recommend making trips to meet relatives if you can. The opportunities they afford can not be replicated by phone, mail, or the Internet.

Rescuer of Yiddish Books Will Speak at the Jewish Community Library

Aaron Lansky, founder and president of the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts and author of "Outwitting History," set out to rescue the world's remaining Yiddish books in 1980. Scholars believed at the time that fewer than 70,000 Yiddish books still existed. Twenty-five years later Lansky has rescued 1.5 million books and has enlisted Steven Spielberg to digitize the collection.

Lansky will speak Sunday, March 20 at 4 p.m. at the Jewish Community Library. This program will take place an hour after the March SFBAJGS program at the library. Come and make it a Jewish heritage afternoon by attending both programs.

Other programs of interest to genealogists include "Is Everything Old New Again?" on Thursday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m. Stuart Brotman and Josh Horowitz,

two of the central figures of the klezmer revival, will explore klezmer music's vibrant musical and cultural itinerary from its beginnings in Eastern Europe. They will play musical examples and rare recordings, discuss their field work, and lead a lively discussion on where the old and new worlds meet.

Historian Fred Rosenbaum will discuss East European Jews in San Francisco from 1880 to 1950. These immigrants founded colorful Jewish neighborhoods such as the Fillmore District and a lively cultural life. Rosenbaum is the founding director of Lehrhaus Judaica and author of three books on Bay Area Jewish history. He will speak at the library on Wednesday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m.

For more information visit www.bjesf.org.



25th IAJGS CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

10 - 15 July, 2005 Flamingo Hilton Las Vegas

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada, Inc. is proud to host the SILVER IAJGS anniversary conference for Jewish Genealogy in the SILVER STATE.

Register by May 1 and Save on Registration Fees.

For more information and registration visit www.jgssn.org.

Partial List of Speakers and Topics: Nancy Levin Arbeiter, C.G.R.S., *Beginners' Workshop in Genealogy; Castle Garden, The Barge Office & Manhattan's Piers*; Carol Davidson Baird, *Pajama Genealogy for German Jewish Research*; Arthur L. Benveniste, *Crypto-Jews: Their History, Culture & Return (How Secret Jews in the American Southwest, Iberia, Mexico & South America are Rediscovering their Heritage)*; Fay and Julian Bussgang, *Best Kept Secrets of Polish Genealogy: Lesser Known Sources*; Stanley Diamond, *Combining Genealogical and Family Trait Genetic Research, What's New in Jewish Records Indexing - Poland*; Judith R. Frazin, *19th Century Polish Language Records*; Ted Gostin, *Finding Anatevka: Using Maps and Gazetteers in Jewish Genealogy, Reading Russian Records for the Non-Russian Speaker, Russian Business Directories as a Genealogical Resource*; Davida Noyek Handler, *Introduction to Litvak SIG and What's New on the All Lithuanian Database*; Peter Lande, *Update on Holocaust Survivor and Victim Lists*; Hadassah Lipsius, *Polish Records Indexing Techniques*; Dr. Jeffrey S. Malka, *Sephardic Genealogy and Its Resources*; Gary Mokotoff, *How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust*; Stephen Morse, *Creating One-step Search Tools, Deep Linking and Deeper Linking: How to Get the Most Out of Existing Search Applications, One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Web Tools, Playing Hide and Seek in the 1910 to 1930 Census, White, Blue, Gray! What Color Ellis Island Search Form Should I Use?* Gladys Friedman Paulin, C.G.R.S., *Beyond the Names: Mining That City Directory, Do Documents Lie?: Records Created by and for Our Immigrant Ancestors, Those Indexes: What They Do and Don't Tell You*; Joan Glanz Rimmon, *Creating Family Newsletters*; Dr. Neil Rosenstein, *Debunking Rabbinic Genealogy Myths, Rabbinic Genealogy*; Joanne Sher, *Galveston Plan: Jewish Immigrants Through the Port of Galveston, TX, Genealogical Information Found On Jewish Headstones*; Paul Silverstone, *Aliyah Bet: The Clandestine Immigration to Palestine, 1938-1948*; Shelly Weiner, M.L.S., *Genealogical Ills: Using Inter-library Loan for Your Genealogical Research*; Stephanie Weiner, *Non-traditional Family Relationships: Issues of Privacy and Confidentiality in Constructing a Family Tree*; Suzan Wynne, *Galician Marriages, Unusual Sources (U.S. Records)*.

