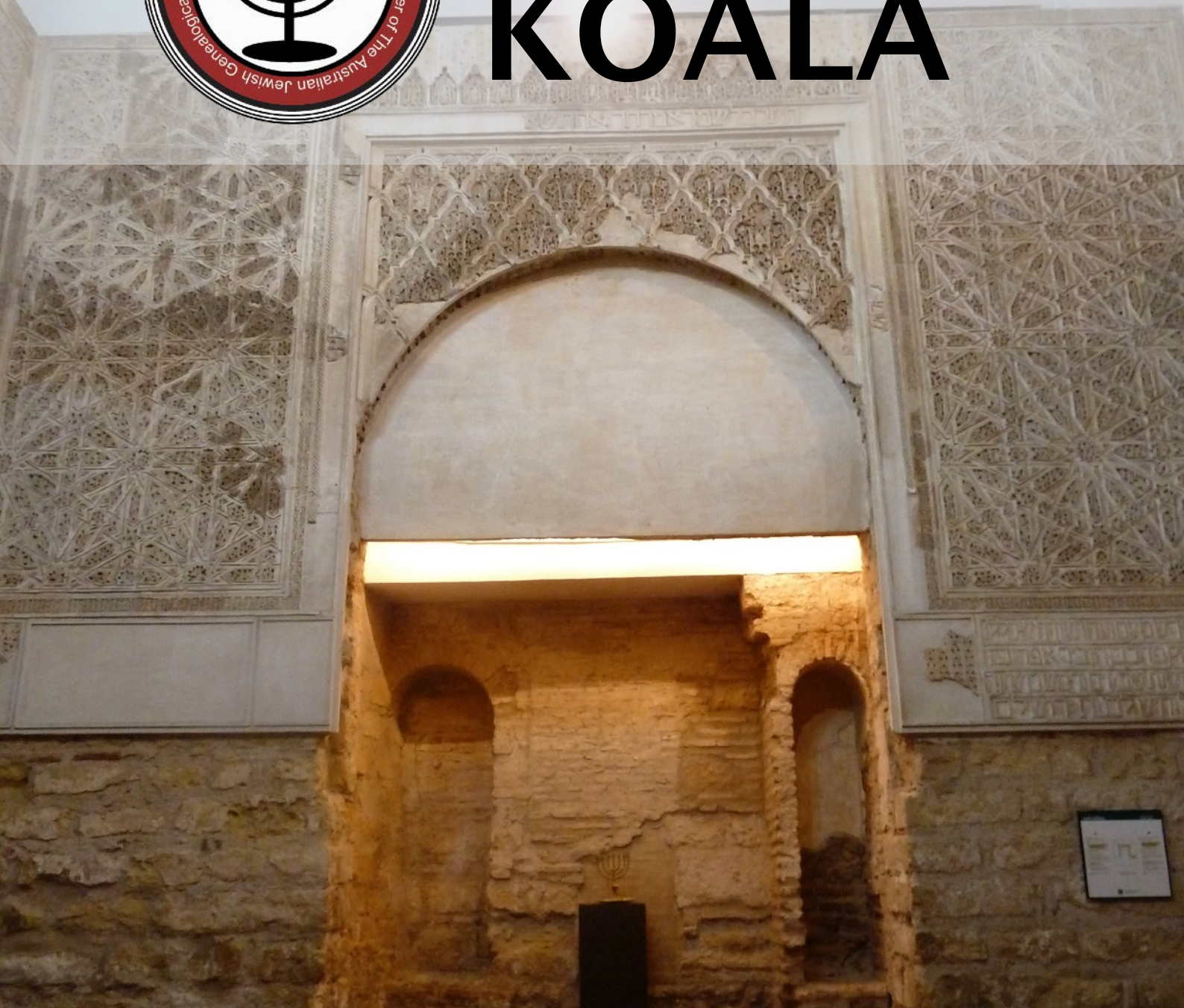


NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



# KOSHER KOALA



SUMMER/ DECEMBER 2020

AJGS  
*L'dor V'dor*

Cordoba Synagogue, built around 1314/15 and used until the expulsion of the Jews from Iberia in 1492. Listed by UNESCO in 1994. Now open as a museum. See page 14.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

---

Last year who would have thought that 2020 would bring so many changes to our lives, so many restrictions and that terms such as “social distancing” would become part of everyday speech.

However, what has not changed is our society’s mission to assist those with Jewish ancestry to research their family histories and as President of AJGS I am honoured to have the opportunity to help further that goal.

Research practices have changed dramatically over the last few decades and my vision is to make our own extensive resources available and easily accessible online, and the work has already begun.

- Library books are currently being catalogued. When completed this list will appear on our website.
- Kosher Koala magazines are available on our website but earlier copies are to be added together with a search feature.
- Events on Zoom with both the AJGS Victoria and the AJHS NSW and Victoria will enable access to a wide choice of events and allow members who live out of the local area to take part.
- A brief newsletter once a month will provide current information and links to past events members may have missed or would like to see again.
- Library access will be arranged by appointment.

I am also interested to know what ideas and interests you have, topics you would like covered in workshops, speakers you would like to address the society. With Zoom we can be brave and dream BIG.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Warm wishes

Barbara Simon, President AJGS

AJGS  
*L'dor V'dor*



# FEATURES

## MEET THE NEW AJGS COMMITTEE

VICTORIA NADEL, OAM

The 29th Annual AJGS AGM was held via Zoom on October 26, 2020. This year some new faces were elected to the organising committee.

### **President, Barbara Simons:**



Barbara worked for two decades as a telecommunications project manager at Plessey and IBM. She has been active in the Jewish community as General Manager and Vice President of North Shore Temple Emanuel (NSTE) and President of Australian Reform Zionist Association (ARZA).

She joined AJGS 12 years ago and last year served as the Society's treasurer. Barbara is excited about her new role, looking forward to helping members with their research and hopes to further her own research on her German Polish ancestry. She encourages new members to take advantage of the Society's valuable resources and is planning more workshops and speaker events both on- and off-line.

In addition to genealogy Barbara enjoys travel, concerts and operas.

### **Immediate Past President, Jeannette Tsoulos:**

An AJGS member for 26 years and a member of the committee for 20, Jeanette held a variety of executive positions including Hon. Secretary, Vice President, and six years as President. Jeannette has a pharmacy degree, and a Bachelor of Arts in languages. She speaks five languages and has an avid interest in philology. She is also an accomplished musician and music teacher.



Although initially joining the AJGS to research her own family's story Jeannette has a real interest in the genealogical process and enjoys helping others in their ancestry journeys.

### **Vice President, Dani Haski:**



Dani has worked in the arts and entertainment sector for over three decades. For the last 10 years she has worked as a professional teleprompt operator on live events and television productions. Joining the AJGS over a decade ago Dani has served on the committee for many years, running the technical side of the society. She also publishes the impressive quarterly Society magazine *Kosher Koala*.

Dani is in the process of documenting her family's history and has Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Mizrahi roots. She revels in the detective work and analytical skills involved in research, the incredible stories she uncovers and the mysteries to be solved in helping others discover their family histories.

### **Treasurer, Dennis Levy:**

Dennis has been a member of AJGS since 2010. He is a qualified accountant, working for the Commonwealth Bank for 30 years before setting up his own consultancy. He is enthusiastic about taking a more active role in the society as its new Treasurer.

Dennis was born in South Africa, migrating to Australia as a child. He is fascinated by family stories and discovering lost relatives. In his spare time Dennis enjoys cooking

### **Secretary, Kym Morris:**

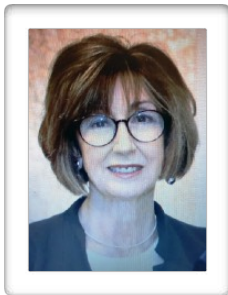
Kym has been a very active AJGS member for the past 22 years and has served in a variety of positions including Treasurer, Hon Secretary and Vice President.

She works in Information Technology, in the higher education sector, is a civil celebrant and an accomplished artist.

Kym hopes, while serving on the AJGS committee, to continue her family research. She is keenly interested in stories of family and place, with primary interests in Poland, the United Kingdom and Australia. She hopes to unlock some of her brick walls while helping the society to fulfil its aims.

