

KOSHER KOALA

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society
www.ajgs.org.au



February 2012



AJGS Turns 20!



AJGS members enjoying the 20th Birthday picnic at Lane Cove, 13 November 2011

President's Report

The committee and I extend to you our best wishes for a productive and satisfying year ahead! We hope you have all enjoyed a break from routine during the end-of-year holidays and are looking forward to the exciting events we have planned for the coming year.

One thing that stands out for me about the AJGS is its inclusiveness. Some of our most loyal and enthusiastic members were not born or brought up Jewish, but knew or discovered their Jewish ancestry. They number amongst our most effective researchers and strongest supporters. Their support varies from serving on the committee to sharing their research and knowledge through workshops, talks and the *Kosher Koala*. Not only do they research their own families, but in some cases have embarked on historical and genealogical projects which are helping to record and preserve part of the history of Jews in Australia, including in country towns.

As we come together in our quest to put flesh on our ancestors' bones and discover more about their lives, I feel that we are all part of a large and loving family. The connections may have faded at some point as a brother or sister married out of the fold, but the link is still there – waiting for future family members to discover it and to reclaim their rightful place in the family and their Jewish inheritance. To me, we are all part of the same tribe.

The year has begun with our regular workshops (you will have received notice of the dates) including an Eastern Suburbs workshop to be held on Sunday 19th February. Please tell us if you are coming and which countries you are researching, so we know which books to bring.

Our big event will be a one-day seminar at Shalom College on Sunday, 18th March, so put the date in your diary. The AGM will form part of the proceedings. Notices will be going out soon and we urge you to register early if you can.

We extend a warm welcome to new members Anita and John Ingster and Gerald Marish.

Thank you for renewing your membership and updating your family finder information. Enjoy this issue of the *Kosher Koala*!

Jeannette Tsoulos
President

Seminar

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society invites you to:

RECENT TRENDS IN JEWISH GENEALOGY

Sunday, 18 March, 2012 at the Eric Caspary Conference Centre, Shalom College, Barker Street, University of New South Wales, Kensington, from 10 am to 5pm.

TODD KNOWLES, staff member on the British Floor at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, will be the Keynote Speaker.

Further details of the programme will be advised early February.

The 20th **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Society at 9.30 am will precede the Seminar.

Contact president@ajgs.org.au to reserve your place!

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Australia's largest online bookstore at
www.booktopia.com.au

Falling in love with Budapest

Ann Wunsch with Victoria Myerscough

I grew up in Sydney Australia, knowing that I was half-Hungarian. Hearing my mother speak Hungarian to her sister and to my grandparents usually signalled that one of us children was in trouble – as the only word that we could understand was our own name. We were a staunchly Catholic family, so it came as a complete surprise when my mother simply said at my grandmother's funeral, "I can now tell you our family is Jewish". It was 1995 and I was 35 years old.

I spent the next 15 years trying in various ways to explore what this meant. In 2010, I joined the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society and was warmly welcomed and given one very important piece of information – Michael Taub is the 'Hungarian expert'. How right they were.

I met Michael and told him the little that I knew: that my family came from Debrecen in Hungary and that their name was Gaspary. Michael logged into JewishGen, found a whole lot of ancestors, mapped out a family tree going back several generations and presented it to me on a series of printed pages with a schema of LDS microfilms that we needed to explore. At that stage, I didn't recognise any of the names, but I was hooked.

I ordered the films and on Thursday nights, after work, Michael would generously accompany me to the LDS Family History Centre in the city and sit with me rolling out each film and spotting my family members as their birth, death, marriage and census records whizzed by. Every so often we would stop and he would translate the record from Hungarian. Sometimes I came back and made copies. I told him that my partner, Victoria, and I were going to Hungary in October 2011. By the time the trip came around, we were armed with several addresses to visit on our trip to Debrecen and Budapest.

I wanted to know whether my great-grandfather was a victim of the Holocaust, as his name did not come up on databases. However, my enquiry to the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, Germany, revealed lots of information including more family addresses and important facts including that my great-grandfather, a prominent physician, was jailed in 1919 during the "White Terror" and had been a politically active member of the Social Democratic party.

I know that I have quite a few relatives living in France. They probably know parts of my family history that I don't know, but unfortunately I have yet to find one of them willing to discuss the past. Before we left Australia, Michael and his wife Ann translated some of my great-grandmother's letters from 1937. One of these told of my great-grandfather's death from a brain tumour. So we left for Hungary with a different focus – to visit all the addresses we had found and to piece together the life of Dr Geza Gaspary Gaspar, my great-grandfather, and his wife, Toba Antonia Schwarcz, and their life in Debrecen and Budapest.

