



זכרונות *ZichronNote*

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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Confirming Chaim Yaakov's Father

At what point do you decide you have enough circumstantial evidence to warrant reaching a definitive conclusion in your research? See page 5.

Also in This Issue

The Ger Mandolin Orchestra: A Living Memorial to Poland's Jews
Eric Stein 7

The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life
Jeremy Frankel 9

Be a More Efficient Researcher in Libraries and Archives
Jeremy Frankel 10

Departments

President's Message 2
Society News 3
Calendar 4
Now Online 11
Family Finder Update 15



Magnes Director Alla Efimova describing part of the Five Decades exhibit, which displays some of the material collected by the Fromers

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President's Message

A Future Virtual Reality?

By Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

I happen to subscribe to the *Forward* newspaper. Even though it comes out weekly, what with everything else going on in my life demanding my attention I soon get behind. Therefore it's not surprising many issues are lying around awaiting my attention.

A November edition had a review of a book written about photography and asked whether there was a style which could be described as "Jewish photography." The article went on to talk about how photographs capture a moment in time.

Of course we who view any kind of picture don't necessarily know what happened during those moments before or after the photograph was taken. Most of the time we're left wondering.

Similarly, we genealogists spend an inordinate amount of our own time (I know that some of us do) chasing down many leads and being frustrated by just as many dead ends in search of vital records, census returns, ship manifests, in fact a whole plethora of documents, in order to create a picture of an individual. Repeating this exercise with several individuals, we hope to form a picture of a family. Well, we like to think we have grasped the picture.

That said, each document or photograph we retrieve is also a "snapshot" in time. It doesn't really tell the whole story. We have to conjecture how one goes from one snapshot to the next. We weren't privy to all the machinations of their daily lives.

Ironically, as we spend all this time retrieving these documents, answering the what, where, and when of our ancestors, doing so creates a picture to some extent of the same thing about our own lives and where we were at each moment in time.

Hence our lives become "virtually" intertwined with those of our ancestors. All of this makes me wonder, who in the future is going to spend the same amount of time that I have been investing in my ancestors, to research my life? (As if I should be so lucky!)

The way I see it, it could be a double-edged sword. On the one hand we already read about privacy issues and the reduction and redaction of records. On the other hand I have to wonder about future record-keeping going digital. Will any of this "stuff" actually be preserved for future genealogists? Even more importantly, will they have access to these records?

To cite one possible scenario, I mentioned that one of the "markers" or snapshots in time were passenger manifests, which after 1906 were incredibly useful

Continued on page 4

SOCIETY NEWS

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In order to continue to receive the SFBAJGS e-zine and *ZichronNote*, please send e-mail updates to newsletter@sfbajgs.org.

New Location and Time for SF Meetings

It was quite apparent throughout the past year that we were facing problems at our San Francisco meeting site, Congregation Beth Israel-Judea. Attendance was below what we wanted to see. The Board worked hard to find a solution, and in 2012 our San Francisco meetings will be held at Rhoda Goldman Plaza, a more central location. We look forward to seeing many members there during the coming year.

It's Membership Renewal Time!

If you who have not yet renewed your membership in SFBAJGS for 2012, 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, e-mail 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 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.

SFBAJGS Launches New Logo

After a selection process lasting nearly a year, the Board of Directors has chosen a more modern, streamlined logo to be the symbol of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society. The new logo was designed by Todd Ritola, a Larkspur graphic artist. It eliminates the shield outline featured in the Society's old logo in favor of a simpler oval shape. The new logo includes three iconic symbols: the Golden Gate Bridge, for the Bay Area; a Star of David, representing Judaism; and a tree, representing genealogy. Over the coming weeks the Society's online and print materials will be redesigned to feature this new logo.

Meeting Times and Locations

Unless otherwise indicated, the SFBAJGS meeting schedule is as follows. **NOTE:** We have a new time and location for the San Francisco meetings.

San Francisco: **Sunday. Doors open 1:00 p.m. Program begins at 1:30 p.m.**
Rhoda Goldman Plaza, 2180 Post Street.

Oakland: **Sunday. Doors open 12:30 p.m. Program begins at 1:00 p.m.**
Oakland Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue.

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.

See Back Cover for Calendar of Upcoming SFBAJGS Meetings

CALENDAR

Genealogy Events

Local and Regional

Saturday, 17 March. **Sonoma County Genealogical Society.** Steve Morse, “**Getting Ready for the 1940 Census.**” 2060 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa. <http://www.scgs.org/scgs.html>

Sunday, 18 March. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento.** Ingeborg Carpenter, “**Superstitions and Other Irrational Beliefs That Guided Our German Ancestors’ Lives.**” Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright St, Sacramento. <http://www.scgs.org/scgs.html>

Tuesday, 20 March. **San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society.** Steve Morse, “**Getting Ready for the 1940 Census.**” 2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo. <http://www.srvgensoc.org/>

Saturday, 24 March. **California Genealogical Society.** Steve Morse, “**Getting Ready for the 1940 Census.**” 2201 Broadway Lower Level, Oakland. <http://www.californiaancestors.org/>

Tuesday, 27 March. **California Genealogical Society.** Jeremy Frankel presents “**Beginning Research in England**” as part of the Ancestral Homelands series. Oakland Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland. <http://www.californiaancestors.org/>

Saturday, 31 March. **Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society.** Spring Seminar with George Morgan. <http://www.rootcellar.org/>

Sunday, 15 April. **Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento.** Lynn Brown, “**USCIS and How to Order Citizenship Records Online.**” Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright St, Sacramento. <http://www.scgs.org/scgs.html>

Stories Wanted for ZichronNote

Have you had a breakthrough in your family research, solved a family mystery through painstaking research, discovered a better way to use resource materials, or walked where your ancestors walked as part of an interesting family history trip? Have you had success or made progress at the Genealogy Clinic with the Mavens? Want to write a letter to the editor?

