

KOSHER KOALA

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



April 2014



Rieke Nash, Pamela Weisberger and Peter Nash, in Canberra March 2014, at one of the talks Pamela gave in Australia.

President's Report to the 2014 AGM

It has been a rewarding and fulfilling year, with new and current members coming to workshops or writing with their queries on how to progress with their family histories. It matters not whether those who come to us are Jewish or are following up a Jewish connection one or more generations ago; the interest and enthusiasm is the same. These researchers, in turn, have been generous with their discoveries, with many writing up their research stories in the *Kosher Koala* and/or giving talks.

Speaking of workshops, I particularly wish to thank Rieke and Peter Nash and Robyn Dryen, who contribute so much to the workshops, and also Evelyn Frybort, Eva Browne and David Laufer who come regularly to help.

We take great care to keep our resources up to date, buying new books, keeping up our subscriptions to the best journals and collecting the talks of all the annual international Jewish genealogical conferences. So we really appreciate members coming to use and enjoy these resources.

Foremost among our regular visitors to the Sunday workshops are Alec and Gwenda Charlson, who always find something interesting to read in the library. John Norris is another whom we see often. Earlier in the year, John gave us the benefit of his extensive experience of *The Master Genealogist* at our panel discussion on genealogical software. John Stanhope, who comes to all our talks and some workshops, has shared the fruits of his Sephardic research in articles in the *Kosher Koala*. He and John Norris are both researching early Australian Jewish families, as is Frank Atkinson, who comes all the way from Canberra by train whenever he can for a workshop and is a meticulous researcher. Frank has done sterling work investigating Jewish burials in Goulburn cemetery and is our representative on the committee of Friends of Maitland Jewish Cemetery.

These have been members from very early days. Other regulars who joined more recently include Gregory Sachs, who has done much for the Society in many ways and has shared his research experience in talks and in *Kosher Koala*.

Speaking of *Kosher Koala*, we owe a debt of gratitude to Robyn Dryen, Editor, and her able Sub-editor, Peter Arnold, for continuing to produce a riveting bulletin, full of interesting and relevant articles and the latest genealogical information and websites for members to access.

I would like to say a special "Thank you!" to Gary Luke, who cannot be here today for a very good reason. Gary has many interests, but his particular area of expertise is early Australian research and cemeteries and he is passionate about heritage. Forming The Friends of Maitland Jewish Cemetery, in conjunction with Maitland Council, was his initiative. Last month he achieved his aim, together with Maitland Council, of having the cemetery listed on the NSW Heritage Register. This means that it will be preserved and protected as the earliest and largest of just two dedicated Jewish Cemeteries in NSW – the other being Goulburn. Maitland Council is celebrating this achievement today, this being, unfortunately, the only date they had available. Robyn Parker, the Minister for Heritage, will be announcing the listing and Gary will be speaking about cultural values.

Gary was instrumental in setting up our discussion list, AJGen, over a decade ago, and has been its moderator ever since. For some years, he has also dealt with all correspondence coming via our e-mail address, society@ajgs.org.au, passing some queries on to the President or another committee member while answering many himself. He has decided to hand over the reins of society correspondent as from today but will continue moderating AJGen. On behalf of the Society, I express our appreciation of his dedication with a vote of thanks. Robyn Dryen has kindly offered to receive the society's e-mails.

In the past year, we have held a variety of functions over and above the Lindfield workshops. Two workshops were held in Waverley Library, a venture masterminded by Robyn Dryen. We donated a number of useful books on Jewish genealogy to the Reference Section of the Library and hope to continue holding workshops there, as long as there is a demand.

At last year's AGM, I was the speaker on the topic "What is different about Jewish genealogy?" This

was followed in May by a panel discussion on software packages by four of our members, each discussing the pros and cons of the one they use.

Several members of our committee attended the IAJGS Conference in Boston in August, where Rieke Nash and Evelyn Frybort were involved in setting up a new Special Interest Group for the Kolo-Rypin-Plock region in Poland. Rieke has been an area co-ordinator for JRI-Poland for some years and in September brought us up to date with the latest on JRI-Poland and the Polish State Archives.

In October, Eli Rabinowitz of Western Australia gave an interesting presentation on Belarus, pointing out the difficulties facing Jews who, hoping to research their ancestral roots, travel there.

The Society has been concerned for some time to find extra space for our overflowing library of books, folders etc. and a number of donated old London *Jewish Chronicles*. Our problem was solved when Masada Primary School moved from the grounds of the North Shore Synagogue to St Ives, leaving some empty rooms. Thanks to Rieke's quick thinking and the generosity of the North Shore Synagogue, we are able to use one of these rooms and have moved a lot of our holdings and archives there. We are particularly pleased that the volumes of *The Jewish Chronicle* can now easily be accessed and read.

Our membership has increased this year. I am delighted to welcome all who joined as well as those renewing. It is also very pleasing that so many of our founding committee still belong to the society and are involved in some way.

We are looking forward to an exciting year, beginning with Dianne Johnstone's presentation today, to be followed in a fortnight by our all-day Seminar on Galicia and other topics, presented by US genealogist and Galicia expert, Pamela Weisberger. It is not too late to book your place

for the kosher catered Seminar in Lindfield on March 23rd.

I thank:

- ❖ Rabbi Paul Lewin and President Ken Wolfsohn of the North Shore Synagogue for their continued hospitality;
- ❖ Paul Winter, our Auditor and delegate to the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies;
- ❖ Gary Luke, AJGen moderator and receiver of the society emails;
- ❖ Peter Arnold, Sub-editor of *Kosher Koala*;
- ❖ The Society Committee:
 - Kim Phillips, Vice President and Website Manager;
 - Sunny Gold, Secretary and Minutes Secretary;
 - Eva Browne, Treasurer;
 - Robyn Dryen, Editor of *Kosher Koala*;
 - Rieke Nash, Librarian, Resources Person and as I have said before, my Right-Hand Woman;
 - Annette Winter, Membership;
 - Evelyn Frybort and Kym Morris; and
 - Beulah Gross, our Central Coast Representative;
- ❖ *Summit Internet*, who support and sponsor our website; and
- ❖ Steven Traurig, our technical adviser.

