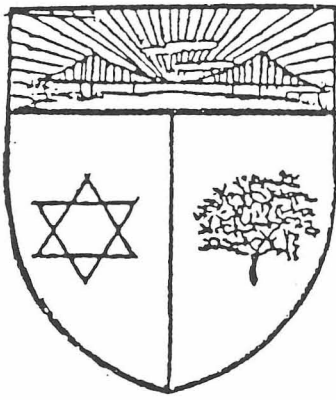




SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Martha L. Wise 1990 20th Ave. San Francisco 94116

August 1984

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Sunday, October 21, 1984

TIME: 10:00 - 2:30 PM

PLACE: Judah L. Magnes Museum
2911 Russell St.
Berkeley, Ca. 94705

AGENDA: 10:00 AM General Membership Meeting - Garden
10:30 AM Brunch - Garden
11:00 AM Tour of Special Shows
12:00 Noon - Workshop - Patio

TOUR OF SPECIAL SHOWS

The Judah L Magnes Museum has not only invited us to have our Fall Meeting at their facilities but has extended to us a tempting lure, a detailed tour of the two special shows entitled "Jewish Life in America: Fulfilling the American Dream" and "Jewish Life in Northern California: Pacific Pioneers" which will be on exhibit there for a limited time starting September 30.

WORKSHOP

TOPIC

The Frills of Genealogy
Passenger Lists as a Genealogical Source
Microfilm Project of the California State
Genealogical Alliance

SPEAKER

Carlton M. Smith
Constant Vaughn
Carlton M. Smith

SPEAKERS

We have two very fine speakers for our fall meeting. Both teach genealogical classes and are interesting and informative speakers.

Carlton M. Smith was born in Sacramento and raised in Oakland. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and devoted 30 years to a career in the Air Force before retiring.

He became interested in genealogy and has been active throughout the state as a genealogical lecturer, instructor, consultant and researcher. He is certified by the California Community Colleges as a teacher in the adult education program.

Carlton Smith has written articles for publications of the various societies of which he is a member, and wrote a genealogy column for Pastime magazine in Santa Rosa. Currently he is researching material for a book.

Constant Vaughn is past president of the California Genealogical Society. She taught genealogy at Chabot College for many years and now teaches the same subject at San Lorenzo Adult School in addition to lecturing extensively throughout the United States.

She will tell us how to use Passenger Lists to find information on our immigrant ancestors and cite finding aids for these sources.

As you can see from the above, the September general meeting mentioned in the last newsletter has in the interim been moved to October. Carolyn Sherfy has put much time and effort into planning and coordinating this meeting and she added a postscript to her

asking that those planning to attend let her know at 521-8593. This will help her to know how much to buy and how much to prepare for the brunch.

Carolyn also says that should the weather be inclement things will be moved indoors although she hopes for fine weather since it is so pleasant out of doors at the museum in nice weather.

In view of the change in date for the general meeting the local San Francisco group that normally meets in every odd numbered month is free to hold its regular discussion meeting in September, as usual. Meeting notices are being sent.

There are plans afoot for a workshop to be held after the first of the year in San Francisco. While this workshop is being planned with those who are still uncertain about the basics primarily in mind it is not exclusively for them. All are welcome. As you know you can never tell when you may pick up a bit of wanted information. Or you might be able to pass along a bit of valuable information to someone else. Speakers will include our own members such as Carolyn Sherfy and outsiders, all well versed in their topics. Plenty of time will be allowed for questions and answers after each talk. Such an ambitious program will require a full six hours counting lunch. To cover expenses there will have to be a charge but we will keep it as reasonable as possible. Details should be available in the next newsletter.

BOOKS

We have been asked where the book mentioned in the last newsletter, Jewish Genealogy, by Irwin M. Berent and David S. Zubatsky may be obtained. It may be had from the Garland Publishing Co. 136 Madison Ave. New York, N.Y. 10016. The cost is \$30.00.

Dr. Neil Rosenfield has several new things to offer us. The Feast and the Fast, compiled by Rabbi C. U. Lipschitz and Neil Rosenstein, is a translation of the autobiography of Rabbi YomTov Lipman Halevi Heller (died 1654) and also includes an account by Rabbi Heller's son as well as 41 genealogical charts and a name index of over 1400 names. The price is \$8.90 plus \$1.20 postage and handling.