We want to read about it in ZichronNote. Please submit materials to newsletter@sfbajgs.org.

Saturday, 21 April. **California Genealogical Society.** Tim Cox, “**Hard Drive Organization.**” 2201 Broadway Lower Level, Oakland. <http://www.californiaancestors.org/>

Tuesday, 22 May. **California Genealogical Society.** Robert Jackson presents “**Beginning Research in Germany**” as part of the Ancestral Homelands series. Oakland Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland. <http://www.californiaancestors.org/>

State and National

Friday–Sunday, 8–10 June. **Jamboree.** Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank. <http://scsgsgenealogy.com/2011jam-home.htm>

International

Sunday–Wednesday, 15–18 July 2012. **32nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.** Hotel Marriott Paris Rive Gauche, Paris, France. <http://www.paris2012.eu/>



IJGM Poster Contest

International Jewish Genealogy Month (IJGM) falls during the Jewish month of Heshvan, which this year will be from 17 October to 14 November 2012 on the secular calendar. To help promote International Jewish Genealogy Month, IAJGS is again holding a poster contest. This year’s submission deadline is **3 June 2012**. Details will be available soon. Watch for updates on the IJGM home page, <http://www.iajgs.org/jgmonth.html>, where you can see past poster contest winners.

President’s Message, continued from page 2

documents, in many cases becoming the pivotal record which connected the family in the new country to that in the old country.

Now imagine, say, in fifty years’ time a genealogist wishes to research his grandparents’ emigration. Let’s assume the couple flew from London to New York in 2010. Will that genealogist be able to view such a document? Will airline records of this nature even exist? Maybe the CIA or some other federal agency, as a matter of security, already receives copies of all airline “manifests.” What will these records contain? Certainly not the names of one’s nearest relative in the old country, nor the name of the person he is traveling to. I don’t recall proffering such information when first I traveled to America in 1987.

Hmm, I sure hope they can do justice to piecing together my life just as I am doing with my ancestors!



Confirming Chaim Yaakov's Father

An example from the lecture "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt: Dealing with What You Know But Cannot Prove"

Israel Pickholtz

Israel Pickholtz was born in Pittsburgh and has lived in Israel since 1973. His professional research includes locating and photographing graves; locating living people, Mandate citizenship records, and records for Galician residents in the 1920's and 1930's; inheritance matters; and Holocaust research. He has served on the board of the Israel Genealogical Society, as secretary of Geshet Galicia, and as a town leader for JRI-Poland, and currently is secretary of the Professional Jewish Genealogists Group. This article first appeared in *The Galitzianer* Volume 17, Number 3, May 2010, pages 19–20.

Many researchers, particularly those working on very large families or single-surname projects, reach a point where a particular relationship can be deduced but cannot quite be proven. The naming patterns may be there and everything seems to fit into plausible times and places, but neither documentation nor oral testimony exists that might even remotely be considered proof.

Do you record it as fact, without evidence? Or do you leave open a question when you actually "know" the answer? If you leave it open, you leave gaps and loose ends in your genealogy for no good reason. But if you bite the bullet and call it fact, you may never re-examine the decision in light of new source material. Your research heirs certainly won't think to do so. How do you decide?

If you "know" that Reuven is the father of Shimon, do you link them as such, with a note that there is no direct evidence? Or do you leave Shimon with no father but add a note indicating that his father is almost surely Reuven?

In evaluating each individual case, I have found it useful to ask myself the following questions:

- What kind of proof might be sufficient and how likely is it that I can find it?
- Does accepting the assumption serve a purpose?
- Does what I have qualify as "beyond a reasonable doubt?"
- What other scenarios are there and how likely are they to be correct?
- Is there any conflicting evidence?
- Am I engaging in any wishful thinking?
- Are there any issues of *shalom bayit* ("keeping the peace") within the family or the project?

Beyond these questions, my own policy is that after I have decided that I "know" something, I will make the link only after I have found one additional piece of supporting evidence.

This article considers an anecdote from the Pikholtz Project in an attempt to analyze one particular aspect of this dilemma, with an unexpected epilog.

The Buczacz Family

We had known for some time that a number of the Pikholtz individuals living in Israel had come from Buczacz. Shalom of Haifa and Zvi of Netanya were the sons of Avraham. Yitzhak of Haifa was the son of Mordecai. Another Mordecai was the son of Yehushua. But all these were long gone by the time the Pikholtz Project got off the ground. The next generation knew enough to confirm that Avraham, Mordecai, and Yehoshua had been brothers, but no one seemed to know their parents' names. No records are available for Buczacz, so we could not do the usual research that might take us back another generation or at least give us some dates to work with.

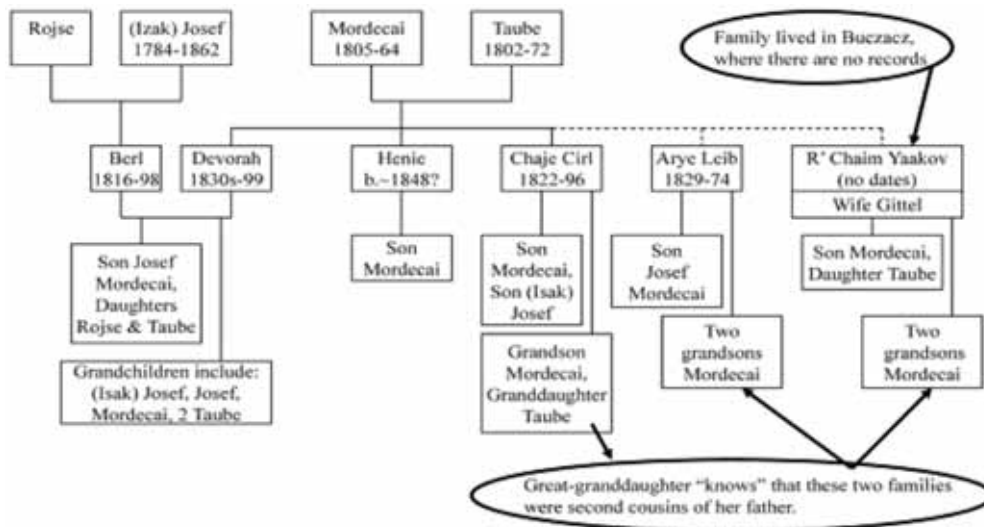
We also had several Pikholtz descendants from Skalat who knew that the Buczacz Pikholtzes were some kind of cousins, but it wasn't anything a responsible genealogist could record in a database. Those cousins were all descended from a Pikholtz couple—Mordecai (1805–1864) and Taube (1802–1872)—and it was quite possible, even likely, that the head of the Buczacz family was a son of this couple, as well.

