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ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXXIII, Number 4

November 2013

What? I'm Jewish?

Heidi Lyss tries to confirm a possible Jewish line in her family.

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Lillian Keller: A hidden heritage?

ZichronNote
Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

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ZichronNote is published four times per year, in February, May, August, and November. The deadline for contributions is the first day of the month preceding publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Submissions may be made by hard copy or electronically. Please e-mail to newsletter@sfbajgs.org.

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Back Issues are available for \$10 per issue. Requests should be addressed to SFBAJGS at the address below.

Display Advertising is accepted at the discretion of the editor. Rates per issue: business card-sized (3-1/2 x 2 inch) \$10, quarter page \$20, half page \$35, full page \$60. Ads must be camera-ready and relate to Jewish genealogy.

Membership in SFBAJGS 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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Note: All URL's are valid as of the time of publication.

President's Message
Bidding Adieu

Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

Running a not-for-profit is not that much different from running a company. The only real difference is that we board members don't earn big bucks. Heck, we don't even earn small bucks—as you know, we're not allowed to earn anything other than brickbats and bouquets.

Fortunately we receive far more of the latter as we try to provide our membership with the tools to undertake and succeed in their genealogical endeavors. These include the monthly general meetings, special meetings, site visits, and of course our newsletter with articles touching on nearly every aspect of family history.

For a society like ours to be successful and remain so, it is born of the hard work carried out by those who serve on its board. Currently it is composed of ten people—yes, a *minyan*, and it's no coincidence! And let me tell you, it's a real challenge for me to find people who have something unique to offer, not just genealogical knowledge but life experience too, and of course an interest in being "on board."

The reason I bring this is up is because we are about to lose a long-time and very valuable board member. Our vice president, Rosanne Leeson, has decided (and quite rightly, I think) that she will not be running for VP in this year's election. Ever since I've been president, Rosanne's been my "elbow nudge" to make sure I was on the ball for something I was supposed to do.

But this is not the only hat Rosanne wears. She helms the Romania SIG and French SIG for JewishGen and still puts in time as a substitute librarian in the Los Altos Public Library. I also have to mention Rosanne's "other half", Dan Leeson (some of you may know Dan from his wonderful article, "Does Anyone Know Where My File Is?"). In 2001, when I attended the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in London, I was honored to accept on their behalf that year's "Outstanding Contribution via Print Award" for their indices of the 1784 Alsatian Jewish census and of 18th-century Alsatian marriages.

I know Rosanne won't be putting her feet up just yet. She still has other projects to finish, but a little slowing down to smell the roses is not a bad thing. We wish Rosanne (and Dan) the very best for the future.

Of course, Rosanne's departure means that the board is short a member or two. I previously mentioned the *minyan* concept, but to be honest I hate being a tie-breaker when it comes to a vote, so it's preferable we have an odd number of board

Continued on page 4

SOCIETY NEWS

New Members

Dean Echenberg sfbags@echenberg.org
Patricia Koblenz PKoblenz@hotmail.com
Shlomo Rosenfeld rosenfeld1@aol.com
Ilona Sturm IlonaSturm@yahoo.com

Updated Member E-mail

Joy Silver joysilver@gmail.com

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

SFBAJGS on Social Media

SFBAJGS has a YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/SFBAJGS>. This gives us an opportunity to share our activities, lectures, meetings, participation in events, Mavens, etc. If you have any videos of society or other genealogical events you would like to share online, contact membership director Avner Yonai at membership@sfbajgs.org.

SFBAJGS also has a Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/San-Francisco-Bay-Area-Jewish-Genealogical-Society/54214774804?ref=ts>. Friend us and visit often for updates between meetings.

IAJGS on Facebook

IAJGS has joined Facebook with two new pages. The main page is <https://www.facebook.com/IAJGSjewishgenealogy>; it will cover IAJGS and member information. The page for IAJGS conferences is <https://www.facebook.com/IAJGSConference>.

Ballots for Election of Officers

The candidates are set for this year's election. If elected, President, Jeremy Frankel; Treasurer, Jeff Lewy; and Membership, Avner Yonai, will be continuing in office. For Vice President, the Nominating Committee has presented Shellie Wiener—currently Secretary, and Janice Sellers—publicity, programming, and *ZichronNote* editor—has nominated herself. No one is on the ballot for Secretary.

All members will be mailed ballots and may vote for listed candidates or for write-in candidates. Ballots must be returned by **31 December 2011** to be valid.

Member Discount on Fold3.com

We still have a discount for society members on Fold3.com subscriptions. Fold3 has a significant online collection of original military and historical records, which can help with your research. For a limited time, you can receive a discount on an Annual All-Access Fold3 membership. If you already have a subscription, you can extend it for an additional year. Take advantage of this offer while it lasts! Go to http://go.fold3.com/San%20Francisco%20Bay%20Area%20Jewish%20Genealogical%20Society_society/?xid=791.

Seeking Stories 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?

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

Meeting Times and Locations

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.

Rhoda Goldman Plaza, 2180 Post Street.

Parking available in Rhoda Goldman Plaza garage with entrance on Sutter Street.

Oakland: Sunday. Doors open 12:30 p.m. Program begins at 1:00 p.m.

Oakland FamilySearch Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue.

Los Altos Hills: Monday. Doors open 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

Sunday, 15 December 2013. Moe Kakar, "Afghani Jewry." Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento. Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright Street, Sacramento. <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/>

Tuesday, 14 January 2014. Janice Sellers, "Read All about It!: Using Online Newspapers for Genealogical Research." Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. <http://www.l-ags.org/>

Wednesday, 15 January 2014. Janice Sellers, "They Died in San Francisco: A Little Known Source of Pre-1906 Deaths and How to Use It." Genealogical Association of Sacramento. Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento. <http://www.gensac.org/>

Saturday, 18 January 2014. Steve Morse, "Genealogy beyond the Y Chromosome: Autosomes Exposed." San Mateo County Genealogical Society. Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo. <http://www.smcgs.org/>

Tuesday, 21 January 2014. Steve Morse, "Case Study: Renee Kaufman." Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society. Cedar Room, Santa Clara City Public Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. <http://www.scchgs.org/main/>

Tuesday, 18 February 2014. Lewis Ruddick, "California USGenWeb Project." San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society. Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo. <http://srvgensoc.org/>

State and National

Monday–Friday, 13–17 January 2014. Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Includes "Researching in Eastern Europe" track. Salt Lake City, Utah. <http://www.infoga.org/cpage.php?pt=42>

