AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY e-REPORT
www.ajgs.org.au

July, 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jewish genealogical research is becoming ever more accessible and exciting, as new websites and databases explode onto the internet. Keeping track of all this activity is our editor, Miriam Shifreen, who scours all the incoming journals as well, to give you the latest information on new sources for your research. This issue includes an amazing array of useful sites and updates.

We are fortunate in this edition in having another article by Peter Nash on his research discoveries. Peter, an authority on Shanghai Jewry, is also very knowledgeable about German and American research. He is mentioned three times in the latest Avotaynu, once as the author of a letter and twice for helping both editor Sallyann Sack-Pikus and publisher, Gary Mokotoff , to solve two separate mysteries. Peter and his wife Rieke are consummate researchers, who put their talents at the disposal of everyone who comes to our workshops.

Activities: In May we enjoyed an entertaining and interesting account by the Archivist of the Archive of Australian Judaica, Sr Marianne Dacy, of the trials and tribulations of building up her archive.

Our next function will be on August 1st, with Benny Kaplinski as speaker. See page 2 for more detail.

Our first workshop took place in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs in June in Lifestyle Manor, Bondi. We were pleased with its success and plan to have another in six months or so.

Our members are invited to an afternoon hosted by NCJWA Northsiders at the home of Robyn Lenn on 19th September, when long-term member Dianne Johnstone will give a repeat performance of her rivetting story with song, which electrified those who heard her at the First National Jewish Genealogical Conference in October, 2008. Dianne has more research to talk about, so keep the date!

Yad Vashem: A reminder to all those who wish to memorialise the names of loved ones who perished in the Holocaust is published in this issue on page 2.

Welcome to new members Jules Hoffman, David Mushin, Eva Ford, Peter Ford and Maurice Linker.

Enjoy this issue!

Jeannette Tsoulos
President

Workshop Dates

Sundays	9.30 am – 12.30 pm	August 1	September 5	October 10
Mondays	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	August 16	September 20	October 18

WORKSHOP IN THE EASTERN SUBURBS

Dani Haski and Francine Symonds

Available resources

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 1, 2010
North Shore Synagogue at 2.30 pm

BENNY KAPLINSKI will discuss his experience with the BBC TV Program, "Who Do You Think You Are?" The programme deals in part with the miraculous survival during the Holocaust of his late parents, Izak and Sima Kaplinski, who escaped death by joining the Bielski Brothers Partisans Unit in the forests of Belarus. The rest of the program focuses on the fates of his paternal ancestors and looks at the ancestry of his cousin, Natasha Kaplinsky, a renowned TV news presenter in England. They retraced the steps in Belarus of their paternal ancestors, most of whom perished during the Holocaust. The film also features a cantorial rendition by Benny in a burnt out shule in Belarus, once the pride of the Belarus Jewish community.

Biography
 Benny Kaplinski (M.Ed, Univ of NSW) was born in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1954. A child of Holocaust survivors, Benny was educated in South Africa and in Israel and taught briefly in Cape Town before immigrating to Australia with his wife, Karen, in 1981.

He has served in a number of key educational positions in both Jewish and secular education for the past 30 years including Head of Jewish Studies at Massada College in Adelaide and at the Emanuel Primary School for 10 years. Moving into state school education in 1995, he is currently teaching History at Randwick Girls High School and is a senior History examiner for the NSW Board of Studies. In his spare time, Benny is passionate about cantorial music having sung in shule choirs since the age of 8, starting as a child in the choir of Cantor Simcha Kusevitzky (of the world famous Kusevitzky cantorial family) in Cape Town in the early 1960`s. Benny very recently assumed the position of Religious Services Assistant at the Montefiore Home in Randwick after having served as Cantorial Soloist at North Shore Temple Emanuel for almost 20 years. He was recently awarded a Gandel Australian Educators` scholarship to study the teaching of Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Benny and Karen have 2 children, Amy aged 11 and Daniel aged 16.

YAD VASHEM NAMES RECOVERY CAMPAIGN
www.yadvashem.org

> **Community Outreach Guide**
> *Yad Vashem invites you to join communities throughout the world in this historic*
> *mission of the Jewish people by helping to initiate a grass-roots names recovery*
> *campaign through your local synagogue, community centre, welfare agencies,*
> *survivor and next generation groups, universities, schools or camps.*
> *The Guide shows you how to do it.*

To see if a name is already on the database click on 'Search the Database of Shoah Victims' Names', on the screen *Search the names* 'Click here', enter Family/Maiden Name (at least) and Search. If you know of a victim who has not been added to the database, you can fill in the Pages of Testimony on-line. Very little needs to be known about the person. We are happy to help with this task, if needed.

