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ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

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Family Finder Finds My Family

Joan Abramson tells how she filled in her family tree with help from One-to-One sessions at San Francisco's Jewish Community Library and the JewishGen Family Finder. See page 5.

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Nisla Mirla Halborn with three of her children. Paulina is seated. Sura Rykfa is standing with her arm on Abram's shoulder. About 1911, Czestochowa.

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.

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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 318214, San Francisco, CA 94131-8214.

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President's Message

Transition Time for the Society

By Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

As the world moves into 2010, we — I like the rest of the world — are facing an uncertain future. It is by no means dire, but still uncertain. We feel the effects of others who are feeling the pinch far more than we. Two of our meeting places decided they needed to start charging fees for the use of their space. While I agree there is no such thing as the proverbial free lunch, if you will forgive my use of the pun, it takes the biscuit when the fees requested would wipe out our annual budget!

I think you will agree that we are not in the business of raising funds simply to pay rent and we have far better and more important uses for the funds we receive. This is why the Board agreed to move our East Bay and San Francisco meeting sites.

Janice Sellers, the Society's Publicity Director, volunteers her time on Saturdays at the Oakland Family History Center. She broached the idea of meeting there with Marge Bell, the Assistant Director of the Center, and Marge responded with the equivalent of "come on down."

As well as being in a room that easily holds 100 people, there is ample free parking in the adjacent parking lot and perhaps the icing on the cake — we can use the Family History Center after our meeting and take advantage of the online computers and the dozen or so fee-for-service web sites, such as Ancestry, Findmypast and Footnote, as well as the wealth to be discovered in the library collection and the microfilms.

In San Francisco we are currently ensconced at the Noe Valley Branch Library's Community Room. It is a bit on the small side. While the room does contain a projector and screen, it feels a tad cramped. So we are seeking out new possibilities, perhaps at a local synagogue. If you belong to a synagogue, do ask if there is a room large enough for the Society to meet.

Other transitions include looking at the possibility of streamlining the membership process by making it available online. I am confident that the Board will, as usual, deliberate and decide on the appropriate course that benefits the Society, so that we are fiscally conservative, not fiscally challenged. The funds we receive from dues and generous donations, you can be assured, will be put to good uses that benefit as many genealogists as possible.

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SOCIETY NEWS

Thanks to Our Generous Donors

The Society wishes to thank all members who generously included a donation along with their annual dues when renewing their membership. Donations given in this billing cycle ranged from \$2 to \$227.

The Society uses some of the donated funds to enhance resources at local libraries and to bring in interesting speakers. Funds are also donated from the Society to organizations that assist genealogists in their research, such as JewishGen and the Jewish Community Library.

Donors include Jody Ames, Phyllis Berenson, Judith Berlowitz, Thalia Broudy, Sally Brown, June Brumer, Larry Burgheimer, Mel and Nita Cohn, Paul Concus, Harry Cornbleet, Shelley Davis, Ross DeHovitz, Jerry Delson, Marla Deutsch, Donna Dubinsky, Pat Dubrow, Randi Eckstein, Hillary Farkas, Sharon Fingold, Lawrence and Harriet Fried, Dale Friedman, Patricia Frumkin Krigel, Lawrence Gallant, Beth Galletto, Theo Graff, Marcia Hagen, Pierre Hahn, Fred Half, Stephen Harris, Mary Hudson, Ellen Huppert, Carol Bleecher Isaak, Jerry Jacobson, William Jacobson, Vivian Kahn, Henry and Marcia Kaplan, Susan Kaplan, Barbara Kautz, Harry Kiefer, Barbara Klein and Stan Schrier, James Koenig, Merle and Pearl Krantzman, Dana Kurtz and Rob Mackenzie, Diane Leeds, Rosanne and Daniel Leeson, Rosalie Lefkovits, Martin Lefkowitz, Amelia Lemmon, Jeff Lewy, Sita Likuski, Manfred Lindner, Ava Mack, Robinn Magid, Treva Jo Marcus, Donn Martin, Donna Mendelsohn, Burton Meyer, Dede Meyer, Monio Pilpel, Gail Ravitz, Lynn Rhodes, Marsha Rivkind/Raleigh, Karen Roekard, Jason Rose, Alan Rosen, Sheree Roth, Michael Rothenberg, June Rubin and David Stern, Miriam Russell, Jane Schwartz, Rochelle Schwartz, Mark Sivik, Frank Snitz, Stephen

Somerstein, Roger Stein, Edward Tanovitz, Gail Todd, Len Traubman, Gerald Waggoner, Shellie Wiener, Avner Yonai, Milo Zarakov.

Officers Elected for 2010-2011

Congratulations to the SFBAJGS officers, who were elected to serve the Society through 2011 by a majority of votes received from members in good standing. They include President, Jeremy Frankel; Vice President, Rosanne Leeson; Secretary, Dave Howard; Treasurer, Jeff Lewy; and Membership Chairman, Larry Burgheimer.

It's Membership Renewal Time!

If you who have not yet renewed your membership in SFBAJGS for 2009, now is the time. You must be a member to continue to receive *ZichronNote*. If you can't remember whether you have renewed or not, please email Membership Chair Larry Burgheimer at membership@sfbajgs.org and ask him to check your membership status.

Three reasons to renew:

1. You want to help the SFBAJGS with its projects — such as the Cemetery Project, through which information about Jewish burials in San Francisco cemeteries (now in Colma) are being added to the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry.
2. You want to meet other people whose eyes do not glaze over when you discuss your latest genealogical research find, and who may even have some suggestions to help!
3. You want to keep receiving *ZichronNote*, with all its information and announcements of interest to genealogists.

Please Note: New Meeting Sites for San Francisco and East Bay

Unless otherwise indicated, the SFBAJGS meeting schedule is as follows:

- San Francisco:** **Sunday, Doors open 1:00 p.m. Program begins at 1:30 p.m.**
San Francisco Public Library, Noe Valley Branch, 451 Jersey Street (near Castro).
- Los Altos Hills:** **Monday, Doors open at 7 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.** Congregation
Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Room 5/6.
- Oakland:** **Sunday, Doors open 12:30 p.m. Program begins at 1:00 p.m.** Oakland Family
History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue.