Monday–Wednesday, 12–14 May 2014. International Conference on The International Tracing Service Collections and the Holocaust. Washington, DC. Call for papers deadline: **15 December 2013**. <http://www.ushmm.org/research/scholarly-presentations/conferences/the-international-tracing-service-collections-and-holocaust-scholarship>

Sunday–Friday, 27 July–1 August 2014. 34th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Salt Lake City, Utah. <http://www.iajgs.org/2014.html>

Saturday, 11 October 2014. 16th Annual Family History Day at the California State Archives. California State Archives, Sacramento. Free. <http://familyhistoryday2013.blogspot.com/>

International

5 October–4 November 2014. International Jewish Genealogy Month. <http://www.iajgs.org/jgmonth.html>

Monday–Friday, 6–10 July 2015. 35th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Jerusalem, Israel. <http://www.iajgs.org/2015.html>



Brainstorming with the Mavens

The San Francisco Jewish Community Library hosts a free genealogy clinic every month (except July and August) from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Bring copies of family charts, documents, and other information and let experienced SFBAJGS Jewish genealogists help point you in the right direction in your research. 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco. There is free, secure parking in the building. Call (415) 567-3327 x704 or write library@jewishlearningworks.org for more information.

Upcoming dates:

8 December 2013

5 January 2014

2 February 2014

2 March 2014

President's Message, continued from page 2

members. Qualifications are minimal—well, because we rotate our meeting sites, one qualification is having a dining table that seats a dozen folks! To be honest, our quarterly board meetings are a lot of fun, and productive! We'd love to see some new faces work with us as we navigate the 21st century. If anyone is interested please e-mail me at president@sfbajgs.org to find out more.

In other news, I recently sent our good wishes to the New York JGS. They just celebrated their 36th "double chai" birthday. Rosanne was quick to remind me (another nudge) that in just four short years from now it will be our turn. My, doesn't time fly when you're having fun!

Finally, as this is the last *ZichronNote* for 2013, I want to thank ALL the board members for their hard work and excellent contributions. Thank you to Avner, Beth, Dale, Heidi, Janice, Jeff, Pierre, Rosanne, and Shellie. And thanks to all of you who attended our meetings and wrote articles for ZN. We look forward to seeing you in 2014!



Finding Lillian, Hannah, and Dora: The Hidden Jewish Heritage of the Keller Sisters

Heidi Lyss

Heidi Lyss delved into the world of genealogical research five years ago, on receiving a book from her father about a distant Swiss relative. She has presented seminars to Northern California genealogical societies on writing family histories and has taught creative writing and English composition at local colleges. Her published pieces include fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and trade/academic articles. She is a board member of SFBAJGS.

Christmas celebrations at my great-grandparents Lillian and Henry's Alameda home in the 1940's and 1950's were grand occasions, my mother tells me. The feast commenced with Lillian's celebrated bone marrow dumpling soup and concluded with a cinnamon and clove cake, frosted with vanilla icing and topped with colored spice gumdrops, baked by Lillian for her sister Hannah, who was born December 25. My mother loved that cake.

The family attendees varied year to year but always included my great-grandparents' three children—my grandfather John and his two sisters—their spouses and children, among whom numbered my mother Barbara and her sister; and my great-grandmother Lillian's two unmarried sisters, Hannah and Dora Keller. Lillian, as described by my mother, operated as “boss of the family” while her husband Henry ran a large Bay Area food distribution company and also spent time managing eighteen gold mines in the Sierra Nevada Mountains above Downieville that he and a partner had acquired in the early 1900's.

Before marrying Henry in 1909 at the age of 31, Lillian lived with her two sisters in San Francisco and worked as a stenographer. Hannah and Dora also held jobs downtown, with Hannah, the eldest of the three, tailoring clothing while Dora, the youngest, served as a stenographer at an electric appliance company. Earning wages and residing independently in the city that they traversed on cable cars, the sisters lived lives of “modern” women, after growing up in the quiet and relatively remote rural town of Corinne, Utah with their German immigrant parents. Following my great-grandmother Lillian's marriage and move to Alameda, Hannah and Dora continued to share various apartments in San Francisco, including one tiny abode, my mother recalls, with a classic Murphy bed that folded out of the wall. Neither ever married, according to my mother.

In researching our forebears' histories, many of us run into at least one brick wall, and the ancestry of my great-grandmother loomed as one of my family's. In spite of the rich memories my mother shared of her grandmother Lillian and great-aunts, and in spite of my gregarious grandfather John's robust recollections of his youth, we knew little about the preceding generations of his mother, Lillian's,

family. My childhood family history book, flush with information on other ancestors, contained only:

Lillian Keller, 1882–1962

Parents: ____ Keller (Father), b. Germany (Hamburg or Hannover area)

____ Pinchauer (Mother), b. Germany

Married: Virginia City, Nevada

Siblings:

Hannah Keller

Dora Keller

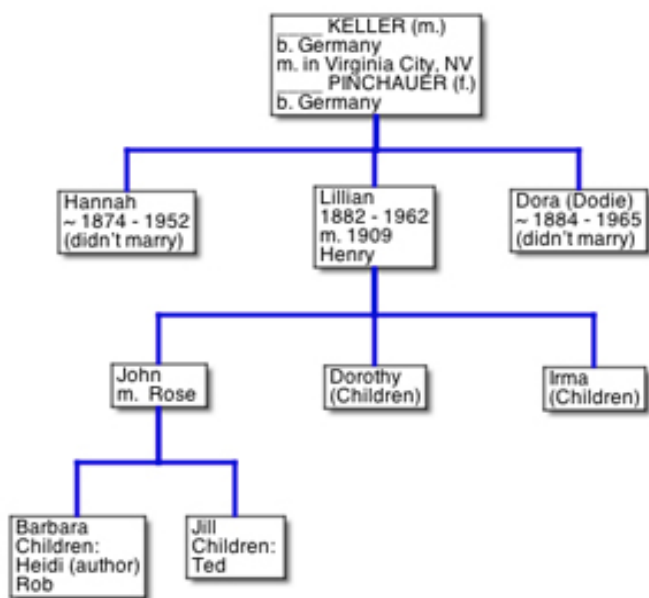
My mother did possess a selection of postcards the three Keller sisters had sent each other in the early 1900's, mostly penned during their various travels—trips by Lillian to Carmel and Dora to Utah, Idaho, and Baja California—plus three mailed by my great-grandfather Henry to Lillian when he visited the family gold mines a year after their 1909 marriage. The card cluster also contained a mix of notes from people my mother and I did not recognize—probably friends, we had concluded.

