



זכרונות ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXVII, Number 4

November 2007

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. Nov. 18, San Francisco: *Doing Research in Poland.* Judy Baston, SFBAJGS member and a longtime researcher of Polish records, will discuss a variety of ways to find your Polish ancestral town, how to determine what records exist for your town, and how to make the most of the JRI-Poland database and website — as well as other hints to help enhance your Polish research. Baston is a member of the Executive Committee of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland and volunteer librarian at the Jewish Community Library.

Sun. Dec. 9, San Francisco: *A Wealth of World Jewish Records.* Michael Goldstein is a Jerusalem-based genealogist who researches, mentors, lectures, and conducts workshops in Israel and North America. He carries out worldwide Jewish research and guides North Americans in locating and connecting with their Israeli family. He will discuss how Israeli archives and Internet sites have developed collections of historical and contemporary information about Jews from around the world, including Poland, Russia, Spain and China. This presentation will offer general guidelines about contacting and accessing Israeli archives. Goldstein will also share interesting case studies and data on how family mysteries were solved by accessing lesser known Israeli archives.

Sun. Jan. 13, San Francisco: *The Universe of Immigration Records.* Marian Smith, Historian at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (former INS). USCIS Historian Marian Smith's lecture will focus on records of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS, now USCIS) found at the National Archives and in Agency custody. It will begin with an overview of all types of records created and maintained over time, and how these records are distributed between the two agencies. Her talk will then cover the services and records becoming available through the new USCIS Genealogy Program. Finally, a question-and-answer session will address the particular interests and concerns of researchers.

Mon. Feb. 25, Los Altos Hills: *Our Heritage and Our Health: Genetic Conditions Among the Ashkenazim.* Gary Frohlich, a certified genetic counselor, will provide up-to-date information on the genetic conditions that occur more frequently in Jews of Ashkenazi descent. The program will include a patient advocate living with a genetic condition.

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

More Genealogy Events of Interest on Page 4

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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.

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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
2007, a Productive Year

By Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

Looking back over 2007 after coming from our 25th anniversary year, the Board and I are pleased to report that the Society has had yet another successful year. We organized 16 meetings spread over three meeting sites. As always, I thank all those members who made the effort to come hear a fascinating range of talks. Vice-President Rosanne Leeson and I continue to try to bring you the "Best of the Bay" by way of speakers who can offer us informative and enjoyable presentations.

We continue to work with other California Jewish Genealogical Societies to bring high profile speakers to California. In December we will be visited by Michael Goldstein, formerly of Canada, now living in Israel, and in January we will have Marian Smith, the Historian of the USCIS (formerly INS). Please review the Calendar on our website for the most up-to-date information.

The Society has also informally co-sponsored — with the San Francisco's Bureau of Jewish Education's Jewish Community Library (JCL) — the monthly one-on-one Genealogy sessions. These workshops are organized by Judy Baston, a long-standing Society member and former Society librarian. She is also a volunteer librarian at the JCL. A number of Society members have also been very generous in giving their time and experience to people who come to these sessions seeking advice. Participating Society members have included Marian Rubin, Beth Galletto, Ron Arons, Larry Burgheimer, Stephen Harris and Jeff Lewy, as well as myself.

An exciting culmination of these workshops occurred on Tuesday October 16th when Jim Van Buskirk, gave a fascinating presentation in the BJE/JCL Library on his discovery and subsequent research. Jim had attended several one-on-one sessions earlier in the year, dizzy with the recently discovered knowledge that he was Jewish.

While that has been the upside, I will not shirk from mentioning a major issue, which confronts all non-profits — the fear of declining membership. It is a fact that as we grow older and become more infirm and less able to carry out research, members decide to drop out. We need to find new blood, and this means tapping into the younger generations. This also means we have to reach out and embrace "new technology" and make our presence known using the methods younger people use. This obviously means finding out where Jewish people "congregate" on the Internet and letting them know

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SOCIETY NEWS

Slate of Officers for 2008-9

The SFBAJGS Board of Directors has accepted the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee. Four of the nominees are currently serving as officers and have agreed to run again and to serve again if elected. They include: President, Jeremy Frankel; Vice President, Rosanne Leeson; Secretary, James Koenig; and Membership Chair, Larry Burgheimer. Jeff Lewy has agreed to serve as Treasurer in the place of Dana Kurtz, who is stepping down after two terms.

All members will receive ballots in the mail and will be able to vote for the proposed slate. The ballots also include a write-in option. Ballots must be returned by December 31, 2007 to be counted.

President — Jeremy Frankel

I was born in London, England and trained as a cartographer and land surveyor. My professional work and various interests provided me with a good experience for when I began genealogy, my passion for over 20 years. My experience running a non-profit stems back to the early 1990s when I was Executive Director of a non-profit in upstate New York.

I have been a Society member since 1995 and President since 2003. I have added the East Bay to the roster of meeting places, ensured that the Society is on a sound financial footing and improved contacts with other genealogical societies and Jewish communal organizations.

I believe our major focus has to be directed towards sustaining membership and greater member involvement in the Cemetery Database Project.

I am also a member of the JGS Great Britain and an active participant in several online discussion groups.

Vice President — Rosanne Leeson

I originally joined the SFBAJGS in 1984, leaving after a couple of years because of lack of time. I rejoined, and have been an active member since 1992. I have been a member of the Board since 1997, becoming Vice President in 1999. I have continued ever since in that position.

I have been actively working on:

- The Cemetery Project
- Contributing to the *ZichronNote*
- Sharing the responsibility for programming meetings with President Jeremy Frankel,

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and arranging for and chairing the meetings at Beth Am

- The Research Guide, for which I conceived of the idea and actively contributed
- Setting up a California-wide network with other JGSs to share the cost of bringing out-of-area specialists and speakers to our members
- I have lectured at an IAJGS Conference, SFBAJGS meetings, and to a number of congregations in the area

I have been involved in researching my family genealogy for over 30 years, and am Co-Coordinator for two of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on JewishGen.

Treasurer — Jeff Lewy

I have been a Society member for about three years. I received an MBA many years ago, and shortly after that worked in the budget department of the late Trans World Airlines. I worked in finance during most of my career as an airport consultant and planner. I am now retired and have served on the boards of more than five non-profits in the last ten years. I have been active in the Society, including cemetery transcriptions, writing for the newsletter, helping at one-on-one genealogy workshops, and working on a plaque to memorialize the former San Francisco Jewish cemeteries in today's Dolores Park.

I got hooked on genealogy from a family album of identified photographs going back to my great-grandparents. I've enjoyed tracing my roots to the American South in the 1850s and before that to Germany and Poland.

I will work to provide the same high level of service as Dana Kurtz, who is glad someone else is offering to do this job.