It is with great pleasure that I report that Robyn Dryen has agreed to take on the role of President. While I will be stepping down from this position, I will continue on the committee (assuming I am re-elected) and look forward to giving Robyn my full support. It remains for me to thank you all very warmly for your support and enthusiasm, which has made my five years as President a tremendous pleasure and a privilege.

Jeannette Tsoulos
President

We extend a warm welcome to new members:

James Altman, Julia Edwards, Roberta and Michael Freedman, Fay Frischer, Gershon and Jona Gunsberger, Christine Lopacinski, Kathy Miller, Yvette Reeve, Ian and Debitu Rosenbaum, Norbert Ryker, Miriam Sonnenschein, Helen Star, Michelle Walter, Mimi Wise and Peter Zinn

Your AJGS Committee for 1914

At the AGM in March, the following members were elected to the AJGS Committee:

President	Robyn Dryen (and Editor, <i>Kosher Koala</i>)
Vice President	Kim Phillips (and Website Manager)
Secretary	Sunny Gold (and Minutes Secretary)
Treasurer	Eva Browne
Resources Co-ordinator	Rieke Nash (and Librarian)
Committee Members	Evelyn Frybort Dani Haski Kym Morris Jeannette Tsoulos Annette Winter (and Membership) Beulah Gross, Central Coast Representative

As incoming President, I extend my thanks to Jeannette Tsoulos, whose leadership has ensured the Society's continuing relevance and sustainability. When many other societies are scratching their heads, trying to find ways to reverse declining membership, I can happily say that our membership stands at 171, and we continue to attract new members.

The Galicia Galore and More seminar with guest Pamela Weisberger was a resounding success, with 52 participants who were delighted by the information and expertise on hand. Thanks also to presenters Rieke Nash, Peter Nash and Evelyn Frybort who expertly walked us through some of the most-used websites.

Robyn Dryen

IAJGS Conference – Salt Lake City 2014



The conference program is now online at:

http://conference.iajgs.org/2014/program_schedule.cfm

You can still take advantage of Early-bird registration, available until 31st May.

Register at: https://conference.iajgs.org/2014/registration_form.cfm

This year's keynote speaker is author David Laskin. His most recent book, *The Family*, tells the story of a Jewish family which was split into three branches by events in the 20th century. The American branch established successful businesses including *Maidenform* bras; those who went to Palestine were pioneer farmers and active in founding the modern state of Israel; many of those who remained in Eastern Europe perished at the hands of the Nazis.

Did you know Alfred Bergel?

Mareike Montgomery is working on a research project at the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Melbourne.

Alfred Bergel (1902-1944) was an artist and art teacher from Vienna. He was one of the central figures in the cultural life of Terezín. He was misused by the Nazis for forging famous works of art. He also worked as a painter and taught children and young people drawing, art history and art appreciation. He was murdered in Auschwitz. Today, his name and his works are mostly forgotten.

If you have any information to contribute to this project, or want more information about it, please contact Mareike: mareike.montgomery@gmail.com

Obituaries

Martha Lev Zion (1940-2014)

By Kim Phillips



Photo: IAJGS – Paris 2012

Many of you will have met, and will remember, Dr Martha Lev-Zion the keynote speaker at the 2008 Conference on Jewish Genealogy, held in Canberra, ACT. Martha wrote many articles about the Jews of Franconia and Thüringen (Germany), and about those of Latvia.

She was founder and president of the Negev branch of the Israel Genealogical Society (IGS) and served on the founding committee of the Israel Genealogical Research Association (IGRA). She was a former member of the IAJGS board of directors and past president of the Latvia-SIG of JewishGen.

She also wrote a book, *Taking Tamar*, about her life and experiences with her adopted daughter, Tamar, who has Down's syndrome.

On 11 February, Martha lost her struggle against a rare form of cancer, and passed away at her home in Be'er Sheva, Israel. She had battled with pride, determination and strength.

The world is a lesser place for losing her.

Jiří Fiedler (1935-2014)

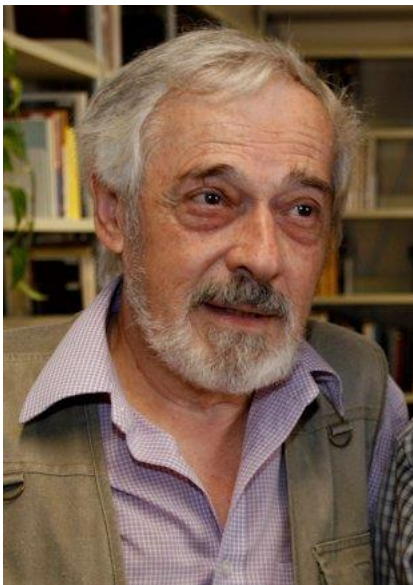


Photo: Prague Jewish Museum

Jiří Fiedler and his wife, Dagmar, were found murdered in their apartment on the outskirts of Prague in mid-February, 2014. Mr. Fiedler will be sorely missed by the many he assisted to discover their Jewish Czech origins.

Throughout the post-WW2 years of communist rule in Czechoslovakia, he cycled through Bohemia and Moravia, photographing and documenting Jewish sites.

A tribute by the Jewish Museum in Prague stated:

At a time when the Jewish cultural heritage in Bohemia and Moravia was treated with utter contempt, he produced a trove of work that can be drawn on by future generations of researchers in the area of Jewish topography.

Mr. Fiedler was a director of research at the Prague Jewish Museum from 1996 until the end of 2012. In 1991, he published the book *Židovské památky v Čechách a na Moravě* [Jewish Sites of Bohemia and Moravia]. His research became an electronic

encyclopaedia of Jewish communities in Bohemia and Moravia, which is being continually updated – it now has over 1,600 entries.

He never really retired, with many grateful researchers receiving information and advice up until his untimely death. There has been no report of any breakthrough in the police investigation into the murders.