See Back Cover for Calendar of Upcoming Meetings of SFBAJGS

CALENDAR

Genealogy Events

Local and Regional

Wed., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. **Marin County Genealogical Society**. Joel Weintraub presents “**Preparing for the 1940 Census Opening.**” Learn about the 1940 Census, which will be released in 2012. Marin Family History Center, 220 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael. For more information visit www.maringensoc.org.

Tues., Mar. 16, 7 p.m. **Santa Clara Genealogical Society**. Mary Hanel presents “**What’s new for Genealogists at the Santa Clara City Library?**” Santa Clara Public Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. For more information visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascchgs/main/meeting.html.

Sat., Mar. 20, 10:30 a.m. **San Mateo County Genealogical Society**. Susan Goss Johnston presents “**Cite it.**” Transfiguration Episcopal Church, 3900 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo. For more information visit www.smcgs.org.

Tues., Apr. 20, 7 p.m. **Santa Clara Genealogical Society**. Steve Morse presents “**From DNA to Genetic Genealogy.**” Santa Clara Public Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. For more information visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascchgs/main/meeting.html.

Wed., Apr. 28, 7:30 p.m. **Marin County Genealogical Society**. Pamela Dallas, a professional genealogist, will present the basics of newspaper research in “**Extra, Extra! Your Ancestors Are in the Newspaper.**” Marin Family History Center, 220 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael. For more information visit www.maringensoc.org.

State and National

Sun., Feb. 21, 10 a.m. **Sacramento Jewish Genealogical Society**. Victoria Fisch presents “**Jews of the Gold Rush.**” Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright St, Sacramento. For more information visit www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/.

Apr. 21-28, **California Genealogical Society Tenth Annual Salt Lake City Tour**. Experienced genealogist volunteer guides Nancy Peterson and Jane Lindsey will assist. For more information visit www.cagensoc.org.

Apr. 28-May 1, **National Genealogical Society (NGS) Family History Conference**, Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City. Whether your family helped settle the nation, migrated across the

country, or recently arrived in America, this conference has much to offer. A major focus of the conference will be increasing research skills in foreign countries. For more information visit www.ngsgenealogy.org.

Reporter Uncovers Family Secret

Steve Luxenberg will read from his book *Annie's Ghosts: A Journey Into a Family Secret*, Thursday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis Street in San Francisco. The program is co-sponsored by the SFBAJGS.

Part mystery and part memoir, *Annie's Ghosts* untangles one family's long-protected silence. Steve Luxenberg employed his skills as a journalist while struggling to maintain his empathy as a son, to piece together the story of his aunt's unknown life, his mother's motivations, and the times in which they lived. An investigation into a lifelong family secret becomes a journey through imperial Russia and Depression-era Detroit, the Holocaust in Ukraine and the Philippine war zone, and back to the hospitals where Annie and many others languished in anonymity.

Luxenberg is an associate editor at *The Washington Post* and has worked for more than 30 years as a newspaper editor and reporter.

Sephardic Legacy and Shanghai Jews

Leah Jacob Garrick will present “Shanghai: A Miraculous Life” at the Officers’ Club at the Presidio, 50 Moraga Avenue, San Francisco on Sunday, March 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. She will discuss the history and legacy of Sephardic families in Shanghai who were significant in shaping Shanghai's business world and architecture and also formed the foundation of its Jewish community.

Garrick was born in Shanghai, the fourth generation of her family to live there. She had a typical colonial upbringing and an observant Sephardic Jewish lifestyle. She lived through the war years under Japanese occupation and came to the United States in 1947. The meeting is sponsored by the American Jewish Committee San Francisco Office and co-sponsored by the SFBAJGS. This is one of a series of programs on Jews in China. For more information visit www.ajcsanfrancisco.org/china or call (415) 751-2535.

President’s Message, cont. from page 2

On the positive side, the “orbit” of the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy reaches its apogee this year, with the event taking place in Los Angeles. Much closer to home, we are once again co-sponsoring a number of Bay Area events. Look for their details in upcoming e-blasts and do try to support them.

Family Finder Finds My Family

by Joan Abramson

Joan Abramson is a former journalist who has worked for several newspapers, *Time Magazine* and the Time Life Book Division. Her publications include numerous magazine articles and seven published books, including several books on women's employment issues and several photo-history books. She has served as a government and private sector consultant on telecommunications user needs and economic development in third world countries. Abramson has lectured nationally on women's employment issues and on telecommunication needs in developing countries. She taught at the University of Hawaii for seven years, where she specialized in non-fiction writing, journalism and English literature. From 1994 until 2001 Abramson served as Chief Operating Officer of a San Francisco high tech company where her responsibilities included writing, negotiating and managing government research grants and private venture funding.

In July, 2009, I received the following message through the JewishGen Family Finder:

Joan

My Halborn family roots trace back to Jakub and Chasia Halborn living in Zarki near Czestochowa at the beginning of XIX Century. The family then dispersed to surrounding towns and cities (Czestochowa, Lodz) and abroad. I'd like to know your ties to people bearing that name.

Thanks, Roman

The answer: Yes, Roman and I are both direct descendants of Jakub and Chasia Halborn. Jakub and Chasia were my great, great grandparents and they were also Roman's great, great, great grandparents. I had found a new relative through the JewishGen Family Finder.

Moreover, I was immediately able to share another connection with Roman. We had a second set of shared ancestors: Berek and Malka Halborn. (There were lots of Halborns in Zarki.) Jakub and Chasia had a daughter named Liba Gitla. Berek and Malka had a son named Herszlik. Liba and Herszlik married and had at least four children who lived to adulthood. Chaskiel Halborn was their oldest son and Roman is his great great grandson. Nisla Mirla Halborn was their youngest daughter and I am her granddaughter. Roman and I are second cousins, twice removed.