I set about investigating my ancestors' genealogy five years ago. After rolling down extended and colorful trails of history for several branches of the family, on a November day in 2010, I decided once again to try to uncover my great-grandmother Lillian's mysterious roots. I will trace part of that genealogical journey here, in the hope it may be of aid or at least interest to others researching their own families.

On that cloudy afternoon I started by reopening the 1910 census, locating Lillian, her husband Henry, and their baby John (my grandfather). Lillian appears first in the family group, recorded as head of household, with Henry noted on the second line as “husband.” The notation made me smile, as it confirmed my mother's description of Lillian as the one “in charge.” Later someone had sought to correct this nonstandard approach by writing “head” next to Henry's name.

Traveling back in time ten years and searching for Lillian Keller in the 1900 census, I found an entry I had not discovered before—a list of Kellers in Oakland, California that included Lillie, Dora, and Annie, with Lillie described as a stenographer, Dora a student, and Annie a tailoress. Lillie's birth year of 1878 didn't match our family date of 1882, and

Keller Family Tree Pre-Research



I had never heard “Annie” used to refer to Hannah, but knowing that censuses do not always offer fully reliable details, and seeing that their birthplaces were all recorded as Utah, I suspected I had found my family. They lived with their mother “Rosalie”¹, age 60, and I felt a thrill when I saw her noted—finally a likely first name! I was startled to read that Lillian and her sisters shared their home with two older siblings: Mamie, recorded as born in Nevada in 1870, and Abe, born in Utah in 1874 and working as a telegrapher. The 1900 census also revealed that Rosalia had borne nine children, six of whom still lived. So one living child did not appear on the list, and I suspected he or she was likely older and perhaps married.

Working with the newly discovered first name for my great-great-grandmother, I typed “Rosalie Pinchauer” into Google, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, and Bing and found nothing. I decided to alter my course and turned to the online California Digital Newspaper Collection, offered via the University of California at Riverside. This collection, for those who have not yet accessed it, contains digitized versions of a range of newspapers from California and is available online at no cost, and while the collection does not encompass all California papers from all time periods, it can offer useful information.

I searched the California newspaper database for “Rosalie Pinchauer” and “Rosalie Keller” but again found nothing. I ran through the names of all her children, finally realizing more luck when I typed in “Dora Keller” and the following notice from the *San Francisco Call* for 13 December 1901 appeared:

1. In some records her name appears as Rosalia and in others as Rosalie. I use Rosalia here for consistency, except when quoting a source directly.

Died . . . KELLER—In Oakland, December 13, 1901, Rosalie Keller, dearly beloved mother of Mrs. Sarah Daus and Mamie, Abraham, Hannah, Lily and Dora Keller, a native of Germany, aged 64 years.

Feeling moved to read of Rosalia’s death and at the same time excited to confirm the family grouping and identify the “missing” living child, Sarah Keller Daus, I again keyed in the name “Pinchauer” and “Virginia City” with the hope that new information might materialize. Yet again I found nothing. So I paused and shared the news with my mother. No, she didn’t know of the other siblings, she said, surprised and intrigued by the discovery and by Rosalia’s death announcement, and she wondered why Lillian, Dora, and Hannah had never mentioned their mother, elder sisters, or brother around her.

That night, my mother and I lifted the lid off the old cigar box that contained the family postcards and surveyed the writings again. We read notes to and from Abe in 1906 and 1912, and to Mamie—both of whom we had earlier thought were merely acquaintances—and reread a note from Sarah addressed “To Sisters”, also written in 1906 and mailed to the women’s residence on Haight Street in San Francisco. We had previously believed Sarah to be a friend who used the greeting “Sisters” as a term of endearment.

On Silences

I puzzled over why neither my mother nor, as I later learned, her sister recognized Abe, Mamie, or Sarah’s names. It was odd that my grandfather John noted only his maternal grandparents’ surnames, Virginia City marriage location, and German origins.

Feeling the curiosity and excitement that a new genealogical find can stimulate, the next morning I re-entered the world of online time travel and explored the 1870 and 1880 censuses, seeking “Rosalie Keller” and finding her, wife of Joseph, living in Hamilton, Nevada in 1870 and in Corinne, Utah in 1880.

The 1870 census for Hamilton, Nevada:

| Name | Age | Occupation | Birthplace |
|--------------------|-----|-------------------|------------|
| Joseph B. Keller | 42 | Merchant Clothing | Prussia |
| Rosalie Keller | 40 | | Prussia |
| Caroline P. Keller | 14 | | Prussia |
| Sarah W. Keller | 6 | | Nevada |
| Mary Keller | 2 | | Nevada |
| Benjamin Keller | 37 | | Prussia |

As “Mamie” often is used as a nickname for Marian, Miriam, and Mary, I suspected that the Mary in the census likely referred to Mamie. Much later I pieced together that Caroline P. was probably Rosalia’s niece but won’t describe that trail here. I remain unsure

of Benjamin's relationship to the family, though he is possibly Joseph's brother.

The 1880 census for Corinne, Utah:

| Name | Age | Occupation | Birthplace |
|--------------------|-----|-------------------|------------|
| Joseph B. Keller | 46 | Merchant Clothing | Prussia |
| Rosalia Keller (W) | 37 | | Prussia |
| Mamie Keller (D) | 11 | | Nevada |
| Abe Keller (S) | 9 | | Idaho |
| Hanah Keller (D) | 5 | | Utah |
| Lilly Keller (D) | 2 | | Utah |

In the 1880 census, Rosalia's and Joseph's implied birth years shifted, and this shifting seemed to be a pattern for all the family members, including my great-grandmother. Lillian was noted as born already, about four years earlier than our family records, her death certificate, and her burial urn inscription indicate. Sarah was not listed, but I knew from Rosalia's death announcement and our family postcard that Sarah lived at least until 1906.

The 1880 census also served as a reminder to check original source documents whenever possible, as the transcription of the census spelled Lilly's name as "Tally." Before accessing the census image, I had thought that perhaps I had located one of Rosalia's three children who died before 1900, only to discover that I had actually found my own great-grandmother.

