



זכרון ZichronNote

The Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XIV, Number 3

August 1994

LOCAL GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wed Aug 10
10:00 AM Meeting of the East Bay Genealogical Society. **Researching San Francisco Relatives.** **Kathy Beals** will talk on creative ways of locating information in spite of the fact that so many vital records are unavailable due to the 1906 earthquake and fire. Meeting at the Mormon Center, 4780 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland
- Mon Aug 15
7:30 PM **Regular Meeting. Panel on Jewish Genealogy on Internet** Jerry Delson leads a panel of member users of Internet who will discuss the resources available, methods of connecting, software, and other topics relating to the use of Internet to further their research. Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Road, Palo Alto.
- Sat Sep 17 Workshop sponsored by the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society. Lead by **James and Paula Warren**, the topics will be: Untrodden Ground-Sources You May Not Have Encountered; Seven things to do if You Really Want to Find Your Ancestors; The WPA Era—What it Created for Genealogical Research; What's New in Genealogy in 1994. Workshop at the Concord Bible Church, 4975 Concord Blvd., Concord, CA.
- Sun Sep 25
1:00 PM **Regular Meeting. Childhood in a Shtetl** Lecture and book signing by the author **Abraham Gannes** Jewish Community Library, 14th Ave. at Balboa, San Francisco.
- Mon Oct 17
7:30 PM **Regular Meeting. (Tentative) The Hidden Children.** Learn about Jewish children saved from the Holocaust by being raised in Christian homes in Europe during World War II. Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Road, Palo Alto.
- Sun Nov 20 **Regular Meeting.** San Francisco. *Please mark your Calendars*
- Mon Dec 19 **Regular Meeting.** Palo Alto.
- June 25-29, 1995 Fourteenth Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, Hotel Washington, Washington, DC. Details JGS of Greater Washington, P. O. Box 412, Vienna, VA 22183-0412

NATIONAL ARCHIVES WORKSHOP SERIES

The National Archives Pacific Sierra Region are presenting a series of workshops at the National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. Register in advance to guarantee your place in the class and save money. The fee is \$12.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the door. Contact Rose Mary Kennedy at 415-876-9009.

- Fri Aug 12
9AM-1PM Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records
- Fri Oct 21
9AM-1PM Chinese Immigration Records
- Fri Nov 4
9AM-1PM Military Records Part I

THE SOCIETY PAGE

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

William & Lisa Brinner	Berkeley
Linda Carrion	Fremont
Rick Charnes	Oakland
Julian Falk	Pittsburgh, PA
Walter G. Firestone	San Anselmo
Natalie Fisher	Palo Alto
Deborah S. Friedman	Madison, WI
Abe & Miriam Gannes	Cupertino
David J. Hyams III	Corte Madera
Jesse Kanarek	Menlo Park
Muriel Leff	San Francisco
John D. Movius	Davis
Helen D. Nestor	Berkeley
Ronald Neuman	Kenwood
Stephen H. Olson	Foster City
Celeste Parcell	San Rafael
Stella M. Paton	San Francisco
Moshe F. Reder	San Francisco
Robin M. Ritz	Pacifica
E. Diane Ahrens Ross	San Francisco
Dorothy Sheinfeld	San Francisco
Bennett Weunstock	Brooklyn, NY

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

We are back from the Fourth International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Israel and are busy collecting our thoughts and memories, and sorting our collected materials. This issue focusses on the new information learned at the Seminar, and our experiences there. *Highlights...Part 1* captures some of the human experiences of our half-dozen world travellers, as related in two Society meetings following the Seminar. *Highlights...Part 2*, based on my lecture notes, transmits to our readers some of the new information imparted by experts to the lucky ones of us who could attend. The syllabus lacked texts of the sessions, and we fervently hope that *Avotaynu* will publish transcripts of the more meaningful lectures. We publish a fascinating letter from correspondent Anatoli Chayesh in this issue.

ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY

We have been actively acquiring reference and research materials for our library. Some of this material is purchased from your dues, but much of it is from member donations. An update to the Society's holdings is presented in the following pages. Please add it to the book list you received earlier this year with your membership roster and family finder. Call our Librarian Dana Kurtz prior to a Society meeting if you wish to use or borrow any reference. Highlights of the new materials are summarized below, with credits given to our donors.

- *Beyond the Basics* a genealogical workshop of JGS, Inc. of New York, given in the memory of Rabbi Malcolm Stern. **Donated by Sita Likuski.**

- Catalogs listing the microfilm numbers for the censuses of 1900, 1910, and 1920. Also the microfilm indexes for genealogical and biographical records, military records, and immigration and passenger arrival records. Consult these National Archive publications before you do census research at the Archives.

- Catalogs of California and other states' phone directories on film available from Bay Microfilm.

- *Tracing Your Hispanic Heritage* by George Ryskamp is an encyclopedic work which must be consulted if you are doing research into Sephardic roots. **Donated by Sharon Fingold.**

- Guides to the Israel State Archives, the Central Zionist Archives, and Sources for the History of the Jews in Poland in the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (all in Jerusalem).

- Census indexes to the 1935 and 1936 censuses of Rehavia section of Jerusalem and to the 1939 census of Jerusalem. Information on addresses, age, occupation are found in the index.

- *The Jews of San Francisco and the Greater Bay Area, 1849-1919* an annotated bibliography compiled by Sara G. Cogan. **Donated by Judy Baston.**

- *The Bialystoker Memorial Book* by Max Ratner et. al. is an English-language memorial book **donated by David Stern.**

- *Jüdisches Leben in Deutschland* by Monika Richarz, is a three-volume work in German **donated by W. David Stern.**

- *Stammbuch der Frankfurter Juden* by Dr. Alexander Dietz, a classic 1907 genealogical reference on Frankfurt Jews from the 16th century **donated by W. David Stern.**

- *Jüdischen gefallen des Deutschen Heeres, ...* a 1932 publication listing the Jewish German casualties of World War I indexed by surnames well as by city. **Donated by W. David Stern.**

- *Memorbuch der Jüdischer Friedhof Neuwied-Niederbieber* by Naftali Bamberger is one of a series of excellent books with information on German Jewish cemeteries and the persons buried therein. **Donated by W. David Stern.**

- Update of the American Genealogical Lending Library microfilm catalog.

ZichronNote and *SFBAJGS Newsletter* are now available on microfiche. The complete collection of our Society's newsletters from the start of publishing in 1981 through the end of 1993, completely indexed, has been filmed and are available at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City.

U. S. & CANADIAN RESEARCH

NAVAL PERSONNEL INFORMATION

The active duty medical records of discharged, deceased, and retired naval personnel are filed at the National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records) 9700 Page Boulevard St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5200. Pension Office Award Cards record payments to pensioners on the rolls from 1907 to 1933, except for World War I pensioners. Arranged alphabetically by surname of pensioner, they are on microfilm as "Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards" 1907-1933, M850. 2539 rolls comprise the file. Each card shows name of pensioner, name of military unit, date of the act and certificate of file number under which payment was made, and date the pension began. Some cards show place of residence and date of death of pensioner, names of the pension agencies from or to which jurisdiction was transferred, and name of widow or other recipient of death benefits.

The cards are sometimes useful in identifying pension application files that cannot be identified from the microfilmed indexes. These pension records are on file at the National Archives and Records Administration, 7th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408 (*Diablo Descendants* Newsletter, Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, Vol. 8 No. 8, August 1993)

USE OF POLICE AND FBI RECORDS

Miriam Weiner describes the records she has found of family members in the Police Department archives in Moscow (her relatives were activists). She also describes how an entry in the State Department files in the National Archives helped her find a relative who was executed in Moscow in connection with the case of "counter-revolutionary damagers." Also at the National Archives, Weiner checked the FBI records and found some cousins there. The microfilmed documents for the FBI cover the years 1908-1922. Much of the FBI material consists "of written reports from FBI agents, transcripts of interviews, and other records. Many of the subjects of investigation were people suspected of subversive activities because of their membership in groups supporting open immigration or union activities. Frequently, immigrants failed to register for the 1917 draft and were then subject of FBI investigation. Some files relate to visa requests for people wishing to attend international conferences abroad." (*Roots-Key*, Winter 1993-94)

MASSACHUSETTS STATE CENSUS

The Fall, 1993 issue of *Mass-pocha* includes a detailed article on the Massachusetts state censuses.

THE ALIEN REGISTRATION ACT OF 1940

The Alien Registration Act of 1940 required all resident aliens to report each change of address within five days. Forms were available at the local post office and the penalty for non-compliance was a fine and possible imprisonment. The application form was two pages and asked for information on immigration (including date of arrival and name of ship), birth date and place, previous names, physical description, occupation. These records can be obtained via the Freedom of Information Act by writing to: Immigration and Naturalization Service, FOIA/PA Section, 425 I Street NW, Room 5144, Washington, DC 20536. Request form G639. (*Roots-Key*, Winter 1993-94, article by Miriam Weiner)

NEW YORK CITY VITAL RECORDS

Birth and death records (death records after 1949) are available from NYC for \$15 each. Send a bank check or money order and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Vital Records, Dept. of Health, PO Box 3776, Church Street Station, NY, NY 10013. Include if known, name, age, date of death/birth, spouse's name, borough, and parents' names. Allow 8-10 weeks. Call (718) 788-4520 or (718) 788-4523 for further information.

KENTUCKY & MISSOURI

The March-April, 1993 issue of *Ancestry* provides detailed information on research in Missouri and a positive two-page review of the book *Kentucky Ancestry: A Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992).