The second offering, Polish Jewish Cemeteries, is based on a 1981 list of Jewish cemeteries provided by the Government of Poland. 433 cemeteries are included in this booklet. Price \$4.00 including postage.

Also nearing completion in June, and possibly already out by now, is the Margolis Family. This particular family descends from Rabbi Heller and the rabbinical Katzenellenbogen family. As such it is an addendum to the Unbroken Chain which Dr. Rosenstein published in 1976. This, like the cemetery lists, is a computerized book. The price will be \$25.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling. It is 215 pages with documentation and photocopies.

All of these last three books may be ordered from the Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy 654 Westfield Ave. Elizabeth, N. J. 07208.

Also recently issued is Genealogy, A Guide to the U.C. Berkeley Library, by Barbara Lee Hill and Bette Gorrell Root. This guide explains how to make use of the large collection of catalogs, bibliographies, indexes, maps, atlases, government documents and newspapers and periodicals. This is, of course, not geared specifically to Jewish genealogy but the price is only \$3.50 including postage. If you plan to use the Berkeley libraries it may be very helpful since the collections are large, not on the shelves for the most part, (you check the catalog and then order what you want) and quite confusing. At least we found it so.

WESTERN JEWISH HISTORY CENTER PROJECT

If your ancestry is western Ruth Rafael would appreciate your help. A card file has been planned that will make it possible to discover an entire family with very little effort. What you can offer by making cards for your own family may help someone else or may even provide a bonus for you in the form of a previously unknown relative. It has already happened at least once in our society that a member looking for her own ancestry discovered previously unknown relatives. As is often the case, one family may have pictures another does not, or a bit of information another family may not know. Once they become acquainted the families can provide each other with copies of what each lacks to the profit of both. Mine is not a western family and I cannot help in this project but I can tell you that closer contact with relatives brought me copies of pictures I value and I was able to copy for them pictures they did not have. If you can participate I urge you to do so even if you don't think you have anything to offer. You no doubt do and you won't know how much you have helped until you hear from someone who was helped by something you submit-

ted, or you yourself find something you never thought of because there was a card in file to tell you about it. Since a file must follow a format to be of value a format has been devised for the cards (3 x 5 cards) which is obtainable from Martha Wise. Once acquainted with this format you will find it easy to follow any family in the file, as well as to make your own cards. We have a large fund of untapped information among members of our own society and other societies on the west coast. Unfortunately there is no local center for European research but someday there may be.

JEWISH GENEALOGY CLASSES

Our own Carolyn Sherfy will be conducting classes on Jewish Genealogy under the sponsorship of the San Francisco Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St. on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 beginning Sept. 10th and continuing every other week through to and including Dec. 17th. These workshop classes will teach basic, intermediate and advanced genealogical techniques. Instruction will include charting, interviewing, correspondence, use of records of all sorts etc. There will be lecture time, class participation and individual instruction at each class. The fee is \$22.00 for Center members, \$28.00 for non-members. The Center's phone number is 346-6040.

SALT LAKE CITY TOUR

As we told you last time, Carolyn is also leading a tour to Salt Lake City in November. Carolyn is an old hand at this by now. This tour is sponsored by the East Bay Genealogical Society and the California Genealogical Society but one need not be a member of either to participate. The date is Nov. 7 through Nov. 14. The price of \$440.00 for double room occupancy or \$515.00 for single occupancy, includes round trip fare on Republic Airlines from Oakland airport and 7 nights at the Temple Square Hotel. This hotel is a block and a half from the library and next door to a huge mall that includes several restaurants. Prices subject to change should the airfare increase prior to receipt of your deposit. Reservations accepted on a first come first served basis. Deposit \$270.00. Deposits to be sent directly to Carolyn Sherfy at 918 Willow St. Alameda 94501. You may call Carolyn at 521-8593 for more information.

THAT EXTRA DOLLAR

If you have been wondering why dues are \$15.00 plus an extra dollar rather than \$16.00 it is because that extra dollar does not go into our treasury. It goes to the Federation of Genealogical Societies to be used in producing finding aids for the census records. The first project has been to index by street and enumeration district, the 1910 census.