The Halborn family, along with Chaskiel, Nisla Mirla, and several sisters and brothers moved to Czestochowa shortly after my grandmother's birth in 1857. Then many of those who remained in Poland moved on to Lodz, where, for me at least, the trail ended with the Holocaust. But through Roman I have discovered that there were Halborn survivors and that I have other second cousins living in Israel, Canada and France. Roman lives in Poland. His father was a Holocaust survivor — sent to Siberia just after the occupation of Lodz, by a grandfather who managed to rescue part of the family by bribing German authorities with two gold watches per person.

My newly-discovered cousin and I have been exchanging lots of email since last July. We have been working together to uncover other missing branches of the Halborn family — both backward in time to 18th century Zarki and forward to relatives lost in the Holocaust or scattered by it. Recently, he sent me a copy of a 1791 census of the 348 Jews who lived in Zarki. Between us, we found likely candidates for all four of our shared Zarki ancestors as well as for a few of their eight parents. I say likely because there are no surnames in the census record. But though the evidence still remains iffy, we were able to track probable family roots back as far as the first third of the 18th century. This still strikes me as quite remarkable. I had never met any of my grandparents and less than two years ago I did not even know all of their names or the places of their birth.

We have a long way to go, of course. There are plenty of blanks left in even this single branch of my family tree and I expect many of the mysteries will remain unresolved. But with each other's help, at least 20 questionable names in our shared Halborn family tree have been converted to positive entries, a few names have been removed and some new names have been added for examination. My Polish cousin's help has been far more valuable than mine. While I have contributed possible leads and, sometimes, a thought or two about how to interpret Jewish names and customs, he has translated Polish records with great care and accuracy and, when necessary, obtained fine copies of documents directly from Polish archives and has found sources for accurate translation for Cyrillic documents.

* * * * *

How did I come to know that the answer to the email that came to me through the Family Finder was "Yes"? Certainly it was not through any deep or lifelong knowledge of my family roots. For years my children had been urging me to write down family stories. My answer was always that I was too busy

Continued on page 6

Family Finder, cont. from page 5

and that, anyway, I knew almost nothing of interest. Between work, a growing family, and friends there never seemed to be time to look backward. If my Polish cousin had written me just six or eight months earlier, I would have had no idea what he was talking about. But luckily his query came after I had spent those six or eight months making my first ever effort to trace my family roots.

My father, Roman Freulich (born Abram Freulich) had been a professional photographer with a 40-plus year career in the film industry. My uncle was also a film industry photographer and my cousin a cinematographer. So there was no shortage of photographs in the family. After my father died, my sister and I gradually

organized the small part of his work he had brought home over the years so that we could donate it to appropriate museums. During the 1990s we placed collections of his professional work at the Skirball Museum and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, the Santa Barbara Art Museum, the Jewish Legion Museum at Beit Hagedudim, Israel, the Holocaust Museum and the Smithsonian Portrait Gallery in Washington. We placed the main collection of his photographs and memorabilia at the Motion Picture Academy's Margaret Herrick Library in Los Angeles. Then, after the bulk of my father's professional work had been separated from family photos, organized and donated, the remaining collection was simply boxed, shelved and forgotten.

When my sister died in 2006, I was left with boxes and boxes of negatives and prints. Some were remnants of my father's professional work but most were old family photographs. I decided the time for procrastination was over. It was time to organize those boxes of pictures for my children and grandchildren.

In retrospect, the 20 years or so of neglect was fortunate. Over those 20 years technology has made

the archiving of old photographs a far simpler and more useful tool than it had been in the past. Four of my books, published in the late 1970s and early 1980s, are largely compilations of photographs — some of them very old photographs — and I still have vivid memories of trips to remote locations where I spent hours looking through glass plate and nitrate negatives, lugging around heavy copy equipment, and wearing out dozens of pairs of white cotton gloves. And while the white gloves may still be a good idea, technology has caught up over the years and the process of scanning and storing old photographs and negatives is now relatively quick and easy — and certainly far less exhausting.

Naturally, as I began to work my way through the vast accumulation of family photographs, the memories and the stories my children had begged me to write down began to flow and I began putting together a book I have called *Picture Stories, Volume One*. (The Volume One is an acknowledgement of my scanty knowledge and memory plus a hope that other members of my family, including my children and grand-children will add to the family story in the future.)

The stories of my own childhood and rather long life were the easy ones. And thanks to my father I had plenty of photographs to remind me of them and to illustrate them. But the stories of my parent's generation — the immigrant generation — and the ones that preceded it were pretty sparse. My sister and I were no doubt somewhat incurious as we were growing up. We didn't push to find out more than my parents were willing to tell without prompting. And my parents were reluctant to share much about their past. Both were immigrants. As a small child, my mother had lived through the terrifying 1906 pogrom in Orsha, Belarus, and then, after she immigrated to the United States at age 12, through years as a child laborer in the sweat shops of the lower east side in New York. My father had



1928 visit to Lodz by my Uncle Jack and cousin Henry with Grandmother Nisla Mirla, center, her daughter Sura Ryfka and grandson Rafal Jelen, left, and daughter Helena, right.

Family Finder, cont. from page 6

fled Tsarist Poland on foot as a young teen, had enlisted in the Jewish Legion during World War One, and had spent a year and a half in a Los Angeles sanitarium recovering from the tuberculosis he had acquired along with his army experience in Egypt, Syria and Palestine.

Then, during World War Two, while I was growing up in Los Angeles, my parents faced constant worries about family members caught up in the Holocaust. I remember digging out old photographs once in a while and asking about them. My parents' answers were brief, and the pictures were quickly buried further and further down in the drawers where my father stored them. Talking about the past and about close relatives who had been swallowed up by the Holocaust was too painful. My parents wanted my sister and me to grow up without fear, as normal American kids. They talked about relatives they had not heard from only when they were alone, in their bedroom, without their children as witnesses. My aunts and uncles were even less willing to talk about the past — we were in America, after all, and they were firm in their belief that children should be brought up without fear.

