



KOSHER KOALA



AJGS would like to wish all our members a safe and happy start to 2018.

SUMMER 2018

AJGS
L'dor V'dor

NEW LOOK, SAME BEAR

VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING *KOSHER KOALA* EDITOR ROBYN DRYEN – PETER NASH

Ever since it was launched two decades ago the Kosher Koala newsletter has made a significant contribution to all AJGS members – local and overseas – in our family history research aims.



Five years ago Robyn put her hand up for the role of KK Editor. Not only did she make KK a ‘must read’ but she also gave it a new look with photos of ancient artefacts, very interesting contributed stories, a wide range of research websites and planned world-wide genealogy events.

Our 26-year old Society is still a very significant contributor – to AJGS members and also to those seeking help in tracing their Jewish ancestry. KK is and has been a big part of that. THANK YOU ROBYN !!

We are very fortunate to have Dani Haski not only up-dating our website, but also taking over as KK Editor.

KOSHER KOALA MOVING FORWARD – NEW EDITOR, NEW LOOK, SAME BEAR – DANI HASKI

It's both an honour and a huge responsibility to be taking over editorship of Kosher Koala from Robyn. I look forward to taking Kosher Koala into new areas of genealogical curiosity.

While *Kosher Koala* is getting a facelift, the content will still be that with which you are familiar – features, news and interesting links and websites from around the Jewish genealogical world – and, I hope, so much more.

Many of our members began their research long before the internet was even an idea. You painstakingly searched through dusty index books and sifted through archives to find the evidence of your ancestors' existence. Now we have Google, JewishGen, and JRI-Poland; we have DNA sequencing and databases covering almost every conceivable ethnic background; and we have thousands of dedicated volunteers and professionals working tirelessly to bring those dusty old indexes online and to make those archives instantly accessible from anywhere in the world.

It's an exciting time to be involved in family history and I hope *Kosher Koala* continues to bring these developments, and their ramifications, to your attention. And since *Kosher Koala* is distributed internationally, I also hope to highlight Australian genealogical gems to our sibling societies around the world.

As always, I welcome contributions from you, our members and readers. If you have a story you'd like to share or see a resource you would like other members to know about please drop me a line at ed@ajgs.org.au. I am also interested in highlighting tips and tools and member success stories so let me know about those too.

FEATURES

MEMBER BOOK LAUNCH: *ESCAPE FROM BERLIN* BY PETER NASH – AUGUST 20, 2017

*AJGS Life Member Peter Nash launched his memoir, *Escape from Berlin*, at The Sydney Jewish Museum in August. Long-time friend and AJGS member Sunny Gold was there and reviews the book.*

Peter Nash is the author of the book *Escape from Berlin: A refugee flees anti-Semitism and the Holocaust of WWII to Shanghai and then Australia*.

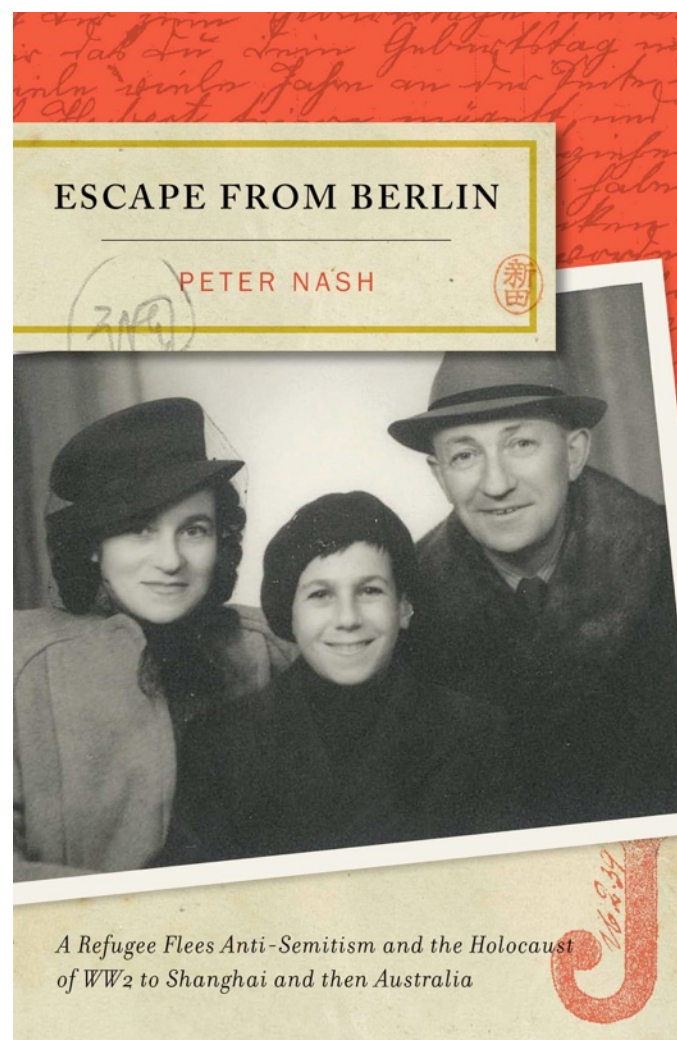
The Book Launch took place on Sunday, 20 August at the Sydney Jewish Museum in front of an audience of approximately 100 people, which included members of Peter's family, fellow genealogists and friends. Peter was introduced by Professor Andrew Jakubowicz.

When Peter came to speak, he posed the question "Is my story unique?" "No" was his answer. His aim was to document the history of the Nachemstein family, for his own family. He thought "that they may be faced with the same challenges that their grandparents had to overcome and this may help them."

Peter stated that "the tragedy of the Holocaust has not ended because the exact fate of loved ones is still mostly unknown." He felt compelled to research and document the family names and their relationship to him. Also, he wanted to connect and meet with the few members of his family that had survived the war.

Peter revealed that his original goal was to leave behind his family history for the following generations but admitted that "my life has been enriched so much more, as I followed what Rieke felt I had to do. Thankfully she was right." Peter added that "today we are one month away from the 2 years since Rieke, my partner of 55 years, and loving and cherished mother of Tony, Simon and Elana, passed away." Rieke would have been so very proud of Peter for achieving his goal.

Peter's presentation was greeted with wide applause.



ESCAPE FROM BERLIN BY PETER NASH – REVIEWED BY SUNNY GOLD

Life member Peter Nash launched his book at the Sydney Jewish Museum on Sunday 20 August.

In this moving story, Peter has created a wonderful and fascinating picture of the saga of his family, forced to flee from Germany to Shanghai and finally finding refuge in Australia.

At the launch, Peter began his presentation by posing the question "Is my story unique?" to which his answer was no. Although his story bears similarities to those of other survivors, his deeply personal account is enriched by the

vignettes, that describe his discoveries of family lost in the Holocaust and family, who had become dispersed all over the world.



Peter (centre) and his parents Herbert and Ingeborg Natchemstein on the dock in Colombo, 1939. Photo © Peter Nash

Peter was born in Berlin in 1935, the only child of Herbert and Ingeborg Natchemstein. His father Herbert was also an only child, born in 1905, in Gnesen, Posen. In 1921, on the advice of his parents, Herbert moved to Berlin, where he later met and married Ingeborg Lewin in 1932. Kristallnacht on 9 and 10 November 1938 was regarded as the turning point for European Jewry. Peter describes the impact of this dramatic night on the life of his family. Subsequent occurrences also became life-changing. Firstly there was an eviction notice served on them and then there was his father's luck in escaping capture by the German police. Along with others seeking refuge, the Natchemstein family was denied entry into the USA and Australia. At this point his parents decided that the only option was to flee from Nazi Germany. The family finally found refuge in Shanghai, where no entry visa was required.