CALIFORNIA VITAL STATISTICS

State Dept. of Health Services, Office of State Registrar of Vital Statistics, 304 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-445-2684. Mail to: PO Box 730241, Sacramento, CA 94244-0241. The State of California Fee Schedule is as follows: certificates of birth, marriage or divorce are \$13; death certificates are \$9.

The Registrar has records from July 1905 through April 1993 (as of Feb, 1994). If the exact date of the event is not known, please indicate the years to be searched. An additional fee will be charged for each 10 years searched. One Certified copy or Certificate of No Record is included in the fee. Processing time of requests for vital statistics records is approximately 6-12 weeks. Payment must accompany the request. No checks. Postal or bank money order made payable to: State Registrar of Vital Statistics. (From Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society Newsletter, Feb 1994)

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Fall, 1993 issue of *Discovery* includes an article by Jackye Sullins that describes how to obtain death certificates from the Arizona Dept. of Health. You need to obtain the certificate request form, provide a picture ID with your signature, a \$6.00 money order (check ok if you want to wait until it clears), proof that you are doing genealogy research and proof of your relationship to the deceased.

CAMBRIDGE STATISTICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Per the Summer/Fall, 1993 issue of *Lineage*, CSRA has moved from Ohio to California. You can reach them at 23 Rocky Knoll, Irvine, CA 92715, 714-509-9900, FAX 714-509-9119. CSRA provides the following services at a charge: searches of the SS Death Index, World War II POW file, the Korean and Vietnam Conflict Decedent Files, Phone Disc USA, and ProPhone National Telephone Directory. You can order any of their services by telephone with a major credit card.

NEW JERSEY STATE ARCHIVES

The Summer, 1993 issue of *Dorot* includes a 1 1/4 page article on the New Jersey State Archives.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE SOUTH

Etz Chaim, the newsletter of the JGS of Greater Orlando, is publishing a series of articles on research in the American South. Three articles have already been published: Tennessee (Winter 1993 issue), Georgia (Spring 1994 issue), and Alabama (Summer 1994 issue).

You might also want to read an article "Jewish-American and Deep South Jewish Heritage" in the July/August *Ancestry*.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The fee for copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates has been raised by the government. The fee for any of these documents is now \$15. For inquiries, call 800-742-6283 or write Division of Vital Statistics, 818 Fort Street, Victoria, British Columbia, V8W 1H8, Canada. (Contra Costa GS, March 1994)

HERITAGE SEMINAR SERIES

1994 seminars include a seminar on German and Eastern European Research **Sept 4-11**. Classroom lectures and on-site research at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Call Heritage Consulting and Services, P.O. Box 4152, Salt Lake City UT 84110, Tel. 801-565-8046, FAX 801-359-9355.

CONFERENCES & TOURS

2ND INTERNATIONAL YIDDISH CLUB CONFERENCE

The conference will be held **October 7-10** in Toronto, Canada. Program: "A Celebration of Yiddish". Experience the Joys of Our Language, Music, Poetry, and Literature. For more information, contact Bess Shockett, Conference Coordinator, or Sylvia Lustgarten, Director of the Committee for Yiddish at 4600 Bathurst St., Willowdale, M2R 3V2, Tel. 416-635-2883 Ext.155, FAX 416-631-5715.

ON TO RICHMOND

The annual Federation of Genealogical Societies conference theme will be "Four Centuries of Family History". The "conference for the nation's genealogists" co-sponsored by the Virginia Genealogical Society and to be held **October 12-15** in Richmond Virginia at the Richmond Marriott Hotel, will include exhibits from over 125 exhibitors including over 60 genealogical publishers and vendors, and over 140 lectures. Registration is \$85.00 prior to September 1. Contact the Federation of Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385. Tel. 801-254-2785.

SHAKE YOUR FAMILY TREE

A genealogical research tour to Salt Lake City is being organized for **October 30 to November 6** by Frances Becker and Marie Prichett, and is arranged by Alamo World Travel. The tour includes air fare on Delta Airlines from Oakland to Salt Lake City, seven nights at the Howard Johnson Hotel adjacent to the Family History Library, transfers and baggage handling, and dinner Saturday night at the Lion House. The cost is \$435 based on double occupancy (\$640 single). Down payment of \$200 must be received by September 23, with final payment by October 15, 1994. For information call Frances Becker at 510-934-4962 or 510-837-8742.

SECOND ANNUAL JEWISH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY

Join Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff, full-time professional Jewish genealogists, writers and lecturers on **November 3-10**, on their third research trip to Salt Lake City. The \$390 package (\$630 single occupancy) includes seven nights at the Howard Johnson Hotel adjacent to the Family History Library, three-hour orientation class, mid-week problem-solving discussions and dinner, consultation with group leaders. The package does not include airfare, meals, tips or telephone. For information call Gary or Eileen at 201-837-8300.

BOOK NOTICES

THE JEWS OF MOSLEM SPAIN BY ELIYAHU ASHTOR

With a new introduction by David Wasserstein History recreated in a narrative that flows with life and vitality...unmatched for scholarship and readability. Called "the most comprehensive survey of a magnificent era," *The Jews of Moslem Spain* has been reissued in this compact new two-volume edition. The journey through history begins in 711 C.E. when the Moslems conquered the Iberian peninsula. It moves through the flowering of Jewish culture, the "Golden Age of Spanish Jewry," and closes with the 11th century reconquest of Spain. "The standard authority on the subject ... written in a lively style and at times has the flavour of an historical novel"---*Journal of Semitic Studies*. Volume 1: 474 pages, Paper, Volume 2/3: 692 pages, Paper, \$19.95. Two-volume set: \$37.50. (The Jewish Publication Society - 1930 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19103-4599)

A HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN CHRISTIAN SPAIN BY YITZHAK BAER

Translated from the Hebrew by Louis Schoffman, with a new introduction by Benjamin Gampel. "Regarded as the standard work on the subject ... remarkable for its broad historical outlook, accuracy in detail, and scholarly synthesis."-*Encyclopedia Judaica*

One of the century's great classics of Jewish historiography, *A History of the Jews in Christian Spain* traces the economic, social, legal and political life of the Spanish-Jewish community from the eleventh-century reconquest of Iberia from Moslem rule to the expulsion of 1492. A story of heroism and opportunism, humanitarianism and selfishness- an artistic work of history. "A colorful tapestry which repays close study to scholar and layman alike"---*Jewish Affairs*. "Adds a truly significant contribution to scholarship" ---*Spectrum: A Journal of Medieval Studies*. "Baer's study is history-writing in the grand manner ... enormously fascinating reading" --*The Jewish Exponent*.

Volume 1: 470 pages. Paper, \$19.95.

Volume 2: 520 pages. Paper, \$19.95 (The Jewish Publication Society - 1930 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19103-4599)

REMEMBERING KOLBUSZOWA

A Jewish Boyhood in Poland, Remembering Kolbuszowa, by Norman Salsitz (As told by Richard Skolnik), 320 pp, Syracuse University Press.

BOOK REVIEW

TROUWEN IN MOKUM 1598-1811 Marriages in Amsterdam (1598-1811)

A new reference work has been published in Holland which may be quite useful in tracing Dutch Jewish family lines back to the end of the 16th century. *Trouwen in Mokum 1598-1811 (Marriages in Amsterdam)* provides data on 15,238 marriages performed in or recorded in Amsterdam during the years indicated. Data was assembled from 119 vital statistics registers, and includes the year banns of betrothals were posted; names of brides, grooms, and witnesses; the relationship of witnesses to the couples; birth dates and places. During the period covered, approximately 40% of the marriages performed in Amsterdam involved Jewish couples. The book is available from the publishing house, Warray, Postbus 16268, 2500 BG Den Haag, Netherlands, for 320 guilders (about \$173 US). See the Summer/Fall, 1993 issue of *Lineage* for a review of the book and an example of why the book may be "worth its weight in gold." The article was written by Ralph G. Bennett, MD. [SFBA JGS member Rosanne Leeson has volunteered to research names in her copy this reference. Send a SASE with your request]

SWISLOVITCH IN THE 1870s

David Fielker discusses the book *Childhood in Exile* by Shmarya Levin. Shmarya Levin spent his early years in Swislovitch and describes life in the town. Fielker's 2 1/2 page article describes life in the town as documented by Levin. (*Shemot*, Autumn 1993)

NEW VIDEOS

YIDDISH: THE MAME-LOSHEN 56 min. videotape, JH-A, 1979

This Emmy winning television documentary examines the complicated status of the Yiddish language in the United States. Herschel Bernardi, Leo Rosten, and other proponents from both the religious and secular communities describe the richness of the language and its importance as a record of centuries of Jewish experience in Eastern Europe and the U.S. The film describes Yiddish decline as a living language as a result of the Holocaust, increasing assimilation of the American Jewish community, and emergence of Hebrew as the spoken language of Israel. It documents revival of interest in Yiddish among a younger generation of American Jews, with the proliferation of Yiddish courses, clubs, and musical groups attesting to the continuing tenacity of the *mame-loshen*. (San Francisco Bureau of Jewish Education Update, Sept/Oct 1993)

HINTS

A WORD ABOUT THOSE FAMILY VIDEOS

Quoting from an article by William S. Snyder of Orange, CA in a recent issue of *Old Cars Weekly*: "...after reading 'Videotape is Dead' by William J. Staples in the March 1993 *Industrial Photography* magazine we all should be aware of one serious limitation of videotape—it doesn't last very long. For some time professional archivists and museum curators have reported that, 'after a very few years the oxide was dropping off videotape like so much dandruff'.

