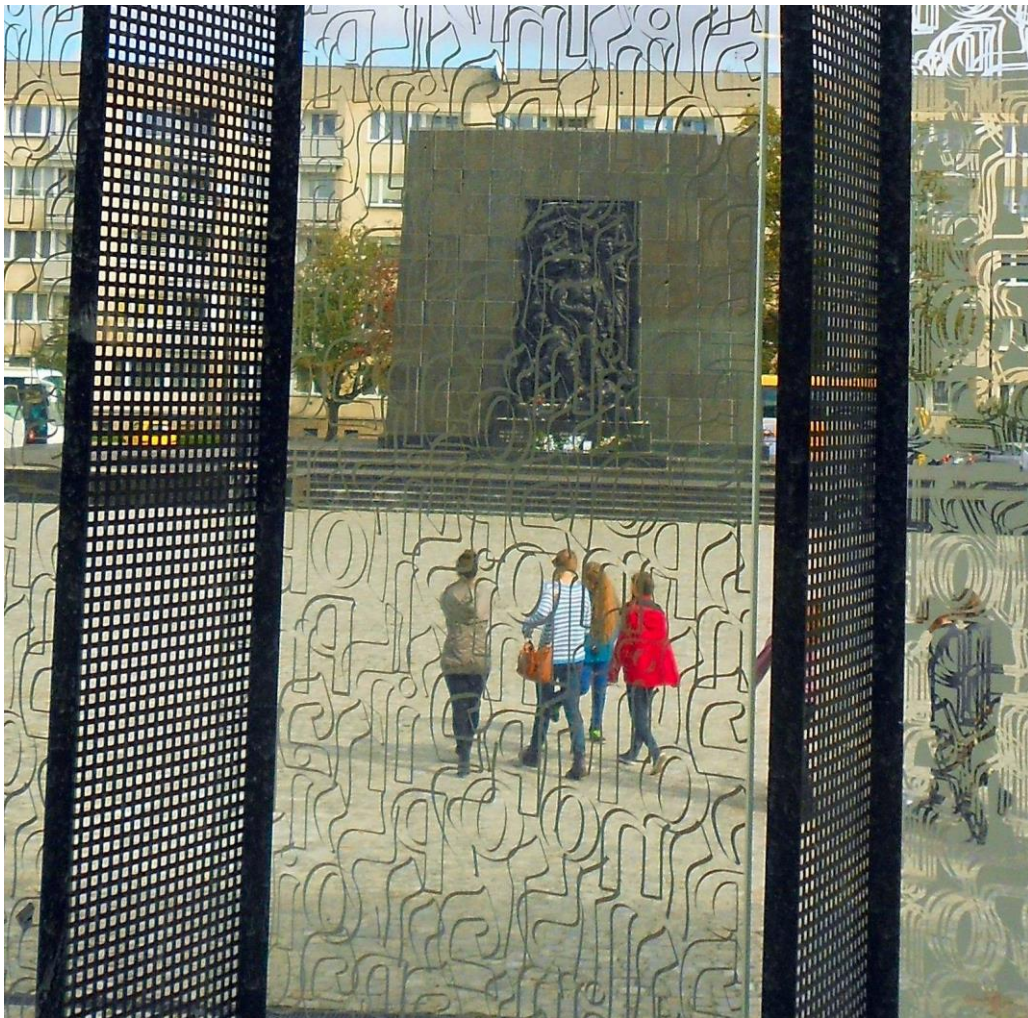


KOSHER KOALA

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



December 2013



Warsaw Ghetto Memorial seen from the Museum of the History of Polish Jews

Photo: Peter Keeda

President's Report

Another year has flown by, I hope that genealogically speaking, it has been fruitful for all of you. We trust our partnership with Waverley Library and the donation of a number of good books to their Reference Section has inspired some of you to go along and browse. Two workshops there have already attracted new members, along with a number of our regular members.

The twice-monthly Lindfield workshops are always popular and have resulted in quite a few exciting discoveries. These have come not only from the internet – a great deal of information is to be found in a number of excellent reference books which we keep in our library, along with a selection of journals, CDs and flash drives of the talks from all the latest international Jewish genealogical conferences.

Books which have no online equivalent include *Where Once We Walked* and *The Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy*, both by Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack; Alexander Beider's *Dictionaries of Jewish Surnames* from Galicia, the Kingdom of Poland and the Russian Empire,

Jeffrey Malka's *Sephardic Genealogy* and the birth and marriage records of the Great, New and Hambro Synagogues in London. These are just a few of the varied books in our library, where you can find a family member deported in the Holocaust or on a boat to South Africa, or if you prefer, can read up on the historical background of various Jewish communities, or pick up tips on publishing your family history.