The further back I dug in those boxes of photographs left by my sister, the scarcer the old images became, and the more intriguing. I remembered a few names — my parents had told me at least that much, but almost nothing else. I found some old documents, as well, tucked in among the photographs, and they helped a bit. But it was not enough. I wanted more. I needed more. And then one day my husband placed a small brochure on my desk, turned open to a page with a schedule for the Sunday genealogy workshops at the San Francisco Jewish Community Library. I decided that the time had come for me to dig even farther into the past.

I came to my first genealogy workshop with increasing hopes and decreasing vision and went home to begin my first search on JewishGen.org. I knew the task would not be easy, but at the same time I was encouraged by the vast increase over the

past ten years in the number of digitized records available on the Internet. First, I decided to make a cursory search of the records available for my husband's parents and my own. All four were immigrants who came to America in the early years of the 20th century. My husband's father was born in Alytus, Lithuania, his mother in Odessa, Ukraine. My mother was born in Orsha, Belarus, and my father in Czestochowa, Poland.

It quickly became apparent that the search for traces of three of the four families would be slow and frustrating—the online records available for Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine were sparse. The records available for the Czestochowa and Lodz areas in Poland were relatively rich. I decided the best strategy would

be to begin with my father's family, in an area where good luck might help provide me with both the techniques and the incentive to continue. After that, I reasoned, I could move on to the other regions where records were harder to come by.

It seemed, at first, an excellent decision. Within an hour I found Czestochowa records for both of my father's parents — Isaac Freulich (Frejlich)

and Nisla Mirla Halborn — and for all six of the Freulich children who had lived to adulthood. The search, moreover, gave me important information about my great grandparents. I discovered that my grandfather's birth town was Pinczow, in Kielce Gubernia, I found the given name of my paternal great grandmother, and I found, for the first time, that my paternal grandmother had been born in the town of Zarki, in Katowice Province.

I was on my way. This wasn't going to be so difficult, after all!

In retrospect, this may not have been the best of beginnings. Certainly, my almost instant hit on some very low hanging fruit did nothing to prepare me for some of the frustration that lay ahead. I quickly ran into a dead end with my Freulich grandfather. He had come from Pinczow according to the Czestochowa records, and so had his father,

Continued on page 12



My father, Roman Freulich, in his Jewish Legion uniform in Palestine, 1918.



Dear Uncle Morris,

You were right, we are not related to either Lauren Bacall or the Marx brothers, but am still searching for long-lost cousins here in L.A. I did find that black-sheep horse-thief second cousin you once mentioned, but not in Poland... in Latvia, would you believe, by way of Transcarpathia! Oh, and guess what? Our name was NOT changed at Ellis Island! Wow, all this and it's only the first day of the conference.

Having a wonderful time.

Don't you wish you were here?

Your very favorite niece, Hannah

P.S. Check the conference out yourself at www.jgsla2010.com



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The 30th IAJGS
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on Jewish Genealogy

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Now Online

By Marilyn Dornhelm

Juicy Bits of Jewish Genealogy

In this column I will share what's new in online indexes, digitized archival material and tools. The main source for these will be JewishGen and many SIG digests. Comments are welcome. Send them to mdornhelm@yahoo.com.

(Editor's Note: In *ZichronNote*, URL notations are in boldface and the "http://" notation is omitted to save space, unless needed to make a link in the pdf version of *ZichronNote*.)

Review for September 2009 to February 4, 2010

In the USA

GEORGIA

Atlanta, Georgia Southern Israelite Indexed The Southern Israelite, the predecessor name to the *Atlanta Jewish Times*, has been indexed for the years 1929–1958 and 1984–1986 and is available on the Internet at <http://israelite.galileo.usg.edu/israelite/search>

The weekly newspaper covered the Jewish communities in Georgia with additional coverage for communities in Florida and Alabama. From *Avotaynu, Nu, What's New?* Sept. 29, 2009.

WEST VIRGINIA

Vital Records Online

The State of West Virginia recently completed making available online an index to vital records, as well as the records themselves. Birth records are available though 1908, marriages and deaths through about 1970.

www.wvculture.org/vrr

From *Avotaynu*, Dec. 20, 2010.

Europe

GENERAL

Online Directories

Logan Kleinwaks' digitized and indexed directories, now numbering more than 100, are on a new website: <http://genealogyindexer.org>.

They include directories from Bulgaria, France, Israel, Lithuania, Poland, Galicia, Silesia, Pomerania, Posen, Romania, Carpathian Ruthenia, South America and United Kingdom. From *Avotaynu, Nu, What's New?* Jan. 18, 2010.

Geography

Try Google Books for "The Encyclopedia of Jewish Life Before and During the Holocaust." From David Rosen, *JewishGen Digest*, Jan. 3, 2010,

AUSTRIA

Online Archival Austrian Newspapers (ANNO) – "Wiener Zeitung"

The "Wiener Zeitung" is the first of the ANNO newspapers to be made searchable: Try it out at <http://onb-ccs.dlconsulting.com/> This is an official paper which carries government, legal, company/business, criminal, intestacy/inheritance announcements as well as arts/theater reviews, gallantry medals, personal notices etc For ANNO: www.onb.ac.at/

From Celia Male, *Austria-Czech SIG Digest*, Nov 30, 2009.

Advice for Searching ANNO

For those who don't read German, or who are having trouble reading the typeface on the Austrian National Library site, just click the line at the top that reads "Show computer generated text for this article." The text that appears can be copied and pasted into your favorite translation program. Not perfect, but much easier to read than the original. From Janet Isenberg, *Austria-Czech Digest*, Dec 3, 2009.

Vienna Cemeteries Burials Database

It is searchable and provides results for all burials in all cemeteries in the city EXCEPT for the IKG listings. (German Language only). www.friedhofewien.at/ From Ed Zwieback, *Austria-Czech SIG*, Dec 12, 2009.