Along the way, I left a photo on JewishGen's Viewmate and received lots of warm greetings from around the world, including from Robert Neu in the USA, who believes that my great-aunts were clients of his mother's dress-making business in Paris. At every step, there was someone who wanted to help, or say "Hello". I also received a message from Traude Triebel from Austria, telling me the year that my great-grandfather had graduated from the Medical School at the University of Vienna.



L to R: Toba Antonia Gaspary Gaspar (née Schwarcz), Magdalena Mandorff, Ibolyka Mandorff (née Gaspary Gaspar), and Dr Geza Gaspary Gaspar, 1936

Our guide, Dora Pataricza, made contact with us through the H-sig group on JewishGen. She is an accomplished linguist and historian and turned out to be a wonderful guide and friend. Dora's brother, Kristof, a young Budapest architect, also assisted us.



Bacsza Utca House – where Geza and Toba Gasparly lived with their children before WW2

Armed with our lists of addresses, our photos of Geza and Toba at Hero Square and of houses they once lived in, we hurtled around Budapest searching for the right view, the right angle, the spot on which they stood at Hero Square, the very same houses in which they lived. It was Kristof's expert architectural eye that instantly identified the spot: "Well of course! They were standing right there when the photo was taken". We loved finding out that the family had lived in a beautiful, elegant house in an exclusive part of Budapest, where now there is a kindergarten for Bulgarian children. The first house in which they lived is gone, probably bombed. Through some expert, on-the-spot, detective work by the brilliant Dora, we found the flat where Geza's daughter Lily, a solicitor, had lived and worked.

We ventured inside to walk up the wide

staircase, running our hands up the banister that Lily had also touched and gazing at the old pressed glass windows that she had also looked at.

Our visit to Budapest coincided with Rosh Hashanah. Dora very kindly agreed to take us with her family to the synagogue for the service on the Friday night. The Budapest synagogue is staggeringly beautiful. We felt so privileged to be able to go there with Dora, her children and the Pataricza family.

With Dora's assistance we found the location of Geza's grave in Budapest's largest general cemetery. On a beautiful sunny warm autumn morning we searched for his gravestone in the overgrowth of ivy and nettles. When we couldn't find any sign of a gravestone, Kristof helped us negotiate the vagaries of Hungarian bureaucracy at the cemetery office. A graveyard worker returned with us to the site and confirmed that this was indeed where Geza was buried. Nothing remains to mark it, just a pretty silver birch tree growing at the spot. We had originally planned to pay for the preservation of the gravesite, but when the cemetery advised that this would involve an as yet unknown cost for restoration of the site which they wanted to mark with a wooden cross, we decided to leave Geza's grave as it is. We found him. We know where his body lies.

We fell in love with Budapest – its proportions and architectural beauty are quite Parisian, but Budapest has some bruises – many of its most beautiful buildings and landmarks bear the scars of shelling from both the War and the 1956 Uprising.

We also adventured out to Debrecen to find the houses where my grandmother Ibolyka was born and grew up. The first couple of days we were on our own – more of a challenge in rural Hungary where English is not so commonly spoken. But finding the addresses and the houses still standing was remarkably sweet. Debrecen was so heavily damaged in World War II – we couldn't really believe our good fortune in finding the houses still standing.

All alone, we visited the lonely Jewish cemetery on the outskirts of Debrecen. It was a very special testament to the large Jewish community that once thrived in Debrecen. It was a long search in the hot sun, but we found the grave of Toba's mother. This was a proud affirmation of my Jewish heritage – something that has not always been openly acknowledged in my family.

Dora met us on our last day in Debrecen and took us to the synagogue. There we were so warmly assisted by the administrator, who patiently and exhaustively took us through the database records to see what we

could find. She followed every trail for us – even taking the trouble to ring elderly members of the community to ask if they might have anything to tell us. We were so touched by her kindness to us and her tenderness with the elderly folk. She always asked them, “Would you like us to bring you some *cholent*?” Sadly, there was no more information about the family.

The rabbi generously took us and showed us the existing synagogue used by the small but vigorous Jewish community still living in Debrecen. He sensed our keen interest and then took us to the old synagogue and showed us around its surrounds, showing us where the specialist slaughterer worked and proudly showed us the plans for restoration of this quietly beautiful building.