CHANGED NAMES

All of us are aware that some people do not carry the surname of their ancestors. Nearly everyone knows that some names were bestowed upon new arrivals, who did not dream they had the right to insist upon their own name, by immigration officials. That others changed their own names for a more American sounding name or a less Jewish sounding one. Most of us also know that spellings were often changed by immigration or the persons themselves or simply by other people who refused to spell it properly or couldn't pronounce it properly but not everyone is aware that names were often changed in Europe to avoid military service or to get around the so called Family Laws. The later was a measure that existed in some areas to keep down the Jewish population. Under this unjust law only the eldest son of a family was allowed to marry. Without a permit the marriage could not be registered with the civil authorities but needless to say the young men found ways around it. Many younger sons simply moved to the nearest place not subject to that law. Others had their marriages properly solemnized by a rabbi but simply did not register them. The Jewish community naturally recognized these marriages but the civil authorities did not. The children of these marriages had to carry their mother's maiden name and were called illegitimate by the authorities. Later these laws were modified a bit and money of course worked wonders. In due course those with enough money had a good chance of purchasing a permit for each of their sons. Those with less money had to wait for the abolition of these laws for relief.

As for military service, in eastern Europe that was often no picnic. It was not easy

even for non-Jews but for Jews it could sometimes even be a death sentence. In Russia, at least in some parts, the eldest son was exempt and so was an only son. Often therefore a childless couple or one with only daughters would adopt a son of a family with several sons and give him their name, in order to protect him from service.

Those who left Russia, of course gave their new name to the authorities and it would be interesting to know how many dared to change back to their real names here. The immigration authorities wouldn't have cared a bit what name they chose to use but no doubt some at least, feared that the authorities would report it to the Russian authorities who would then cause trouble for the real parents and for the adoptive parents. By the time they knew better they may often have established themselves under the adopted name or had a child which had been registered under the adoptive name.

Often we think of name changes only in connection with immigration but first names were often changed in western Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries as Jews began to integrate themselves more into the society around them and to live less fully segregated lives.

At one time the mens names were chiefly either biblical or such typically Jewish names as Meyer, Mendel, Chaim, Levin, Leser etc. The womens names were also biblical at times and very often they were names like Glück (happiness or luck) Freude (joy) Blume (flower) Vogel (bird) and the like along with some Hebrew, but not specifically biblical names. Jente, Malka, Zippora seem to have been very popular. In time names more like those among the general populace became usual. Biblical names which were also to be found among non-Jews were much, much slower to disappear and I understand that today among Jews and gentiles alike, biblical names are again in vogue for youngsters just as they are here.

Dont let that make you jump to conclusions. That is something we must always beware of in genealogy, as you know, but dont be too surprised to encounter something of the sort. I know of one instance in which a German archivist was puzzled no end because he could not reconcile Rebecca and Rosina although he was certain they were the same person. Rosina is not the sort of name usually chosen but maybe the lady liked Italian opera. By the last quarter of the past century Jewish first names were not different from gentile names for the most part. I have, read though, that Siegfried became so popular among Jews that it became known as primarily a Jewish name!

EAST GERMAN RESEARCH

West German research is no more difficult than any other research but East Germany is something else again. You can however sometimes get results of a sort by writing directly to the Standesamt (where such records are kept) of whatever town you are researching in. Just Standesamt and the proper postal code will do it and you can get that from the nearest West German consulate. They have a postal code book that does include codes for East Germany and they will help you. Or for that matter you can just call me, Martha Wise, I have a small German postal code guide. Send no money, wait until you are certain you will never ever hear and perhaps in six months you will get a letter from the East German Embassy in Washington informing you that the documents you requested have arrived and will be sent to you for the sum of . The sum is not out of line at all. It is more than in West Germany where all certificates are six marks and that sum is uniform all over the country, but if it runs to \$4.00 that is not too much and if it is only \$3.50 that is close to what you would pay for the same thing in this country.

It is the red tape that is difficult to deal with. Your certificates will bear at least three official purple stamps from three different cities and it will contain minimal information. No photocopies such as you can get from West Germany, not even if you specify a photocopy. It is possible that since East Germany is an iron curtain country that they do not yet have much photocopy available. What you get will be typed up on a modern form and give the name, dates of birth and death (if it is a death certificate) place of birth and death and name of spouse. No birthplace for the spouse, no parents names, none of the extras you can expect from a West German photocopy but better than nothing. At least you know what you want to try for next.

