



Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

Kosher Koala

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This is the first issue of the newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, founded in November 1991. A number of copies of each issue will go to fraternal

overseas genealogical societies which have been sending us courtesy copies of their newsletters. This showed us that all the most likely Hebrew names for a Jewish genealogical journal (Avotaynu, Dorot, Shemot, Mishpachah, etc...) were taken, so we decided to walk a different track, an Australian bush track, with a name reflecting that we are Australian, we are Jewish, and that we live up a familiar gum tree, a menorah with pungent eucalyptus leaves. We also inform our overseas readers that this winter 1993 issue appears in September, our southern hemisphere present season and that we will not use the patronizing phrase Down Under. Down Under from what?

Our aim is to inform our members of all the possibilities of Jewish genealogical research both here in Australia and overseas. We will try to teach some of the basics of Jewish genealogy for the benefit of those of our members who are beginners, and at the same time to inform you of the latest developments overseas, such as archives and research facilities opening up in Eastern Europe. We will also try to bring our readers material available only in Australia. We will print stories of successful research, of problems solved, of archival material discovered written by our members and other contributors. Ideally we will try to build a bridge between our members and the vast world of Jewish genealogical research. Our beginnings are humble, our footsteps hesitant, but we are launched on our way.


Vale - Gerald Falk	Sophie Caplan	Vol 1 No 1		
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Although our society is only 21 months old, we have already suffered the loss of one of our members in early February, 1993. In 1989 when Sophie Caplan first made a public announcement that she intended to found an Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Gerald Falk immediately came forward and said that he wanted to become a member and offered the first membership fee, which was held in trust until the Society was actually founded two years later. This was typical of Gerald's enthusiasm for all worthwhile endeavours in the Jewish community.

Born on 8th July, 1918 in England, the second son of Rabbi Leib Falk, who was a chaplain to the Zion Mule Corps and later came to Sydney with his family as assistant rabbi at the Great Synagogue, Gerald grew up in a home where Yiddishkeit, Zionism and a love of books were paramount. His father was the noted bibliophile whose collection of Jewish religion books forms the basis of the Falk library at the Great Synagogue, Sydney.

There is a famous photograph in "AUSTRALIAN JEWRY'S BOOK OF HONOUR" which shows haplain Leib Falk and his three sons David, Gerald and Balfour all in uniform, one in the RAAF, one in the AIF and the youngest in the Royal Australian Navy. Gerald emerged at the end of World War II as an army captain. He then studied electrical engineering, married Joyce Lazarus, and made his career in home lighting. Gerald also entered Jewish community life very actively and had a distinguished communal career which included being President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry in th 1960's. At the time of his death on 4th February 1993, Gerald Falk was Chairman of the N.S.W. Jewish War Memorial, Deputy-President of NAJEX, the NSW ex-service organisation, Treasurer of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, and honorary life member of both the ECAJ and the NSW Board of Deputies, both rare honours. He also had an M.B.E. from the Queen.

Although Gerald did not accomplish his ambition of researching the Falk family of Courland, his widow Joyce has taken his place as a member of our society. Our condolences have gone to Joyce, to his daughter Jackie Gluck, and his daughter-in-law Roslyn Falk and to the grandchildren. His son Antony predeceased him.

About Ourselves	Sophie Caplan	Vol 1 No 1	
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The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society was founded for the pursuit of Jewish genealogy and Jewish family history research, and all our activities seek to further those aims. Our Society is based in Sydney, but we would welcome the establishment of branches of our Society in other Australian cities. We have members living in Adelaide, Melbourne, Newcastle, North Queensland, and in Birmingham, U.K. We welcome members who are not Jewish providing their interest derives from a personal motive such as research into a Jewish ancestor, or a genuine scholarly interest.

Our annual membership fee is \$AUS30 per calendar year, or any part thereof. The whole of our income is devoted to acquiring books, microfiches and other research facilities for the benefit of our members and to producing and mailing this newsletter and occasional circulars. We have benefited from the generosity of some of our members in donating books and journal subscriptions. We have joined the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, for which we pay an annual affiliation fee, and we benefit from their access to information and their new initiatives.

All the work done by the officers of this Society is honorary and voluntary. We have no premises of our own and we are grateful to the North Shore Synagogue in Lindfield and its library Committee for letting us use at no cost the Reverend Katz Library for secure storage of our books, journals and microfiches, and for regular use of the library for our workshops and of the Bernard and Lily Wilson Hall for other meetings. We are also grateful to the Great Synagogue for allowing the use of its Israel Green Hall for a series of seminars in early 1992, and to Moriah College for allowing us the use of a classroom for a similar series of seminars in 1993. We aim to hold our Beginners' Seminars in a different part of Sydney each year, if we can get access to suitable communal venues.

Our present membership is 51.

Activities

Our activities include annual Beginners' Seminars, which have been held twice so far, in March-April 1992 at the Great Synagogue Israel Green Hall and in February to April, 1993 at Moriah College, Bellevue Hill. They were led both times by Gael Hammer, with the participation of Helen Bersten, Sophie Caplan, Terry Newman, in 1992 also of Aubrey Schwartz, now back in Melbourne, and in 1993 of David Landor and Peter Nash.

We hold regular Sunday morning genealogy workshops in the Rev. Katz Library of the North Shore Synagogue from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. every 4 to 6 weeks, where

our resources, books, journals and microfiche are available for reading and research. Experienced members are present to help beginners, and they will also bring books and archival material from their personal collections, if previously requested through Rieke Nash, our resources librarian at 02-427-6075. On 8th August, 1993 our regular workshop included a special exhibition featuring computers and genealogical programmes, with the numerous computer buffs among our members displaying their favourite programmes and software.

Lectures

We have been fortunate in having lectures given by several well-known visiting and local experts in various genealogical areas:

- Dr ANTHONY JOSEPH and his wife JUDITH JOSEPH were present for one evening of our 1992 Seminar for beginners and gave us the benefit of their vast knowledge of Anglo-Jewry.
- KINGSLEY IRELAND of Angaston, South Australia, a leading member of the South Australian Society of Australian Genealogists and author of several books, talked to us during a short visit to Sydney on "SOME EARLY JEWISH FAMILIES OF ADELAIDE"
- Rabbi MEIR WUNDER of Jerusalem, author of four volumes on "GALICIAN RABBIS AND SAGES", alas still only available in Hebrew, and a staff member of the National Library at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, talked on "Sources on Galician and Polish Jewry", and was able to help direct several members in their research.
- Dr ALEXANDER MIRVIS, a recent immigrant from St Petersburg who has had a book published on the genealogy of the Romanov dynasty, spoke to us through the intermediary of his nephew Arkady Mirvis on "JEWISH GENEALOGY AND RUSSIA". Dr Mirvis is also preparing an article for us on the topic of his talk.

Due to time constraints and other factors of seizing opportunities which presented themselves for hearing speakers who were in Sydney for short visits, these lectures have often been held at the home of our President.