## **Committee Members:**

### **Victoria (Viki) Nadel OAM:**



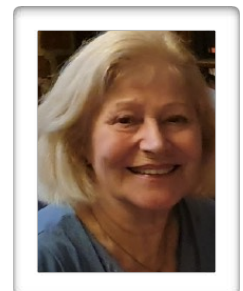
Viki was a history teacher in disadvantaged state high schools for three decades. She has been active in the Jewish community and is currently Immediate Past President of National Council of Jewish Women of Australia NSW (NCJWA NSW), also serving on the Steering Committee, and was a former Acting Co President of NCJWA.

She has held a number of positions and chairs within NCJWA NSW including Vice President, serving on the Board of Directors of Mum For Mum NCJWA, Israel Advocacy Chair and Chair of Bondi's Best Bargains. Other community positions include serving on the Board of Governors, Jewish Communal Appeal (JCA) and on the Board of Directors, Wolper Jewish Hospital.

Viki's family arrived in Australia in the 1840s and she is interested in researching a side of the family who left Portugal in the late 17th century. She is eager to learn new research techniques and to help promote the work and resources of AJGS.

### **Elizabeth (Liz) Suggit:**

A long time AJGS member and volunteer, Liz is pleased to be taking up a position on the committee. Liz had a career in administration at a number of universities here and overseas as well as working at the Historic Houses Trust. As a mature aged student, she gained an arts degree in English and linguistics. Liz has also volunteered at the Jewish Museum, loves reading, researching, writing up her family's history and helping others do the same.



### **Rob Schey:**



Rob is a new AJGS member whose career at IBM spanned 30 years, working in areas including information processing and securing systems. His family were involved in the aged care business and he is currently an IT business consultant to this sector.

He is looking forward to using his skills to help with technical advice for the Society. Rob has already made great headway researching his family's Hungarian background, in particular that of his parents, both Holocaust survivors.

The new committee is excited for the future of AJGS and looks forward to building on the strong foundations of the organisation to continue to help you, our members, uncover the deep roots of your family trees.

# BOOK REVIEW

*KETUBBOT REGISTERS OF LIVORNO* - Alain NEDJAR, Gilles BOULU, Liliane NEDJAR et Raphaël ATTIAS

**Published by Cercle de Genealogie Juive, 2020, France.**

**Reviewed by Jeannette Tsoulos**



We have recently acquired a marvellous addition to our library - *The Ketubbot Registers of the Jewish Nation of Livorno*, a two-volume work in English and French, by Alain Nedjar, Gilles Boulu, Liliane Nedjar and Raphaël Attias, published by the Cercle de Généalogie Juive.

As the second volume consists entirely of the 6,300 ketubot (Jewish marriage contracts), it makes sense to introduce it first. Transcribed from the archives of the Jewish community of Livorno and translated from Hebrew and Aramaic, it covers over 200 years: from 1626 to 1890.

The information on each ketubah is a boon for genealogists and includes

- the date of the marriage (by the Gregorian and Hebrew calendars)
- the names of the spouses and their fathers
- the amount of the dowry
- the town of the marriage if different from Livorno
- signatures of the couple and witnesses

Often there is other information such as birth and death dates of family members, and occasionally a Levirate marriage.

The index of all names found in the Volume 2 registers is at the end of Volume 1, which in itself is a cornucopia of useful information. The first chapter gives an account of the history of the Jews in Livorno, from their welcome in 1591 when most were refugees from Spain and Portugal, through the years of their



contribution to the growth and economy of Livorno, to the decline of their prosperity and the departure of half the population to Tunisia, Holland and England.

Chapter 2 is a detailed description of the registers.

Chapter 3 discusses the evolution of the community through the prism of its marriages, which increased or declined in number according to the conditions at the time. The chapter includes a whole page of epidemics and their duration, usually 2 or 3 years and including typhus, plague, cholera and influenza – a topic we are all familiar with today. Famines and historical events also had an effect on the welfare of the community.

Chapter 4 discusses the names in the ketubot – surnames and given names, their origin and meanings.

Chapter 5 is an impressive work detailing the genealogies and itineraries of 30 families based in Livorno and their lives and movements around the Jewish communities of Italy and North Africa, particularly Tunis.

The volume ends with the Index of names, a table of illustrations, a list of archival sources and a bibliography.

Our Society, the AJGS, has a number of members with Sephardic genealogy. Quite a few of the names in our Family Finder Database are the same as those in the registers of Livorno. Those names include Semama (Samama in FF), Raccah, Danon, Di Veroli, Carvalho, Da Cosa, Mendes, Eschkenazi – and more. Two or three members over the years have specified Livorno as an ancestral place.

Movement from one country to another was not unusual in Sephardic families, many of whom have family histories spanning Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Italy, France, Gibraltar and the Maghreb. It is entirely possible that at one point or other a family member spent time in Livorno, though they may not have married there.



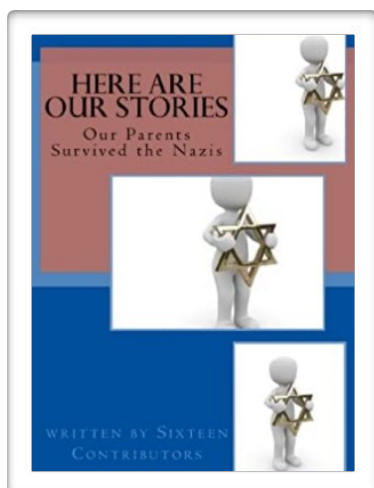
For many years Livorno was unique in offering a home to all persecuted people, not only Jews. It was the only town in Italy that never had a ghetto. Though in the early years of the community most of the Jewish population were Converso, over the years the proportion decreased as Italian and Ashkenazi Jews settled there. For this reason I believe a book such as this will have a wide appeal to all Jewish genealogical societies, whatever their makeup.

It is a readable as well as a scholarly work. I thoroughly recommend it.

*HERE ARE OUR STORIES, OUR PARENTS SURVIVED THE NAZIS -  
Edited by Frances Black and Margi Law.*

**Published by Margi Black (2016), 2020, Australia.**

**Reviewed by Jeannette Tsoulos**



This year AJGS was pleased to receive two books donated by our member Frances Black. Frances authored, *Warts and All*, the story of her own family, and was the initiator and project manager of, *Here Are Our Stories, Our Parents Survived the Nazis*, written by 16 contributors and edited by Frances Black and Margi Law.

This is a review of this second book.

Frances asked for contributions from the children of Holocaust survivor parents. She set them five questions to consider amongst the memories they would be recording: how Jewish, European and Australian did they feel as a child and now; how involved are they with the Jewish and the Australian communities, and how have they brought up their children? The book is the result.

It is an unusual book to have in our library as it looks at the question of Jewish survival of the Holocaust from the opposite perspective of that covered by our other Holocaust books. This book describes the results in the second generation of their survivor parents' traumatic experiences, grief and loss and efforts to make a new life in a country whose culture could not be more different from the one they had come from. The contributors thus were writing not only about their own lives, but also that of their parents and sometimes their grandparents.

The parents mostly came from Poland (eight), Austria (seven) and Germany (six). Five were from Hungary, three from Romania, two from Slovakia and one from England, who was not Jewish.



Half of the contributors' parents had left Europe by 1939 and the other half left afterwards. Nine of the contributors were born overseas, in countries as varied as Hungary, France, South Africa, Israel, England and Slovakia.

Some of the parents had been in concentration camps. Eleven stories mentioned the loss of family in the Holocaust – very few of the contributors had grandparents alive.

On the whole, the contributors' parents made a successful transition to life in Australia. As the majority had come from Western Europe, I was prepared for most of the children's remarks that their home was not religious and very few of the parents went to a synagogue. Yet in eight families at least one member fasted on Yom Kippur and seven celebrated Seder night, though two only at the homes of friends. Two more families may have celebrated these occasions but the topic was not mentioned in their stories.

Six of the children claimed to be atheist or agnostic and one or two others admitted to no religious affiliation, yet virtually all stated that they felt very Jewish, as did their parents. Not surprisingly, their parents mostly mixed with other Jews. They also encouraged their children to stay within a Jewish circle.

In the event, ten of the contributors married Jews. Four married out, one was gay and did not marry, and one married a woman whose father was Jewish but mother was not. This last person turned out to be one of the contributors. Her story was interesting in that she grew to feel close to her Jewish roots, and remarkably both she and her brother ended up marrying Jews.

