

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY e-Report

www.ajgs.org.au



July, 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We were delighted to learn that our popular and esteemed colleague, Lionel Sharpe, Hon. Secretary of AJGS Victoria, was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. We have enjoyed a long association with Lionel and look forward to more of the same. We wish him a hearty Mazel Tov!

Heartiest congratulations also to our NSW member, Dr Jack Jellins, who was awarded an AM for his contributions to ultrasound as a tool for diagnosing early breast disease. With so many women and their families affected by the scourge of breast cancer, Jack's work is truly invaluable.

Since our first e-report, four committee members – Kim Phillips, Rieke and Peter Nash and Kym Morris – have been in Gallipoli gathering information and photographing graves, both Jewish and non-Jewish. We look forward to learning more about the work they did for Kim's project.
See <http://www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com>

During a visit to Greece in May, I spent a morning in the Jewish Museum of Greece in Athens and found it very moving and well worth a visit. Among the artefacts on exhibition was a letter from Archbishop Damaskinos, Primate of Athens and All Greece during the 2nd World War, formally protesting to the Nazi occupying authorities against the persecution of the Jews of Greece and their deportation to concentration camps. This appeal seems to have been unique, as no similar document has come to light in any other European country. Jews have lived in Greece continuously for 2300 years. 87% of Greek Jews were murdered in the death camps, including 95% of the 57,000 Jews of Salonika. Only a few small communities remain today.

FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday 19th July, 10 am-1 pm at the Sydney Jewish Museum, workshop on the Shoah Testimonies. There are one or two vacancies if you book now. If there is enough interest, a future workshop will be organised.

Sunday 2nd August Workshop, 9.30 am-12.30 pm: Experiences in Gallipoli

Sunday 18th October, 2.30 pm at the COA: Our member Daniela Torsh will display and talk about her copies of the Bohemian Census of Jews of 1793, covering the area of today's Czech Republic. This will be a rare opportunity for those with Bohemian ancestry to look up details of their families.

We were very pleased to receive a donation of \$250 to the Society as thanks for research done by Terry Newman.

Welcome to new member Danielle Haski.

I leave you to enjoy our second e-report, and thank you for your ongoing support.

Jeannette Tsoulos
President.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS ON BEING AWARDED HONOURS IN THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

MELBOURNE'S SECRETARY, LIONEL SHARPE AWARDED AN OAM

Lionel Sharpe 'surprised'

PETER KOHN

ACADEMIC, communal worker and genealogist **Lionel Sharpe** has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday honours.

Sharpe, 77, is currently a research associate at Monash University's School of Historical Studies.

The Caulfield grandfather of three was recognised for his services to Jewish welfare organisations and the Jewish community generally.

"I'm surprised and honoured. What else can I say?" Sharpe told *The AJN*.

Sharpe was born in Australia and worked in his Russian-born father's Melbourne business before completing a bachelor of arts in psychology. He later joined the Jewish Welfare Society (now Jewish Care).

In 1989, when he had already been a long-time worker for the welfare society, he was approached to join a Mount Scopus Memorial College advisory committee that supported pupils with disabilities.

"At the time, there were perhaps around 10 kids with special needs in our Jewish schools. Today, there is funding for more than 190 children," he said.