All our family history work in Hungary happened against the background of its beauty, elegance, drama and tragedy in the most glorious weather that a central European autumn can bring. Having Dora and Kristof to help us meant that our search was focussed and took place in the context of long, informed discussions about Hungarian history and the social and political context. It also meant that these often occurred in delightful restaurants, and, during one memorable lunch, eating what must be the best Jewish café food in the world! We spent many hours gazing at *stolpesteine* and at many other important and vivid memorials to the Shoah. Anyone else who has witnessed it would surely agree that the most heartbreakingly and indescribably sad of these is the *Shoes on the Danube Memorial*.

Since we arrived home, many people have asked us, “So what did you find?” It has been hard to explain to them that, in many ways, we didn’t find anything new, but we found everything. Our whole experience of searching brought me close to my ancestors and their experience of their lives against the horrific history of the 20th century. But it also brought our encounter with a strong and determined Hungarian Jewish community, determined to face the ongoing challenges of living with the past in the context of fresh political and social difficulties in Europe. But the best thing has been the new and wonderful relationships made along the way – most especially with Michael Taub, Dora and Kristof and their families.

Our next trip in 2013 will focus on earlier stories of the Neuwalder family in Kassa, (now Kosice, Czech Republic), the Schwarcz family from Maramaros Sigzet (in Romania), and finding the Gaspary holiday house in Visk (now Vyshkovo, in the Ukraine), where the family spent their summers. All I know about Visk is that my grandmother said that the shutters on the windows had heart shapes carved into them. I am also looking for the farm that the family owned somewhere near Visk where they grew walnuts.

It might be a humble start, but there are discoveries out there... waiting for us to find them.

You can contact Ann and Victoria with feedback on the article, or suggestions for further research via ed@ajgs.org.au.



Victoria and Ann in Budapest

Relatives clean up!

Dani Haski

On Sunday November 20 2011, relatives of the victims of a 1936 Hawkesbury River boating disaster gathered to begin the long-awaited conservation of the victims' graves and memorial at Rookwood Cemetery in Sydney.

The disaster occurred 75 years ago, near Patonga on the Hawkesbury River, when the ferry was caught in a freak storm. It capsized, resulting in the deaths of 10 young Jewish people from Sydney – several from the same families. Although none of the dead have descendants, relatives have banded together to try to conserve their graves and memorial in section 8 of Rookwood Cemetery.

Six of us cleared off loose gravel that had been spread across the top of the long expanse of marble tile work and sorted loose and broken tiles from the gravel. These will be re-laid at a later date. The process revealed the existence of two large Magen Davids that had been hidden from view by the gravel.



Those involved included Rochelle Franks, niece of Minnie Franks; Harry and David Klarnett, nephew and great nephew of Sarah Klarnett; and Rieke Nash, niece of Eric and David Eisenberg and Rachel Penn.

Sach Killam, from *Monuments in Memorium* – the professional consultants for the project – stopped by to inspect the work and was impressed with the group's progress in only a couple of hours.

The Hawkesbury River Memorial Conservation Project is seeking donations to help with the restoration work.

Tax deductible donations can be made through the Jewish Cemetery Trust: PO Box 291 Lidcombe, NSW, 1825 Australia (please indicate that your donation is for the Hawkesbury River project). This Project is being conducted under the auspices of the Jewish Cemetery Trust and the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society.

Rookwood Old Ground Conservation Project

Gary Luke, Trustee, Rookwood Cemetery Trust

The Jewish Cemetery Trust of Rookwood Necropolis has embarked on a major conservation programme in the Old Ground of the cemetery. Part of the original 200 acres of Rookwood cemetery, it is of unique historical significance and included in the NSW State Heritage Inventory.

All work performed in this area must be approved by the Heritage Council of the NSW Office of Environment and Planning and be executed by monumental masons with technical experience in conservation practices.

The Heritage Council website entry for Rookwood Necropolis can be viewed at http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_04_2.cfm?itemid=5045470

During 2009 and 2011, the Jewish Cemetery Trust commissioned conservation work for 70 monuments. We have commenced work on another 109 in 2012.

The conservation project will continue for a few years to restore another few hundred monuments. The work includes restoring broken headstones, returning leaning and fallen headstones to vertical, repair of kerbing, re-building the separated parts of box-style monuments, reduction of surface mould and fungi, and restraining the effects of salts which have leached from the ground. The central pathway and brick guttering are being re-built, and amenities will be installed to enhance a visit to the grounds.