A Visit to Bohemia and Moravia

By Julia Trainor

Two years ago, while idly searching the Internet, I re-discovered second cousins in Chile. We commenced a correspondence about our family history. We exchanged information and helped each other identify people in our family photographs. When three of my cousins suggested that we meet in the Czech Republic to visit our family places, I jumped at the chance.

An unscheduled visit to the family home

Our first objective was to visit our great-grandparents' home in Králíky, a pretty town in the hills of north eastern Bohemia. We hired a car, and armed with photographs, we made a 'cold call' on the ancestral home. We knew that our great-grandmother and three of her six adult children had perished, with their families, in the Holocaust. Two other children (our grandparents) had escaped to Australia and Chile respectively. The sixth child, who had married a non-Jewish man of German descent, survived, in the family home, both the Nazis and the Communist period. This lady died in 2007, the last of her generation, after which the next generation lost contact with each other.

We found the house in the old town square with no difficulty. Our great-grandfather, Leopold Gottlieb, had purchased it in 1877. In 1880, he married our great-grandmother, Ida Auspitzer. In 1893, the house was extensively re-modelled. Their six children were born in this house between 1881 and 1900. Later, several grandchildren were born in the same house. At street level, Leopold Gottlieb had a drapery and haberdashery shop; the family lived on the two upper floors.



Julia Trainor & Czech cousin Jaromir at rear of Kraliky house

Within minutes of arriving, we established that the house was still in the family and that the young man who owned it was our second cousin, once removed. Jaromír was running a café on the ground floor. Jaromír said that house had been divided into five apartments and two shops. We learned that, in 1956, the house had been compulsorily requisitioned by the City of Králíky. However, following the 'Velvet Revolution' in 1989, the house was returned to the family in 1990 as part of the post-Communist restitutions. Jaromír told us that the 1893 plans for remodelling the building, written in German, are still stored in the house. The house is now protected by heritage legislation; this means that it has not suffered from insensitive modifications, but maintenance and repairs are complex and expensive.

Our unheralded arrival from Australia and Chile was of interest to the local people in the café. They all inspected the long, printed chart of our family tree, with photographs included, which we had brought so that we could communicate without language. Fortunately, our new-found cousin spoke reasonable English and added more details to our family chart. When Jaromír gave us a tour of the house

and its out-buildings, we recognised many aspects from family photographs. We also noticed a portrait on the wall, which Jaromír said was a painting of two children who went to South America. My cousins were able to tell him that it was a portrait of their father and his brother. The painting has been hanging on that wall for almost 80 years.

We exchanged e-mail addresses with our new found cousin, and promised to follow up with more information about one another.

Finding the addresses of Nazi victims

Unfortunately such stories would be rare for most descendants of Jews in Central Europe. Most of our recent ancestors either perished in the camps or escaped with almost nothing. However, thanks to the Nazis' meticulous record keeping, it was possible to find the exact street addresses of many of my ancestors who perished. For people based in Prague, the last residence is often recorded in the Terezín records which can be accessed via www.Holocaust.cz or www.yadvashem.org. For people whose last place of residence was outside Prague, I used the International Tracing Service (ITS) at Arolsen, Germany www.its-arolsen.org. The ITS provided me with the Terezín records which included the last street address of each person. For those ancestors who died before the Holocaust, the house number or street address was often recorded as part of the place of death in the records on <http://badatelna.eu/fond/1073>. The experience of walking around Prague and Brno to see the former homes of one's ancestors is moving, and strengthens one's connection with these lovely cities.

Hiring a researcher and a local driver/guide

To extend my knowledge and speed up research into my Moravian family, I engaged the services of Mr Jaroslav Klenovský in Brno. His report included census data which he linked to maps of the Jewish quarters of the small towns where my family had lived, in some cases including the precise street address associated with my family names. This enabled me to plan a trip to selected family places around Brno.



Square in the former Jewish Quarter, Pohorelice, Czech Republic

As I would be alone for this part of my trip, and had no inclination to hire a car and drive on the 'wrong' side of the road, Mr Klenovský recommended that I engage his friend, Mr Petr Fiša, as my driver and guide. Petr Fiša is an enthusiastic traveller, who speaks English and is Jewish. Both his parents were teenage survivors of Terezín and Auschwitz respectively. He has a good knowledge of the current Jewish community in Brno and southern Moravia. Petr was a reliable and good-natured guide, able to approach strangers with ease and make enquiries on my behalf. In two days with Petr, I visited Pohořelice, Miroslav, Mikulov, Lomnice, Loštice and Boskovice. In each place we visited

the site of homes associated with my family, the local cemetery and the local synagogue. Most of these Jewish quarters have a certain historic charm, and give a good sense of where people lived, although no Jews are to be found there anymore.

Visiting cemeteries

Visiting cemeteries was particularly moving. Cemeteries are sacred places, and the cemeteries I visited were of great natural beauty and steeped in history. For the large Jewish Cemetery in Brno, I had made good use of the outstanding database <http://cemeteries.jewishbrno.eu>. For small towns, the *JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry* (JOWBR) <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/> can be searched by town name, and the burials for that town are listed in alphabetical order.

This is a good way to identify plots for family members. This can alert you to people who share your family names, and with whom your future research may clarify a relationship. However, even with precise plot information (section, row and grave numbers), it was not possible to locate graves in small cemeteries, as the section and row numbers were not marked. In the Jewish Cemetery in Brno, there is a good map and the sections are generally marked, although the rows are not clearly marked. It took

time to find the approximate locations and to browse the grave stones to find my ancestors. It pays to allow plenty of time for visiting cemeteries. They are worth visiting even if you don't find your families' graves. If the weather is good, they are magical places, and the misty rain only increases their mystical qualities. Waterproof shoes are best for cemetery visits. Even if the weather is dry, there is usually good dew, and typically the grass was ankle-deep.