Ironically, it was a German ship that took the family from Genoa to Shanghai. Peter was only four years old at the time, and therefore has no memories of the journey or the early years of his life. From all accounts, the sea voyage seemed 'like a holiday' after the rigours experienced during the preceding six months.

In complete contrast is Peter's account of the living conditions endured by his family in Shanghai. He describes their existence in a single 5 X 7 metres room, sharing an un-sewered toilet and bath with other tenants. Their survival in Shanghai depended on strict hygiene and the supply of meals by Jewish Welfare.

The story seems to get better with Peter's description of his relatively normal life in Shanghai following the defeat of Japan in the Pacific War.

However, as Peter states "while all this seemed normal, in reality things were not so normal."

Civil war in China and the rise of the Communist Party, forced the family into exile once again. They suffered frustrating setbacks in the attempt to emigrate to Australia, the country of their choice. Finally, through the intervention of a business colleague and the Jewish Welfare Society, the family received entry permits in January 1949, with one condition related to the health of Peter's father.

In his chapter entitled Australia: A New Horizon, Peter provides a chronicle of his life as a teenager in Sydney, where he entered High School just before his fourteenth birthday. In 1952, his parents suggested he should change his family name to one that was more anglicised and socially acceptable. Peter's choice was Nash, because it was easy to spell, and had an association with an American car - the Nash Rambler.

Peter reveals his emotional struggles during his teenage years. Experiencing low self-esteem and a lack of social skills, he found life challenging. However sporting successes, while also studying at the University of New South Wales, improved his self-confidence. The formation of a close friendship with a table-tennis team mate, John Sanders was a turning point in his life. Strongly involved in the general and Jewish social community, John



Shanghai's famous harbour side roadway, the Bund, in the 1930s. — Ralph Harpuder; Copyright © United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

provided a boost to Peter's social life. He says "I felt I was a whole person" but added "except for the lack of familial bonds".

John was responsible for a complete turnaround in Peter's life when he introduced Peter to Rieke Isenberg, the future love of his life, on the renowned Bondi Beach steps. This proved to be a "life changing event". Married in May 1960, they enjoyed 55 years of love, the creation of a wonderful family, and achievements in their studies and working lives.

So, the journey from Berlin, to Shanghai and then on to Australia had a happy ending.

Over some eight chapters, Peter traces, in incredible and sometimes graphic detail, the branches of the Nacheinstein family.

There is a very moving story about the tragic and futile attempt to bring Peter's paternal grandparents from Europe to Shanghai. Peter makes mention many times of the unknown fate of loved ones. However, many of the stories include positive and fortunate experiences, in particular the discovery of ancestors and their descendants.

There is evidence of his impressive skills as a detective in tracking down family. For example, working from a scrap of paper found among his father's documents, he was overjoyed to discover the story of his great-grandfather's brother, Nathan. He then had the thrilling experience of finding one of Nathan's living descendants, a granddaughter, Sue Zeichner.

After 30 years of research, exciting discoveries and emotional reunions, Peter announces that "after more than a century, the family was reunited".

In writing this book, Peter has demonstrated the extraordinary research skills, resourcefulness and initiatives he has employed in his voyage of discovery. These should serve as fine guidelines for those seeking lost loved ones.

The book, to give it its full title, *Escape from Berlin: A refugee flees anti-Semitism and the Holocaust of WWII to Shanghai and then Australia*, provides another perspective and a little known story about the experiences of a small German family during the Holocaust.

The interviews with his parents, the use of an amazing collection of documents, letters and photographs, miraculously saved, for over 50 years, by his father and the impressive strategies used by Peter, all provide a fascinating and absorbing reading experience. It comes as a surprise to find such a wealth of material packed into this book's 144 pages.

Footnote: The obituary delivered by their son Tony at his mother's funeral is included at the end of the book. Of course it was Rieke, who encouraged Peter to start researching his family's history. It is she, who provided the inspiration and this book is one of her legacies.



Rieke and Peter Nash. Photo © Peter Nash

Rieke would have been so very proud of Peter for achieving his goal in producing this book.

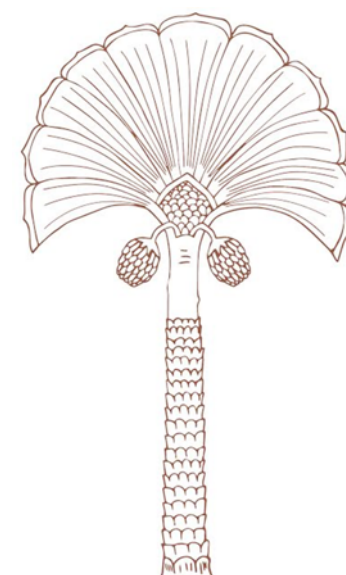
*There's a glimmer of hope on the horizon in the long running saga involving Jewish Heritage Sites and records in Egypt with the resurrection of the early 20th century charity **Drop of Milk**.*

Originally established in Egypt in 1915, by Isaac Benaroio, *Drop of Milk*, or *L'Oeuvre de la Goutte de Lait*, to use its full name, worked to ensure children in community schools had access to a daily breakfast by distributing free milk. In 1921 Benaroio opened an orphanage and elementary school, adding 'technical' or professional classes in 1926 so children who were not inclined to academic studies could learn a trade. Later the charity's scope was further enlarged to help the needy with medical assistance.

The 21st century organisation has been established with quite a different mission. Under the symbol of the distinctive palm tree present throughout Egyptian Jewish heritage sites, the new *Drop of Milk* brings together pro bono volunteers of various backgrounds – Muslim, Christian, Jewish and secular – and diverse skills to protect, restore, promote and maintain Cairo's Jewish Heritage. The group hope that by unifying diverse voices they can have a positive impact on the ongoing discussions with Egyptian authorities.

In February 2017 there was a meeting in Paris between *Drop of Milk*'s Vice President, Samy Ibrahim and members of the *ASPCJE* (*Association pour la Sauvegarde du Patrimoine Culturel des Juifs d'Égypte/ Association for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Jews of Egypt*) and the *Nebi Daniel Association*. During the meeting Mr Ibrahim read a heartfelt message from Magda Haroun, President of the Cairo Community.

In the letter she implored exiles to "bury the hatchet" and forgive their country of birth for rejecting them. She wrote, "While some are trying to erase the history of this part of the world... I think it is our duty today to preserve and highlight what's left of their legacy, to restore their image in front of the new generation who also tries (sic) to relearn history and reconcile with its past, so that what happened with the Jews of Egypt does not happen with other minorities, religious or ideological... "



This art deco palm tree is the symbol of the new Drop of Milk organization.

Image Credit: Drop of Milk Facebook Page



February 2017: Drop of Milk representative Samy Ibrahim meets in Paris with Jean-Claude Kuperminc, Yves Fedida, Andrew Baker, Roger Bilboul, Emile Gabbay, André Cohen, Jose Guetta and Guila Cooper.

