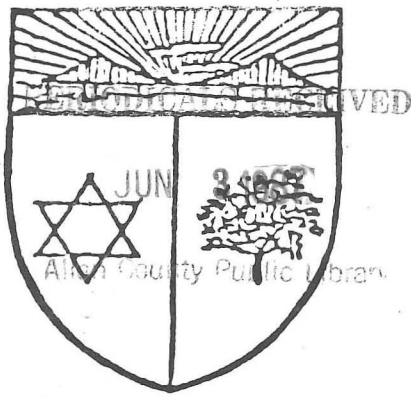




SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Martha L. Wise 1990 20th Ave.

February 1986

MEETINGS

attendance at the January General Meeting featuring Rabbi Malcolm Sparer, president of the Northern California Board of Rabbis, drew the best attendance we have had in some time. If we can continue to draw ever better attendance at meetings perhaps we can find our way back to our high point of several years ago when we regularly saw large groups at every meeting. The details of the March meeting are on the enclosed Meeting Schedule. Do you like the separate meeting schedule or would you prefer to see the meetings mentioned in the newsletter as we did previously? Please let us know what you prefer.

ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

We have two new board members since the last newsletter was printed. Emily Rosenberg representing the EastBay Local Group and Helaine Kerfoot who has agreed to be our recording secretary. This gives us a full board until such time as there is another local group formed. At that time the president of that group will be entitled to a board seat too. We hope in time to see a group in Marin and one in the South Bay area.

SEMINAR LIAISON

Those organizing this year's national seminar in Salt Lake City asked that each society appoint a liaison person to represent their society. We asked Carolyn Sherfy. Who better to represent us than Carolyn who has attended every seminar from the very first one and now joins many of her old friends from other societies as liaison. There is no JGS in Salt Lake City. Those arranging the seminar are old hands, Rabbi Malcolm Stern of New York is chairman, Freya Maslov of Chicago is program chairman and other veterans of previous seminars are assisting.

NEW SOCIETIES

Search and Dorot have both reported new societies. The Jewish Genealogical Society of North New Jersey, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Long Island, the Jewish Genealogy Society of Raleigh and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Texas.

The first two are in the New York area and probably represent groups that simply wanted a society closer to home but the later two, unless we are mistaken, represent the first JGSs in their states. The Raleigh society is in No. Carolina, of course, and the Texas JGS is in Austin. There are now over two dozen societies in this country and Canada and all this in no more than a decade from the founding of the first JGS in New York. We would give you a list of the societies but so far we have not been able to keep up with them. Any list is out of date before the compilers can complete it. The more societies the better, we just cant keep up, nor can the others who have tried to compile a list.

POSSIBLE GENEALOGICAL SOURCES

A few lucky people have been sent newspapers from small towns where their ancestors lived that have provided valuable genealogical information. Of course only the lucky few can hope for an article that mentions their own family but it has happened that someone has sent a friend or relative such an article.

Should you not be that lucky, you might consider inquiring whether or not there is a historical society for the town or city in which you are interested. Many smaller places seem to have historical societies before they have genealogical societies. These societies have newsletters in which they mention early residents, especially those who made some contribution to the town's welfare. If there is a Jewish Historical Society it will know who the first Jews in town were and what they did for a living.

In Germany, where many people are now feeling guilty about the way the Germans treated the Jews during the Hitler years more than one small town has run articles recalling the Jewish population they once had.

Needless to say the more visible your ancestor the better chance there is that he will be mentioned. After all it is always easier to find a big frog in a small pond than a small frog in a big pond. Try finding out whether there is a historical society for the place that interests you. If there is they may have information available for you.

OTHER SOCIETIES PLEASE COPY

If you do not already have Hebrew Union College on your mailing list, Dr. Ida Cohen Selavan, Acquisitions Librarian. (and a member of her local JGS) tells us they would very much like to have copies of all the newsletters possible.

The address is 3101 Clifton Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio 45220-2488.