The Trust, as caretaker of the cemetery on behalf of the Jewish community, would appreciate financial assistance for this project. Tax-deductible donations can be made to our account held in partnership with the National Trust by contacting our office. As an indication, the cost of work for individual monuments ranges from \$200 to \$1,500 with an average of \$600. Please note that the Jewish Cemetery Trust is not a recipient of JCA or other grants. The list of the names of the monuments selected for work can be seen at: http://www.rookwoodjewishcemetery.com.au/images/pages/OG_Conservation_List.pdf.

Please contact our office if an ancestral monument in the Old Ground requires maintenance and is not on this list.

Since European settlement began in Australia, over 80% of all Jewish burials in NSW have been at Rookwood. Between the consecration of the cemetery in 1867 and the start of World War II, while almost 5,000 Jewish burials were conducted at Rookwood, fewer than 100 in Sydney were in other cemeteries. The Jewish Old Ground also has 105 tombs transferred from the previous public cemetery which had been cleared to build Central Railway in 1901. Their burials date from 1837, with birth dates from 1763. Our cemetery at Rookwood is one of the most significant historical sites of our Jewish community.

Book Review

Empire Day, by Diane Armstrong, Harper Collins, Australia, 2011

Empire Day, the latest novel by celebrated Jewish author Diane Armstrong, is a heart-warming account of a year in the lives of the residents of a street in Bondi in the late 1940s. Though focusing on a group of neighbours, at a deeper level the novel depicts the beginning of a profound change in the composition of Australian society – from being essentially British in background and outlook, symbolised by Empire Day, to becoming a multicultural society.

The Australian residents of Wattle Street see their suburb changing with the arrival of a number of Jewish Holocaust survivors, who are struggling to deal with their grief and loss while determined to make a new life. From one Empire Day to the next, the new arrivals and the Australians, who also have their worries, begin to find a way through the difficulties in their lives, and on the way achieve a greater understanding and appreciation of each other.

The author assembles a sympathetic cast of characters and touches on a number of relevant moral and political issues which deepen the scope of the book. *Jeannette Tsoulos*

New In Our Library

A few new publications have been added to the Society's resource collection.

The Syllabus from the 31ST IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Washington DC, August 2011 has been donated to the library. It includes the list of conference registrants, their contact details and their 'Family Finder' information. We have also purchased the collection of all the recorded presentations from the conference. All can be accessed at our regular workshops.

The Australian Jewish Historical Society has recently published a collection of Essays from the Hans Kimmel Competitions, 1979-2007. These essays were submitted by Year 10 students at Moriah College, Sydney, as part of their studies into Jewish History and were mainly, but not entirely, based on interviews with grandparents who were Holocaust survivors. A few related to migration and involvement in the Jewish Community. The publication is available from the AJHS, 385 Abercrombie Street, Darlington NSW 2008.

Rieke Nash

New Publication

Tree of Life: the first fifty years of the Maurice Zeffert Home 1961-2011 was launched at the Perth Home's 50th anniversary celebrations and is available for purchase. It contains photographs and stories of the lives of many of the residents, founders, staff and volunteers, and of life in the Home.

The cost per book is \$20 + \$5 p&h. All proceeds go to the Maurice Zeffert Home.

Copies may be obtained from
Maurice Zeffert Home
119 Cresswell Road
Dianella WA 6059
admin@mzh.org.au

Reminder

A reminder that the Society's Family Finder Database is being updated. Many members have already submitted the additions and alterations to their family research details. A new CD of the database will be available in March for financial members. Send your information to society@ajgs.org.au

If you have photos of the earlier years of the Society, and/or photos of the Canberra Conference, please send them to Rieke Nash: president@ajgs.org.au.

News

Mazeltov, Margaret Price

In December, Margaret Price was one of 24 volunteers awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Heritage Council of NSW, in recognition of her long-standing commitment to heritage in NSW. Margaret has been instrumental in presenting the history of Jewish settlement of western NSW through the restoration of the Broken Hill Synagogue, and its transformation into the Synagogue of the Outback Museum.

Closure of State Records Reading Room at The Rocks

Last issue we reported that, due to budgetary constraints, State Records NSW would no longer be opening its Globe Street Reading Room in The Rocks on Saturdays, and that this Sydney Records Centre was likely to close permanently from 2015. They have now announced that the Globe Street Reading Room will close on 30 June 2012, three years ahead of the previously indicated schedule.