BULGARIA

Jewish surnames

The Jewish surnames found in the ex-Ottoman Empire, or more precisely in the Balkans, have not been the topic of any comprehensive published research. Now the *Dictionary of Jewish Bulgarian Surnames* has been placed on the web. The details given for each surname are: (1) surname, (2) all its variants, (3) language it derives from, (4) its meaning, (5) when available, a reference to its historical background in medieval Spain. The database can be found at www.sephardicgen.com/databases/BulgarianSurnamesSrchFrm.html. From *Avotaynu*, Dec. 20, 2010.

WWI/Balkan Jewish casualties

www.sephardicgen.com/databases/databases.html

Scroll down till you reach "Bulgaria". The list is there among other databases. From Mathilde Tagger,

Continued on page 10

Now Online, cont. from page 9

JewishGen Digest, Jan 6, 2010.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

New online Czech National Library (Kramerius)

<http://kramerius.nkp.cz/kramerius/Welcome.do>

The search pages are in English. The digitized books and periodicals are mainly in Czech or German. If you are researching common surnames, try including their town or village of origin together with their surname. From Peter Lowe, *Austria-Czech Digest*, Jan. 26, 2010.

Deportees

www.holocaust.cz/cz2/victims/victims

There you can confirm the birth dates, transport dates and transport numbers. For Czech females you may have to enter surname with "OVA," for example, WEINBERGOVA. Not in English. The top line in the search box is for surname, next line for given name, etc. From Fritz Neubauer, *JewishGen Digest*, Jan. 27, 2010.

GALICIA

New Website on Jewish Galicia and Bukovina

The site currently concentrates on the Stanislawow (Ivano-Frankivsk) region and includes documentation of Jewish cemeteries, original texts and English translations of archival documents and newspaper articles, interviews with former Jewish residents and with local inhabitants, photographs of Jewish sites in the region, etc. To date there are nearly 3,000 photographs and information about 1,700 Jews who lived in the area. The site is constantly growing. **www.jewishgalicia.net**

From *Avotaynu, Nu, What's New?* Jan. 3, 2010.

Geography Help

The "Database of Galician Localities, 1919-1939" located on the Geshet Galicia site, is now operational at **www.jewishgen.org/Galicia/locality_db.html**.

It contains the following information about 5,334 Galician localities: name, administrative status, administrative district, province, and 1921 population. From Alexander Sharon, *Geshet Galicia*, Nov 13, 2009.

Lviv (Lemberg) House & Street Photography Project

See Ukraine

Lviv (Lwow) discussion group

See Ukraine

GERMANY

Berlin

Early 20th century Berlin's address directories

<http://adressbuch.zlb.de> (yes, only one "d" in adressbuch), and **www.landesarchiv-berlin.de/lab-neu/start.html**

The Landesarchiv Berlin has the remains of the old Einwohnermeldekarteien (residence registry cards). Most cards have vital statistics for family members, and sometimes even names of parents. From Roger Lustig, *JewishGen Digest*, Nov. 9, 2009.

IRELAND

1911 Ireland Census

The National Archives of Ireland are making all of the information for the 32 counties available, to include full transcription of all of the data on the household forms for 1911, including religion, occupation, relationship to head of family, literacy status, county or country of origin, Irish language proficiency, specified illnesses, and child survival information. You can search the census at no charge by going to **www.census.nationalarchives.ie/** While we may not think many Jewish ancestors came from Ireland, remember some may have stopped in Ireland on their route to Canada or the United States. From Jan Meisels Allen, *JewishGen Digest*, Jan. 2, 2010.

LATVIA

Latvian Newspapers 1895-1957

The Latvian National Digital Library is offering online 40 newspaper and magazine titles in Latvian, German, and Russian, ranging from 1895 to 1957 — altogether more than 45,000 issues and 350,000 pages. The newspapers have full-word indexing and display the actual news article with the search word(s) highlighted. Additional information (in English) can be found at **www.periodicals.lv/**

From *Avotaynu*, Dec. 20, 2010.

POLAND

Poland Citizens in Shanghai

See World/China

Online book, Yiddishland: Countries, Cities, Towns, Rivers

www.yivo.org/uploads/files/POLAND_NEW_comments.htm

This newest publication of YIVO's Online Reference Library is the first attempt to collect and publish all Yiddish place names of Central and Eastern Europe in one source. For the moment, only those place names found in present-day Poland are available. In the course of 2010, YIVO plans to complete work on Poland and to add files with place names from Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, and elsewhere. YIVO Events Newsletter, Nov. 2009.

ROMANIA

Repatriates March/April 1946

The names and documents of 10,673 repatriates, mainly Jews, from Northern Bukovina, who survived

Now Online, cont. from page 10

Transnistria and the Holocaust are listed and available for download as Excel Files (in chronological or/and alphabetical order).

<http://radauti.blogspot.com/2009/12/repatriates-at-ussrromanian-border.html>

From Edgar Hauster, ROM-SIG, Dec. 29, 2009.

RUSSIA

Jews under the Czar

September 29, 1872 correspondence from Eugene Schuyler, Charge d'Affaires of the Legation of the United States in St. Petersburg, Russia, to his superior, U.S. Secretary of State Hamilton Fish, describing the status of Jews within Czarist control at that date.

www.angelfire.com/ms2/belaroots/schuyler.htm

From Aubrey Jacobus, JewishGen Digest, Jan. 28, 2010.

Pogroms From Kishineff to Bialystok 1903-6

Included is a table of more than 250 towns and cities in Europe where pogroms occurred. You will find for each pogrom event listed, damages, general remarks, the date of occurrence, the name of the town or city, the gubernia, the overall population of the location and the Jewish population. Most interestingly, though thoroughly depressing, is the "Report of the Duma Commission." It reviews in detail many incidents that occurred during the pogrom, especially to the Jewish population. Those of you who might have had families that lived in Bialystok may wish to read the report thoroughly to see if any family names are mentioned.

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/ajc-yb-v08-pogroms.htm

From Steve Lasky, JewishGen Digest, Nov. 29, 2009.