We also had a reference to a "R' Yakli of Buczacz" who was a Pikholtz or married to one, who had written some apparently unpublished Biblical commentary (David Tidhar, *Encyclopedia of the Pioneers of the Yishuv and Its Builders* [in Hebrew], vol. 10, p. 3,541; Tel Aviv, 1959).

We considered that this R' Yakli may have been the father of the three brothers. He sounded like a learned man, but not one who held an official position.

Our first break came when I had a look at the grave of Yitzhak in Haifa, which commemorated his parents as well. This inscription showed that the head of the family, Yitzhak's grandfather, was Chaim Yaakov, but had no mention of his wife.

We knew it was possible that this Chaim Yaakov and R' Yakli were one and the same, but they could well have been brothers-in-law or cousins.



Chaim Yaakov's tombstone

Our next discovery tied up some of the loose ends. In the Pages of Testimony at Yad Vashem, I learned that the three Buczacz brothers had a sister Rivka who married a man from Radauti, Bukovina, and that this couple had living descendants. One of those was able to confirm that R' Yakli was the same as Chaim Yaakov and also told us that Chaim Yaakov's wife was Gittel. No one had any idea when Chaim Yaakov had lived and died, as no one seemed to have been named for him.

But Chaim Yaakov had a daughter Taube and a son and two grandsons named Mordecai, so it seemed reasonable to think that his parents were Mordecai and Taube. At this point, the family looked like the diagram above.

It was looking good, but still not good enough to consider making a final decision.

I next turned to Tom Weiss, who had photographed all the remaining stones in the Buczacz cemetery. I had helped with the translations, so Tom had given me a copy of the Excel file for the whole lot. Some of the stones showed surnames, but there were no Pikholzes. I searched for "Given name = Chaim Yaakov" and found one. The father was Mordecai and the year of death was 5671 (1910). There was no indication of age, no mention of his wife, nothing that said he had come from Skalat. Nor was a Gittel buried in the area. The name Chaim Yaakov ben Mordecai was what I wanted, but this was just a circular proof, demonstrating nothing. The inscription, however, was fascinating:

A pure and honest man, a Hassid
And Gaon, Rav R' Chaim Yaakov
ben R' Mordecai z"l died
11 Mar-Heshvan 5671
A humble man from his youth
Dedicated all his days to Torah
He was an instructor in Israel
But due to his great modesty

Never wanted a position for himself
And did not want to use the Torah
As an axe to dig with.

[a Talmudic expression meaning that he did not use Torah to make a living]
He taught his sons to fear God
A generous man, whose house was
Always open to everyone. His soul
Ascended to Heaven in holiness
And purity. *[blur that is probably age]*
May his soul be bound in life

This sounded to me like Tidhar's very brief description of R' Yakli, especially the bit about not using the Torah as an axe to dig with. That brought me to the point where I was sure this was our man, but I had no proof. I was at the point of the dilemma described in the introduction. I could record Chaim Yaakov as the son of Mordecai and Taube, but if I did so, no one would ever revisit the matter in light of new developments. I consulted with the six living great-grandchildren, some of whom had lived in Buczacz and who might have visited the grave or at least had some notion when Chaim Yaakov had died. But they knew nothing.

I was sure this was right, but according to my own rule, I needed one more piece of supporting evidence. I was stymied, and worse, I had no way to try to move this forward. End of story? Was this to be an example of knowing yet having to live with the uncertainty? It certainly looked that way.

Continued on page 8

The Ger Mandolin Orchestra: A Living Memorial to Poland's Jews

Eric Stein

Eric Stein is the artistic director of the Ashkenaz Festival of Jewish music in Toronto (<http://www.ashkenazfestival.com/>). To learn more and hear clips of the mandolin orchestra, search "Ger Mandolin Orchestra" on YouTube or Google, or contact Eric Stein at eric@ashkenazfestival.com. This article was first published in the Bulletin of the the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble, a Toronto-based organization.

Over the last year I have had the great privilege of participating in a unique new musical project. The Ger Mandolin Orchestra is an eleven-piece ensemble composed of some of the world's leading mandolin players. The project is the brainchild of San Francisco-based Israeli [and SFBAJGS Board member] Avner Yonai. While searching for his family's roots in Poland, Yonai discovered a 1930's-era photograph of his grandfather and two other relatives playing in a Jewish mandolin orchestra in the Polish town of Góra Kalwaria, known in Yiddish as Ger. Intrigued and inspired by the photo, Yonai set out on a quest to revive a modern version of the Ger mandolin group, to serve as a living memorial to his Polish-Jewish forebears and, more broadly, to the rich cultural life of Jews in pre-WWII Poland.

In partnership with the Jewish Music Festival in Berkeley, California, Yonai began his quest by enlisting as musical director Mike Marshall, a Bay Area resident and one of the world's greatest mandolinists. Imagine my excitement at receiving a phone call from Marshall in January 2011 inviting me to participate in the group. After hearing the list of other participants my excitement only grew. Each of the players in the group is a virtuoso in his own right, and the stylistic expertise among the members ranges widely from Jewish and East European folk music to bluegrass, jazz, Irish, Brazilian, classical, and much more.