RUSSIAN RECORDS

Steve Siegel, president of the JGS in New York, has notified us that the Russian Consular Records project that has been underway at Suitland, Md. for some little time under the supervision of the JGS of Greater Washington is now 80 to 90 percent complete. Much of the work has been done by JGS/GW volunteers but there are still expenses for translators, computerizing the index etc.

It would be too bad if the project were not completed when so much has already been done. With that in view the SFBAJGS voted at the recent board of directors meeting to send a sizable check to Washington.

If you wish to make individual contributions as well, you may send them directly to Washington, to New York which will then forward them to Washington along with their own or you may send them to us and we will forward them as contributions from SFBAJGS members.

SAN MATEO RECORDS

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society can offer a volume listing the marriages that took place in San Mateo County from 1853 to 1899. It is 66 pages long with separate bride and groom alphabetical listings. \$8.00 postage included, but not California sales tax.

They also offer an alphabetical listing for the 1870 Federal Census for the same price. It is 81 pages. Again you must compute and add the sales tax yourself.

Order from the San Mateo County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5083, San Mateo, Calif. 94402. Sounds great if you are researching in San Mateo. Let us hope others will follow this example and offer the same thing for other parts of the country. San Mateo should be congratulated.

JEWS OF CHICAGO

Member Tonya Young was interested to learn that to mark the occasion of Jewish Book Month the Skokie Public Library has made up a list of books in its collection which document the Jewish presence in Chicago. Copies of the list can be obtained from the library upon request. No doubt if you found anything you wanted to borrow, it could be had on inter-library loan. Sorry we do not have an address for the library.

SEPHARDIC SOURCES

David Einsiedler of Los Angeles has kindly sent us a long list of books giving either background material on Sephardic Jewry or actual genealogical information. There is also some basic information on Sephardic research. There is too much to include in a newsletter but if anyone is tracing Sephardic lines we will gladly photocopy the material for you. Just ask if you want it.

GERMAN-JEWISH RESEARCHERS

Steve Weil of Chicago who has been involved in researching his own family in Germany would like to see others also doing research into German lines help him form some sort of group or society so that we might better exchange research techniques for Germany, experiences, and the like. Originally this was planned only for the Chicago area where people could easily get together. If other areas are to be included Steve Weil would like ideas on how to go about it. If you are interested, please contact Steve Weil, 6538 No. Mozart St., Chicago, Ill. 60645.

HARTFORD, CONN. SOURCES

Search includes information on all the sources of Jewish genealogical information in the Hartford area in its Fall 1985 issue.

JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR

Rabbi Martin Halpern of Silver Spring, Md. will lead a tour of Prague, Vienna and Budapest this summer. This is a tour arranged by a professional tour firm. It will not be specifically a genealogical tour although they intend to spend three nights in each city which they feel will allow time for research if anyone wants to do any. The cost of this tour is \$1690.00 round trip from Washington, D.C., double occupancy, most expenses are covered. For further information contact Harmony Tours, Inc. 1405 Caddington Ave. Silver Spring, Md. 20901. This tour is from July 3-13 which means that one cannot well go on this tour and attend the annual seminar in Salt Lake City.

NEW YORK RESEARCH GUIDE

Dorot advises that there are still copies of the 190 page book, Resources for Jewish Genealogy, which was produced for the 1985 summer seminar in New York. It is full of information on the holdings and services of the 51 repositories, Judaica libraries, archives and other specialized facilities including government agencies, both federal and municipal, in the New York area.

The cost is \$18.00 for members of the JGS in New York. \$20.00 for non-members. The supply is limited. If ordered by mail add \$1.50 for shipping and send to P.O. Box 6398, New York, N.Y. 10128.

FAMILY HISTORIES

The American Jewish Archives is asking for family genealogies, genealogical charts, photographs (identified, of course), autobiographies, biographies, anything pertaining to a family.