Photo: Heritage of the Jews in Egypt Facebook Page

In a Facebook post detailing the meeting, chair of the *Nebi Daniel Association* and administrator of the *Heritage of the Jews of Egypt* Facebook page, Yves Fedida, responded to Ms Haroun's plea, writing "Rest assured we have all successfully moved forward and none of us carry ill-feelings. As elsewhere, for Jews from Egypt to turn the page requires meaningful and symbolic gestures from Egypt to those outside. Words alone are unlikely to erase humiliation, distress at loss of life, property or friends and broken families and homes. Thus we pray that a wrong will soon be righted so that indeed our forefathers should not be forgotten in their identity and actions and we can reconnect."

So work has begun to revitalise what remains of the cultural footprint of Jewish Egypt. One of *Drop of Milk*'s stated aims is to consolidate the numerous

catalogues of Cairo's four Jewish libraries (approximately 15-20,000 titles) into a single accessible database. Researchers in Egypt and abroad would then be able to electronically tap into a dedicated and unique Egyptian Jewish collection of books, magazines and other archives. While some publications are already available online at the [Alliance Israelite Universelle](#), in a database of scanned material funded by Jews from Egypt living in France, the expanded resource will be a fundamental tool for understanding the unique Jewish community of Egypt.

Repairs to the drainage system of Adly Street mean Shaar Hashamaym Synagogue remains available for religious use and *Drop of Milk* are working to establish a permanent exhibition of Judaica, information on festivals and in the basement, a display on the history Egyptian Jewish life. They have begun assessing and cataloguing the 150 or so Torah Scrolls still held in the country, which are in various states of disrepair.

Another important objective is to revitalise the empty synagogue in Heliopolis to host cultural events and performances. This was a particular passion for Ms Haroun's father who, 40 years ago, penned a letter to his community suggesting the Zaki Kreim synagogue in Sakakini be put to this use. Reports are that Magda cried when she stumbled on a précis of the letter in one of the registers not given to the Egyptian National Archives.

As Mr Fedida so eloquently puts it in his Facebook post of February 25: How many more tears of joy and gratitude reconnecting with our past, with our parents' and grand-parents' actions, would Egypt witness if all the descendants of all 80,000 Jews from Egypt had access to and copies of our registers?

All this work has been a long time coming but it does represent a significant move forward for those of us with roots buried deep in the sands of Egypt.



Drop of Milk volunteers assess Sefer Torahs for preservation. Photo Credit: Heritage of the Jews in Egypt Facebook Page/ Drop of Milk

On 14 May 2017 Nebi Daniel Association issued a press release detailing the efforts and results of the last few months. On the matter of access to records the release states:

“On 2nd May 2017, a meeting organised for the AJC, the Jewish Community in Cairo and the Nebi Daniel Association took place at the Ministry of Culture in the presence of members of the American Embassy in Cairo. Culture Minister Helmy Al-Namnam recognised the right of access to these records and confirmed that he would have no objection to a scanned copy of the registers being deposited with the Chief Rabbinate of France in the Consistoire of France, once their cataloguing is complete in 6 to 7 months. He indicated, however, that the agreement of the Foreign Office of Egypt would have to be obtained and it would be their responsibility to organise the transfer of the copy. Representation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs is being made.”

To date there has been no further information on this crucially important subject.

In December 2017, restoration of the historic Maimonides (Rambam) Synagogue was completed and *Drop of Milk* leader Magda Haroun participated in a lecture at the American University of Cairo on the history of Egyptian Jews attended by around 150 local university students.

As drops of rain water help the desert bloom let's hope that a *Drop of Milk* can revitalise relations between Egypt and her Jewish descendants.

Disclaimer: My father was a refugee from Egypt. I have a personal stake in wanting to access his records, along with those of his parents and grandparents so that I can understand more of my family's history.

Old Jewish cemeteries have been in the news recently. Here is a collection of some of the fascinating projects underway opening up some of these lost gems.

MEDIEVAL ITALIAN TREASURE UNEARTHED

[Newsweek reported](#) on the rediscovery of one of the oldest and largest medieval Jewish cemeteries in central-Northern Italy. The cemetery, with over 400 graves, was rediscovered by archaeologists in 2012 under Via Orfeo, Bologna, during excavations in preparation for a construction project. Archaeologists revealed that men, women, and children had all been buried on the site, and some of the graves included ornaments made of gold, silver, bronze, hard stones, or amber.



Bologna Skyline – Creative Commons:
Attribution: Szs at the German language Wikipedia

Burials date back to the 1390s, but the cemetery was destroyed when Pope Pius V banished Jews from the region in 1569. Archaeologists believe that four of the gravestones on display at the Bologna Civic Medieval Museum may have originated in this cemetery but no new tombstones have been recovered during this excavation.

Chief Rabbi of Bologna, Alberto Sermoneta, said any remains recovered should receive a dignified reburial ceremony. The Superintendence for Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape of the City of Bologna, the University of Bologna, the Jewish Community of Bologna, and others will work to restore the cemetery and to highlight historical events related to the cemetery. One of their primary goals is

to develop a ‘memory recovery’ plan and to enhance appreciation of local Jewish cultural heritage and history of the Jewish community of Bologna. If you have ancestors from this area and would like to help the archaeologists with this project you can find out more about it [HERE](#).

EAST END CEMETERIES THROUGH THE SEASONS

[BBC News recently reported](#) on a beautiful photographic series of two of the oldest Jewish burial grounds in London – Brady Street (1761) and Alderney Road (1697). Both cemeteries were closed in the mid 19th century. The photographs were taken by Louis Berk, a secondary school teacher in Whitechapel, who has an interest in local architecture. The school he teaches at is located on Brady St, right next door to the 250yr old cemetery.

The burial ground is administered by The United Synagogue of Great Britain, which was very amenable to Berk’s request to photograph this hidden oasis. The result is a beautiful book showing the landscape through the changing seasons. When Berk showed the synagogue administrators his photographs they asked if he would also photograph the even older Alderney Road cemetery in Stepney Green.



Brady Street – Summertime © LouisBerk.com 2017

Berk's book, *East End Jewish Cemeteries*, contains an introduction by Rachel Kolsky, an award winning London Blue Badge guide, author and recognised authority on the cemetery's history. Since then Berk and Kolsky have collaborated on several other photographic projects.

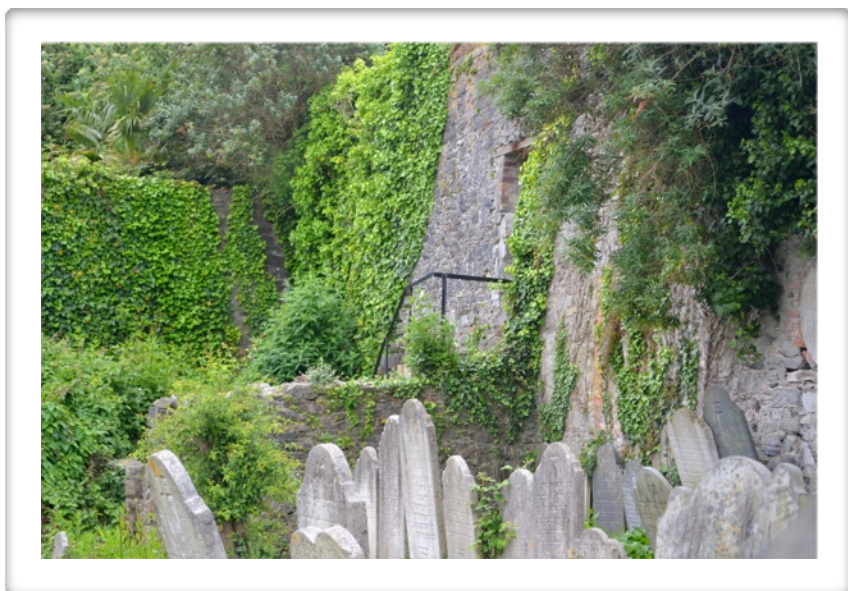
([*East End Jewish Cemeteries*](#) is available for sale from [Mr Berk's website](#)).