Officially East Germany wants you to contact the Zentralstelle for Genealogie in Leipzig which supposedly will help you. They are very polite and very formal but they will not give you a thing. If you insist they will give the address of an evangelical church in the town concerned. That in spite of knowing you are doing Jewish research and the church could not possibly help. One cannot help but feel after very little contact with East German officialdom that officialdom follows the Russian line which is and always has been antisemitic.

The International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem

April 29-May 11, 1984

by Libby Rosenfield

Sunday evening April 29, 1984 opening session was brief, greeted by Sallyann Sack, Ph.D and Naomi Gershan, coordinators of this seminar, and also welcomed by Dr. Paul Alsberg, archivist of the state of Israel. The refreshment buffet was most beautiful and extensive. A most congenial time to meet people, renew acquaintances with those from earlier seminars and fellow expatriates from Brooklyn. It was a great time for all.

Monday A. M. and the sessions began in earnest. I attended as many as possible, of course those that were of greatest interest to me. Most days there were conflicts and it was difficult to choose. However I was happy with my choice to hear Batya Unterschatz, who is in charge of the Search Bureau for Missing Relatives. All are required to register including Israeli citizens, but not all do so. She is very attractive and most devotedly dedicated to her work. She is a linguist as I found out on a visit to her office next morning. She has an index file as well as micro film records and does not hesitate to check while you are there between phone calls in several languages. All for a contribution of whatever you wish to give. The government has cut her funds - where have we heard that before? One may write to her and she will also search for survivors of the holocaust.

There was a talk by the director of the Israel State Archives as to what can be found there. It is a government institution and covers Israel, the British Mandate and Turkish periods, changed three times since 1917. Records found in war zones, fractional records from the Turkish period and the British Mandate but nothing before 1840.

Their staff is limited. All records of general sources. The Turkish period left census records (Nafus books), some in Hebrew, some in old Ottoman Turkish, handwritten and fading. Censuses were taken periodically for the purpose of army drafting and tax collecting.

There were discussions on particular problems and how they were solved. Not usually very outstanding but interesting nonetheless. Listening to directors from the Jewish National and University Library and the Central Zionist Archives. There is much material to be found but mostly in Hebrew and though there were translators available there were more people demanding their services than could be handled, as we well know from previous seminars. It is sometimes possible to correspond with these agencies but it will take time, again because of cuts in staffing to the minimum. Again at Yad Vashem the Hall of Names was disappointing as they are in process of microfilming all the names and therefore cannot reach all letters of the alphabet. They will accept testimony sheets but beyond acknowledging receipt they do not reply so we cannot know if they are on file, again due to a cut in staff. This was the complaint we heard at every agency throughout Israel. Can't resist saying the penalties of warring are evident.

At the evening session the Director of Education, Mr. Shmuele of the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, told us that records were being collected from all over the world. Wherever Jews have lived or are living. Established in 1969, it now has an extensive collection of records from the Middle Ages to the present day. Mostly for Germany, France and Italy, very little for Eastern Europe. Here too, the staff is helpful but cannot do much research. It will take a long time but specific mail inquiries will be answered. The Archives will appreciate receiving any new collections of family records or published genealogies.

Matt Darrish of the St. Louis society spoke about cartographic records, how to obtain them from the Library of Congress and from other places. The University of Chicago has complete sets of maps of Russia kept by country, subject and province, but one must have the correct name of the town and of the country.

The discussion on "charting" revealed a few imaginative ways of recording a family tree. Vertically, using printout paper, horizontally, ascending or descending. There was one real tree shown. It was very beautiful and required a lot of genealogical work to achieve such elaborate results. It is pictured in the Post article.

Tuesday The most interesting talk was the history of Jews in Australia by Rabbi Israel Porush of Australia. As early as 1700 Jews too arrived as petty criminals, survived, intermarried, prospered, received land grants. Many now live as non-Jews. In 1820 many

more Jews migrated from England, 40 men, 13 women. First formal congregation established in 1832, first building in 1844. Half of the contributions came from non-Jews. Today there are 45 congregations. There is little discrimination. Two governors general were Jews, one of whose two sons became Lubavisher. It is now on microfilm and on permanent loan to the public library. Dr. Porush made his talk very interesting with his sense of humor and tales of the early settlers.