Three contributors went to Sunday school, one to Jewish scripture at school and two went to Jewish schools. One contributor had a Jewish upbringing in Slovakia and in Israel. His first wife was Jewish, but his second wife was not. He had no children with his Jewish wife.

Of the other contributors, seven sent their children to Jewish schools and at least one other involved her children in the local synagogue. Of those whose children were given a Jewish background and whose marriages were mentioned, one had two children marrying out, one had both children marrying in and four had one child marrying out and one marrying in, including a spouse who converted.

This is a book that warms the heart, as love of family is at its centre. Each story is different, as each family deals with their circumstances in their own way. The story of the parents' survival of the Holocaust and the burgeoning of Jewish life in the following generations is a microcosm of the history of the Jews dating back millennia.

Margi Law and Frances Black have done a mitzvah in recording these stories.

# NEWS & VIEWS

## AJGEN MIGRATES TO A NEW ONLINE HOME



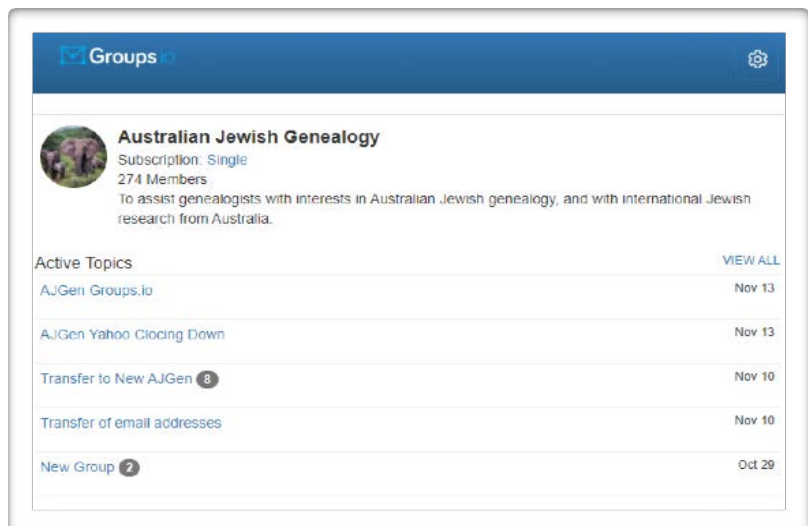
AJGen is the long running message board used by many AJGS members. Although separate from AJGS, the Society is very supportive of this valuable resource as another avenue researchers can use to have queries answered.

Originally hosted on Yahoo Groups, administrator Gary Luke, a longstanding member of AJGS, was informed last year that the whole Yahoo Groups service would be wound up this December. Gary has chosen the Groups.io platform to host AJGen going forward.

On Yahoo AJGen had about 370 members. Gary has done his best to ensure existing members know about the migration, repeatedly posting a general notice about the move over the last few weeks. The new AJGen io group has 285 subscribers and all AJGS members are invited to subscribe.

To join the group, simply send an email to

[AJGen@groups.io](mailto:AJGen@groups.io). You will receive a confirmation return email and instructions on how to set up your account. The system allows for participants to post via web or email, so you can use this email address to post new topics.



You can manage your subscription in [settings](#). Opt to receive all messages in individual emails, collections of messages in a digest, a daily summary, or only special notices.

All Yahoo AJGen subscribers have been automatically migrated. If you no longer wish to belong to this group, you can unsubscribe by sending an email to:

[AJGen+unsubscribe@groups.io](mailto:AJGen+unsubscribe@groups.io)

## HISTORIC AUSTRALIAN JEWISH NEWSPAPERS GOING DIGITAL



The National Library of Australia (NLA), the National Library of Israel (NLI) and the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) recently announced a new initiative to digitise and facilitate free access to 180 years of Australian Jewish newspapers, from Jewish communities across the continent.

The new digital collection will be accessible and searchable from anywhere in the world through [NLA's Trove](#) and NLI's Historical Jewish Press Project (JPress).

The history of Jewish press in Australia goes back to 1842, when, despite the very small Jewish population, a local edition of the London-based *Voice of Jacob* (which would later become *The Jewish Chronicle*) was published in Sydney. As the local communities grew and established themselves in the twentieth century, the number of publications and their variety grew immensely. Most of the publications were in English, but there were also some in Yiddish and Hebrew.

Polaris Media, publisher of the *Australian Jewish News*, have given permission for all issues of the paper to be digitised, as will all other Australian Jewish newspapers published up to the copyright date of 1954.

Some of the historic titles include *The Voice of Jacob*, published in Sydney and Melbourne, the short lived *Australasian Hebrew* and Perth's *Westralian Judean*.

While some titles such as *The Hebrew Standard* and *The Jewish Herald* (Vic) are already available in [Trove](#), the expansion of this project and commitment to make such a huge resource freely available is a welcome development for genealogists with family in Australia.





## IAJGS CONFERENCE 2020



As with so many other events, the 40th IAJGS conference was held online this year with organisers deeming it a huge success despite the obvious challenges.

2200 people from 28 countries registered, a new record for the annual conference. They watched a huge variety of speakers and presentations from the comfort of their own home.

The 41st IAJGS conference will be held in Philadelphia in August 2021..

## IAJGS Awards 2020

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) presented its 2020 awards at its International Conference in August.

Award winners were:

- Lifetime Achievement Award: Hadassah Lipsius and Robinn Magid
- Volunteer of the Year: Gary Perlman
- Future Leader of the Year: Jarrett Ross
- Outstanding Project: JGS of Greater Boston Research Sunday Program
- Outstanding Publication: Society newsletter: *Chronicles: Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia*
- Outstanding Publication: Book: *Ketubbot Registers of the Jewish Nation of Livorno (Leghorn), Genealogies and Family Itineraries.*
- IAJGS Salutes: Shalom Bronstein and Yocheved Klauser
- Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant: Tsal Kaplun Foundation

## ROOTSTECH GOES GLOBAL, VIRTUAL & FREE



As COVID-19 continues to create uncertainty for conference organisers around the world, the organisers of Rootstech 2021 have decided to go virtual, replacing their in-person conference, scheduled for early February, with a virtual conference at the end of February. The most exciting development is that Rootstech 2021 will be completely free!

The global conference, rebadged Rootstech Connect, will be held between 25th - 27th February, 2021. Like previous conferences there will be keynote speeches by

celebrity guests, classes and presentations in multiple languages and a combination of live-streamed and on-demand content to cater for the different time zones. Live streams will be available to view on demand after the conference closes as well.

A virtual marketplace will allow participants to discover new products and the latest innovations, and connect with vendors. Plus there will be opportunities to "meet" other attendees through various messaging boards, social media interactions, and video chats.

For more information and to register for RootTech Connect [go to their website](#).

## JEWISHGEN PARTNERS WITH USC SHOAH FOUNDATION



In September [JewishGen announced](#) they had formed a partnership with the [USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive](#) to index the data from almost 50,000 Holocaust survivor testimonies and make the index accessible on the JewishGen platform.

The biographical data is discoverable via more than 250,000 possible names and aliases — which in turn contain information on more than 600,000 additional relatives identified in survivor questionnaires. Data provided in the interviews contains potentially valuable sources of genealogical and family information, with details that can include: Name, Place of Birth, Date of Birth, Relationship to Interviewee, whether individual survived the Holocaust, Place of Death, and Date of Death.

The data is gleaned from the thousands of questionnaires and video testimonies collected by USC Shoah Foundation. Over 4,000 of the video interviews are available to view over the internet. For data linked to a video that is not accessible there are links to biographical pages that may include other types of media such as photos or maps.

To access the collection simply search in either the [Holocaust Database](#) or via the [JewishGen Unified Search](#). If a name similar to your ancestor's is included in the database a result will show up.

[USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive](#) hosts a searchable collection of more than 54,000 video testimonies of survivors and witnesses of genocide.

Initially a repository of Holocaust testimony, the Visual History Archive has expanded to include testimonies from the Armenian Genocide that coincided with World War I, the 1937 Nanjing Massacre in China, the Cambodian Genocide of 1975-1979, the Guatemalan Genocide of 1978-1983, the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, and the ongoing conflicts in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, and anti-Rohingya mass violence. It also includes testimonies about contemporary acts of violence against Jews.