Secretary — Jim Koenig

Jim Koenig has been a member of the SFBAJGS for the past dozen years. He has been an author of numerous articles on Jewish names, and always welcomes queries on the subject. For the past five

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CALENDAR, cont.

More Genealogy Events

State and National

Sun., Nov. 18, 1 p.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles. "A Wealth of Jewish Records: Researching in Israel."** Presented by Michael Goldstein. Genealogists seek information about their ancestors, yet few realize that one of the places to research is in Israel. Over the years, Israeli archives and internet sites have developed collections of historical and contemporary information about Jews from around the world, including Poland, Russia, Spain and China. Even those who know that Israeli archives hold the keys to solving family mysteries may not realize that advances have been made in easing access to data for worldwide research and finding Israeli family. University Synagogue. For more information visit www.jewishgen.org/jgsla. (Editor's note: Goldstein will speak to the SFBAJGS on Dec. 9 in San Francisco.)

Sun., Nov. 18, 10 a.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento.** Carol Davidson Baird will discuss "Beginning German-Jewish Genealogy from your Easy Chair." She will provide an overview of how to find, translate, and comprehend German records found at home, online, by mail and in local libraries. She will relate experiences from her 35 years of research from the days before computers to today's Internet world. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. For more information visit www.jgss.org or leave a message at 916-486-0906 ext. 361.

Sun., Dec. 16, 10 a.m. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento.** Archivist Aaron Kornblum will present a look at the Judah Magnes Museum's Western Jewish History Center in Berkeley, the world's largest repository of materials documenting the contribution of Jews to the life, experience and history of the American West. The Center, founded in 1967, includes 1000 reference volumes; 60 Jewish newspapers; thousands of photographs; dozens of paintings; and 50 oral histories. Albert Einstein Residence Center. See above for more information.

New Hours at Oakland FHC

Open hours at the Oakland LDS Family History Center have been changed to the following:

Sunday - Monday: closed.

Tuesday - Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Thursday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Poster Contest for Jewish Genealogy Month

Create a poster for Jewish Genealogy Month 2008 and win honor for the SFBAJGS. The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies holds an annual competition for a piece of work that can be used as a poster or flyer for announcing and celebrating Jewish Genealogy Month. The winning poster/flyer will be unveiled at the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Chicago this summer, and the artist creating the winning entry will receive free registration for the conference.

The flyer/poster must

- Include a 3.5 in. x 3.5 in. area for the IAGS logo plus www.iajgs.org
- Include a 3 in. x 5 in. blank area for local society name and contact info.
- Be submitted as JPEG via e-mail attachment (or appropriate format)
- Include the words: Jewish Genealogy Month: Cheshvan, with the appropriate English calendar dates.
- The poster may include the words: Submitted by San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society.
- The poster may include the artist's signature.

Entries are due by April 1, 2008. Jewish Genealogy Month 2008 will be during the month of Cheshvan, October 30 to November 27. With all of the creative members of the SFBAJGS, we should be able to have entries from one or more of our members to do honor to us all. For more information visit www.iajgs.org/jgmonth.html.

One-on-One Help with Your Family Tree

Take advantage of the Jewish Community Library's extensive reference collection and Internet connection to countless searchable databases, along with one-on-one guidance from experienced genealogists from the SFBAJGS. Longtime Library volunteer staffer Judy Baston, as well as Ron Arons, Larry Burgheimer, Jeremy Frankel, Beth Galletto, Steve Harris, Jeff Lewy, Marian Rubin and other veteran researchers are on hand to help with brainstorming and problem-solving.

Bring your materials and your questions. This year's dates include November 11, December 2, January 6, and February 3. Registration is requested but not required. Call (415) 567-3327, ext. 704.

Sessions take place from noon to 2 p.m. at the Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco. Free parking in the garage on Pierce Street.

Sentimental Journey: Finding Family in Old Hungary, Part III

by Vivian Kahn

Vivian Kahn began the story of her search for her Hungarian roots in the November 2005 and February 2006 issues. Part III continues her description of the trip she took to Budapest, Miskolc and Kosice in Hungary and Michalovce and Sobrance in what is now Slovakia. The third installment includes conclusions she has drawn from her travels and ideas that will be helpful to other researchers. Vivian is searching for members of the **MOSKOVITS**, **NEUMANN**, **KAHAN**, and **BERKOVICS** families.

World War II and the Shoah were less than 10 years in the past when I found my grandmother Hermina's box of pictures. When I asked about the people in the pictures all she said was that they had died in the war. It was almost four decades later, after I had become a parent, that I started researching my roots and began to learn about my father's family — how they had lived and how few of them had left Hungary before it was too late.

My father Elemer Neumann and his two older brothers were born in Kereszt, a very small place in the plains of northeastern Hungary below the Carpathian foothills. This area used to be near the middle of Ung megye (county), Hungary. Two wars and a century later it's now Kristy, Slovakia, and not far from the Ukrainian border. My great-grandfather Miksa Neuman had operated a large farm in Kereszt and his son Viktor, my paternal grandfather, became a tobacco farm manager. After the start of World War I, my father and his family moved west and lived near Miskolc. By 1920 they had returned to Michalovce, formerly Nagymihaly, Hungary, in the area where my paternal relatives had lived since at least the beginning of the 19th century. My grandmother's parents, Markus Moskovits and Sali Kohn — as well as a number of other relatives — lived in or near Michalovce, which was soon to become part of the new nation of Czechoslovakia.

The Neumann family strongly identified with Hungary but in 1920 initiation of the Numerus Clausus, a new quota system and a harbinger of much worse things to come, made it impossible for my father to enter university to study engineering. He left for New York about a week before my grandfather Viktor's death on December 31, 1920. By March, 1921, my grandmother and the rest of the Neumann offspring had all moved to

New York City. My great-uncle Moricz Moskovits and his family had left Bunkocz (Bunkovce), east of Nagymihaly, before World War I and were living in the Washington Heights area of Manhattan. But at least seven of Hermina's siblings and, as far as I knew, virtually all of my father's paternal relatives had remained in Europe.

Some of Michalovce's old streets were still relatively intact when we visited there in 2005, but Andrassy utca, where my father lived before he and his family came to New York, was now Stefanikova, a broad avenue lined with post-war Soviet-style apartment blocks. It seemed unlikely that I would find anyone who would have remembered my family. In fact, the only evidence that Jews ever lived in this place was the cemetery and a nondescript memorial plaque on the wall of the hospital which



My father Elemer Neumann (back row right) and his family, Michalovce, Slovakia, 1920. (Front from left) Hermina Moskovits Neumann, Klary and Viktor Neumann. (Back row) Lajos, Blanka, Miksa, Margit, and Elemer.

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Hungarian Voyage, cont. from page 5



Andrássy utca, Nagymihály, Hungary (now Michalovce, Slovakia) before World War II

occupies the site across from the Town Hall where the orthodox synagogue once stood.