One of our great challenges was determining what repertoire the original Ger orchestra had played. Despite prodigious research, little information specific to the original group's work was discovered. So, like many great archaeological tasks, much was left to inference and historically educated guesses. There was little doubt that such a group would have played its fair share of Jewish music, and on that count I was thrilled to be able to contribute five of my own original arrangements for mandolin orchestra of klezmer and Yiddish music. Ongoing research and general theorizing about the historical and sociocultural context of the original Ger ensemble led to the completion of our repertoire with the addition of Polish, Slavic, and Italian music.

The group came together for the first time in March in Berkeley. Over two intensive days of

rehearsal eleven musicians who had never before worked together were transformed into a finely oiled mando machine. Our debut performance at the venerable Freight and Salvage Coffeehouse was a smash success, and we all knew instantly that we were part of something special. Within two weeks of the Berkeley performance, Yonai received a letter of congratulations from the current mayor of Góra Kalwaria, which included an invitation for the new Ger Mandolin Orchestra to return to Poland and perform in the town of its origin.

Word came in the spring that plans had coalesced for the group to make good on the mayor's invitation and travel to Poland in the first week of September. My excitement for the tour was tempered by a degree of anxiety about what instrument I would play. All members of the ensemble trade off on different instruments of the mandolin family, but from the outset, I had volunteered to play bass if no one else was willing. In California a beautiful customized, fretless 1920's Gibson mandobass was borrowed for me to play. But being an American instrument, mandobasses are hard to come by in Europe. I suggested that perhaps a bass balalaika or bass domra would be the next best thing (despite never having played such an instrument). After many e-mails and tireless work by Yonai's team of tour organizers in Poland, the rental of a contrabass balalaika from a musical ensemble in Lodz was arranged, for the mere sum of 150 zlotys (\$50)!

Notwithstanding my initial musical challenge of conquering this imposing three-stringed beast, reuniting with the group in Poland was a joyful and moving experience. We were greeted in Góra Kalwaria as guests of honor at a variety of civic festivities. Though once home to more than 3,000 Jews (approximately half of the town's population at the outbreak of WWII), only two Jews remain today as residents. Now in their 90's, Henryk Prajs and Felix Karpman both provided crucial information in efforts to research the original Ger mandolin group. Having them in attendance at our concert, along with an overcapacity audience of mostly non-Jewish current-day residents of Góra Kalwaria, was extraordinarily meaningful.



The Ger Mandolin Orchestra: 2011 in front of Dom Tsadik (house of the Ger Rebbe, part of which was a home and part was the Beis midrash and a synagogue during High Holidays). It was built circa 1900.

Our concert took place in the Tzadik Synagogue, an elegant but neglected old building that had not had this many people in it for 70 years. The atmosphere at the concert was electric, and the orchestra rose to the occasion with a terrific performance. I was thrilled to have a chance in the second half of the show to escape the grasp of “Big Ethel” (our loving sobriquet for the bass balalaika) and perform a Jacob do Bandolim tune on mandolin in a trio with Mike Marshall and Portland’s Tim Connell. Our concert concluded with a rousing version of the famous Polish folk song “Szła Dziweczka.” The image of 400+ Poles swaying back and forth, arms linked, while singing with us in the old Ger synagogue will remain etched in my memory.

The following day was jam-packed, beginning with a morning workshop in Warsaw attended by 150 young Polish children who are part of mandolin orchestras in and around the area. Later that afternoon we performed a full concert in Warsaw’s ornate Nozyk Synagogue, one of the only original Jewish buildings in Warsaw to escape the near-complete destruction of the city during WWII. Once again our concert took on a momentous gravity, reanimating a Jewish building with music and heartfelt emotion. Later that evening the group performed a song as part of the Singera Festival finale, before an audience of many thousands at an outdoor stage constructed in the shadow of some of the few remaining original buildings from the WWII-era Warsaw ghetto. This performance was broadcast live on Polish television to an audience of millions, serving as a fitting climax to our whirlwind week of cultural and musical reclamation.

It has been a month now since my return from Poland, and like many of the other members of the ensemble, I am suffering Ger withdrawal. All of us are eagerly anticipating our next opportunity to come

together. There are plans afoot for a CD recording this winter, a return to Poland next July, and participation next September in the 2012 Ashkenaz Festival here in Toronto. We are all incredibly grateful for, and awed by, the supreme efforts of Avner Yonai in spearheading this extraordinary project.

A video clip summary of the European tour can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJdBG0jzxhg>. A trailer of the Ger Mandolin Orchestra: 2011 documentary is at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUNy9_gv_y8.

A clip from the performance at Góra Kalwaria can be found at http://www.wydarzenia-gorakalwaria.pl/index.php?action=show_video&videoid=118.



Confirming Chaim Yaakov’s Father, continued from page 6

Epilog

About a year later, I received an e-mail from a genealogist friend here in Jerusalem, Rabbi David Shapiro, who works with manuscripts professionally. He was transcribing and translating from Yiddish the notes of a rabbi who had lived in the United States until his death in 1974. R’ David sent me the following quote from the manuscript.

My grandfather’s daughter was matched with the son of R’ Chaim Yaakov Pickholz of Buczacz, a leaseholder in a village near Buczacz. R’ Ch[aim] Y[aakov] is a recognized Torah scholar and an authority on *halacha*. He even authored a book on the subject of the laws of *treifus* of broken bones, and even contested the opinions of the Levushei Srad (whose book on that subject is considered authoritative). He was offered a position as a rabbi in Buczacz, but disdained the burden of public service and the rabbinate, and chose to work in the fields. In fact his sons literally worked in the fields like peasants despite the fact that they were all Torah scholars who worked in the fields all day, returning home at night to learn gemara and [commentaries].

R’ David agreed with me that this description fit hand in glove with the inscription on the gravestone.

This still does not qualify as proof by the standard definition, but it is enough for me to formally list Chaim Yaakov Pikhholz as the son of Mordecai and Taube.