At our first Annual General Meeting in November 1992 our member MARK TEDESCHI, Q.C., gave a lecture on "DOING CHASSIDIC RESEARCH BY MAIL FROM AUSTRALIA" which was most interesting.

Newsletter

We shall aim to publish this newsletter four times yearly. It will be free to members. Rates for overseas subscription are being investigated but will probably be of the order of \$US7-7.50 per copy or, of \$US28.30 for yearly subscription by mail.

Contributions of interesting articles are invited. Please submit your material to the Editor P.O. Box 154 NORTHBRIDGE. SYDNEY, NSW, 2063, AUSTRALIA or fax to 61-2-967 2834. At the moment articles should be submitted in typescript with double line spacing. Later we will accept articles typed on disk. All contributions are subject to editing and, if printed, become the property of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. No fees are paid for anything printed.

The Story of Emma	Hilda Hines	Vol 1 No 1	
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The father of my husband Gus Hines was Jacob Heinsfurter, born in NIEDERSTETTEN, Germany in 1876 and who died at the age of 49 in 1925. When I started doing my family history research I wrote to the town of Niederstetten and received without any difficulties the relevant information regarding Jacob's parents and siblings. There had been seven children in all, but only two survived to adulthood, Gus's father, Jacob, and a sister, Emma, with the Hebrew name Esther, born in 1872. Emma and Jacob's mother died a few months after Jacob was born. Their father Sigmund married a second time a year later.

All that we knew about Gus's aunt Emma Heinsfurter was that she had left for America as a young girl. Occasionally she sent a small amount of money to her brother Jacob's children for their birthdays. We knew that she had lived in ITHACA in the state of New York.

By chance I found some papers, correspondence between Emma and her brother Jacob regarding a house which they had inherited jointly after the death of their father. The correspondence between Emma and her brother Jacob was quite acrimonious, each complaining that the other had not bothered about the father during his life time. However each letter was signed with "your ever loving brother/or sister". From the letters which Emma had written I found out that she had two children, and also that her first husband had died tragically, and that she had married again. Her first husband's surname had been Mackey and the second one's Curtis. I wrote to the city authorities in Ithaca, N.Y. but without success. By chance on a trip to England I met someone with connections to Ithaca. On my return home to Adelaide I contacted this woman and, through her kind efforts received the following information.

- Emma Heinsfurter had arrived in the United States in 1888. She must have married Henry Mackey before 1910, because Emma was listed as Mrs Henry Mackey in the 1910 USA Census.

- Emma Heinsfurter's son, Harry Mackey, graduated from Cornell University in the class of 1928, and her daughter Theodosia from Ithaca High School in 1919.

I was able to forward a letter to Harry Mackey's widow through the Cornell University Alumni Office, as he had died in 1986, and I received the following information from her:

"I was intrigued by your letter requesting information about Emma Mackey Curtis. Emma was dead when Harry and I were married in 1943, so I never met her. There were two children by Henry Mackey, Harry and Theodosia, usually called "Theo". Theo had a son, Robert Mackey Mearian, who is now living in New York City. Theo died in 1984, and Harry died in 1986. We had no children, so Robert is the only descendant of whom I know.

I do remember Harry saying that Emma would never say how old she was; that she had destroyed her birth certificate. Harry and Theo thought that she might have been between 13 and 16 years old when she came to the US. I am not sure whether Emma met Henry Mackey in Ithaca or in Olean, New York state, where they lived after they were married. Theo was born in Olean in 1901 and Harry in 1906. Henry worked as an Adams Express agent and was accidentally shot at work. After he was killed, Emma and the children moved to Ithaca where Emma worked in Rothschild's department store. She met William Curtis in Ithaca. He was on the Ithaca police force and they were married.

After Theo was divorced, she and her son lived with Emma in the house in Ithaca. Upon Theo's death the house and its contents were left to Robert. It is possible he may be able to give you more information, or correct any mis-statements I may have made. I am sending a copy of this letter and your letter to Robert. We call him Mike, the name he uses in his stage and T.V. work. I enjoyed hearing from you, so please keep in touch."

So, of course, I wrote to Emma's grandson, Mike Mearian. His letter to me is very interesting and fills in the portrait of Emma Heinsfurter.

"I knew from Emma and from Theo, my mother, that Emma was born in Nuremberg (Author's note - Incorrect), that she came to America and lived with an aunt in Ithaca NY whose name I've forgotten, that her cousins, the Dobrins, saw to it that she was apprenticed as a milliner at Rothschild's Department Store, whose co-founder, Jacob Rothschild, was married to Emma's cousin, Rebecca Dobrin. Theo and Harry (Harry Sigmund Mackey, given as a real name the nickname of his father, Henry) also worked there. Theo worked as secretary to Dan Rothschild, Harry on the trucks and loading docks, when they were younger. Like their mother they were hardworking people.

Theo was named for her paternal grandmother Theodosha Minturn, who married Linus S. Mackey in 1862. Their son Henry Linus Mackey, my mother's father married Emma Heinsfurter on August 18, 1900. Henry died on January 6, 1909. Later Emma married Wilson H. Curtis of Lansing N.Y., whose marriage and death are not recorded in the family Bible. He was swell to me and to Theo and Harry, and a most respected police officer. He was patrolman No. 1 for many years in Ithaca.

I lived with Theo and Emma after Theo and my father Gordon John Mearian were divorced in 1930, in the family house which Emma and Will bought when they married, and which stayed in the family until I sold it some few years ago.

Emma, in my memory, was a strong hardworking lady who loved to read aloud to me and my friends, and I have fond memories of some tough 'run-ins', as well as memories of her fine baking skills. We knew, of course, about the Jewish heritage of the Rothschilds and other relatives by marriage, but there was no knowledge or practice of it in the family. I never knew of Emma's connection till after her death. A neighbour remarked that Emma had been her 'good German Jewish friend'.

I now have copies of obituaries from Ithaca newspapers about the death of each of her husbands.

Summing up Emma's story, it is obvious that her coming to America was meant to be in her best interest, sending her to relatives, probably from her mother's side. But she must have resented this and felt as if she were being sent away from her home and her family into exile. Possibly this feeling of resentment stayed with her all her life, not helped in any way by the acrimonious correspondence with her brother. This is a very strange matter, for Jacob Heinsfurter was a well-known and respected as a man of high integrity, an honourable and kind man who helped many people. He was a kind of "bush lawyer"¹ obviously with a lot of knowledge about legal matters.

I have translated the interchange of letters between Jacob and Emma and am keeping them, as well as all the other relevant information.

Obviously Emma's life was not an easy one, and she must have worked very hard to bring up her children and to send her son to university. Her negation of her Jewishness in another fascinating aspect of her complex and sad story. Unfortunately Gus never met his only cousins on his father's side, Theo and Harry, even though he travelled many times to the U.S.A but by writing it all down Emma's story is recorded in our family archives. Another puzzle in the family history is solved!

Addendum 1. "Bush lawyer" Australian term for a person who has not been trained in legal studies but who has a broad layman's knowledge of the law and whose advice is sought on legal issues.