There were discussions on oral history, using tape recording method is the best, but it should be edited very carefully in transcript so as to flow smoothly like a story and to delete repetitious statements of course.

A talk on the application of the computer using various types of software sounded appealing enough to procure a computer in order to use all that software.

A talk on patterns of naming in Jewish folklore had its humorous side and was interesting enough to order the tape, even though it was not very substantive.

The lecture on Jewish origins and alteration of names was cancelled as Rabbi Shmuel Gorr had withdrawn from the seminar due to differences.(?)

Alex Friedlander's talk on doing research in Poland was constructive. Do not hesitate to go there to do research. He related his experiences. One can rent a car. Be sure to have an interpreter. Not all records are always available but with patience can eventually be seen. Archives were started for Jewish people in 1808, kept as civil records until 1828. They are kept in regional archives. Some do not exist anymore. Writing to Warsaw can bring a response but you must state exactly what you are looking for.

Also Harry Boonin's talk on Soviet research was interesting enough to warrant ordering the tape to be played back. He had been able to trace his family back to 1737 although they left Russia in 1804.

Dr. Anthony Joseph from England gave a lively history of Jews in Britain and the records available are many today.

- Office of the Chief Rabbinate - records of cemetery plots
- London Jewish Chronicle published from 1848 to date - records of births, marriages and deaths.
- Church parishes - births of Jews recorded from 1777 to 1884

Jews have applied for naturalization only for 100 years. Dr. Joseph, a physician and surgeon, has done genealogy since he was 11 years old and now lectures extensively throughout England. He urged participants to come to England to do research.

Because of conflicting lectures scheduled I had to miss what I heard was a very good slide and talk show on the history of the Jewish East End of London by David Jacobs, the other half of the English representation. As the synagogue was being torn down he was able to retrieve many artifacts and memorabilia, and he has since established a museum to display them along with other items he has salvaged over the years.

Also on Wednesday there were talks that I missed due to conflicts, on European sources for genealogical research, Swedish-Jewish genealogy, German sources, agricultural settlement in the Ukraine and Galician Jewry. All can be had on tape.

A talk on Wednesday evening about Rabbi Zvi Hirsh Leren of Amsterdam proved very exciting. Exactly how he acquired the very important archives he did not reveal. They contained 1500 letters, about 7000 pages, written between 1826 and 1870 and sent to the Jewish world community but mainly between Amsterdam and Israel to collect monies for synagogues etc. in Israel. Rabbi Leren had dedicated his life to the Jewish community. He was very rich and religious as well. He had connections and corresponded with rabbis and communities in Palestine, had agents in every large city who kept him informed on all goings-on, but he has not been remembered or honored since his death because of his fanaticism in regard to knowing everything about everyone and about how his money was being spent. He looked upon Napoleon as the Messiah who would give Palestine back to the Jews, and in 1840 an organization was readying itself for the arrival of the "Messiah".

Professor Benjamin Rivlin, a descendant of the Vilna Gaon's cousin discussed the book his father, Rabbi Eliezer Rivlin, had written about their family. He inherited it unfinished and has handwritten an addition to it. Both are in Hebrew. His father did print a shorter version privately. His own book is also a shorter version. (In his father's book a member of my Greengard family is mentioned and that prompted me to buy both though I can't read them anyway.)

I must mention a fun time we had every morning at the buffet breakfast where there were tables set aside for the participants where they could meet and discuss lectures or their findings at different sources. It was always lively and amusing.

The lecture by Dr. Aaron Demsky (as an aside, all the speakers spoke fluent English, some with a British accent) indicated that there was much genealogy to be found in the Bible and it is a capsulized history of generations that are not lost, but it needs depth of study, as well as a knowledge of Hebrew or an excellent translation.

Sallyann Sack discussed, at different times of the day, the preparation and publishing of a family history, publication of a genealogical newsletter and ethics in genealogical research. I missed the discussion by Naomi Gershan on establishing a genealogical society. I did stop in at the discussion of a newsletter and the consensus was that societies including the scholarly papers should spread information on what facilities are available in different cities and other helpful information, to share as much material as possible, to revive Toledot or organize another publication for articles of interest to all, written in depth and relevant to genealogy. An idea endorsed by all.