By 2005, I had already learned the names of most (perhaps all) of my grandmother Hermina's brothers and sisters and some of their children. I also had names and dates for at least some of my grandfather Viktor's siblings. Thanks to JewishGen's mail lists, I had located two great-grandsons of Gyula Moskovits, my grandmother's oldest brother, and had a wonderful reunion with my cousin Pavel Simko in Vienna. His father Stefan, a doctor and reportedly the first Jew to become a general in the Slovak army, died in his hometown of Kosice in 2002.

From information in letters sent to my grandmother right after the war, I knew that a few other relatives had also survived. Eva Grunvald, whose father Imre from Homonna was my dad's first cousin, was born in Bratislava in 1932. I found her along with her parents in a list of survivors who had returned there in 1946. Marika Vero, the daughter of my father's cousin Piroska Markus Vero, was born in Debrecen in 1942. Marika's father Zoltan died in the Labor Battalion and she was deported to Strasshof with her mother in 1944. By 1946, Piroska and Marika had moved to Budapest where Piroska remarried.

My three-week trip to Hungary and Slovakia yielded a few nuggets of information that might have taken much longer to unearth if I hadn't made the journey. Even though it was somewhat disappointing that I didn't find that many new records, I decided early on that the primary objective for this trip was to explore the places where my family lived. Rather than spending hours in archives looking for records that may eventually be filmed by the FHL or turn up on-line, it was much more satisfying to see the people, buildings, and landscapes. We also visited museums in Budapest, Kosice, Michalovce, and Bratislava. Having seen the countryside around Sobrance where

my father was born, I better understand, for example, why he never seemed to enjoy city life. The Carpathian foothills east of Sobrance reminded me, in fact, of the agricultural areas that I remember seeing during childhood visits to the Catskills.

From records kept at the Michalovce Town Hall, I learned the names of my grandmother Hermina's maternal grandparents, Iszak Kohn and Anna Lefkovics. I also found out from her father's headstone that Hermina's paternal grandfather was Avraham haLevi Moskovits. Other Moskovits and Lefkovics relatives, some of whom I hadn't known of before, were buried near my great-grandparents in the well-kept cemetery in Michalovce. It was frustrating, however, that I was unable to find any trace of my paternal grandfather's family. I already knew that his father's name was Meier (Meier Shlomo haLevi, to be exact) but none of the matzevot surrounding my grandfather Viktor's impressive granite monument were engraved with the name Neumann or any of the other surnames associated with his family. Also, even though my great-grandmother Sali's death was listed in the Michalovce record books, there was no mention of her place of birth.

Before making the trip to Hungary and Slovakia in 2005, I knew from records that a friend's contacts had copied in the Uzhorod archives that my grandfather Viktor had at least two brothers and two sisters and my father had several first cousins born in Szobrancz. The records from Uzhorod had reported the marriages of two great-aunts Roza Teres and Josefina as well as the names of three children — Ferencz, Margit, and Anna — born to Josefina and her husband Ignacz Rosenberg. Marriage records in Uzhorod indicated that Rosa had married Simon Zicherman, a young man from Szobrancz, and Josefina's husband was Izek Rosenberg from Ungvar. No one in the family had ever spoken of these families.

After my father's youngest sister died in 1998, my cousin had sent a box of pictures and letters. One of the pictures was a studio portrait of a dapper young man whom I now knew was my great-uncle Markus, the youngest of the Neumann siblings. This picture had been taken by a photographer on Kossuth Lajos utcza (street) in Budapest. On the back were two handwritten inscriptions. One said, "To my dear sister-in-law Hermin and my brother Victor, Love Marci." The other, in a different hand, states, "Uncle Marci died at home, December 1912." I was unable find Marci's grave in the on-line list of burials in Hungarian cemeteries (www.oroklet.hu) or in JewishGen's on-line burial registry (www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/) Did Marci, who died at the age of 29, have a wife and children?

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Hungarian Voyage, cont. from page 6

I returned home from my trip with many memories, dozens and dozens of pictures, and a few more names and dates. Not much, but enough to continue research using JewishGen's All Hungary Database (www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary/) and the immense, although often unreliable, Yad Vashem Central Database of Names (www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY_HON_Welcome).

The record of my great-grandmother's death that I found in Michalovce listed only her parents' names and the year of her birth. Finding a birth record for the right Sali Kohn seemed difficult but knowing her parents names helped to narrow the investigation. Searching the All-Hungary Database (AHD) for a record with both Kohn and Lefkovics yielded only one return out of more than half a million entries — an 1869 census record for Izak Kohn and Anna Lefkovics living in Zbegnyo (Zbehnov), a town southwest of Michalovce. The couple had five children: Mozes, Lajb, Markus, Herman, and Czila. No surprise that my great-grandmother Sali wasn't mentioned, since she was already married and living in Sobrance by 1869. The full record (FHL Film # 719802) listed the years of birth and birthplaces of her father Iszak in Tarnoka (Trnavka) and mother Anna in a place with a name that looked



My great-grandmother Sali Kohn Moskovits, Budapest, c. 1915

like Kolbaj. Trnavka is a few meters from Zbehnov but Kolbaj could be either Kolbaszo, now Kolbasov in the northeastern corner of Slovakia about 40 km northeast of Sobrance, or Kolbasa, now Brezina, southwest of Trebisov and closer to Hungary.

The names Izak and Mozes Kohn both appeared as witnesses in the transcriptions of birth records of two of Sali's children. While these names are not uncommon, having all three appear in the Sobrance birth records seemed to be too much of a coincidence. Even though my great-grandmother Sali's name didn't appear in the 1869 census record, I was already convinced that Izak and Anna from Zbegnyo were



Great-uncle Marci Neumann, Budapest, c. 1905

my great-great-grandparents. Information from other Zbegnyo and Galzecs (Secovce, Slovakia) records filmed by the Mormon Family History Library (FHL Films #1924884, item 3, and # 629837) confirmed my suspicions. My great-grandmother Sali was listed in an earlier list of Jewish residents along with her other brothers and one sister — eight siblings in all.

Using the 1869 Census of Zemplen megye (county), I identified some of the others buried in Michalovce near my great-grandparents. Leopold (Aryeh ben Menachem haLevi) and his mother Rosza (Ruchel bat Josef) Lefkovits were living in Lasztomer (Lastomir, Slovakia) with Mendely (Menachem ha Levi) Moskovits.

Rosza, who is buried next to my great-grandparents, was born in Kismihaly (Mihajlo), also near Snina. But I was no closer to knowing whether Rosza was my great-grandmother Sali's aunt or cousin or how Mendel, who was born in Lasztomer in 1833, was related to my great-grandfather Markusz.