UNITED KINGDOM

General

Findmypast.com Changes Website Name

Findmypast is a United Kingdom-based family history website specializing in UK records. Their new URL is: **findmypast.co.uk**

Searching the records on the site is free, but there is a charge to view, download or print the records. From Jan Meisels Allen, JewishGen Digest, Dec. 14, 2009.

England, London

A new free site for Anglo-Jewish Genealogists

www.Synagoguescribes.com

Access a fully searchable database, currently comprising more than 16,000 birth, circumcision, marriage and burial records, drawn from registers

of the main London Ashkenazi communities (Great, New, Hambro and Western Synagogues) from circa 1785-1865. The burial records covering a period between 1776-1809 have been transliterated from a never previously published register. More will be added in the coming months. SynagogueScribes is a sister-site to CemeteryScribes, **www.Cemeteryscribes.com**. It is free to use and requires no membership or log-in procedures. From Gaby Laws and Angela Shire, JewishGen Digest, Dec. 3, 2009.

England, Leeds

Leodis - Photographs from Old Leeds, UK Archives
www.leodis.net/ "I have been able to find photos of where my great grandparents, grandparents and I grew up and went to school." From Jacqueline Davis, JewishGen Digest, Jan. 31, 2010.

SCOTLAND

Vital records

<http://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

The site now has indexes of Scottish births, marriages and deaths (1855-2006) and images of births (1855-1908), marriages (1855-1933) and deaths (1855-1958). From Avotaynu, Dec. 20, 2009.

UKRAINE

General

Geography Help

See Galicia

New Website on Jewish Galicia and Bukovina

See Galicia

Lviv

Lviv (Lwow) - discussion group

The organization of Lwow survivors and their descendants in Israel has opened a discussion group. You are welcome to post messages and searches in the link below

<http://groups.google.com/group/lvivgroup>

To join the organization, please e-mail Ann and Oren Einav at **ann@orantechg.com**

From Nurit Caspi Sheps, Geshet Galicia, Oct. 3, 2009.

Lviv (Lemberg) House & Street Photography Project
www.jewishgen.org/galicia/projects/lviv_photography_project/
Photographs taken of the places where your ancestors once lived. Dick Koops walked the streets of Lviv (formerly Lemberg, Galicia) in search of the streets, lanes and pathways our ancestors once walked. These photos are listed in alphabetical order (from A to Z) according to street name. From Pamela Weisberger, JewishGen Digest, Nov. 1, 2009.

Continued on page 14

Family Finder, cont. from page 7

Dawid Freulich, and his mother, Rachela Chaj Rosenberg. All I needed to do was find the Pinczow records and send away for them to track my father's family back one more generation.

No such luck! I did find a mention of a Dawid Freulich in one Pinczow record — only one. He was the husband of a woman named Sura Rifka (possibly nee Zajdman), who died in Pinczow in 1857. The problem was, only one child is listed in Sura Rifka's death record as a survivor — Ruchla Laia Freulich. I found a couple of other records for Dawid in nearby Szczekociny. And those records, too, said he was from Pinczow — a 45 year old widower who in 1859 married off his daughter, Ruchla Laia, to a Szczekociny man, and a few years later remarried a 20 year old Szczekociny girl. But there was no other information about my grandfather Dawid in Pinczow. And where was my great grandmother Rachela Chaj? And my grandfather Isaac? There was not one trace of them in the available indexes for Pinczow.

Pinczow indexes have been slow to come online, and where they have been made available, they have not yet yielded any helpful information. With the help of Judy Baston and other knowledgeable genealogists I have explored a number of theories and a number of possibilities, including using several possible patronymics to try to locate information about my Pinczow born grandfather and great grandparents. But, so far, Pinczow has been a dead end.

But the search for my grandmother's family was different. In fact, while it is far from over, it has been a remarkably successful search. Remember: when I started the search, I knew nothing of my grandmother's family and nothing about a connection to the little Katowice Province village of Zarki. Yet now there are more than four dozen positively identified Halborns and several dozen people with connected surnames in my family tree. And they go all the way back to that 1791 census of the 348 Jews living in Zarki just before the turn of the century. They go all the way back to Berek, son of Herzlik and Sandla, born in Zarki in about 1789, the only Berek among the younger children in the village. And they go all the way back to Malka, daughter of Marek and Gitla, listed as born on December 3, 1791—the only

Malka among the children of Zarki. And they go back to Ankiel (Yankel, Jacob) — one of several Ankiel's born in Zarki at the end of the 18th century — and to Chasia, who died in Zarki at the age of 60, in 1847, and who left behind five children.

* * * * *

So, what did I know, and when did I know it — at least with enough assurance to place people on my family tree?

In July 2009, when I received that Family Finder inquiry from Roman, I still knew very little. With the guidance of Judy Baston and others far more knowledgeable than I at the Sunday genealogy workshop, I had joined CRARG — the Czestochowa Radomsko Area Research Group — and gone through the databases for as many possible family names and connections as I could. With the cooperation of CRARG's Dan Kazez I had received help collecting and translating key documents. I had found and received copies of enough records for Liba and Herzlik Halborn to be sure that they were the parents of my grandmother Nisla Mirla and of her siblings, including her older brother Chaskiel. I had seen several references to Liba's parents (Jacob and Chasia). I had seen references

to Herzlik's parents (Berek and Malka). I had discovered that in 1847, when Chasia died, the family still lived in Zarki. I had found that they had moved to Czestochowa in 1857, just after the birth of my grandmother. I had acquired the civil record of the marriage of my grandmother, Nisla Mirla Halborn, to Isaac Freulich in Czestochowa in 1877. Dan Kazez had located and sent me a copy of the five page alegata (the Jewish marriage banns) for Isaac and Nisla Mirla's marriage. I had sent for copies of as many documents as I could discover and had managed to translate enough words in some of them to piece together some of the connections and even, in some cases, to place people in my family tree with a fair degree of confidence.