I reread the index entry for Lillian's California death in 1962, remarking her supposed 1882 birth date and the spelling of her mother's maiden name as "Pinshane." As Lillian's husband Henry outlived her, he likely supplied her mother's maiden name; perhaps Henry had forgotten how to spell it, or the transcriber had misread it. I unfortunately did not have access to the original certificate at that moment. As I had not yet looked for Hannah and Dora's California death dates, I decided to seek them next.

My mother had told me that Hannah had died first among the three sisters, so I started by looking for her death and found an index entry dated 1952, with her mother's maiden name spelled "Pinshower." Dora's 1965 index listing recorded it as "Pinshowe." Since Dora likely supplied the information recorded for Hannah's death, I decided to search online first for "Rosalie Pinshower." Nothing appeared. I then typed "Pinshower + Virginia City", and a reference to the book *Jews in Nevada* materialized; when I entered the text via Google Books, a cluster of "Pinschowers" emerged: Jacob, eminent Virginia City Jewish merchant, and his wife "Rose" (though her name turned out actually to be Regina), their five children—unnamed in this text—and a Colonel Morris Pinschower, also Jewish. I sat intrigued, and a memory popped up.

A year earlier I had happened upon an online newspaper clipping from 1900 describing the confirmation of a Dora Keller by the reform First Hebrew Congregation in Oakland, with Rabbi Friedlander presiding. Though that Dora Keller's age matched the age of our Dora, I had dismissed the find, believing I had discovered a different young woman, since Keller is a fairly common surname. Given the host of Jewish Pinschowers who resided in Virginia City, however, I wondered if the confirmation did refer to our Dora Keller after all. Were she and her mother, Rosalia Pinshower Keller, Jewish? A difference of a "c" existed in the surname spelling of the Nevada Pinschowers and Hannah and Dora's death index listings, but I have encountered much wilder variations in family name spellings. And if Rosalia was Jewish, was Joseph Keller also? I wondered if my great-grandmother Lillian Keller, passionate Christian Scientist, had converted! My fingers flew as I typed in searches for Jacob Pinschower, curious to learn if Rosalia might have been his daughter. I found him and his family in Virginia City censuses, but his daughters all possessed different names and were too young to be married by the early 1860's. Further research on Morris did not reveal any descendants.

A Sense of Heritage

A few years earlier, my friend Lisa had invited me to a late night Shabbat service at Congregation Emanuel in San Francisco. As we sat in the historic domed sanctuary, I felt inspired by the down-to-earth words of the rabbi, the lively singing and guitar music, and the vibrant sense of community. During the *oneg* afterward, I met Lisa's friends, most of whom assumed I was Jewish too. I felt odd saying no, that I was "just visiting." Though I spoke the truth, it didn't feel completely right. Not long after that first Shabbat experience, I attended the High Holy Days services at Congregation Beth El in Berkeley as part of a comparative religions class, and as the services progressed felt oddly wistful—as if I too should have known all about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

My close childhood friend, Maria, grew up Catholic. When, at age six, I asked my mother, "What are we?" she paused, then said, "Protestant", and only later did I learn how many variants of "Protestant" exist. My family celebrated Christmas and Easter and made occasional visits to Presbyterian and Lutheran churches, and when my brother and I reached young adulthood my mother mentioned regretting not sending us to Sunday school. "I'm fine with our religious education," I had responded. I did attend Catholic masses with Maria and her family following Saturday night sleepovers and pancake breakfasts.

I remember feeling a bit out of place when she took communion, but it was not an experience I aspired to myself. My first Passover, however, entranced me. Family friends invited my parents, brother, and me to join them when I was ten years old. I loved the reading of the texts and the symbolism of the foods, enjoyed my first tongue-burning taste of horseradish, and experienced a hint of disappointment when no repeat invitation came the following year.

Finding More Family

When I told my mother of my discovery of the Jewish Nevada Pinschowers she expressed amazement, as she had never heard a whisper about Jewish roots. “Grandma Lillian enthusiastically practiced Christian Science,” she said. But her husband Henry? “No, Grandpa stayed with his Lutheran heritage and sometimes he came to church with us on Easter—one of Lillian’s favorite holidays—and sometimes not. When he did join us, I think he came mainly to humor her. Now that I think of it, Dora and Hannah didn’t join us for Easter either, just Christmas.”

I felt in my bones that we had Jewish heritage through Lillian, though I hadn’t proved it in a way that would satisfy rigorous genealogical standards. I hadn’t established a clear familial connection with the Jewish Pinschowers in Virginia City (and still haven’t), though the name is fairly unusual, and Rosalia Pinshower did, according to family lore, marry and reside in the city. Nor had I proved that the Dora Keller confirmed at the First Hebrew Congregation in Oakland in 1900 was our Dora Keller.



So I continued the search. The results—appearing via a mix of newspaper accounts, city directories, and census information—proffered a flurry of family names, starting with a *San Francisco Call* newspaper account of Mamie Keller’s 1902 engagement

Hannah (left)
and
Dora (right)
Keller

to Louis Izeman, a Russian and likely Jewish immigrant. I found that my great-grandmother Lillian Keller’s San Francisco employer was Rothschild. I learned that Lillian’s brother Abe Keller worked first as a clerk and then a train dispatcher for the Southern Pacific Railroad and married Florence Eisenschimel, daughter of renowned handwriting expert Carl Eisenschimel, a Jewish immigrant from Vienna who testified at criminal trials across California. I unearthed a host of names of the younger generations: my grandfather’s cousins, who included Josephine Izeman (born 1906 and who later married Gustav Rodeen) and her sister Ruth Virginia (born 1909), and Charles (born 1902–1903) and Florence (born 1904) Keller, children of Abe and Florence Eisenschimel Keller. I asked my mother if she recognized these names, and she beamed when she heard them—yes, she remembered the sisters discussing Florence, Josephine, and Gus Rodeen. “But I didn’t know they were family,” my mother said. “I assumed they were neighbors or friends. My grandmother, Dora, and Hannah talked about them all the time but didn’t explain who they were, and we never met them. And they didn’t mention Abe or Mamie. I’m not sure about Sarah.”

Did my grandfather John know about his mother Lillian’s roots? Sociable and friendly, he ran a successful food distribution business that he took over from his father Henry and built up further. He reportedly remembered not only the name of each employee in his large company, but also those of staff family members. When we dined in his favorite restaurants, he greeted our waitresses and inquired about their family members, also by name, asking for updates on how each was doing and recollecting their past news. Perhaps it seems odd that he attended so well to others’ family histories and knew so little about his own, though maybe his limited knowledge about his own family’s past motivated him to track and remark upon that of others.