### USC Shoah Foundation - Survivor Interviews

Searching for Surname (phonetically like) : LOWY AND  
Givenname (DM soundex) : FRANK  
72 matching records found. Displaying records 1 to 50  
Run on Sat, 21 Nov 2020 23:25:48 -0700

Name	Gender	Birth Date	Relationship to Interviewee	Interviewee Name	Interviewee Country of Birth	Testimony Link	View Full Record
Lowy Alexander	M	Oct 23, 1921	Self	Lowy Alexander	Czechoslovakia (historical)	<a href="#">Testimony Link</a>	<a href="#">View Full Record</a>
Weide Hana	F	Nov 03, 1917	Self	Weide Hana	Austria-Hungary (historical)	<a href="#">Testimony Link</a>	<a href="#">View Full Record</a>
Lowy Bill	M	Mar 04, 1928	Self	Lowy Bill	Hungary	<a href="#">Testimony Link</a>	<a href="#">View Full Record</a>
Lowy Frank	M	Oct 22, 1922	Self	Lowy Frank	Czechoslovakia (historical)	<a href="#">Testimony Link</a>	<a href="#">View Full Record</a>

### USC Shoah Foundation

Visual History Archive Online

**Important:**  
This testimony video is not viewable in the Visual History Archive Online. Testimony videos not viewable in the VHA Online can be viewed onsite at many institutions around the world.  
[Find an access site near you](#), where all testimony videos can be viewed.

from the collection of  
USC Shoah Foundation

**Frank Lowy**

Segments: 1 -  
Segment 2 -  
Segment 3 -  
Czechoslovakia 1918 (November 11) - 1938 (September 29)  
Překovo (Slovakia, Czechoslovakia) [1]  
Segment 4 -  
Family background  
Alex Lowy - brother  
Edith Weiner - sister

Viewing Screen

Slide Show  
Show Map

Map showing locations in Slovakia, Bratislava, Budapest, and Hungary.

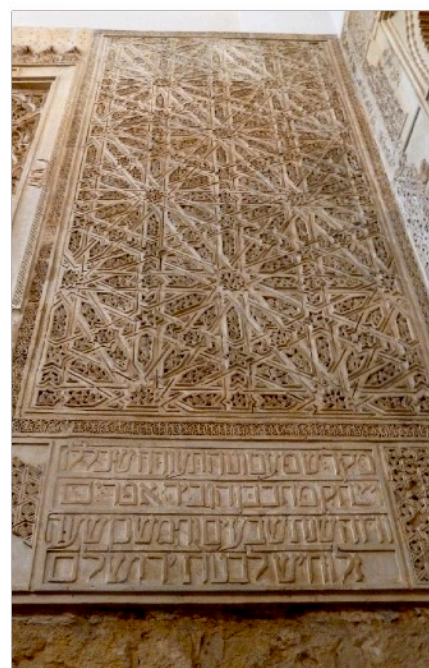
Maximize/Minimize Data  
Next Result  
Previous Result  
Back to Search Results  
New Search  
Save to Projects  
Print Testimony

## ICONIC CORDOBA SYNAGOGUE RESTORATION ALMOST COMPLETE



*Jewish Heritage Europe* reported work was almost complete on a museum and interpretive centre in one of Spain's most beautiful Synagogue complexes in Cordoba.

Built in 1314-1315 and used until the expulsion of the Jews from Iberia in 1492, the Cordoba synagogue is located in the heart of what was the Jewish quarter of the ancient city. The rich Moorish-style decorations of the interior contrast the sober and simple façade; they are a classic example of the Mudejar art, characteristic of the period between XIII and XV-century Spain. Listed





as a National Monument by the Spanish government in 1885, the Synagogue is part of the Historical Center of Cordoba, which was declared a UNESCO heritage site in 1994. The local council have pledged over 50 thousand Euro to the project.

Cristina Casanueva Jiménez, director of the Andalusian Regional Council's Department for Cultural and Historical Heritage told media:

The knowledge we have of the Synagogue as a complex goes beyond the Synagogue itself, so the Ministry of Culture and Heritage intends for it to be exhibited and museumized, [sic].

Since 1985, the synagogue has undergone conservation and restoration work aimed at conserving the building, recovering the murals and plasterwork, anti-xylophage treatments, providing more inclusive access and facilities, etc. Further excavations at the 220-square-meter site began in 2009, the year after the whole site was acquired by the local government for around €460,000. Other discoveries include remnants of a Roman wall ; a mikveh and the remains of a small medieval "Jewish house" that was demolished in the 20th century. Ms Jimenez [posted video of the work in a Facebook post](#) in August.

The Synagogue is the second most visited cultural site in the Andalusian region, drawing more than half a million tourists annually.

Views of the Cordoba Synagogue. Clockwise from top: Small courtyard entrance, Moorish style plaster decoration adorn the walls. © Dani Haski



# SLEDGEHAMMER

---

## AJGS DETECTIVES HELP SOLVE AN ABIDING MYSTERY

In August AJGS held its first Online event - a Genealogical Detective workshop held via Zoom. Several members sent in their brick walls, road blocks and conundrums and experienced members such as Jeannette Tsoulos, Robyn Dryen and David Laufer endeavoured to solve these stubborn mysteries.

Member Monica Perrot was one of the participants. She broke through her brick wall thanks to the guidance of fellow member David Laufer.

Monica had two conundrums:

1. I cannot locate my Great Grandparents Heinrich Grossmann & Johanna Gruner's Marriage Certificate. I have been to the Israelitsche Kultusgemeinde in Vienna with no luck. They were married on 17 June 1888 in Malaczka Tauungs-Protokoll Lit. 2 Page 25 Number 125; Tauungs-Schein ddo 20 1888 Number 81
2. My Great Grandfather Heinrich Grossmann was born in Vysoka Hungary on 10 April 1856. I have not been able to find his birth certificate. His siblings were Netti born 1842; Albert born 1850; Ferdinand born 1851

David Laufer has extensive experience researching Vienna and its surrounds.

He observed:

As Monica mentioned, Heinrich Grossmann and Johanna Grüner were not married in Vienna but in Malaczka, now Malacky Slovakia. It is therefore no surprise that the IKG Wien does not have their marriage certificate. However, I did look at my sources at the IKG Wien for this marriage, to no avail. What I did find were the birth records of 4 of their children in Vienna: Friederike 3 Sep 1888; Martha 26 July 1890; Helene 17 Feb 1892 and Otto 14 Jan 1894. None of these records gave details of the parents' marriage. They did mention that Heinrich came from Wihsoka, which probably was the German spelling of