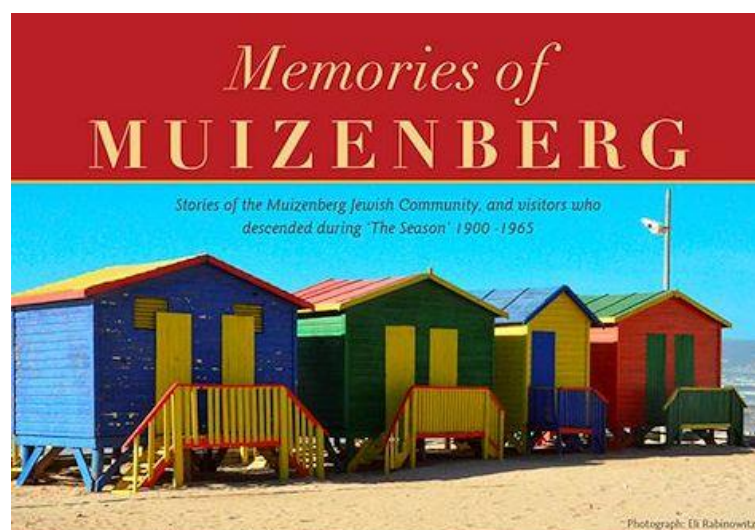
Talks we have given during the year include what makes Jewish genealogy different, the latest news from JRI-Poland and the Polish State Archives, travel and research in Belarus and a panel discussion comparing genealogical software packages.

My warmest thanks go to my committee for their support and enthusiasm throughout the year. They join with me in wishing you the best of health and happiness for 2014 and good luck with your research!

Jeannette Tsoulos
President

We extend a warm welcome to new members

Eva Sullivan, Anna Fried, Colin Cohn, Roslyn Hart and Faye Green.



9-23 February 2014
B'nai Brith Centre
22 Yurong Street, East Sydney

Pajęczno Revisited

Peter Keeda

11 September 2013: Off to Poland next week

It is "9/11"; I am in Israel contemplating my trip to Poland. Next week, I fly to Warsaw, where I will spend a few days, then on to Łódź where I will meet my guide and together we will travel to several of the places where my grandparents lived: Zgierz, Łask, Pajęczno, Działoszyn and Kłobuck. My guide, Petje, seems to be an accomplished genealogist and has already done some research on our family, the Koziwodas and Kacs. We may even visit the tiny village of Kozia Woda which might be the source of our family name, Koziwoda. Petje has found an interesting twist to this ... more info to come!

What do I hope to find in Poland? That is hard to define. I want to get some experience of these places so that, in imagining their lives, I might have a better perspective. At least a hundred years and two world wars have intervened ... Perhaps the museums that I will visit will give me some understanding of the lives they lived.

Are all Poles anti-Semites? About a quarter of all *Righteous Among the Nations* were Polish; 50,000 Jews were hidden in Warsaw during WWII. I don't imagine that I will find any answers to this question, but I hope to hear some views and to have my own prejudices challenged.

18 September: On the Way

I am waiting for El Al flight 563 Tel Aviv to Warsaw. It has been a long journey from my home in Australia to my home in Israel and now on the last leg, to reach the country our grandparents regarded as home. Maybe.

26 hours travel time.

It is hard to imagine their journey to Australia 120 years ago; how did they travel from the *shtetl* to Łódź? And from there to Gdańsk, Hamburg, perhaps London, via the Cape, to Perth, Melbourne, Sydney. I don't suppose they rushed to the duty-free store to stock up on perfume, tobacco and other essentials for their journey, or that they subscribed to Global Roaming.

26 months travel time.

Why did they land in Brisbane, of all places? Had they heard of the Gold Coast, Noosa, the Great Barrier Reef? How much English did they know? What world did they leave behind? Family and friends never to be seen again, the only contact being a few letters which trickled to a dry wadi of tears and hardships.

From the Count Kościuszko to Mount Kościuszko.

So here am I, Peter Max Sol Keeda/Cohen/Koziwoda/Bendkowski looking for some hints of what their lives were like in a distant land where no one speaks Yiddish anymore.

19-20 September: Warsaw

Ho-hum Warsaw ... especially when you realise that most of the city has been rebuilt since 1945 ... I have found nothing relating to my family, but that is not surprising as we did not come from Warsaw.

Nevertheless, I came across a few things of interest. I came across a section of the ghetto wall (100+ metres) which is unlabelled and unmarked on the sparse tourist info sheets. When I pointed it out to a staff member of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, suggesting that 'something should be done to preserve it', he did not know of its existence and was quite indifferent.