He also ensured his company delivered, as he put it, “first class” customer service and expected to receive the same. When calling a toll-free number he would announce his name as if the respondent should at once recognize him and jump to provide sterling service. So when I logged into NewspaperArchive.com to search the *Daily Tribune* of Salt Lake City for news of the Keller family in Corinne, Utah in the 1870’s–1890’s, I felt amused by the first two hits, one concerning my great-great-grandmother Rosalia Keller, and the other containing correspondence from her husband Joseph. Both articles sounded just like my grandfather—their grandson John—whom they would never meet:

Beautiful Corinne

The Original Gentile City Is Both Handsome and Prosperous

Mrs. Joseph Keller of Corinne, called at THE TRIBUNE office yesterday to state that the original Gentile City was growing very satisfactorily: in fact, times are quite lively. Citizens generally are repairing and improving their properties; the streets are being put in first-class trim. . . . Even a street railway is promised, and there are many other indications of local prosperity." (*The Daily Tribune*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 11 May 1890. Note: Former Union soldiers and a group of Salt Lake City merchants established Corinne in 1869 as a "Gentile" or non-Mormon town.)

Joseph Keller of Corinne sends the following letter of inquiry to this paper:

"The Salt Lake City Publishing Co. —

GENTS: Please can you find out about a telegram which was not delivered, nor published in your paper. I sent a dispatch the 8th inst. to my daughter, Miss M. Keller, Salt Lake City, to meet her mother at the depot. I [sic] like to find out what has become of it. I paid the telegram in advance here at the office." (*The Daily Tribune*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 22 May 1890. Miss M. Keller probably refers to Mamie Keller, then about 22 years old.)

Then was the following notice, from 18 years earlier:

CIRCUMCISION: Rev. H. Loevenberg, of San Francisco, performed the ancient ceremony of circumcision yesterday on the sons of Mr. M. Rosenthal and Joseph Keller. We understand the Rev. gentleman referred to is very quick and skilful in the performance of this antique rite." (*The Daily Tribune*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 28 September 1872.)

I wondered if this referred to a son of our Joseph Keller of Corinne. Perhaps it was Abe, who was born about September of 1872 or 1873, or perhaps another boy born the same month but a year ahead of Abe. I had yet to identify the three children born to Rosalia and Joseph who died before 1900.

While praising the digitization of the Salt Lake City newspaper, I clicked on the next result, debating if the circumcision notice was enough to constitute "proof" that my family had Jewish roots. I was not sure it referred to our Joseph Keller, as I had located records for a Swiss man of the same name who also lived near Salt Lake City, though never in Corinne.

Click. And there it was:

The remains of Joseph Keller, who died in Corinne on Sunday, will be brought to Salt Lake this morning for interment in the Jewish cemetery. The funeral procession will be formed at the Rio Grande Western depot at 8 a.m. (*The Daily Tribune*, Salt Lake City, 11 September 1895.)



To be continued next issue.

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 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| ECHENBERG | Ostropol, Ukraine | Dean Echenberg |
| EPSZTEJN | Knyszyn, Bialystock | Shlomo Rosenfeld |
| FLISSER | L'viv, Ukraine | Ilona Sturm |
| HOLDENGRABER | Suceava, Romania | Dean Echenberg |
| JEWELAS | L'viv, Ukraine | Ilona Sturm |
| KOBLENZ | Regensburg, Bavaria; Lithuania | Patricia Koblenz |
| KRAKOWSKI | Lodz, Radomsko, Kamiensk | Shlomo Rosenfeld |
| KUSHNER | Chopovychi, Ukraine | Dean Echenberg |
| ROSENFELD | Łódź, Pilca, Konskie | Shlomo Rosenfeld |
| SIMON | Fulda, Hessen | Patricia Koblenz |
| STERN | Fulda, Hessen | Patricia Koblenz |
| STURMLAUF | Przemysl, Poland | Ilona Sturm |
| TOPPEL | Prague | Ilona Sturm |
| WEILER | Przemysl, Poland | Ilona Sturm |
| WITTELS | L'viv, Ukraine | Ilona Sturm |

Thoughts on the 2013 IAJGS Conference in Boston

SFBAJGS Members

Diane Lindauer-Levinson

My husband and I enjoyed the IAJGS Conference and felt that it was extremely well organized. Three things stand out as the “best.”

- The evening Jeopardy-esque and comedy show had me laughing like I hadn't done in years. The emcee was terrific and such a surprise since we really didn't know him and he at first appeared rather droll—but what great timing! He delivered terrific lines and made good fun of our genealogy subject.

- The lecture by Aaron Lansky was top notch. I was pretty naïve about the whole Yiddish Book Center subject and found myself riveted by his words, as well by as his natural humor. I'm so glad that I bought his book *Outwitting History* and had a few minutes to tell him how impressed I am with what he's accomplished. I really couldn't put the book down and found it especially refreshing. More and more I've come to realize that if Aaron hadn't happened along to save Yiddish books when he did, it would now be too late. He's truly an American Jewish hero!

- The trip to Newport and the Touro Synagogue was a delight. The lecture, both coming and going, was worth the price of the trek alone. We are so glad that we availed ourselves of the experience, which was on par with any professionally organized tour.

We also enjoyed being volunteers for the presentation by Harold Rhodes. He too is high up in our estimation, and also a distant cousin of my husband's. This was our second conference (Paris 2012 being our first), and we hope to attend many more.

Lynn Rhodes

I just attended my final session of the 2013 Boston IAJGS conference. The six days of this conference have been intense, exhausting, and immeasurably rewarding. I encountered many familiar faces here—some from the SFBAJGS, as well as friends from previous conferences and other genealogy venues. One of those was Janice Sellers, who was a presenter at the Boston conference. She extracted a promise from me to write an article for the newsletter so I thought about what I could offer. This was my seventh IAJGS conference, so I am starting to feel like an old hand at this. What was new for me this year was that it was the third genealogy conference I attended in 2013. Yes, I am that crazy!