I was particularly interested in the talk by Dr. Richard Goodman on genetic disorders among Jewish people, accompanied by slides. Jews are at the top of a group that isolates itself and marries within the group. Citing the different groups, Oriental, Ashkenazi and Sephardic he traced the movement of Jews since 720 B.C. and wherever they lived, they developed distinct genetic diseases as Jews of mixed origins and diseases that have genetic predisposition. He talked about the different diseases that are prevalent among Jews. I have this tape also, as his talk impressed me as important. Too bad we can't see the slides showing the Jews from very different countries who looked exactly like the non-Jews of the land.

On Friday afternoon there was a talk by Mr. Yehuda ben Levine of the Jewish Family Association on why we do genealogy, the Jewish Diaspora, the holocaust that destroyed so much that is lost forever, to document Jewish life and the knowledge of heritage, culture, religion, tradition, negation of language (Yiddish and Ladino). Many young people lost them in intermarriage and assimilation. In Israel the Jewish Family Association is involving school children to participate by acquiring histories from their older relatives, to create a continuity in Israel and the Diaspora. All the accumulated material will be put into a computer but the questionnaires (of which I brought back a few) will deal only with three generations - the history of the family as well as genealogy.

There was a special meeting of a small group, to which I was personally invited by Sallyann Sack, held on Saturday afternoon. The discussion centered mainly around the idea of where do we go from here and how shall we communicate in order to retain contact made here and at other seminars. The British contingent suggested that the next international seminar be held in England in a few years. This was applauded by all. The good doctor assured us we would find much information there.

Then the arguments on Toledot. Should it be revived by putting it in other hands since Steve Siegel is so busy, or should a new type of publication be organized to disseminate news and findings, to include a digest of other societies news, to be a common pool of information to be shared internationally. The problems of launching such a publication, by whom, where, how frequently to publish it, provoked a lot of discussion but was finally approved. Sallyann volunteered to do editorial work and so did Dorothy Kohanski. Gary Molotow offered to handle printing details on his computers as he has competent people working for him. Gary also has a computer cross reference of names people are looking for and will feed any requests into his computer. He did bring to the seminar a large stack of printouts. The British offered to do their share from their shores.

From the lively discussion participated in by all present I came away with the feeling of an accomplished fact and I look forward to the first publication in the future.

At the banquet Saturday evening after dinner there were a few brief speeches, much picture taking, the awards were made to deserving participants, including Dr. Goodman of San Francisco, who was so instrumental in helping to establish the computer at the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, to Matt Darrish of St. Louis for his research on cartography. An enjoyable evening for all.

Sunday morning after an early breakfast we all crowded into a bus for Yad Vashem and from there to Tel Aviv to the Diaspora Museum. At Yad Vashem we had a short tour through the building and Hall of Names, then to the ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance. This is a very large room with openings near the ceiling around two sides through which the birds came and went freely, singing and creating a feeling of renewed life.

On the floor below the railing behind which we had to stand, left of center, was the eternal light for the dead of the holocaust. A cantor and three chosen participants came in and went to stand by the light. As the cantor intoned the prayer I had a distinct feeling

of distant sounds like moaning, grieving, low and subtle, while at the same time birds were singing in the rafters. It continued throughout the kadish prayer of which our three members each said a portion. A very moving and impressive experience for all and for me a very emotional one, in that great stark, silent, tomblike hall (I lost my maternal grandmother, aunts and uncles and cousins named legion).

We left in a subdued manner.

And back on the bus for the Diaspora Museum where we were warmly greeted and served refreshments, coffee, tea, pastries (no wonder I gained 8 pounds). We were given a guided tour of the museum and found it just as interesting this time around as on my first visit, especially the room with slides of portraits of world famous people from many lands, both ancient and modern, who are Jews.

Here I must inject, apropos Dr. Goodman's talk on Jewish genetics, looking at the special exhibit in a room on the ground floor, of an ancient Jewish community in China, showing the rabbi, his family and other families and the interior of the synagogue, all looked like native Chinese. There are today many Jews living in China - and they can't believe the white man is also a Jew.

