

Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

www.ajgs.org.au

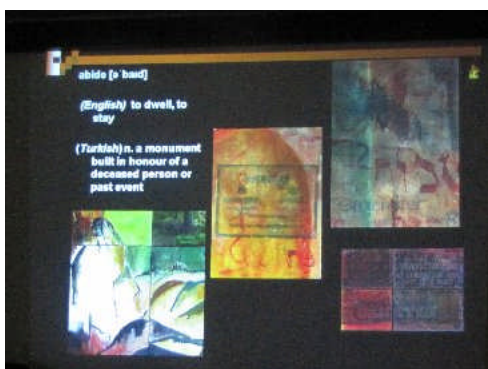
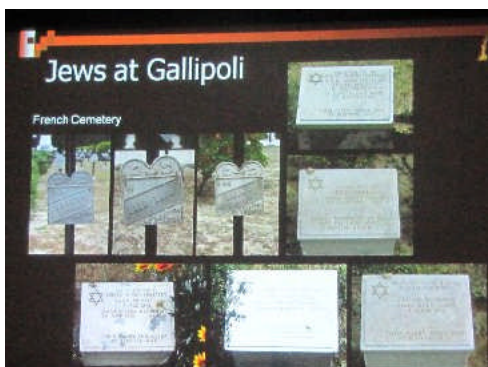


May 2011

We have reclaimed the original newsletter name of *Kosher Koala*. We will register this for a new ISSN to apply to the electronic format.

AJGS Events

Committee members Kim Phillips and Kym Morris made an unforgettable double presentation on Gallipoli following the AGM on 6th March.



Dani Haski's excellent presentation, "Chasing the Wild Geese," took place at the COA, Woollahra, on 10th April. Dani expanded on the articles she has been contributing to this newsletter and had many wonderful photos to illustrate her trip.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE AGM, 6 March 2011

The past year has been a successful and enjoyable one with membership on a high. We welcomed two new members to the committee – Robyn Dryen, incoming e-Report Editor and Eva Browne, Treasurer.

As I mentioned in the last *e-Report*, the Society is now in its twentieth year. We held our inaugural meeting in November, 1991, with Sophie Caplan as Founding President. Since those early days, the practice of genealogy has changed beyond recognition. Nevertheless the aims of the Society remain the same – to assist members with their family history research while enjoying everything that genealogy has to offer.

Our regular Lindfield workshops have been the backbone of the Society, and during the past year for the first time we held two in the Eastern Suburbs, in a venue hosted by our member Stuart Shaw. These were well attended and should become a regular event.

The e-Report has proved a worthy successor to the Koshier Koala, and we thank our outgoing Editor, Miriam Shifreen. Two years after the introduction of the e-Report we continue to benefit from the money saved, which once went on printing and postage. We have used the increase in funds to purchase a number of excellent books for use in the workshops. In addition, we are now buying extra copies of useful books to allow members to borrow them. We thank all members and friends who donated funds and books, and members who donated their time and expertise.

A new resource is a DVD of Australian Jewish servicemen who died at Gallipoli, compiled for us by Committee member Kim Phillips. The DVD is for sale for \$20 and can be ordered here today.

We have had some interesting talks, beginning with our guest speaker at the 2010 AGM, Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus, whose account of overlooking clues to her grandfather's origins held her audience rapt. Other successful events were a talk by Sister Marianne Dacy, a video presentation by Benny Kaplinski and a cabaret performance of her family story by Dianne Johnstone. We took part in B'nai B'rith's Day of Jewish Culture and Heritage by opening our library for the morning.

Several Society members have given talks to other organisations during the year, notably Peter Nash, Kim Phillips and Daniela Torsh.

The recording of Synagogue memorial boards is progressing slowly. Thanks go to Stuart Shaw for his CD of the Roscoe Street Synagogue boards. Our Yad Vashem project was pursued during the year and four organisations were approached, two of whom notified their members of our offer of assistance in submitting names to Pages of Testimony, but as we have received no calls for help we have let the matter rest, though always being available if requested.

Thanks to Gary Luke, our discussion list, AJGen, continues as an effective way of helping local and overseas researchers with their Australian research.

Thanks to Paul Winter, who for the second year has audited and approved our Financial Report and is our Representative on the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies.

We wish to thank:

Rabbi Paul Lewin, President Sarah Zukerman and Helen Alexander of the North Shore Synagogue for their continued hospitality,

Our sponsors, the Jewish Cemetery Trust.

The Society Committee:

Eva Browne, Treasurer

Sunny Gold, Secretary and Minutes Secretary

Miriam Shifreen, Vice President and e-Report Editor

Robyn Dryen, incoming Editor who edited the latest e-Report

Rieke Nash, Past President and Resources Librarian, who kept the financial statements coming when we still had no Treasurer,

Kim Phillips, Website Manager,

Evelyn Frybort, who stepped in briefly as Treasurer last March..

Annette Winter, Membership

Peter Nash, Kym Morris and Dani Haski.

Steve Traurig and Summit Internet, who have supported us with our website.