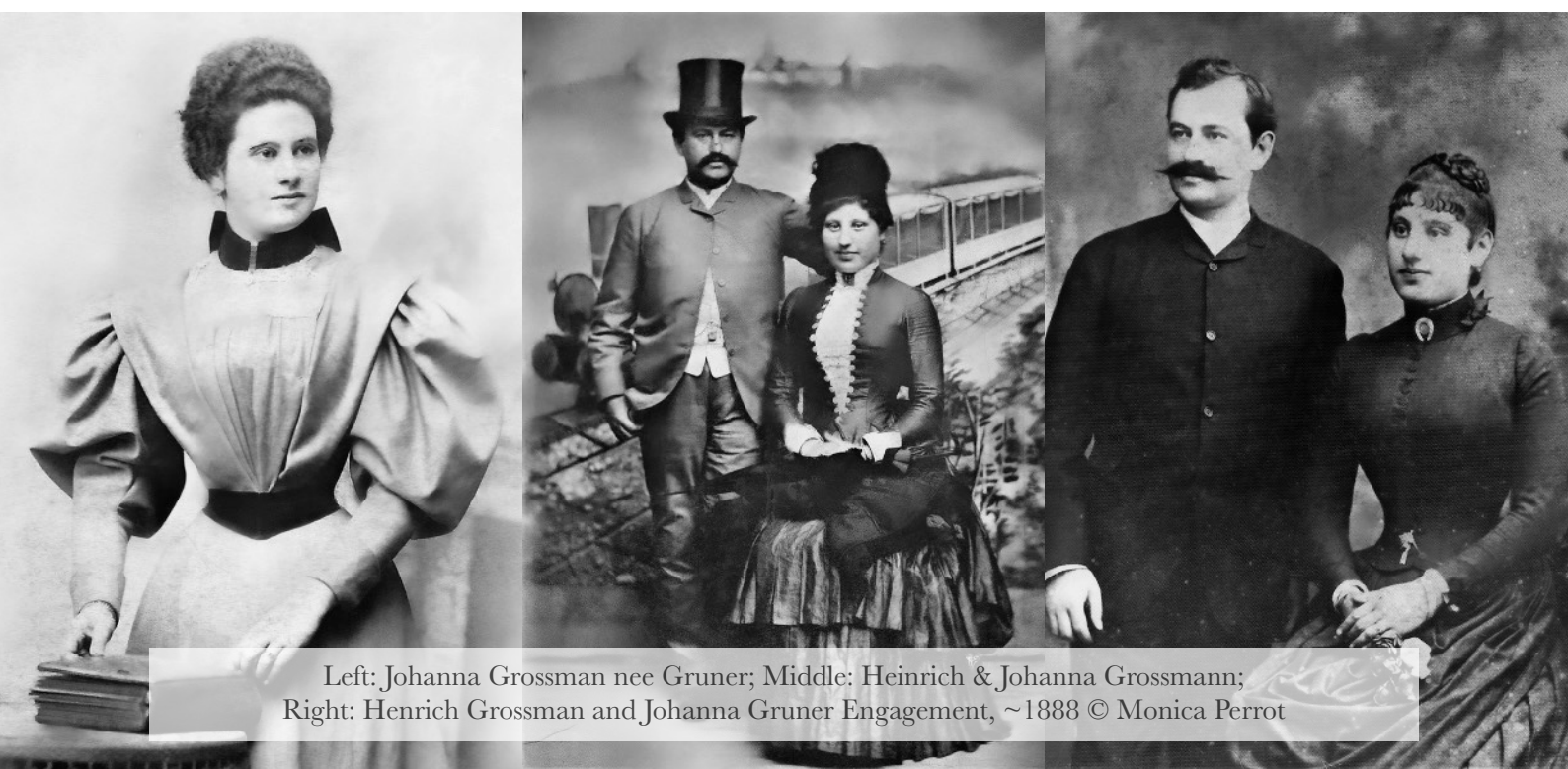
Vysoka. Friederike's birth was soon after the marriage date mentioned by Monica.

David then directed Monica to a link on Familysearch. But this also proved fruitless. What finally cracked the brick wall was David identifying the modern name of Monica's ancestral town, Vysoka, and that it was located in Slovakia not Hungary. With this information and contact details for the local archives David provided, Monica was able to make her breakthrough.

As Monica wrote to David:

...your help after the Detective Zoom session has finally enabled me to obtain the Birth Record and Birth Certificate and Marriage Record for my Great Grandfather Heinrich Grossmann. You pointing me in the direction of the correct town of Vysoka nad Kysucou in Slovakia was the key. I emailed the Bratislava Archive with my queries and the details I had. In a week I had both records. I paid for the Birth Record and a Birth Certificate but received the Marriage Record with no request for payment. Now I have the names of my Great Great Grandparents as well as the reference at Family Search for Vysoka nad Kysucou to continue my detective work. Wonderful indeed. Success after many years searching not knowing it was Slovakian records I needed to access as I only knew the town as Vysoka.

AJGS has many long serving members with a wealth of knowledge. Thank you those who participated in the Genealogical Detective Workshop. We hope to run more of these in the future.



Left: Johanna Grossman nee Gruner; Middle: Heinrich & Johanna Grossmann;  
Right: Henrich Grossman and Johanna Gruner Engagement, ~1888 © Monica Perrot