The Leo Baeck Institute also collects family histories if they pertain to German families. They do also have material on some Danish families and a bit on Alsace as well and would no doubt appreciate anything for those areas too, although their chief focus is Germany. The address for the American Jewish Archives is 3101 Clifton Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio 45220. If that seems familiar it is because it is the same as the address for Hebrew Union College. The address for Leo Baeck Institute is 129 E. 73rd St. New York, N.Y. 10021. Neither is basically a genealogical organization but both do have an interest in assembling and preserving material pertaining to genealogy. Both also have libraries and will lend books on inter-library loan. You can also order photocopies of certain things, for a charge, of course, and within reason. They will not photocopy an entire book.

Just what Yivo institute will do I am not prepared to say. Possibly they too would like

family histories but so far we have not been informed that they are soliciting such material. If they lend anything on inter-library loan I am not aware of that either. Their focus is on eastern European Jewry but since they are badly understaffed those who cannot go there in person can find it difficult to know just what they can expect. The American Jewish Archives concentrates on things pertaining to Jews living in this country but HUC includes the aforementioned library which has volumes in many languages on many subjects.

What we still need is a reasonable translating service so that those of us who do not read all the languages they need for their research, not to mention those who do not read any language but English, can know what important sources say.

In some areas such services have been offered but so far no one in the Bay Area has advertised translation services.

YIZKOR BOOKS

Dorot reports that a not-for-profit Yiddish book publisher and distributor, called The Central Yiddish Cultural Organization located at 25 E. 21st St. New York, N.Y. 10010 is known to carry some Yizkor books. They are chiefly for Poland and the supply is limited but if they happen to have a book you want it is worth the stamp to find out if they have it.

HELP IN LOCATING RELATIVES

Dorot also reports that a Stephen Roth of Skokie, Ill., a lawyer familiar with such work, will conduct searches for living relatives whose whereabouts are unknown. Mr Roth has had some success in this field.

For a search application and price information send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Mr Stephen Roth, Attorney at Law, Location Dept. 4919 Enfield, Skokie, Ill. 60077.

Depending on the cost, this service could be helpful to many people in locating relatives they do not know how to find.

POLISH TAX LISTS

Dr. Alex Friedlander of New York has copied the tax payer lists for 19 Polish and Lithuanian towns including 12 towns for which no other vital statistic records exist. The records are for the early 19th century and include fathers' names as well as the individuals first names. In some cases there is also a family name and a record of the individual's occupation. Dr. Friedlander will search for up to five family names for \$10.00 to \$15.00 per town.

There is not space for all the towns here but if you are interested just call and ask if your town is included and for which years. If you find a town of interest we can also supply you with Dr. Friedlander's address. Just call Martha Wise at 546-9947.

SLONIM DEATH RECORDS

Gertrude Ogushwitz of Connecticut has a 44 page photocopy of the Chevra Kadisha records of Slonim, Byelorussia, dated during the last half of the 19th century and written in Hebrew. For \$8.75 plus \$1.25 for mailing you can have a copy. The address is 19 Storrs Heights Rd. Storrs, Conn. 06268.

SEARCH WANTS ADS

Search has sent a list of their advertising rates for display ads of any size from 1/8 page to a full page ad. The ads they show as samples include ads for those who will do research for others, companies who will supply various items or services for genealogists, even an ad that if you send them a black and white picture will send you a charted pattern with instructions for creating a needlepoint, petit point or cross stitch portrait in sepia tones, if you have an ancestor you would like to immortalize in needlework.

Search, which began as a local newsletter for its own JGS has grown into an international quarterly including articles by genealogists from various areas, ads and of course its well known family finder "zuchen mishpoche."

Morasha now serves as the local newsletter with Search intended for Jewish genealogists anywhere.

MEMBERS FORUM

Blueprint Family Charts by Dan Peletz

Blueprinting is a process used primarily by architects and engineers but this process can also produce copies of family charts and offers many advantages.

Masters are easily made, legible and attractive.

Copies are inexpensive (\$.75 for the 24" x 36" size), easy to understand, easy to handle and easy to mail.