New Jewish Cemetery, Prague

In Prague I paid a 'cold call' to the New Jewish Cemetery. Although the New Jewish Cemetery (it was new when it was opened over 100 years ago) is well maintained, and it is possible to discover relatives' headstones while simply walking along the paths, many graves are covered in the rampant ivy. A useful thing to take to an old cemetery is a pair of gardening gloves!

Fortunately, I found the cemetery office open, with an elderly gentleman seated at his computer. He welcomed me, and I asked if I might speak English. "*Ein bisschen*" was his reply, so we spoke in hesitant German instead. I asked for the location of the graves of a family who, rather than join the transports to Terezín, had committed suicide together in 1942. The father had been a medical doctor; he administered injections to his family and himself to bring about their deaths. The man in the cemetery office quickly found this family on the cemetery database, and gave me a printout which documented four pieces of information – the year of their death, the fact that the daughter had married, the name of the daughter's husband, and the fact that their bodies had been cremated.

Soon after my visit to the New Jewish Cemetery in November 2013, I heard that its records would be added to the *JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry*. However I am glad I did visit, because the information I found in the office of the New Jewish Cemetery has not been loaded to the JOWBR database.

Our visit to the ancestral home in the town of Králíky has borne fruit. Since our return, we have been contacted by our second cousins in Prague, and have commenced exchanging information. The whole experience has fired up our motivation, and we have just made contact with our second cousins in the United States. We have now located all the living descendants of Leopold and Ida Gottlieb who lived in Králíky, Bohemia. We descendants are spread across five countries in different continents: Czech Republic, England, USA, Chile and Australia. Each of us has a remarkable story of the escape and survival of some of our grandparents.

We visited the Czech Republic in late October and early November 2013. The weather was perfect, but this was an exceptional year. Usually there would be rain. In Prague, the crowds were enough to give life to the city, but not to stifle the experience. In Brno and Mikulov most of the tourists had gone. Another trip is already being planned, at a time of the year more suited to walking the streets and rambling in the cemeteries. If you are planning a trip to the Czech Republic, I am happy to share more information by email: Julia.Trainor@netspeed.com.au

Boys of Gross Breesen– one old photograph, one story

By Piotr Mankowski and Gerhard Salinger, with additions by Robyn Dryen

It must all be recorded with not a single fact omitted. And when the time comes – as it surely will – let the world read and know what the murderers have done.

Oneg Shabbat Archives

These words which inspired the contributors to the *Oneg Shabbat Archives* during the days of the Warsaw ghetto, now greet us as we enter the Yad Vashem website. And these are the very words which inspire and drive Piotr Mankowski to document the history of the Jewish people who lived in his (now Polish) town of Nowogard and in towns further afield in the surrounding region of Pomerania.



While researching, Mr Mankowski came across a reference to a Jewish agricultural training camp in Gross Breesen (now the town of Brzeźno, approximately 30 kms north-west of Wrocław).

Deciding to investigate, he learnt that this camp was one of several training facilities established by a group of Jewish organisations to provide young Jewish men and women with vocational skills in agriculture – to assist them to emigrate to safer lands. Gross Breesen started in 1936 and ran until 1942, and was approved by the

Germans as it assisted Jews to leave Germany. Towards the end of 1942, those remaining at Gross Breesen were deported to the transit camp at Grüssau and from there to Auschwitz-Birkenau and to Terezín. Few survived.

The original plan was for the trainees to emigrate as a group, but the speed with which the situation in Germany changed meant that individuals emigrated as soon as they were accepted by a third country. One group of 19 men and 2 women, sponsored by Australian Jewish Welfare, arrived here in July 1939 but were not able to remain together. They were placed individually or in pairs on farms and in towns, across Australia. Eventually 33 of the approximately 260 who trained at Gross Breesen settled in Australia. They maintained contact with each other and with other Gross Breeseners for over 50 years. Many of their letters and newsletters (*Rundbrief*) can be found in digital form at <http://tinyurl.com/GrossBreesen> (In English and German)

The story of the photograph



Front row (L-R): Manfred Amsterdam, Dodo Cohn, Günther Brumsack, Klaus Freund, Günther Marcuse
Middle row: Gerhard Salinger, Herbert Münzer, Bernhard Blume, Klaus Grünbaum
Top row: Günther Hirschfeld, Rudi Weiss

Searching the Yad Vashem website, Mr Mankowski found this photograph of a group of young men standing on the steps of the main house at Gross Breesen – they were un-named, which troubled him, but he recognised a young Gerhard Salinger.

Mr Salinger has written extensively about Jewish communities, including those in Pomerania. Mr Mankowski had read these books and had previously tracked Mr Salinger through his distributor in Hannover, and they had been corresponding for some time.

Knowing the importance of naming and documenting pre-WW2 European Jews, Mr Mankowski set about trying to identify all the young men in the photograph and to determine their fates. He started with Mr Salinger who identified, as best he remembered, the other young men in the photograph. This was supplemented by research in the collections of Yad Vashem, the *Gedenkbuch* (Memorial Book) of the Bundesarchiv <http://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/directory.html> and various documents now digitised on the web.

Gerhard Salinger remembers:

... When I arrived in Gross Breesen, a number of people had already been able to emigrate. Gross Breesen was established by the Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland in the 1930's. The purpose was to train young people in agriculture, so that they would have better opportunities abroad. I estimate that there were about 100 young people when I was there.

There were several groups based on the ages of the people. I still remember the names of my group but this is not the case with everyone, and more than half of the faces I do not remember. There were age groups for boys of 14 and 15, 15 and 16, 17-19 and some older people. There was also a group of girls and I remember that 3 or 4 married there.

I arrived in mid-August 1939, just two weeks before the war started. There were appeals in the morning and you were sent to wherever you were assigned. There was field work, some horticulture – every so often you had to milk the cows and occasionally work with oxen and horses. The milking of the cows started at 2:30 am and I was not very enthusiastic to do this work. The supervisor, a local toothless man, was despised by many because of his unpleasant behaviour.