Before I finish my Report, I have a special task to perform. Miriam is stepping down as Editor and Vice President today, and we are sorry to see her go but recognise that she has made an enormous contribution to the Society for many years and deserves to get her life back.

Miriam joined the Society in 1995, joined the editorial committee of the Kosher Koala in 1998 and has been Editor ever since, a total of thirteen years, becoming also a committee member in 2002 and Vice President a year ago. Miriam was a computer novice when she took over, but taught herself with Rieke's help to become extremely competent. Bringing out the Kosher Koala was a mammoth task and the two women worked day and night for weeks to get it out four times a year until two years ago, when the Kosher Koala morphed into the e-Report. That was the end of the arduous formatting but the editing was still very demanding. Miriam kept reading all the journals that came in and skimming the various Jewish genealogical websites for the latest information and we are indebted to her.

Miriam is very modest but she has to believe me when I say that she has been an absolute treasure. It gives me great pleasure to present her with this small gift, a book token from Booktopia.

The meeting is now concluded. Thank you all for your loyalty and support. I look forward to another year of working together.

Jeannette Tsoulos
President

A Trip to Poland in 1926

In the summer of 1926 Lewis Blackman travelled by car with his parents, David and Rachel Blackman, and Harry Govendir (husband of Lewis' cousin Janie), from London to Szczuczyn in Poland, and back through Czechoslovakia, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France. Many years later Lewis recalled the trip. This version has been edited for clarity.

"One day in the summer of 1926 my father came down to breakfast and announced that he intended going to Poland to visit his family. I suggested going with him and taking the car - we then had a Delage. My mother said she would come too and Harry Govendir made the fourth member of the party. In those days it was almost foolhardy to attempt such a journey.



The Delage, travellers and relatives

I had two long wooden boxes made to fit the running boards of the car and I filled them, after consultation with the Delage agents, Smiths, with every possible spare part that might be needed. I also fitted in a second spare wheel and tyre.

The great day came and a crowd of well-wishers came to the house to see us off. We drove to Harwich, where my father was horrified to see my older brother John on a motor cycle with a pal on the pillion seat. John was supposed to be looking after the shop! We loaded the car on board ship. In those days cars were driven onto a sort of iron frame to which were attached four hooks and chains and lifted by crane onto the deck. We went to The Hook of Holland, from there to Amsterdam, on to Berlin and, after some customs problems at the border, to Warsaw. At all border crossings on the trip there were long forms to be filled in by the customs officers - the make, weight and value of the car, number and description of tyres, engine numbers etc. I would sometimes have to help the custom officer to fill in the form translating English weights and measurements into metric.



GOVENDIR family, Lowicz

On the way to Warsaw we stopped at the village of Lowicz for a day or two to be with Harry Govendir's family, who lived in a wood cottage, half of which was for the family and half for their animals. It was a red letter day in the village. The English "millionaires" had arrived in a car, the like of which they had never seen. A special guard was appointed to guard the car and we slept in one of the village cottages.

Then on through Warsaw and to my grandfather's village of Szczuczyn on the road to, and not far from, Bialystok. We were given a rapturous welcome.

My grandmother had died when my father was a boy and grandfather lived with my uncle, his wife, two sons and daughter, in a wood cottage which had been especially decorated for the occasion. Decoration involved white-washing the walls and passing a roller over them which

had a raised design covered with paint of a suitable colour. Harry and I slept on hay in the loft of a barn and my parents slept in the cottage. The car was in the barn where it had the only puncture of the whole trip, through going over a protruding nail.

We were treated like royalty and followed by admirers wherever we went. My grandfather had been a horse dealer. My uncle was a fisherman and sold his main catch at the village market on Fridays. We bought the whole of his catch and gave it to the poorest; the better-off had to go without fish that weekend. We also bought the butcher's stock and gave that away. I went to the barber for a hair-cut and paid him as much as he normally made in a week.

One day we went to see my great-uncle who was a blacksmith in Radgelova [probably Radzilow], about fourteen miles distant. We took him back to see my grandfather. The journey in the car took perhaps 25 - 30 minutes. He would normally go there in his horse-drawn farm cart taking most of a morning, and he almost could not believe it was the same village! Water for drinking, washing, cooking etc was drawn from a well in the yard.



Moshe Shimon SZWARCBERG weighing his catch, Szczuczyn

After a week or ten days we left and continued our journey south to Lodz, often passing through villages whose inhabitants had never seen a car. On across the border to Czechoslovakia and Prague, then to Vienna. At Rudstat [probably Rust Stadt], about 50 miles before we arrived in Vienna, two of the leaves of the back spring snapped. We found a blacksmith, who had only repaired farm carts and shod horses, and persuaded him to make us two new springs. We put up at a guest house opposite his forge. Mother and father and Harry went to bed, and I stayed up all night seeing the smith and his son convert a piece of flat iron into perfectly tempered, drilled and shaped, spring leaves. I plied them with beer whilst they hammered.