At about this point, my Polish cousin stepped into the picture with his Family Finder query. Since that time, I have received excellent copies of documents Roman acquired from the Polish State Archives along with Roman's very complete and accurate English translations. We have compared notes on various people and decided, together, whether or not the



Isaac Freulich, New York, about 1920. His Pinczow origins remain a mystery.

Family Finder, cont. from page 12

evidence is solid enough to include them in our mutual family tree. Occasionally I have been able to provide some guidance — like information on variant spelling of given names and surnames or information about the existence of that 1791 census of Zarki Jews. But the heavy lifting has all been Roman's. He has searched for and retrieved the original Polish documents — including the complete Zarki census — and has spent the time to translate every document with great care and accuracy.

Most recently Roman located death records in the Warsaw archives that appear to be for my grandmother and an aunt who died in the Lodz ghetto during the Holocaust, as well as several birth and marriage records that are most likely for my aunts and cousins. So far, these records have not been included in an online database. Roman was not considered a direct descendant and so

was prevented from obtaining these records under the Polish 100 year privacy rule. But he did obtain valuable information and record numbers and he has explained to me exactly how I could go about requesting copies of the records. I have followed his instructions and sent to the Lodz Central Archives for those records.

My father traveled to Poland in 1938 to try to convince his family to leave Europe. He was not successful. His mother, already 80 years old in 1938, was too disabled to travel. And her two daughters — one unmarried, the other married and with several children and grandchildren — refused to leave Poland without her. In 1974, after years of fruitless inquiries and searches, my father died without ever discovering the fate of his mother, two sisters, and several nieces and nephews. Now, for the first time, it is likely that the family will be able to obtain copies of these records and gain a sense of closure to the story of the Zarki Halborns.

I have been the beneficiary of my cousin Roman's efforts. Indeed, I have been the beneficiary of more

than that. I have discovered that some of my relatives actually did survive the Holocaust and that one was among the fighters in the Warsaw ghetto and among the last survivors to leave the ruins — he died recently in Israel just a few months after the birth of his first great grandchild, the youngest of my newly discovered Halborn relatives. I have acquired a sense of connection with family beyond the borders of the United States.

I have learned that the Family Finder can sometimes be even more valuable than all of the extensive databases that are rapidly growing on the Internet. And I have acquired a cousin.

* * * * *

One would think, "Dayenu" — enough, I have received more than my fair share of results and satisfaction and connection from listing names and villages in the JewishGen Family Finder. But in January 2010 I received another one of those emails from someone

searching through the Family Finder:

Shalom!

I'm a descendant of Rabi Yaacov Ezra Merkin, who was born in Shklow in 1833. Are you a descendant of him or of his father Hirsh Merkin or of his grandfather Haim (or Chayim or Chaim)?

Adit

The answer, this time: "Well, maybe."

The given name of my Merkin grandfather — my mother's father — was Yehudah. And it seems that Yaacov Merkin had a brother named Yehudah. The timing seems possible: my maternal grandfather was probably born in the early 1840s, and lived much of his life as a Talmudic scholar in the town of Orsha, in Belarus, only 44 kilometers from Shklow. So Adit and I have begun working together to test out a possible relationship. This time it is proving harder — records for the Mogilev area are not readily available on line, and in many cases may not be available at all.

Still, it is the possibility that keeps one going.



Roman Freulich, his sister Sura, two of her daughters and a granddaughter in a Lodz park in 1938.

Now Online, cont. from page 11

The World

ARGENTINA

Argentina, Santa Fe

Cemeteries

The website of the Jewish Community of Santa Fe, Argentina (Comunidad Israelita de Santa Fe) features a link (in Spanish) for information on two cemeteries in/near the city of Santa Fe: "Blas Parera" and "Santo Tome. There is no search engine for the "Blas Parera" cemetery (the oldest in the city, founded abt 1916)

www.kehilasantafe.org.ar/index.php?daf=21

To access the burials database, click on "Cemeteries" and then "Ubicaciones" (locations). Clicking on the "Aniversarios" link will bring another search engine for Yahrzeit days, but with no year. This may also be of use. Finally, the "Noticias" link will bring some recent obituaries. From Yaacov Slizak, JewishGen Digest, Oct. 4, 2009.

AUSTRALIA

Australia newspapers archive

<http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/>

The Melbourne newspaper *The Argus* is now searchable from 1846 to 1945, as well as issues of the *Sydney Herald* and *Sydney Morning Herald* from 1831-1842 and 1842-1852 respectively. From Julie Hemenstall, JewishGen Digest, Nov. 9, 2009.

CANADA

The Library and Archives of Canada updated

To access the LAC go to:

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/

New additions to their databases: Canadian Naturalization database increased from 20,000 to 200,000 images.

- ♦ Corrections made to entries for Home Children database.
- ♦ Corrections made to entries for the Canadian Expeditionary Force - CEF.
- ♦ Corrections made to Killed in Action (KIA) database.
- ♦ Addition of 2,000 digital images to the Board of Guardians database.
- ♦ Addition of 104,000 digital images of Passenger Lists database.
- ♦ Addition of 40,000 digital images to Citizenship Montreal Circuit Court database.
- ♦ Release of indexes and digital images for the 1861, 1871 and 1916 Censuses.
- ♦ All Census returns from 1851 to 1916 have been digitized and are available. From Jan Meisels Allen, JewishGen Digest, Nov. 26, 2009.

CHINA

Shanghai

1934-1941 Polish consulate registry in Shanghai indexed

This is an alphabetical listing of those who were registered at the Polish Consulate in Shanghai before and/or during WWII.

www.loc.gov/rr/european/polref/polrefindex.html

This list includes only the person's name and registration entry number. Note: If you find a hit, you can consult the three copies of the Ledger known to exist in the United States: "at the Library of Congress, the U.S. Holocaust Museum, and the Hoover Institute, Stanford University. The register provides the following information: personal names; date of registration; profession; religion; place and date of birth; marital status; permanent address in Poland and address of next of kin [rarely provided]; place of residence in the consular district; documents on the basis of which the person is registered [generally, passport]; names and year and place of birth of wife and children; passport expiration date; comments [e.g., 'emigrated to America,' 'returned to Poland,' 'died']. Roughly 60 percent of the registrants are identified as Jewish." From Steve Lasky.