Since the start of the war, food was rationed. Bread was available, also potatoes, but not much else. The head of the place was a former teacher from Berlin, Walter Bernstein. He had a phonograph and classical records. So these evenings were a pleasant introduction for me to the field of (secular) classical music – Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann and others. I said secular, because at a very young age I was introduced to classical liturgical music. And my greatest teacher was Louis Lewandowski (born in 1821 in Wreschen, Posen – died 1894 in Berlin). Lewandowski was not a cantor, but a first-grade composer and had the title "Royal Prussian director of all Berlin synagogue choirs". He was a contemporary of cantor Salomon Sulzer in Wien (Vienna) who was cantor and composer and a friend of Franz Schubert, who wrote the 92nd Psalm for him.

If you wanted to look for me in the evening in Gross Breesen you would always find me in the library, which we had there. Sometimes I was sitting there until 2:30 am, when the cows were waiting to be milked. At the beginning of the war, travel was not restricted. At a later time when it was, I received a permit from the local Amtsvorsteher (Chief Administrator). The local people were friendly and I never had problems. For my sister in Berlin who worked as a student nurse in the Berlin Jewish Hospital, the circumstances were different. She received no permission to travel to Stolp in 1942 as I did, when my parents were deported.

In the spring of 1941, a group of people were sent to other places. I was initially in a place near Frankfurt/Oder where the young men were quartered in a chicken coop. A few months later followed a transport to one of the Neuendorf (County of Fürstenwalde) branches. First it was Hasenfelde (agriculture) then Behlendorf (forest work). Early in April 1943 when most of the Jewish population had already been deported, we were sent to Berlin.

*There at Grosse-Hamburger-Strasse, the Jewish old age home was emptied and used as a deportation center. I left Berlin with the 37th Transport on April 19th and arrived the following morning in Auschwitz. It was the first day of Passover which celebrates the redemption **from servitude to freedom**. In my case it was the other way around. My sister came with the 36th Transport to Auschwitz. The fact that my transport had more survivors than most was because we were awaited as young workers for I.G. Farben.*

...

When the Gestapo entered Manfred Amsterdam's apartment, he jumped out of the window and broke his neck. A rather tragic case... He came from Berlin and died there, during the war – at some point he lived in Berlin 'illegally'.

Not everyone who arrived in Auschwitz was able to adjust himself to be a 'number'. Among them was Günther Marcuse, whom I met a few times at the beginning. He suffered from severe depression and did not live very long. Even worse, was the fate of Walter Bernstein, the former head of Gross Breesen. He was not recognizable as a normal human being and soon perished. The head of another Neuendorf camp had diabetes. With no medication available for him, he soon died.

Martin Gerson (Berlin) was the overall head of the camps. He was perhaps in his 40's, or around 50. For him, his white hair was his misfortune. With that he looked much older, and when he arrived in Auschwitz during the selection – life or death – his fate was sealed. If he had the foresight to colour his hair, he would perhaps have had a chance to live.

...

Here in New York – Günther Hirschfeld is the only other survivor, three or four live elsewhere in the USA and Germany.

Gerhard Salinger – New York, January 2014

Piotr Mankowski's findings on the fate of the young men in the photograph:

Of the eleven boys in the photograph, only four are known to have survived:

- ❖ Klaus Freund – after 1945 lived in Virginia, USA
- ❖ Günther Hirschfeld – lives in New York, USA
- ❖ Gerhard Salinger – lives in New York, USA
- ❖ Rudi Weiss – lived in Australia (Leura), died 17 May 2009

For years the fate of the other boys was not known and even today is not fully confirmed.

❖ **Blume, Bernhard**

Born: 21st December 1920, in Herzebrock, Wiedenbrück, Westfalen

Deportation destination: unknown

Date/Place of Death: 31st January 1945, officially declared dead

❖ **Brumsack, Günther**

Born: 25th February 1923, in Lehrte, Burgdorf, Hannover

Deportation destination: from Hannover 15th December 1941, to Riga ghetto

❖ **Cohn, Dodo**

Born: 10th October 1922, Aurich, Hannover

Deportation destination: from Breslau 04th March 1943 to Auschwitz

Date/Place of Death: officially declared dead

❖ **Grünbaum, Klaus Günter Claus**

Born: 01st October 1922, in Berlin

Deportation destination: from Berlin 26th October 1942, to Riga

Date/Place of Death: 29th October 1942, Riga

❖ **Marcuse, Günther**

Born: 04th September 1923, in Berlin

Deportation destination: from Breslau 04th March 1943, to Auschwitz

Date/Place of Death: 25th March 1944, Auschwitz (Monowitz-Buna)

❖ **Münzer, Herbert**

Born: 11th April 1923, in Berlin

Deportation destination: from Breslau 04th March 1943, to Auschwitz; 26th January 1945, to Buchenwald

❖ **Amsterdamer, Manfred**

Born: 29th August 1922, in Berlin

Deportation destination: from Berlin 16th June 1943, to Terezín ghetto

Date/Place of Death: 10th April 1944, Terezín ghetto

This last entry is found in the *Gedenkbuch*, and is at odds with Mr Salinger's recollection that Manfred Amsterdamer committed suicide in Berlin. If you have additional information on any of these men, we would be pleased to receive it at: society@ajgs.org.au

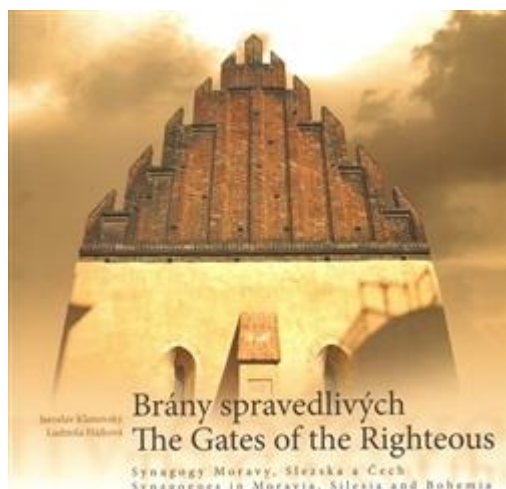
Book Reviews

Brány spravedlivých. Synagogy Moravy, Silesia a Čech, by Jaroslav Klenovský and Ludmila Hájková

Foto Studio H, Ústí nad Labem, 2012. 265 pages, 30cm by 30cm. ISBN 978-80-902349-9-4

[English title *The Gates of the Righteous. Synagogues in Moravia, Silesia and Bohemia*.]