SZWARCBERG family, Szczuczyn

In Vienna we arrived at our 5 star hotel covered in a thick coating of dust. The luggage was strapped to a rack behind the car. Then on to Venice, where I could hardly walk. My feet were quite sore through constantly using the foot brake on the mountains behind us. Our brakes had no kind of power assistance and relied on brute strength to activate them. Then to Milan, where we turned north, through Switzerland and on to Paris.

I took the car to the Delage factory at a Paris suburb and had it thoroughly checked. It was in fine condition, even the new springs were passed as being quite safe - and they stayed on the car as long as it was ours. I was congratulated for having done the trip.

We then continued our journey home. I was the only driver and we had done six and a half thousand miles through eight countries, with only one puncture and a broken spring."

If you want to view more photos from this memorable trip see David Jacobs' webpage:

http://www.gubblenut.com/Poland1926/Poland_1926.html

Postscript from The Editor: Lewis Blackman's nephew, David Jacobs, recently returned from a cruise. In Sydney before returning home to Brisbane he decided to visit the Jewish Museum. He enquired whether they were interested in a story and photos describing Poland in 1926. The museum suggested he contact AJGS and in turn, the story and photos landed in my inbox. Not only was I excited by the story, my eyes lit upon the name Govendir and the town Lowicz.

In 1927, my grandmother's brother Jack Krupa had applied to sponsor his "cousin" Ber Gawenda, from Lowicz to Australia. I had often wondered how the Gawenda family might have been related, but the name never appeared in any other documents or photos. David was able to put me in touch with Ber's daughter, Judy Opit, who was unsure how her Gawenda family and my Krupa family might be related but we are now exploring further!

MY GENEODYSSEY - PART 2

Catching the wild goose.

By Dani Haski

98 days... 10 countries... 36 cities... almost 50,000 kilometres. It was a long way to travel to research my family... but it was worth it!

In this instalment I'd like to tell you about how I fared in Poland.

During the last three decades of the 19th century, thousands of Jews left Poland for a better life and today countless people trace at least one of their ancestral branches back to Poland, Prussia or Galicia. I have several lines going into the area.

I left Riga on an overnight bus to Warsaw and arrived in Warsaw at 6am. I caught a cab to my hostel - a Soviet style cement box, which thankfully was much more hospitable on the inside than its exterior indicated. As in Riga I had arranged for a guide, Renata, to show me around. Guides are very helpful if

you have specific goals to achieve. I sourced Renata through a fabulous genealogical travel agency called Ancestral Attic (www.ancestralattic.com). This meant I paid a lump sum before I left and didn't have to worry about negotiating as I travelled. I may have paid a premium but it was absolutely worth it given the calibre of the guides they sourced for me.

From Warsaw Renata and I went to Wyszkw - origin of my Eizenberg branch. Society stalwart Rieke Nash has spent decades researching our Eizenberg/ Isenberg/ Ajzenbergs branch. Sadly I wasn't really able to add much to what she has achieved to date but took lots of photos.

The following day we did an overnight trip to Golub-Dobryzn, from where my gg-grandfather, John Davis, supposedly came. John, son of Isaac and Minna, went to London with his parents and two sisters before 1861. Several members of the family came with him to Australia before 1870. What I wanted to know was "what was their name before it was DAVIS?"

I had a very hard time finding documents relating to Golub as prior to WWI the town was part of Prussia. When the Prussian Empire collapsed Golub was amalgamated with Dobryzn, the town across the Drweca River, thus becoming Golub-Dobryzn. Most of the easily available records relate to Dobryzn, a much larger settlement, and in all the conversation we had with locals they would speak of the town collectively but really mean only Dobryzn.

Golub itself is beautiful. The town retains many old buildings, one dating back to the 17th century, and has a picturesque main square. Overlooking the town is a beautiful old castle. We spent the night in a quaint little hotel and the next morning went to the local council chambers (in Dobryzn) to see if they had any records pertaining to the 19th century Jewish community. The women at the council were lovely but couldn't help us beyond some general statistics about how many Jews had been on either side of the river at certain times. They suggested a local who was researching the pre-war Jewish community and who was also the gentleman responsible for the town's small Holocaust memorial. They told us where he lived but when we got there it was a large apartment complex with rows and rows of buildings. Renata, marched up and down pressing buzzers and stopping strangers until we found the right block. The man was 85 years old and lived on the 5th floor of a building with no lift! Unfortunately, once again, he also knew mostly about the Dobryzn community rather than the Golub one. It was extremely frustrating!

Our intention had been to go to Plock, where another g-grandmother was from, but following the meagre clues we had, the most likely place for us to find more information about Golub was Torun, so I changed the plan and we drove to the city where Copernicus was born. We found the main archive and they directed us to another office out in the 'burbs. We found the unmarked building and made our enquiry. The archivist said there was someone who may be able to help us. A few minutes later a bubbly older woman¹ came down and said she knew of some old German documents pertaining to Golub. We exchanged email addresses and about two weeks later I received an extraordinary email from her.

In the town files for Golub was a letter, dated September 8, 1837 in which Itzig DAVID (this answered the surname question!), son of David Salomon, asks the local Prussian authorities for permission to remain in Golub to marry Minna



Dani at the Krakow archives

¹ Name withheld at her request. If you would like her details please contact me.