Hilda Hines nee Guckenheim is the widow of Gus Hines, for many years the distinguished elected leader of Adelaide Jewry in South Australia. She is a foundation member of our Society.

Did You Know?

Stuart Shaw

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1) The Society of Australian Genealogists has a computer user group which meets on the last Sunday of every month at "Rumsey Hall", 24 Kent Street, Sydney from 2.00 - 4.00 pm. These meetings are open to non-members of the Society.

2) Mr Rudi Cortissos, president of the Dutch Jewish Genealogical Society advises that they can assist anyone who is needing Jewish genealogical information from Holland. His address is: R.S.Cortissos, Kanteel 104, 1083 DC AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS.

3) Russian Research. I have found that a good source of information on the towns and cities of the former Soviet Union is the Great Soviet Encyclopedia, published in 27 volumes. I was able to find quite a bit of information about one of the towns in Byelorussia which I am researching (Gorki) which I could not find from any other source, including the Encyclopedia Judaica. This Encyclopedia can be found in the reference section of the Markets Library, University of Technology, Quay Street, Haymarket.

4) NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages now has an "Inspection of Records Service". This service allows the researcher to personally search the registrations in order to identify which is the actual one being sought. This service costs \$27 for a 20 minute session, in which up to 8 registrations may be checked.

5) Encyclopedia Judaica (EJ) is a good source of information about people and places of interest to Jewish Genealogists. Several libraries in Sydney have the EJ in their reference collections:- Waverley Library, Ebley Street Bondi Junction; Moriah College Library, Vivian Street, Bellevue Hill; The Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield (where our Sunday morning workshops are held); Fisher Library, Sydney University. If you need to do any photocopying from the EJ, the best place to consult it is the Fisher Library, Sydney University, as the cost of photocopying is a lot cheaper (approx. 9c per copy).

6) Maps. A good source of detailed maps of most European countries is the Rex Map Centres which can be found at a number of locations: City: Shop 2, Prudential Arcade, Cnr Martin Place and Castlereagh Street Tel: 235 3017; North:388 Pacific Highway, Lane Cove Tel: 428 3566; South: 68a Princes Highway, Tempe Tel: 559 1665; West: Cnr Parramatta Road & Good Street, Granville Tel: 637 9763

Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf	Sophie Caplan	Vol 1 No 1	
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We intend to make this a regular column in which we will keep our members informed of what books are available in Australia for their research. Some of these books are still in print, and can be purchased from the publishers, generally overseas, for the members' personal use. Others are out of print, but are available in some libraries. Those books which have been acquired by the library of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society and are available for perusal by members will be marked by an asterisk (*) in front. Country and interstate members can ask Rieke Nash, our vice-president and resources librarian, to do a certain amount of research for them free of charge.

Some books whether in or out of print, are not in our society library, but in the personal library of some of our members for perusal at certain workshops if requested. They are often very heavy and cannot all be brought at once, so please let Rieke or Sophie know if you would like to see one of those books at a particular workshop. Country and interstate members can ask Rieke or Sophie to look up something in these books. They will be marked with two asterisks (* *) in front.

None of these books may be borrowed since they are often very expensive and soon go out of print.

Books marked with a A can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held.

Basic Books

The first post-World War II major publication on Jewish Genealogy was * A **DAN ROTTENBERG "FINDING OUR FATHERS, A GUIDEBOOK TO JEWISH**

GENEALOGY", 1977, Random House, New York, which created a sensation and filled a gap by providing for the special needs of Jewish genealogists. It covers many topics and is a wonderful inspiration to beginners. Among other features, a select list of about 200 Jewish surnames listed as entries in encyclopaedias, and short histories of those families and individuals. But, if one checks on the section one knows best, i.e. p. 91 on sources of Jewish Genealogy in Australia, it is full of inaccuracies within the half-page devoted to Australia. This makes one doubt the accuracy of the sections with which one is not familiar.

In 1980 a second book for Jewish genealogists appeared

* A **ARTHUR KURZWEIL "FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION, HOW TO TRACE YOUR JEWISH GENEALOGY AND PERSONAL HISTORY"**, 1980, William Morris, New York. This book covers most of the basic topics and it has not been superseded. The information is also accurate. It is available in paperback from most good Jewish bookshops. A basic investment.

* **"THE JEWISH GENEALOGY BEGINNER'S GUIDE"**, edited by Irene Saunders Goldstein, now in its Third Edition, Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, is another basic text for new and not so new Jewish genealogists which gives good information on a host of topics. It can be ordered from the publishers C/o MICHAEL MARGOSIS, 6412 N 26th Street, ARLINGTON, VA 22207, USA.

The international quarterly * A **AVOTAYNU** (our fathers), must be included among basic books because it keeps one up to date about Jewish genealogical research everywhere. It can be ordered from AVOTAYNU Inc. PO Box 1134, Teaneck, NJ 07666, USA. For \$US32 annually for four issues, and \$US62 for two years.

A book researched and written by the editor of AVOTAYNU Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack and its publisher Gary Mokotoff is * A **"WHERE ONCE WE WALKED, A GUIDE TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES DESTROYED IN THE HOLOCAUST"**, 1991, Avotaynu Inc., a gazetteer of 21,000 Eastern European Jewish communities, giving all possible spellings of names of towns and villages, their census figures of Jewish inhabitants at the last census, in 1920 for the smaller places and 1930 for the big towns, their latitude and longitude, distance and direction from the nearest large town. It has received the accolade of major prizes for outstanding reference book for 1991. It is still available for \$US 76 including postage.

Personal Names

Another Avotaynu publication is the late Rabbi Schmuel Gorr's * **"JEWISH PERSONAL NAMES, Their Origin, Derivation and Diminutive Forms"**, 1992, edited after Rabbi Gorr's untimely death in September, 1988 by his friend Rabbi Chaim Friedman, also from Melbourne as was Shmuel Gorr. It can be ordered from Avotaynu Press for \$US 18 including postage.

These and other Avotaynu Press books are specifically written to meet the needs of the Jewish genealogist, and are highly recommended. Our society has some order forms for the above and those from Avotaynu Press mentioned below.

* A **ALFRED KOLATCH "THE NAME DICTIONARY"**, 1967, New York, Jonathan David publishers, gives comprehensive lists of both masculine and feminine first

names, English and Hebrew, and their equivalents in meaning in the other language. This is a book obviously meant for the North American reader for the synonyms in Hebrew are rendered with "aw" for the "a" sound and "ee" for the "ie" sound, which is confusing and gives the Hebrew names the appearance of being North American Indian names e.g. Chaveevaw for presumably Chaviva and Dawveedaw for Davida.

Books on Jewish Family Names

A number of books exist which give some background on the meaning, typology and origins of Jewish family names. * * **A BENZION C. KAGANOFF "A DICTIONARY OF JEWISH NAMES AND THEIR HISTORY"**, 1977, Schocken Books, New York, and also 1978, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, was the first book published on that subject in the English language and tells the history of the acquisition of names by Jews in various countries, as well as giving the meaning and origins of a few hundred specific names.

