

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY e-REPORT

www.ajgs.org.au



October, 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the start of another New Year, we extend to all our members our best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful year ahead.

Every year we benefit from the stories brought back by our members from their travels overseas in search of their roots. This issue will be no exception, with an interesting story from Barbara Ford and a link to Dani Haski's fascinating travel blog. Peter Nash's article in our last e-report sparked much interest and will be published in the next issue of Avotaynu. Well done, Peter!

Committee members Evelyn Frybort, Eva Browne (our new Treasurer) and past Vice President Nigel Meinrath represented us at the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Conference in Los Angeles this year.

Activities. On 1st August, Benny Kaplinski's talk and video of his family story and that of his cousin, Natasha Kaplinski, recorded on the BBC's "Who do you think you are?", was a moving experience which his audience will not forget in a hurry.

On 19th September, Dianne Johnstone's cabaret performance of her family research discoveries held her large audience spellbound.

On Sunday 31st October, 9.30 am - 12.30 pm, as part of the Day of Jewish Culture and Heritage, organised by B'nai B'rith, we will have books and CDs documenting the history of Jewish communities on show in the Gevurat Israel Hall, North Shore Synagogue, Lindfield, and will be available to help with research.

Welcome to new members Alice Cass, Adele Wheatley and Ann Wunsch.

Jeannette Tsoulos
President

Workshop Dates

Sundays	9.30 am - 12.30 pm	November 7	December 12	January 9, 2011
Monday	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	November 22	December 20	January 17, 2011

Eastern Suburbs Workshop January, 23 2011 See last page for details.

MEETING A NEW RELATION

Does Fate Direct Our Lives?

By Barbara Ford

In May 2010 I went overseas for a family wedding in the US. Having travelled so far we decided to visit more family in Israel and Germany. My family migrated to Australia from Germany in 1938. This was not our first visit but now was also a good time to do some family research. I was told by many that I needed to be prepared before I left and know the questions that I would like to have answered when I went to a research centre or cemetery. This is so true. The visits to the Leo Baeck Institute in New York and Berlin were overwhelming. Had I not had a plan I would have been in trouble.

In a folder I took copies of family trees and documents that I wanted help with translating. I listed the research centres and cemeteries together with addresses, phone numbers and open times I needed but forgot to check for public holidays and got caught out a couple of times. As well Jewish cemeteries particularly in Germany are locked and you cannot say 'Hi' to your relations on Shabbat.

Only a week or two before leaving I took out an item that has been in my family for many generations. I have no idea why I decided to do this. It was always referred to as the 'wedding cup' thought to have been given to a couple who used it for their wedding and that everyone who used the cup after that had their name engraved on the cup. Only after I had recorded my family tree did I realise that it was the children of parents who were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary who had given the cup. The names on the cup are from one family. Sadly it is not recorded who in the WITKOWSKI family has used the cup over the many years.



The cup is silver and has a lid and stands about 32cm tall. When I lovingly unpacked it from the archival tissue paper in the purple velvet lined original box I found it had two inscriptions and some branches with leaves.

The first inscription reads

David und Bertha Latz (the daughter and son-in-law who gave the cup to their parents)

Zum Silbernen Hochzeit Ihren lieben Eltern am 29th August 1846

(For the Silver Wedding of our loving parents 29th August 1846)

The second inscription reads

Marcus Witkowski, Henriette Witkowska geb Zippert (couple celebrating silver wedding)

Israel Witkowski, Henriette Witkowska (his parents)

Isaac Zippert, Vogel Zippert (her parents)

The leaves on the cup name their eleven children, two sons-in-law and two grandchildren. While I was born Witkowski, the other name on the cup, Latz, was of interest. It is the same name as the painting of Henriette Latz who was my paternal ggg-grandmother. Until I had carefully studied the cup I did not realise that the name LATZ on the cup was the same person in the painting.

First place to look for family was on JewishGen. I have been a member for some time but had not checked to see if someone was researching LATZ. To my great joy I found a person who was researching the Latz family. I excitedly emailed and within minutes had a very excited reply.