Maitland Jewish Cemetery

On Friday 10th February, the Friends of Maitland Jewish Cemetery met with the consultants contracted by Maitland Council to prepare a Conservation Management Plan. Recommendations for future planning will be based firmly on historical aspects of the cemetery and of the Maitland community.

We would very much like to hear from anyone who has information about the chapel or building which was in the grounds, or who has photographs or personal memories about the state of the cemetery before the 1970s. Contact either Gary Luke: gary@feraltek.com.au, or Cathy Coleville ccolville@nationaltrust.com.au.

Surnames associated with various towns in Shavli

Hatte Blejer is compiling lists of surnames associated with various towns in Šiauliai (Shavli, Shavel). If you would like to contribute your family names, email Hatte: blejerh@gmail.com

JRI-Poland adopts Log-In system for database searches

The Executive Committee of Jewish Records Indexing–Poland has instituted a log-in system to access the database.

To simplify the login process, JRI–Poland is using the secure JewishGen log-in system. You will need to use your JewishGen researcher number and password to log in. If you are a subscriber to the JRI-Pol discussion group, you have a JewishGen researcher number and password.

It is highly recommended that you log in to your account BEFORE starting any searches. The log-in link comes right before the search fields on the JRI-Poland search page. Logging in DURING a search is known to cause intermittent problems.

Registrations for Paris 2012 now open

Register now to attend the 32nd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, 15-18 July 2012, at the Paris Marriott Rive Gauche Hotel & Conference Centre.

The draft program is at <http://www.paris2012.eu/events>

Register before 31 March 2012 to receive a discount at <http://www.paris2012.eu/>

Klaipeda community

The Klaipeda (Memel) community would love to be in touch with anyone with roots in the Klaipeda/Memel area, including all of Zemet/Zemaitija in western Lithuania. If you are interested in making contact, please email the Chairman of the community, Felix Puzemskis at felix.bonasta@yahoo.com

LitvakSIG Policy Change for District Research Groups

LitvakSIG is entering its 15th year with more than 1 million records translated, predominantly by the District Research Groups, with many more yet to be translated.

Maintaining the current Qualifying Contribution amount, which for most Districts is \$100, is no longer sufficient to support the continuing translation work of the District Research Groups.

After much discussion, the Board of Directors of LitvakSIG voted unanimously to institute a new policy for contributors to District Research Groups. This policy is effective January 1, 2012.

The Board has decided to limit a contributor's early right of access to the data translated by district research groups to a period of five years from the year in which the qualifying contribution was made. The five year cycles are based on a calendar year, not the date of the contribution.

Orla Yizkor Book

http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/orla/Yizkor_Book_Project.html

Although the Jewish community of Orla has a long and rich history and used to be one of the important Jewish centres in Eastern Poland, there has never been an Orla Yizkor Book (Memorial Book).

Seventy years after the annihilation of the Jewish Orla community, a group has formed to try to create an Orla Yizkor Book. The group is keen to contact any remaining survivors from Orla or their descendants who might be able to provide stories or documents of life there.

The second chapter of the planned publication will be the story about Jewish Orla told by Christians living in Orla. During 2010 and 2011, twenty people who were born in Orla before 1930 were interviewed about their memories of their Jewish neighbours.

The Orla Yizkor Book will also include a chapter about the history of the Jewish community of the town.

The Orla Yizkor Book Project is open for contributions. If you would like to contribute any memoirs or testimonies of Orla's Jews, historical documents, old photos or family stories, please email the coordinator and editor, Wojciech Kononczuk: wojtekk7@wp.pl

Czech Archives Digital program

The digitized Czech Vital records which have already been scanned – all 4,000, plus volumes in Prague will be uploaded to the web at the end of March. The plan is to place the scans on the National Archives website. More details in the next issue.

Preparing for the 1940 US Census release

<http://www.stevemorse.org/census/1940census.htm>

When the first images of the 1940 US Census are released in April 2012, there will be no name index. This will not be available for several months. "Getting ready for the 1940 census: Searching without a Name Index", a paper by Stephen Morse, is a useful guide to searching the images prior to the name index becoming available.

Pre-1890 Jewish migrant arrivals from current day Croatia to Australia

Dr Ilija Sutalo is seeking information about Jewish migrants from Croatia who arrived in Australia before 1890.