It also refers to a previous book on the same subject in German, **LEOPOLD ZUNZ "DIE NAMEN DER JUDEN"** (The Names of the Jews) published in 1838. We would like to hear from anybody who has a copy of that book or has seen it.

Last year * **HEINRICH W. GUGGENHEIMER AND EVA H. GUGGENHEIMER'S "JEWISH NAMES AND THEIR ORIGINS, AN ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARY"**, 1992, Ktav Publishing House, New York, appeared. It is a heavy tome with thousands of names, each with many variations and one would be unlucky not to find a name one was researching, if it is Jewish. Explanations given are rather short, although Hebrew, and Arabic as well as Latin alphabet renderings of names are given.

The latest arrival in our Society's Library is

* **ALEXANDER BEIDER "A DICTIONARY OF JEWISH SURNAMES FROM THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE"**, 1993, Avotaynu Press, Teaneck, New Jersey. It is said to be broader in scope than anything of its kind ever before attempted and will even give the towns or district in which a certain name found distribution in Russia. Perhaps you can discover whence your grandfather came by following up your original family name...

For those of Sephardi ancestry * * **ABRAHAM I. LAREDO "LES NOMS DES JUIFS DU MAROC"** (The surnames of Moroccan Jews), 1978, Institute B. Arias Montano. This book, although printed in Spain, is in the French language with some Hebrew included in the text.

General Texts on Jewish Genealogy

Many books on Jewish genealogy are specific to one country, but some cover topics which embrace many countries and are worth examining to see if the surnames you are researching are listed in the index of the contents. Among these are the two editions of * **NEIL ROSENSTEIN "THE UNBROKEN CHAIN"**, in one volume 1976, Shengold Publishers, New York, and in two volumes 1990, CIS Publishers, New York. The books deal with the innumerable and remarkable descendants of Saul Wahl, the Jew who was allegedly chosen king of Poland for a day. The descendants were mostly rabbinical families, with Karl Marx, Helena Rubinstein, and many others also included over 16 to 20 generations.

* **GEORGE SACKHEIM "SCATTERED SEEDS"** in two volumes, 1986 Chicago, self-published. These volumes trace descendants of two Jewish martyrs from Rozhanoi, Lithuania, in very detailed family trees. The descendants are scattered world-wide, including Australia, as are indeed the descendants of Saul Wahl included in Neil Rosenstein's book, and others not mentioned in the book, including a member of our society.

* * **A THE ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA, 1972**, Keter, Jerusalem and Macmillan, London, has entries for many large and small towns where Jews once lived. It has a number of entries of family trees under the alphabetical entry for the family name, short histories of certain notable families, and of course many entries for individuals. It is worthwhile to spend some time perusing the Encyclopedia Judaica for the towns and family names you are interested in. It is available in many Jewish and general libraries.

Not only the Encyclopedia Judaica, but also other books which tell the history of a community or of a country are useful adjuncts to the Jewish genealogist, particularly books on a specific community where members of your family originated or sojourned and which focus on the Jewish community, because it will give you clues on major industries or agricultural products, decline of a region, or destruction of a town in war, or growth due to a new industry, a gold rush, a change of government. All these can be clues to settlement in or emigration from an area. In further instalments of JEWISH GENEALOGY BOOKSHELF, we will treat in turn the topics of books available on various countries of the Diaspora. Some books come under various headings, but will be dealt with only in one specific category.

Holocaust Related Books

Strangely the memorialisation of the Holocaust has spawned a large number of books which can be an aid to the Jewish genealogist. Their writers have been inspired by the need to recapture that which was lost when whole communities were destroyed and to memorialise their family, their town or the Jewish community of their country.

Dr David Jakubowicz "History of Chaim Schenker, his sons, his sons-in-law and their families", 1981, Tel Aviv, privately printed is an example of a book memorialising an extended family of Southern Poland. The many Yizkor books (see below) published since World War II and the books by Christian-Jewish friendship societies are attempts to memorialise towns, and the three volume history of Jews in Czechoslovakia, published in New York about a decade ago is an attempt to memorialise a whole country's Jews.

YIZKOR BOOKS are books which were put together from the late 1940's until the late 1970's by survivors of Jewish communities about their specific town or area. They are not the work of professional writers, in general, but of people doing a labour of love in reconstituting the history and the remembered Jewish community of their town. Unfortunately for most of us, the bulk of the writing in most Yizkor books is in Hebrew or in Yiddish, with some parts of the book also in Polish, Hungarian, or Czech, according to the country in which the community was situated. Very

occasionally a Yizkor book contains one or two English articles, though the Yizkor books on large towns like Lodz and Kalicz also have English editions.

The Society has appealed through the Jewish press to owners of Yizkor books to let us know the titles of those held in Australia. In the next issue of the Koshers Koala we will publish the list of those Yizkor books known so far to be held in Australia. We would appreciate hearing of any Yizkor book held by any of our readers, and would consider buying any being offered for sale. Donations of any Yizkor books to our library would also be appreciated.

Yizkor books usually have a list of those Jews from the town who perished in the Holocaust printed in both Hebrew and English. Unfortunately those for the larger towns do not. Probably the task of finding and assembling all their names was too daunting.

TO BE CONTINUED

Announcements

**Vol 1 No
1**



Mazeltov to our member Joyce Falk, and to Jackie and Joe Gluck on the timely birth of Akiva Yedidya Gluck, who was named after his grandfather and our late member Gerald Yedidya Falk.

Mazeltov to Gael and Joe Hammer on the marriage in New York of their elder daughter Viva Hammer to a prominent young Rabbi, Moshe Bleich of Brooklyn, son of Rabbi & Mrs J. David Bleich.

Our condolences go to Peter and Rieke Nash on the loss of Peter's father Herbert Nachemstein who died at the age of 88 after living in Gnesen, Poland, Berlin, Germany, Shanghai, China and Sydney, Australia.

Preserve Your Heritage

**Beulah-Rose
Gross**

**Vol 1 No
1**



Do you have documents and photographs pertaining to your family history? Are they fading, brittle, torn or disintegrating? Do you shed tears of frustration watching them fade and flake away? Do you wonder if these precious items are worth keeping at all?

Well, weep and wonder no more. Help - and help of the highest calibre - is at hand.

The Conservation Access Department at the State Library of New South Wales in Macquarie Street, Sydney is staffed by dedicated professionals expert in the art of treating, repairing, restoring and preserving all types of paper items.

When appropriate they remove all acidic backings from items, repair documents after removing Sellotape, brown tape and boxes with acid-free interleaves. They repair documents such as old ketubahs, naturalisation papers, birth and death certificates

and newspaper articles and then they may encapsulate them in special, acid-free plastic which does not hinder photocopying or photographing. Books such as diaries and prayerbooks are fully restored and rebound, although it is sometimes recommended that little or nothing be done in the interests of preserving a particular item's character and history.

Conservation Access also runs teaching courses in the care of collections and the staff is always ready to give freely both information and advice.