To see more about the recovery program, click on the Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project and read the details.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO POLISH RESEARCH ACHIEVES AN UNEXPECTED RESULT

From Peter Nash

Researching my father's paternal Nachemstein side over 25 years has yielded wonderful results both in record retrieval and in finding and meeting cousins all over the world. However on my father's maternal side I only knew my great-grandfather was Markus Weichmann. I did not know where he was born but knew he and my great-grandmother Therese born Cohn-Murzynski lived in a small Polish town Pakosc (formerly Pakosch) where they had eight children including my grandmother Cäcilie. Pakosc is in the province of Bydgoszcz (formerly Bromberg) in western Poland which before World War I was part of West Prussia. Although I did not know where my great-grandmother was born I was able to also successfully research her family tree.

Every once in a while I would look up JewishGen Family Finder to see who else was researching the name Weichmann, make contact and on response find no progress. There was only one microfilm for Pakosc the Mormons held (719,232) with not that many names for Births and Marriages for 1827-1845. I indexed the records and these are on the JRI-Poland database. Some years were missing but Weichmann was not included. I did pick up the name in other databases but without a place of birth there was nothing to indicate it was part of 'my' Weichmann family.

In March 2010 Rieke and I participated in the 2nd National Conference in Melbourne. Krstyna Duszniak is a professional Polish researcher and linguist and at her presentation I asked her opinion on using the Google translation aid for Polish. She said "it is good enough". I knew that the civil records of the Jews of Pakosc were in the Inowroclaw State Archives. I 'googled' to find an email address for the archives, could not find an appropriate one, so using the Google Polish translation aid, I emailed the President of the city of Inowroclaw with my query on Markus Weichmann.

Ten days later I got an emailed reply (in Polish) from the Pakosc archives, that is USC Pakosc! I was amazed. It gave me the dates of death of Markus and Therese Weichmann, both having died in 1922. I was also informed that the civil records for BMDs, for the years 1875 - 1908 are held at Inowroclaw but Pakosc holds post-1908 records and these included the marriage record of my grandmother's sister. I was offered mailed copies of these death and marriage certificates - at no charge. Interesting also are the Polish to English translations of the correspondence using Google. There are some odd words but overall one can make sense of the text, no doubt the same applies at the other end.

A week later the certificates arrived. Rieke and I both looked at them and within seconds Rieke (already very experienced in transcribing Polish records) saw that my great-grandfather Markus Weichmann was born in the small town, Lipno! Total astonishment! Her great-grandfather, Gecel Szulman was also born in Lipno, with Markus being five years older than Gecel. They probably knew of each other, their families would have known each other, gone to the same synagogue and maybe even be connected. The irony of this was also that after Rieke and I got together, her family referred to us as the 'Germans' and my family considered her side as the 'Poles'.

Another significant element of family research is that data collected years ago may suddenly become more relevant. While we were both at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City with Gary Mokotoff's annual research group in 2004, Rieke looked at the only microfilm the Mormons had for Lipno as it was part of the JRI-Poland Wloclawek Archives, for which she is the Archive Coordinator. It only covered the years 1808-1825 but at the time she noted quite a number of BMD records that included the names Weychman and Szulman. On our return we looked more closely at the records and drafted out possible lineage connections without making any family connection to our families, not knowing that Markus was born there. I will now look at these again to see if any naming patterns resemble what I already know of my Weichmann family.

The informant for the death notice was the son of Markus, Heinrich, who still lived in Pakosc in 1922 and he may not have known the names of his father's parents as they were not shown. Heinrich was also the informant for his mother Therese's death notice which gave Inowroclaw as the town of her birth, also new information for me. Although neither notice had the exact date of birth, it did give their ages in years and months.

In addition to the fantastic resource that JRI-Poland has become, possible only with the help of so many volunteers around the world, the Poles themselves are recognizing and actively transcribing, documenting and also using the latest technology to tell and display the 1000 year history of their Polish Jews. In this regard an exciting event is under construction, namely The Museum of the History of Polish Jews which is located on the site of the Warsaw Ghetto and will open in 2012.