© LouisBerk.com 2017

PLYMOUTH JEWISH CEMETERY REDISCOVERED

The Herald (Plymouth, UK) ran [a wonderful story](#) about a cemetery in Plymouth, England, in September 2017. We featured this story on our [AJGS Newsfeed](#) recently but I will republish it here for *Kosher Koala* readers.



© Sarah Waddington

Sometimes a story comes to light that genealogically speaking just warms your cockles. In late September 2017 Sarah Waddington, of *The Plymouth Herald*, [England], reported on the rediscovery by a local man that has turned into a genealogical gem for those with ancestors in the area – a 300 year old Jewish cemetery.

The existence of the cemetery was known to some local Jews and the late Rabbi Dr Bernard Susser conducted a full field survey in 1972 (this survey can be consulted online via the [Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain JCR-UK project website](#)). The cemetery site also has an entry in *Jewish Heritage in Britain and Ireland: An Architectural Guide* (Sharman Kaddish, Historic England 2015).

However, for Jerry Sibley, the Synagogue caretaker (himself not Jewish), what was behind a high wall and a locked door next to the Synagogue was a mystery. After seeing a reference to The Old Jewish Cemetery on Lambhay Hill, Jerry became even more curious and decided to look for it. His initial search came up empty, but he then he realised he could utilise Google Maps.

“I started to look at every single plot on the road,” he said, “and that is when I noticed there were three legs to Lambhay Hill, not just the two, and eventually I found this lovely green spot that seemed to be nothing. I thought, 'Well, it is a very good chance it is going to be there'... I really zoomed in on it and you could just make out a couple of the headstones, so from there I came up to take a look, but I could not get in, so the treasurer at the time gave me a whole box of keys and said, ‘Help yourself’.”



Jerry Sibley © Sarah Waddington

Jerry eventually managed to find the right key, and what he discovered when he opened the door stopped him in his tracks.

The folk from Ripple Theatre, a local theatre group, helped Jerry clear the site of weeds and trees and then recorded dramatised histories of the ‘residents’ of the cemetery as an audio trail, just in time for the Plymouth Art Weekend.

Their efforts have created a valuable and lasting legacy for historians, descendants and those who are just plain curious about those buried on Lambhay Hill.



© Sarah Waddington

Joining them at rest now is Barney, Jerry's cat: "He took to life at the Synagogue like nothing I've ever come across before. Not only did he used to sit in the vestry beside the door and watch the people coming in and out, but he always used to follow me to work and come with me to the services. He was a black and white cat and of course the men are all dressed in black and white, so he really did blend in. But Barney passed away at Easter, which in the Jewish calendar is Passover so he really did pass over at Passover."

When Barney passed away Jerry obtained permission to bury him inside the cemetery grounds. As is the Jewish custom visitors have honoured Barney, as they have the others buried there, by placing stones on his grave.

On October 31st 2017 the cemetery site was awarded Grade II Listed status by Historic England.

You can read Sarah Waddington's story, and watch a video interview with Jerry Sibley, [HERE at The Herald](#).

TARNÓW CEMETERY CLEANED AND CATALOGUED

In an innovative collaboration between the Institute of Jewish Studies at Jagiellonian University and volunteers from Tarnów's local high schools, the Jewish cemetery in Tarnów is in the process of being cleaned up and documented. Run by the AntySchematy Foundation 2, the [Tarnowskie Macewy—a camp for volunteers](#) is funded by the National Heritage Board of Poland, as well as several EU grants facilitated by diaspora Jews with family roots in the area. The cemetery was important to the Tarnów and Kraków communities. and is now owned by the Jewish Community of Kraków.



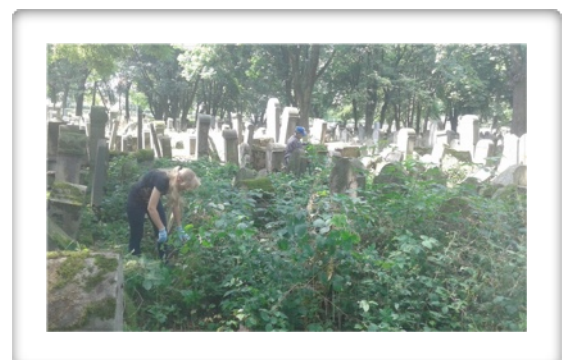
© Archives of AntiSchemes 2 Foundation

According to the project's [website](#) "The main objective ... is to encourage young people to discover their heritage by cataloguing matzevot located in the Jewish cemetery in Tarnów. Another very important goal of the project is to raise the knowledge of young people about Jewish heritage in Tarnów and to create a space for intercultural meeting for young people from Poland and Israel."

The project plans to upload information for up to 250 19th and early 20th century headstones. A full catalogue is not yet available but you can browse information on a small selection of names [HERE](#) (If you hover your mouse over the *Katalog* menu item there is also a list for some of the matzevot translated during 2017). Some of the names are linked to pages that will eventually have unrestricted access to photographs and location information. For now this information is password protected.

The two videos on the [website home page](#) also give an excellent overview of the project and an insight into the volunteers. They also present beautiful images of the cemetery and the work being undertaken.

One of the project's new partners in 2017 was [The Gidonim Project](#), coordinated by Dr Dina Weiner and based at the Re'ut school in Jerusalem. Each summer they run trips to Poland for Israeli young adults, to photograph and document Jewish cemeteries. Their website includes a searchable



© Archives of AntiSchemes 2 Foundation

database for several cemeteries including Będzin, Czarnów and Pruszków, a gallery of photos for each location and information and photographs on mass graves in Bezscic, Józefów and Kraśnik. They are actively seeking donation to expand the project.

Thanks to Daniela Torsh for bringing this story to our attention.

If you know of an interesting cemetery project or a new discovery let me know at ed@ajgs.org.au

More photos of Brady Street - © LouisBerk.com 2017



NEWS AND VIEWS

NEW WORKSHOP SCHEDULE FOR 2018



The AJGS committee has changed the workshop schedule for 2018. As of January the monthly Sunday workshops will start at 10am and run to 1pm. There will be only four Monday morning workshops at Lindfield. There will be four Sunday afternoon workshops at Waverley Library in the Eastern Suburbs.

We will continue to provide access to our resources at workshops and are working to develop links to online resources through our website. Don't forget, you can still ask for assistance through the AJGen Yahoo group.

Full details of our 2018 schedule are included at the back of this edition of *Kosher Koala* and you can [view our new schedule online at our website](#).

AJGS WELCOMES DR ANDREW ZALEWSKI



AJGS is pleased to host Dr Andrew Zalewski, Gesher Galicia board member and Executive Editor of *Galitziana*, for a special presentation in January. Dr Zalewski will give a talk on *The Great War (1914-18): Jewish Lives in Galicia*. Andrew will intertwine his own genealogical discoveries with the broader historical context of Jewish Galicia. He will focus on World War I and the Eastern Front in Galicia, which was home to the largest Jewish community in Austro-Hungary.

His talk covers the Great War (World War I) through to its climactic end in 1918. It is based on the archival records and historic newspaper research conducted for his book *Galician Portraits: In Search of Jewish Roots*, and is illustrated with pictures, historical and unique archival documents, and old maps of Galicia.