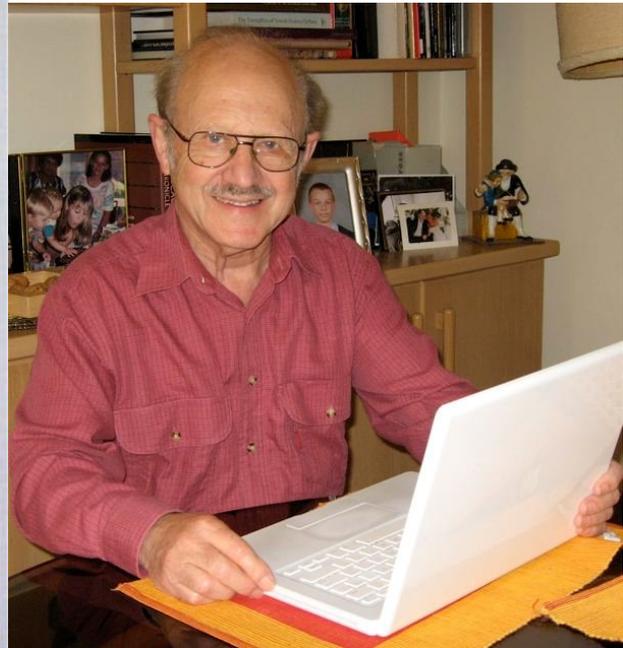
After a number of years on the Mount Scopus committee, Sharpe became involved in the Posh Op Shop project, which raises money for special-needs children in Jewish schools.

Through the Posh Op Shop, around \$500,000 in funding has been made available annually and is distributed to individual children on a "needs basis", he said.

When Sharpe's daughter Monique brought home a family-tree project during her school years, a dad's helping hand led him to discover one of his great passions, genealogy.

Sharpe attended a lecture by Sophie Caplan, then president of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (AJGS), and soon became absorbed in the field.

Today he is secretary of AJGS in Victoria, and one of his many projects was to visit Germany last year with AJGS colleagues to examine a former Nazi archive at Bad Arolsen. The archive has been digitised and placed on a database for access by Shoah survivors.



SYDNEY MEMBER, JACK JELLINS HONOURED WITH AM



Read this article on the Australian Jewish News website: <http://www.ajnews.com.au/news/2015/06/01/honoured-as-a-pioneer-of-ultrasound>

Honoured as a pioneer of ultrasound

CHANTAL ABITBOL

THANKS to Dr Jack Jellins' contributions to the field of breast ultrasound, lives of countless people have been saved.

As founding member of the Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine, he worked to develop the technique that is now commonly used to properly diagnose breast disease in its early stages.

He also educated health professionals on ultrasound as founding president of the International Breast Ultrasound

School. Dr Jellins' work was recently honoured as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours with a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

His other achievements include serving as founding member and inaugural secretary/treasurer of the Australasian Society for Breast Disease (1995-2002), and working as a researcher in the ultrasonics research section of the Commonwealth Acoustics Laboratories (1965-1990).

Dr Jellins is the author of numerous papers, book chapters and books.

(Articles taken from the Australian Jewish News)

**From the Australian Jewish Historical Society:
RE-CONSECRATION OF GRAVES OF MORDECAI AND ABIGAIL MOSES.**

On Sunday July 12 at 2pm in Rookwood cemetery there will be an unusual consecration performed by Rabbi Lawrence. It will be a re-consecration of the graves of Mordecai Moses who died in 1860 and his wife Abigail who died in 1841. Mordecai arrived in Sydney as a convicted forger in 1835, served as sexton of the first dedicated Jewish cemetery at Devonshire Street from 1836 to 1844 and also as collector and the *shammash* of the York Street synagogue from 1839 to 1857. The graves are in the Old Section near the Martyrs Memorial (next to the Necropolis sign).

There have been a number of efforts over 40 years to restore these two graves, which were in bad repair. Finally, thanks to a generous grant from The Friends of Rookwood Cemetery, the Jewish Cemetery Trust has been able to bring this project to fruition. Our committee member and JCT Trust member, Gary Luke, was the main facilitator in completing the project.

Anyone interested is invited to attend.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE – Expressions of interest.

The Second Australian National Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held from Sunday 7th March to Tuesday 9th March, 2010 in Melbourne, Victoria.

Conference Theme: 'Our Jewish Roots'

Hosted by the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic.) in association with the Makor Jewish Community Library the Conference will be held at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre in South Caulfield. It is anticipated to attract attendees from Australia, New Zealand as well as overseas visitors.