The Museum already has a website www.sztetl.org.pl (also comes up if 'shtetl' is used instead of 'sztetl') which gives the history of the former Jewish communities of hundreds of Polish towns[1]. The site is very aptly headlined as "Virtual Shtetl" with text currently in Polish and English although the construction project is also described in several other languages. I was alerted to this by Naomi Silverton who was referred to me recently by Gary Mokotoff. He directed her Pakosc enquiry to me, also being a "fellow Australian". Up to then Naomi, who lives in an outer suburb of Sydney, basically used the internet for researching including the Museum's 'Shtetl' website. Again I was amazed at what I found there for Pakosc. There were references to my great-grandfather Markus and his son Heinrich in the context of their standing in the community up to 1939. Demographics over a span of years are also shown.

What was even more striking was that Naomi is only the third person I know with an interest in Pakosc. By helping her transcribe and translate from German some documents from Pakosc I found that her grandfather would have known my Weichmann family.

1. Edward Luft provided a detailed description of the scope of the Virtual Shtetl Project in Avotaynu, Vol XXV, Number 4 (Winter 2009), p. 18.

2nd National Conference in Melbourne, March 2010

Conference Panel
Peter Nash, Schelly Dardashti, Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus, Gary Luke, Rodney Eisfelder,Daniella Torsh

Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus and Rieke Nash   Stuart Shaw

NEWS and WEBSITES

JewishGen's Success! Stories webzine You can access these stories from the "About Us" button on their homepage or by following this link www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/Testimonials.

The Public Records Office of Victoria www.access.prov.vic.gov.au has a wide range of digital indices and records including Immigration and Passenger Lists and Wills.

The British Library News Paper Collection housed in Colindale, London NW9 is to be digitised in partnership with Brightsolid over a period of 10 years creating a database containing 40 million images. See the announcement at www.bl.uk/news/2010/pressrelease20100519.html

UK National Archives has been updated and is worth a new search at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline

The 1911 Ireland Census for the 32 counties is available now. It includes full transcription of all of the data on the household forms for 1911, including religion, occupation, relationship to head of family, literacy status, county or country of origin, Irish language proficiency, specified illnesses, and child survival information. You can search the census at no charge by going to www.census.nationalarchives.ie. The website also has photographs depicting what Ireland was like in 1911.

1939 "Census" of England and Wales Available. In 1939, at the beginning of World War II, there was a National Registration of all persons living in England and Wales. The National Health Service Information Center is now making available this information for £42 per search. Data will only be released for those individuals who are deceased and recorded as deceased. Information about members of a household includes names, sex, age, occupation, profession, residence, marriage status, membership in the military or civil defense. Additional information about the project can be found at www.ic.nhs.uk/services/1939-register-service

Mount Of Olives Cemetery Graves to be Indexed
The graves at the world's oldest Jewish cemetery—that on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem—are in the process of being indexed and placed on the Internet at www.mountofolives.co.il/eng/. Massive vandalism of the cemetery took place from 1948-1967 when the area was under Jordanian control. Tens of thousands of graves were desecrated. A road was cut through the cemetery which destroyed hundreds of Jewish graves, some from the First Temple Period. After the Six-Day War, restoration work began, and the cemetery was re-opened for burials. Further information about the project can be found at www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=166478

The Israel Genealogical Society announces its TWITTER. This TWITTER will keep you up to date about databases and websites of genealogical interest as they are announced on different SIGs and forums. www.twitter.com/isragen

Mass Jewish Migration Database located at http://mjmd.haifa.ac.il/ is a database of applications by Jewish emigrants from the Russian Empire through the Jewish Colonization Association or Jewish Territorial Organization in the early 20th century.

Site for Jews of Unterfranken, Bavaria, Germany. There is a site that provides information about the history of the Jews of Unterfranken, Bavaria, Germany. It is only in German and located at www.historisches-unterfranken.uni-wuerzburg.de/. Data includes biographical information including name, date of birth, marriage, date of death, and occupation and other related data from sources such as registration offices and Jewish community registries. Some tombstone inscriptions and family trees are also at the site.

Latvian Newspapers 1895–1957 Online. The Latvian National Digital Library is offering online 40 newspaper and magazine titles in Latvian, German, and Russian, ranging from 1895 to 1957—altogether more than 45,000

issues and 350,000 pages. The newspapers have full-word indexing and display the actual news article with the search word(s) highlighted. Additional information (in English) can be found at www.periodicals.lv/Default/Skins/LatviaArch/Client.asp?Skin=LatviaArch&enter=true&AW=1261329781145&AppName=2

Index to Latvian Vital Records. Christine Usdin of France has an ongoing project of indexing 19th-century and early 20th-century Jewish vital records of Latvia. The work to date can be found at www.premiumorange.com/rigavitalrecords/. The source of the information is the online digitized images of records located at www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/en.html. A description of this site can be found in "Latvian Jewish Records Now Online" in the July 10, 2009, issue of *Nu? What's New?* These rabbinate records are written in Russian and Hebrew. Usdin is extracting from the Russian portion, and Martha Lev-Zion of Israel is verifying the accuracy by reading the Hebrew portion

Aerial Photographs of Lithuanian Cities. A link to aerial photographs of a large number of Lithuanian cities can be found at www.lithuania-photo.com/all-cities/. On the toolbar, click the rightmost icon to get a full-screen view of the photograph.