My great-grandfather Markusz (Marek) Moskovits c. 1915

I had already gone through the Ellis Island passenger manifests and the 1920 and 1930 census records trying, with some success, to find if my father had any relatives in the United States other than his immediate family and his uncle Moricz, Hermina's brother. Searching the list of immigrants who identified Zbegnyo as a birthplace, I found Lipot Kohn, my great-grandmother Sali's brother, who settled in Cleveland in

1912. Lipot, a tavern-owner in Zbegnyo, had seven children and a slew of grandchildren — my father's second cousins.

There were Moskovits, Neumanns, Rosenbergs, and Zichermans from Sobrance, Michalovce, and Ungvar, but none that specifically matched those I had found in the records or the cemetery. I also continued to send messages to JewishGen's Hungarian SIG mail list and to Janos Bogardi's Radix Forum (www.radixforum.com/) seeking information about my lost relatives. The sad conclusion was that I was more likely to find information about these

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Hungarian Voyage, cont. from page 7

families in the Yad Vashem database of names of Shoah victims.

Using the Advanced Search feature, I began looking for Shoah victims by entering their birth places, father's first name, mother's maiden name, and other combinations of variables. This was how I had found my father's cousin Bela Grunvald (mother's name Moskovits Karolina) and learned that Piroska Vero's husband Zoltan was the son of Abraham Weiszberger and Zsofia Feldmesser. Searching for victims named Moskovits born in Michalovce whose father was named Leopold, I found two records submitted by Alice Sussholz from Los Angeles. I was unable to find Alice in Los Angeles but using the Social Security Death Index learned that she had died in Chicago. From that information I was able to locate her son Stephen, an architect living in Chicago. Stephen put me in touch with Marvin Moss, a cousin in California, who shared the detailed information he has assembled about the descendants of Leopold Moskovits, the butcher from Michalovce who is buried next to my great-grandparents. No definitive information has yet come to light, but I suspect that Stephen's great-grandfather Mendel (Menachem ha Levi) Moskovits from Lastomir was a brother of my great-grandfather Markus (Mordechai haLevi) and that's why Leopold and his mother Rosza are buried so close to my great-grandparents.

Sometimes the search is more complex. I thought that I had used all of the variables to try to find out anything about the fate of my great-aunts Josefine Neumann Rosenberg and Rosza Teres Neumann Zicherman, but apparently not. Instead of entering Rosenberg as the name of the victim, I tried searching for records submitted by someone with the surname Rosenberg for a victim named Josefine with the maiden name of Neumann — not Josephine and without a family name. One name appeared — Rotman Josefine from Ungvar, born 1870. The Page of Testimony (POT) itself listed Josefine's maiden name as Neumann and her *first* married name as Rosenberg. Although I knew that my great-aunt had been born in Szobranc, not Ungvar, this was clearly the one. The testimony had been submitted by Robert Miklos Rosenberg, who gave addresses in Vienna and Israel and identified himself as Josefine's nephew. According to the POT, Josefine perished at Auschwitz in 1944. I continued searching and saw that Mr. Rosenberg had submitted testimony for many victims, at least some of whom had to be my relatives.

I sent a message to JewishGen's discussion list asking for help in finding Robert Miklos Rosenberg from Vienna or Israel. The next day I received an e-mail

from Alexander Rosenberg whose late father was the one who had submitted the testimony for my great-aunt and all of the other POTs. He gave me the e-mail address for his cousin Gerda Frey in Vienna and the proverbial brick wall began to tumble down.

Gerda sent me a tree she had prepared showing that my great-aunt's husband Ignac was one of at least 11 children born in Ungvar to David Rosenberg and Eszter Reisman. Gerda wrote that she even remembered meeting my great-aunt Josza during a visit to Ungvar before the war! My great-aunt gave birth to at least five children before Ignac died in 1899 at the age of 34. A few years later she married Lipot Rotman, a widower with children. Josefine and Ignac's children, my father's first cousins, included not only Ferencz, Terez, and Anna, whose names were in the records found in Uzhorod, but two other daughters, Margit and Maria (Mariska). Josefine and Ignac moved to Ungvar sometime in the late 1890's. A colleague in Israel who had access to a copy of the Ungvar pinkas (burial records) scanned pages for me and I now know that Ignac is buried there with his parents and his daughter Anna, who died in childbirth in 1912. I have found no trace of Ferencz, Josefine's oldest and only known son, who may have died in childhood.

Miklos Rosenberg, himself a survivor of the Labor Battalion, wasn't the only one to submit testimony for the family of Ignac and Josefine Rosenberg. By piecing together information from the Yad Vashem database I learned that my great-aunt Josefine and at least 10 other members of this branch of the family perished. The sad list includes daughter Terez, her husband Emil Schulhof, their daughters Erzsi and Anci, Erszi's daughter Monique and Anci's three-year old son Robi. Mariska and her husband Emanuel Rosenblum were deported from Szatmarnemeti with their 19-year old daughter Judit Ottilia. To my knowledge, my second-cousin Dicike was the only one in the family who was named for our great-grandmother Ottilie Polacsek Neumann. Her 22-year old brother Gabor survived the war only to die in 1946, reportedly a victim of the Romanian Secret Service. Josefine's daughter Margit also perished but her son, Marcel Friedmann, escaped and went to Egypt to fight the Nazis under British Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery.

It was exhilarating to learn the names of my cousin Marci's children and other cousins who now live in Hungary and Israel. Marci had gone to Israel after the war and married Bruria Avi Shaul. He Magyarized his name to Forgacs when they returned to Budapest and they had four children. Using Google, I was able to find them all. Veronika is a doctor in Dunaujvaros, Peter is one of Hungary's best known

Continued on next page

Hungarian Voyage, cont. from page 8

media artists (www.forgacspeter.hu/eng/main/cv/cv.htm), Andras is a writer (cyberpress.sopron.hu/article.php?id=4863), as is Zsuzsa (*Talált nő* [A Woman Lost and Found]. Szeged, 1995). After reading Peter's bio I realized that I had been at the Berkeley showing of Peter's film "Free Fall" during the 2000 San Francisco Jewish Film Festival. Veronika and I communicated by e-mail and "face-to-face" using Skype. She filled in information about the family and sent me pictures of her father, grandmother, and cousins.

Gerda described the life of Magdalena Spitz, the daughter whose birth in 1912 coincided with and/or led to the death of her mother Anna, as "a Cinderella tale." After Anna's death, Magda's father Josef Spitz remarried. Magda didn't get along with her stepmother. She married Zoltan Last, also from Ungvar, and left home. During the war Magda tried to arrange for her father and his wife, then living in Nagyvarad (Oradea, Romania) to cross the border and join her and Zoltan in Temesvar, but they didn't and perished. By 1935, Magda and Zoltan had settled in Tel Aviv where their children Robbie and Anny were born. Robbie and his family now live in Ashkelon and Anny is in Beersheva with her husband Moshe Peter Dariel, a physicist at Ben Gurion University. Using Google it was easy to get an e-mail address for Moshe, who also sent information and family pictures. The Dariel family spent several years in El Cerrito. Yet another missed opportunity to meet family!