Israel, who was living there with her parents and sister. Itzig and Minna are my ggg-grandparents! In the letter Itzig outlines some of his and his father's history, how they moved from town to town to work as servants, and he indicates he has three sisters, although does not state their names.

There are still countless mysteries to be solved - for example, the researcher could not find any references to John or his older sisters but did find a record of another unknown sister, Jette. Minna's Australian death record from 1903 states she had nine children; so far I have found evidence of six.

I'm still trying to have the letter fully translated but it has already yielded incredible information and has provided a rare insight into the life my ancestors lived and the possible reasons they left Poland.

From Warsaw I took the train to Krakow. I hadn't connected much with Warsaw as a city but as soon as I walked into the old part of Krakow I was in love. The Nazis established an administrative headquarters here and the city was not bombed into oblivion by the Allies. Krakow has a completely different feel to Warsaw and there is open rivalry between the two cities - much like the Sydney/ Melbourne antipathy.

I have two gg-grandparents born in Krakow - Meier Rothbaum (born 1855) and Leah Caroline (Libe Kiele) Cypres (born 1862). Meier and Leah, along with siblings Gershon Rothbaum (born 1861) and Taube Cypres (born 1866), travelled to London, possibly before 1871, although I can't find them in that year's census. The story my cousin was told is that the four children were sent there unaccompanied, with 14 year old Meier in charge. If this is true Taube, the youngest, would have been barely 3 years old. I'm still trying to find evidence of when they travelled but this period was one of massive migration from east to west and few records were kept of individuals, particularly poor Europeans.

In 1880 Meier and Leah married in London. They appear in the 1881 English Census. In 1885 Taube, now Theresa, married Gershon, now George. Before the end of the decade both couples were in Australia.

My guide in Krakow was Alicja (also from Ancestral Attic), one of the brightest and most enthusiastic people I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Although not Jewish, Alicja has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Jewish history of Krakow and a passion for her city matched only by her sunny personality. She gave me a comprehensive tour of the old town and of Kazimierz, the old Jewish quarter, and had pre-ordered the indexes we needed at the archives.

Thanks to JRI-Poland there are already an enormous number of records indexed online, however there is a large hole in these indexes for Krakow between the mid 1850s and the early 1870s². I had already contacted the Krakow archives prior to my arrival and they did find birth records for both Leah and Theresa, but were unable to find any reference to the Rothbaum brothers.

The archivist on duty in the reading room was distinctly unhelpful but despite this, within a couple of hours, Alicja and I had found birth records for Liebe Kiele and Taube, and several of their brothers and sisters. These records gave us their parents' names. We also found birth records for both Meier and Gershon Rothbaum and their siblings. I ordered copies of all the records and Alicja and I went to celebrate with a well deserved honey vodka!

Armed with this crucial information I was able to connect Leah and Theresa's family to the larger Cypres family of Krakow, a large and influential family with a synagogue named for Michael Hirsch Cypres, Leah's great uncle.

By using the amazing database created by Dan Hirschberg at www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/Krakow/ I was able to construct a Cypres tree going back to the end of the 18th century. I also have speculative connections for the Rothbaums going back to the early 19th century.

² I have spoken to Stanley Diamond from JRI-Pol about this situation. The Krakow archivists are reluctant to share all their records publicly however the Polish government have embarked on a massive digitization program to try to preserve their records.



Café at ul. Szeroca, Krakow

The Krakow records also revealed addresses of where the families lived and I spent an afternoon sitting at one of those addresses, now a cafe on Szeroca Street, trying to visualise the scene 150 years ago. I formed a theory as to why the children may have been sent away: it seems the fathers of both families may have died around 1867/68 leaving widows with large broods of children. Someone may have offered to take these children to London thereby improving their prospects and lightening the load for the widows. Of course the story itself could be apocryphal and they may have gone to London much later on.

Back in London I re-visited the Family History Centre and spent two days photographing all the vital documents for both families from the LDS microfilms. Now I have to translate those pertaining to my direct line ancestors, which I'll do using resources available in the AJGS Library.

I would not have found any of this information if I had not gone to Poland and visited the archives with talented and resourceful guides.

In my final instalment, in the next e-report, I'll finish the story about Zaleszczyki in Ukraine and explain some of the frustrations I faced while trying to find information in Egypt.

The USHMM Collections – definitely worth a closer look.

By Robyn Dryen

I was recently able to spend several days using the research facilities at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington DC. As luck would have it I had just read Peter Landé's excellent article, "USHMM Resources for Attendees of 2011 IAJGS Conference".³ So I knew I needed to prepare my research questions and plan of attack as the Museum's resources are too numerous to accomplish everything in one visit.

I set myself two research questions: was there anything further to be found about the fate of my grandfather's extended Polish family who were last thought to be in the Warsaw ghetto; and were there any lists from the Ukraine that included patronymics so I could learn if my Druyan relatives had been among those killed, or better still, had survived. I needed the patronymics as first names are still unknown.