My seventh Jewish genealogy conference did not disappoint. This was the 33rd annual conference for the International Association of Jewish Genealogical



Societies (IAJGS). It had more than 250 sessions, most an hour and 15 minutes long, starting on Sunday morning and ending at 12:30 p.m. on Friday. The “Breakfast with the Experts” sessions began at 7:00 a.m. and the last regular sessions for the day ended at 6:15 p.m. The sessions included computer workshops, meetings of Special Interest Groups (SIG's) and Birds of a Feather groups (BOF's) for those who share common research goals, SIG luncheons with special presentations or speakers, and talks on a wide variety of topics ranging from DNA to understanding 19th-century Russian or Polish records, to organizing your research, writing your stories, understanding Jewish surnames, using maps, researching cemetery records, and so much more! And there were special things going on every evening, from the Sunday opening session with keynote speaker Aaron Lansky of the Yiddish Book Center, to nightly film screenings, music, Jewish Genealogy Game Show Night, and so on.

With more than 180 speakers, and more than 1,200 attendees from all over the U.S., Canada, and places around the world such as Israel, Japan, Australia, Thailand, and Eastern Europe, this event was truly international. I was impressed with how well the conference was run, from the preconference e-mail discussion list to the great ongoing communication during the conference. Of course, there were some issues and glitches, such as the crowded elevators (I used the stairs), a segment of attendees who complained about almost everything, and some meeting rooms that were too hot/too cold/too big/too small, but there were also a number of outstanding firsts for this Boston IAJGS conference. On the technology front, this was the first time the IAJGS conference had an app. It evolved and improved as the conference went on. Another first was the availability of livestreaming of about 50 of the conference sessions for those around the world who could not attend.

The theme of this conference was Jewish in every way, from Sephardic to Ashkenazi, Litvak to Galitzianer, to Jews in South Africa and New England. I was impressed by the wide array of offerings, many of them addressing topics I had not seen at previous

IAJGS conferences, including presentations on landsmanshaftn records, descendancy research, tracing European immigrant Jews in UK records, and Holocaust and Israeli research, to name just a few. To learn about the myriad of resources available to research our Jewish ancestors, and to gain the skills necessary to go beyond the U.S. records online and delve into records in the languages of our grandparents and great-grandparents, the annual IAJGS conference is a must. Next year, the conference will be held in Salt Lake City, the home of the Family History Library, an incredible genealogy resource for Jews and non-Jews alike.

Among the common elements of each conference I attended this year were book-signing sessions, tours organized for conference goers, celebratory banquets, and the growing use of technology: syllabi on flash drives, the use of conference apps to stay organized, and sales of recordings of sessions on flash drives, CD's, and DVD's. I also learned that genealogists of all kinds like to search for their ancestors late at night, and get the same thrill when they discover a new ancestor while in their pajamas.

Eileen Shulman

This IAJGS conference in Boston was my first one, and I enjoyed many lectures and music and much camaraderie throughout the week!

Since my maternal grandfather, Boruch Guss, was supposed to have lived on a farm outside of Kiev, one of the seminars that I chose was Alan Shucat's "Internal Jewish Migration to Agricultural Colonies in the Russian Empire." The research that Alan Shucat has done on his own family from Ukraine clearly came through in his presentation.

Alan began with a historical background of how the Pale was created by Catherine the Great around 1791. "Pale" means an "upright fence." Hint for reading a Russian record: It will be in the Cyrillic alphabet! In 1915 the Russians used the Julian calendar. During this time, Jews were barred from living in Russia. Alan further explained that when Jews were permitted into the schools, they had to learn Russian or Polish in addition to Yiddish, and Jews, in particular, were required to register for each of their school classes. Eventually only certain occupations were left open to Jews, *e.g.*, farming, manufacturing, etc. Jews were allowed to own only 30 acres of land per man. Initially they mostly produced grain, then were permitted to own livestock, and then to farm vegetables. Alan stated that these Jewish colonies later became the models for *kibbutzim*. For further research on the organization of the colonies, Alan referred participants to JewishGen and the Ukraine KehilaLinks pages.

I am hooked on attending future IAJGS conferences! I loved every day of it!

Vivian Kahn

More than 1,250 people, including a substantial group of folks researching their families from greater Hungary, attended the 33rd annual IAJGS conference in Boston in August. It is difficult to report on all of the events, but this summary is intended to hit on the high points that may be of particular interest to Hungarian Special Interest Group members (H-SIGs).

We kicked off the conference on Sunday afternoon with a table at the SHARE fair, where SIG's and other groups had an opportunity to meet with conference attendees interested in their activities. H-SIGs Bob Friedman, Sandy Malek, Beth Long, Sue Martin, Barbara Kaufman, and Gary Deutsch helped out by answering questions. Jay Gilbert lent us his copy of Jordan Auslander's *Genealogical Gazetteer of the Kingdom of Hungary*. Along with numerous maps, this allowed us to help several newbies find their ancestral towns.

On Tuesday morning I saw a number of familiar faces as well as new ones at an updated version of my session on online resources for researching Hungarian families. A few of the same folks got up early on Wednesday morning to join me, Rony Golan, and our H-SIG guest speaker Zsuzsanna Toronyi from the Hungarian Jewish Archives in Budapest at the breakfast with Hungarian experts.

Thursday was Magyar Day, beginning with Zsuzsa's presentation on resources for research in the Hungarian Jewish Archives. Zsuzsa covered highlights of the collection: census and vital records,

***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 March 2014 issue is **15 February 2013**. To send a submission, or if you have any questions, contact Janice Sellers at janicemsj@gmail.com. For more information see <http://www.geshergalicia.org/newsletter.html>.

including original records from 70 communities and copies of all records filmed by the FHL. The complete list is at <http://milev.2kal.hu/web/index.php/informationobject/show/isad/299>. Other records available at the archives include an 1871–1943 correspondence register (<http://www2.arcanum.hu/milev/search>), which will be integrated with <http://www.archivportal.arcanum.hu/kozos/opt/a130223.htm?v=pdf&a=start>, records of the Pest Jewish community and the Central Board of Hungarian Jewish communities (see <http://www.milev.hu/>), and documents from more than 500 Hungarian Jewish families. Info to be available in the near future includes 370 volumes of original vital records from about 70 Hungarian Jewish communities and films of vital records from almost 600 communities.

We will be exploring opportunities for collaborating with the archives, whose goals of preserving Hungarian Jewish heritage and making the resources that document these communities available to researchers clearly overlap with our own.

Our featured speaker at the H-SIG luncheon was Lynn Schneider, who showed her film *Budapest: An American Quest*, about a family's journey to 1920's Hungary. The film, which Lynn made from 16 mm black and white footage from 1925–1935 found in a box in after her father's death, chronicles the experiences of her father's family, who returned to Hungary after immigrating to the U.S.