The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life

Jeremy Frankel

The Magnes has been reborn in a new form.

Jeremy represented the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society at the public and private openings of the new Magnes building in downtown Berkeley.

If you look carefully at the new title of the Magnes it's not too difficult to observe that the word "museum" is noticeably absent. As director Alla Effimova explained when I visited in January, the new incarnation of the Magnes is not designed to be a museum per se, but is primarily a place of research as well as a gathering place for learning; there is a large 200-seat auditorium in the rear of the building. Another large room is designed for temporary displays.

The old Magnes, as many of us will recall, was situated on Russell Street, Berkeley, and closed its doors in 2009. This followed the untimely death of its founder Seymour Fromer in October 2009.

The new incarnation has resulted in the Magnes becoming a part of UC Berkeley, and the documents of the Western Jewish History Center are now in the care of the Bancroft Library, UC's rare books and manuscript library. Some of the former staff of the Magnes are now UC employees.

As Alla went on to explain, the "marriage" between the two institutions is somewhat complex, with a Magnes foundation actually owning the downtown building, but it is leased to UC Berkeley for a period of sixty years. Operating expenses are also split between the foundation and UC.

To be honest the amount of space isn't sufficient to really call it a museum, though several carefully designed exhibit cases hold specialized kinds of Judaica and other objects in the Magnes' collection. These cases were built of locally salvaged elm, which could be said to be a tip of the yarmulke to the Magnes' former geographical location, the Elmwood district.

On the other hand the building's interior has been designed so that one can see through the floor-to-ceiling glass walls into two archives, one on either side of the building. These house some eighty percent of the Magnes' holdings. The remainder, some very large, are stored off-site in Oakland.

Most of the papers and documents that were formerly part of the Western Jewish History Center were catalogued by archivist Lara Michels (before her move to a staff position at Bancroft Library) and can be located online using Berkeley's OSKICAT catalog (<http://oskicat.berkeley.edu/>). This was a Herculean effort

on Lara's part, primarily because the collection had never before really been inventoried. A sampling of what Lara encountered was revealed to the Society when she spoke to us last November in San Francisco.

For those of us engaged in California research and more specifically the San Francisco Bay area, the hidden treasures in the collection are sure to prove a 21st-century gold mine that can be tapped for its riches.

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 12:00 noon–4:00 p.m., Thursday until 7:00 p.m.

Location: 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley, one block east of the Downtown Berkeley BART.

Parking: On surrounding streets (metered) or in a parking structure (entrance on Kittredge Street). One exit elevator from the parking structure opens facing the Magnes.



Director Alla Efimova in front of the major donor display

Be a More Efficient Researcher in Libraries and Archives

Jeremy Frankel

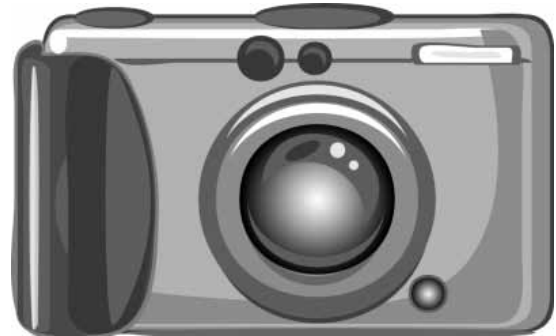
Are you working as efficiently as you can in the library?

When I am in a library or archive often I see people sitting at computers or at tables with open books copying by hand the information they are looking at, and I find myself shaking my head. Think about this for a moment and ask yourself a couple of questions: Is the document on a computer? If it is, can you download it to a flash drive? If it is in a book, can you take a digital photograph of the page? (And yes, check the copyright issues pertaining to everything you copy.)

Both these options take just seconds to accomplish and will reduce the time you spend in the library, or better still allow you to do more research and uncover more information within the same time you were spending, formerly copying the information laboriously by hand.

This is one of the more important lessons family historians can learn. The spin-offs may not be apparently obvious. Retrieving the information more efficiently and more rapidly means you move your research along far more quickly and learn more. You will formulate your next research questions more quickly, can ask questions of your relatives more quickly—and let's be honest, you never know when someone in your family is going to pass away. We're always being told that the answer we want could have come only from the one relative who died just last month, darn!

Second, by capturing the information on a flash drive or by digital camera, then uploading it to your computer, you can share the information in its original form with family members or with other researchers if you have a question. Furthermore, by sharing the information there is far less chance of having made a mistake, something that is always inherent when transcribing manually—all that looking up, looking down, being momentarily distracted by a noise, going to the bathroom, food break, or someone you know stopping by to say hello. You turn back to what you were doing and continue having your train of thought and concentration temporarily misappropriated, and you might miss a vital word or date without realizing it until later—possibly much later.



The bottom line is, always ask yourself, can you capture the information digitally? Not only is this now the quickest, best, and safest way to do so, but by backing it up several times, you can also be assured that you will never lose your original research. While doing several back-ups is what one always OUGHT to do with one's research, the one thing you DON'T want to do is to constantly repeat researching the same thing.

So remember: capture not copy; retrieve not write. You want to “back up” the information, not keep “going back” to repeat the research. We now live in the 21st century; it's time to get with the program!



The Galitzianer **Request for Submissions**

The Galitzianer is the quarterly journal of Gesher Galicia. Submissions may be articles and/or graphics, both original and previously published, relevant to Jewish genealogical research in Galicia: articles about recent trips to Galicia, reports on your own research, research techniques, historical and recent pictures relevant to these matters, lists, book reviews, etc.

Electronic submissions are preferred, though not required. Submissions are accepted from both members and nonmembers of Gesher Galicia.

Though submissions are accepted year-round, the deadline for the June 2012 issue is 8 May 2012. To send a submission or if you have any questions, contact Janice Sellers at janicemsj@gmail.com. For more information see <http://www.jewishgen.org/galicia/newsletter.html>.