Dr Zalewski will be speaking to AJGS members and friends in Lindfield at 2pm on Sunday January 21. See [Events and Workshops](#) for details.

PRESERVING HOLOCAUST MEMORIES



The US Holocaust Memorial Museum has launched a campaign to raise funds to preserve precious eye witness accounts of the Holocaust. *Save Their Stories: The Undiscovered Diaries of the Holocaust* aim to raise \$250,000 through Kickstarter, an online crowdfunding platform. The money will be used to digitise and translate almost 200 Holocaust diaries currently locked away in archives and inaccessible to the general public. The diaries were written by authors of different ages, from different countries and walks of life. They represent the many harrowing experiences of individuals and the museum director, Dana Weinstein, hopes this project will be a bulwark against the increasing spectre of Holocaust denial. For genealogists the diaries provide valuable insight into the experiences of those who lived through this traumatic and historic time.

Read more at the [Smithsonian Magazine website](#)

IAJGS POLAND CONFERENCE STEAMS AHEAD



The organisers of the IAJGS conference in Warsaw in 2018 have been busy.

Registration has now opened. Details can be found [HERE](#). Early bird rates will be available until April 28, 2018.

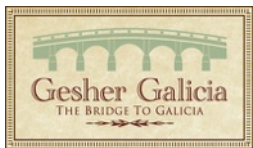
To facilitate communication between those interested in the conference IAJGS have set up the [2018 IAJGS Warsaw Conference Facebook Group](#). Through this they hope to disseminate information as quickly as they can.

The conference aims to enable participants to enhance their genealogical research by teaching them to:

- View their Jewish family history within a historical context.
- Actively explore and interact with the experts and databases available throughout European and online arenas.
- Develop experience preserving and sharing genealogy with their family and *landsleit* (neighbours from the same town).

The conference will be held at Hilton Warsaw Hotel & Convention Centre, which is located at 63 Grzybowska Street. The organisers have block booked rooms and will provide a link from the conference website for attendees to book rooms at the special conference rate. Proof of conference registration will be required. (NB: at time of publication the link was not yet available. The hotel information page on the conference website can be accessed [HERE](#).)

SAVE THE DATE: GESHER GALICIA/ AGAD SYMPOSIUM



Geshher Galicia have announced that their joint symposium with AGAD will be held on **Tuesday, August 7, 2018** at the AGAD offices in Warsaw, Poland. The symposium will focus on Archives and Jewish Galicia.

Topics include AGAD records, Jewish Galician records in other Polish and Ukrainian archives, Holocaust records, maps and cadastral surveys and non-traditional record sources. There will also be panel discussion with archivists and local researchers from Poland and Ukraine.

A buffet reception will follow the main program. Transportation between AGAD and the main hotel staging the IAJGS conference will be arranged.

Pre-registration for the symposium will open on Sunday, January 28, 2018, through the Geshher Galicia website. People who have paid their Geshher Galicia membership dues for 2018 will receive priority booking for two weeks, prior to booking being opened to all.

[Go to their website](#) to join Geshher Galicia and/or to follow them on Facebook and Twitter

CHANGES TO FAMILYSEARCH



From December 13 2017, you will need to sign in or register for a free account to utilise [FamilySearch.org](#). FamilySearch has adjusted access to comply with concerns regarding security, stating “In order to accommodate continued growth of these and future free services, FamilySearch must assure all its partners that its content is offered in a safe and secure online environment. Patrons creating a free account and signing in fulfils that need.”

Signing in will also enable FamilySearch to satisfy the ongoing need for user authentication. This authentication can deliver rich, personalised discovery, collaboration, and helpful experiences. Simply put, signed-in visitors can access more searchable content and enjoy more personalised services.

You can still search the catalogue and access digitised books, genealogies, the Wiki (a collaborative knowledge base), and the learning centre without signing in. You can also view user-contributed photos and stories.

The complete announcement can be found [HERE](#).

FAMILYSEARCH ROLLS OUT WEB INDEXING

FamilySearch has by far the largest collection of microfilms of records from around the world and they have a dedicated battalion of volunteers quietly combing through the data, deciphering scrawled handwriting from times past. Up until now this process has been done on a desktop application. But not anymore! In November FamilySearch announced the rollout of its Web Indexing tool.

“With the new web platform, you can index on any browser and with any desktop, laptop, or tablet device with an internet connection. No downloads or software updates are necessary! More types of projects will be available on the web program, and the new technology will allow FamilySearch to publish records more quickly than with the desktop program.”



You can volunteer to index FamilySearch records [HERE](#).

JewishGen also has project-based indexing opportunities with Special interest Groups. Head to the [SIG page](#) to join groups you may be interested in assisting.

TRACING THE TRIBE MINI-COURSE ON FACEBOOK – WRITE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY



Tracing the Tribe Facebook Group administrator Robin Meltzer has started a mini-course on *How to Write Your Family History Book*. This free offering, available to members of the Tracing The Tribe Facebook Group, is designed as a write-along project.

The course “is for those interested in compiling their family history research into book form. It assumes that you have already completed considerable research, and are ready to begin writing. This course is also useful to those who are not quite done researching the stories they want to tell, but are looking for ways to organise their material in preparation for a future writing project.”

In lesson one, Robin poses a series of questions to help writers clarify their intentions: why do you want to write a book about your family history? Why is it important to you? What drove you to start researching in the first place?

By the end of the exercise the writer has the first draft of the forward for their book. Robin finishes lesson one with some homework.

If you’re already a member of the TTT Facebook group you can start the course [HERE](#) (NB: You need to be a member of the group to view the post.)

Tracing the Tribe was previously the blog written by Schelly Talalay Dardashti. It’s now a very active Facebook group moderated by Schelly, Robin and other enthusiastic volunteers.



Technological change has not bypassed the genealogy space. In fact family historians now have more information at their fingertips than ever before. Advances in genealogical technology are showcased at the annual [Rootstech](#) conference in Salt Lake City. In 2018 the conference runs from February 22-March 3.

Rootstech is sponsored by FamilySearch and is designed to foster innovation in the genealogy tech sector. The conference features Keynote speakers, a tech showcase, classes and events and caters for everyone from beginners to advanced developers. You can watch some of the 2017 Rootstech session [HERE](#)

HARRY TRIGUBOFF'S FAMILY HISTORY REVEALED



In early December *Australian Financial Review* reporter Geoff Winestock wrote [a revealing profile](#) of Australian Jewish property mogul Harry Triguboff. Mr Triguboff has, until now, not spoken about his family's trials at the end of WWII but in this well researched and sensitive interview Triguboff discusses the "Kafkaesque nightmare" inflicted upon his parent's when they tried to join their sons, Harry and Joseph, in Australia.

"Having fled China after World War II, Harry and his brother, Joseph, spent two decades pleading for visas so their parents could live with them in Sydney. But their pleas were rejected. Their mother, Frida, died in 1966 followed by their father, Moshe, less than a year later. He had no relatives in Israel and was alone when he died."

Mr Winestock used immigration files from the Australian National Archives on the Triguboff family to piece together the story, although the reason they were refused visas is still a mystery.

Mr Triguboff believes that the most likely explanation involves a colourful character names Morris 'Two Gun' Cohen, a bodyguard to Dr Sun Yat Sen, the founder of the Guomindang Nationalist Party. While initially friendly with the Triguboffs, even living with them for a short time, Mr Morris fell out with Harry's father over money. Mr Triguboff believes Mr Morris may have denounced his parents to western authorities as collaborators. Indeed, had Australian immigration authorities had their way, Harry himself would not have entered Australia.