After lunch, more than 45 H-SIGs packed a standing-room-only meeting to learn about what we have accomplished over the past couple of years and what's pending for the future.

I hope that those of you who couldn't get to Boston will be able to join us next year in Salt Lake City, which is not only more affordable but a great treat for anyone interested in family research.

Rosanne Leeson

French Special Interest Group (French SIG)

JewishGen's French SIG brought to Boston Ward Adriaens, Head of Archives at the Kazerne Dossin Memorial, Museum and Documentation Centre on Holocaust and Human Rights, in Mechelen, Belgium. This was the first time that we have had any representation from the Centre and been able to learn of its vast and important collection of records.

While Belgium by law does not list the religion of its citizens, the Nazis identified about 56,000–60,000 people as Jews, 90% of them foreigners. Immigration into Belgium from countries to the east, including Poland, Germany, and Hungary, began in the 1930's when many of the "foreigners" tried to flee the dangers they saw from the Nazis, hoping to find refuge in Belgium. Thanks to the police forms they

were required to file, it was possible to identify more than 25,000 Jews who were deported from the main Belgian deportation rail station at Mechelen. The Centre has an ongoing project called *Give Them a Face*, in which photos of more than 23,000 of those deportees have been mounted to date.

Following the Allied landing in Normandy the Nazis fled, leaving behind thousands of records and pictures, most of which have been digitized but are not yet online. As shown by Mr. Adriaens, among these rescued items were original country of issue passports listing occupations, birthdates, and places of birth; letters from collaborators identifying hiding places of Belgian Jews; transport lists; and photographs. There are also records of 3,500 children who were sent to be hidden by the Resistance. If you wish to inquire about records in Kazerne Dossin you can e-mail Adriaens at ward.adriaens@telenet.be or Assistant Archivist Dorien Styvens at dorien.styven@kazernedossin.be.eu. If you wish to write via postal mail the address is Kazerne Dossin, Goswin de Stassartstraat 153, B-2800 Mechelen, Belgie.

At present there is no online access, but work is underway to place online any indices and photos that they are legally permitted to, with the hope to begin in January 2014. Many records must still be kept private to protect the living.

Romania Special Interest Group (ROM-SIG)

I was thrilled to share with ROM-SIG at the conference that exciting matters were beginning to occur regarding previously unavailable data for researchers in the area. These have been big and meaningful breakthroughs!

Our meeting was very well attended. Everyone was excited to hear that, after decades of no open access to vital records in the Romanian archives, we have been able to acquire thousands of birth, marriage, and death records and have begun the process to place them online in JewishGen's All-Romania Database. Before the term of office of Dr. Dorin Dobrinu, the previous Romanian National Archivist, access to the archives was virtually impossible, even if one planning to visit wrote in advance to request it, which was ostensibly the process. The only option was the very expensive matter of hiring a professional who was approved to research. Dr. Dobrinu opened the archives to those wishing to do research, and digital photography of records was also permitted for a small fee.

The ROM-SIG has found a couple of excellent, knowledgeable researchers who are busily photographing birth, marriage, and death records for us. We now have 180,644 records in JewishGen's All-Romania Database, and many more to come.



Supporting Jewish Research Worldwide

Jeff Lewy, SFBAJGS Treasurer

The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society is fortunate to have members who make donations over and above their membership dues. These donations amount to several thousand dollars per year, made up mostly of small additions to members' dues. We use a small portion of these donations to support our efforts to make local Bay Area Jewish records available for free online to the Jewish genealogical research community throughout the world. The bulk of these donations each year go to other organizations that are conducting research of value to Jewish genealogy. These organizations also generously put their data online for free to be used by genealogists worldwide.

Locally, members of SFBAJGS have added more than 35,000 cemetery records for five Bay Area cemeteries to the Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) managed by JewishGen. We are continuing this work to document other Bay Area Jewish cemeteries.

We are also working with Bay Area synagogues and the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life at the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley to document their records of genealogical interest, especially in the archives of Sherith Israel Synagogue, which include marriage, confirmation, *yahrzeit*, death, and burial records, some of them going back to before the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906, when most earlier civil records were destroyed.

We regularly make donations to support local organizations, for example:

- Jewish Community Library of San Francisco, to maintain and expand its collection of books relating to Jewish genealogy.
- Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries, to help it maintain seven early cemeteries in the California Gold Country and record the cemetery data.

We donate to organizations elsewhere in the U.S. that conduct research supporting Jewish genealogy. A few examples of groups we have supported:

- JewishGen, the primary online site for Jewish genealogy.
- Jewish Records Indexing (JRI)-Poland, to support its indexing of records from Poland and neighboring countries.
- Italian Genealogical Group, to support the transcription of records from New York City—where

so many of our ancestors once lived—including births, marriages, deaths, and naturalizations.

Over the last few years, we have also supported small groups in Europe working to preserve Jewish history and buildings, even in communities where Jews no longer live. We have learned about some of these efforts from our members who have made trips to “the old country” or who have learned about projects in towns where their ancestors once lived.

We ask these groups, many of them so small they are run by single individuals, to tell us in one page how they might use a donation, and our board evaluates these proposals and selects worthwhile projects for our support.

As examples, we have sent donations to two organizations operating in Poland:

- Kirkuty, which is conducting a project to photograph all the tombstones in former Jewish cemeteries, whether still in use, no longer in use, or rehabilitated after destruction during the Holocaust.
- Jewish Historical Institute (Zydowski Instytut Historyczny [ZIH]), which runs a museum in Warsaw. The core of the collection is a history of the Warsaw Ghetto that was compiled by prisoners of the ghetto. The documentation was hidden away and recovered after the war. The archive is presented in Polish and English.

We thank our members for their generous donations, allowing us to seed work in many places that may be physically distant but that are closely connected to us as Jewish researchers involved in both genealogy and the wider field of family history. If any reader of *ZichronNote* would like to suggest other potential groups doing worthy work, please let us know by e-mail to president@sfbajgs.org or via a short note to our postal address. Tell us the name and location of the organization, its project that you propose we might support, and how we might contact key members of the organization to learn more.

We are spreading the word about this use of our members' donations to the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), to encourage others of the more than 90 member societies in other cities and countries that may have the means, to seek unusual and worthwhile projects wherever they may find them, and take action to collect and disseminate information of value to all of us interested in Jewish records and Jewish life, in the past, today, and in the future.