Mila 18, Warsaw

And the big discovery of the week: Alexander Harkavy left his birthplace of Nowogródek (now Navahrudak) in 1888 for the USA. There he made a name for himself by writing an authoritative English-Yiddish-Hebrew dictionary which is still in use today. He visited Nowogródek in 1931 and filmed his home village. This film, 19 minutes long, is being shown at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. I filmed his film for Eve Wynhausen/ Harkaway/Harkavi whose grandfather was Alexander's brother!

Off to Łódź tomorrow.

21-22 September: Łódź and Zgierz

Here they seem to think that it is pronounced *Woodj*.

Looks promising, except that they are tearing up the road outside the hotel ...

On arriving here on Saturday, I checked into the Tobacco Hotel which used to be a tobacco factory. Quite a popular theme in Łódź, that is, converting old industrial sites into modern facilities, the largest of which is known as *Manufaktura*. *Manufaktura* is a huge red brick industrial complex that now houses a luxury hotel, a museum, a shopping mall and several other venues. Most impressive. Next to *Manufaktura* is the 'modest' residence of the (Jewish) Poznanski family who owned this town a hundred years ago!

Łódź was the centre of the textile industry in Poland. Many of the leading industrialists were Jewish. Now, quite a few of the beautiful old buildings are being renovated – a lot are being carefully neglected... It must have been impressive in its hey-day.

With my guide I visited Zgierz where my maternal grandmother supposedly lived. As my guide and genealogist, Petje, has not been able to find records confirming this, it is more than likely incorrect. The town itself is quite uninteresting. We visited the old Jewish cemetery, but no gravestones are visible. Overall, Petje has had trouble tracing Mum's side of the family, so it may turn out that they were from elsewhere.

Later we visited the railway station from which the transports departed – I was unimpressed – and then we went on to visit the enormous 'new' Jewish cemetery, supposedly the largest Jewish cemetery in Europe. A fascinating place but poorly maintained.

Koziwoda Country

Yesterday we set off into Koziwoda-country.



Doorpost in Łask

Łask, just south of Łódź, was extremely friendly. We found two non-Jews who were eager to help. They complained that they would like to do more to preserve the Jewish history of their town, but the Łódź Jewish Community does not allow them and does not support them. Incidentally, the Łódź Jewish Community took over a lot of the Jewish property which no longer has owners, so the Community must be pretty rich – money, it would seem, is not the problem. We went to the Jewish cemetery where the gravestones were barely visible ...

Moving south, we drove through Działoszyn – absolutely nothing to see. This is the village where my paternal grandmother (Esther Berkowicz Koziwoda) supposedly lived although there is no written evidence to support this. Having seen Działoszyn, I am hoping that she came from elsewhere!!

Pajęczno, the 'heart' of the Koziwoda empire wasn't much better. The only compensation is that there are very good records of the Koziwodas in Pajęczno. As well as the Bendkowskis ...

What was that??? Yep, a few generations back our family name was Bendkowski!!!

The paper trail (in Pajęczno) is as follows –

We know that Moshe Koziwoda's father was Josef Tuvia Koziwoda (born 28.03.1849) – married Itta Pakula. Also 'known' to us is Josef Tuvia's father, Judah Koziwoda (born about 1808). He married Czarna Bryner/Brumer.

NOW, Judah had a brother, Herszlik Bendkowski aka (also known as) Koziwoda. Some of his offspring used the surname Bendkowski while others used the name Koziwoda, or aka Bendkowski/Koziwoda

Judah and Herszlik's father was Lewek Bendkowski Koziwoda (born about 1765). His father was Jakob Bendkowski (born sometime before 1748).

So, my great-great-great-great grandfather's family name was Bendkowski.



Main street in Pajęczno

25 September: Back to Warsaw

This morning, I prepared myself for the train trip back to Warsaw (about two hours) but, before checking out of the hotel, I had one more look around the city centre of Łódź, the main drag being Piotrkowska (Street). Yep, beautifully renovated, with attractive buildings and much impressive street art, brass statues and huge wall art.

I then met someone from an art studio with whom I had made an appointment and he sold me a most-hard-to-find book. In fact I have already trawled the Internet and visited dozens of book shops in Warsaw and in Łódź looking for a copy – some of the second hand dealers told me that I had little chance of finding one. Only recently published, *Niewinne oko nie istnieje – There's No Such Thing as an Innocent Eye*, is Wojciech Wilczyk's photo-journal of synagogues (and similar) buildings throughout Poland. He undertook the project in 2008. The book is prefaced by some thoughtful and interesting introductory articles. Seven hundred pages long, it is a brilliant expression of what has happened to Polish Jewish life. If you come to our place (in Sydney), you are welcome to browse it – it is brilliant and I am thrilled to have obtained a copy (for under \$30!).