Finding the Rosenberg family has grown my family tree but I've also learned that research results do not necessarily augment your data. Sometimes new information requires rethinking, correcting, and even tossing out data based on previous misconceptions. Finding my cousin Eva Grunvald after a six-year search yielded such results.

As it turned out, it wasn't even necessary to travel to Bratislava to find her. (In fact, the site I had photographed in Bratislava believing that it was the place she lived in 1946 was actually across the street from the right location because the city had changed the addresses!) Eva and I made contact thanks to

the efforts of Shaul Sharoni, an Israeli subscriber to JewishGen's Hungarian Special Interest Group (SIG) who was looking for his own Grunvald relatives from Slovakia. Less than 24 hours after receiving a message from Shaul saying that he had just had a message from someone who knew my cousin, Eva and I began exchanging information. In the 1950's, she and her parents moved to Switzerland where she and her husband Jan Malina, also a Czech native, still live.

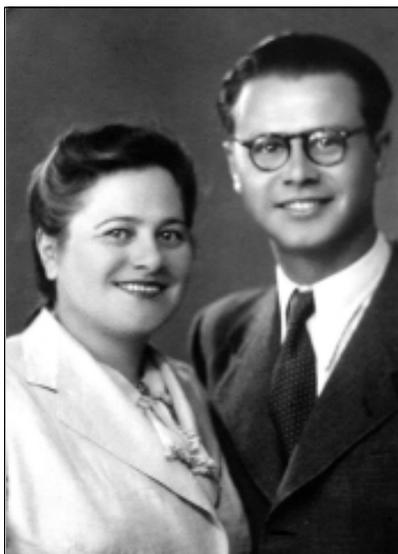
Our reunion in cyberspace was bittersweet. I learned that Eva's grandmother, my great-aunt Karolina Moskovits, was not the relative with the undecipherable signature who had written to my grandmother from Michalovce in 1946. Eva's parents had converted before the war but were, nevertheless, deported from Bratislava to Terezin and then to Auschwitz. Eva's nanny hid her in a convent. After liberation, her father Imre searched in vain for his mother

but never found any specific information about her fate. The family believes that she died in the ghetto that had been established in the Kosice brickyard.

Imre's brother Bela died in Russia at place called Ilovskoje in January, 1943, as the Hungarian Army retreated from advancing Soviet troops. Tragedy continued to haunt this family into the 21st century. After learning of his Jewish heritage, Eva's son Peter Malina went to Israel to explore his own roots. In January 1995, not long after his arrival, he was terribly injured in a Jerusalem bus bombing. Yonah, as he called himself in Hebrew, was paralyzed from the neck down but lived for another decade, finally succumbing in May, 2005. How sad that I did not know of his existence when I visited Israel in 2001.

It was clear from the letters sent to my grandmother that their author was someone in the family. The writer is obviously distraught over the loss of family members and pleads for assistance from her relatives in the United States. If the writer was not my great-aunt Karolina, then who was it? I uploaded scans of my grandmother's old letters to JewishGen's Viewmate and asked for help from my

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My father's first cousin Margit Rosenberg Friedmann (1891-1944) and her son Marcel Friedmann (Forgacs) (1920-1986)



My second cousin Judit Otillia (Dicike) Rosenblum (1924-1944)

Hungarian Voyage, cont. from page 9

Hungarian-speaking acquaintances in the Hungarian SIG. Based on both the content of the letters and their deciphering of the signature, I now believe that the letters were from my grandmother's sister-in-law Fani Weiss Moskovits, whose grave we had found in Michalovce.

Fani's survival is both a miracle and a mystery. Her husband Armin, a liquor merchant in Michalovce, died in 1933. Their daughter Paula, born in Szobrancz in 1908, had married Bela Jakubovics and moved to Budapest. She was deported and, according to testimony submitted by her cousin Magda Erdohazi and records from Ravensbruck, died in 1945. Paula's grandmother Mina and her uncle Samuel were among other relatives who perished. Fani was probably 62 in 1942 when the Jewish residents of Michalovce were deported. According to the inscription on the matzeva above her and Armin's grave in Michalovce, she died in 1955. I hope to learn the story of Fani's survival as I continue my research.

I would have regretted visiting Michalovce without visiting the cemetery but, all in all, my trip to Hungary and Slovakia would have been successful even if I had not found any records. I came away with an idea of what life was once like as I wandered the old streets of Budapest, Michalovce, Sobrance, and Miskolc. I imagine that the fields of sunflowers and wheat and the beautiful green Carpathian foothills still look much as they did when my great-grandfather farmed this area. In Sobrance, many of the pre-war buildings remain. It must have been *besheret*, fate or destiny, that caused me to take a picture of an old cottage on a quiet residential street in Sobrance. After returning home I found out that it was the childhood home of Alec Moskovic, one of a

very few survivors from that town. I also have pictures of the now-renovated building on Hlavna ul (Main Street) where his father and uncle had shops.

For some of the places we visited, especially in eastern Slovakia, the very poignant absence of any Jewish presence except for a few empty, and often crumbling, synagogues, provided a stark contrast to what had been. At the same time, we found many areas that look much as they do in the old postcard images I've collected. And, thankfully, many cities, including Miskolc, Kosice, and Michalovce as well as tourist centers like Budapest and Bratislava, have recognized the importance of preserving their old commercial areas.

Based on my experience, it seems very difficult to get anything from archives and municipal offices in Slovakia if you don't speak Slovak. You also need to plan ahead. Coincidentally (and fortunately) my guide Jan Hlavinka's mother-in-law works in the registry office in Michalovce. Jan suggests offering tips or small gifts to anyone who helps you. (A jar of Nescafe and box of chocolates were well-received in Michalovce.)

Most Slovaks do not speak Hungarian and, as others have pointed out, many Slovaks bear some animosity to the Hungarians, so trying to communicate in Hungarian is not advised. We found taxi drivers, some waiters, bank tellers, train ticket sellers, and hotel staff who spoke English, but many others don't. We also found out that some who claimed to understand English didn't understand a word we said! I carried a Slovak-English phrase book and dictionary and consulted it regularly. (The book by Sylvia and John M. Lorinc published by Hippocrene was small enough to fit in my fanny pack.) Some

Continued on next page

President's Message, cont. from page 2

we exist and what we can offer them. To support this and other long-term goals, the Board continues to seek out members who can offer not only their genealogical experience, but their life experience to help ensure the smooth running of the Society.