He wrote to the Australian Jewish Historical Society:

I have previously written a book, *Croatians in Australia: Pioneers, Settlers and their Descendants*, so am looking for more information for a future edition of the book.

I would appreciate any names of Jewish migrants from current day Croatia who arrived in Australia before 1890, and any details on their lives in Australia.

At the time, most of Croatia was under the Austro-Hungarian Empire so their country of birth could have been listed as Austria, Hungary, Italy, Venice, but also Dalmatia, and Slavonia/Sclavonia.

The main areas of Jewish populations in Croatia at the time were in the following cities: Zagreb (Agram), Osijek (Esseg), Dubrovnik (Ragusa), Varazdin (Warasdin), Split (Spalato), Rijeka (Fiume), Koprivnica (Kopreinitz), and Zadar (Zara).

If you would like to respond to Dr Sutalo, please email Ilija.Sutalo@csiro.au

New Resources

Stories told by absentees

<http://opowiescinnieobecnych.org/>

Opowiesci Nieobecnych (Stories told by absentees) is a series of audio guides to the Jewish legacy in eleven towns in the Slaskie Province, Poland, created by the Cukerman's Gate Foundation. The towns are Bedzin, Bytom, Chorzow, Czeladz, Dobrowa Gornicza, Gliwice, Katowice, Sosnowiec, Zabrze and Zarki.

The guides, in Polish, comprise stories about the Jewish world that was part of the Polish landscape for several centuries. They can be downloaded to your mp3 player. These audio guides are available free of charge under the Creative Commons license.

www.findfreemaps.co.uk

www.findfreemaps.co.uk

This free website offers access to a range of regularly updated maps from reputable sources such as the Ordnance Survey and Google. There is a free toolkit which allows you to draw on the maps and to insert text and graphics. It also allows you to style, colour and print finished maps or save them as PDFs.

At present, additional features such as historic sites, parks etc. are only pre-loaded for the UK, but you can obtain maps for most parts of the world. Having selected a map to view, you can create personalised maps showing, for example, the geographical movements of an individual family member, the distribution of different family members or the location of graves.

Archives Outside <http://archivesoutside.records.nsw.gov.au/>

<http://archivesoutside.records.nsw.gov.au>

This website was developed to create a meeting place for people who have archival collections around New South Wales and for researchers who wish to access them.

Stuart Shaw has found a really useful recent upload - *Tips for dating old photos* at <http://archivesoutside.records.nsw.gov.au/tips-for-dating-old-photos-updated-list-2011/>

The National Archives [UK] podcasts

<http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/podcasts/>

The UK National Archives has an extensive range of podcasts for free download on topics such as immigration, emigration, naturalisation, census, property and tax records. These are a great guide to UK repositories.

New and Updated Websites

JGSGB (Jewish Genealogy Society of Great Britain) – update

www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/gibraltar.htm

This website has been given a complete makeover by Louise Messik, JGSGB Website Officer. There is a new search interface which allows a single search across the two sets of UK databases.

JGSGB adds Gibraltar records

www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/gibraltar.htm.

The first tranche of vital records in the database covers births 1808-1894; marriages 1810-1883; and deaths 1829-1931. They will be supplemented as more are transcribed from the original registers and census documents.

1911 Census [England and Wales] – various options now available - update

Findmypast <http://www.1911census.co.uk/default.aspx> has just published the 'infirmary' column of the 1911 census on [1911census.co.uk](http://www.1911census.co.uk).

Ancestry.com <http://www.ancestry.com.au> has added the 1911 census to its collection, but without the infirmary column.

TheGenealogist.co.uk <http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/> has also added the 1911 census without infirmary details, but not all counties are complete. They have also announced a Marriage Finder Tool which captures the years married and automatically links to the relevant marriage transcripts on their site to show the

marriage details in the GRO records. As I don't subscribe to this site, I'm not certain how this works with spelling variations.

1841 and 1851 censuses for Scotland – update

Findmypast <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/content/search-menu/census-land-and-surveys> has added Scottish records for the 1841 and 1851 censuses to their 1861-1881 collections.

Images of all Scottish censuses (1841-1911) are available at *ScotlandsPeople* <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>.

Ancestry.com <http://www.ancestry.com.au> has transcribed indexes, but no images for Scottish censuses 1841-1901.

British Newspapers – new

<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

This is a new paid site for 19th Century British Newspapers. Your free search generates preview snippets. To download full articles and images, you have a range of payment options. If you happen to be in London, the website is free to use in the British Library's reading rooms.