The program will feature lectures, panel discussions and Special Interest Group meetings along with visits to Jewish institutions and public genealogical resources. To indicate an 'expression of interest' and to receive further information as it comes to hand,
email: <ajgs2010@gmail.com>

NEXT WORKSHOP DATES

Sunday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

July 5 August 2 September 6

Monday 10 am to 1pm

July 13 August 10 September 14

IN OUR LIBRARY

Avotaynu Winter Vol. XXIV, No.4

Finding People on the Web by Randy Daitch contains a wide variety of research Websites. Don't miss the other articles on finding families.

Branches March 2009 Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami.

Mishpacha Summer 2009 Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington.

The Galitzianer May 2009 Publication of Geshet Galicia

This is a journal of interest to those researching Jewish family history in Galicia, a province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1917.

An interesting article in this issue is titled *Guidelines for Genealogists Using Yad Vashem's Online Database*, by Rivka Mor-Schirman.

We regularly receive newsletters from different Societies, so when you come to our Library, don't forget to look at the latest arrivals as a source of research. We subscribe to *The Galitzianer*, *Shemot* (*Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain*) and *Landsmen* (Publication of the Suwalki-Lomza Interest Group. *Stammbaum*, the Newsletter of German-Jewish Genealogical Research, stopped publication in 2007. Back issues can be read online at www.lbi.org/Stammbaum.html

NEWS FROM BRITAIN:

The Jewish community in Mid-19th Century Britain

From Petra Laidlaw

This is just to let you know that the latest update of the Database is now up on the Web: you can see it at <http://www.jgsgb.org.uk>. Thank you to all those who have contributed at any point, and especially to those who've contributed since the last update six months ago.

There are now over 28,000 entries in the Database, which is probably over 90 per cent of the Jewish population in the British Isles at the time. If you have a moment, I should be grateful if you would check any entries on which you've previously supplied data, and check also if there are any new entries on which you have extra data.

I'd be particularly interested to hear from you if you have data on any of these people from the 1911 census. I remain keen, too, to build up the data on when people died, and their causes of death, so do please get in touch if you can add anything here.

After giving up more years of my life to this project than I ever intended when I conceived it, I am soon going to start reducing the time I have to commit to it. Specifically, after 15 September of this year, I do not intend to take any new data on board: I want to get on with analysing the database statistically, which was the purpose of the exercise in the first place. **Please therefore let me have by 15 September any amendments you wish to propose.** After that, I'm afraid I won't be able to handle them (other than highly exceptionally, eg if a person's family has been wholly mis-identified and it is positively misleading to leave the entry as it stands).

That said, the least I can do after all your own efforts is to continue to put other researchers in touch, if they want, with the original contributors of the data. This facility will therefore continue after 15 September. But it is in some cases quite a while since I took down contributors' contact details. It is important for me to be able to keep up to date with changes in email addresses, or – if those fail – postal addresses and telephone numbers. So if you've changed any of these fairly recently, and think you might not have notified me, do drop me a line.

United Synagogue Marriage Authorisation Index has been updated by a further two years.

It now runs from 17th February 1880 to the 31st December 1891 and contains 8,236 records. The search page can be found at http://www.theus.org.uk/support_services/find_your_family/marriage_records

May I also remind you that the JGSGB website

http://www.jgsgb.org.uk/Marriage_Authorisations.shtml carries Descriptions and Definitions of United Synagogue Marriage Authorisations, a comprehensive guide to the information that can be found on the actual record itself.

Louise Messik, Websites Editor for JGSGB

British Library Places 19th-Century Newspapers Online

The British Library, in partnership with JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) and Gale, part of Cengage Learning, has launched the public version of its 19th-century British Library Newspaper website. It is located at <http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs>. There are some two million digitized pages with full-word indexing. Searches of the site are free and downloads of full-text articles are available by purchasing either a 24-hour or seven-day pass. Users can buy a 24-hour pass (up to 100 downloads) for £6.99 or a seven-day pass (up to 200 downloads) for £9.99. For additional information see <http://www.bl.uk/news/2009/pressrelease20090616.html>

From the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Centre: GORR PAPERS INVENTORY

The late Rabbi Shmuel Gorr (b. Melbourne, 1931, d. Israel, 1988) a well-known genealogist in Jerusalem who specialized in rabbinical genealogy, bequeathed his papers to the Jewish National and University Library. The Institute proposes to inventory them in the year of 2009 and post the results on its website.