On the first question, the answer was no, not one of my grandfather's siblings, nor their families appeared on any of the lists or indexes. This confirmed my earlier research and I began to wonder whether their towns and villages had been places where the Nazi forces arrived and conducted mass extermination of all remaining Jews. So rather than focussing on my family names I focussed on the towns and villages. Two collections proved invaluable in understanding what might have happened.

³ AVOTAYNU, Vol. XXVI (2), Summer 2010, pp.21-4

The first is the correspondence collections. Both the *American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee records from the Jewish Historical Institute Archives in Warsaw* (Syg. 210) and the *Zespol Zydowska Samopomoc Spoleczna* (Jewish Mutual Assistance Organization, Syg. 211) are organised by town and among the letters are descriptions of the numbers of remaining Jews, the organisation of aid distribution and any other matters requiring attention. There are few names contained in this correspondence apart from designated officials. However, there are a few name lists e.g. for Skierniewice there is a list of residents by street address who needed assistance.

These letters did add to what I had previously read in Yizkor books and provided me with a glimpse of life for the brief period between German occupation in September 1939 and the forced removal to the Warsaw Ghetto in February 1941. At least I knew there were no massacres in these places and that in all likelihood they had been sent to the Warsaw Ghetto.

The second particularly valuable collection are the extended video testimonies of survivors. The ones of interest to me all came from USC Shoah Foundation Institute's *Visual History Archive*,⁴ but there are many audio collections available at the USHMM. Often running to 3 hours per interview these survivors graphically describe life before the war, the early months of occupation, life in the ghetto, and then their subsequent histories of camps and hardship. From this I learned repeatedly, if you had relatives already living in Warsaw and/or you had some money your chances of survival in the ghetto were enhanced at least for a short period of time. As my family members had neither, I concluded that most of them probably perished fairly quickly from hunger, disease or German brutality.

For the younger family members who may have been able to work, the story is most likely that they were dispatched to a work brigade one day and did not return, another common thread in the survivor stories.

So, on to my second research question and I again drew a blank. No Druyans among the survivors. In the most complete list of "persecuted" in Ukraine⁵ the name Druyan certainly appears many times in the towns I know they had lived. Strangely for Russian bureaucracy, the Druyans in these lists contain no patronymics – so while I have brought back many copies containing the name (just in case), I have no way of linking them to my family until I discover their first names some other way.

I then decided to cast my net more broadly and asked one of the really helpful archivists to look for some of my extended Polish family names – those of spouses and cousins. One of the names came up on the *Warsaw Criminal Prison Index, RG-15.113M --- Więzienie Karne Warszawa Mokotów III (Criminal Prison, Warszawa-Mokotów District)*. I had previously seen this list but its description had made me think it not worthwhile:

Files relate to crimes such as: espionage, possession of weapons, contraband, theft, forgery, robbery, rape, illegal trade, insubordination to authorities, arson, and murder.

I decided to take a look at the file for the name that came up in the index and learnt a valuable lesson – NEVER discount anything, and NEVER trust someone else's descriptions, ALWAYS check for yourself.

The first file I examined gave me a bounty of information including the prisoner's full name, date and place of birth, place of residence at time of arrest, parents' full names including mother's maiden name, parents' place of residence, spouse's full name and maiden name, names and dates of birth of their children. As I read on, transcribing the Polish and German of the files into Google translate, I found that this relative's "crime" was to be caught outside the ghetto without a pass!

My attention was captured, perhaps there **were** other persons of interest in the 20 reels of digitised microfilm. The Finding Aid http://www.ushmm.org/research/collections/finding_aids/RG15113M.html is only marginally useful – it is an index of names, arranged chronologically based on the year of release from prison and alphabetically within chronological order. As no other identifying information is contained in the

⁴ Copies of testimonies taken in Australia can be viewed at the Sydney Jewish Museum, while the complete collection can be accessed at Monash University, Melbourne.

⁵ RG-22.002M *Selected Records of the Extraordinary State Commission to Investigate German-Fascist Crimes Committed on Soviet Territory, 1941-1945* – also available on the Yad Vashem Shoah Related Lists Database <http://www.yadvashem.org>

index (e.g. date of birth or town of birth) you need to access the file to see if they really are a person of interest.

As I had the time, I constructed a list of all the surnames attached to my extended family and then spent two days exploring the files of any prisoners with these surnames. In the end I found about ten relatives, some of whom were second and third cousins of my mother and whose existence had been previously unknown to me. Not one had been convicted of a crime of the type described above, they were all variations on breaking the "pass laws", failing to wear the armband, being in a place barred to Jews, etc. Some files contained medical records, some had correspondence from family or clergy. If you had relatives in the Warsaw province 1939-1942 this collection is well worth browsing.

As we go to print the USHMM is trying to track down the last 10 files of Reel 20 which appear in the index but which I discovered have somehow not been included in the microfilm released by Polish State Archives.

Call for stories - Dunayevtsy, Ukraine

Ilya Royzner who lives in Dunayevtsy, Ukraine would like to write an article about the Jews who once lived there, those who left and what their descendants have accomplished.