ISRAEL

General

Finding people living in Israel

Every so often people are looking for a person living in Israel. Using the following link, it is quite easy to locate almost anyone in Israel.

<http://english.b144.co.il/Default.aspx>. From Nava Shochet, JRI-Poland digest, Nov. 1, 2009.

Historic Jewish Press Internet Site

More Jewish publications have now been digitized and indexed and are available at a "Historic Jewish Press" site. To date there are 11 publications including the *Palestine Post* (1932-1950), *Bulletin of the Alliance Israélite Universelle* (1860-1913) and *Ha-Magid* (1856-1903). A complete list, as well as links to each publication, can be found at **<http://jpress.huji.ac.il/cross-section/allpub-en.asp>**. From Avotaynu, *Nu What's New?* Nov. 30, 2009.

Jerusalem

Mount of Olives (Har Zeitim) Cemetery
An amazing web site with a searchable database of tens of thousands of graves. On the upper left hand corner of the web page you can choose either English or Hebrew. **www.mountofolives.co.il** From Sandra Levy, JewishGen Digest, Jan. 25, 2010.

Now Online, cont. from page 14

Holocaust/WWII

GENERAL

Assistance with Holocaust Research

Peter Lande, from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, wrote an article to assist genealogists with their Holocaust research. He explains some of the overlooked resources at the USHMM, Yad Vashem and ITS and how they can be accessed and he would be happy to grant you permission to print his article in your newsletters or journals. This article is in the November 2009 issue of ECHO (<http://iajgs.org/echo/echo.htm>) From Daniel Horowitz, Austria-Czech SIG Digest, Nov. 22, 2009.

Footnote.com and U.S.-held Holocaust era records

www.footnote.com/

These searchable records are from various U.S. sources including the National Archives and the USHMM. Many of them are free to view. For others you can pay by image (\$2.95) or be a subscriber. Be sure to look for "Browse by Historical Era" and select "WWII" era records before you search. The next page will list all the related record collections.

(Note: My test was for the Dachau records. Clicking that collection led to a list of years. Clicking on the year 1938 yielded another list of specific dates. However, not knowing the date, I put Rothm*ller in the bottom search box and was surprised and chilled to find the image of the registry page when my relative entered Dachau. It had column headings in German for number, name, Race, birthdate, bplace, status, # of children, religion, occupation, address. The online Dachau website *never* had information for these earlier years. In order to print, footnote.com did require my email address. I am registered with them though not a subscriber.)

For more information check out this article in the newspaper *Jewish Exponent*.

www.jewishexponent.com/article/20421/

From Marilyn Dornhelm, Holocaust Reparations Discussion Group Number 760, Jan. 18-24, 2010.

LATVIA

Holocaust Book translated

www.jewsoflatvia.com/index.html

The English translation of *Churbn Lettland: The Destruction of the Jews of Latvia* by Max Kaufmann, is now available online and downloadable as a pdf. "It is a well-documented and erudite testimonial of the horrors that took place in Latvia during the Holocaust." From *Avotaynu*, Nov. 17, 2009.

POLAND

Lodz Ghetto

There are two lists comprised of nearly 1,400 names of Jewish residents who perished in the Łódź Ghetto and were buried in the cemetery. www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/ce/ghetto/lodz-ghetto-cemetery.htm

From Steven Lasky, JRI-PL Digest, Jan. 23, 2010.

Be sure to check these websites for important additions/updates:

www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/translations.html

Yizkor book translations

www.jri-poland.org

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland

www.sephardicgen.com/databases/databases.html

Many new searchable databases for Sephardic genealogy researchers.

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org

Shtetl websites.

Get Expert Help With your Family Tree

One-to-one family tree help sessions continue one Sunday per month (generally the first Sunday of the month) at the Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco, from noon to 2 p.m.

Sessions begin with brainstorming with experienced genealogists from the Jewish Community Library and the SFBAJGS. This is followed by individual attention using the Library's collection and Internet resources.

Help sessions will take place from noon to 2 p.m. on March 7, April 4, May 2, and June 13.

NARA Holds How-To Workshops

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) offers workshops at the Pacific Region (San Bruno) branch, located at 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. All workshops will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The schedule through May includes:

* Census Records Research – Friday, March 19

* Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records – Friday, April 16

* Military - Part I: Revolutionary War to the Civil War – Friday, May 14

Workshops continue through August.

To register or for more information contact Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogist Specialist, at (650)238-3488 or rosemary.kennedy@nara.gov.

Calendar of Events

Sun. Feb. 21, Oakland: *Family Research in Greater Hungary.* A must for Hungary researchers! Vivian Kahn, coordinator of JewishGen's Hungary SIG, will provide an overview of the history of Hungary's Jewish community and discuss resources available to those researching Hungarian roots. (See information about new meeting location on page 3.)

Mon. Feb. 22, Los Altos Hills: *Jews in the Civil War: Answering the Four Questions.* Richard Ferman, a direct descendant of a disabled Civil War veteran, will discuss why our ancestors may have fought in the Civil War and what happened to them during and after the war.

Sun. March 21, San Francisco: Topic and speaker to be determined. (See information about new meeting location on page 4.)

Sun. April 18, Oakland: *Mapping Madness.* Ron Arons will discuss numerous websites where one can find historical maps, will review the online mapping facilities provided by Microsoft and Google, and will introduce the audience to several less known online mapping facilities.

Mon. April 19, Los Altos Hills: *How We Share and Preserve Memories in a Digital Era.* Daniel Horowitz will discuss the various options for storing your research material and sharing with young and old.

For more information about these and other programs of interest, see pages 3 and 4.
For the latest program information visit sfbajgs.org

ZichronNote

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