The contents of the collection were briefly described by Mr. Chaim Freedman of B'nai B'rak in *Nu – What's New?* (IV, 21, December, 2003) as follows:

- 1) Research relating to families who availed themselves of Rabbi Gorr's research service and his findings. This type of material is kept in about 300 nylon files, arranged by family.
- 2) Family tree scrolls drafted by Gorr.
- 3) Data about Shadarim (emissaries) sent from Eretz Yisrael to Australia in the 19th century.
- 4) Lists of donors to Shemesh Tzedakah in Jerusalem, extracted according to communities overseas.
- 5) Articles written by Rabbi Gorr on a variety of genealogical and historical subjects, most unpublished.
- 6) Surnames - original research by Rabbi Gorr, unpublished.

WEBSITES:

1922 Mandate census for Petach Tikvah

do a search for the name.

<http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/153/4979.asp>

JRI-Poland Now Has 3.5 Million Records Indexed

Jewish Records Indexing-Poland project—now in its 14th year—has indexed more than 3.5 million records from 500 towns. Located at <http://www.jri-poland.org> it is an index primarily of birth, marriage, and death records.

ShtetLinks Project Report for April and May 2009

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

Check out *JewishGen ShtetLinks Tracing the Tribe* for new or updated webpages for shtetlach in Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia and Belarus and updates of Harbin and Argentina.

LATVIAN WEBSITES

From Martha Lev-Zion and Adele Schaverien

Are you aware of the fact that the Latvian Archives put scans of all their vital records up on the net? You have to register and then you can examine them.

Go to: <http://www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/en/register.html>

to register and then go to this page which contains the content of their Jewish records:

<http://www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/en/menu/lv/7/ig/7.html>

Double click on the town of your choice and the scans will be available to you.

The scans are in Hebrew/Yiddish and Russian and possibly German. Goldingen had the same records in all three languages.

Aufbau Indexing Project Has 47,600 Records Online

The Aufbau Indexing Project plans to index announcements of all births, engagements, marriages, deaths and other special occasions that appeared in the pages of Aufbau between 1934 and 2004. Aufbau is a German-language Jewish newspaper founded in New York in 1934, and published there until 2004. The Project data is online at www.calzareth.com/aufbau/search.html and scroll down.

When completed, the project expects to have more than 150,000 announcements in the database. Volunteers are sought to help complete the project. Send e-mail to aufbauindexingproject@gmail.com if interested.

St. Petersburg's Preobrazhenskiy Jewish Cemetery Now Online

Information about 75,000 persons buried in the Preobrazhenskiy Jewish cemetery in St. Petersburg, Russia, is now online. The site, located at <http://www.Jekl.ru>, provides name, birth and death information and a picture of the grave site. It is completely in Russian. Use the Google translator at <http://translate.google.com>, which does a good job of converting Russian to your native language. In addition, if you are unfamiliar with the Cyrillic alphabet, use the English to Russian alphabet converter at <http://stevemorse.org>. Searches must be done using the Cyrillic alphabet

Second Source for Auschwitz deaths

For a number of years, the museum at Auschwitz has had a searchable list of 69,000 Auschwitz deaths at <http://en.auschwitz.org.pl>. The list is only of persons who died after being selected as slave labourers in the camp. They are mainly young men. A posting to the JewishGen Discussion Group notes there is a second site that has the information. It is located at <http://houston.indymedia.org/news/2007/03/56657.php>. The Auschwitz Museum site has a conventional search engine that is used to locate a person. The alternate site downloads all the records by initial letter of the surname. The advantage of the second site is that it gives the researcher the opportunity to locate a person by alternate spellings or misspellings of the name. The site, however, takes much more time to download, because it supplies all the records for a given letter of the alphabet.