Reviewed by Daniela Torsh



The Gates of the Righteous is a first for the Czech Republic – a fully illustrated large format book describing, in text and photos, fifty-four beautiful historic synagogues from every part of the small country.

Klenovský's goal with his collaborator, Ludmila Hájková, the photographer (and part of the publishing house in Ústí) was to show the scope and variety of the architecture and decoration in the Czech synagogues from north to south and east to west.

The cities and towns covered in this book include the capital Prague and the Moravian capital Brno, but also include some much smaller places like Holešov, Kojetín, Třešť, Jičín and Děčín. It's written in both Czech and English throughout.

The book is not only beautiful, it's also practical, as it includes maps showing each town's location, sketches and drawings of where the synagogues may be found in the town, a large glossary of terms in Hebrew, Czech and English, a long list of related websites for the eager researcher and a very useful bibliography.

As Klenovský is an architect whose job it has been for many years to maintain and restore the synagogues in Moravia, the focus of his work is aligned to his profession. But in addition to architecture, the book also contains much Jewish history and culture which is both fascinating and valuable as a record of the rich Jewish cultural and religious history of the Czech Republic.

Klenovský writes that the first synagogue to be erected in the Czech Republic was in Prague in Mala strana – the Kleine Seite (small side) of the Vltava River which divides the city. Mala strana is beneath

the famous Prague castle, the Hradčany and it's where one of the first Jewish settlements in the city was founded. At the other end of the time spectrum the book shows one of the most recent synagogues to be built in the northern Bohemian border city of Liberec – an ultra-modern concrete building.

Before World War II there were 320 synagogues writes Klenovský. The Nazis destroyed 70 and the Communist regime, post-1948, destroyed a further 105. Today, seven are used for religious services, mainly in Prague and Brno. Klenovský lists 35 which have become Christian churches; 43 are used as museums and cultural centres, and 15 are occupied as storage depots. But the happy story is that since the Velvet Revolution in 1989 there has been an unprecedented rise in heritage restoration involving 65 buildings. I know from personal experience about the restoration of the synagogues in my ancestral towns of Boskovice and Strážnice in Moravia. Both small synagogues, with their richly painted interiors, have become cultural centres in their towns and house exhibits showing their Jewish past.

The Czech, Moravian and Silesian synagogues demonstrate many kinds of architectural styles from baroque to historicist, renaissance, gothic, classicist, art nouveau and modernist. There are no Sephardi synagogues – only Ashkenazi. They were built from timber, stone and brick, with metal elements, glass and stained glass. The book discusses the siting, layout and decoration of the synagogues and describes the Hebrew inscriptions found in and on many of them. It took years for the book to be published, but all that effort is not wasted. It is a fine book and will be read for years to come.

To obtain copies of this book contact the author, Ing. Jaroslav Klenovský. His e-mail address is Jaroslav.klenovsky@zob.cz. There is at least one copy in Australia in the library of the Sydney Jewish Museum.

New in our Library

By Kym Morris

Burial Records of the Great & Hambro Synagogues – London 1791-1837, by Harold and Miriam Lewin.

In this, their fourth in a series of transcriptions of London synagogue records, Harold and Miriam Lewin present more than 4,000 burial records translated from the LDS microfilms of the Great and the Hambro Synagogues for the period 1791 -1837.

The introductory notes explain the record selection criteria and transliteration rules used to present the data, and the transcripts indicate where the meaning was not clear or the film illegible. The records include the Name of the Deceased, Patronymic of Deceased, Place of Residence, Death or Burial, LDS Film No., Record No., Volume No., Burial Date and Notes for additional information.

The sample pages of the original films show the complexity and range of quality in the original records. The Lewins deserve our thanks for undertaking a time-consuming and painstaking process to make an important record more accessible to a wider audience of genealogists.

Examples:

***Name of the Deceased / Patronymic of Deceased / Place of Residence, Death or Burial /
Film No. / Record No / Volume No / Burial Date / Notes***

- ❖ ***Leowe Moses*** / Moshe Yehuda b Yaakov harofe b'kehilatanu *** / Bury St., St Mary Axe / 946639 / 1668 / 141 / 22.04.1825 / father of dec. was community doctor but patronymic unclear
- ❖ ***Levi Joseph*** (not in record) / Yosef b Eleazer Fuchs / Well St, Goodman's Fields / 946639 / 2097 / 141 / 02.03.1828 / crushed to death by the falling Brunswick Theatre
- ❖ ***Levi n.r*** / nefel min Shlomo Yona b Yaakov Levi / Artillery Pl., City Rd / 946639 / 1696 / 141 / 15.07.1825 / stillborn of S.S. Levi
- ❖ ***Levi Philip*** / Feis b Moshe Levi Lincon / George Yd., Lombard St / 946639 / 508 / 140 / 24.06.1814 / Lincoln intended?

A copy of the book is available in our Resources Library at Lindfield.

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Cora Num's publications are handy genealogical reference books which demonstrate her interest in providing researchers with annotated bibliographies of important genealogical topics. These are not simply lists of available records or references – Num adds invaluable tips for understanding the various sources, and by categorising and grouping them, she encourages us to look deep as well as wide in our research.

It is important to remember that where sites on the internet are provided as sources, the location (URL) might change, information might be updated or removed and it's good referencing practice to note the date and time, as well as the URL, when you download or refer to online sources. It's also good practice to verify, when you can, transcribed data with the original records - even the most assiduous transcriber can make mistakes. The real value in these volumes is Num's experience as a professional family history researcher, updating her books regularly, providing tips and context for sources that can assist you in extending your searches.

The four booklets AJGS has acquired are listed below, together with a random fact from each.