Last Day in Poland

It is drizzling with rain in Warsaw ... However, I had an exciting morning visiting the Ringelblum Archive. What a buzz! The visit took a bit of negotiating, but came off this morning. Breathtaking material! The archives have been extensively written up, but all in Polish – however, an English translation is underway.

*Storage containers in the Ringelblum Archive,
Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw*



Back to Israel tomorrow and the horror-trip back to Sydney next week.

An Isenberg Find

Rieke Nash

On a recent Monday morning, I received an email from one of our members, Deanne, living on the South Coast, whose step-uncle, Toby Goran, married my aunt, Anne Isenberg. It read:

*Rieke,
Received this from a cousin in the UK. Thought you might be interested.
Deanne*

*Deanne,
I received the following message via Ancestry – do you think this is our Isenberg family?
Hilary*

*Hilary,
I see you have parts of the Isenberg family from Sydney in your tree. I'm not related, but I found a coloured photo of two Isenberg children at a local market this weekend, and would be happy to let the descendant have a copy. The photo shows a boy (about 5) and a girl (about 2) in a studio setting at the Hollywood Studios, 136 Pitt Street, Sydney. I guess the photo was taken in about the 1940s or 1950s.
Regards Rodney*

I often receive enquiries about the Isenberg family but, as it is quite a common name, I don't expect to make any connections. Over the years, I have just about documented all my grandfather's immediate siblings, his parents and their ancestral town, Wyszków, Poland, but have not been able to find any of the descendants of the eleven children of his brother, Israel (Srul Binem) all born in London. Maybe this was a breakthrough.



The emails flowed back and forth eliminating any new connections from Hilary. Then Rodney scanned the photo and sent it to us. Deanne thought it might be her Aunt Anne, but when I looked at it I realised it was ME! I own a tintype copy of it in black and white, but not a coloured copy. I still have the locket shown in the photo.

After making contact with Rodney, he told me that he found the framed photo at the Rozelle markets, in Sydney, with the name Isenberg written on the back and decided to accept the challenge of finding the family. He searched *Ancestry.com* for someone who had the name in a tree and who was generally active online and chose Hilary from all the possibilities. Luckily, Hilary was in contact with Deanne and so, within a few days, the mystery was easily solved, thanks to the amazing facilities for sifting through the

masses of information available and connecting people all over the world.

How did my photo end up at an antiques market? So far, we haven't solved that mystery, but Rodney and I are meeting soon to celebrate the success.

And I'm still searching for at least one of the eleven children of Srul.

Book Reviews

From KAISER to KING – a family saga, by Robert Fraser

Self-published, Perth, 2013

Reviewed by Peter Nash

Robert traces his heritage is from the period of the Hapsburg Empire. His family history is mostly embedded in towns now in modern Austria, Czech Republic, Poland and a few neighbouring countries. A family tree with photos dating back to 1835 is included. Primary names are Finkelstein, Stern, Eisinger, Sträuhslar, Nowak, Wolf, Nagel and Lichtblau. Many more photos are included in the narrative.

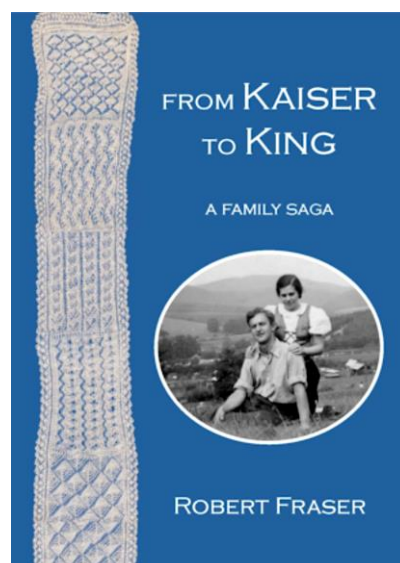
His parents, Herbert (Finkelstein) and Erna (Nowak) wrote testimonies in 1968, completed only in 1983, based on Herbert's imprisonment during *Kristallnacht* (November 1938) in Dachau concentration camp near Munich. He was released with transit permits to enter Great Britain for possible migration to America.

Before leaving, he and Erna married in April 1939. Erna stayed behind to look after her mother, but went to England just before the War broke out. His parents and other family members thus transited from the Austrian Empire to the British Empire –thus the book's title.

The second half focuses on their settling into wartime England – being segregated and learning English. Work opportunities brought them to Wales. Life in the coal mine areas is well covered. Both Herbert and Erna were enlisted in the non-combat Home Guard. Fraser details the lives and circumstances of 'enemy aliens' in wartime Britain.