NU? WHAT'S NEW?

The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu at www.avotaynu.com

Poland to Publish Online List of WWII Dead

An online list of some of the estimated six million Polish citizens who died during World War II is to be published at <http://www.stratyosobowe.pl>. The initial offering will only have 1.9 million names. An estimated 3 million of the 3.3 million Jews living in Poland in 1939 died during World War II. Of the 33 million Polish non-Jews, an estimated 3 million died. Additional information can be found at <http://www.ejpress.org/article/35991>

FROM JEWISHGEN:

All-Hungarian Database now has 800,000 records.

It was reported on the Hungarian Special Interest Group (SIG) Discussion Group that the All-Hungarian Database (AHD) has been updated with approximately 105,000 new vital records. The AHD, which now contains around 800,000 records, includes 180,000 birth, 45,000 death, and 25,000 marriage records. It is located at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Hungary>

Included among the new records are vital records for Bezi, Budapest, Csenger, Eger, Erdotelek, Erk, Eperejes, Fuzesabony, Gyomora, Gyongyos, Hodasz, Jarmi, Kassa, Kemcse, Kisleta, Koszeg, Mateszalka, Miskolc, Moson, Sztropko, Szeged, Szobrance, and Vag Besztercze. Of these, Budapest, Gyongyos, Miskolc and Szeged are still ongoing efforts. The AHD now includes over 20,000 records from Miskolc and 60,000 records from Budapest. The Hungarian SIG is working on the records for Budapest, including those for the Budapest orthodox community, Miskolc, Anarcs, Apagy, Baja, Papa, Sopron, Szeged and Lackenbach.

The work of the Hungarian SIG is done by volunteers. Persons interested in assisting in growing the database can contact the group through their web site.

Most Special Interest Groups under the JewishGen umbrella have projects to index records of their (usually geographic) area. A complete list of regional SIGS can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/sigs.htm>

JewishGen Forms Board of Governors

JewishGen has formed a Board of Governors which will focus on long-term planning of the organization. Members of the Board are:

Honorary Chair: Harvey Krueger

Co-chairs: Karen S. Franklin and Gary Mokotoff

Committee Members: Stanley Diamond (Montreal), Saul Issroff (London), Phyllis Kramer (New York), Anne Feder Lee (Hawaii), Hadassah Lipsius (New York), Howard Margol (Atlanta), E. Randol Schoenberg (Los Angeles) and Walter Weiner (New York).

Ex-Officio members are: David Marwell, Director, Museum of Jewish Heritage; Warren Blatt, JewishGen Managing Director; and Avraham Groll, JewishGen Administrator.

The JewishGen Yizkor Book database has been updated.

FROM ISRAEL:

The Israel Genealogical Society has just added 157 towns of the Marmaros region to the online Memorials for Vanished Communities (Jewish communities lost in the Shoah) project at www.Isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/473/5806.asp

These towns are in the border region of Ukraine and Romania, and are memorialized at Beit Marmaros in Tel Aviv. Six of the towns were not located, but are included. If you have information about them, you are invited to send me details. These are Behutz, Kviltza, Potachani, Volian, Zavika and Zolesht.

Ellen Stepak

Ramat Gan, Israel

estepak@zahav.net.il

The Israel Genealogical Society Places Mount of Olives Cemetery Data on Internet

The Israel Genealogical Society has placed at their web site an index to burials at the Mount of Olives cemetery in Jerusalem. The source is the book, "Helkat Mehokek," which was published in 1913. It is a bi-lingual (Hebrew-English) searchable database of 8,092 tombstones, mostly covering the period between 1740 and 1906, although the earliest inscription dates from 1646.

The database was originally made available at the 2004 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy on CD. The English version is located at <http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/153/4977.asp>. The Hebrew version is at <http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/13/79/5778.asp>.

If you have found something of interest to our members or wish to submit a short research article, I am happy to receive your email at:

ed@ajgs.org.au

Miriam Shifreen

Editor