This collection covers more titles than the Burney collection, which yields full text articles free to those with either an Australian National Library, or free State Library card.

Belfast Jewish Cemetery – new

The BRITISH-JEWRY mailing list reports that Stanley Coppel has taken photos of all the plots in the Jewish Section of the Belfast City Centre Cemetery. You can see a video tour with historical commentary at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQIdFWM57L4>, or the photos of headstones at <http://www.mediafire.com/?tunqelfl8ibt4>

Manchester BDMs – update

www.lancashirebmd.org.uk

Lancashirebmd.org has added Cheetham births (1883-1899) to its indexes. This area was home to many Jewish families.

Merseyside Aliens

<http://www.liverpoolhistoryprojects.co.uk/merseysidealiens/>

Jill, from Staines in Middlesex, has alerted the BRITISH-JEWRY@rootsweb.com list to an interesting site for those who may have had family in Liverpool and surrounds between 1879 and 1912. The index has over 1,300 entries, giving details of aliens resident in the Liverpool area at the time they applied for naturalisation. The index gives country of origin, address at time of application, and occasionally, aliases by which the person was known.

Jewish Burials In Manchester Area – new

<http://www.mdcs.org.uk/searchburials.aspx>

Manchester and District Council of Synagogues has created a new website for burials in a number of Jewish cemeteries in Manchester and the surrounding areas. Initial basic searches are free and you can get the first name, the surname, the year of death and the name of the cemetery. For more information, you will need to click on the "view" option which is pay-as-you-go. In some cases, there is very little extra information.

GenTeam (Austria) – update

www.GenTeam.at

GenTeam has announced the addition of more than 300,000 records including:

- obituaries of the *Prager Tagblattes* (Prague Daily Newspaper) 1877-1938; and
- an index to the book *Wer einmal war* (Who Once Was) – the Jewish Upper Class of Vienna 1800-1938, by Georg Gaugusch.

Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) – All Israel Database – new

<http://www.genealogy.org.il/allisrael.html>.

There is a new genealogy group in Israel. The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) will focus on helping people pursue their family genealogy with resources from within Israel. Current databases loaded:

- Nurse Certification Mandate Period;
- Land Registries 1928;
- Earthquake Donations 1927; and
- Compensation for Loss in the Disturbances of 1929.

You can follow progress on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/israelgenealogy> and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/#!/israelgenealogy>

Genealogy Society of South Africa (GSSA) – new

<http://www.eggssa.org>

The GSSA has launched a new site which has many pictures of gravestones, including some Jewish ones, and the first 7,000 names of Natal port passenger lists at <http://www.eggssa.org/arrivals/lists.html>.

As they will continue to add to these collections, check back often.

JewishGen Holocaust Database – update

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/>

More than 36 new collections – totalling more than 200,000 records – have been added.

All Galicia Database – update

<http://search.geshergalicia.org/>

Two new features have been added to the All Galicia Database:

- the ability to do searches based on geographical location, limiting your searches to records from within a given number of kilometres from a list of major Galician towns; and
- the ability to sort your search results by different criteria, including by year and by record type (birth, marriage, death, landsmanschaften, etc.).

The following new databases have been added:

- School records from:
 - Grodek Jagiellonski (1916) – (now Horodok, L'vivs'ka oblast, Ukraine);
 - Husiatyn (1912) – (now Husiatyn, Ternopil'ska oblast, Ukraine);
 - Jaroslaw (1919-21) – (now Jaroslaw, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland);
 - Kalusz (1911) – (now Kalush, Ivano-Frankivs'ka oblast, Ukraine);
 - Tarnobrzeg (1915) – (now Tarnobrzeg, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland); and
 - Tlumacz (1920) – (now Tlumach, Ivano-Frankivs'ka oblast, Ukraine);
- List of Rabbis in Galicia (1868);
- Nadworna Tax List (1932) – (now Nadvirna, Ivano-Frankivs'ka oblast, Ukraine); and

- Zolkiew Jewish Death Records (1855-1870) – (now Zhovkva, L'vivs'ka oblast, Ukraine)

There were also major updates/additions to these existing databases:

- Lviv Jewish Birth Records (1805-68), Death Records (1805-70), Marriage Records (1801-60); and
- Zbaraz (now Zbarazh, Ternopil's'ka oblast, Ukraine) – Jewish Birth Records (1815-76; 1897; 1899); Death Records (1804-58; 1894-1907; 1912-42).