Markus Witkoski 1801-1862



During the next two hours we exchanged ten emails. I sent a photo of the painting of Henriette Latz. In return I received a photo of a painting of another member of the Latz family. The feeling I experienced is hard to explain. I had to know where he lived. By this time I thought he might be around the corner as it was the middle of the day and the replies were so quick. It turned out to be Pennsylvania, USA. We came to the conclusion that, yes, we were related. I then told my new found cousin, Stephen Falk, that I would be passing through Pennsylvania on the way to a wedding and said that I would love to meet and have a coffee if his time allowed. Stephen's reply was instant 'Where are you staying? Why not come and stay a night.' We did and had a wonderful evening and enjoyed sharing our family stories. Stephen has been researching our family for many years and travels regularly to Europe to do further

research. We continue to email and enjoy exchanging information. His website is <http://www.math.rutgers.edu/~zeilberg/family/SolBen.html>

Henriette (aka Gute) Witkowski geb Zippert 1803-1853



I asked Stephen's permission to tell this story so that it could be included in the next copy of the AJGS e-Report. At the same time I sent him a copy of the latest copy of the AJGS e-Report. Within the hour I had a note saying that Stephen found his mother's father's name in the Swiss database which had been listed. Stephen had been searching for this name for a long time. (Fate?) The rest of my trip was also amazing. I asked each member of my family to show me any family documents or photos that they had. Although I had visited them many times in the past, the items that came out of cupboards I had never seen. In some cases even other family members did not know about the treasures we found. My research continues with new enthusiasm.

Thank you for letting me share my story
Barbara Ford née Witton born Witkowski

Henriette Witkowska geb Latz 1784-1847



Markus Israel Witkowski 1773-1831



FROM OUR MEMBER, DANI HASKI

I have traveled to 10 countries, posted 431 pictures and written 54 entries, Dani wrote on 6 October from Ephesus. Starting in London before going on to Riga, Warsaw, Golub-Dobrzyn, Krakow, Lviv, Ternopil, Odessa, Turkey, Egypt and Israel.

Dani says:

The main purpose of my trip is to research my family history. I'm connected to most of the places I'm visiting by a relationship but some destinations are simply places I've always wanted to visit.

See Dani's blog with picture, maps interesting local information and more on:

www.travelpod.com/travel-blog-entries/slice_n_dice/1/1283205665/tpod.html

Dani last wrote about her impressions on the Melbourne conference in the April e-Report.

NEWS AND WEBSITES

AUSTRALIA

Australian Vital Records. Ancestry.com has added to its collection indexes to the vital records of Australia. There are nearly 15 million entries. Some of these indexes are available at no charge at various Australian government sites. For a complete listing of what is available at these sites see <http://www.coraweb.com.au/bdminindex.htm#online>. The Ancestry collection includes the following:

Births include name, birth year, father's name, mother's name, and birth place

New South Wales: 1788–1909; Northern Territory: 1870–1909; Queensland: 1829–1909; South Australia: 1907–1922; Tasmania: 1803–1809; Victoria: 1836–1909

Marriages include maiden name, spouse name, marriage year and marriage place

New South Wales: 1788–1945; Northern Territory: 1870–1913; Queensland: 1829–1929; South Australia: 1917–1937; Tasmania: 1803–1919; Victoria: 1836–1920; Western Australia: 1906–1949

Death: name, death year, estimated birth year, father's name, mother's name and death place.

New South Wales: 1788–1945; New South Wales: 1788–1945; Northern Territory: 1870–1913; Queensland: 1929–1959; South Australia: 1916–1970; Tasmania: 1803–1919; Victoria: 1836–1985; Western Australia: 1906–1980

ISRAEL

Name Changes British Mandate Period. For the 2004 conference, IGS made available an index of name changes during the British Mandate period (1921–1948). This database is now online at <http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/153/4971.asp>

Montefiore Censuses. IGS has announced the launching of a website for the 19th Century Montefiore censuses of the Jewish population of Eretz Israel, Alexandria, Beirut and Sidon (Saida). The details recorded include personal and family particulars, occupations and cities and countries of origin. The censuses are unusually comprehensive as it is estimated that fewer than 1% of the Jewish inhabitants of Eretz Israel refused to participate because of religious scruples. Some others may not be included for personal or political reasons. In all, there are five censuses of Eretz Israel (including Beirut and Sidon), and one of Alexandria. At present, the censuses of 1839, 1840 (Alexandria) and 1855 are on line at www.montefioreendowment.org.uk/census/.

The census of 1849 will follow in the next few months.

1915 Census of Tel-Aviv. <http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/153/6574.asp>

British Mandate Census 1922 for Petah Tikva and Tel-Aviv-Jaffa. This database represents about 20% of the Jewish population in Eretz Israel at that time. It is believed the remainder of the census has been lost. www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/153/4979.asp

1932 Palestine Directory and Handbook Now Searchable Online

Logan Kleinwaks has announced that the 1932 edition of the *Palestine Directory and Handbook* is now searchable online at <http://genealogyindexer.org>. It is a business and residential directory of more than 700 pages. It contains Hebrew and English sections, the contents of which are not identical. While both sections contain business listings for Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Jaffa, and Haifa, some businesses are only listed in one language. The Hebrew section also includes residential listings for these four cities, plus Tiberius, Safed, Afula, and "the colonies" (e.g., Petah Tikva), all of which are completely missing from the English section. There is no English residential section. A more detailed description can be found on the Israel Genealogical Society website at <http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/617/5115.asp>.