The Search for Andre Galanter

by Adrienne Franck Adams

Reprinted with permission from *Family Legacies*, Volume 7, #4, 2004,
the newsletter of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada, Inc.

July, 2000: I discovered that it was possible to conduct genealogical research via the web. I told my father, Joseph Alexander Franck III, and he immediately said, "See if you can find my cousin, Andre Galanter. My dad (David Abraham Franck), fought for the Americans in France in World War I and took his discharge in Paris and spent it with his cousin, Andre. When your mother and I were in Paris in 1969, we searched through all five Paris telephone directories and called directory assistance, and still we were unable to find him." I wanted to do this for my father to repay him for his gift of the computer and because I love him.

July, 2002: I'd begun to doubt that Andre Galanter ever existed. I'd found nothing on Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org, Jewishgen.org, or any other genealogical site. I checked my e-mail and opened the Avotaynu newsletter. There was a link to a French governmental site which had recently released an on-line list of the World War II Jewish deportees of France. I decided to search through every name, hoping NOT to find Andre's name. I didn't, but I did find the name of his father, Smil Galanter, who was deported and perished at Auschwitz on September 25, 1942. Suddenly, the search became more urgent.

Summer, 2003: After another year spent without finding a clue, I ran a search for Rachel DINER FRANCK, Andre's maternal grandmother (my step-g-g-grandmother) on Ancestry.com. I found my first written proof of Andre's existence. His grandmother had emigrated to the U.S. after her husband's (my g-g-grandfather's) death in 1908, and had been living with one of her sons (one of my g-g-uncles, a naturalized U.S. citizen) in New York. The entry at Ellis Island was made on her return trip in 1910. The manifest listed the address where she'd resided while abroad: "92 rue de Charonne, Paris, visiting her grandson, Andre Galanter." I jumped to the Ellis Island site and typed "Andre Galanter" on a whim. Voila! Andre had visited one of his uncles in New York in August, 1924! His age was listed as 16 years, 10 months. Now I had an approximate date of birth: October, 1907. The trail ended there. I could get no further. Still nothing on the genealogical sites, and thankfully, nothing at Yad Vashem, the Auschwitz Death Lists, the Red Cross. I registered Smil Galanter with Yad Vashem and all but gave up. Enter Charlotte Showel...

October, 2004: I told Charlotte Showel (president of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada) my story. She said, "Post your query to the SIGs (Special Interest Groups)." I acquiesced but had little hope in my heart. I posted a brief summary on the French SIG on October 21, 2004. On October 22—the next day — Eve Line Blum-Cherchovsky of the Cercle de Genealogie Juive (Paris) responded. She'd located three Galanthers on Infobel and asked if I'd like her to write letters on my behalf. What could I say? After four years and little to show for it, I couldn't believe that such a wonderful human being existed who was willing to help without a \$400 deposit! Then Eve Line e-mailed and explained WHY she felt it was important to help with queries related to the deportations. Her mother had been deported in 1943; her father in 1944. Neither returned. (In 1994, the 50-year anniversary of her father's deportation, Eve Line began a ten-year quest to discover the story of her father's convoy, "Convoy 73." The precise history of Convoy 73 and Eve Line's father's final resting place remain a mystery, but as an act of love and to honor her father's memory, she has united the survivors and families of victims and survivors of this notorious convoy through a website and a five-volume work containing all known information plus survivor and witness testimonies. She is most generously donating a copy of her five-volume work to the Sperling/Mack/Kronberg Resource Library & Media Center for Holocaust Studies (in Las Vegas).

So, Eve Line wrote letters to the Galanthers listed with Infobel, and she kept in touch. Then she wrote more letters— to the town hall in Paris — and again, she kept in touch. I wrote to the town hall for the 11th arrondissement, to the CDJC (Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine), the DMPA (Direction de la Memoire du Patrimoine et des Archives), and everywhere else that she suggested. It was time to wait, and to hope.