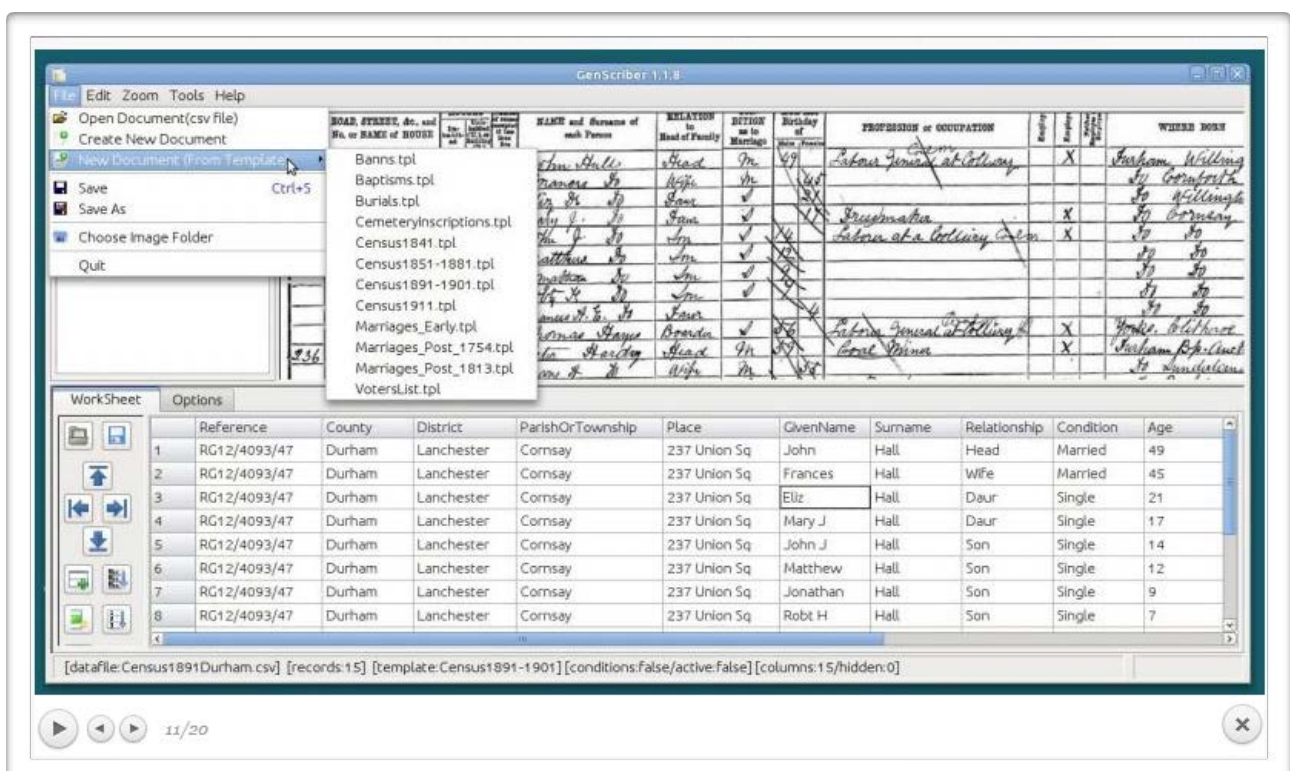
# DIY

## TRANSCRIBING OLD RECORDS

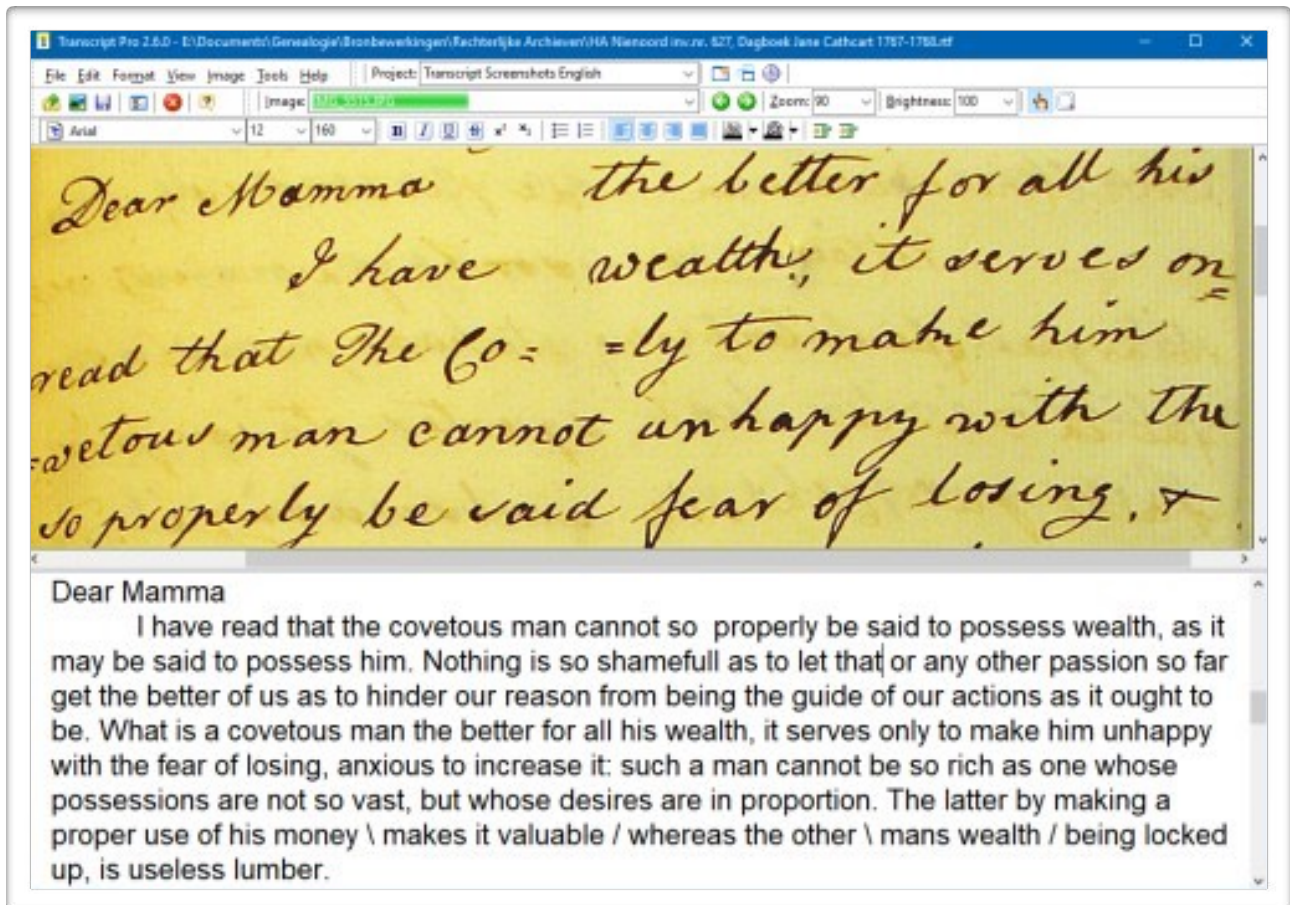
Old letters, handwritten records and certificates and documents that have been photographed often need to be transcribed. Most people simply open the image in an image viewer and type the text into a word processor. However, it can be frustrating constantly toggling between the two programs. Specialised transcription tools can help streamline this process, saving you valuable time.

### Transcribe by hand

GenScriber can be used to transcribe census schedules and birth/marriage/death indices, as well as whole documents. It uses a split screen interface allowing you to view the document being transcribed alongside the transcription window. There are two formatting options available. *Document* to format letters, diaries, and general text documents, and *Spreadsheet* to create or transcribe indices. GenScriber is free.



Transcript helps you transcribe text on digital images of documents. It also uses a split screen, with the image being transcribed open in the top window of the program while the window below displays the transcription. Transcript is free for personal use; a pro version (USD19.00) allows access to special features including search and replace and image manipulation.



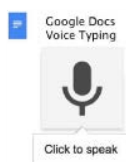
## Transcribe by Voice

If you need to transcribe a large collection or a long document and the idea of typing it all out is daunting, you may consider dictating the text into a voice-to-text application.

Dragon Naturally Speaking allows you to read the document out loud, dictating the transcription directly into your computer microphone. You can use commands such as “next line,” “backspace,” and more to format your document.

Dragon Mobile Assistant is a free (Android) app for your mobile phone that can be used in archives. There are also a host of voice-to-text apps available in the Apple app store for iPhones.



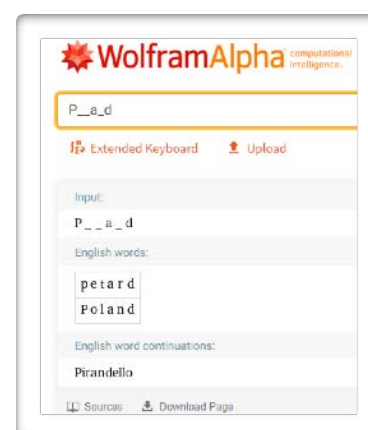


Google Voice Typing is available in the Google suite of apps (both computer and mobile). It also allows you to transcribe voice to text directly into a Google Doc. Simply create a blank Google Doc, go to Tools, select Voice Typing and start dictating.

## TRANSCRIPTION BEST PRACTICE

There are few things to keep in mind when transcribing records and documents:

1. **Copy Verbatim:** Type/ dictate what you see. Document everything as it appears on the page. Use the term “[sic]” (it means *thus* in Latin); it's a common editing term used to indicate in-situ spelling or grammar errors that occur in the original text.
2. **Brackets notations:** A transcript is not the place to interpret facts. Even if you believe there are errors or the information seems incorrect, transcribe it “as is.” If you absolutely have to add notes to your transcript, indicate them with brackets - (these are my extemporaneous notes in brackets). If at all possible avoid including lengthy notes in the text; if you really need to include long explanations, use footnotes.
3. **Wolfram|Alpha can help decipher missing letters:** Wolfram|Alpha is a "computational Intelligence" service that can help you work out words with missing or illegible letters (among many other things it can do). Type the word with blanks and letters - for example: “P\_\_a\_d” - into the search field and hit Enter. A list of possible words with that combination of letters will appear.
4. **Indicate the presence of missing letters and/or words:** If a specific letter or word is missing or completely illegible, and you can't figure out what it might be use a blank underline in square brackets [\_\_\_\_\_].
5. **Consider the formatting:** whenever possible format the text in the same way as the original. This includes mirroring line breaks, page breaks and columns.
6. **Donate your transcription to original repository:** If you have sourced your document from an archive or library consider offering them a copy of your document. Most repositories appreciate receiving the digital transcription of any document a researcher has taken the time to transcribe.





# LINKS

## FIND YOUR FAMOUS FAMILY



Here's a bit of fun for family history buffs. Beit Hatfutsot, the Museum of the Jewish People, located in Tel Aviv, has launched a Geni app that shows you how you are related to famous people. You do need to have a family tree on Geni to use the service but besides this slight inconvenience, it's a giggle.

When you enter your details you are presented a list of people the algorithm could find connected to you - albeit distantly. The more closely related individuals are listed first. By clicking on the image of the person, you reveal the sometimes convoluted relationship path.

For example, when I put my own name into the engine I discovered I was 14 steps removed from Leon Trotsky (my second great aunt's great nephew's wife's first cousin twice removed), 15 steps from Paul Newman (my aunt's first cousin once removed's wife's brother's wife's second cousin) and 16 steps from Daniel Day-Lewis, Elie Weisel and the Marx Brothers!

While this app is not a serious research tool it is fun and may even help you uncover some hidden connections that could spin your research off in unexpected directions.



Museum of the Jewish People

Wouldn't it be great to know if you have a family connection to famous Jewish people like Albert Einstein, Dona Gracia or Theodor Herzl?



Here's what you need to do in order to discover that and where they are located in the museum:

[Log in to your Geni account](#)



Once you're in, you'll see a list of famous people you're connected to and the relationship path for each one. A click on each person will reveal the exact location in the museum. You may even find your relationship to other museum visitors!

## THE GENIE MILRGOM CRYPTO JEWISH COLLECTION



In November JewishGen announced it had formed a partnership with the indomitable Genie Milgrom to facilitate access to her extensive collection of sources relating to the Crypto Jewish experience. Known as *The Genie Milgrom Crypto Jewish Collection*, the information she has compiled will be freely searchable via JewishGen, and will include extensive background information in both English and Spanish.

In their statement JewishGen said:

Up until now it has been extremely difficult for those trying to trace their ancestors dating back to the 14th and 15th centuries during the Inquisition, since Jews were forced to convert, change their names, and assume Christian identities in order to save themselves from death sentences. Many of these Jews were exiled from Spain and later Portugal and scattered throughout Europe and Latin America.