It's a story of love, loss and intrigue, and it will resonate with many descendants of Russian Jews who found refuge in China during WWII. It's also a fascinating insight into the early life of one of the Australia's true success stories.

Read more [HERE at the Australian Financial Review website](#).

AUSTRIA PLANS TO OFFER CITIZENSHIP TO DESCENDANTS OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS



[HaAretz has reported](#) that, in a surprise move, the distinctly right-leaning government of Austria is planning to allow the descendants of Austrian victims of the Holocaust to apply for citizenship. This is said to be an effort to build trust with Israel, at a time when the Israeli government recently announced it will limit diplomatic contacts with Vienna due to some coalition members' anti-Semitic roots.

The intent of this plan is unclear, as it is currently possible in certain situations for families of those stripped of Austrian citizenship during the Nazi regime to regain their citizenship.

"Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said that the plan would grant approximately 200 thousand people with Austrian citizenship, adding that not all of those eligible would necessarily be interested in this option."

The Austrian Government also announced plans for a memorial to the 10,000 Viennese Jews murdered at the Maly Trostinets camp near the Belarusian capital Minsk and an event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Anschluss, Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria in 1938.

You can read the full report [HERE](#).

HUGE TROVE OF JEWISH DOCUMENTS UNCOVERED IN VILNIUS



[YIVO Institute of Jewish Research](#) announced the discovery of a huge trove of documents thought lost during the Holocaust. The find, consisting of more than 170,000 pages, was hidden from the Nazis by the YIVO Paper Brigade during WWII and subsequently preserved for decades by Antanas Ulpis, a Lithuanian librarian. He saved the documents from the pulping mills and stored them in secret in St. George Church to help preserve both the history of Lithuania and the memory of the Jewish people. He did so at the risk of his life and the well-being of his family and is an unsung hero of the Holocaust.

The collection of documents includes poems and plays by famous Yiddish artists, religious and scientific texts and, of particular interest to genealogists, record books from synagogues and yeshivas such as the Pinkas (Communal Record Book, 1836) of the *Hevra Lomde Shas* (Learners of the Talmud Society) in Lazdijai, a town in southwestern Lithuania. This book is on display at YIVO in New York until January 2018.

Academics are giddy with excitement: "The troves discovered in Lithuania are the most important body of material in Jewish history and culture to be unearthed in more than half a century, since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls," said David Fishman, professor of Jewish History at The Jewish Theological Seminary and author of *The Book Smugglers*. "The troves are startlingly large in volume, and remarkably diverse in character and subject-matter. All of East European Jewish life passes through your eyes. It will take researchers many years to digest and analyse these documents. Lovers of culture everywhere owe a debt of gratitude to the heroic ghetto-inmates that rescued these materials from destruction."

What can't be understated is the value of finds like this to family historians. While it is the big names that grab the limelight, the names and details of ordinary families also need to be indexed and made available.

The newly discovered documents more than double previous finds from the basement of St. George Church, which included books and documents found in the late 1980's and early 1990's. The new discovery had been held in a separate room in the church and remained undocumented until now. When combined with the existing Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Collections, which already contains 1 million documents, YIVO will have saved approximately 1.2 million original documents from the Jewish world of Eastern Europe.

You can read the full story and watch a video of the press conference [HERE](#).



SLEDGEHAMMER

STORIES OF BRICK-WALL BREAKTHROUGHS

Sledgehammer is a new column where you can share how you managed to break through a brick wall. A brick wall is a seemingly insurmountable barrier in your research that seems to be unbreakable. By sharing your demolition story I hope other members will be inspired to try different tactics to knock holes in their own walls and move their research forward.

To get things started I have my own story to share.

My great grandmother, Ettie Diamond/Dimant was born in Zagare, Lithuania in 1879, the youngest of eight siblings. The family moved to Riga the following year and over the next decade several of Ettie's older siblings migrated to Australia. By the early 1890's these siblings convinced their parents – Hyman and Basha Hinda – to migrate with the three youngest children – Pauline, Jacob and Ettie. Ettie's oldest brother, Jeizal Movsha, and her oldest sister, Beilah, stayed in Riga as they were married and had started families. During WWII Jeizel Movsha's family fled to Uzbekistan and largely survived.

Sadly Beilah's family remained in Riga and it was thought the whole family was lost in the Holocaust.

While researching the fate of Beilah and her children I came across a page of testimony written in memory of her middle child, a son, Scholom. It was signed by his daughter, Doris and dated 1989. This was the first evidence I had found that any of Beilah's grandchildren had survived the Holocaust.

I was determined to try and find her, or her descendants! But how?



Scholom Schmuljan
Born 1893 Died 1941



Left to right: Jeizel Movsha and Sarah Dimant, Ettie Diamond, Beila and Yossel Schmuljan. Jeizel Movsha is Ettie's older brother; Beilah is her older sister. This photo was taken on a visit to Latvia some time in the 1920s.



Yosel and Beilah Schmuljan



Ettie Diamond's Granddaughters Barbara Leser (left) and Caroline Haski (2nd from right), and great granddaughter Dani Haski (right) with the great great granddaughter of Beila Schmuljan nee Dimant, Naomi de Winter (2nd from left)



Doris with her husband Schmerel Aleksander and daughter Renata.



Doris with her parents Esther and Scholom Schmuljan

When Doris wrote the page of testimony she was living in Estonia and appeared to have married. Her surname was now Sorkin. I googled “Sorkin + Estonia” (as you do) and one of the results I received was for a real estate agent in New York who was born in Estonia. It was a long shot but I emailed him. Needless to say I heard nothing... until two years later when I received an email from a woman in Amsterdam!! Renata de Winter-Sorkina is Doris’s daughter and the aunt of the New Yorker I had emailed initially. Renata was thrilled to learn she had family in Australia, especially as her daughter, Naomi, was coming down under to study!

From Renata I learned that at the time of the Nazi occupation of Latvia and Estonia, her grandfather, Scholom, was still in Riga but her grandmother Esther and her mother Doris were living in Estonia. Esther and Doris fled to Russia and lived in the [Chuvash Republic](#) during the war. Scholom was murdered in the Central Prison in Riga in November 1941. After the war Esther and Doris returned to Estonia. Doris married Schmerel Aleksander Sorkin. Her daughter, Renata was born in Estonia. Renata married a Jewish Dutchman and moved to The Netherlands in 1990. She and her husband have two children.

At the end of November 2017 my family had the incredible privilege to host Renata’s daughter, Naomi – the great-great-granddaughter of Beilah Schmuljan née Dimant. Discovering that at least one of Beilah’s grandchildren had survived the Holocaust is hugely gratifying.

Do you have a story to share? How have you broken through your brick wall? What did you find on the other side? Send your story and photos to ed@ajgs.org.au

LINKS & WEBSITES

FIND A GRAVE GETS A FACELIFT



Genealogist Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D. from Longmont, Colorado, informed us that the cemetery memorial database website Find A Grave is getting a major update. Some changes are cosmetic, while others are highly functional: for example, there is now a map feature.

The site is still in development however a beta version can be accessed from the existing website and the developers are keen for user feedback (there is a feedback link in the bottom right hand corner).

The sites developers say they're updating Find-A-Grave to make it more secure and usable, to improve performance and speed and to support new devices and other languages.