In 1991, a Sony group in Japan published a report setting the maximum lifespan of videotape at 15 years, assuming ideal conditions. That means that if you just want to see what you've been doing over the past few years you're in good shape. But if you plan to spend some moments in your retirement years reviewing films of the family get-togethers, weddings, births, and all those things memories are made of - forget it. Author Staples tells of the curator at a major air and space museum who, upon receiving videotapes of the original and only declassified videotapes of the sole flight of the X-Something, complete with close-ups of the still unsolved midair disintegration, opened the box only to find a ribbon of clear acetate and a pile of brown powder".

Mr. Snyder suggests that the most practical solution if you wish to preserve the image you have captured on videotape would be to transfer it to motion picture film. He mentions that properly stored motion picture film lasts fifty years or so.

Another suggestion, though possibly more expensive, might be to date your videotapes of those family gatherings, interviews, etc., and copy them onto new videotape every 8 or 10 years. Taped oral interviews might certainly be another solution. These can be transcribed and augmented with photographs. (*The Live Oak*, bimonthly newsletter of the East Bay Gen. Soc., Vol. XIII, No. 2, July/Aug 1993)

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

To get your genealogy into the library of Congress you need only pay the postage to get it there. Your genealogy need not be copyrighted. Some expenses of research can be tax deductible from income taxes when a gift is given to the Library of Congress. They will send an acknowledgment describing your gift. Send your completed genealogy to: Library of Congress, Exchange and Gifts Division, 10 First St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20540 (St. Charles Co. GS, MO, Vol. 18, No.2 via others). (*The Live Oak*, bimonthly newsletter of the East Bay Gen. Soc., Vol. XIII, No. 2, July/Aug 1993)

HANDWRITING AND GENEALOGY

Two detailed articles on handwriting analysis have been recently published. In the Nov-Dec, 1993 issue of *Ancestry Newsletter*, includes the article "Cursive Clues to Character" by M. Weisbrod. The Summer, 1993 issue of *The Nugget* (published by the California Genealogical Society) includes the article "Graphology and Genealogy" by T. Widmore

PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITY

ZichronNote is always interested in articles from members on their genealogical experiences. However, if you are looking for a wider audience, consider submitting articles to *Ancestry Newsletter*. This newsletter is seeking articles from any genealogist, beginner to advanced. See the Jan/Feb 1993 issue of *Ancestry Newsletter* or write to Loretto Dennis Szucs, Acquisitions Editor, PO Box 476, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-0476.

WWII EUROPE AND AFRICA VETERANS

Pierre Salinger is looking for the names of 5 million men and women who fought in Europe and North Africa during WWII. Salinger is chairman of the "Wall of Liberty" Committee of the battle of Normandy Foundation, which plans to carve the names into a series of walls that will be built in Caen, Normandy, near the Allies' D-Day landing spot. Because the fire in the veteran's record center in St. Louis destroyed so many records, veterans or their families are asked to submit their names directly to the project. Applications may be obtained by calling 1-800-WW2-VETS. (Contra Costa Gen. Soc., Nov. 1993)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION? IT'S AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Question: I can't obtain a copy of the Freedom of Information Act. I tried the main library and various law libraries, but there wasn't a copy to be had.

Leslie Eddins, San Jose

Answer: That surprises reference librarian David Kravitz at the Martin Luther King Jr. Public Library in San Jose. The reference desk gets questions from students about the Freedom of Information Act several times a week, and we've had him call you to explain where you can find a copy of the act. It is available in two reference books at the library: *How to Use the Freedom of Information Act* by L. Sherick (1979, Arco Publishing Co.) and *A Citizen's Guide on Using the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act of 1974 to Request Governmental Records*, (1989, Government Printing Office). In addition, *Congress and the Nation*, a Congressional Quarterly series, describes the Act's passage. (from Action Line column, *San Jose Mercury News*)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON JEWISH GENEALOGY, JERUSALEM. PART 1

Society members who attended the fourth international seminar on Jewish genealogy at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem April 28 through May 5 discussed their impressions of the program, and shared their activities and newly acquired knowledge at the Society's May 22 and June 20 meetings. The SFBA JGS was represented by eight members at the seminar. This account was taken from written accounts submitted by Sara Verschleisser and Marian Rubin, and notes taken at the May and June Society meetings by Bob Weiss.

Sara Verschleisser

It is not often that one has the opportunity to meet people of the caliber of the attendees of the Fourth International Seminar. My roommate, a young woman from Turkey and the *Avotaynu* correspondent from her country, told me of the large group of Turkish Jews living in Israel and the recent interest of the Turkish Jews in genealogy. I had the opportunity to speak with people from many countries — England, France, Canada, Brazil and Israel, and with fellow Americans from many states.

Many helpful "perks" were provided us. The seminar office had a modem hookup to the Dorot center at Beth Hatefutsoth in Tel Aviv. A computer was available with the U.S. PhoneDisk. Sasha Beider had a computer database with his forthcoming Jewish name dictionary from the Polish Empire, and Peter Lande of Washington DC brought an index of Auschwitz registrations.

Volunteers stood by to guide us through the Jewish National and University Library (JNUL) and the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, where a reception was held for our group. Sara delivered her diskette to the Dorot Center to be entered into their database.

Lecture quality was excellent with few exceptions, making it difficult to select from simultaneous lectures. An outstanding talk was the keynote address by Yitzhak Navon, former Israel President.

I was impressed by the interest shown in the study of genealogy and Jewish names. Seventh-grade students in Israel are required to submit a family tree. Israel now has a new genealogical society, the Galilee Genealogical Society. Professor Aaron Demsky explained the Bar Ilan Project which was conceived at the university in Ramat Gan to study genealogy. Last July an international conference was held and plans developed to publish a Journal of Onomastics.

It was a week well spent.

Marian Rubin

In preparation for my trip to Israel, I wrote to the woman in Tel Aviv who heads the Rzeszow (Reisha), Galicia landsmanshaft organization, telling her the names of my families from Reisha, and stating that I would like to meet her. She sent a prompt reply, informing me that there was a member of my

Wohlfeld family in southern California! My "new" cousin Roman, a man of 70, is a holocaust survivor, and probably the only relative I will ever know from my ancestral town. He was very excited to hear from me and, by the time this is read, we will have met. Prior to learning about Roman I had traced a cousin of his who lives in Israel. Roman's cousin Harry was born in Leipzig, and remembers being taken to visit his grandparents in Reisha. Harry and Roman know each other, but Harry had not mentioned Roman in our brief telephone conversation between Israel and San Francisco. I had a wonderful meeting with Harry in Israel.

Another successful meeting with new relatives in Israel started with my having read the English translation of the Kobrin yizkor book in the Northern California Holocaust Center. I found the name of **Gedaliah Rogosnitzky** who emigrated to Israel in 1929, changed his name to **Gedalia Alon**, and became a Professor at Hebrew University. I believed that my grandfather **David Rogosnitzky** from Kobrin would have to be related, especially since he had a brother named Gedaliah. In Israel, using information from the Search Bureau for Missing Relatives together with information from a family tree from the Dorot Center at the Beth Hatefutsoth, I contacted **Ilai Alon**, son of the late Gedalia Alon. Ilai thanked me profusely for contacting him, and we arranged to meet. While we still don't know our exact connection (it appears that my grandfather had a brother I didn't know about who was Ilai's grandfather) it is clear that we are related. I had anecdotal family information also known to Ilai and his cousin Amalia, and they had anecdotal information known to me. At her home, Amalia showed me a picture of her great-grandmother **Mollie Rogosnitzky**. That is also the name of MY great-grandmother. If it is the same Mollie it would be the first time I saw a photo of my ancestor. Viewing that photo in Israel added another layer of emotion to my meetings with my Alon cousins.

Jan Engel

Although Jan did not attend the seminar, he was in Israel concurrently, doing his own research. He related at the closing banquet that he discovered 36 new **Engel** relatives during his visit.

EdTanovits

Ed, too, related that the highlights of his visit involved networking and extending his family tree. Prior to the start of the Seminar, Ed found six Pages of Testimony in the Yad Vashem Hall of Names. Networking with other attendees revealed that his **Kronick** family is shared with Randy Daitch and Harold Rhode. He connected three branches of the **Sharlin** family by using the Jewish Genealogical People Finder. Ed located burial records of three relatives through use of the Central Khevre Kadisha.

Ed has illustrious Israeli relatives, including Arye **Grayevsky**, Yishuv historian. The lecture Ed found most useful was the lecture by Dr. Arie Morgenstern on the census of the Prushim of 1834 and its importance to genealogists. This soon to be published census of Jerusalem was recently discovered in Amsterdam. Ed left Israel, but is continuing his research through Carol Clapsaddle.

Judy Baston

Judy, a "people person", had an overwhelming experience contacting family in Israel. Judy, researching four branches of her family, did extensive pre-Seminar research from San Francisco. Judy views Israel as the crossroads between Jewish life of our European past and the present. She found the familial memories of an entire generation at the Yad Vashem, and, with Batya Unterschatz' help, made contact with relatives who provided live links to her lost families.



Jerry Delson

Jerry was effusive about the organization of the Seminar. The Avotaynu crew (Gary and Ruth Mokotoff and Sallyann Sack) did a great job of organizing the program, particularly in obtaining the heads of East European archives to discuss access to these hithertofore-unobtainable records.