He is looking for interesting individuals or families to write about; perhaps someone in your family was famous, accomplished something important or was outstanding in any area.

Dunayevtsy was known to the Jews as Dinovitz (all kinds of ways to spell it) and is located just to the north-east of Kamenetz Podolsk in the Ukraine.

If you are interested contact Carol Rombro Rider [<CRomRider@aol.com>](mailto:CRomRider@aol.com)

The Jewish Lithuania Program 2011: Litvak Experiences

The 2011 Jewish Lithuania/Litvak Experiences program will be held from July 31st to August 13th in Vilnius, running in parallel with Summer Literary Seminars (SLS).

Jewish Lithuania/Litvak Experiences 2011 will be a fully independent, self-contained program, featuring a rich variety of seminars, lectures, roundtable discussions, reading groups, workshops, and one-of-a-kind historical walking tours of Vilnius (once Vilna, known as the "Jerusalem of Lithuania"). For more information see: <http://www.sumlitsem.org/lithuania/lsi.html>

New Group for Hungarian Researchers

The Hungarian Society of Family History Researchers (MACSE), was established on 15 January, 2011. Its main objectives include the lobbying for a coherent and non-restrictive legal environment for family research; promoting professionalism among family researchers via publications, seminars and other networking events and helping researchers in Hungary and abroad who wish to know more about their ancestry and family background.

The Society's elected President is Mr. László Hunyady. Secretary: Mr. Aurél Rhimer.

The website will be available for the general public soon. In the meantime the Society can be contacted at the following address:

Hungarian Society of Family History Researchers (MACSE)
1022 Budapest, Bimbó u 55.
Hungary
email: hunyady.laszlo@chello.hu

New Group for Przemyśl Researchers

Przemyśl Forum <http://przemysl.blogspot.com/2000/01/forum.html>

Ellen Korpi, Wellesley, MA writes:

This is a grass roots effort not affiliated with any formal organizations. The purpose is to compare notes and supplement the research resources provided by Jewishgen, JRI-Poland and Geshet Galicia, to learn more about the context and history of Przemyśl and to create a community of connection for those of us with these common Jewish Przemyśl roots. Our research transcends the data bases as people compare notes on relatives, research experiences and family lore. David Semmel's adjacent blog provides an ongoing magazine on various Przemyśl aspects.

We already have 55 registrants for the forum and some very lively discussions going. We have also had several research breakthroughs that resulted from comparing notes. We are currently seeking input from the group as to how to improve the structure of the forum and work towards improving its functionality.

Registration is easy, just click on the registration link. Feel free to share this link with anyone else you think might be interested in joining us.

New Books in Our Library

By Rieke Nash

Fighting Back , British Jewry's Military Contribution in the Second World War by Martin Sugarman, Vallentine Mitchell, London, 2010. A wonderful new addition to our collection is this well researched documentation of Jewish participation in World War II. Throughout the book, Martin has included not just lists of names but also additional personal details. As well as service men and women from the UK there are lists that include some Australian personnel. For example, the lists of British and Commonwealth Fighting Jewish Chaplains cover the First World War with some of our well-known Australian rabbis included.

The Pity of It All, A Portrait of the German-Jewish Epoch 1743-1933 by Amos Elon, Picador, New York, 2002. This book traces the experiences of Jews in Germany over the years 1743 to 1933. For those with ancestors with this background, it provides an understanding of the events of the period and a description of conditions that affected their lives.

Beyond The Pale, The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia by Benjamin Nathans, University of California Press, Berkeley, 2004. This is another detailed documentation of the background events affecting the lives of ancestors living in the Russian Empire. Covering the years 1861 to 1917, it describes the restrictions and limitations for those living in the Pale such as army service as well as possibilities such as university education and the implications for subsequent work. The discussion of the influence that the lack of legal status of the Jews had on the outbreak of and lack of opposition to the 1881-3 pogroms is particularly interesting. The author has been able to draw on materials that have been accessible in the Russian Archives since 1991, illustrating the attitudes and social restrictions of the Tsars' regimes. A truly fascinating read.

Periodicals

We have subscriptions to

Avotaynu, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy

Shemot, Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain

Landsman, Journal of the Suwalki-Lomza Interest Group. and

Galizianer, Publication from research in Galicia.

We exchange newsletters with other Jewish Genealogical Societies overseas such as New York, Washington, San Francisco as well as local groups.

While most of our collection is kept as reference material, a number of books, including the above three, have been allocated for borrowing.

Cemetery News

From Gary Luke

Maitland Council has been successful in gaining a National Trust grant to prepare a conservation management plan for the heritage Jewish cemetery. "The objectives of this project are to investigate the significance of the Maitland Jewish Cemetery resulting from a historical assessment and a survey of physical evidence. In addition the study will identify conservation policies, and constraints and opportunities arising from the site's significance. Management recommendations for the policy implementation will be identified." A project brief has been drafted to contract a heritage consultant. The Council's heritage officer is considering a proposal for the formation of a Friends of the cemetery group to assist with the recommendations and monitoring of the site in the future, with members possibly appointed from AJGS, AJHS, JCTN, descendants, and the Maitland Historical Society.