Standard blueprints are typically 36" x 42" but I find this size too large for genealogical use. The 24" x 36" size can accommodate 75-150 names, depending on the size of the lettering and the amount of information included. All the information on a family won't fit on a single sheet, but most charts are readily divided so that all the information for a particular branch can be contained on one sheet. One must be sure to indicate on each sheet the number you have assigned to the sheet following and preceeding it. Other helpful information includes the name of the person who compiled the chart and the date it was completed or revised.

A course in drafting or graphic arts leads to more polished results but is not really necessary to get started. Basically the genealogist draws a family tree in pencil on a piece of vellum (tracing paper), then takes the master to a blueprint shop to have copies made. This process has one drawback-- the blueprints will fade over time. How long the copies last depends on their exposure to light, especially sunlight. However, your vellum master can be used to make other types of copy--xerographic, vellum and mylar which range in cost from \$10.80 to \$25.50 for the 24" x 36" size. Any blueprint shop can further explain the options. One thing to keep in mind is that current xerographic machines are limited to 24" wide by any length, so holding to a 24" width means the choice of options is broader. Here's the list of supplies I used to get started: .7mm and .9mm pencils: Pentel 207C and 209G @ 3.98 each. Gum eraser, Artgum, two sizes, \$.27 and \$.52 each. Rulers 6" plastic \$.50 and aluminum 24" \$6.40. Grid paper (really helps make the layout much easier) Alvin Emerald Coat 36" wide, 2 ft. at \$.75 per foot. Brush, Draftsman's Duster, several sizes available \$2.00 to \$3.00. Storage tube (to keep masters from wrinkling), several grades from about \$1.85 up. Masking tape, (from a graphics shop--their type seems to come off easier than the hardware store kind) about \$1.10 per roll. Vellum, (tracing paper) 24" x 36" @ \$.83 per sheet.

This simple process enabled me to make many copies of my family charts to send to relatives spread all over the world--without sending me to the poorhouse. Distant cousins were thrilled to have these copies and responded with volumes of information about long lost branches. For an initial investment under \$25.00 one had everything needed to share family trees inexpensively with others. You can make this method work for you and solve the problem of how to share your family tree. Good luck!

Note: Prices quoted are current and based on items available in Santa Rosa. Costs should be approximately the same throughout the Bay Area.

PERSONAL OPINIONS

This is the first time in much too long that a member has offered something for the Members Forum. This is a column intended for members who feel they have something to say to their fellow members, be it a comment on something occurring in our own society or in genealogical circles in general or a member with an idea they feel is so good they wish to share it with others as in today's instance.

This is your space for opinions. Please try to limit submissions to 250 to 350 words.

The Sharing Corner has fared better. If you too, have an experience to share with us having to do with genealogy please submit it.

Today's Sharing Corner tells us a lot about genealogists in France and points up that they too are very willing to help. It also shows the value of belonging to genealogical circles. It is often through such contacts that you encounter people you would never know otherwise. Networking can pay such dividends.

Incidentally, our Sharing Column author of today has modestly not mentioned it but she was asked to be the American correspondent for the French Society. Congratulations. We are proud of you, Beatrice Kirshenbaum.

Send in your Sharing Column experiences too. We can only publish one item per issue in the Members Forum or in the Sharing Column but we always need something for the next issue or the one following.

SHARING CORNER

As I had planned, I arrived in Paris in plenty of time to attend the November meeting of the Cercle de Genealogie Juive. I was not given the message left at the hotel by Mme. Alexandre saying that the meeting time given in the quarterly was in error. Friends drove me through a terrific downpour to the meeting place, quite a distance into the Latin Quarter. By the time I found my way to the assembly room I was really late. Mme. Alexandre came to greet me and introduce me to the group of thirty or forty.

The chairman inquired whether twenty minutes would suffice for me to speak to them and so I gave my first ever mini-lecture in French, completely unprepared!

The results were equally unexpected. At what I considered an appropriate moment I had offered to try to answer any questions put to me. After a few public ones, two men came over to me. One, M. Wertheimer, turned out to be the first cousin of MY first cousin's martyred husband. The other asked me if I had ever heard of the Gamburgs. Mary Gamburg is my closest childhood friend, who married a Parisian. During WWII she returned to San Francisco and we are still close friends.