Jerry discovered members of his family who perished in the Holocaust. Jerry was impressed by the new Yad Vashem Garden of Lost Communities, and the exhibit of art from Theresienstadt.

Jerry felt that networking was one of the Seminar's high points, and he helped a British conference attendee find a **Strashun** family connection.

Bob Weiss

My experience in Israel parallels those of the other Society members who attended the Seminar. I started with the names and addresses of two witnesses who reported on the deaths of members of my maternal grandfather's **Wolpert** family from Lithuania. The names and addresses were taken from Yad Vashem pages of testimony given in the 1950s. First, I looked up the phone number of witness **Hannah Eidelstein** in Givatayim. Hannah had passed away only two years ago, and her apartment was being rented to a Russian family, who gave me Hannah's daughter's name and address in Jerusalem. I met her daughter, **Riva Abramowitz**, at a coffee shop near the Central Bus Station. Riva only had vague memories of my grandfather's niece **Hannah Wolpert**, who was her mother's close friend, but gave me an old group photograph of her mother and my cousin, taken in the Kovno Ghetto around 1940. It is the only image I have of my cousin.

My other memorable experience demonstrates the value of networking. Batya Unterschatz sent me the name of a woman in Haifa who knew a Wolpert in Kovno. I wrote to **Miriam Drosdowsky** in Haifa. Miriam did not know my Wolperts from Kovno, but she did give me the address of **Rietta Wolpert Lesochin** of Haifa, who lived in the Kovno Ghetto. I spent a thoroughly delightful day with Rietta and her husband Yuri and shared with Rietta details of the deaths of her father and two uncles—information that I had abstracted from the Arolsen files at the Yad Vashem Archive only days before. I filled out three new pages of Testimony based on the Arolsen data in Rietta's name. I also helped another Seminar participant Josephine Rosenblum find the Rietta Wolpert she was seeking.

A piece of unfinished business to be completed by mail is to contact **Yehudit Toron**, the daughter of **Arye Vinik**, another witness to the deaths of my Wolpert cousins from Kelme and Kovne.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON JEWISH GENEALOGY, JERUSALEM. PART 2 by Robert Weiss

My three-week stay in Israel was divided between networking, attending lectures, doing research, and visiting relatives and acquaintances of relatives. This account is based on notes taken at selected lectures. Shortcomings of the Seminar included the general non-availability of proceedings or preprints, the prohibition of recording at the lectures, and the inability to procure lecture recordings at the Seminar. The reader must therefore be content with the memory of this writer and the accuracy of my notes, and my general focus on Polish and Lithuanian sources and subjects. Hopefully transcripts of the lectures will be made available in *Avotaynu* to preserve the vast amount of information provided by the knowledgeable speakers that I was not able to capture.

Yitzhak Navon

The Importance of Genealogy for the History of the Jewish People

The keynote address by the second President of Israel set the stage for the Fourth International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem. Mr. Navon was introduced by the Archivist of the State of Israel. We were told that genealogists are *nudniks*, but that we do it with affection. And Mr. Navon, in addressing a conference of genealogists, was in effect entering the lions' den. But he proceeded to charm the hundreds of lions who heard his address (to mix a metaphor).

The future is but a continuation of the past, and we were exhorted to remember the past, to live with it, and to enjoy it. The way to learn history is to relive our family history. Its importance is not in the details, but in our feelings of rootedness. Genealogy is a unifying factor for the Jewish people, and helps forge us into one nation.

The key concern for the survival of the Jewish nation is the low birth rate (1.7/family in the Diaspora) and the high rate of intermarriage. Less than half of the children of the "people of the book" are receiving a Jewish education.

Navon then related three world-changing events which involved Jews in not so well known key roles and introduced descendants of these Jews. The three events, related to Navon's Sephardic heritage, were: 1) the end of Moorish control of Spain; 2) the expulsion of the Jews from Spain and Portugal; and 3) the discovery of America.

This was a thoroughly fascinating address to set the stage for a week of searching our own past and reliving our ancestors' history.

Batya Unterschatz

Jewish Agency

Search Bureau for Missing Relatives

Batya led off a set of introductions to the facilities that would be available for research in Israel. She has been busy since the uniting of East and West Germany doing research to support the cases of German and Polish Jews whose property was

appropriated during the War, now that those governments have agreed to give reparations. Batya is also assisting in locating owners or descendants of the 300 owners of rare books that were confiscated in 1939 in Bremen. Names of the former owners were written in the books.

Batya has computerized over one million names, including inquirer and inquiree, on the computer donated to her office by the Jewish genealogical community through the AJGS. Her records range from 1945 to 1984. More recent data are available from the Ministry of the Interior. Current interest is high on early and current Soviet immigrants. Batya has family search ads placed in Russian language Israeli newspapers for 100 New Israeli Shekels (NIS), equivalent to about \$33.00.

The Search Bureau is now located at Ibn Giberol #3, behind the Jewish Agency building. She would appreciate hearing from Seminar participants as to how the information she provided worked out.

Hadassah Assouline, Director *Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People*

The key word in the name of this archive is "History" (and not "People"). Most of the material is arranged geographically by country and town by post-World War I borders. For example Vilnius/Vilna records may be found under Wilno, Poland. The materials are not arranged for the convenience of genealogists. Only a small percentage of the material is genealogical, filed by family name. Library catalog drawers #88 and #89 list family information, #126 lists family trees and family histories, and #45 lists family information in the German collection.

The catalog is mainly on cards, but a general guide listing holdings by community is coming out. The 1973 guide is out of print. There are lists of YIVO and Leo Baeck materials at the Central Archives. There is no separate list of pinkassim in the holdings (such as the one published in *Zichron-Note*, May 1994 by R. Weiss covering the Jewish National and University Library Manuscript Department holdings.)

**Rafi Weiser, Director
Manuscript Department,
Jewish National and University Library**

Mr. Weiser described the collections of the Manuscript Department with special attention given to the sources most likely to be of interest to genealogists. These sources include *pinkassim* and family trees. He informed us of a project led by Mr. Benjamin Richler of the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts to film manuscripts around the world, including 90 *pinkassim* from the Ukraine.

Historical materials of potential interest include histories of places, biographies, family histories, and *mohel* books.

Mr. Weiser went on to describe the cataloging system at the library and how to find documents. He mentioned the Montefiore Census, listing Jews in Eretz Yisrael between 1839 and 1875 by community, giving ages, occupations, and parents' names.

**Rachel Rubenstein
Central Zionist Archives**

Holdings of the Zionist Archives include lists of eligible voters for elective assemblies of the Jewish Yishuv in Palestine from 1925 and registers of adults from the 1920s and 1930s. The latter lists by surname 95% of the adult population (omitting the ultra orthodox). Holdings also include indexes to the 1939 census of Jerusalem and original census records for many districts. The index to this census, published in 1942, was obtained by former Society member Patrick Gordis, who has graciously offered to look up single family names for requesters who include a self-addressed stamped envelope with their request. Members who would like to do their own research can do so with the Society's copy. Just call our librarian Dana Kurtz.

**Yohai Goell
Ben Zvi Institute**

Focus of this institute is Jewish life during the Ottoman period, with particular emphasis on the oriental Jewish community. Their library and archive has, in their general holdings, 300 Sephardic *ketuboth* (marriage contracts) listed by brides', grooms' and witnesses' names and dates. They possess a 2-volume marriage register from Tunis with 6000 names over the period 1788-1878, a register from Tripoli, Libya from 1805-1830, three catalogs covering North African, Persian, and Yemenite manuscripts, questionnaire responses from the American Kotel in Jerusalem in the 1920s. Other materials described include a 15-volume collection of letters relating to the collection of donations, and a collection of (reprinted) pamphlets from the old Yishuv in Jerusalem which are full of biographical info.

**Dr. Hanna Volovici
Sources in Israel for doing
Polish-Jewish Genealogical Research**

Dr. Volovici teaches Polish at Hebrew University and works at the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People. She outlined some holdings that would be of interest to genealogists. The holdings as of 1988 are detailed, by town, in the *Guide to the Sources for the History of the Jews in Poland in the Central Archives* (a copy of which the SFBA JGS has purchased). The text of her talk was made available after the session, and was the only full text that was available.

Material is cataloged by locality as it was known between the World Wars. Dr. Volovici discussed materials not written in German, from the western part of present-day Poland, but does include parts of Lithuania and Ukraine.

The most important documents for genealogists are the civil registration books. In addition to microfilm records from 23 communities, the Central Archives has original records from **Augustów, Białystok, Choroszcz, Jablonka, Lapy, Lomza, Sokoly, Suraz, Tykocin, Wasilków, and Wysokie Mazowieckie** from Białystok voivodship, and **Brzesc Kujawski, Chodecz, Kowal, Przedeck and Rypin** from Warsaw voivodship. They have recently added civil registers from **Piaski, Sandomierz, and Zareby Koscielne**.

Cemetery registers and tombstone photographs are available from **Białystok, Choroszcz, and Krynk**. Brit Milah (circumcision) registers are available from **Wilno (Vilna/Vilnius)** for 1854-1884 and from **Jaryczów** in the Cracow region for 1790-1835.

Besides primary sources such as civil registers and bris registers, there are secondary sources which provide genealogical information. Secondary sources include Jewish community records and civil records concerning the Jewish community. One can find documents relating to elections of community representatives, taxes, charitable institutions, Jewish schools, appointment of rabbis, and civil disputes.