November 5, 2005: Only 15 days after my October 21 posting to the French SIG, Eve Line e-mailed me with the results of her inquiries. I gasped. "Andre Galanter, male, born 17 September 1907, at 6:00 p.m. Married in Lyon (6th) on 21 May 1942 to Barbara Siberbauer. Died in Neuilly-sur-Seine (Hauts-de-Seine) on 17 March 1988." Andre had survived World War II. In only 15 days, this amazing woman found

Continued on page 8

President's Message, cont. from page 2

In other news, the Society kicked off its 2005 series of presentations with a fascinating lecture by Paul Hamburg, (deep breath) Research, Reference and Collections Librarian for the Judaica Collection at UC Berkeley. Paul graciously and carefully walked us through the intricacies of searching the catalog and the specialties of the Judaica Collection. He will reprise his presentation in October in Berkeley.

The Society's Cemetery Name-Indexing Project is gathering steam under the watchful eyes of Pierre Hahn and Sita Likuski. They still welcome volunteers to undertake the transcription of the handwritten records. If anyone is interested, please email Sita at sital@comcast.net.

Finally, if any of you actually find yourself with time on your hands, there are several upcoming events worth attending. The Bureau of Jewish Education's Jewish Community Library has announced its Spring 2005 program, with lectures, music and films galore. Go to www.bjesf.org for more information.

The Association of Jewish Libraries will be holding its 40th Annual Convention at the Oakland Marriott Hotel, June 19-22. Go to www.jewishlibraries.org/ajlweb/home.htm and click on "Convention" for information. Our own Society member, Hillary Farkas, is seeking volunteers to assist in various capacities. Her e-mail is hillarystanfarkas@sbcglobal.net.

I look forward to seeing as many Society members as possible throughout the year.

Jeremy G Frankel

President

Are You a Missing Heir?

Ever wondered if a distant relative died leaving an unclaimed fortune? All state Comptroller offices are charged with holding stocks, bank funds, and other materials until they are claimed. This could be a way to locate "lost" relatives, perhaps even more meaningful for a genealogist than a missing fortune.

The following URL: www.unclaimed.org/mainframe.asp?VisitorType=owner lets you click on a state, bringing up the URL for that state's comptroller. Follow the instructions for searching for a name. Results will show the name and last known address for that person. Each state must be searched separately.

Galanter, cont. from page 7

what my father couldn't find in 35 years, and what I couldn't find in more than four.

November 11, 2004: Eve Line e-mailed me with the response to yet another letter she'd written on my behalf. She'd found Andre's granddaughter and through the granddaughter, Andre's and Barbara's only son! Marion Galanter Ceccaldi and her father, Jean Galanter, e-mailed the same day — and now we are a family re-establishing a connection that was severed by World War II. A 35-year search has been completed, thanks to a suggestion made by Charlotte Showel, and the compassion and humanity of Eve Line Blum-Cherchovsky. Thank you, Charlotte. Thank you with all my heart, Eve Line. And my father thanks you both.

Call for Historical Objects for the Jewish Historical Society of Napa Valley

The Jewish Historical Society of Napa Valley plans to mount an exhibit at the Napa Valley Museum in mid-2005, to become part of the Museum's permanent exhibition: "Napa Valley-The Land and the People."

The JHSNV is sending out a "call for objects," including photographs, artifacts, newspaper articles, Jewish ceremonial items, diaries, small articles of clothing, and commercial goods bearing Napa Valley advertisements that relate to the themes of commerce, farming, viticulture, banking, community organizations and social life. Of particular interest are objects that bring forth the Napa Valley story from 1848 to the 1930s and have inscription and personal identification to key Napa Valley institutions and/or personages.

All loans or gifts to the exhibit will be acknowledged and should be made available by March 30, 2005. Please consider sharing your family history with the community. Contact JHSNV@napanet.net or call (707) 251-9092 or (707) 259-5332, or contact Sue Morris, curator, at sumorris@sbcglobal.net.

Israel Genealogical Society Offers Assistance in Locating Submitters of Pages of Testimony

by Martha Lev-Zion, President, Israel Genealogical Society

Shalom friends! We in the Israel Genealogical Society [IGS] have noticed the large volume of letters to *Jewishgen* requesting help with finding Israeli submitters of Pages of Testimony. We would like to help you and have set up a process whereby you can send us your queries and we will field them for you.

They will stay on our website www.isragen.org.il where everyone similarly wanting to find submitters of pages of testimony or their descendants will post their queries. We will publicize the site around Israel so that people can check in from time to time to see if they know anyone or can help you in your search.