I visited Mme. Alexandre's (ed. note: sect'y of the Cercle) Paris apartment, the home of M. Robert Veil, president of the Cercle, and an Alsatian, in Versailles, and the Boulogne apartment of Madeleine Kohn as well. M. Veil suggested that when I got to Metz I call his sister-in-law. There is an erroneous belief that the French are very aloof never inviting anyone to their homes until their acquaintanceship is at least fifteen years or so old. Never in my dozens of trips to France have I found this to be so. I had hardly spoken my first paragraph to M. Veil's sister-in-law when she invited me to their apartment to "lunch". They called for me at my hotel at 11:45. After an aperitif we began the meal about one o'clock. During the afternoon Madame made a number of calls on my behalf to ease my progress. About four o'clock I began to suggest that I thought I had begun to wear out my welcome. To make the story short it was more like seven when they delivered me to my hotel. And this only after arranging to take me to the train the next afternoon to see my luggage aboard in the absence of porters. They finally left me at almost the last possible moment.

Mme. Alexandre found, and took me to see the record, in the Masonic Museum in Paris, of my maternal grandfather's joining the Henri IV lodge. For about thirty years I have been trying to find a way to see those records for any information I did not have. Mission accomplished, although only the date my grandfather joined the lodge.

We San Franciscans say "Don't call it Frisco" as we can't stand the term. In France the term Alsace-Lorraine is also a no-no. There is Alsace and there is Lorraine. The conquering Germans coined the term after the war of 1870. It apparently conjures up painful memories, better forgotten today when the spirit of cooperation reigns.

That out of the way, I shall continue to describe some of my genealogical adventures in those geographical sectors.

M. Camille Maire turned out to be a teacher of English in the local Lycee. His wife teaches younger children. When I invited them to have dinner with me in Metz they countered by asking me to their apartment in a suburb of Metz. This meant a roundtrip in a heavy downpour to fetch me and bring me back afterwards. The meal of typical regional dishes, began with quiche. Although they are not Jewish, M. Maire, once started on the subject, has made a hobby of Jewish Emigration from Lorraine. He pre-arranged my meetings with M. Gilbert Cahen at the Archives in Metz and supervised my three day stay in Metz.

Lixheim, my father's birthplace, has been a ghost town since I first started haunting it thirty years ago. It is seemingly reviving. There is an occasional pedestrian, a street of newly-built homes, one of which I visited to meet M. & Mme. David Levy. He is head of the Jewish community. He has the keys to the new synagogue built in restitution after WWII, and the keys to the cemetery. Of course, since there are not enough men for a minyan, no services can be held in Lixheim but M. Levy sees to it that the graves are decently maintained and that nonagenarian, Celine Rosenzweig, who worked for my grandparents at the beginning of the century (they died in 1902) is fed and warm in her shabby home which she refuses to leave. Her closest kin, cousins in a nearby place, would like to see her where she could have constant care - but she won't leave. So M. Levy checks on her daily. About ten years ago she was very clear in her memories of my grandmother. This time she kept returning to the subject of her own family. We finally gave up in despair and left town.

Now every member of my immediate family has had the experience of visiting my father's boyhood home from attic to cellar. The present occupant/owners have gotten used to my appearan-

ces. They said they had begun to wonder if I were still alive because it had been a couple of years since I had brought anyone there!

While the archives of Lorraine are located in Metz on the Moselle River, those of Alsace are in Strasbourg on the Rhine. I'm tempted to write that never the twain shall meet. There is an undercurrent, a rivalry or dislike between the inhabitants which is somewhat like the traditional feeling between native Angelinos and native San Franciscans.

The villages, towns and cities of the whole eastern sector of France are very picturesque.

Many have been spared the destruction caused by the many wars which have raged in the area.