Now Online

By Marilyn Dornhelm

Juicy Bits of Jewish Genealogy

In this column I share what's new in online indices, digitized archival material, and tools. The following are from November 2011–30 January 2012. The main sources for these are JewishGen and many SIG digests. Comments are welcome. Send them to mdornhelm@yahoo.com.

USA

GENERAL

Ellis Island Interviews Free on Ancestry.com

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2142>

Featuring 1,700 oral histories recorded from 1973 on by the U.S. National Park Service. The interviews are delightful. They give insights into conducting one's own interviews.

1940 U.S. Federal Census Will Be Released 2 April 2012

<http://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html>

The Unified 1940 (U.S.) Census ED Finder is a new tool added to the Census section of Steve Morse's One-Step website. Enter on the form as much of the location as you know. The desired ED (or perhaps a small number of possible EDs) are then displayed. Each ED contains a link to the census images for that ED, although the links will not be operational until 2 April.

<https://familysearch.org/1940census>

Immediately on release FamilySearch will start indexing the 1940 census.

1910 Report on U.S. Immigration and Immigrants from Europe

<http://www.archive.org/stream/cu31924021182500#page/n41/mode/1up>

An interesting 1910 U.S. Senate report describing an immigrant's journey, including conditions in transit and government regulations.

NY Public Library Blog Posts On Genealogy - Obituaries and Census

<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2011/11/09/great-obituary-hunt-genealogy-research-guide>

The Great Obituary Hunt: A Genealogy Research Guide

<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2011/12/08/everyone-counts-using-census-genealogy-research>

Everyone Counts: Using the Census in Genealogy

U.S. National Archives Puts Popular Records Workshops Online

<http://www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives>

These "how to" workshop videos cover topics in genealogical research such as census, immigration, and military records. More information is available at <http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2012/nr12-47.html>.

Classmates.com Is a Useful Resource

It is particularly helpful for determining a married name when only the maiden name is known.

One Free Online SSDI Is Gone

Rootsweb posted a notice that it no longer provides access to the Social Security Death Index.

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1202535>

FamilySearch still provides free access to the SSDI; the file is current as of 31 October 2011.

<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/ssdi/?kbid=5747>

The SSDI is also accessible free at GenealogyBank; registering for access (free) is required.

Rootsweb Review Ceases Operation

<http://ftp.rootsweb.ancestry.com/pub/review/2011/1214.html>

The 14 December 2011 issue of Rootsweb Review was the last.

ALASKA

Interesting Article on Jews in Alaska

<http://www.momentmag.com/moment/issues/2012/02/Alaska.html>

Jews were prominent in the development of Alaska. Many names are mentioned in the article.

MASSACHUSETTS

Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts Searchable Database

<http://www.jcam.org/Pages/Services/Search/search.php>

Includes burials not yet in the Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry.

Boston

HIAS Individual Case Files

<http://ajhsboston.org/2011/05/05/boston-hias-individual-case-files-partial-listing/>

A partial listing of Boston Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society case files.

MINNESOTA

People Finder at the Minnesota Historical Society

<http://www.mnhs.org/>

Search for birth, death, and photo information on the left side of the home page. This can lead to

obituaries on <http://www.legacy.com/>, where archived obituaries from the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota newspaper, <http://www.StarTribune.com/>, are posted.

WASHINGTON

Washington State Digital Archives

<http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/>

Births, marriages, deaths, military, naturalizations, and more. Sometimes the record is digitized and online; sometimes the record must be ordered as a paper copy from the archives.

EUROPE

GENERAL

Hundreds of European Address Books

<http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Online-Adressbuch>

Most of these pertain to German locations, but Vienna and Zurich are included. The site can be tricky at first. Translate with Google Translate.

AUSTRIA

Finding Place Names for Austro-Hungarian Territories

<http://www.hatvany-online.net/MyProgs/mkirhelysegek/mkirhelysegek.aspx>

You can put in the first few letters and it brings up a list of suggestions. Click on the name and it will take you to its exact location on Google Maps.

300,000 Austro-Hungarian Records from 1088–2011

<http://www.genteam.at/>

Catholic matrices, marriage testimonials, manorial records 1370–1848, obituaries, lodge members, and index of the book *Wer einmal war: Das jüdische Grossbürgertum Wiens 1800–1938 A–K* (“Who Once Was: The Jewish Upper Class of Vienna 1800–1938 A–K”) by Georg Gaugusch.

Jewish Families of Vienna Linked on Geni.com

<http://www.geni.com/projects/Jewish-Families-of-Vienna>

A project linking the families in Georg Gaugusch’s new book *Wer einmal war (Volume I: A–K)*.

BESSARABIA

New Bessarabia Special Interest Group

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia>

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Holocaust Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/106761036097084/>

People researching the Shoah in the Czech lands can exchange information and photos.

FRANCE

BMD Certificates in Pyrenées-Atlantique, France

<http://earchives.cg64.fr/etat-civil-search-form.html>

Records dating back to 1792.

GERMANY

Returning Nazi-era Confiscated Books to Rightful Owners

<http://www.zlb.de/aktivitaeten/raubgut/namenliste10112011.pdf>

The Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin is in possession of confiscated books and wants to return the books to the rightful owners or their heirs. The PDF has a list of the original owners and contact information for the Landesbibliothek.

GREECE

Greece Reinstates Citizenship for Jews Who Fled WWII

http://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/news/10642/citizenship_reinstated_for_jews_who_left_greece_during_or_after_world_war_ii

At this point the number of people affected is probably fewer than 350. The ruling does not apply to descendants.

HUNGARY

General

Translating Terms in Hungarian Records

<http://www.genealogy.ro/dictionary>

A dictionary of genealogical and records-related terms. It’s a fantastic resource!

Translating Terms in Hungarian Records II

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Hungary/methods.htm>

See the last entry under the topic “General Information Sources”, titled “Vital Record Heading - Translation Guide.”