❖ ***eRecords for Family History, 2013***

The book is an introduction to the various agencies and their collections which have been digitised and made accessible online – and whether they are free or require a fee.

Example:

archive.org

The Internet Archive Wayback Machine offers access to archived versions of web sites, currently at 372+ billion. Type in a URL, select a date range by choosing a blue highlighted date on the calendar returned then access an archived version of that website.

Tip: This is a great place to search if a site is unavailable or is suddenly taken offline. p.32

❖ ***Internet Family History, updated edition, 2013***

Internet Family History



This volume explores the record sources on line such as FamilySearch, Parish Register sites, archives and libraries and has useful information to assist the researcher in using tools such as Google Search and Cloud storage more effectively.

Example:

Using Original Census Records (England & Wales)

Here are some things you need to know

- Single Diagonal line (/) indicates end of a household
- Double diagonal line (//) indicates end of a dwelling
- Do = ditto (same as above)
- Ag Lab = agricultural labourer
- App/Ap = apprentice

- FS = female servant; MS = male servant
 - HLW = hand loom weaver (cotton, wool, silk)
 - Ind = Independent (living on own means)
 - mos = age in months
- p.32

❖ *How Did They Get Here? Arrivals after 1924*, 2nd edition, 2012



This book includes updated Internet resources such as indexes, databases, digital records, newspapers and e-Books and tips for using them effectively in your research.

Example:

LUNN Geoffrey, *And the Crew Went Too: The £10 Assisted Passage*, Sutton Publishing, 2007, 192p. *The end of the Second World War heralded one of the largest mass migrations ever seen from Europe. British and Australian governments collaborated to offer 'assisted passages', effectively subsidising the fare so that emigrants would pay a maximum of £10. The author tells the fascinating story of these mass migrations, using interviews with emigrants to bring the story to life.*

p.38

❖ *Shipping and Migration, Research on the Internet*, 2012

A companion volume to *How Did They Get Here? Arrivals after 1924*, this book focuses on the pre-1924 shipping and migration records.

Example:

***The Paracensus of Australia 1788-1828*.** *This book by James H Donohoe was originally published in 1998. The 5th edition, 2007, on CD-ROM, records the details of 120,000+ individuals including marines, soldiers, ship's captains, some sailors, migrants, convicts, some visitors, officially recorded Aborigines, exiles and orphans.*

p.13

With Num's books alongside your computer, beginner or advanced researcher can learn of new resources and techniques for online genealogy.

News and Interesting websites

Destination: Australia – Australian National Archives project

<https://www.destinationaustralia.gov.au/site/index.php>

The *Destination: Australia* website aims to draw on the stories of the people and their family members featured in the photographs showcased on the site to create an in-depth history of Australia's post-war immigration.

This is your opportunity to share your immigration stories related to the photographs. There are more than 21,000 photographs from a promotional series of photographs taken by the Department of Immigration since 1945.

You are invited to tag people you know, tag where they came from and came to, add descriptions and comments, and comment on others' contributions.

Discovering Anzacs website

<http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/>

The National Archives of Australia and the Archives of New Zealand have joined forces to create a new website called *Discovering Anzacs*. This website will have a unique profile of every Anzac who enlisted in World War I, linked to their service record. You are invited to tell their personal stories during the war by building on profiles and adding your own family stories, photos or details of their service.

The Jewish Online Museum (JoM)

<http://jewishonlinemuseum.org/>

The Auckland (NZ) Jewish community has launched an online museum to preserve the tradition, history, culture and knowledge of the local Jewish community.

It currently has three 'exhibitions' – including *Te Jewry*, which traces the fascinating relationship between the Maori and New Zealand Jewry since the country's earliest times. There are oral histories, biographies, photos and much else to browse. Check back regularly as new material keeps appearing.

United Synagogue (UK) – changed urls

The United Synagogue changed its website, which means that the web addresses for the indexes to marriage authorisations and burials also changed. The marriage authorisation search is now at <http://www.theus.org.uk/category/find-marriage-record> and the burial search is at <http://www.theus.org.uk/gravesearch>. Sadly, only the url has changed – you still have to search cemetery by cemetery.

Leeds Cemeteries

JCR-UK has announced newly indexed burial records for Leeds cemeteries. The database includes photos.

- ❖ Leeds Beth Hamedrash Hagadol (BHH) Cemetery: <http://tinyurl.com/LeedsBHH>. This database also includes a number of other congregations, from 1952 to 2013.
- ❖ Leeds United Hebrew Congregation (UHC) Cemetery: <http://tinyurl.com/LeedsUHC2>. This database includes a number of other congregations, from 1840 to 2013.

The Gazette (UK)

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>

The new *Gazette* website has been completely re-designed. It brings together the *London*, *Edinburgh* and *Belfast Gazettes* so you can simultaneously search all three. The search parameters have been expanded and the layout and results are far superior to the former site.

You do not need to register to search the site, but if you would like to save your searches, favourite notices or create bespoke editions you will need to register. Registration is free.

My Heritage adds *The Jewish Chronicle* to its data collections

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

MyHeritage has added *The Jewish Chronicle* newspaper archive to its digital collection of historical records. The archive contains over 200,000 pages and millions of names, and dates back to 1841.

Despite pleas from many genealogists, *The Jewish Chronicle* proprietors have refused to provide an archives subscription rate, and insist that you buy a very expensive subscription for hard copy *with* internet access to the archives.

For an unlimited number of archives searches, the annual subscription to *The Jewish Chronicle* for Australians is £235 (approx. \$428AUD). If you use this resource frequently, the \$US119.40 (\$128.38AUD) annual data subscription to *MyHeritage* seems good value, as it buys access to all their databases including *The Jewish Chronicle*.

A land of ghosts

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/a-land-of-ghosts-20140113-30pbe.html>

The *Good Weekend*, January 18, 2014, published a moving article by Michael Gawenda on his travels to Poland as a guest of the Forum for Dialogue. He describes his visits to Sandomierz, Lowicz, Lodz and Warsaw.