CANADA

Canadian City and Area Directories. Ancestry has completed its collection of Canadian City and Area Directories, 1819-1906. It contains more than 150,000 pages of historical records, the largest collection of historic Canadian directories available online. The collection includes the names of more than 7 million Canadians who lived during this 87-year-period of national growth.

Chief Statistician of Canada Resigns Over Census Debate

In what appears to be a rebuke of the Canadian government who is trying to legislate how to run an accurate census, the Chief Statistician of Canada, Munir Sheikh, has resigned. He made his resignation letter public. It states "...the question of whether a voluntary survey can become a substitute for a mandatory census. It cannot..." The Canadian government also plans to eliminate what is known as the long form and replace it with one that asks limited information. They claim many Canadians felt the census was an intrusion of their personal privacy.

Meanwhile, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology met to hear testimony regarding this decision and passed a motion that the government should "immediately reinstate the mandatory nature of the long-form census," however, it is unclear if it would apply to the 2011 census.

Much of the information gathered about record preservation and access in Canada is gotten from *Gordon Watts Reports*, an excellent online newsletter. Information about this controversy is clearly described in the last four issues of the newsletter. To understand the entire controversy, start reading at [//globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazgw/gazgw-0122.htm](http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazgw/gazgw-0122.htm). To read the later three issues, change "0122" in the above URL to "0123," "0124" and "0125" respectively. If you have interest in Canadian genealogy you should subscribe to this newsletter.

NETHERLANDS

http://stadsarchief.amsterdam.nl/english/archives_database/introduction/index.en.html has databases including: Burial registers before 1811, and Meldingsrapporten 1940-1945.

GREAT BRITAIN

See the JGS of Great Britain's redesigned website at www.jgsgb.org.uk

FindMyPast.com has the UK Birth Index 1837–2006

FindMyPast.com has made available fully indexed birth records from 1837–2006. The company has reindexed over 100 million birth records as a first instalment of a completely new version of the England and Wales birth, marriage and death records on its website. Additional information, as well

as the search engine, can be found at www.findmypast.co.uk/birth-indexes-search-start.action. FindMyPast is a fee-based site but provides the option of paying a small amount of money on a pre-transaction basis.

Manchester Central Library Jewish Archives

www.manchester.gov.uk/downloads/file/13441/manchester-jewish-community-archives-guide has now closed completely for three years, for a renovation programme. Much of the archive material has been transferred to other repositories in Manchester, and the 30+ page on-line catalogue has been updated. Use the following link for the catalogue which can be read on-line or printed off. This gives a detailed list of the groups of archives held and a reference number which should be quoted when ordering. It also gives contact phone and e-mail addresses so that you can check which archives are held where.

www.manchester.gov.uk/info/448/archives-and-local-studies/462/family-history-in-manchester/13

www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/37071/temporary-home-key-jewish-archive

www.manchesterjewishmuseum.com/

www.lancashirebmd.org.uk/

RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

The International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, Germany, recently issued its annual report for 2009. In that year they received 11,768 requests, an increase of more than 1,500 from the previous year. Humanitarian requests still represent the largest group of inquiries (58%). Germany is the largest source (31%), with the United States second (10%), followed by Poland, France, Ukraine, Netherlands and Russia. Israel is eighth with about 4.5% of the inquiries. The vast majority of inquiries (56%) came from survivors or relatives of survivors/victims.

There are now more than 84 million images digitized which covers 85 percent of their collection. Underway is the digitization of the three million correspondence files. The process is expected to take a number of years. There is consensus among the commission that determines ITS policy that the international character of the institution should be maintained and that the humanitarian mandate of the tracing service in Bad Arolsen should continue to be fulfilled as long as a need exists and is voiced by former victims and their relatives.

FAMILY SEARCH

now has over 5 million new records of free indexed names and images. These include 48 recently published collections featuring names from 19 different countries. The information on their pilot and beta site can be accessed on [//beta.familysearch.org/](http://beta.familysearch.org/) and click on "all collections" to see what listing of records are available. Due to privacy laws, some records may not be displayed, just indices. The records that have a camera icon in front of the index name are available for viewing, printing and downloading. The site has some very useful features for searching and printing out original records.

NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY

JEWISH EASTENDERS by Aumie and Michael Shapiro 1992 Another book in the series on the East End of London has been kindly donated by Newton Goldman.

A TRANSLATION GUIDE TO 19th CENTURY POLISH-LANGUAGE CIVIL-REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS 3rd Edition, by Judith Frazin 2009 is an expanded version of the valuable previous guides for deciphering those Polish Birth, Death and Marriage records. With topical vocabulary lists and models of the certificates to assist, it is possible to translate most of these typical documents. This book was the winner of the 2010 IAJGS Award for the Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product.

GENEALOGICAL GAZETTEER OF GALICIA by Brian J. Lenius provides further data to help with Galician research.

IAJGS CONFERENCE SYLLABUS Los Angeles 2010 is the usual useful conference publication with a Family Finder, Extracts from speaker details and their presentations. Thank you to Eva Browne for collecting these books at the Los Angeles Conference. Eva also bought the collection of the recordings of most of the presentations at the conference.

FROM THE NEWSLETTERS IN OUR LIBRARY

Nu? What's New?

Gary Mokotoff has generously given us permission to reprint the following information from the current edition of Nu? What's New? Avotaynu's Jewish Genealogy E-Zine at:

www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm

Improvements made to the Steve Morse Ellis Island Database Search

1. The Ellis Island Database used at the Stephen P. Morse One-Step site is located on the JewishGen server where it resides with the permission of the Ellis Island Foundation. The latter group regularly makes corrections to their database. JewishGen has recently received a fresh file, something that has not been done since 2006.
2. The results page of the Ellis Island Database Gold Form now can be sorted by any column on the results page. Simply click on the column header at the top of the page. This feature always existed on the search form itself, but most users did not know about the feature because it was low down on a very lengthy search form.

Avotaynu Vol. XXVI no. 1

Knowles Collection: Connecting Jewish Families and Using Facebook as a Genealogy Tool.

Jewish Genealogy Downunder (Vic) Vol 12 No 1 and 2:

1. IAJGS Conference highlights and photos
2. 27 - 29 November, 2010, Broken Hill Centenary details including a list of family names associated with Broken Hill.

Perth Jewish Roots has an interesting history of Broken Hill Jewish Community with a photo of the synagogue built in 1910.

Dorot (New York) Vol. 31 No.3

Polish Records - What They Contain, Where They Are and How To Get Them.

Shemot (Great Britain) July 2010 Vol. 18/2

This issue is devoted to articles of interest to those with a Sephardi background.

SA-SIG (Southern Africa)

1. A list of family names from the Inquisition Archives of Portugal, Torre Do Tombo
2. DNA Shoah Project: www.dnashoah.org aims to reunite families separated by the Holocaust.

FUTURE IAJGS CONFERENCES

Washington 14-19 August, 2011

Paris 15-18 July, 2012

Boston 2013

Jerusalem 2014

If your search has not shown any results recently, don't give up! This week there were three lucky connections to my family tree. Firstly my cousin, Louis Challis, came back from a holiday in France where he met cousins we had not heard from for 15 years. Then on my husband's mother's side a sixth cousin emailed us, and a cousin once removed on his father's side wrote to say we could look at his tree with 160 names on it!

I hope you have enjoyed the stories and found the information in this newsletter useful in your research. Don't forget, if you have a story or discovered a new source or link that will help others in their research, please write to me.

Best wishes
Miriam Shifreen, Editor
ed@ajgs.org.au

EASTERN SUBURBS WORKSHOP

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

23 JANUARY, 2011

The Society is happy to announce that a research workshop has been organised in the Eastern Suburbs to assist local members and others with their Jewish family research.

As with our usual North Shore Sunday morning workshops we will have available a wide range of reference books, CDs and have internet access to many of the well-known genealogical sites. We will also have experienced members to help with your particular research concerns.

Some of the references available for consulting will include:-

Austria	China	Czech Republic	England	Galicia	Germany
Israel	Hungary	Lithuania	Netherlands	Poland	Russian Empire
South Africa	Ukraine	United States	Holocaust	Sephardi	and, of course, Australia

Please let us know if you are likely to attend and tell us in which countries your family lived so that the appropriate resources will be available. So drop in some time during the afternoon and see our latest purchases and chat to others with expertise in your area.

WHEN: Sunday afternoon 23 January, 2011 at 2 to 5 pm

**WHERE: Function Room,
Lifestyle Manor Bondi,
24-32 Flood Street, Bondi**

Ample street parking

RSVP president@ajgs.org.au