Ecumenical note: Marc Chagall did stained glass windows to replace those that were destroyed in the cathedral of Metz. He also did some for the town of Strasbourg.

I highly recommend the exercise of looking at the scenes of one's family roots whenever and wherever possible. The feeling is indescribable but wonderful.

My research really paid off. Not only did I see the Masonic records in Paris, but I was able to fill in some gaps on my father's family, to determine definitely that the line goes back to the middle of the 1700s, before the Napoleonic census. I had been told many times that I would not be able to go beyond the census period as there were no records. However, some years ago I had received a sheet of paper from the archives of Metz, showing two parallel lines of Willards with the same given names, with said duplicate names belonging to people born within a year or so of one another. It was very confusing. One line went back only a couple of generations whereas the other went back to about 1750. I had, of course, hoped the longer line was mine, but until now I had no proof. By studying the birth records in Metz I determined the truth. Also from the same recorded facts I learned the number of my father's actual siblings. He used to say his mother had had more children than he could remember who had died in childhood.

By obtaining copies of the death certificates of my grandparents I learned where my grandmother was born and the given names of her parents.

I also learned from M. Maire that there had been a pogrom in Lixheim in 1848!

In Hamburg I received a pleasant welcome and a couple of leads but none of the real facts I had hoped to find. I had been sufficiently warned so that I was not too downcast. In all probability my maternal grandmother emigrated through the port of Bremen rather than that of Hamburg. The records in Hamburg are somewhat sparse but those for Bremen are destroyed so that avenue seems closed.

Beatrice W. Kirshenbaum

FAMILY FINDER

R-6 Arnold S. Rosenberg, 676 Duncan St., San Francisco, Calif. (415) 641-9468

Seeking any Bialiks from Prausnitz/Prossnitz (now Prasznycz) Poland. Also any Golden from Sighet, Romania or any Fink from Minsk, Russia. Interested in anything relating to Aaron Lieberman who emigrated from Kishnev, Russia, around 1906. Lived briefly in San Francisco and chiefly in New York.

S-1 Carolyn L. Sherfy, 918 Willow St., Alameda, Calif. 94546 (415) 521-8593

Seeking for information on Fred Schwartz, died in Portland, Ore. during the first quarter of this century. Daughter, Fanny or Frieda, married a Bombeck. There were two sons, Alfred & Harold. Searching for all descendants and ancestors of Cohen, Sachs(Saks), Diamand and Abramovitz (Abramavitz) families of Kovno Gubernia, Lithuania and later of St. Louis, Mo.

W-2 Martha L. Wise, 1990 20th Ave. San Francisco, Calif. 94116 (415) 564-9927

Searching for descendants of Rabbi Lieber the Great of Berdichev (Ukraine) died 1771. Descendants took the name Liebersohn. In this country the spelling often became Lieberman or Liberson. Also descendants of Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev, died 1809. Particularly interested in full details, names, dates, children of 19th century marriages between descendants of these two rabbis. There are known to have been such marriages.

Y-1 Tonya Young, 1739 22nd Ave. San Francisco, Calif. 94122 (415) 664-3329

Seeking all descendants of Meyer (Myer or Maier) Moskovitz. With his first wife, Clara Seltzer his children were; Shirley, (Sarah) Pearl(ie), Leo(n), Bessie, Oscar and Annie (Hannah). His second wife Dora apparently had no children. The Moskovitz family moved to San Francisco from Great Falls, Mont. around 1916. Meyer & Clara were married in Europe. Probably in Romania.

COUSINS

The Indiana Historical Society has a heartwarming story to tell. They received a letter asking for information on Edward Marcus, a man who lived in Indiana in the 1860s. Shortly thereafter another letter arrived, this time from Israel requesting information on the same man.

They alerted their two correspondents to each other's interest in Edward Marcus and the two men thus discovered that they were cousins who had never known of each other's existence.

The society is a historical society, not a genealogical society, but this time they learned one of the joys of genealogists, seeing people find each other.

San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society
1990 20th Ave.
San Francisco, Calif.
94116