Post-War, the focus turns to family – those who died and those who survived. Robert was born soon after the war. The family settled into the Welsh way of life and connected with the Jewish community in their home town, Merthyr. During a visit to London, Robert met West Australian-born Gina, also Jewish, and this led to marriage in Perth WA, with both sets of parents present. They returned to Merthyr, but decided to re-settle in Perth. Then they went through the pain of losing Robert's parents in Merthyr.

The book, donated by Robert to the Society, has 223 pages and an index of key names and places. Limited copies are available from Robert, for the cost of postage (\$13 to eastern states), plus \$10. So, \$23, with part proceeds to *JewishGen*. Email Robert Fraser at girof@inet.net.au



Plashet – Gone but not forgotten: 1896-1900, by Miriam Pollak

Plashet Services, Werribee, Victoria 2013

Reviewed by Jeannette Tsoulos

For anyone whose relatives were buried in Plashet between 1896 and 1900, this book would be a godsend. Even for those with no connection to the cemetery, it is an interesting read.

Plashet, consecrated in East Ham in 1896, is one of twelve Jewish cemeteries owned and run by the United Synagogue Burial Society, UK. The author of this book, Miriam Pollak, is a long-time member of our Society and produced the CD, Jewish Chronicle Project, 1900-1909.

Miriam has recorded a wealth of genealogical detail about each occupant of the cemetery – 176 to be exact. She has gathered information from a variety of sources to build up a picture of the person and his or her family. Among



Miriam's sources are the Jewish Chronicle, the UK Censuses, Birth, Death and Marriage records, obituaries and naturalisations. Where possible, she includes information about the spouse. References to "Australian", "American" or "South African papers please copy" also appear and may well lead to discoveries for Australian readers.

As well as the name index, there is an index of marriages, sorted by brides and bridegrooms, and a bibliography. The book includes a Foreword by Rieke Nash. More details (including the name index) available at <http://plashet.com/>

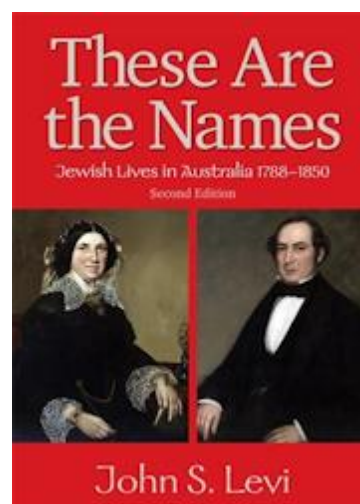
***These are the names: Jewish lives in Australia, 1788-1850*, by John S. Levi**

Second edition, Miegunyah Press, Carlton, Victoria 2013.

Book note by Rieke Nash

The Society has purchased the Second Edition of this important reference book for researching early Jewish settlers in Australia. Entries in the first edition have been updated and corrected.

There have been two new reviews in the Australian Jewish Historical Society's *Journal*: one by Gary Luke in Volume 21 Part 2, 2013 and another by Hilary Rubinstein in Volume 21 Part 3, 2013. Gary Luke comments on some of the changes to the first edition and discusses the difficulty of establishing accuracy with this type of data. Hilary extensively describes the background to the early Jewish settlement in Australia and congratulates John Levi on his valuable contribution to Australian Jewish history.



The book, *These Are the Names* can be consulted at the Society workshops in Lindfield and Waverley.

Looking for ...

COHEN family research

In 2008, Pamela Zopf collaborated with a relative to compile a book on the family of Benjamin Cohen, who arrived as a convict in Tasmania in 1836. Since the book was distributed, they have accumulated a large amount of additional information and are in the process of producing a revised edition.

Several of Benjamin's siblings migrated to Australia from the 1850s and settled in Victoria and NSW.

Pamela would like to contact any interested descendants of these siblings, with view to passing on to them the reasonably large amount of collected information on the London family and comparing it with information they might have.

The siblings, children of Raphael Cohen, grandchildren of Enoch Cohen, both of London were:

- ❖ Enoch, a confectioner/pastry cook/jeweller of several addresses in Sydney from the 1870s. He married Charlotte Levy;
- ❖ Esther Cohen, who married James Buckingham; and
- ❖ Samuel (Saul) Cohen, who married Ellen Catherine Chapman on 21 June 1874 in Sydney.

If you are interested in sharing information please contact Pamela directly at [<pamelazopf@gmail.com>](mailto:pamelazopf@gmail.com)

IAJGS Conference – Salt Lake City 2014



The website of the 34th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is now live at <http://conference.iajgs.org/2014/>

Registration has opened. You have until 15 January 2014 to submit a proposal if you wish to be considered as a speaker or workshop leader.