The home page is being simplified and will be dominated by a new search panel featuring fields for name (first, middle and surname), year of birth, year of death and a single field for location. This field brings up options to autofill when you start entering a city, state or country.

A menu bar is located at the top of the screen with options for Memorials, Cemeteries, Famous and Contribute, as well as a register/sign-in link. Clicking CEMETERIES takes you to a page that lets you search cemeteries in one of two ways – by name or by location using a dynamic map.

If you use the location search box to narrow down the city, you can zoom in on cemeteries in that locality. Strangely, when I tried this with Rookwood cemetery, I had no luck with the name search but found it quickly by using the map search.

To try out the beta version, go to findagrave.com and click on the preview link near the top centre of the screen.

JEWISH GENEALOGY PORTAL PARTNERS WITH JEWISHGEN ON FACEBOOK



Facebook is a treasure trove of resources for Jewish genealogy. One of the many long running groups, [Jewish Genealogy Portal](https://www.facebook.com/jewishgenealogyportal/), curated by E Randol Schoenberg, has now partnered with JewishGen to extend and promote their presence. Facebook groups present another valuable channel to help researchers break through particularly stubborn brick walls.

To join this facebook group go to facebook.com/groups/JewishGenealogyPortal/

JEWISH CEMETERIES IN POLAND



POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews has compiled a status report of cemeteries in Poland. A summary of the report is on the [Virtual Shtetl website](http://www.virtualshtetl.com).

The report states that, according to the most recent research, there are some 1,172 known Jewish cemeteries (or sites of destroyed cemeteries) in Poland, of which 247 are included on the national

register of historic/cultural monuments. The report's author, Krzysztof Bielawski, notes that current knowledge of Jewish cemeteries in Poland "is still insufficient," with much if not most pre-World War II documentation destroyed, and no comprehensive inventory of gravestones in existence. Only a few dozen Jewish cemeteries in Poland, including those in Kraków, Łysków, Międzyrzec Podlaski, Olkusz, Słubice, Tarnów, have been researched and described in published monographs. "Jewish cemeteries in Poland undoubtedly require comprehensive documentation," Bielawski writes. "They are a valuable source of knowledge in various fields, especially on the history and culture of the Jewish community, the history of the village, genealogy. This is our common heritage – Jewish, Polish, European."

DNA DECISIONS

Trying to decide which DNA test to use? [Family History Daily](#) has published an easy to read comparison of the four major DNA testing options for genealogists: Family Tree DNA, My Heritage DNA, Ancestry DNA and 23andme. They have a quick comparison chart and then go into more detail comparing the specific features offered by each service.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Long Island also has [a short and not-too-technical video](#) about DNA basics on [their YouTube Channel](#).



My Heritage has started a new blog series on [DNA Basics](#). Written by Yael (no surname given), a new member of the My Heritage DNA team with a Ph.D. in medical neurobiology from The Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the blog is designed to explain genetic science in layman's terms. It also aims to show how we can use this new tool to further our genealogical journeys. The first post covers Genetics 101, DNA inheritance and how DNA is passed along generations. New posts will be published monthly.

SPAIN WELCOMES THOSE WITH SEPHARDI ROOTS BACK HOME



Dual citizenship has been a bit of a problem for several prominent Australians. However in the UK, with Britain in negotiations to leave the EU, more and more people are looking for ways to access citizenship opportunities in Europe. German authorities have noticed a recent uptick in applications from the descendants of German Jews and now the governments of Spain and Portugal have announced that subject to meeting criteria, they will grant citizenship to people with ancestry on the Iberian Peninsula. They have issued an invitation to Jews who can prove their descent to apply, 500 years after the community was expelled from the region. The

Spanish & Portuguese Sephardic Community of London, headquartered at the historic Bevis Marks Synagogue in London, have had a request from the authorities in Spain and Portugal to provide confirmation of applicants' ancestry where appropriate. They recently launched [a new service through their website](#).

The laws require applicants (who do not need to be Jewish) to prove their descent from an Iberian Sephardic ancestor. Once the applicant has supplied the necessary evidence, the Sephardi Community will issue a letter to either the Lisbon or Porto communities, or to the Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain.

At this stage it is not clear how many British citizens qualify under the new laws, however it may be in the tens of thousands. Two of the principal daughter congregations of the London congregation were in Barbados and Jamaica. People with ancestry in those communities will also qualify under these laws.

This offer may also be relevant to Australians who can trace their ancestry back to the Sephardi community in London.

For more information, email genealogy@sephardi.org.uk

A VANISHED WORLD REDISCOVERED



The blog [A Vanished World](#) reported this month on the salvaging of Jewish tombstones – called *matzevot* – from a backyard in Lviv. The matzevot were rescued by an organisation called the [Lviv Volunteer Centre](#). The effort, led by Sasha Naza, carefully removed the matzevot and returned them to the Jewish Cemetery.

According to Christiann Hermann, the author of *A Vanished World*: “Some months ago a Polish visitor photographed a stairway made of Jewish tombstones in a backyard in Lviv. The photo went viral among those committed to the heritage of the Galician metropolis... Lviv had two Jewish cemeteries. Both were destroyed during the German occupation; what remained, was finally destroyed under Soviet rule. The tombstones were used to pave roads and squares – sometimes with their Hebrew inscriptions visible to by-passers. The recently discovered tombstones in the backyard of Halytska Square 15 fall into this category...”

It's great to know there are wonderful young volunteers like the Lviv Volunteer Centre and Christiann Hermann working to preserve the memory of their city.

You can read this and other stories, and view pictures of the excavation, [HERE on The Vanished World blog](#).

MONTEFIORE CENSUS DIGITISED IN ENGLISH & HEBREW



The Montefiore Endowment recently announced that scanning of the [Montefiore Census documents](#) is complete. This presents another valuable resource for researchers looking into family living in British mandate Palestine, Alexandria, Sidon and Beirut in the 19th century.

Sir Moses Montefiore paid six visits to the Holy Land between 1839 and 1875. No doubt influenced by censuses carried out in England, he worked with a band of scribes to collect the data. These documents now provide an invaluable record of the residents of the Levant during this period.

In their press release The Montefiore Endowment states: “Censuses taken by the Victorian philanthropist, Sir Moses Montefiore, contain personal and family particulars, occupations and countries of origin of 25,535 Jewish families, together with details of 968 of their agricultural, religious, educational and welfare institutions.

Taken together with other Montefiore papers, the Censuses provide eloquent testimony of the tenacity with which Jews clung to this neglected, poverty-stricken province of the Ottoman Empire. Accompanying the Censuses are other manuscripts showing how they had to contend with the hostility of their immediate neighbours, the depredations of marauding Bedouin tribes, devastating earthquakes, repeated outbreaks of plague and the attention of aggressive Christian missionaries. Yet, despite all hardship, they steadily increased in number.

The manuscripts, which constitute a unique sociological and genealogical record of Jewish life in the area during the 19th century are written in a variety of scripts. Many pages are difficult to read and, lacking an index, the tracing of individuals can be frustrating – especially as the names and the spellings of families, towns and even countries often changed over the period.”

Complete scans of the Censuses, with full English translations, are now available on the [Montefiore Endowment website](#) together with [sophisticated search-engines in English and in Hebrew](#).

DATABASE FOR JEWISH CEMETERIES IN SOUTHERN MORAVIA

The tourist information [website of the Jewish community of Brno](#), Czech Republic, includes a collection of databases with maps, of more than 20 Jewish cemeteries in southern Moravia. The cemeteries are represented by information cards; click on a card and you can search by name or date. There are maps of the cemeteries, and lists of people buried there. Some entries have photos of every gravestone and some entries include databases searchable by name and/or date. Access the collection [HERE](#).