I have had my special photographs, passports, naturalisation papers and the like preserved for what I hope is posterity. Certainly, they are now much safer from the ravages of time, because all materials used by Conservation Access are of the highest archival quality.

The staff of Conservation Access will examine your treasures and give you a detailed quote on what they consider needs to be done and will only begin work after you accept their advice and quote.

For further information please contact Marion Roubos-Bennet, the co-ordinator of Conservation Access on (02) 230-1676 or fax her on (02) 232-4316. You will find her and her happy band of experts helpful, friendly and keen to advise you on how to prevent your family heritage from fading away.

Beulah-Rose Gross is our member from Green Point on the Central Coast of New South Wales.

What's Happening in Special Interest Groups	Sophie Caplan	Vol 1 No 1	
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These are exciting times for Jewish genealogists, with new special interest groups (SIG.'s) being created and putting out quarterly newsletters.

LANDSMEN

In early 1991 Marlene Silverman of Washington created the SUWALKI-LOMZA INTEREST GROUP FOR JEWISH GENEALOGISTS by publishing LANDSMEN, which concentrates on the area of North-east Poland encompassed by Lomza Bubernia and of south-west Lithuania, which is Suwalki Gubernia, including towns like Lomza, Ostroleka, Ostrow, Makow, Szczuczyn, Sokolow, Wegrow, Suwalki, Augustow, Mariampol, Kalwarja, Sejny, Tykocin, etc... Members of the SIG who have translated Jewish records in Mormon microfilms for certain towns in their entirety get them printed in LANDSMEN. Tourists tell of visiting a former shtetl in the area, and what they found. Alex Friedlander tells of identifying 70 Jewish taxpayers of the early 19th Century for one town in a Warsaw archive. This is really good value if you are researching a family from that area. Annual subscription is \$US28.00. Address: Suwalki-Lomza Interest Group, Apt 228, 3701 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA. They have a Family Finder column and a Research Exchange section.

STAMMBAUM

In early 1993 a new newsletter for German-Jewish Genealogy in English was inaugurated in USA. Called STAMMBAUM and subtitled AHNENFORSCHUNG IN ASCHKENAS (ancestral research in Germany) it only uses German language for headings, so those with a German-Jewish heritage, but few German linguistic skills, can still get a lot out of STAMMBAUM. The editor is Bill Firestone of Santa Cruz, California. Annual subscription is \$US28.00 Address: STAMMBAUM, C/- Harry Katzmann, 1901 Cougar Court, Winter Springs, FL 32708-3855 USA. You can write for a sample copy, obligation free.

MAAJAN-DIE-QUELLE

This organ of the Swiss Society for Jewish Genealogy was established in 1985 in Zurich and is still going strong after eight years. Its title means "the source" in both Hebrew and German, and it publishes exclusively in German. The editor is Raymond M. Jung and the publisher Rene Loeb, president of the Swiss Society for Jewish Genealogy. Very generously they have put us on their mailing list since 1987. It has transcribed whole Swiss, German and Alsatian Mohel books (circumcision registers), as well as family trees of Swiss, German and Alsatian Jewish families. Annual subscription is Sw Frs 50.-- for four issues. Address: MAAJAN-DIE-QUELLE, Scheuchzerstrasse 154, CH-8006 Zurich, Switzerland. Telephone and Telefax: 01-361 71 54.

GESHER GALICIA

A new SIG with the name GESHER GALICIA - Bridge to Galicia has just been announced, to start publishing THE GALIZIANER, a quarterly newsletter in September. Your editor, who hails from a long line of Galicianers on her maternal side, is delighted, since she called for such a group in a letter published in Landsmen a few issues ago. For those who don't know, Galicia was the part of southern Poland occupied and governed by the Austrian Empire from 1792 to 1919, when it reverted to Poland upon the creation of the Polish Republic in 1919. In 1939 it was divided, the western part of Galicia coming under German control, and the eastern under USSR control, until June 1941 when the Nazis invaded the USSR. Since March 1944 when the Russians regained control, it has been a part of Russia, renamed Western Ukraine, with some town names changed e.g. STANISLAWOW is now IVANO-FRANKOVSK. Since 1991 it is part of the republic of Ukraine in the CIS. The initiator of GESHER GALICIA is Suzan Wynne. Annual subscription is \$US15.00 Address: Suzan Wynne, 3128 Brooklawn Terrace, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, USA. There may be a group tour to former Galicia in 1995.

CIRCLE DE GENEALOGIE JUIVRE

Since 1985 there has been a quarterly publication of the French Jewish Genealogy Circle which concentrates on French Jewish Genealogy. Some of its members have ancestry elsewhere, and so it also occasionally encompasses family trees with roots in Czarist Russia or in 19th century Poland, and quite frequently Turkey, and the North African countries of Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. It prints members' family trees and has loads of information on how to research family history anywhere in metropolitan France, and particularly in Alsace. The editor of the Revue de Cercle de Genealogie Juive is Philip Abensur. Annual subscription is Fr FF200.-- plus Fr FF45.- if you want questions answered or personal help with research. Address: Cercle de Genealogie Juive, B.P. 707, 75162 Paris, CEDEX 04, France.

This second issue of the KOSHER KOALA is very late due to a sudden and unforeseen acute illness of your editor in November, culminating in a recent operation, which is now over. We hope to make up for lost time. This issue is also the last one to be received by those who joined initially before November 1993 and who have not renewed their membership.

On 5th January 1994 the Jewish genealogical movement suffered the loss of Rabbi MALCOLM H. STERN, widely considered the dean of American Jewish genealogy and indeed the inspiration behind the foundation of many Jewish genealogical societies. It was a lunch with Gary Mokotoff, Rabbi Stern and Miriam Weiner in New York in late January 1987 which convinced me to consider founding a society in Australia, after waiting for years for someone else to do it. And it was Rabbi Stern who inspired me, with his confidence that I had what it takes to found such a society.

In November 1993 we had the visit to Sydney of Dr Chanan Rapaport of Jerusalem, Israel, who is researching the worldwide genealogy of the Rappaport clan. Although we knew that Dr Rapaport was coming sometime in November, there were just four days in which to arrange and publicise a lecture after he made his arrival known. All Sydney members were contacted by chain calls, and also people in the telephone book with the surname Rappaport (see report elsewhere in this issue). Those who missed out and then complained should join our society, which exists to make just such opportunities available to our members. While wishing to serve the community, we have no obligation to those who do not join us.


Recently we advertised widely HEATHER GARNSEY as featured speaker at our second annual general meeting and only thirteen people turned up to hear this outstanding expert on Australian genealogical resources being held in Sydney. As someone told me: "Crowds only flock to an AGM if blood is expected to flow...", and we were competing with the broadcast of the TV film of the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras!

The next few months will be marked by the attendance of your President and Vice-President at the Fourth International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem, from 29th April to 5th May. The detailed programme of the Seminar is in this issue, and by special dispensation, due to the lateness of this issue and to the fact that all US members of societies affiliated to the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies received courtesy copies of the issue of AVOTAYNU which contained the details, our members have special dispensation to book till the end of March. If you can afford to go financially and time-wise, do go. These International Seminars are an unforgettable experience, which boosts your research knowledge, as well as gaining you new friendships and worthwhile contacts.