Dr. Volovici informed us of some of the documents added since the 1988 guide was published. Part of the records of the Cracow Jewish Community were microfilmed and are available in the Central Archives. The original records are kept in the Archives of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Lists of Jewish males eligible to vote in the elections of the Community in 1883 and 1929 and lists of inhabitants for tax purposes. In addition to inhabitants of the **Kazimierz**, the Jewish section of Cracow, there are lists for neighboring communities of **Krzeszowiec, Grebalowa, Mogila,**

Tomaszowice, Liszki, Gorka, Czulice etc. On these lists one can find residence, full name, profession, and number in family. There are lists of charity recipients. Cracow Jewish school records contain names of the students as well as the teachers. Synagogue membership lists are found from five Cracow synagogues from the early 20th Century.

Another interesting collection comes from the State Archives in Cracow. The Schneider Collection contains materials from Galicia, South-eastern Poland, and western Ukraine under Austrian rule. Antoni Schneider, an Austrian official, collected information on the Jews of Galicia. The material is in German, and includes lists of voters to the regional councils from 1870 from communities such as: **Brody, Brzesko, Dubiecko, Grybów, Jaslo, Jazlowiec, Lubaczów, Mosciska, Oswiecim, Podhajce, Rohatyn, and Sniatyn**. In the same files one can find lists of Jewish homeowners in **Drohobycz** and taxpayer lists from **Buczacz**.

Records from guberniya capital towns such as **Lublin** and **Radom** often contain correspondence relating to functions that are regulated by the guberniya's officials, such as appointment of rabbis, teachers, tax base changes due to births, deaths, or marriages (**Ilza**), formation of new communities (**Opoczno, Drzewica**).

**Professor Jerzy Skowronek,
State Archivist of Poland
*Conditions Determining Genealogical
Research Studied in Polish Archives***

Polish archival record collections are fragmentary, reflecting the many partitions of Poland. Poland did not exist as a country between the 17th through the 19th Centuries, and there was no State Archive. Polish records are found in Ukraine, Russia, and Germany. Many of the records were destroyed in the war. Remaining records are in need of cataloging and indexing.

There are now 3 central archives, 28 regional archives, and 60 local archives. Printed copies of local catalogs are obtainable at local libraries.

Professor Skowronek quoted \$15.00 per hour for archival research, with an advanced payment for two hours. More can be found about Polish State Archive policy in Sallyann Sack's article in *Avotaynu*, Vol. IX, No. 4, Winter 1993.

[The reader interested in doing Polish research is referred to an excellent article on the subject by Jeffrey Cymbler entitled "Polish-Jewish Research—A Primer" in *Avotaynu* Vol. IX No. 2, Summer 1993]

Dr. Alexander Beider

Jewish Surnames in the Kingdom of Poland

Dr. Beider, the author of that exceptional reference on Jewish surnames of the Kingdom of Russia is working on a sequel dealing with Poland. He was at the conference with his database of Jewish surnames from Poland, and interested attendees met with him to discuss their family names. Dr. Beider's talk covered Polish and Russian patronymics, the history of naming in Poland, and spelling conventions, among other topics. As readers of the first book know, the tutorial material preceding the name lists is a strength of the book, and it is this type of material that Dr. Beider covered in his lecture.

The source of the name lists in the Polish book are lists of voters for the Russian Parliament in the years 1906, 1907, and 1912. The lists included men, 25-years of age or older, having some material wealth, and living in the area for some number of years. The lists cover all of Poland except Warsaw.

**Dr. Igor Sakharov, Director Russian Institute of Genealogical Research,
National Library of Russia, and President,
Russian Genealogical Society
*Sources in the Russian National Library***

Dr. Sakharov is an academic specialist, and not a specialist in Jewish genealogy. He shared some fascinating thoughts about genealogy in Russia in light of Soviet history.

After 1917 it became dangerous to have memories of one's family, and even more dangerous to share those memories. The Soviets forced themselves to forget. They "cut down their family trees", burned photos, and changed names.

Genealogy concerns the minds, hearts, and souls of man, and is not a hard science. Historical science, generalizations and abstractions, replaced the history of peoples. People became the faceless background to history. And with this loss of historical memory a gap arose between generations. The family tree was cut down.

Today, these trends are being reversed. Genealogical studies are being introduced in East Europe. Genealogical Institutes and societies now exist in Petersburg, Moscow, Vilnius, Warsaw, Prague, Bucharest, and elsewhere.

Dr. Sakharov cited a guide to Jewish periodicals which has recently been prepared by Anatoly Chayesh. [Mr. Chayesh recently published an article "Approaching Jewish Genealogical Study in Russia" in our May 1994 *ZichronNote*. A recent letter from him in this issue details an old mortgage document that sheds light on the life of our Russian ancestors around the turn of the century].

**Dr. Volodymyr Lozytsky, Deputy Director,
State Archives of Ukraine**
*Sources for Jewish Genealogy
in the State Archives of Ukraine*

Dr. Lozytsky, speaking through an interpreter, outlined the three major periods of Ukrainian history, and covered the types of records which might contain Jewish genealogically-relevant information. Jews are deep-rooted in the Ukraine—as ancient as any group in the State. Their history is recorded back to the end of the 10th Century.

Jews were involved in the trades in Kiyev, and some records exist in the Archives in Kiyev and Lviv. There was a great migration from other countries during the 16th and 17th centuries, with a consolidation of Jewish communities on Ukrainian soil. Great wealth was in the hands of the Jews in the Ukraine for reasons not connected with their being Jews. The Jews were caught in the middle of the peasant fights against the Polish aristocracy. Jewish genealogical records from the first period, from the end of the 10th Century to the beginning of the 17th Century, are almost non-existent. There are no birth metrical books. There are records in the Archives from some Counts' castles for the period 1543 to 1796. There are contracts, notes, and tax information from 1473 to 1648 including lists of residents and actions concerning them. There are no records of interest to Jews in archives other than the Kiyev and Lviv Archives.

From mid-17th century to 1917 the Ukraine was part of Russia. The Archives have good documents from this period. The Ukraine was part of the Pale of Settlement, but even within the Pale there were restrictions on where Jews could live. In 1804 a law was enacted to equalize the rights of Jews, and in 1835 they could purchase land and homes. In 1910 the Pale was eliminated, but Jews were still restricted from the inner regions of the Soviet Union.

Dr. Lozytsky characterized the major sources of genealogical data from this period. Birth records held in "metrical books" are the prime record sources. Synagogue records are filed by the location of the synagogue. If a person searched for lived in a town without a synagogue, then records from synagogues in neighboring towns might be consulted. Other records to be consulted are court cases, protest records, censuses, tax records, and marriage records.

Examples were given of later records from the post-revolutionary period. There are many fonds (record groups) with genealogical information from the teachers' institute of Zitomir, with names of parents and grandparents. Vinitza school records are found in Fond 351. Vinitza pogrom lists names

those who died in the pogroms. There are 9 fonds with 300 files which includes names of people who received JDC assistance. The records of the Communist party are also a rich source.

Dr. Lozytsky finished with the comment that what is currently being done in Jewish genealogy on Ukrainian soil is at the "dilitante" level. There is much material of a "serious nature" in the files. Training courses are being held at Kiyev University to teach Ukrainian archivists methods of Jewish genealogy.

Dr. Harold Rhode
*19th Century Lithuanian (Kovno Gubernia)
Jewish Birth Records and Revision Lists*

Dr. Rhode presented an update to the list of available Jewish records in the Lithuanian State Archives that was published by Alex Friedlander in the Winter 1990 issue of *Avotaynu* Vol. VI No. 4. Each Jewish birth record or entry in a "revision list" (census) provides information on three generations of individuals because of the use of patronymic name forms, as well as information on the father's status, degree of Russification, and family migration patterns.

Dr. Rhode is planning to document his findings in *Avotaynu* but in the interim, the following is a list of Kovne Gubernia records that he mentioned at the Seminar:

<u>Town</u>	<u>Type of Record</u>	<u>Years</u>
Kovno/Kaunas	Family Registrations	1818-1915
Kaunas/Viliampole	Vital Recrds	1842-1911
Keidan	Vital Records	1827 1838-1895
	Family/Revision Lists	1874
Panemunc	Vital Records	1826-1837
	Taxpayers List (386)	1866
	Kahal Board	1910
	Landowners	1929
Raseiniai	some	1845
Shawli/Siauliai		
District	Revision Lists	1795
Shawli/Siauliai	Family/Revision Lists	1850, 52, 54, 1858, 62, 63 1866-1869
Telz/Telsiai	Vital Records	1854-1915

Tali Hadar, Director
Moreshet Center for Genealogical Research

Tali conducted a session for beginning Jewish genealogists, introducing them to the rudiments of sources, organization of data, and logical methods of research. Tali is the sparkplug in this newest of Jewish genealogical societies, whose aim is to get people interested in researching their heritage, and to provide a resource center serving northern Israel.

Tali distributed genealogical forms, maps, lists, and other useful information to get started. Tali may be reached at P.O.B. 135, Mizra 19321, Israel, telephone 06-599 198 and FAX 06-599 719.

Lynn Carson

Recent Acquisition Activities in Eastern Europe

Mr. Carson is in charge of LDS Library filmings in Europe. He updated us on recent activities of the Genealogical Society of Utah in Central and Eastern Europe with emphasis on records of interest to those with Jewish ancestry.