Hungarian Archives Portal

<http://archivportal.arcanum.hu/kozok/opt/a090522.htm?v=pdf&a=start>

Enter a name in the first line, then select one or all of the categories. You can switch to English, but you will still need to use Hungarian characters if the name you are searching for is accented. At the bottom of the search page you can select “Records with digitized images.”

Bratislava

Chevre Kadisha Members in Bratislava 1697–1922

<http://www.geocities.ws/danpolak/data/hk-bratislava.html>

Budapest

Budapest Marriages

<http://www.macse.org/>

The site has some English pages. Particularly for Hungarian-speaking researchers, it is a wealth of useful information, resources, links, etc.

Budapest Marriages, Some Births and Deaths

<http://www.hatvany-online.net/MyProgs/crmbp/marriages.aspx>

Searchable for marriages in Budapest around 1900. The record will link you to a copy of the page in the marriage register.

Burgenland

Burgenland/ West Hungary Jewish Communities

<http://www.burgenland-bunch.org/JH/JH.htm>

The project is complete, and eighteen articles are now online.

ITALY

Monte Cassino War Graves, Italian War Casualties

http://www.difesa.it/Ministro/Commissariato_Generale_per_le_Onoranze_ai_Caduti_in_Guerra/Pagine/Ricerca_sepolture.aspx

A searchable Italian Army database. It's sufficient to input the surname ("Cognome") of the soldier. You can then select details ("Dettagli") of the results.

LITHUANIA

General

Lithuania 1919–1940 Internal Passports Added to Database

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Lithuania/InternalPassports.htm>

Search the "JewishGen Lithuania Database" and the "All Lithuania Database" (ALD).

Jonava

Extensive New Translation of Jonava Lithuania Yizkor Book

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/jonava/jonava.html>

Kaunas

1879 Kaunas Draftee List

<http://panevezys.shutterfly.com/>

This is a contributors-only Web site. An alphabetical list of surnames, places of registration, and districts in which individuals were registered is AVAILABLE TO ANYONE ON REQUEST. The list includes not only draftees but also other male members of the draftees' households.

POLAND

General

Information on Polish Physicians

<http://www.gbl.waw.pl/>

Click on Informacje Ogolne, then Dzial Zbiorow Specjalnych. E-mail: zb.spec@gbl.waw.pl. Registry of physicians and pharmacologists includes personal data and medical articles by/about them. You may need someone to write in Polish.

JRI-Poland Adopts New Log-in System for Database Searches

It is now highly recommended that you log in to your account BEFORE starting any searches. The log-in link comes right before the search fields on the JRI-Poland search page. Logging in DURING a search is known to have intermittent issues that are being investigated. If you have any difficulties, repeat your search after log-in.

Museum of History of Polish Jews

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2oeYnumlkc&feature=youtu.be>

YouTube interview with Prof. Barbara Kirshenblatt and article. The museum is scheduled to open in Warsaw in 2013.

Embassy of the Republic of Poland Newsletter

http://www.washington.polemb.net/files/2011/EmbassyofPoland_NewsletterNOV2011.pdf

See page 5.

Bedzin

Revised Bedzin Area 1826–1859 Extracts, 1939 Census, and Tombstones

<http://www.jri-poland.org/>

Lodz

New Address for Organization of Former Residents of Lodz in Israel

Rechov Kaplan 17, room 607
Tel Aviv 64734, Israel
phone 03-5241833

Prudnik

Prudnik Cemetery Added

<http://www.cemetery.jewish.org.pl/>

Browse photographs and data.

Rabka

Rabka Jewish District History Web Site and Book

<http://historiarabki.blog.pl/>

Students in Rabka have created a Web site to preserve the history of Rabka. Site is in Polish.

http://books.google.pl/books?id=v4fuS9igVIEC&printsec=frontcover&dq=mroczne+sekrety+willi+tereska&hl=pl&sa=X&ei=3r0wT7i5Bq2DsgL92pj_Bg&ved=0CDsQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=mroczne%20sekrety%20willi%20tereska&f=false

Their book about the Holocaust in Rabka, entitled *Mroczne sekrety willi "Tereska" 1939–1945* ("Dark Secrets of the Tereska Villa 1939–1945").

<https://plus.google.com/photos/116835370845574221707/albums/5694588567789518353?banner=pwa>

Pictures of the work they have done to restore the Jewish area.

ROMANIA

Bucharest Directories

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/phonero/romfondr.html>

The Library of Congress has Bucharest phone directories from the mid-1920's to 1977 (missing several years) digitized and online. They are exceedingly efficient, friendly, and fast with requests for nondigitized years.

UNITED KINGDOM

British Pathé Cinema Newsreels 1896–1976

<http://www.britishpathe.com/>

Pathé started in Paris and moved to London in 1902. Look for photos of your ancestors and/or the places and times they lived in. Free online, but downloading requires a purchase.

Jewish Communities and Records—United Kingdom (JCR-UK) Web Site Updates

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/>

A new search interface allows a single search across the two sets of UK databases, the JewishGen UK database and the JGSGB database. A new section on the Gibraltar Jewish Community has searchable BMD records.

WORLD

CANADA

General

People Search Services in Canada

<http://www.numberway.com/>

<http://www.infobel.com/en/world/worldteldir.aspx?page=eng/namc/ca>

<http://wink.com/canada-people-search>

<http://www.canada411.ca/>

<http://www.superpages.ca/>

All are free sites.

Hungarian-Canadian and Jewish-Canadian Newspapers Online

<http://multiculturalcanada.ca/>

Database of digitized multicultural publications in Canada going back to the 1920's. You don't have to know which publication or date you need. Type in a name and it brings up thumbnails of newspaper pages to click on.

Toronto

Toronto Jewish History

<http://www.billgladstone.ca/>

If you're researching a Jewish family from Toronto, the site is a must. New resources and articles are added regularly.