As the conference starts one day shy of the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, the major theme of the conference is:

the impact of WW1 on the lives of our ancestors, including the experiences of our ancestors in the military of countries on all sides of the conflict, the disruption caused by the battles through the Jewish heartland in Eastern Europe, and the dislocation and migration it stimulated.

Other focus areas of the conference include

- ❖ *Technology in the Pursuit of Genealogy;*
- ❖ *Jewish Migrations over the Ages;*
- ❖ *Ethical Genealogical Challenges; and*
- ❖ *Jews (and crypto-Jews) of the Western United States.*

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 on the website to develop an in-depth history of Australia's post-war immigration.

These photographs come from a promotional series taken by the Department of Immigration. These are now stored as the Immigration Photographic Archive collection (Series A12111) at the National Archives of Australia.

There are over 21,000 photographs on the site.

This is your opportunity to share your immigration stories related to the photographs. You are able to tag people you know, tag where they came from and came to, add descriptions and comments, comment on others' contributions, or scan photographs to explore Australia's post-war immigration.

Biographical Database of Australia (BDA)

<http://www.bda-online.org.au/>

BDA is a new database which contains transcripts and indexes of many original records and published biographies of deceased individuals who arrived, or were born, in Australia.

The first release of material contains convict, muster, census, baptism, marriage and burial manuscript records for most of the New South Wales population 1788-1828, for Norfolk Island and Tasmania 1802-1811, and many immigrant and convict records from 1829-1837, along with full-text short biographies of 11,000+ residents of most colonies/states, published 1881-1907.

You can search the indexes free, while a \$25 annual subscription gains you access to reports, technical support and advanced searching capabilities.

Strathfield synagogue

<http://strathfieldschule.weebly.com/>

On 31st August 2013, Strathfield Synagogue closed its doors. Now a website has been established to celebrate this remarkable Jewish community. The organisers are seeking contributions of photos, remembrances and other memorabilia from everyone who had a connection to this *shul*.

Guidelines for submitting material are on the website.

Lost *shul* project

www.lostshulmural.org

In 1910, the interior of Chai Adam Synagogue in Burlington, Vermont was painted from ceiling to floor by Ben Zion Black, who was born in Kovno and brought from Lithuania by the congregation to paint the interior of the synagogue in the style of the wooden *shuls* of Eastern Europe.

Decades later, the synagogues in Burlington merged and the Chai Adam building was sold several times before ultimately being converted into apartment units. Much of the painting was destroyed during the renovation, but the mural over the ark was covered by a wall and forgotten until 2012, when the Lost Shul Mural was uncovered.

A project, led by the members of the congregation of the Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Vermont, to stabilise and preserve this delicate artwork is now in place. It is one of the few surviving examples of this kind of synagogue decoration, as most of the European ones were destroyed during the Holocaust. See more details of the project and information about the artist at the above website.

News from *ancestry.com* #1

Ancestry24 was a South African website with a good many records of interest to family historians. When it ceased operating in February 2013, access to its indexes disappeared.

Ancestry.com has bought the database and will soon include these records among its offerings. No date has been announced for release of the data, so keep checking. As there are few online databases for South Africa, this is welcome news for those with South African links.

News from *ancestry.com* #2

Ancestry.com and FamilySearch International have announced an agreement to make approximately 1 billion global historical records available online and thus more easily accessible. The two services will work together with the archive community over the next five years to digitise, index and publish the records from the FamilySearch vault.

The Montefiore Censuses

<http://www.montefiorecensuses.org/search/>

Sir Moses Montefiore compiled censuses, in the years 1839, 1840, 1849, 1855, 1866 and 1875, of the Jewish inhabitants of the Holy Land, Alexandria, Sidon (Saida) and Beirut. The Montefiore Endowment commissioned the Israel Genealogical Society to transliterate the censuses into modern Hebrew and English scripts and to translate them.

They have now been published on-line by the Endowment and can be searched in Hebrew or English.

Oral history projects

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

<http://multimedia.huji.ac.il/oralhistory/eng/catalog-en.html>

Since 1959, the Oral History Division of The Hebrew University has collected more than 10,000 interviews about the Holocaust in 20 languages. 900 audio interviews are available online at the above website.

The catalogue groups the interviews into 15 sub-themes. Only some of the interviews are in English, and the catalogue is not helpful in this regard. However there is a wealth of information here about various aspects of life during and after the holocaust.

Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive at the University of Michigan

<http://holocaust.umd.umich.edu/interviews.php>

This collection of oral testimonies began in 1981 and continues to add new interviews. All but two of the hundreds of interviews are available online. Some are videos on YouTube, the remainder are audio only. These testimonies are in English.