In June or July, we hope to have a Post-Seminar evening where the highlights of the Seminar will be presented to the members. From 7th to 10th July 1994 an Australasian Genealogical Congress will be held on the campus of the University of Queensland at Santa Lucia, Brisbane. While the emphasis will be on Australian research and also on German, English, Scottish and Irish resources, your president will be giving a lecture on "Jewish Research", including what she will have gleaned in

Jerusalem. Above we give you advance notice of our workshops, which should help in planning your attendance.

Lehitraot birushalayim o be Brisbane! which means See you in Jerusalem or in Brisbane!

Vale - Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern (1915 - 1994)		Vol 1 No 2		
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Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern, widely considered to be the dean of Jewish-American genealogy, died in New York City on January 5, 1994. He was 78 years old.

Rabbi Stern's outstanding contributions to all aspects of American genealogy and to Jewish genealogy in particular, spanned a 44-year period. He was especially active in the organizational aspect of genealogy. Since 1949, he served as genealogist to the American Jewish Archives; a charter member of the New York-based Jewish Genealogical Society, president (1979-1989); the first Jewish Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, president (1976-79); founder of the Jewish Historical Society of New York, president (1979-89); a trustee of the American Jewish Historical Society and a trustee of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, vice-president (1985-88).

He wrote many articles for genealogical and historical publications. His best-known book was *Americans of Jewish Descent: 600 Genealogies (1654-1988)*, which documents the genealogies of Jewish families that arrived during the American colonial and federal periods (1654-1838) and traces many families to the present. The third edition, published in 1991, listed some 50,000 individuals. This work was the basis for much of Stephen Birmingham's best selling book, *The Grandees*. He also had a great interest in Sephardic genealogy, especially the Sephardim of the Western Hemisphere. He contributed a chapter in the book *Sephardim in America*.


His pioneer accomplishments were recognized by many of the associations to which he belonged. He was a Fellow of the National Genealogical Society, recipient of the Federation of Genealogical Societies George Williams Award "for outstanding contributions to the FGS and to the genealogical community," and was honored with a testimonial brunch in 1987 by his home society, the Jewish Genealogical Society (New York).

Of particular interest to Rabbi Stern was the importance to genealogists of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). He founded and was first president of the Genealogical Coordinating Committee, an organization that represented a single position for the genealogist to the larger world. He created the NARA Gift Fund to which American genealogical societies contribute money to improve the genealogical collections of the National Archives Regional Branches. In 1989, he testified for the American genealogical community before the U.S. Congress, successfully arguing that the position of Archivist of the United States should be awarded to a scholar and not to an administrator. He was the genealogical representative to the National Archives Advisory Council and was on the Advisory group that founded RAGAS, the Russian-American Genealogical Archival Service.

Rabbi Stern was born in Philadelphia, the son of Arthur and Henrietta Berkowitz Stern. He received his rabbinic ordination at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, in 1941 and served as a chaplain during World War II. He was a congregational rabbi in Philadelphia and Norfolk, Virginia. In 1964, he became Placement Director of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, continuing in this position until his retirement in 1980. In recent years, he served as counsellor to newly ordained rabbis and taught at the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. Rabbi Stern's formal activities were many and impressive, but his personal relationships were at the heart of his importance to Jewish genealogy. To his associates he was Malcolm, a dear friend, mentor and inspiration. The word rabbi means teacher, and this Malcolm was in the best sense of the word. Despite his deep and time-consuming involvement in a wide range of activities, he always had time to help or to encourage the novice genealogist. His energy and enthusiasm was infectious. He was a wise, modest, and generous man, unencumbered by petty jealousies or the need for status. In the process, he became the catalyst for most of the major developments in Jewish-American genealogy. Many of the first Jewish genealogical societies in the United States were established as a direct result of his encouragement. He hosted the first summer seminar on Jewish genealogy and encouraged the subsequent ones that soon became an established tradition. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Philadelphia had planned to honor him this coming June in conjunction with its fifteenth anniversary. Its advance literature noted that, "This Society, along with the more than 50 JGS groups throughout the world, owes its very existence to Rabbi Stern's vision and inspiration."

Rabbi Stern's death brought an abrupt end to a man who was completely active and involved to the last day of his life. He never spoke of slowing down or of feeling too old to do anything. Just a few years ago, he purchased his first computer and set about mastering its intricacies. Two weeks before his death, he was working to raise funds to sponsor speakers at the up-coming Jerusalem seminar. Less than 24 hours before he died, Malcolm telephoned Marsha Saron Dennis, president of his New York-based Jewish Genealogical Society to say that he would be happy to accept her invitation to officiate at the marriage of her son and future daughter-in-law. He is survived by Louise, his wife of many years, and a brother, Edward.

This article was supplied by the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

Genealogical Detective Work in Berlin, Poznan and Przemysl	Bernard Orenstein	Vol 1 No 2		
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I have long known that my paternal roots extended through Germany and into Poland. Little did I realise that it would actually be possible to find so much evidence of my ancestors still in existence.

I caught the genealogy bug some 18 months ago after an overseas holiday during which I visited Berlin, the birthplace of my father and paternal grandfather. I also had a wonderful opportunity to visit the resting place of my great-grandparents (Benno and Rosa Orenstein nee Landsberger) in the well known Weissensee Jewish Cemetery in the former East Berlin. I was amazed to find that such a large monument to Jewish civilisation had survived, being at the centre of the Holocaust. I

had never been interested in history at school, doing whatever I could to avoid taking the subject. However, at the Weissensee it occurred to me that to ignore history in some sense means to ignore one's ancestry. So just before closing time I made my way to the cemetery office and communicated (in extremely broken German) my wish to have a copy of any records of Orensteins in their possession. The very helpful administrator obliged by photocopying a dozen or so burial index cards detailing name, title, last address, date of birth, date of death, burial date and burial location information (See attachment 1).

**Attachment 1 -
Weissensee Burial
Record Index Card**

Name: <i>Orenstein</i>	
<i>Rosa Sara geb. Landeberger</i>	
Nr. <i>104035</i>	
Stand	
Wohnung	<i>Grünwald, Hagenstr. 20^a</i>
Geboren am	<i>25. 11. 1859</i>
Gestorben am	<i>10. 7. 1941</i>
Beerdigt am	<i>14. 7. 1941</i>
Feld	<i>W.T. Abteilung</i>
Reihe	
Erbgrabnis	<i>1041</i>
Bemerkungen	

After returning to Australia, I began my genealogical pursuits in earnest. I started to analyse the Weissensee index cards in more detail. Each card was a piece of a much larger puzzle. There were no family relationships on the cards, so these could only be determined indirectly. I determined family groups by finding cards that had common last addresses or common burial locations. I knew from my father that my great-grandfather was born in Posen, Prussia (now Poznan, Poland) even though this was not indicated on his index card. That was about as much as I knew of my paternal ancestry at the time. Knowing that my surname was not very common, I wondered if any of the other Orenstein families I had pieced together were relatives of mine, or even possibly my great-great-grandparents.