ISRAEL

New Genealogy Group in Israel

<http://www.genealogy.org.il/allisrael.html>

The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) will focus on helping people pursue their family genealogy with resources within Israel. It is on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/israelgenealogy> and Twitter <https://twitter.com/#!/israelgenealogy>.

Scanned Manuscripts from the National Library in Jerusalem

http://aleph.nli.org.il/F/TBG1Y86MN697G9J6S12A1NDNSTRFK4EJVHMBJMHE1H5JIVT5X-35528?func=find-b-0&con_lng=eng

Virtual Hebrew Keyboard on Google

A trick for those who do not have Hebrew installed on your computer: Go to <http://www.google.co.il/> and click on the keyboard icon to the left of the search box; it will bring up a virtual keyboard which will enable the typing of Hebrew characters.

MOROCCO

Jewish Cemetery of Tetuan, Morocco

<http://www.cementeriojudiotetuan.org/>

Names and photos of some 1,400 legible tombstones out of 10,000. Search by given name or surname. The death register ("Libro de Metim" in Judeo-Spanish) from 1897–1971 as well as several other documents and articles can be downloaded from the site.

SOUTH AFRICA

South African SIG Newsletter

<http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica/newsletter/#MENU>

Issues are available for download online.

HOLOCAUST

GENERAL

Using Google to Find Auschwitz Mug Shots

Search through the 1,000+ Auschwitz mug shots available through Yad Vashem's online collection. Here is an example of searching for the surname WEINFELD.

1. Go to Google.
2. Enter the following phrase:
WEINFELD "prisoner no." site:yadvashem.org.
3. Two links are returned. Selecting each link brings you to two photos.
4. To verify accuracy go to the Auschwitz Web page, <http://en.auschwitz.org/m/>.
5. Select "Auschwitz prisoners" from the menu on the left. Search for the surname WEINFELD and it is confirmed. The Auschwitz site includes their dates and places of birth and their dates of death.



SFBAJGS Family Finder Update

The surnames and towns being researched by our newest members are listed below. This database is maintained for the benefit of our membership. If you have a correction or update, please write to SFBAJGS at P.O. Box 318214, San Francisco, CA 94131-8214.

Surname	Town, Country	Member
ADLER	Ukraine	Preeva Tramiel
BRAUN	Nova Miasto, Poland	Sol Silver
DZIADEK	Nova Miasto, Poland	Sol Silver
ENTIN/YENTIN	Druya, Vilna	Kenneth Entin
FOX/FUCHS	Jezierna, Ukraine	Fred Fox
GOLDMAN	??	Ann Rubin
GRAY	??	Ann Rubin
GUGGENHEIM	Tiengen, Germany	Julia Guggenheim
GUTMAN	Bolszowce	Kenneth Entin
HOCHMAN	Bolszowce	Kenneth Entin
JACOBSON	Nova Miasto, Poland	Sol Silver
KOPOLOVITCH	Ukraine	Preeva Tramiel
LAMPCOVITZ	Nova Miasto, Poland	Sol Silver
LEIBOVITZ	Pikelew? Libau:	Sol Silver
LEVINE/LEWIN	Oshve, Vitebsk	Kenneth Entin
LISNIKER	Bolszowce, Gliniany, Brzezany	Kenneth Entin
PHILLIPS	??	Julia Guggenheim
POMERANTZ	??	Ann Rubin
RAFAL/RAFALES/RAFALOWICZ	Nova Miasto, Poland	Sol Silver
REICH	??	Nancy Schlegel
REISS	Ternopil, Ukraine	Fred Fox
ROTTENBERG	Boryslaw, Poland; Lesko, Poland	Sue Broxholm
RUBACHA/RUBIN	Ukraine	Ann Rubin
SALZ	Bobrka, Poland	Sue Broxholm
SCHLEIFER	Vienna, Austria	Sue Broxholm
SCHMAL	Buchau, Germany	Julia Guggenheim
SCHOEPPS	Ternopil, Ukraine	Fred Fox
SCHWARTZ	Radomysl?	Nancy Schlegel
SILVER/ZILBER/ZILBERMAN	Pikelew, Kurland	Sol Silver
SOLOMON	Gorlice, Poland?	Nancy Schlegel
STORCH/STORCK	Gorlice, Poland	Nancy Schlegel
TEICHBERG	Bolszowce	Kenneth Entin
TEICHMANN	Rohatyn, Ukraine; Bobrka, Poland	Sue Broxholm



The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXXII, Number 1

February 2012

Calendar of Events

Sunday, 18 March, San Francisco: *Jewish Refugees at Angel Island Immigration Station.* Eddie Wong, the executive director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, will discuss Jews who fled east through Russia and China and entered the United States through San Francisco.

Monday, 16 April, Los Altos Hills: *Researching My Jewish Roots: How I Succeeded beyond My Wildest Dreams.* Dr. Jeffrey Mark Paull will recreate the journey he took while rediscovering his family's rabbinical roots in Ukraine and Russia.

Sunday, 22 April, Oakland: *Who Do You Think They Were?* A panel of experienced SFBAJGS researchers will help you take those first few steps into the magic and mystery of your family history and genealogy. Along the way we will help you figure out how to research and answer the "who, what, where, when, why, and how" of your family.

Sunday, 13 May, San Francisco: *Google and Genealogy.* Learn how to use the many features of Google to make better, more focused searches. Google has additional tools besides its search engine which can also help your research.

Sunday, 10 June, Oakland: *Caring for Your Documents and Photos: Better Now than Never.* All genealogists accumulate many documents and photos over the years, and we want those documents to last for generations to come. Nancy Zukor, a paper conservator, will discuss how to take care of yours documents and what to avoid.

Sunday, 15 July, San Francisco: *Researching When Records Are Gone.* Nancy Peterson, author of *Raking the Ashes*, will discuss research techniques to use when records have been destroyed or are missing, whether in San Francisco or Eastern Europe.

Also see pages 3 and 4. For detailed program information visit <http://www.sfbajgs.org/>.