Bessarabia Special Interest Group – new

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

The JewishGen Bessarabia SIG has been formed. It will focus on the region of Bessarabia, an area now comprising most of the Moldova Republic and two areas of Ukraine.

The prime objective of the SIG is to help users in their family genealogical research and related information-gathering.

To subscribe to the discussion/mailling list, please go to <http://www.jewishgen.org/ListManager>. You need to be a member of JewishGen to log in.

Buchenwald Victims' Lists – new

<http://www.buchenwald.de/totenbuch>

Thanks to Gary Mokotoff, *Nu? What's New?*, Vol. 13 (1), January 1, 2012 for the following:

The Buchenwald Memorial Foundation has placed a list of 38,000 confirmed victims of the Buchenwald concentration camp on-line.

The website is in German.

Odessa Kehilalink – update

<http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/odessa/index.asp>

The All Odessa Database has been migrated to the Odessa Kehilalink page. New indexes, grave transcriptions and images have been added to the site. There is also a handy Cyrillic transcription tool.

JRI-Poland – update

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

The update includes:

- new LDS records from Aleksandrow Lodzki, Dobrzyn nad Wisla, Strzalkow and Swarzedz (Schwersenz); and
- additions and updates for Bedzin, Chelm, Jozefow nad Wisla, Klasno, Kozenice, Leczna, Lubien Kujawski, Michow Lubartowska, Olkusz, Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski, Pabianice, Sierpc and Skierniewice.

Dates for your diary

Historic Tour of Rookwood Cemetery

On Sunday 6th May, from 11:00am to 12:30pm, the AJHS will conduct a historical tour of the area of Rookwood Cemetery in use in the pre-war decades of the 20th century. During that period, 99% of Jewish burials in NSW were at Rookwood. As we tour the ground, we can remember and honour individuals who took part in establishing the style of community we still live in today. Cemetery staff will be in attendance after the tour to assist with finding family graves, and we might have with us an experienced mason who can offer advice on repairs of damaged headstones. A bus will be available for those who are unable to drive – bookings must be made before Thursday 12th April.

Contact: admin@ajhs.com.au or phone: (02) 9518-7598

AJGS workshops and meetings

February 19	2:00pm-5:00pm	Eastern Suburbs Workshop Function Room, Lifestyle Manor, 24-32 Flood St, Bondi
March 4	9:30am-12:30pm	Workshop – Rev Katz Library, Lindfield
March 12	10:00am-1:00pm	Workshop – Rev Katz Library, Lindfield
March 18	9:30am-10:00am	Annual General Meeting
Followed by	10:00am-5:00pm	Seminar – Recent Trends in Jewish Genealogy Eric Caspary Learning Centre, Shalom College, University of New South Wales, Barker Street, Kingsford
April 1	9:30am-12:30pm	Workshop – Rev Katz Library, Lindfield
April 16	10:00am-1:00pm	Workshop – Rev Katz Library, Lindfield
May 6	9:30am-12:30pm	Workshop – Rev Katz Library, Lindfield
May 14	10:00am-1:00pm	Workshop – Rev Katz Library, Lindfield

The last word...

I have now edited five issues of our newsletter with invaluable proofing assistance from Peter Arnold and Rieke and Peter Nash. The *e-Report* is once again the *Kosher Koala*, and you will notice in this issue that I am experimenting with some pages in column format rather than continuous text. I understand that if you are enlarging print, the column may give a better flow, but if you are using voice recognition software, columns may be an obstacle to meaning. I would love to know which layout is easier for people to read, or which format you prefer.

As I trawl the SIG-lists and various archives and proprietary websites for news and possibly useful resources, I keep wondering whether or not you find this helpful, or would you prefer more long articles? Should articles be confined to Jewish genealogy, or would you like some articles on general topics, such as preserving family documents, photos and artifacts, DNA and family history, ethics and genealogy, or copyright issues?

Ours is very much a community which helps each other with personal knowledge of family connections, by sharing resources and by identifying experts who might assist others with research. I would very much welcome your 'success stories' – they inspire us all to continue with our own research and to share our knowledge.

Have you seen something to share, or do you know of someone who might share their experiences or expertise with our members? It was a tip from David Laufer which resulted in the wonderful article, *Falling in love with Budapest*, in this issue.

It's your newsletter, please get involved and help to make it an exciting read!

All comments and contributions will be gratefully received. Email: ed@ajgs.org.au

Robyn Dryen
Editor