VICTORIAN SANDS & MCDUGALL DIRECTORIES DIGITISED



STATE LIBRARY
VICTORIA
What's your story?

[The State Library of Victoria has announced](#) that around 7 million records detailing the history of land use in Victoria are now available online. This was made possible after a major digitisation project, funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Digitised in 5 year intervals the 24 volumes of the *Sands and McDougall Commercial Directories*, constituting more than 50,000 pages, are now accessible and searchable online through the State Library of Victoria website.

Kate Torney, State Library Victoria CEO, said “making information accessible is critical to ensuring it can be used by all Victorians. These important directories tell the story of Victoria through its people and places. This resource is in high demand, so it’s wonderful to now be able to provide broader access through our digital collections.”

You can search the *Sands and McDougall Directories* [HERE on the State Library of Victoria website](#).

FINDING ONLINE RECORDS IN POLAND



[The Lost Shoebox](#) has an innovative guide to Polish records (not just Jewish ones). The team at The Lost Shoebox are enthusiastic amateurs who create clear, simple and highly visual guides and resources for fellow genealogists. Their guide to Polish records has a graphical index of sorts, a map of Poland’s voivodeships with reference numbers to available collections listed below. Many of the references are highly relevant to Jewish genealogy, although probably not unknown to seasoned researchers. Resources include *Geneteka* – a collaborative effort by numerous volunteers who index church and civil records all over Poland; *AGAD* – the state archives of Poland and regional archives in places such as Przemyśl, Poznań and Szczecin. They acknowledge that it’s not an exhaustive list but instead focus on the sites with extensive indexes and collections of scans.

HELP A RESEARCHER: DOES YOUR FAMILY HAVE FAMILY ROOTS IN STASZÓW, POLAND?



Drew University (Madison, New Jersey) Doctoral student Passi Rosen-Bayewitz is working on a dissertation on the subject of *Jewish Staszów as a Site of Memory*. She is seeking individuals with family roots in Staszów, Poland, to complete a short survey to assist her research. One of the questions her dissertation addresses is: How and why does Jewish Staszów matter to its Diaspora around the world?

She says that discovering an intersection between family history (she has identified civil records reflecting her father’s family’s presence in Staszów from the end of the 18th century), academic study, and professional experiences led to her dissertation topic. Staszów, a small town located in south east of Poland, was home to Jews for more than 400 years. While her dissertation is a case study of just one shtetl in Poland, Jewish Staszów is

representative of hundreds of shtetls established during the late Middle Ages, in the territories of the old Polish Commonwealth, where nobles invited Jews to move onto their estates to encourage economic development.

She seeks to answer an overarching question: How and why did (and does) the memory of the Jewish community in Staszów continue to matter to 1) its diaspora — Staszówers who began to immigrate in the early twentieth century; Staszów Holocaust survivors; and descendants of both groups — and 2) some Poles in Staszów and other parts of Poland?

To capture data, Ms Rosen-Bayewitz has created a short, anonymous survey in both English and Hebrew. English – <http://bit.ly/Staszow>, Hebrew – <http://bit.ly/HebrewStaszowSurvey>

She would be very grateful if members with family roots in the Staszów area participated in her research.

Before Ms Rosen-Bayewitz began her research, she had minimal knowledge of genealogy. Attending the IAJGS conferences in Jerusalem and Seattle she was introduced to powerful research tools and dynamic “citizen scientists”. She says “their passion and tenacity leads to success in finding missing puzzle pieces. The personal benefits of preparing my dissertation have been immeasurable.”

Staszów Cemetery Creative Commons



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

GUEST SPEAKER: DR ANDREW ZALEWSKI

THE GREAT WAR – JEWISH LIVES IN GALICIA

SUNDAY JANUARY 21

2.00PM - 4.30PM

Upper Victor Smith Hall,
North Shore Synagogue,
Treatts Road Lindfield,

Cost: Members: Free

Non Members: \$10.00 (Cash Only)

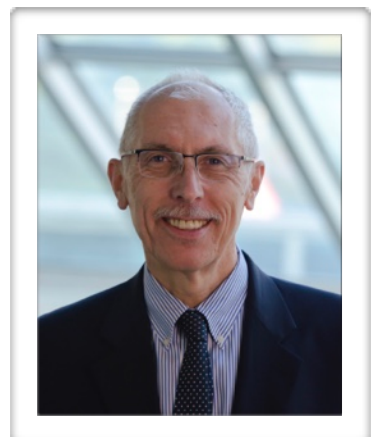
Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP: society@ajgs.org.au

January 18, 2018.

Join us as Dr Andrew Zalewski intertwines his own genealogical discoveries with the broader historical context of Jewish Galicia. He will focus on World War I and the eastern front in Galicia, which was home to the largest Jewish community in Austro-Hungary. Uncovering his ancestors' individual stories, Andrew follows waves of Russian offensives and Central Powers counteroffensives which swept through Galicia. He describes dramatic events in small and large cities (Lwów, Przemyśl, Kraków), which impacted many Jewish lives. His talk covers the Great War (World War I) through to its climactic end in 1918. In Galicia, in contrast to the Western front, the conflict did not end with the disintegration of Austro-Hungary. This talk is based on the archival records and historic newspaper research conducted for Andrew's book *Galician Portraits: In Search of Jewish Roots*, and is illustrated with pictures, historical and unique archival documents, and old maps of Galicia.

Dr Andrew Zalewski is a physician and former Professor of Medicine at Jefferson University, Philadelphia. Among his non-medical pursuits, Andrew has developed an extensive interest in the history of Austrian Galicia (1772-1918) and its Jewish community. Several generations of his Jewish and Christian ancestors traced their roots to this former province of the Austrian and Austro-Hungarian Empire. His books: *Galician Trails: The Forgotten Story of One Family* and *Galician Portraits: In Search of Jewish Roots* are available through online booksellers. Andrew serves on the Board of Directors of Gesher Galicia, Inc. He is also Executive Editor of the *Galitzianer*, Gesher Galicia's quarterly research journal.



This is a free event for members, \$10 for others (cash only)

Please RSVP to society@ajgs.org.au so that we have numbers for seating and catering.



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

AJGS runs regular workshops where you can access resources, websites and the knowledge of other members.

Monthly Sunday and quarterly Monday workshops are held at The Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield. Quarterly Sunday workshops are also held at Waverley Library, 48 Denison St, Bondi Junction.

Check out [The Calendar on the AJGS website](#) for details or see below for dates, times and locations.

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
SUNDAY	JANUARY 7	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 4	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 18	1400-1700	WAVERLEY LIBRARY
MONDAY	FEBRUARY 19	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	MARCH 4*	1400-1700	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	APRIL 8	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	MAY 6	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	MAY 27	1400-1700	WAVERLEY LIBRARY
MONDAY	MAY 28	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	JUNE 3	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	JULY 1	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	AUGUST 5	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	AUGUST 19	1400-1700	WAVERLEY LIBRARY
MONDAY	AUGUST 20	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 9	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	OCTOBER 7	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	NOVEMBER 4	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	NOVEMBER 18	1400-1700	WAVERLEY LIBRARY
MONDAY	NOVEMBER 19	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 2	1000-1300	NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE

*AJGS AGM

AJGS
L'dor V'dor