Jewish Traces Adds More Holocaust-Related Data on its search page about refugees in North Africa. The refugees were from various countries including Austria and Germany. They were inmates of French camps in Morocco and Algeria or hosted by local Jewish families. This site now has more than 25,000 Holocaust-related records at their site. It started with a list of Jews from Belgium deported to France and now includes ten other databases. A complete list can be found at www.jewishtraces.org/rubriques/?keyRubrique=findingaid. The site is available in English, French and German.

The new records indexing project for Maramaros county, Hungary (now Maramures county, Romania, and sub-Carpathian Ukraine) www.MaramarosJewishRecords.com is for towns that were located in the former Hungarian county of Maramaros northern Romania and the Zakarpattya (sub-Carpathian) region of southwestern Ukraine. Jewish birth, marriage, and death records exist for almost every one of the *Romanian* towns listed above for the period of 1886-1895. About two thirds of those towns also have birth and death records for the 1870's-1886. A few have even earlier coverage; one town has a tiny number of birth records going back to 1772! *Ukrainian* towns' records coverage is more uneven, but for some of the little towns north of Szighet, some of the record books have survived (with a few gaps) going back to 1851. The records are nearly all in Hungarian (with a few old ones in German and, in the case of one town, Hebrew) and are generally very easy to figure out, even if you don't know any Hungarian. The legibility of the handwriting ranges from decent to excellent. Sample photos of some of the records are on the website.

German Access to Civil Registration Records Expanded. The German Standesamt (civil registration offices) will now allow access for those without a direct-line relationship to post-1875 civil registration birth, marriage and death certificates.

Genealogyindexer.org Beginning in 2005, Logan Kleinwaks has placed digitized and indexed Eastern European directories on his Internet site. This started with ten business and phone directories for Galicia, Poland, Posen and Romania and now has grown to more than 100 databases. He has placed them all on their own site: http://genealogyindexer.org. They include directories from Bulgaria, France, Israel, Lithuania, Poland, Galicia, Silesia, Pomerania, Posen, Romania, Carpathian Ruthenia, South America and United Kingdom. A complete list can be found by clicking the word "Directories" at the upper left portion of the home page.

Poland Plans Database of "Victims of Repression Under German Occupation"
The Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation has initiated an Internet site that hopes to identify every Polish citizen that was a victim of German repression from the years 1939–1945. The site is located at www.straty.pl and can be read in five languages: English, German, Polish, Russian and Ukrainian. It currently contains about 1.9 million names. The database is searchable at www.straty.pl/index.php/pl/szukaj-w-bazie.

Swiss Refugees Database
A database of more than 25,000 persons who fled to neutral Switzerland during World War II is available at http://etat.geneve.ch/dt/archives/a_votre_service-liste_refugies-1700.html. The complete list is presented alphabetically. Information about each individual includes name, date of birth and nationality. The site is in French. Use Google translate to convert the descriptive information in your native language.

A Complete List of More Than 5,600 Jewish Communities can be found at www.jewishgen.org/communities/trees, but it is organized by province within country. It is easier to locate the site for a particular town by using the search feature at www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Search.asp. When the result is displayed, click on the JewishGen icon in the "Modern Town & Country" field to display the information about the town.

Immigrant Databases on WorldVitalRecords.com
WorldVitalRecords.com has added three U.S. immigration databases to its collection. They are "Germans to America," "Russians to America" and "Italians to America." These databases were originally published in book form many years ago. The databases are available at http://worldvitalrecords.com by subscription.

And don't forget you can join online and receive regular updates of **Nu? What's New? The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu,** Gary Mokotoff, Editor at www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm.

Also, if you have a story or discovered a new source or link that will help others in their research, please write to me.
Best wishes,
Miriam Shifreen editor
ed@ajgs.org.au

NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY

A number of members are taking advantage of borrowing duplicate copies of books from our resources. We intend to increase the titles available for borrowing.