Send inquiries to Rose Feldman at rosef@post.tau.ac.il. Include all the following information:

- Testimony regarding: [Last name, First name]
- Country of origin or pre-war residence
- Name of submitter of Testimony
- Relationship to deceased
- Year of submission to Yad Vashem
- Address and telephone number of Page of Testimony submitter.

If the information is in Hebrew or Russian and you

cannot read it, state the language it is in and we will complete the information.

- Your name
- Your email and phone number
- Date of posting your inquiry

Out of courtesy to the volunteers who are helping you, please notify us if you have received information on how to contact the submitter or have had success in contacting the submitter or his descendants, so that we can note this on the list and avoid duplicate efforts.

Please note: Some unethical people may try to take advantage of the efforts of the Israel Genealogical Society to help you. We are not responsible for anyone who offers his services in exchange for a fee, nor do we recommend any professional genealogists. The IGS' sole interest is to help fellow genealogists find their families in Israel. Our services are free of charge.

Reprinted from the Israel Genealogical Society website at www.isragen.org.il.

On-Line Visitors to Pages of Testimony Get Response from Yad Vashem

Since the Yad Vashem website opened its on-line database of Pages of Testimony in November, 2004, the response has been massive.

Pages of Testimony are queries that have been and may still be submitted in memory of those murdered in the Holocaust. The searchable database is located at www.yadvashem.org.

Nadia Kahan, Director of Reference and Information Services for Yad Vashem, said in a letter posted on the Israel Genealogical Society website dated December 15, 2004, that at that time the site had already received more than 2.75 million visitors.

She noted that Yad Vashem is working its way through comments and corrections that have been sent to the website. For those who had technical difficulties at first, she suggested trying again. An

appendix has been added to the site's Frequently Asked Questions with suggestions for those who still experience technical difficulties.

Another appendix has been added with guidelines regarding corrections.

"After corrections, the most frequently asked questions are about locating submitters. Unfortunately we rarely have information beyond what can be found on the Pages of Testimony," the letter continued.

"The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names is a work in progress, and the product of cooperation between the public and Yad Vashem. We continue to welcome your corrections, comments, photographs, and new Pages of Testimony, even if there may be a delay in our replies," she concluded.

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 at P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147, or send an e-mail to Larry Burgheimer at BurgAuer@aol.com.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Town, Country</u>	<u>Member</u>
BARSHUP BINDERMAN BLUM BOWMAN BRAININ	Russia; Los Angeles, CA Krustpils, Latvia Porozovo, Grodno, Belarus Anywhere Krustpils, Latvia	Goodman, Joanne Sellers, Janice Sellers, Janice Khasen, Muriel Heller, Gloria
COHEN CZYZ EICHER FREIDMAN GERSON	New York, NY; Detroit, MI; Los Angeles, CA Motol, Belarus Belarus Ciechanow, Poland Anywhere	Goodman, Joanne Rhodes, Lynn E. Shapria, Meir Sellers, Janice Rhodes, Lynn E.
GORODETSKY GOVEZYONSKY JAFFE JOSEPH KANTOROVICZ	Kamenets, Orinin, Ukraine; Kishinev, Moldova Nesvizh, Belarus Krustpils, Latvia Mannheim, Germany; Virginia (Colonial), United States Nesvizh, Belarus	Sellers, Janice Rhodes, Lynn E Sellers, Janice Sellers, Janice Rhodes, Lynn E
KARDISH KREBS LEFCOWITZ MCSTROUL MECKLER	Kamenets, Khotin, Ukraine Schakenau, Poland Grodno Gub., Belarus Margineni, Romania Kamenetz, Belarus	Sellers, Janice Sellers, Janice Khasen, Muriel Sellers, Janice Sellers, Janice
NOVITSKY OBERSTEIN ORLOWSKY PEREDEIKO PERLMAN	Porozovo, Grodno, Belarus Grodno, Belarus Bakhmach, Glukhov, Ukraine Grodno, Belarus Anywhere	Sellers, Janice Sellers, Janice Sellers, Janice Sellers, Janice Khasen, Muriel
PETREBNIK POSKANZER PRUZANSKY PUSHKANTSER RELDER	Grodno Gub., Belarus Rumsiskes, Lithuania Motol, Belarus Rumsiskes, Lithuania Russia; Los Angeles, CA	Khasen, Muriel Poskanzer, Art Rhodes, Lynn E. Poskanzer, Art Goodman, Joanne
SCHNEIDER SCHNEIDERMANN SHAPIRO SHULMAN/SCHULMAN STRUHL	Vysokoye, Belarus Kamenets Podolskiy, Orinin, Ukraine; Kishinev, Moldova Belarus Russia Margineni, Romania	Rhodes, Lynn E. Sellers, Janice Shapria, Meir Goodman, Joanne Sellers, Janice
YELSKY ZABINSKY	Porozovo, Grodno, Belarus Motol, Belarus	Sellers, Janice Rhodes Lynn E.