Genie Milgrom has been researching her own Sephardi family for decades. She has spent years scouring the world for any old documents, dissertations, books, and records. This collection is the result of that decades-long work and will be a valuable addition to scarce Sephardic resources for researchers with roots in Spain and Portugal.

## JEWISH CULTURE OF CORK VIRTUAL WALK



The Synagogue in Cork, Ireland, closed in 2016 due to lack of a congregation. It is now an Adventist Church. Despite the lack of a formal community, an informal group has developed, calling itself the Munster Jewish Community.

Community member and artist Ruti Lachs developed the *Cork Jewish Culture Virtual Walk* after researching her 2020 musical play, *Green Feather Boa*, set in the Cork Jewish Community a hundred years earlier. Both projects were supported by Cork City Council.



The virtual tour video is presented by Lachs (pictured above) and Marnina Winkler, a PhD candidate and local Jewish historian. It includes interviews, stories, and music. The webpage includes a map and timeline with significant events in the communities history listed.

## COALITION OF GUARDIANS UNITES DISPARATE PROJECTS



The Holocaust decimated the Jewish community of Poland. Today, a renaissance of sorts is happening as young Poles rediscover the history of their local area, stumbling across overgrown cemeteries and other signs of long gone communities. In a bid to connect the disparate groups of volunteers and projects that have sprung up to restore and protect these echoes of the past a new group has formed, named *The Coalition of Guardians of Jewish Cemeteries*.

The Coalition website allows individuals and groups to register and connect with like-minded people in other towns. It also contains an interactive map of Poland with information about individual cemeteries in an easy to navigate database.

The organisers of the coalition describe themselves as:

...ordinary inhabitants of our towns and villages, local government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations, pupils and students, teachers – we have a common goal. Salvation of Jewish cemeteries, the most important witnesses of the presence of the Jewish community in our lands.





## EXPLORE JEWISH ITALY



**MY JEWISH ITALY**

While overseas travel is still off the agenda, a new website and mobile app has been launched by the Italian Jewish Community. It provides a comprehensive guide to Jewish cultural heritage sites, as well as kosher restaurants, Judaica shops, Jewish bookstores and other Jewish infrastructure.

The My Jewish Italy project is a collaboration between the Union of Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI), in association with the Foundation for Jewish Cultural Heritage and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. It is not a comprehensive list, however, as it only shows orthodox Jewish communities and kosher venues associated with the UCEI. It does not, for example, list Chabad facilities, nor the handful of progressive congregations around the country.

The site compliments the Visit Jewish Italy tourism web site, launched two years ago. Both sites are available in Italian and English.



**Kosher foods**



**Jewish Communities**



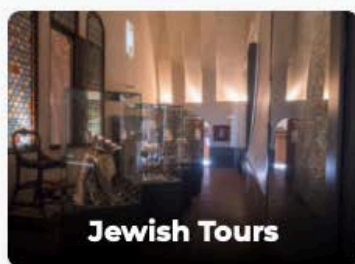
**Museums**



**Jewish Neighborhoods**



**Synagogues**



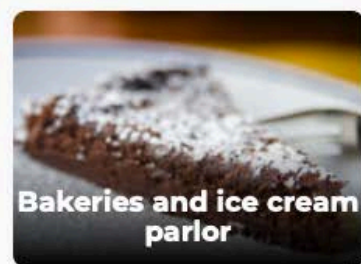
**Jewish Tours**



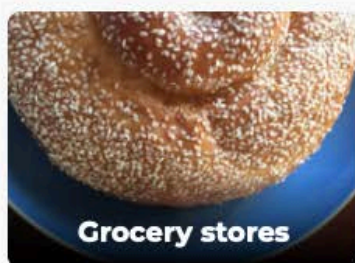
**Butchers**



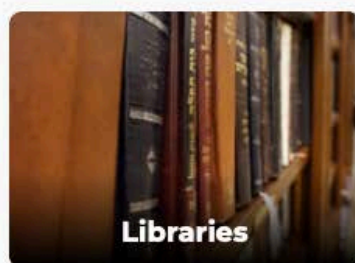
**Contribution**



**Bakeries and ice cream parlor**



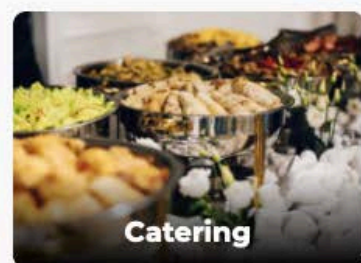
**Grocery stores**



**Libraries**



**Wine shop**



**Catering**

# EXHIBITIONS

## THE LIBERATED 1945/ DE BEFRIADE 1945

An online exhibition, *The Liberated 1945*, created by the Swedish Holocaust Memorial Association (SHMA), is dedicated to the memory of Holocaust survivors who went to Sweden after the liberation of Bergen-Belsen. It highlights the work of the Lübeck detachment (Swedish Transit Hospital) at the end of WWII. The site, created by Roman Wassermann Wroblewski, formerly an Associate Professor with Karolinska Hospital, profiles seven survivor stories and details how Swedish authorities managed the gargantuan task they faced after the liberation of the concentration camps and the evacuation of survivors at the end of the war.

The stories are very moving and illustrated with images sourced from a wide range of archives including the Arolsen Archives, photos by Walter Olson, KW Gullers and Ragnar Åberg from Salvation army in Sweden and Folke Rickardsson's (from Örebro) photo album with unique images from Swedish Transit Hospital, Lübeck, as well as a host of Swedish museums and archives.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 2019, a memorial called *6 Stones—6 Million* was dedicated in Stockholm Northern Cemetery to those who came to Sweden aboard the White Boats and died shortly after arriving.

*(NB: the website is in Swedish. Use Chrome or Google Translate to view it in English)*

6 Stones—6 Million, the Holocaust memorial in Stockholm Northern Cemetery.





# ALICE KLEIN'S STORY

Alice Klein was born on August 22, 1925 in Nyírbátor, approx. 300 km east of Budapest. One of six children, she had three sisters, Aranka, Ilonka and Ibi, and two brothers, Ernő and Adolf. On March 19, 1944 the German Army occupied Hungary. Alice and two of her siblings, Ilonka and Ernő moved to Budapest to work at a lamp factory.

One evening Alice went to a nearby grocery store to buy cream. She put on her coat, but without the Star of David she was required to wear. Her neighbour reported her to the police. She was arrested outside the store and taken to Conti Prison. From there she was sent to Sárvár ghetto.

Alice Klein arrived in Auschwitz, from Sárvár on July 10, 1944. She was transported by cattle wagon alongside 3105 fellow Jews. Upon arrival, 373 women and 339 men were selected for work, among them 19 years old Alice. The remaining 2393 Jews were sent to gas chambers. In this moment Alice caught a glimpse of her father: Keep going where you are going, he shouted to her on his way to the gas chambers.

After nearly 4 months of slave labor in Auschwitz, Alice was transferred with 497 Hungarian Jews and 3 Poles to Buchenwald to works forced labor in Akdo Hasag-Altenburg, an ammunition factory. The Nazis preferred women for this hazardous work as statistics showed that they survived almost twice as long as men.

In Buchenwald Alice was required to wear a red triangle sewn on her prison clothes. This indicated she was also a political prisoner, an enemy of the German state.

On January 10, 1945 Alice was transferred to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. From Ravensbrück, she was moved again to Bergen-Belsen.

In the weeks leading up to the end of the war rations for prisoners in Bergen-Belsen steadily decreased until

Images from top: Alice (aged 14) with her Grandmother & sister; documents from Arolsen archives testify to Alice's experience.