My father then gave me the addresses of a few relatives he knew of in the USA. At once I wrote to an elderly cousin of mine in New York, hoping that she might be able to shed some light on my ancestral past. To my good fortune she not only had a brilliant memory of her younger life in Berlin, but had also kept a number of invaluable family documents. She told me of a letter in her possession written in 1876 to my great-grandfather in Berlin from his uncle Adolph Gieldzinska in Thorn, Prussian Poland (now Torun, Poland). I then retrieved my Weissensee index cards and pored over them. Within a few minutes I had a great discovery. I had previously pieced together a Simon Orenstein (unknown birth date/place, died in 1891) and Henrietta Orenstein nee Gieldzinska (born in 1828, died in 1901). I did a few a few genealogical sums and concluded that this couple were in all likelihood my great-great-grandparents! It was only later in the year, when I had the opportunity to visit New York and examine other documents in my cousin's possession, that I was able to verify the relationship.

Unfortunately my time in New York was very limited and I was only able to spend a few hours in each of the libraries of the Yivo (Eastern European Jewry) and Leo Baeck (German Jewry) Institutes.

It was at that point that I felt I had more or less exhausted the information that could be extracted from known relatives. I had briefly read some standard material on Jewish genealogical research in Poland (Finding our Fathers and Tracing Your

European Roots). I had occasionally visited the local LDS library but had little success in my Polish research. Time had come to brave the former Iron Curtain bureaucracy and attempt to correspond directly with the various archives in Poland.

I wrote a general letter (see Attachment 2) which a friend of mine from work was good enough to translate into Polish for me. I sent this letter to nine archives in Poland as outlined in the table below. My cousin was able to supply me with another ancestral clue. She recalled her mother telling her that the Orenstein ancestors had lived in Przemyśl (now on the eastern Polish border) and had moved to Posen (now Poznań) in search of a better life. Over the next few months I was to receive numerous replies from the various archives. Most of my letters were replied to within three months. All replies were in Polish, as expected.

Of great joy to me was a reply from Poznań (see Attachment 3), which indicated that they were in fact in possession of a municipal file of my great-great-grandparents Simon and Henrietta Orenstein and their family. Together with the statement was a request for USD30.00 should I require a copy of the document. Having read a few negative stories in Avotaynu, I wondered whether I would actually receive anything in return. However, I was impressed with the level of service provided by the archive. They had informed me that my great-great-grandmother was in fact born in Włocławek and not Thorn as I had assumed. They had also written on my behalf to the Włocławek archives to see if any relevant records were in existence. Given the possibility of a great discovery I decided to take the risk and sent off an Australia Post international money order for the required amount. Within a month I received the promised document. In it I found out that my great-great-grandfather was in fact born Posen and not in Przemyśl as I had thought. It also contained his date of birth (6 July, 1820) which I never knew and names and dates of birth of four of their children. I knew of my great-grandfather Benno and of the existence of his brother Max, but had no idea of his twin sisters (names currently being translated). The archives also indicated that they had attempted to find the birth record of Simon Orenstein without success. They had even checked the evangelical records on my behalf. My next challenge is to try and determine the parents of Simon Orenstein. I expect that his father was born in Przemyśl, but it may take some time to prove this. I recall reading in an edition of Avotaynu that early Jewish birth records were occasionally held with Catholic records, so I will attempt to pursue this avenue.

Another informative reply was from the state archives in Przemyśl. They asked me for USD20 to perform an initial search (see attachment 5). The result was a detailed letter (see attachment 6) listing a number of Orenstein and Ornstein births and marriages as early as 1790. Given the oral history indications that my ancestors came from this town and of the relatively unusual surname I feel that it is very likely that some or all of these people were my relatives. On detailed examination of the dates and relationships in the letter, there is a strong possibility that my great-great-grandfather (father of Simon Orenstein in Poznań) was Jakob Mendel Ornstein (born in Przemyśl, 1790) whose parents in turn were Eliser and Zipora.

As far as I know, it was about at this time that surnames were imposed on the Jewish population, so it may be that I have discovered my ancestor who took on the Orenstein surname. A Dictionary of Selected Jewish Names lists Orenstein: "Oren is

a disguised form for Aaron from which were derived a variety of patronyms; descendant of Aaron".

I have since requested a copy of the birth record of Jakob Ornstein. The Przemyśl archives indicated that they require payment of USD110 for this document, being USD100 for 10 hours research and USD10 for the copy. I can also receive copies of the 7 other potentially relevant documents which relate to Orensteins or Ornsteins at an additional cost of USD10 each. Prior to paying these funds, I intend to pursue my search in Poznań and Berlin in the hope of confirming a relationship with Jakob Ornstein.

Bernard Orenstein is a Software Research Engineer with BHP in Newcastle. He has a strong interest in tracing his family history around the globe. Bernard has identified ancestors from Poland, Germany, England, Ireland and South Africa.

Attachment 2 - Standard letter to Polish Archives (The following letter was translated into Polish and sent to 9 various archives.)

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Help needed with Family History Research

My name is Bernard Orenstein and I am attempting to research my family history. A book with a chapter on Polish Genealogy suggested I write to you in the hope of discovering some information about my relatives. I would be interested in any records of civil registration (akta stanu cywilnego), tombstone inscriptions (nagrobki i tablice), printed funeral sermons (druki), marriage records (allegata do akt slubu), notarial records (akta notarialne), wills (testamenty), county court documents (akta wiejskie), city documents (akta miejski), guild records (akta cechowe), passports (akta paszportowe), university and school records (akta instytucji), military records (akta wojskowe), court records (akta instytucji wymiaru sprawiedliwosci), genealogical collections (kolekcje genealogiczne), land records (dokumenty gruntowe), mortgage registers (akta hipoteczne) or anything else you may have to do with the following people and their families:

Simon Orenstein (my great-great grandfather), born in Przemyśl, Poland (but possibly in Warsaw or Poznań) around 1825. Died 30th March 1891 in Berlin. Buried in Weissensee Cemetery in Berlin.

Henrietta Orenstein nee Gieldzinski/a (my great-great grandmother), born 26th April, 1828 in Toruń. Wife of Simon Orenstein. Died 4th November, 1901 in Berlin. Buried in Weissensee Cemetery.

Adolf Gieldzinski/a (my great-great-great uncle), born probably in Toruń around 1820. Brother of Henrietta Gieldzinski/a.

Benno Orenstein (my great-grandfather), born in Poznań on 2nd August, 1851. Son of Simon Orenstein and Henrietta Gieldzinski/a. Died on 11th April, 1926 in Berlin. Buried in Weissensee Cemetery.

Max Orenstein (my great-great uncle). Born probably in Poznan around 1850. Brother of Benno Orenstein. Son of Simon Orenstein and Henrietta Gieldzinski/a. Married Elizabeth (probably Bünzel). Date and place of death unknown.