The Jewish Cemetery Trust has moved its administration from Bondi to a newly built office at Rookwood, in order to give improved service for funerals, plot sales, and visitors searching for family graves. The office at Rookwood previously used by the grounds staff is being renovated for use as a Beit Tefillah, a prayer room for funeral groups. The IT system is being upgraded, including a mapping system to allow location of a grave on portable devices such as a PDA, iPhone, etc, via the Trust's website (www.jctrust.com.au).

The Trust has begun a review of the condition of all monuments in the Old Ground as the initial stage of a large-scale preservation maintenance programme. Maintenance of seventy headstones has already been done during the last two years.

Maitland Jewish Cemetery - Book

Maitland Jewish Cemetery: A Monument To Dreams And Deeds, by Janis Wilton.

Maitland Jewish Cemetery was established in the late 1840s and ceased to function as a cemetery in the mid-1930s. This Maitland Regional Art Gallery publication, supported by the NSW Migration Heritage Centre, explores the history of the cemetery and the stories of the people buried there.

It highlights the challenges of being Jewish in a colonial frontier town, the commercial and family networks that stretched across the colony and across the oceans, the varied and complex backgrounds of community members, and the significant contributions Maitland's Jews made both to Jewish and colonial life in New South Wales.

It introduces individuals and families, is alive with images and invites contemplation about the dreams and deeds that can be imagined by visiting a cemetery.

Copies signed by historian Janis Wilton cost \$25 plus normal postage & handling can be purchased at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery Shop in person, by phone 02 49349859, or via email artgallery@maitland.nsw.gov.au.

New and updated websites

New Zealand WW1 records - update

Both **ancestry.com** and **FindMyPast** have added to their New Zealand WW1 records:

<http://search.ancestry.com.au/Places/New%20Zealand/Default.aspx>

http://www.findmypast.com.au/index/dwilson_nzww1

Remember that **Archives New Zealand** has many digitised WW1 service records accessed by name search at their catalogue <http://archway.archives.govt.nz>

Knowles Collection - update

The Knowles Collection contains information for thousands of Jews from the Americas, British Isles, Caribbean, Europe, the Orient and Africa. Building on the work of the late Isobel Mordy, the collection links individuals into family groups. The collection can be searched on the [FamilySearch Community Trees Web site](#) and is available to download as Gedcom files

Gedcom Format: [Jews of Americas](#) (18.8 MB) Last updated: January 2011

Gedcom Format: [Jews of British Isles](#) (36.5 MB) Last updated: January 2011

Gedcom Format: [Jews of Caribbean](#) (1.3 MB) Last updated: January 2011

Gedcom Format: [Jews of Europe](#) (15.3 MB) Last updated: January 2011

Gedcom Format: [Jews of Orient and Africa](#) (226 KB) Last updated: January 2011

Synagogue Scribes - update

<http://synagoguescribes.com>

Synagogue Scribes has added some early secular records to their database including:

Jewish Will Extracts 18th - 19th Century, London Wills, City of London Settlements, Tax 1693-4, City of London Census 1695, Jewish Apprentices Listed by Apprentice, Jewish Apprentices Listed by Master, Selected Jewish Masons 1717-1860, Subscribers to 1807 Prayer Book, Hull Alien registration certificates 1793-1815

1911 Scotland census

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

Now online, this census details information collected from more than 4.7 million Scots. The records include the name, address, age, occupation, birthplace and marital status of everyone counted in the 1911 census, as well as details about their children.

Belfast City Council

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/burialrecords/search.asp

A searchable site for burial records in Belfast from 1869 onwards. Around 360,000 records are available relating to Belfast City Cemetery (including the Jewish section), Roselawn Cemetery and Dundonald Cemetery.

Antwerp Foreigner Indexes 1840-1930

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1477769>

This index on the LDS FamilySearch site contains many names of Jewish families who moved to Antwerp in the later part of the 19th century. It provides names, place and dates of birth (some year only) and the reference to the full file for ordering the appropriate microfilm.

NB. As an alternative the Ukraine SIG supplied the following url: <http://tinyurl.com/4jvn5pl>.

JewishGen's "SUCCESS STORIES" webzine - update

<http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/Testimonials/>

– latest issue – new stories

The Association of Jewish Refugees - update

To mark the 65th anniversary of their first publication in January 1946, The Association of Jewish Refugees has placed the entire back catalogue of the AJR Journal online at www.ajr.org.uk/pdfjournals

Remember Me: Displaced Children of the Holocaust

<http://rememberme.ushmm.org/>

After World War II, relief agencies photographed some of the children who survived to help find their families. Now, more than 65 years later, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is working to discover what became of these young survivors

By publicizing these 1,100 photographs, the Museum hopes to identify the children, piece together information about their wartime and post-war experiences, and facilitate renewed connections among these young survivors, their families, and other individuals who were involved in their care during and after the war.