Finally, the Board bids adieu to some people who are standing down after a number of years of service. Dana Kurtz has held several positions, most recently that of treasurer. She has been extraordinary in making sure we stay in the black. Her colorful financial spreadsheets produced for each Board Meeting showed us that we continue to be fiscally conservative with a healthy bank balance that allows us to carry out the programs we want for the Society members. The Board looks forward to the next treasurer continuing the trend. Also leaving

us will be Jerry Jacobson, who has done sterling duty, among other things being the point person who informs the Bay Area and the wider world of our upcoming meetings. If you read it in "*J*" or the *Chronicle*, or online at the JewishGen's Discussion Group postings, you have Jerry to thank. Incidentally this non-elected position is still vacant. Finally, we are also losing Marcia Kaplan, who helped steer our ship as another steady hand on the wheel, and who provided her general experience and unfailingly "filled in" as well as any At-Large member could hope to do.

The Board and I wish everyone a festive Chanukah and a healthy, prosperous and genealogically rewarding 2008.

Jeremy G Frankel

Hungarian Voyage, cont. from page 10

people whose work brings them into contact with foreign visitors also understand German — but I don't, so that didn't help at all.

Make appointments to visit archives, municipal offices, cemeteries and Jewish community organizations. You can find municipal addresses online in most cases. Write to the mayor or registrar in Hungarian or Slovak well in advance of your arrival and identify the records you would like to see. A colleague from Israel who wrote to the mayor of Sobrance was able to spend several hours with an English-speaking town employee! The clerk in the smaller town of Kristy, Slovakia didn't receive my letter until the day we arrived although I sent it almost two weeks in advance. Be aware that you may not be able to sit down and examine municipal record books by yourself. Prepare a list of names, dates, and events that you can hand to the clerk.

Remember that it will be difficult to find any records from before 1800 unless you go to national archives in Budapest and Bratislava. (Be aware that the records in Budapest are not in the Archives building on Castle Hill but in a new building in Obuda on Becsi utca, about a 30-minute bus ride from the Batthyanyter Metro station. You don't need an appointment but you should arrive with a list of film numbers and be prepared to wait for staff to pull the films. If you want to purchase films you need to pay the archives in advance or pay when you arrive and wait for them to mail the films to you. It took more than a month to receive the films I paid for at the end of August but it cost only about \$15 compared with what one pays to order films from overseas.

Because civil registration didn't start in Hungary until 1895, you won't find civil records older than that. Some Jewish communities may have older Jewish records, but in most cases you will probably have to go to archives. Municipal archives may be more difficult to access than state or regional archives. Remember that they're part of a municipal government and providing records for researchers is not really part of their charge.

I did not bring a laptop because we wanted to travel light and I didn't want to have to hassle with voltage converters and chargers. I printed up the family files needed for reference and kept them in a light binder along with hotel info, downloaded maps, etc. If you've uploaded your records to the FTJP or one of the commercial genealogy websites you could, in a pinch, find an Internet cafe to check the details of any records you didn't bring along. Several of the hotels we stayed in offered free or very inexpensive Internet access and Internet cafes and shops abound. One

trendy Bratislava clothing store even offered free Internet access in its cafe.

We enjoyed visiting outdoor cafes, which are plentiful in both Hungary and Slovakia, for an afternoon beer and to watch the passing crowd. (Our mid-day and afternoon beer breaks became a ritual but we didn't gain any weight because of all of the walking.) Except for Budapest, food and drink are very inexpensive. Even in Budapest prices are still much lower than we'd pay for comparable food and drink in the San Francisco area. All of the hotels and pensions where we stayed included breakfast in the price of the room. The Delibab even packed a breakfast to go on our last day because we had to leave before dawn to catch our flight to Frankfurt. In addition to developing a taste for pear palinka and a rather quirky Hungarian digestif called Unicum, we found several very acceptable wines.

I don't keep kosher so that wasn't a problem for us. I suspect that it's impossible to find kosher restaurants outside of major cities because the sad truth is that there are very few Jews left in Hungary and Slovakia outside of Budapest and Bratislava. If you're willing to eat a lot of cheese, eggs, pasta, and veggies you will probably do OK. Fried cheese is a favorite lunch in Slovakia. There were vegetarian entrees on most menus but unless you go to a vegetarian restaurant the same restaurant will, of course, also be cooking meat including, in most cases, a lot of pork.

We did a lot of walking during our three-week trip, which helped to make up for the afternoon beers and goulash and spaetzel dinners. When we weren't walking we relied on public transportation, which is inexpensive and easy to use in both Hungary and Slovakia. Even though some of the Budapest underground stations, like the big one near the Keleti Railroad Station, are a bit grimy and reminiscent of the pe-Giuliani New York City subways, the Budapest Metro is wonderful. Line 1 (also known as the yellow line), which runs beneath Andrassy utca and the Varosliget, is particularly charming and quite clean. Line 1 is the oldest subway on the European continent and the second oldest in all of Europe after the London Underground. Budapest's trains and buses operate on the honor system. No one collects tickets but if the inspectors catch a passenger without one there's a steep fine. Depending on how long you will be staying in Budapest, a book of ten discount tickets may be a wise and inexpensive investment.

For inter-city transit, we found that reserved and first class seats were not usually necessary but were warned to reserve a seat on the train to Miskolc, which is one of the more heavily-used runs. The only

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Hungarian Voyage, cont. from page 11

time we traveled first class was the five and a half hour train trip from Kosice to Bratislava. Cars are very expensive to rent and rentals may be hard to find unless you plan in advance. In addition to hopping a local bus for a Sunday afternoon trip from Michalovce to Sobrance, we took a bus across the border from Bratislava to Vienna. The maps I brought with me were in most cases not as detailed as the local maps of Miskolc, Michalovce and Bratislava that we got from hotels and tourist offices. I also found an excellent map of eastern Slovakia in a bookstore in Michalovce.

Make sure to arrange for cemetery visits well in advance and not on Fridays. The well-maintained Jewish cemetery in Michalovce was identified on the city map that we got at the Jalta Hotel and was easy to find but the cemetery is gated and locked and no one in Michalovce knew who had the key. It

took a call to the rabbi in Kosice to identify the elderly man in Michalovce who had the key and the record book. This was good because, despite my husband's warnings, I was prepared, if necessary, to scale the wall to get into the cemetery. One of my traveling companions had a less successful experience in Kosice because she was unable to find anyone to open the cemetery until late on Friday. Even if you are able to get into the cemetery you may still have problems finding the resting places of your relatives unless you can read Hebrew. We couldn't find a squeegee in the variety store in Michalovce when we were laying in supplies for the cemetery visit so we bought a couple of rulers, the kind that kids use in school, to scrape off the shaving cream we applied to make the engravings more visible. (Bring along a good-sized bottle of water and a rag to wipe off the headstones after you've taken pictures.)