© SHMA

*11-Juden*

**Konzentrationslager** Art der Haft: KL Gef.-Nr.: 72277

Name und Vorname: Klein, Alice  
 geb.: 22.8.1925 in: Nyírbátor  
 Wohnort: Budapest, Jókai str. 4  
 Beruf: Fabrikarbeiterin Rel.: jüdisch  
 Staatsangehörigkeit: ungarisch Stand: frei  
 Name der Eltern: Mor. u. Maria Rasse:  
 Wohnort: Nyírbátor, Rózsákó közp. 19  
 Name der Ehefrau: Rasse:  
 Wohnort: Rasse:  
 Kinder: Alleiniger Ernährer der Familie oder der Eltern:  
 Vorbildung: 6 Kl. Volksschule  
 Militärdienstzeit: von bis  
 Kriegsdienstzeit: von bis  
 Größe: 164 Gestalt: mäßig Gesicht: rund Augen: blau  
 Nase: normal Mund: normal Ohren: normal Zähne: gut  
 Haare: braun Sprache: ungarisch  
 Ansteckende Krankheit oder Gebrechen:  
 Besondere Kennzeichen:  
 Rentenempfänger:  
 Verhältnis am: 10.7.1944 wo: Sarvar  
 1. Mal eingeliefert: Auschwitz 2. Mal eingeliefert: 12.10.44 KL Au-schwitz  
 Einweisende Dienststelle: Sechape  
 Grund:  
 Parteizugehörigkeit: von bis  
 Welche Funktionen:  
 Mitglied v. Unterorganisationen:  
 Kriminelle Vorstrafen:  
 Politische Vorstrafen:  
 Ich bin darauf hingewiesen worden, dass meine Betrafung wegen intellektueller Urkundenfälschung erfolgt, wenn sich die obigen Angaben als falsch erweisen sollten.  
 v. g. u. Klein, Alice Der Lagerkommandant  
 KL 429-43 290/00

KL - Weimar - Buchenwald Juden SS-Nr. 37.034

**Häftlings-Personal-Karte**

Fam.-Name: Klein Überstellt: 29.10.1944 an KL: Buchenwald Personell-Beschreibung: geb. 1925  
 Vorname: Alice am: 10.7.1944 an KL: Auschwitz Gestalt: mittel  
 Stand: ledig Kinder: am: 10.7.1944 an KL: Auschwitz Gesicht: rund  
 Wohnort: Budapest am: 10.7.1944 an KL: Auschwitz Augen: blau  
 Strafen: Jokai str. 4 am: 10.7.1944 an KL: Auschwitz Nase: normal  
 Religion: SSR - Staatsangehörigkeit: UNGARISCH am: 10.7.1944 an KL: Auschwitz Mund: normal  
 Wohnort d. Angehörigen: YASZ am: 10.7.1944 an KL: Auschwitz Ohren: normal  
107 J. u. Nyírbátor am: 10.7.1944 an KL: Auschwitz Zähne: gut  
Rosenstr. 19 am: 10.7.1944 an KL: Auschwitz Haare: braun  
 Eingewiesen am: am: 10.7.1944 an KL: Auschwitz Sprache: ungarisch  
 durch: Auschwitz am: 10.7.1944 an KL: Auschwitz Bes. Kennzeichen:  
 Grund: Polit. Ungarin-Jüdin Entlassung: am: durch KL: Charakter-Eigenschaften:  
 Vorstrafen: mit Verfügung v.: am: durch KL: Sicherheit b. Einsatz:  
 Strafen im Lager: Grund: Am: Bemerkung: KL 429-43 290/00 Körperliche Verfassung:  
 Vaters: Mor Mutters: Maria

72277  
37034

Klein Alice Ung. Jüdin  
geb. 22.8.25

Altenburg 13. JAN. 1945  
Bergen-Belsen

29.10.44

Rezeptionsaufnahme Inführungsaufnahme



they finally ceased completely. The women in her barracks became weak and listless. Many died. In the end Alice was so weak all she could do was crawl. One morning she noticed the German soldiers and guards had removed their rank insignia. Shortly after that, British soldiers came to the Bergen-Belsen camp. Alice was liberated on April 15, 1945.

Survivors, including Alice, were carried out on stretchers and taken by ambulances to a nearby school building. Their lice infested clothing was burned. They were washed. Alice vividly remembered how the soapy water smelled; it smelled of freedom. She weighed just under 30 kg.

On June 28, 1945, Alice Klein traveled in a British military ambulance from Swedish Transit Hospital to Wallhafen harbor in Lübeck. She was carried aboard the White Boat SS Kastelholm. This was the first of five White Boats from Lübeck to Sweden. The trip to Stockholm took three days with SS Kastelholm arriving at the quay in Stockholm's Frihamn on July 1, 1945.

Alice was transferred to a makeshift hospital set up dockside. Upon examination a doctor informed Alice she would be unable to have children. She was taken to Sigtuna emergency hospital where she recovered from her physical trauma and gained weight. On October 19, 1945, she left Sigtuna for Mölnbacka, Deje, for further care.

Images clockwise from top: Bergen-Belsen at liberation;  
map of Wallhafen Harbour; SS Kastelholm;  
the makeshift hospital at Frihamnen; Alice's DP card.



DP Card (A.E.F. D.P. REGISTRATION RECORD) for Alice Klein, born 26/8/1925, Nynbator, Hungary. The card includes fields for family name, birthdate, birthplace, and destination (BUDAPEST, HONGRIE). It also contains a section for languages spoken (HONGROIS, ALLEMAND) and a signature section with the name 'Klein Alice' and date '17/6/45'. The card is marked with 'I-11-14' and '489'.







Alice's eldest brother Adolf was murdered by Hungarian Arrow Crossers on the banks of the Danube. Erno was interred in Flossenbuerg and was murdered. Their father and youngest sister Ibid were murdered in the gas chambers of Auschwitz. Only Alice and two of her sisters survived: Aranka was hidden from the Nazis in Hungary by a Christian family. Ilonka was arrested in Budapest, sent to the Komárom ghetto and then to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. She survived and managed to board a ship bound for Palestine but was interred by the British for a time before finally settling in Israel.



Alice made her home in Värmland. She raised a family (the doctor was wrong; she did have several children and grandchildren) and worked as a restaurant manager in the local community. Upon retirement she gave talks to local schools about her experience during the Holocaust. She passed away early in the 2000s and is buried near the other survivors in Karlstad.



*Images courtesy of Archives of SHMA, Arolson Archives & Wikimedia Commons*



Images anti-clockwise from top: Alice and other survivors recuperates in Sugtuna Hospital; Alice worked in a kitchen in Värmland; Alice kept her Holocaust memories and shared her experience with children in local schools; Alice (centre) in Israel with her surviving sisters Aranka (right) and Ilona (left).



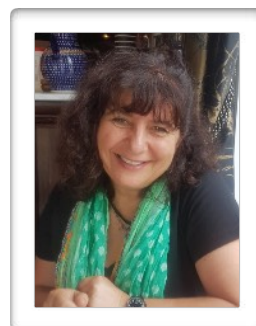
# WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

---

As with everything else this year the workshop schedule has had to be abandoned in the face of the COVID pandemic. If you would like to access the AJGS library at North Shore Synagogue you can do so by appointment. Simply email AJGS President Barbara Simon to arrange a time.

AJGS Victoria have had a couple of excellent online events and all AJGS members are invited to participate in ongoing online events organised by our sibling societies around the country. We will endeavour to inform members interesting online events in our new monthly digest.

If you missed the fascinating talk by Estelle Rosinski (pictured right) in August, we have now posted it to the VIDEO PAGE of our website. You can also view Peter Nash's talk from 2017, outlining how good luck and dogged determination helped him research his Nachemstein family from Poland to China to Australia.



## AJGS (VIC) ONLINE EVENT

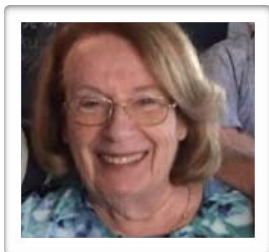
Sunday November 29th @ 2.30pm on Zoom  
Hannah Sweetman: From Verona to London -  
My family's German and European Ancestry.



[CLICK HERE TO JOIN MEETING](#)

ID: 842 0079 7563

Passcode: 062573



Hannah (pictured left) has been a member of AJGS(Vic) since 2009 at which time she was working on a personal autobiography for her family. She eventually published her book titled **HERE TODAY, WHERE TOMORROW** in May 2015. Her work follows the story of one family and the Jewish communities in which they lived over a period of 500 years, from Verona to London. Hannah's Family story

ends in 1939 when her family escaped Germany to take refuge in England. Finally, she and her family emigrated to Australia in the 1960's. In her presentation Hanna explores how her family managed to live industrious and successful, active lives as Jews against such great odds, risks and difficulties.

For further information email AJGS (Vic)