AN INDEX TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THE BRITISH ISLES IN 1851 by Petra Laidlaw 2010
This publication is the hard copy to the database available on www.jgsgb.org.uk/1851. Scanning the lists can increase the chances of spotting something worthwhile.
JEWISH REFUGEES FROM GERMANY AND AUSTRIA IN BRITAIN 1933 – 1970 by Anthony Grenville 2010. This historical study is an interesting account of the experiences of refugees who fled from Germany and Austria to England, describing their difficulties and successes with integration.
HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE by Cecil Roth 1953. A revised and illustrated edition of the original 1936 book.
THE LOST, A SEARCH FOR SIX OF SIX MILLION by Daniel Mendelsohn 2006. Daniel was the key-note speaker at the Los Angeles Conference. His book is an inspiration to all of us who had family who perished in the Shoah.
YOUR FAMILY REUNION by George G. Morgan 2001 Donated by Stuart Shaw. A useful reference if you are planning a reunion.
IN MY HANDS, MEMORIES OF A HOLOCAUST RESCUER by Irene Gut Opdyke 1999. Donated by John Norris. A memoir of unique experiences in Czestochowa, Radom and Ternopol during the Second World War.

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR BORROWING IN THE REV KATZ LIBRARY

Since 1991, the Society's resources have been housed in the Library of the North Shore Synagogue. The books in this library are available for borrowing and many of our members have taken advantage of this. Also available are all editions of Avotaynu. Recently Gary Luke pointed out some fascinating early publications that provide backgrounds to early Jewish life in England and Europe.

HISTORY OF JEWS IN ENGLAND by Cecil Roth 1941 from earliest times to emancipation. HIS.ROT
THE RETURN OF THE JEWS TO ENGLAND by H.S.Q. Henriques 1905 describes the background to the legal position of Jews returning to England in the 1600s. HIS.HEN
SKETCHES OF ANGLO-JEWISH HISTORY by James Picciotto 1956 HIS.PIC
STUDIES IN ANGLO-JEWISH HISTORY by H.P. Stokes 1913 includes details of the Jewish Community of Cambridge HIS.STO
OLD EUROPEAN JEWRIES by David Philipson published in 1894 covers life in the Ghettos of Rome, Prague, Frankfort-am-Main and the contemporary Russian Pale. HIS.PHI

FUTURE EVENTS

Jewish Genealogical Research Trip, Salt Lake City, 14-21 October, 2010
Join Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff in their annual trip to the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library. This is the ideal way to make rapid progress with your research, with experts to guide you and with a large group of like-minded fellow genealogists to compare notes. For $US795 per person, double occupancy, enjoy a full week of research and day-long access to this "Candy Store" of Jewish records. Contact Gary at mokotoff@earthlink.net

2011 IAJGS Conference, Washington, 14-19 August, 2011
If you missed the Los Angeles conference, think about attending the Washington one next year. Washington has some outstanding research facilities, including the research library at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATABASE
Surnames being researched by our new members   July, 2010

Id	Surname	Old name of Town	Current name of Town	Country	Dates
675	BERNSTEIN	SCHNEIDEMUHL	PILA	POLAND	
677	FRICZ		BUDAPEST	HUNGARY	1880s to1933
677	FRITZ		BUDAPEST	HUNGARY	1900
677	FUCHS		DEVAVANYA	HUNGARY	1800s
670	GRUDZINSKI		WARSZAWA	POLAND	
675	HOFFMAN		BEREZOVKA	UKRAINE	
669	KURITZKI	VILNA	VILNIUS	LITHUANIA	Pre 1950
669	LEWIN	WARSAW	WARSZAWA	POLAND	Pre 1945
675	LEWIN	SHAVEL	SIAULIAI	LITHUANIA	1851+
679	LINKER	CHERNAUTI	CHERNIVTSKI	UKRAINE	Up to 1943
679	ROSENBERG	CHERNAUTI	CHERNIVTSKI	UKRAINE	Up to 1943
670	SAMOLSKI		WARSZAWA	POLAND	
669	SHENKIN	DVINSK	DAUGAVPILS	LATVIA	Pre 1880
669	SHRIMSKI	POSEN	POZNAN	POLAND	Pre 1845
677	SIBERBERG		BUDAPEST	HUNGARY	
677	SILBERG		BUDAPEST	HUNGARY	1850s - 1940s
675	SOLOMON	KURNIK	KORNIK	POLAND	1828-1851
677	SOOR		BUDAPEST	ROMANIA	
677	SOR		BUDAPEST	HUNGARY	1850+
670	TORRENS		WARSZAWA	POLAND	
670	TYKOCINSKA		WARSZAWA	POLAND	
670	WOLF		WARSZAWA	POLAND	