Iraqi Jewish Archive

Thousands of documents and books connected with the long history of Jews in Iraq were discovered in a flooded basement of the Mukhabarat, Iraq's intelligence building in Baghdad, in 2003. They were rescued and removed to the US for preservation and restoration. A selection of restored items was recently exhibited at the US National Archives in Washington DC.

The US government has promised their return to Iraq when preservation and digitisation have been completed in 2014. However, as their future in Iraq cannot be assured, there is now much debate among both the Jewish community and the community of Middle Eastern scholars as to whether or not they should be returned.

To read more about the restoration and view the beginnings of the digital project go to

<http://www.ija.archives.gov/>

To read more about the debate on the future of the collection, Google "Iraqi Jewish artefacts" and see the many press reports including this one from *The New York Times* <http://tinyurl.com/iraqi-artefacts>

Chmielnik Synagogue restored

<http://swietokrzyskisztepl.pl/en/>

The former synagogue in Chmielnik has been restored and re-opened as a museum of local Jewish history. This website is packed with photos old and new, and also has snapshots of many of the surrounding *shtetls*.

1932 Jewish residents of Staszów

<http://mapalist.com/Public/pm.aspx?mapid=364025>

Jean-Pierre Stroweis has created a wonderful map of the location of Jewish residents in Staszów in 1932. Based on the *1932 Book of Properties* for Staszów, he has transposed the addresses to the modern-day streets. If your family came from this town, it is a fabulous resource.

Gesher Galicia's New Video Portal

<http://www.geshergalicia.org/videos/>

Gesher Galicia now has a new video portal where you will be able to access videos of conference presentations and other videos of interest. Some videos will be free to view; others will require membership of Gesher Galicia. So far, there is just one available, Brooke Schreier Ganz's presentation to the Boston IAJS Conference, *Using the New Gesher Galicia Website to Research Towns and Families*. More will be added soon.

Jewish businesses in Berlin 1930-1945

<http://www2.hu-berlin.de/djgb/www/find>

Humboldt University, Berlin, has an online database of pre-war Jewish businesses in Berlin. Information available includes: business name, address, business sector, industry, date of company start and its end-date. The site is in German, but is easily searchable.

Thanks to Jan Meisels Allen for this information.

The Story of the Jewish Community of Bratislava

<http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/communities/bratislava/index.asp>

Yad Vashem has a new online exhibit which tells the Story of the Jewish Community of Bratislava, Slovakia.

The exhibit is in four parts:

- ❖ Before the Holocaust
- ❖ During the Holocaust
- ❖ After the Holocaust
- ❖ Their Legacies Remain

Click on each part for photographs and narrative. There are many embedded links which take you to more details of people, places and history.

FamilySearch to microfilm French records

FamilySearch has been granted permission to microfilm and index French parish and civil registrations and censuses. There is no word yet on when they might become available.

Hull (UK) – Jewish Community Records

<http://www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk/dserve/search.htm>

In 2010, the Hull History Centre received the records of the Jewish Community, a large collection of over 60 boxes, containing papers documenting the history of the Jewish population. These documents have now been catalogued. A description of the contents is at <http://tinyurl.com/hull-jewish>.

You will find, using the general catalogue search at the url above, that it produces quite detailed descriptions of individual items.

Was your family involved with a pub in England?

<http://pubshistory.com/index.shtml>

This site has a huge amount of information and photos of hotels throughout England. It is not an easy site to navigate, but persevere and you will be rewarded. It helps to know the name of the hotel, as surname searches produce a lot of unrelated census entries.

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

<http://www.familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

Legacy Family Tree offers many webinars each year. They are free, but you must pre-register if you wish to gain access to them in real time. As they are US-based, it may suit you better to access them free for the seven days following each broadcast. After this time, they are available on CD for about \$US10. The url indicated takes you to the full program for 2014. While some of the offerings are US-specific, e.g. *The Homestead Act [US] of 1862*, many are of more general genealogical interest.

New Facebook pages

Zagare, Lithuania

<https://www.facebook.com/JewishZagare>

There is now a *Facebook* page for those with Jewish links to Zagare. It has lots of photos (old and new), and is a meeting place for those researching their families.

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)

<https://www.facebook.com/IAJGSjewishgenealogy>

There is now a Facebook page for IAJGS. It has lots of news and links of interest to Jewish genealogists.

There is a related page at: <https://www.facebook.com/IAJGSConference> with news and links to IAJGS conferences.

Dates for your diary

Workshop Dates for 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

January 12	February 2	March 2
April 6	May 4	June 1
July 6	August 3	September 14
October 12	November 9	December 7

Mondays: 10 am to 1 pm

January 20	February 17	March 24
April 28	May 19	June 16
July 14	August 18	September 29
October 27	November 24	December 15

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

2014 Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 9 March, 2014 at 2 p.m.