Your Member Benefits

Heidi Lyss, SFBAJGS Board Member

Many of you may not know that as a member of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society you receive a 10% discount from our following generous donors when you present your SFBAJGS membership card:

Shopping

- Dayenu Judaica, at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 3220 California Street, San Francisco, (415) 563-6563, <http://www.dayenu.com/>
- Alef Bet Judaica, 14103-D Winchester Boulevard, Los Gatos, (408) 370-1818, <http://www.alefbetjudaica.com/>
- Miriam's Well, Foster City, (650) 341-4400, <http://miriams-well.com/>

Musical Performances

- Jewish Music Festival, <http://www.jewishmusicfestival.org/>

Check our online list of vendors occasionally to see if we have added more: <http://www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs/membership-card.html>.

Your other member benefits include members-only access to the four most recent issues of the SFBAJGS journal *ZichronNote*, the option to receive PDF copies of journals from other participating Jewish genealogical societies, the ability to list your research names and towns in the society Family Finder, and the opportunity to have a link from the society's site to your family history Web site.

Your membership helps support the range of speakers and programs offered by SFBAJGS throughout the year and the society's special projects. These projects have included the addition of 35,000 local cemetery records to the Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry and work with local repositories to create online searchable databases and digitized records. We also make annual donations to local, national, and international organizations working on the preservation and sharing of Jewish heritage. (See the article by our treasurer, Jeff Lewy, on page 13 for more information.) If you have any questions, please contact our membership chairman, Avner Yonai, at membership@sfbajgs.org. We appreciate your engagement and generous support.



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2013 IAJGS Achievement Award Winners

Renee Stern Steinig

for the IAJGS 2013 Achievement Awards Committee

Committee members: Henry Blumberg, Logan Kleinwaks, Kahlile Mehr, and Mark Nicholls.

The winners were selected from a large field of outstanding candidates, whose achievements reflect the vitality and diversity of our Jewish genealogy community. Congratulations to all the nominees for their accomplishments.

IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award

- Dr. Neville Y. Lamdan

Neville Lamdan was honored for his pioneering work to establish the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center in Jerusalem (<http://www.iiig.org/>). His vision and dedication as its director from 2006 to 2012 shaped IIJG into a driving force working to gain recognition of Jewish genealogy as an academic discipline. As a result of Dr. Lamdan's skilled leadership, IIJG has developed syllabi and guidelines for university-level courses in Jewish genealogy, sponsored scholarly research on Jewish genealogy, and been a presence at international Jewish studies conferences. An innovator and bridge-builder, Neville Lamdan has given Jewish genealogists new insights and tools and has emphasized to the academic community the crucial role genealogical research has to play in the study of Jewish history and identity.

Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print, or Electronic Product

- JewishGen KehilaLinks

KehilaLinks (<http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/>) has encouraged and assisted the creation of more than 600 Web pages commemorating the places where Jews have lived. The pages provide valuable information for each community, including maps, photographs, historical accounts, databases, links to other resources, and more. KehilaLinks pages also serve as a networking base for people interested in these ancestral communities. Introduced in 1996 as ShtetLinks, the project was renamed in 2011 to reflect its inclusion of Jewish communities throughout the world. KehilaLinks continues to grow thanks to the tireless efforts of coordinators Susana Leistner Bloch and Barbara Ellman, a team of volunteer Web page designers, and the many site owners.

Outstanding Programming or Project that Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy

- Gesher Galicia, for its Cadastral Map and Landowner Records Project and the Gesher Galicia Map Room

The Gesher Galicia Cadastral Map and Landowner Records Project (<http://www.geshergalicia.org/projects/cadastral-map-and-landowner-records>) has provided groundbreaking content for genealogical researchers. Through the funding of Gesher Galicia and individual contributors, 19th-century Austrian land maps and landowner records are copied at archives in Eastern Europe. These extraordinary maps, which show such details as market squares, houses, synagogues, cemeteries, roads, and rivers, enable family historians to visualize where and how their ancestors lived, and the landowner records capture details of everyday lives not found in traditional sources. Maps are shared in Gesher Galicia's unique online Map Room (<http://maps.geshergalicia.org/>), which also features historical town, provincial, and regional maps, Holocaust and ghetto maps, and specialty maps. Indexed data are made available to researchers in the free online All Galicia Database (<http://search.geshergalicia.org/>). In many cases these maps and records provide the only available documentary evidence of a family's life in a town.

Outstanding Publication by a Member Organization of IAJGS

- Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto, for its book *Tracing Our Roots, Telling Our Stories*

Tracing Our Roots, Telling Our Stories, published by the JGS of Toronto (<http://www.jgstoronto.ca/>) in celebration of its 25th anniversary, shares family stories, first-person narratives, and accounts of research and discovery written by 44 of the Society's members. This 248-page anthology spans two centuries and diverse locations to explore such themes as immigration, the Holocaust, and life in Eastern Europe and in new homelands. Its moving chapters illustrate the importance of recording personal histories to enrich the details found on genealogical documents. Effective publicity and sales of the book in a number of retail outlets also serve to introduce the larger community to the joys and challenges of genealogical research.



The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XXXIII, Number 4

November 2013

Calendar of Upcoming SFBAJGS Events

Sunday, 12 January, San Francisco: *What Happens to Your Research after You're Gone?* Patricia Burrow will share some ideas on what you can do to ensure your family history research is preserved for future generations.

Sunday, 9 February, Oakland: *The Changing Borders of Eastern Europe.* Steve Danko will discuss the historically shifting borders in Eastern Europe and how they affect your research.

Sunday, 23 February, Oakland: *Prussian Poland and Its Jews.* Roger Lustig of the German SIG will talk about the history of Jews in Prussia and the resources available for researching them.

Monday, 24 February, Los Altos Hills: *Germany's Jews and Their Surnames.* Roger Lustig will cover the adoption of surnames in German-speaking countries from the 18th through the 19th centuries, and surnames that existed before that.

Sunday, 23 March, San Francisco: *Lodz: The Manchester of Poland.* Lodz was the center of the industrial revolution in Russian Poland and one of the textile hubs of the larger Russian empire. Lodz was also remarkably diverse, with populations of Jews, Poles, and Germans.

Monday, 7 April, Los Altos Hills: *Digging into Family Roots and Discovering a Live Branch That Survived the Holocaust.* Shlomo Rosenfeld used addresses from old letters, ghetto records, and Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony to find living relatives who survived the Holocaust.

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