If you recognize yourself or someone you know in one of the photos, please contact the Museum's Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center at RememberMe@ushmm.org

Multicultural Canada - update

<http://multiculturalcanada.ca>

Included in this web site are digitised copies of *Canadian Jewish News*, *Canadian Jewish Review*, and *Jewish Western Bulletin*

31st IAGJS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy - update

<http://www.dc2011.org/index.php/conference-program/programs>

The conference program is now available on the website.

Chernivtsi, Ukraine - Czernowitz-L Discussion Group Website - update

<http://czernowitz.ehpes.com>

A collection point for Jewish genealogical and historical materials primarily focused on the Czernowitz/Sadagora areas of Bukovina and surrounds.

The site includes pre and post WWII photographs and postcards, stories, family histories and albums, maps, list member's pages, City directories, census data, and a FamilyFinder.

JRI-Poland – update

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/>

New and/or updated files with 73,580 index entries have been added to the JRI-Poland database. The "new" data was previously indexed under the PSA project and is now funded and eligible to go on the database.

The new and/or updated data is from the following towns:

Brzesko, Czyzewo, Frampol, Gostynin (Books of Residents), Grabowiec, Hrubieszow, Jarczow, Jozefow Bilgorajski, Krasnobrod, Krasnystaw, Lancut (1910 Census), Laszczow, Leczna, Nowy Sacz, Nowy Wisnicz, Nowy Zmigrod, Raciaz (Books of Residents), Radymno, Sokolow Malopolski, Szczepieszyn, Tarnobrzeg, Tomaszow Lubelski, Turobin, Uchanie, Warszawa, Wysokie (in the Zamosc area), Zamosc, Zolkiewka.

Mocavo – new website

<http://www.mocavo.com/>

Mocavo claims to be the world's largest free genealogy search engine. It seeks to index and make searchable all of the world's free genealogy information including genealogy message boards, genealogy blogs, family trees, state and local historical societies, the Library of Congress, National Archives, Ellis Island, Find A Grave, the Internet Archive, various U.S. state archives, and genealogy sites built by individuals.

Latvia SIG - update

http://www.jewishgen.org/Latvia/SIG_Newsletter.html

The complete library of Latvia SIG newsletters Volume 1/Issue 1-January 1996 through Volume 14/Issue 2-February 2010 is now on-line.

Shamir – website of the Jewish Community in Latvia - update

Shamir has uploaded *The guide to Jewish materials stored in Latvian state historical archives* http://www.shamir.lv/images/Archive_guide_eng%285%29.pdf. They say it is a work in progress but it already runs to 100 pages of useful information about the archives' holdings.

The Latvian Names Project

<http://names.lu.lv/en.html>

A research project of the Centre for Judaic Studies of the University of Latvia whose purpose is to recover the names and identities of these members of the Latvian Jewish Community who perished and to ensure that their memory is preserved. A searchable database and an opportunity to contribute family information.

VilNews e-magazine

<http://vilnews.com/>

VilNews e-magazine is a source for Lithuania-related news, opinion blogs and information. One of its many sections is *Litvak Forum* http://vilnews.com/?page_id=152 offering stories about the lives of the Lithuanian Jews and a contact forum for people around the world

Digital Monument to the Jewish Community in the Netherlands

<http://www.joodsmonument.nl>

This is a virtual monument dedicated to preserving the memory of all the men, women and children who were persecuted as Jews during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

Every person in the Monument has a separate page commemorating his or her life. Where possible, it also contains a reconstruction of his or her family relationships. Searchable by name or town.

Bessarabia Revision List – update

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania/> or
<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Ukraine/>.

This update contains 12,733 records from Kishinev, Kaushany, Kriulyany, Teleneshty, Orgeev, Konstantinovka, Nikolaevka-Blagodata, Shibka Romanenko, Lyublin, Dombroveny, Valya-luy-Vlad, Lomachinets, Vertyuzhany, Novoselitsa and Soroki.

Dates for your diary

Talk: From Russia with Hope - the Jews who came to Broken Hill in the 1890s

Robyn Dryen is a descendant of the Krantz and Dryen families, two of the first Russian-Jewish families to arrive in Broken Hill. Last year while researching the burials in the Jewish section of the Broken Hill cemetery, Robyn uncovered the amazing interconnectedness of the community, its strong religious commitment and its early adoption of Zionism.

In this talk she will describe where they came from, the chain migration of family and friends, and what she has discovered of the connection between their life in the Jewish agricultural colonies in Ukraine and the life they established in Broken Hill.

Date: 17 May 2011

Time: 7.30 pm

Location: COA - 25 Rowe Street, Woollahra NSW 2025

RSVP: president@ajgs.org.au or ph: (02) 9427-6075

Forthcoming Workshops at Rev Katz Library, Lindfield:

- Sunday mornings (9:30am-12:30pm)
May 8, June 5, July 3, and August 7
- Monday mornings (10:00am-1:00pm)
May 16, June 20, July 11 and August 15
(See our website for all events.)

New Members

Welcome to new AJGS members, Don and Miriam Frommer and Nic Kat.

Robyn Dryen

ed@ajgs.org.au