North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield.

Guest Speaker: Dianne Johnstone

Last year, Dianne joined a group of 25 fellow Litvaks on a tour to Lithuania.

This annual tour, organised from Atlanta, USA, has been running for twenty years, enabling those whose ancestors came from Eastern Europe to follow up on years of research and to visit their families' *shtetlach*. Dianne's towns were in the Suwalki Region, while some of the group went into Belarus.

A highlight of the tour was the opportunity for the group to meet members of the present-day Jewish community in the capital, Vilnius. Assisted by knowledgeable and experienced guides, Dianne and fellow travellers were shown the often confronting history of their Jewish forbears, as well as Lithuania's history and its development since gaining independence in 1991.

Dianne's trip has been a transformative one in which she has been a traveller, not a tourist.

Lifelong friendships were made, and she gained a greater understanding of her family's history.

The Last Word

At a recent Sunday workshop, Rieke was assisting a newcomer, Helen, to prioritise her research tasks. She asked, "Where did your families come from?" My ears pricked up when one of the mentioned towns was Odessa. So I asked "what was the family name from Odessa?" "Diggerman" was the reply.

I thought that sounded familiar, looked at my database and found a lone entry – Abraham Diggerman had married Leah Zarkin. I was interested in this family because they featured in my Broken Hill story, and because I had recently discovered that Leah's mother, Rivka, was a sister of my great-great-grandmother Drosne Lakovsky.

Abraham Diggerman was a brother to Ida, Helen's grandmother.

The coincidence provided the perfect opportunity to do a little more researching.

I found that Leah and Abraham were married at the Great Synagogue, Sydney, on 26 February 1919. I knew vaguely that there was an influenza epidemic early in 1919 and wondered about its impact on events such as marriages. I investigated further using the Trove newspaper website at the National Library <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>.

The recently digitised versions of *The Hebrew Standard of Australasia* provided many snippets of fascinating reading. Supplemented with some items from *The Sydney Morning Herald*, I was able to glean that on 28 January 1919, the NSW authorities moved swiftly to stem the outbreak of influenza. Schools, theatres and other places of public entertainment were shut down. Interstate travel was curtailed and all arriving ships were placed in quarantine until cleared by medical officers.

Religious services were suspended, but both synagogues and churches remained open for individual prayer. There was a suggestion that outdoor services could be held, but with no large outdoor space at the synagogues, this was not helpful to the Jewish community.

When restrictions were eased early in April 1919, abbreviated services took place. *The Hebrew Standard of Australasia*, 11 April 1919, reported:

Last Sabbath, the morning service at the Great Synagogue was, with relatively small sacrifice, reduced from one and three-quarter hours to forty-five minutes ... Congregants are required to be masked and to be seated three feet apart. p.9

Passover services were similarly abbreviated to stay within the proclaimed 45 minutes. The public *Seder* at Montefiore home was cancelled, public *minyan* services

in mourning homes were prohibited, and the myriad meetings of committees and boards were indefinitely postponed. *B'nei mitzvah* scheduled for February and March were held over, and those in April, significantly abbreviated.

And what of the weddings? Families were advised to delay if possible. If not, they were advised to hold the religious service, but to delay the reception and celebration. If a reception was to be had, the advice was to limit it to no more than 50 people and to keep it short.

I wondered what the Zarkin-Diggerman families decided, for I found the following

Mrs. Leah Diggerman (nee Zarkin), the young wife of Mr. Abraham Diggerman, of Sydney succumbed to influenza on Wednesday last. The deceased, who was in her 21st year, was married only six weeks ago.

The Hebrew Standard of Australasia, 11 April 1919 p.10

It seems cruel that just six weeks after her marriage, Leah was a victim of the epidemic.

That connection between my family and Helen's was fleeting, but it didn't end there.

As Helen and I chatted at the workshop, she mentioned that she had grown up in the country. "Where?" I asked. "Moss Vale" she replied. "What did your parents do in Moss Vale?" – slight pause before we simultaneously shrieked "They owned the newsagency!!"

When we were children my father was fond of driving holidays. Whenever we headed down the Hume Highway, the first port of call was the newsagency in Moss Vale, where we were greeted warmly and refreshed with tea and cake, even though it was most likely 8 am.

So there was more than a fleeting connection between our two families.

Over the next few days, there were emails back and forth and then Helen sent a group photo, late 1930s. She indicated her father and asked if mine was in the photo. He wasn't, but I went to his old photo album and found two wonderful photos of Helen's father as a young man. So it seems our fathers were friends from teenage years.

Come along to our workshops – you never know what you will find!

Robyn Dryen

Editor

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