The Society is filming in, or has concluded contracts in, seven of the republics of the former Soviet Union, and in two of the former satellite countries. His two lectures (I did not attend the one on Germany and Austria) covered how records are chosen to be filmed, recent changes in filming criteria, and current filming activities on a country-by-country basis.

Recently the Society has been filming more multi-generational records, more death records, and more 20th century records. This year the Society expects to make its 2-millionth film. Specific records to be added include the 1881 English census index and the civil war military records index.

Priority of record filming relates to the greatest ancestry of Mormon church members, which is North America, South America, Western Europe, Southern Europe, and Eastern Europe. But filming continues in all areas, so, even as Eastern European records are being filmed, there are six cameras still operating in the Netherlands. Civil registration agencies are a prime target. Records start around 1850 and work forward in time, enabling the researcher to start with the present and work backwards a few generations. In Eastern Europe, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant records are filmed first, with Catholic and Jewish records following.

I will try to summarize the filming status on a country-by-country basis.

Germany: Miscellaneous new German records including some records from **Lithuania** will be available next year from the Centralstelle List.

Hungary: This first filming project behind the old iron curtain started in the 1950s, with records filmed to 1890. Two Jewish censuses from the 1700s are now in the catalog. The civil registrations from the end of the 19th century to 1910 for two regions are complete.

Poland: Church and Jewish records have been filmed from the Polish State Archives. Current filming is at a rate of 1/2-million exposures per year. A separate contract has been made with the Catholic diocese to film records which are not in the State

Archives.

Slovakia: Filming started two years ago. Some filming has been completed in the Eastern region around Kosice.

Slovenia: Civil registrations are being filmed (see Hungary). Some areas are complete (Maribor)

Croatia: Filming has been going on for ten years.

Albania: Filming of Christian Church records started last year. Nefus (census) records are planned next year.

Armenia: Filming of Armenian Church records started last year. Many Armenian Church records which were found in the diaspora (outside of Armenia, in Bombay, India, for example) are being filmed.

Bulgaria: Civil registrations are in filming.

Estonia: Filming of civil registrations from the 1830s to the 1920s has been in progress for two years. 3-4 rolls of Estonian Jewish community records from the 1880s through 1917 have been completed.

Lithuania: There is one camera in Vilnius filming Protestant and Orthodox church records. YIVO records are not being filmed.

Russia: Russian records are very complete and are in excellent condition. There are seven projects in Russia, in St. Petersburg (Orthodox Church and German Protestant Church records have been completed), Biskoff, Tfir, Tula, Ostrokob, Tovolsk, and Tomsk. Kazan will be started next.

Romania: No agreement has been made.

Czech Republic: No agreement has been made.

Bosnia: No filming due to war status.

Georgia: No filming due to war status.

Serbia: No filming due to sanctions.

Greece: Civil records for Thessoliniki (Soloniki) are in the catalog.

Belarus: Two projects are in progress in Minsk and Grodno.

Ukraine: Projects are in progress in Kiyev, Chernowitz, and Lviv.

Mr. Carson pointed out that archival inventories in Eastern Europe are confidential. Copyrights belong to the archives and records are considered state property, and should not be used for individual profit. Archives cannot provide personal services. Archives serve purposes other than record archiving. Examples cited included providing land records to support property claims, providing name change information (Russian to Estonian), and documentation to support reparations claims (East Germany).

To procure non-catalogued films, write to the International Reference Area of the Family History Library.

**Dr. Peggy Pearlstein, Hebraic Section
U. S. Library of Congress
National Libraries & Jewish Genealogy**

Dr. Pearlstein divided her interesting talk into three major sections. She first discussed the holdings of the various sections of the Library of Congress useful in Jewish genealogical research. Judaica is found in the general collection with Hebrew and Yiddish language material found in the the Hebraic Section. Other materials found at the Library of Congress of potential use includes Yiddish music (Music Division), Yiddish movies, manuscripts, newspapers, and rare books. The National Union Catalog lists Hebraica and Judaica.

Remote searching of the library holdings is available at local libraries through the research libraries information network (RLIN) and the on-line computer library catalog (OCLC). The former has 160 member institutions and has Hebrew titles. Library catalogs may also be searched through INTERNET.

Dr. Pearlstein discussed a number of secondary sources which may be found in libraries. The Library of Congress (LOC) has over 600 *yizkor* books. Peter Lande has compiled a list of their holdings. Many other lists are available, most of which are in our Society's library. Commemorative volumes were often published by community organizations. The LOC has high school commemorative volumes in Polish from Grodno, Bialystok, and Lodz. Commemorative journals might honor a particular person, and would include biographical information, lists of society members and officers, historical background on the community. Jewish community organizations sometimes publish registers. Examples cited include the Hebrew Union College, Graetz Institute, Jewish Chataqua Society, and the Jewish Theological Society of America.

The Jewish press is represented in library holdings, and is a rich source of genealogical data. Examples were cited of foreign newspapers [London Jewish Chronicle, El Avenir (Solonika), HaMelitz] and American newspapers [New Orleans Jewish Ledger (news of Jewish life in five states), The Jewish Exponent (Philadelphia), Jewish Comment (Baltimore)].

Other useful sources include travel books such as the Carl Boedekker Handbook on travel in Russia originally published in 1908 and reprinted as "Russia Observer" in 1971. One can find there descriptions of towns, street plans, street names, buildings, synagogues, etc. Other titles cited include *New Russia*, 1823, which includes description of Karaite Jews, and *Russia Traveled and Studied*, 1906.

**Chaim Freedman
Prenumeranten and Donar Lists as Sources
of Genealogical Data**

Prenumeranten, a Yiddish term meaning "prior numbers" relates to the practice of ordering and paying for a book prior to its publication. Lists of these subscribers were then published in the book. Various researchers gathered these lists from old religious books and indexed them by subscriber's name and town. Best known of these collections are volumes by Berl Kagn and Shlomo Katzov. Kagn's Index covers some 900 books with subscribers from over 8000 towns. Patrick Gordis is actively collecting and indexing additional prenumeranten lists.

These name lists are sometimes the only recorded source for relatives being sought. They are a fascinating microcosm of the "people of the book" as they were immortalized in their town and village lists over a period extending from the mid-1800s.

Mr. Freedman gave numerous examples of the genealogical information that can be derived from the study of these lists, such as date of death, father's and son's names, migration from town to town, occupation or title, etc.

**Rabbi Meir Wunder
The Reliability of Rabbinic Sources**

Rabbi Wunder's credentials for this lecture are impeccable. He is the author of the five-volume *Encyclopedia of Galician Sages* and head of the Institute for the Perpetuation of Galician Jewry, author of *One Thousand Margalit* on the *yichus* of rabbinical families of former generations. He is currently Senior Librarian at the Jewish National and University Library and is Chairman of the Center of Rabbinical Libraries.

Rabbi Wunder's scholarly lecture was full of humor, as he reviewed the history and personae of rabbinic family histories from the first real genealogist around 1728, Rabbi Meir Perles of Prague.

His lecture was so well researched and so full of scholarly references and Hebrew sources that it would be foolhardy to try to reconstruct it from my notes. He discussed, with examples, the sources of unintentional error in rabbinic genealogy, eg: ambiguous references of the form "A son of B son-in-law of C"; ambiguous references to in-laws; use of unreliable death information. He warned of using works of well respected researchers who invented links that they could not document, and he enumerated the more reliable works.

Notes on additional lectures will be published in future issues of *ZichronNote* if they are not covered in *Avotaynu*.

WORLDWIDE RESEARCH

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY RECORDS

Service records of some 420,000 members of the First **Australian** Imperial Forces have been moved from Melbourne, VIC to Canberra, ACT. The Soldier Career Management Service (SCMA) handles inquiries about medals and information contained in records. Those interested in soldiers who served in WWII and more recent campaigns should contact the SCMA at: GPO Box 393 D, Melbourne, Victoria, 3004, Australia.

The University of New South Wales Department of History at the Defence Force Academy has developed a computer data base of members of the First AIF. Database already has 333,000 men and women who served overseas as members of the AIF. The database includes information about service history, past occupation, next of kin, when he/she left Australia and if they returned. Copies of entries can be purchased if sufficient information is provided to identify the subject of the inquiry. The cost is \$10 or \$20 (Australian) depending on what is wanted or available. For more info, writer to: AIF Project, Dept. of History, University College, Australian Defence Force Academy, Northcott Drive, Campbell, ACT 2601, Australia. (Contra Costa GS, March 1994)

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH GENEALOGY

The Autumn 1993 issue of *Shemot* has a four-page article on **South African** Jewish Genealogy, including a list of useful addresses. The Winter 1993-1994 issue of *Roots-Key* also has a different list of useful South African addresses.

PALESTINE & ISRAEL PHONE DIRECTORIES

A letter to the editor published in the January 1994 issue of *Sharsheret Hadorot* tells readers that Mr. Israel Silberstein of Bezek [the Israeli telephone company], Migdal Shalom, Tel Aviv, Telephone 03-515 1352 has telephone directories issued in **Palestine (and Israel)** from the first published in 1920 to the latest. Mr. Silberstein will be glad to help applicants who mention the Israel Genealogical Society.

A set of current Israeli phone directories is maintained by Bob Weiss. Recently he received a copy of the **Kibbutz** phone directory from Tali Hadar, Director of the Moresheet Center for Genealogical Research, whom he met at the International seminar. This directory includes kibbutz telephone numbers not listed in the Israel telephone directories.

SILESIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The **Silesian** Genealogical Society (SGS) was formed a few months ago at Wroclaw, Poland (formerly Breslau, Silesia). It is called Slaskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne in Polish and Schle-sische Genealogische Gesellschaft in German. It will publish the *Chronicle*, a bulletin for members in English, German, Polish, and Esperanto language editions starting January, 1994. Membership costs \$20.00 plus \$7.00 funds transfer commission now charged by Polish banks. Write Silesian Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 3112, PL-50-950 Wroclaw 2, Poland. (*The Family Tree* Vol IV, No. 6, Dec 1993/Jan 1994)

NEVIS SYNAGOGUE FOUND

What is believed to be part of the oldest synagogue in the Caribbean has been discovered recently on the island of **Nevis**. The stone building, now used as a storage area, dates to before 1650, making it one of the two oldest Jewish settlements in the West Indies. Records in England indicate it is older than the 1732 synagogue in Curacao, until now believed to be the oldest in the Caribbean. A team of scholars from Brown, Brandeis and Boston Universities believe the building was a *mikva*, a ritual bath. Many Jews lived on both Nevis and Barbados in the 1600s, arriving from Europe to escape the Spanish inquisition. (*Miami Herald*, Dec. 19, 1993)

EUROPEAN RESEARCH

EAST EUROPEAN SOCIETIES

We have just become a member organization of the Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS), a coordinating organization for genealogical and family history societies covering East Europe. Current activities center on the organization of genealogical societies in Austria, Estonia, Latvia, Russia, Bulgaria, and Romania.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF LIBAU

The Autumn 1993 issue of *Shemot* includes a 3-page article on the history of **Libau (Liepaja)**, Latvia from the 13th century to the 1980s.

MANCHESTER JEWRY

The Autumn 1993 issue of *Shemot* includes a 3-page article of the **Manchester** Jewish community, the records available and where to find them. Records discussed include births, marriages, burials, census, city directories, aliens' register, naturalizations, school records, rate books, electoral registers, newspapers and misc.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

There are a number of Jewish Genealogy special interest groups that are now publishing newsletters. In a previous issue, we mentioned *Stammbaum* the German Jewish genealogy newsletter. Here is information on some others:

- Mogilev*. Contact Jerry Gilstrap, 2104 East Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21231
- Special Interest Group for Hungary*. Contact Sallyann Sack and Robert Perlman, c/o JGS of Greater Washington, PO Box 436, Vienna, VA 22183
- Gesher Galicia* (includes Southern Poland and Western Ukraine). Contact Suzan Wynne, 3128 Brooklawn Terrace, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 (cost is \$15.00 for four issues per year)
- Suwalk-Lomza Interest Group*. Contact Marlene Silverman, 3701 Connecticut Ave., NW #228, Washington, DC 20008 (cost is \$22 for four issues per year)
- Romania* (ROM SIG News, \$15/year). Contact Marlene Silverman, 3701 Connecticut Ave., NW #228, Washington, DC 20008
- Czechoslovakian SIG*. Contact Louis Schonfeld, 23995 Wendover Dr., Cleveland, OH 44122.
- A new German newsletter is available. *Stammbaum* is its name and German-Jewish genealogical research is its game. The third issue is due out soon. The newsletter is chock full of history on former Jewish communities in Germany, research on German-Jewish families, types of resources available, etc. *Stammbaum* is a quarterly publication and there is an annual subscription. One of our members is the editor--Bill Firestone. The publisher is Harry Katzman. For subscription information, write to Harry Katzman, 1601 Cougar Ct., Winter Springs, FL 32708-3855.
- The *Hungarian-Czech-Slovakian* special interest group (SIG) is affiliated with the International Society of Jewish Genealogy. The inaugural edition of the SIG's newsletter *Magyar Zsidó* is now available to members. To join, send a check or money order for \$10.00 made out to "Hung-SIG" to Hung-SIG, P. O. Box 34152, Cleveland, OH 44134, Tel. 216-661-3970, FAX 216-291-0824.

HUNTING IN THE TOWN HALLS OF FRANCE

The Nov-Dec 1993 issue of *Ancestry* contains an article on getting information from town halls in France.

GERMAN-JEWISH COMMUNAL HISTORIES

The Winter 1994 issue of *Discovery* contains an article on **German-Jewish** communal histories. The author Carol D. Baird describes the communal histories she has found and their usefulness. Before 1933, these community histories were written by

Jewish historians and since the late 1960s, many of these histories are by non-Jewish authors who are archivists, doctoral candidates, teachers, students, and local historians. Most of the authors have established contacts with the Jewish emigrants from their hometowns. Since the 50th anniversary of the Kristallnacht Reichspogrom in 1988, the number of the communal histories has increased significantly.

HOLLAND IMMIGRATION LISTS

"If you cannot find arrival records in the US or Canadian National Archives for relatives who sailed from Rotterdam, the passenger lists of the Holland-American Line can be searched by writing to Gemeente (City Archives) Rotterdam, Postbus 25082, 3002 HB Rotterdam, Holland. Lists are arranged by date of sailing from **Rotterdam**. For each year from 1900-30, there are alphabetical indexes of family names. The Mormons have not yet microfilmed these lists. Research may be conducted by mail for 25 Guilders per half hour of research (about \$13.75). Half an hour is adequate to find the person when at least the exact year and month is known. If only the year is known, more time is needed and the charge will be higher." (From the Winter 1994 issue of *Discovery*)

JEWISH CEMETERIES OF BELARUS

Yakov Goodman has written an article about the state of Jewish cemeteries in Belarus. He reports on some of the attempts to build over cemeteries and successful fights to prevent such destruction. Cemeteries are mentioned for the following towns: **Slonim, Volozin, Radin, Minsk, Mozyr**. Recently, the Belarussian government has decided to stop the destruction of cemeteries and is willing to give some money for their restoration. However, Mr. Goodman states that Jewish manpower is needed in addition to money. (*Shemot*, Autumn 1993)

RUSSIAN ARCHIVAL GUIDE

The Jewish Archival Survey, an endeavor of Project Judaica, has published a preliminary volume of treasures long hidden in the former Soviet Union. *The Guide to Jewish Collections in Moscow Museums, Libraries, and the former Communist Party Archives*, the first of three planned volumes of material from **Russia**, Ukraine and Belarus, describes the Judaica holdings of eight repositories in Moscow. Included are medieval Hebrew manuscripts, documents of Jewish political movements, and records of Yiddish theater groups. Project Judaica is the Jewish Theological Seminary of America's joint academic program with YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and the Russian State University. (*Masoret*, Spring 1994).

HOLOCAUST RESEARCH

CEMETERY VANDALISM IN HOLLAND

AMSTERDAM (JTA)--Some 2,000 people turned out to protest the desecration of 25 tombstones at the old Sephardic burial ground in Middelburg, the capital of the Dutch province of Zeeland. The vigil took place Sept. 1, about a week after the vandalism took place. The desecrated gravestones had been daubed with swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans such as "Heil Hitler." A group calling itself Nazi Front Zeeland claimed responsibility. It is assumed that the perpetrators must be well-acquainted with Middelburg, since this cemetery--where the last burial took place in 1721--is nearly hidden behind gardens so that even inhabitants of the town are often not aware of its existence.

ITALY'S ANTI-SEMITIC DOCUMENTS FOUND

Rome (JTA)--More than 2,600 files documenting how fascist Italy's anti-Semitic laws were applied to individual citizens before and during World War II have been recovered after lying hidden for more than 50 years in an attic. Discovery of the documents in the northern Italian town of Merano by Federico Steinhaus, president of the 50-member Jewish community of Merano, was announced in Rome. The files will be turned over to Italy's Central State Archives, which houses thousands of similar documents. Written in bureaucratic language on official forms, the newly-discovered documents include appeals by people who hoped to escape persecution as children of mixed marriages or who had converted to Christianity. (*Jewish Bulletin* -- 12/24/93)

PRESERVING THE PAST TO ENSURE THE FUTURE

This Academy Award nominee for Best Short Story Subject Documentary profiles Yad Vashem, the Jerusalem institution dedicated to researching, documenting, and commemorating the events of the Holocaust. The film focuses on the 1,500,000 children who perished at the hands of the Nazis. It features their photographs and poems and juxtaposes them with scenes of children playing in the present day, asking us to remember these vanished children and share a deep sense of outrage and loss at their senseless murders. Footage of recent Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi activity is used to stress that remembering the horrible events of the past is necessary in order to prevent them from happening again. This 15-minute film manages to make plain the horrors and magnitude of the Nazi persecution of Jews without dwelling on graphic images from the death camps. (Bureau of Jewish Education Media Department Update Sept./Oct '93)

RECENT MEETING

VISIT TO OPATOW AND STASZOW

Our July meeting started with a presentation to Barbara Harris, Director of the Holocaust Center of Northern California, of a record of the journey of two local couples to the homes of their ancestors in Poland. **David and Judith Leash** and **Lawrence and Rhona Wanetick** traveled to **Opatow (Apt)** and **Staszow**, Poland with a group from Lehrhouse Judaica in August 1993.

Prior to making their trip to Eastern Europe, David Leash spoke to Bob Weiss of the SFBA JGS and Dr. Jacob Boas of the Holocaust Center, who suggested that he look for the yizkor books for the two ancestral towns in the HCNC, and that he donate any materials he may develop to the Center. This presentation of the resulting yizkor book was accompanied by a multimedia (video, slide, and overhead) presentation to the Society by David Leash and Larry Wanetick. Two short written accounts of their experiences were deposited in the Society library, available to interested members.