Now we are back in the auditorium, after a hasty lunch, for the computer illumination. While it is in working order it will be many years before the many families who wish to be included can be accepted. For now the criteria is to accept the genealogy that includes 8 generations and a famous individual.

Dr. Goodman explained and displayed on a huge screen exactly how it works, its benefits and its usefulness to genealogists. It can find relationships between families. Print-outs will be available to the world. All very exciting and worthwhile, but my impression is that it will be a program for the "elite" of Jewish society, rather than the general public, or at least certainly not for many years to come.

So in the last analysis we may have to resort to obtaining our own personal computers or belonging to a genealogical society owning one for the use of its members. And this might be the best method since we are here and the other, perhaps more exciting computer, is in Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv.

In retrospect, overall, for me personally, it was a very gratifying experience although my own genealogical findings were small, but exciting, like the listing in one Nefus, or Turkish Mukhtars record, in Hebrew, of a Greengard family in 1890 including children. And at the Search Bureau Batya had unearthed another son born 1897, died 1957 in Tel Aviv. The credit however must go to Alex Friedlander who discovered and then xeroxed this page while doing research on his own ancestors.

Enjoyed the company, found the sessions stimulating, but as at all seminars, there was too much at the same time, but then you have to please all the people all of the time but differently! Very glad I went.

MEMBERS FORUM

Peter S. Tannen

In the June newsletter two members of our society wrote that they would like to see more than two meetings per year. I also agree that IDEALLY I would like to see more than two meetings, IF THERE ARE MEMBERS WHO ARE WILLING TO DO WORK OF ORGANIZING THESE MEETINGS. Mrs. Kirshenbaum writes to "deplore the fact that the society seems to be drifting toward a slow and premature death". Well I deplore the fact that there are only a few members who are willing to step forward to work for the society and organize meetings, after repeated requests for help. If the rest of our membership is simply content to sit back and wait for a meeting to occur as if by magic then I, for one would recommend a quick and timely death for the society.

I too had hopes for our society when I joined. I was one of the few people who devoted quite a bit of my time (in addition to my full-time job) to the society because I enjoyed doing it and because I had hopes for the society. I established and edited (ie: wrote almost all of) our newsletter, set up and have continued to maintain our mailing list, served as official treasurer and then as unofficial treasurer (since I formally resigned but no one was willing to come forth to fill this position) attended board meetings and answered and made many phone calls concerning the society. As for meetings, I organized and arranged for speakers at two of our best attended meetings (at which Rabbi Malcolm Stern and Steve Siegel spoke) However when I noticed that I was doing a disproportionately large share of the work and that our core group of workers (including Carolyn Sherfy, Martha Wise and Joan Simms) was not getting any larger it was no longer fun and I had gotten burned out.

Looking back at the current state of our society, I agree with Mrs. Rafael that if we were "connected with a national agency or sponsoring institution" we might have a better chance of survival. Affiliation with the California Genealogical Society has been proposed and I support that suggestion.

In summary I feel that a group such as ours is a worthwhile one. IF its members are willing to help run it. For those of you out there who want meetings or don't like the current status of the society, please get off your tuchis, stop complaining, and offer to do something constructive.

Martha L. Wise

I had not planned to put anything into this column myself however I feel it necessary to say that I for one will fight tooth and nail against any consolidation with CGS. I am a member of CGS myself and certainly have nothing against it but were we to join it in my opinion we would simply disappear. It may look expedient but it has always been my experience that expediency is a poor policy by and large. It is settling for half a loaf rather than fighting for a whole one. I won't go into my ideas on what went wrong but at least part of it was an attempt to please everyone. That can't be done as everyone knows.

FAMILY FINDER

No requests were received for this issue. Vacation presumably. The column will reappear in the next issue.

MISCELLANEOUS

We have been asked what we charge for the newsletter for out of state people who obviously cannot attend meetings. The answer is that we have decided on \$10.00 as a fair sum. As editor I must say I am flattered, surprised too.

We have also been asked about using the family finder. For those who are not members it will be \$2.50. Obviously they will be requested to keep their ads within bounds. About 75 words at most not including name, address and phone number.

For the members forum we request no more than 100 to 150 words at most.

The holidays will be in only a few weeks. We wish you all a very happy New Year.