PAST MEETINGS

Berkeley Librarian Invites SFBAJGS to Utilize World Class Resource

by Beth Galleto, Editor, *ZichronNote*

Sometimes as genealogists we travel to places like Salt Lake City or Washington D.C. to take advantage of research resources. At the same time, we may be ignoring one of the world's best libraries, here at home in the Bay Area.

Paul Hamburg, research, reference and collections librarian for the Judaica Collection at U.C. Berkeley, kept an audience of more than 30 interested and engaged with his step-by-step exposition of complicated search techniques. He spoke at the January 18 meeting of the SFBAJGS in San Francisco.

Hamburg said that the U.C. Berkeley library, the world's third largest academic library following Harvard and Yale, is about to acquire its 10 millionth volume. The library is open to the public, and many of its resources are available only on campus. Any California resident can buy borrowing privileges for \$100 a year.

The U.C. Berkeley library acquires about 150 Hebrew character books per month. Hamburg's responsibility is to acquire materials in the area where Judaica and Hebraica intersect; these materials are mainly written in Hebrew character languages.

The library's catalogues are accessible at www.lib.berkeley.edu. Hamburg demonstrated searches through the MELVYL on-line catalogue, performing a number of sample searches in MELVYL to show how changing variables changes the results.

Hamburg told the group that the name "Melvyl" comes from the first name of Dewey who invented the Dewey Decimal library classification system. Dropping such tidbits of knowledge throughout his talk, the speaker noted that the Library of Congress classification system was invented by Thomas Jefferson. The software for MELVYL was developed in Israel and is used by Harvard, Berkeley, the Jewish Theological Seminary and other academic libraries.

MELVYL has two modes, basic and advanced. The basic mode searches only one major field, while the advanced mode allows a search of multiple fields at the same time. When searching by title, the words in a book's title must be entered in exact order, with the definite article deleted.

A complication when searching for Judaica is the fact that at this time MELVYL is only searchable in Roman characters. Titles in Russian or Hebrew must be transcribed. Transliteration rules for Hebrew and Yiddish can be found on the website. For Judaica, go to "Collections" and click "J" for Judaica.

If the transcription includes characters with diacritical marks, using or not using them can give a different result. Hamburg recommended ignoring diacritical marks, but if in doubt, to search both ways. He reminded his listeners that the on-line catalog is the result of work done by thousands of people, and that people can make mistakes.

Another on-line catalog is Berkeley's own system, known as Pathfinder. It includes a call number browse function that is like walking along a bookshelf in the stacks. The speaker suggested finding the call number for the topic of interest by searching Google under "Library of Congress Classification," then browsing the shelves at U.C. Berkeley by entering the number in Pathfinder. Books not kept in the stacks on campus may be kept in the Northern Regional Library Facility, the Richmond section of the U.C. library, where they can be located by accession number. The Pathfinder catalogue searches both the Berkeley and the Northern Regional Libraries.

Hamburg even told his audience where to park on the campus. (He recommended the Sather Gate parking lot on Telegraph between Channing and Durant.) Having set foot on the campus, a person can search any library catalogue in the world.

Family History Center Opens in Marin

The Marin Family History Center, the most complete genealogical research facility in Marin County, is now open to the public. It offers free personal training, free access to premium on-line databases, and microfilms from the Family History library in Salt Lake City. For hours visit www.maringensoc.org.

The center will hold a public open house Saturday, February 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Research experts and local enthusiasts will be on hand. The center is located in the meetinghouse of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 220 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael, east of the Marin Civic Center.

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ZichronNote

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