The Leashes and Waneticks described their trip through **Warsaw**, **Bialystok**, and **Lublin** as well as their ancestral towns. They describe a strange eeriness in Warsaw caused by the absence of a Jewish life. In Opatow, a letter from San Francisco's Mayor Jordan opened the door to Opatow's Mayor Jan Borek, through the Mayor's administrative assistant to the town chronicler Maria Zmudzinska. The trip included visits to the remnants of the Jewish cemetery and synagogue, and the sites of the houses and shops occupied by their ancestors. Throughout the trip the Leashes and Waneticks used maps found in the yizkor books from Opatow and Staszow to locate the sites of former Jewish significance. Memorial markers mark the location of the former Jewish cemeteries, with most of their headstones gone. In Opatow and Staszow, fragments of stones are left, cemented into symbolic markers. Larry Wanetick had a little more luck, finding 6 Wanetick stones in the cemetery in **Tomashpol**.

In compiling their journal, they did so as witnesses to life in their ancestral towns 50 years after the Holocaust. They realized that time may have altered people's perceptions of events that have taken place since their parents lived in those towns. They recorded what they saw and heard without editing or editorializing.

Although they found only bare historical remnants to testify to once-vibrant Jewish communities in Opatow and Staszow, the journey itself provided an emotional link between past and present, and strengthened their knowledge of their family origins in Eastern Europe.

GENEALOGICAL COMPUTING

COMPUTER PROGRAMS

The October, 1993 issue of the *Cleveland Kol* includes a list of resources compiled by Eileen Polakoff. The list provides the names of computer programs (with addresses and in some cases a brief description), utilities, publications, dial-up services and bulletin boards, genealogical computer user groups, and other sources.

ROOTS IV ANNOUNCED

Roots IV is due to be released this Fall (DOS version). Windows and Mac versions are supposed to be released in early 1994. Stay tuned!

NEW COMPUTER SOURCES AT FHL

The Family History Library is now offering two new computer resources on an experimental basis: electronic bulletin boards and new compact disc sources.

•*Electronic Bulletin Boards.* The Family History Library now gives patrons access to on-line computer services (electronic bulletin boards), including CompuServe, Genie, Prodigy and America On line.

Through these bulletin boards, patrons can read messages and queries left by other researchers and post their own queries.. The bulletin boards also include shareware genealogy programs and compiled genealogies that patrons may download. There is a small fee based on connect time to use there services.

•*New Compact Disc Resources.* The Family History Library is also testing several commercial databases on compact disc. These include phone directories for the United States and Germany, several United States census indexes, query files, automated family pedigrees, some United States marriage records, the *Biographical and Genealogical Master Index*, Pennsylvania newspaper abstracts, and the *National Inventory of Documentary Sources*.

These resources are available in the Data Center on the main floor of the Family History Library. Patrons may reserve computers in the Data Center for 30-60 minute time blocks.

The Family History Library has made these databases available so that patrons and staff can evaluate their usefulness in family history research. No plans currently exist to make these sources available in family history centers. (*News of the Family History Library Vol. 5, No.3 Summer 1993*)

FORT WAYNE LIBRARY

The Fort Wayne Library houses the second largest genealogy collection to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. If you have a rare book and they don't have it, they will copy and hard bind it for you. They will keep a copy and send you back the original along with one copy.

The card catalog of the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, IN is now accessible from your home if you have a computer with a modem and communications software. The dial-up number is (219) 424-1330. Communication settings should be 1200 baud, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity, and VT-100 emulation. Press enter and "Control-O" twice to get to the Welcome screen to start your search. When you are finished press "Control O" to log off. Then disconnect according to your software instructions. There are no access charges, but you will be charged for a long distance phone call if you are not calling from Ft. Wayne. (*Fox Tales*, Fox Valley GS, May/June 1993 via *Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society Newsletter*, Summer 1993)

FAMILY TREE MAKER

Researching your ancestry requires the combined skills of a detective, a historian, and a reference librarian. No computer program can make you an overnight expert, but "Family Tree Maker Deluxe CD-ROM Edition" may be a good place to start if you have a PC Windows software and a CD drive.

The new \$58 compact disk (CD) from Banner Blue Software contains an easy to learn Windows program for compiling a database of family members and for printing out family trees—identical to a \$49.00 version released last year on a single floppy diskette.

Banner Blue has added two useful features to the CD ROM that easily justify the added \$10.00. First, there is an index of 150 million names, mostly deceased U.S. residents, with instructions on how to receive further information on. Second, Banner Blue has expanded on-screen help features with listings of local genealogical sources nationwide and advice on digging through historical records.

The 150-million name index is a pointer to information contained on other Banner Blue CD-ROMs. Approximately 25 million names come from the Social Security Administration death records for 1937 to 1992. You are referred to a \$33.00 two-disk CD-ROM set which furnishes birth and death dates, Social Security number, and ZIP Code of last-known address. Similarly, other names point you to Banner Blue federal census and state marriage record CD-ROMs. (Mike Langberg, "Family Tree Maker Starts Genealogy Search", *San Jose Mercury News* July 10, 1994)

AN 1897 MORTGAGE IN SLONIM, BYELORUSSIA A LETTER FROM ANATOLY CHAYESH

This letter from our correspondent Analoli Ilyich Chayesh (Lermontowsky av. 8, apt. 55, 190068 St. Petersburg, Russia) was translated by Alla Eliashberg and reported by Jerry Delson.

Anatoly Chayesh, who shares an interest in the Strashun family with Jerry, sent us a copy of an old mortgage, which Anatoly had transcribed into up-to-date Russian. Anatoly pointed out that if a family needed money, they could "pawn" their real estate and property. To do this, the property would be carefully estimated and described by the bank. Some of these "zaklad" documents still exist. Although these records do not contain much family genealogy, they do describe how deals were made and provide some interesting data.

The example gives the description of the house of Morduch Shlemovitch (Mordechai ben Shlomo) Strashun. His wife was Chaja Lieba Yevnovna Strashun.

The money was borrowed in 1897, to be repaid by 1907. Because he actually paid back the money to the bank, the topographic plan for the property was returned to Mr. Strashun and was not included with the record Anatoly obtained.

This is the description of the property belonging to Morduch Shlemovitch Strashun, located on Minsk-koi Street in the city of Slonim. The property is located far from the center of the city across from the Slonim railway station near the vineyard warehouse. The neighborhood is alive with activity.

According to the topographic plan, the lot size is 165 square *sagene* on which was built a one-story house with a cement foundation, tarred felt "toll" roof, and absolutely new and very sturdy walls of "log cabin" construction. There was also an addition with two entrances and regular walls (not log-cabin style).

There is also an "ambar" barn, also very new, with a wooden floor and a high ceiling, that is used for storage. In the main house, a large area for living is also used as a shop where merchandise is sold. The interior is of very simple finish. The floor is not painted, and the ceiling and wooden rafters are only covered with calcimine paint. The walls are covered with wall paper. The door and window frames were made from wood with special

care. The fireplace is made with tiles. The kitchen has an oven-fireplace [the Russian style with the lower part for baking and upper part with a place for a person to rest].

The total value is about 1,800 rubles. The buildings are 1,500 rubles, the 165 square *sagene* of land at 2 rubles equals 330 rubles. The living area has a total of five rooms plus the kitchen, entrance, shop and storage barn.

Calculation: Gross revenue 230 rubles from which is subtracted 30% or 69 rubles according to bank regulations and five rubles for payment of services provided by the city, a total of 74 rubles. Thus, $230 - 74 = 156$ ruble remainder. Thus, during the 10-year financing period the total estimated net income from the property will be 1,560 rubles.

Conclusion: Because the property is very sturdy and new, I consider its value is very good and the bank can take the risk of loaning the money against the property. The actual sales value of the property is about 2,000 rubles. The evaluation was made October 24, 1897.

(signed) Zhukofsky.

Translator's note: The *sagene* is an old measure equal to 2.13 meters. 165 square *sagene* equals about 750 square meters, which is over 8,000 square feet. The document gives the value of the property but does not describe terms for repayment.

FAMILY FINDER

Ben Weinstock, 8121-23rd Avenue, Brooklyn, NY is seeking information for a forthcoming book on the Jewish history of the towns of **Letichev**, **Zinkov**, **Medziboz**, **Derazhnia**, and **Valkevinitz**, all in **Letichev uezd, Podolsk guberniya**.

Miranda Lewis, 110 Plainview Drive, Hollywood MD 20636 is searching for newsletters, organizations with information regarding **Latvian**, **Polish**, **Russian**, and **Upper Mongolian** genealogy and Jewish genealogy in those areas. (*The Family Tree* Vol. V, No. 1, Feb/Mar 1994)

***ZichronNote*—Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society**

Family Finder queries are free to Society members. Non-members may place queries for \$5.00 each limited to 25 words not including searcher's name, address and phone number.

Correspondence relating to items for publication, and requests for back issues @\$5.00 should be addressed to Bob Weiss, 3916 Louis Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4541.

Meetings Odd-numbered months— 3rd Sunday of each month, starting at 1:00 PM at the Jewish Community Library, 601 14th Avenue (at Balboa), San Francisco.

Even-numbered months— 3rd Monday of each month starting at 7:30 PM at Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue (near Arastradero & Foothill), Palo Alto.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Dues are \$20.00 per year. Make checks out to "SFBA JGS" and send to S. Laszlo, Treasurer, 34 Craig Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611.

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