All Hungarian Database Updated

Sam Schleman, JewishGen

The All-Hungarian Database (AHD) has been updated with approximately 90,000 new vital records. The AHD, which now contains nearly 700,000 records, includes 100,000 birth, 35,000 death, and 12,500 marriage records. Included among the new records are the vital records for Bercel, Chropo, Debrecen, Galszecs, Gyor, Homonna, Kiskunfelegyhaza, Kisvarda, Mandok, Nagykallo, Nyirbator, Nyirkarasz, Szinyer-varalji, Tarcal, Tokaj, and Tolcsva.

In addition, Budapest births through 1864 and the majority of births for Miskolc have also been completed. There are a great many people who contributed their time and effort to make these records available to researchers now and far into the

future. These people deserve our appreciation and admiration and gratitude.

We are now working on the records for Budapest, Eger, Gyongyos, Kosice, Miskolc, Moson, Presov, and Stropkov. We are in continuing need of transcribers, in that our philosophy is to utilize as many transcribers as possible, so that no individual workload is too great.

If you would like to participate in this project, please contact Sam Schleman, Project Coordinator, Hungarian Vital Records Project, at samara99@comcast.net.

You can access the H-Sig JewishGen Hungarian Database at www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary/.

Hungarian Census Records

Eric M. Bloch, JewishGen

The Hungarian Census Records, 1781-1850 database www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary/CensusOther.htm has been updated with the addition of 3,000 more entries, bringing the total to 39,000. Updated counties include Moson, Saros, Szabolcs, and Zemplen. Once again, thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers who have worked so diligently to transcribe this data.

National Archives of Hungary

Nick Landau, JewishGen

The National Archives of Hungary can be accessed at www.mol.gov.hu/?akt_menu=574&set_lang=466 There is a link for *Family Research*. This site is all in English.

Planting the Family Tree

By Schelly Talalay Dardashti

New Yorker Dr. Adam Smith has been just a bit busy lately. He's just completed an internal medicine and pediatrics residency and, in August, began a pulmonology fellowship. He took his medical boards on August 13, arriving in Israel four days later for the weeklong family reunion he's been planning for several years. For the last seven or eight years, Dr. Smith, 31, has been compiling a family tree, which today includes more than 2,300 descendants of a single Hungarian ancestor, Leib Oberlander, born near Drohobych, Galicia, and who later settled in a small town, Chinadievo, near Mukachevo (the old Hungarian name is Munkacs, pronounced Munkatch in Yiddish). He's traveled the world meeting relatives in the US, Israel, France, Hungary and Ukraine, conducted archival research in Europe and attempted to account for the family's Shoah victims and survivors. Two years ago, says Smith, "I had about 1,400 names on the family tree, and I thought I was almost done!" He thought it would be a shame if he didn't compile everything into a book, because "if I don't do it, I'm sure no one else will." Along the way, he's discovered family in France, Argentina, USA, UK, Germany, Ukraine, Slovakia, Australia, Costa Rica and Israel (from Nahariya to Eilat). The earliest relatives made aliya circa 1935; the most recent in 2006.

Overall, Smith has found the family to be extremely warm. He believed that "If I had all of these people together, there were enough commonalities that people would be able to connect well with one another." He began planning the family reunion for last summer, but the Lebanon war postponed it. On August 22, family from the US, Germany, France and Hungary joined the Israeli relatives, some 150 in all, at Neot Kedumim. "It obviously had to be in Israel," he says, as numerically, about half the family lives in Israel. "It is symbolic to have everyone together in our homeland." As a side activity, and because there was a great deal of gratitude for what he had accomplished, Smith decided to invite people to donate funds to the JNF/KKL to plant trees in the family's honor. "We've raised more than \$11,000," he says. Smith's research benefited from his linguistic abilities in Hebrew, French, Spanish, and a bit of Hungarian. He has personally conducted research in Hungarian, Ukrainian and Israeli archives (Yad Vashem, Central Zionist Archives and Safed's Hungarian Museum), hired researchers in Ukraine, Hungary and Slovakia, used the Shoah Foundation database, US Holocaust Memorial

Museum (USHMM) survivor database and JewishGen, where he's a Hungarian Special Interest Group member and has provided microfilms and transcriptions to help other researchers.

During his research, parallel processes were occurring. Smith was receiving Ukrainian archival records, "some seemed relevant to my family, others less so." Concurrently, he was contacting living relatives in the US and Israel, trying to connect the dots. "I had five large family trees with many loose ends," he says. "Speaking to family helped piece it together." The more Ukrainian records he received, the more he could connect and eventually the five became one tree. "I had a unique opportunity to be brought into people's lives. I got used to calling strangers and telling them that I was their long-lost cousin," says Smith, adding that although they responded differently, almost all responded positively. When it came to the Israeli cousins, he says, "I think that before I even got to the explanation, they were already asking me when I was coming to visit!" He began to travel frequently to Israel, was warmly welcomed into many homes and immediately treated like close family. "I felt a strong sense of closeness from the Israelis and, since many were more closely connected to the Shoah, they had a strong sense of family." This contrasted somewhat with Smith's experience with American relatives: "The Israelis responded more emotionally to the family tree, while the Americans responded more analytically."

About a year ago, Smith's earliest document was an 1852 marriage record from Chinadievo, near Mukachevo (Munkacs). The groom, Shepsel Oberlander, son of Leib, was born in Chinadievo in 1830. Smith contacted an Israeli researcher looking for Oberlanders from Galicia (formerly Austro-Hungary, then Poland, now Ukraine) from Drohobych. He was perplexed, because the Israeli's family tree began with Shepsel Oberlander, son of Josef. He speculated that they were the same family, that the two Shepsels were named for a common grandfather. Scholars agree that the Jews of eastern Hungary migrated into Hungary from Galicia, which was the province of Austro-Hungary. Drohobych is about 80 miles north across the Carpathian Mountains. At this point, Smith decided to use DNA testing with Family Tree DNA. Two male Oberlanders were tested — one from Smith's side and one from the Israeli side — resulting in a y-DNA genetic match. Smith believes the family acquired the name in Galicia in

Continued on next page

New: Free Scanning Facilities at UC Berkeley Newspaper Library

By Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

Those of you who frequent the Oakland LDS Family History Center will be familiar with the microfilm-scanning set-up. This process allows you to scan microfilm images directly to your flash-drive which can then be transferred to your computer. I have discovered recently that the UC Berkeley Newspaper Library also offers such 21st century advantages. In a nutshell what this means is the end of poor, or illegible photocopies, or running out of paper. Best of all there is no charge!

The way it works is like this; you select the microfilm you are interested in and set it up in a microfilm reader as you normally would do. Next, you switch on the adjacent computer and then double-click the scanning icon to open the application. Now insert your flash-drive and make sure a folder is selected as the destination you want the scanned results to end up at. If you haven't already, fast forward the film to the frame you are interested in.