1910 Tarnopol Census of the Jews Online

<http://search.geshergalicia.org>

The Galician SIG, Gesher Galicia, has added the 1910 Census of the Jewish population of Tarnopol to the All-Galicia Database. There are approximately 14,000 names, almost half of the population of the town. Information includes date of birth, town of record, community where registered, year residency in Tarnopol commenced and other items.

YIVO Digital Archive on Jewish Life in Poland

<http://polishjews.yivoarchives.org>

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research has launched its Digital Archive on Jewish Life in Poland.

The website has thousands of digitised documents, manuscripts, photographs, artworks, films, and audio recordings relating to the Jewish community in Poland before World War II.

Most of the documents in this website were collected and preserved by the YIVO Institute in Vilna from its founding in 1925 until the outbreak of World War II in September 1939. The institute relocated to New York City in 1940.

JDC Archives adds records of Jewish WWI Prisoners of War in Siberia

<http://archives.jdc.org/from-the-archives/world-war-i-prisoner-of-war.html>

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has indexed and placed online, a collection of records of Jewish prisoners-of-war. These PoWs were held in Siberia from 1920. The soldiers, depicted on the more than 1,000 cards that comprise the collection, served in the German and Austro-Hungarian armies. Many of these records contain biographical information and photographs.

Jamaican Records

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

Not a new site, but now access is free.

It includes indexes for the following Jewish records:

- ❖ Births and Marriages in the Ashkenazi Congregation in Kingston 1788-1906.
- ❖ Births, Marriages and Deaths in the Sephardic Congregation in Kingston, 1809-1902.
- ❖ Births in the Amalgamated Congregation and United Congregation of Israelites, 1884-1930.
- ❖ Marriages in the Amalgamated Congregation and United Congregation of Israelites, 1883-1945.
- ❖ Deaths in the Amalgamated and United Congregation of Israelites 1883-1993.
- ❖ Jewish Births in Montego Bay (partial)
- ❖ A brief Index to Jewish Marriages and Deaths in Montego Bay

It also includes transcriptions of the tombstones in the Jewish cemetery in Falmouth, and some photographs of the cemetery.

IGRA adds new databases

<http://genealogy.org.il>

The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) has recently added to its databases:

- ❖ S.S. *Ruslan* Passenger List, 19 Dec 1919
- ❖ Zionist convicts from the Soviet Union exiled to Palestine, 1924-1934
- ❖ Staff List of the Government of Palestine, 1935
- ❖ Jerusalem *Pinkas Bogrim* (Adult Voters List) for Knesset Israel, 1942
- ❖ Yagur *Pinkas Bogrim* (Adult Voters List) for Knesset Israel, 1942
- ❖ Who's Who in Palestine, 1944
- ❖ Voters List for local Election, Herziliya, 1945
- ❖ The Signatories of the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel

Ioannina Jewish Legacy Project

<http://www.ioanninajewishlegacy.com/index.php>

Ioannina is located in North Eastern Greece and was once the centre of Romaniote Judaism. The Canadian Embassy in Greece, The Jewish Museum of Greece, The City of Ioannina and the Jewish Community of Ioannina have combined resources to make possible this website which commemorates the Jews of Ioannina.

Read and view photos about their history, religious life, daily life, and testimonies of a few of the Holocaust survivors from Ioannina. In English and Greek.

Thanks to Jan Meisels Allen and the IAJS Leadership Forum for this note.

Leslie Caplan Genealogical Repository

In November 2013, the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy (IIJG) established a repository for Jewish genealogical papers and records, to be held at the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP) in Jerusalem.

It was made possible by a generous gift to the Institute by Mrs. Sophie Caplan of Sydney, Australia, and was named after her late husband, Leslie Caplan, who was a prominent leader of Australian Jewry for many years. The primary purpose of the repository is to collect and preserve significant collections of Jewish genealogical papers and to make them readily available to family historians, social scientists and researchers worldwide.

IIJG welcomes offers of private genealogical papers and collections which meet certain well-defined criteria which can be found at <http://iiyg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Repository-criteria1.pdf>.

Those interested to bestow or bequeath their collections to the Repository should contact the IIJG Director, Ami Elyasaf: director@iiyg.org

Spanish Civil War – Jewish veterans of the British Battalion

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/spanjews.pdf>

Shirley Collier alerted the JGSGB Discussion List to the existence of a list of Jewish veterans associated with the British Battalion in the Spanish Civil War. It includes some Australians as they were fighting with the British Battalion.

Dates for your diary

Workshop Dates for the remainder of 2014

The Society will hold workshops at:

Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield on the following dates:

Sundays: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

June 1	July 6	August 3
September 14	October 12	November 9
December 7		

Mondays: 10 am to 1 pm

May 19	June 16	July 14
August 18	September 29	October 27
November 24	December 15	

Additional workshops will be held at Waverley Library. We will email you the exact dates and times. You can always check details on our website: www.ajgs.org.au

The Last Word

For now, I wear both the President's hat and the Editor's eyeshade, and I'm very attached to *The Last Word*. So – *The President's Report* will disappear from the next issue and in its place, we will have *Society News*. This will include business items from our bi-monthly Committee meetings, but I'd like to encourage more member involvement, so please feel free to submit news items.

Kosher Koala is only as good as its contributions. Consider sharing your research adventures with other members. Every submission will be carefully considered. If you are uncertain about your writing skills, just jot down a few points. We can work together to develop an article, news brief or research tip.

I would really welcome articles pertaining to Sephardi origins, South African research, creative ways to break down brick walls, and interesting characters in your family tree.

In future editions of *Kosher Koala* I would like to run a section on your 'brick walls'. Do you have a challenge for the experts among our members? We don't propose carrying out your research for you, but we might be able to suggest new ways of tackling the problem, or new resources you might not have consulted.

Briefly describe your challenge, outline the steps you have already taken, and then send to ed@ajgs.org.au. I will select the most interesting ones, and those likely to provide leads for others similarly stymied.

Robyn Dryen

Editor

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