The next step is the tricky one; you may have to make several preview scans of the image and

enlarging or moving the dashed box so that the image you want is captured completely. You may also need to adjust the brightness and contrast. Once you're happy, you hit scan and when that's done, give the file a name and save it to the folder in your flash drive.

There is a cheat sheet to help you along the way, but it didn't specifically advise about adjusting the box size. Also, I had a problem at the end. When I inserted my flash-drive into my laptop, the folder I had created wasn't showing! There can be some hi-tech glitches. What I did was re-insert the flash drive into the computer and, after several attempts, figured out I could drag the images into the Trash folder in my flash-drive. I then double-checked by re-inserting my flash-drive into my laptop to see if the images were there — they were! So double-check before you head off home.

Now there is really no excuse for anyone to avoid using one of the best newspaper libraries certainly west of the Mississippi!

Member News, cont. from page 3

years he has been Recording Secretary of the Society. He worked as a geologist in the exploration and development of geothermal energy before retiring and devoting his efforts to genealogy. Jim's family came from Latvia (original name Koenigsfest) and the Ukraine (Volodarsky). Jim asks for your support to continue serving the Society as Recording Secretary.

Membership Director — Larry Burgheimer

I have been Membership Director of the SFBAJGS for the last six years and a member of the Society since 1999. Previously I was the membership chair for a synagogue and a professional organization. I have been researching my family's genealogy at a low level for 40 years and higher level the last eight years.

Your Story Belongs in ZichronNote

If you have made a trip to your ancestral shtetl, made a breakthrough in your research, or discovered a resource that can benefit other genealogists, share your story with readers of *ZichronNote*. New articles are always welcome. For more information, contact editor Beth Galletto at galletto@pacbell.net.

Family Tree, cont. from page 13

1787. Leib Oberlander, born near Drohobych in 1800, migrated to Chinadievo, where he married and started a family around 1830. The couple had at least six children, whose descendants now number 2,300 and growing.

Smith nearly reunited two brothers separated by the Shoah. Their mother was an Oberlander, and their father a Weisz. Sandor Weisz arrived in the US immediately after WWII, and Americanized his name to Alexander White. His brother, Laszlo, was born in Hungary, but was stuck in the Soviet Union after WWII. Each knew the other had survived, but the KGB confiscated letters that Laszlo received from his brother. Laszlo escaped to Hungary, wrote to Sandor at his last Chicago address, not knowing he had moved to California. Alexander had also travelled to Hungary searching unsuccessfully for Laszlo, while Laszlo asked for help from Jewish agencies. When Smith heard the story, he called the USHMM (Washington, DC), and asked if their survivor database included Alexander White, born in Nyiregyhaza, Hungary. Yes, they replied. Smith called the family, spoke to Alexander's wife and learned he had died of pancreatic cancer just two months earlier.

— *Jerusalem Post/Metro Weekly*, September 12, 2007.
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COMPUTER/ONLINE NEWS

Free Access to NY Times Archives

Renee Steinig, *JewishGen*

....The *New York Times* reports that the newspaper will stop charging for access to parts of its archives.... It will now make available free via its website (www.nytimes.com) its archives from 1851 to 1922 and from 1987 on. Some unspecified material from 1923 to 1986 will also be free; a charge will apply for other items. Until this change, TimesSelect was free to the newspaper's subscribers, but others paid as much as \$4.95 per article retrieved....

This development will be welcomed by researchers without access to the ProQuest New York Times Historical Database, which is available at research libraries. Please note, however, that searches on the *Times* website sometimes produce fewer results than in the ProQuest database. In some trial searches I just did, the *Times* website search did not bring up such notices as "Real Estate Transfers," "The Building Department," "Out of Town," "Court Calendars," and "Business Troubles" — all of which can be the source of interesting tidbits about family members. Also, search technique is different in the two databases. On ProQuest, I often search using the expression "w/1;" for example, searching for Sadie w/1 Steinig will bring up only articles in which the name Sadie is found within one word of Steinig — and not the many other articles where Sadie is on one part of the page and Steinig elsewhere (e.g. in two different death notices). On the *Times* site, searching for my late Aunt Sadie this way yielded zero results; on ProQuest, it brought up five death notices, all of interest.

Museum of Family History Update

Steve Lasky, *Museumoffamilyhistory.com*

Here is what is new at the Museum of Family History:

1. The Holocaust: Konzentrationslager Buchenwald: When Jews and others first arrived at Buchenwald, they were registered in both a ledger and on individual cards. The records that survived the war give us valuable information about who these prisoners were, e.g. where they came from, who their families were, their occupations and addresses in the ghetto, etc. The ledgers themselves tell us when they were born, when they arrived at Buchenwald and, if they perished during their captivity, when and where this occurred. Also after the war, prisoners and others were questioned by the military in order to determine what should

become of them. Read what kinds of questions were asked of those interviewed.

2. Postcards from Home: New family photographs from pre-World War II, associated with Minsk and Nesvizh in Belarus, Warszawa, Poland, and Kosice in Slovakia.

3. Lives in the Yiddish Theatre: You can see more photographs of the Yiddish theatre of pre-war Europe, from productions in today's Belarus, i.e. Derechin, Grodno, Kurenets, Lebedevo, Minsk, Pinsk, Smorgon and Volozhin; Dvinsk in Latvia; Krakow and Nowy Sacz in Poland; and Rokiskis and Siauliai in Lithuania.

4. Landsmanshaftn in America: Photos of meetings in New York and Toronto. Societies that originated in Zambrow, Ozarow and Radom, Poland are represented. Often these photos were taken at jubilee dinners celebrating a society's anniversary.

5. Stories from our Ancestral Homes: Interesting stories originating in Plissa, Belarus and Vishki, Latvia.

Also recently added: "The Photographic Studios of Eastern Europe" and "Letters from Szczuczyn," plus more pre-war family photos from Europe in the "Postcards from Home" exhibition.

You can access all of the above works via the Museum's Site Map page.

See www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/sm.htm .

Georgia Death Certificates On-Line

Jan Meisels Allen, Director, IAJGS and Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

The Georgia Archives have posted on-line Death Certificates from 1919-1927. The collection also includes a number of certificates predating 1919, mostly from 1917 and 1918. Go to <http://content.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php> Uniform statewide registration of deaths (and births) did not begin until 1919 although the law requiring registration was enacted in 1914. This collection was scanned by the Genealogical Society of Utah from microfilm of death certificates held by the Georgia Archives. The certificates were indexed by Genealogical Society of Utah volunteers. Death dates were indexed only if a death date appeared in item 16 on the death certificate. They were not extrapolated from other information on the certificate.

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