Any records of other people with the surname Orenstein.

Any records of other people with the surname Gieldzinki or Gieldzinka.

I will gladly pay for any research, photocopying or mailing fees involved. Any other suggestions or contacts you may have would also be gladly appreciated.

I thank you for reading this letter and hope that you can help me. I look forward to your correspondence.

Your sincerely,
Bernard Orenstein

Attachment 3 - Translation of Letter from State Archives in Poznan

State Archives in Poznan wish to inform that it is in possession of a municipal file on Simon Orenstein, his wife and children. The file shows that they were Jewish, however there are no birth records in the Jewish guild in Poznan. Therefore we cannot send their birth records.

Birth records of the evangelical guild were also checked but none belonged to the Orensteins.

According to the municipal file, Henrietta Gieldzinska was born in 1828 in Wloclawek rather than in Torun. We have written to our Wloclawek archives, but neither her birth records nor her brother Adolph's could be found.

We are in position to send you a copy of the said municipal file (karta meldunkowa) provided that we receive a fee of USD30. Please transfer the fee to our account:

Title: Naczelną Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych
Bank: PBK III O/Warszawa
Account No. 370015-807885

Please find enclosed price schedule for our services. (See Attachment 4)

Attachment 4 - Fees and Conditions for Genealogical Services at Polish Regional Archives

Following is a translation of a leaflet sent from the various regional archives when they indicate that they are possibly in possession of material relevant to one's research:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Initial fee | USD20.00 (or
equivalent in |
| 2. Hourly rate | USD10.00 other
currencies) |

3. Copy per document USD10.00
fee

Fees to be paid to:

Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwow Panstwowych w Warszawa
Account No. 370015-807885, PBK, OIII Warszawa ul. Jasna Terms: 6 months from
date of invoice.

You can speed up the process by sending a bank confirmation to Naczelna Dyrekcja
Archiwow Panstwowych, ul. Długa 6, 00-950 Warszawa, or directly to the office
shown on your invoice.

Notes

In order to minimise processing time and the possibility of bureaucratic bungling, I
sent a covering letter in English and a photocopy of the letter from the regional
archive to the National Archives in Warsaw (address above), the Regional Archive
and the Bank (PBK).

I also sent a photocopy of the Australia Post American Express International Money
Order to the archives. Australia post charge a commission of \$6.00 on the money
orders after exchange rates have been taken into account.

Attachment 5-1st Letter from State Archives Przemyśl

In relation to your letter on genealogy studies of families Gieldzinski and Orenstein,
State Archives in Przemyśl wish to inform that it is in possession of some incomplete
civil documents (akta metrykalne) of Jewish Guild (Izraelicka Gmina Wyznaniowa) in
Przemyśl.

We keep marriage, birth and death records years 1790-1827, marriage records
years 1827-1876 and birth records 1853-1863. Initial studies of the said records
revealed only names Orenstein and Ornstein. These could possibly be your
ancestors.

A precondition for any search by State Archives is an initial fee of USD20 paid into
an account number 370015-807885, PBK, O. III, Warszawa, ul. Jasna. The account
title is Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwow Panstwowych, ul. Długa 6, 00950, Warszawa.

We will start work on receipt of confirmation of the fund (USD20) being transferred to
the said account. We charge an hourly rate of USD10 and USD10 for each copy of
document searched. You will be notified about the full costs of our services
separately. We will interpret failure to pay the initial USD20 within 6 months since
receipt of this letter as your decision not to use our services.

Copy: Headquarters of State Archives, Warszawa

Attachment 6-2nd letter from State Archives Przemyśl

In answer to your successive letter in the matter of the genealogy of the family of Orenstein, the State Archives of Przemyśl informs you about the results of our research.

According to the public register of births, marriages and deaths kept in the local archives of Israelite religious community in Przemyśl from 1790-1827, the following registrations are in existence:

Births

1790 House No. 157 Jakob Mendel Ornstein son Eliser and Zipora
1791 House No. 157 Chaje Orenstein daughter Eliser and Zipora
1818 House No. 15 Sara Ornstein daughter Hirsza and Henne Amochel

Marriages

1817 House No. 15 Hersch Orenstein, 17 years old, Hendel Amochel, 18 years old
However in the registration book of births of 1853-1863, the following one registration occurs;

1861 House No. 9 Josef son Juda Rauch and Rose Ornstein
and two registrations of marriages in the registration book of years 1827-1876:

1841 House No. 21 Jacob Schwartz son, Mosesa 17 years old, Sarah Ornstein daughter Hersza, 18 years old

1843 House No. 7 Jonna Sonen, 20 years old, Menka Ornstein daughter Hersza 18 years old

The registration of the birth of Simon Orenstein, possible born in Przemyśl about 1820 year, was not possible to find. It is possible that he was born in another locality.

If you wish the archives might prepare the registration extracts of the above mentioned persons.

Director of State Archives in Przemyśl
Dr. Zdzisław Konieczny
Copy to: NDAP, Długa Str. 6 00-950 Warsaw

Name of Archive	Polish Name	Address	Comments
National Archives	Naczelną Dyrekcję Archiwów Państwowych	ul. Długa 6, 00950 Warszawa	Replied indirectly through State Archives. See below.
Main Archive of Ancient Documents	Archiwum Głównie Akt Dawnych	ul. Długa 7, 00-263 Warszawa	No reply.
Archive of New Documents	Archiwum Akt Nowych	ul. Niepodległości 182, 00-2554 Warszawa	Replied. No information.
Archive of the Main Statistical Office	Centralna Biblioteka Statystyczna	ul. Niepodległości 208, 00-925 Warszawa	Sent photocopy of article on Lesser Gieldzinski. No charge.
Central Military Archive	Centralne Archiwum Wojskowe	00-910 Warszawa 72	Replied via Sydney Consulate. No Information
Poznan State Archive	Wojewódzkie Archiwum Państwowe	ul. 23 Lutego 41/43, 61-744 Poznan	Replied. See Attachments 3, 4 and 5.
Przemysl State Archive	Wojewódzkie Archiwum Państwowe	ul. Polskiego Czerwonego Krzyża 4, 37-700 Przemyśl	Replied. See Attachments 4, 5 and 6
Torun State Archive	Wojewódzkie Archiwum Państwowe	plac Rapackiego 4, 87-100 Torun	No reply.
Warszawa State Archive	Wojewódzkie Archiwum Państwowe	ul. Krzywe Koło 7, 00-270 Warszawa	Replied. No information.

Table of Correspondence with Various Polish Archives

Corrections to Volume 1 No1 Sept 1993

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Our apologies to HILDE HINES not Hilda.

The address for Stammbaum is 1601 Cougar Court (not 1901).

Gerald Falk had an OBE not a MBE. Also of the three Falk brothers, two were in the Air Force and one was in the Army, not one in each of the services.

Our 1st AGM was in March, 1993, not November, 1992

In the Sydney Data Base, Braun is in Czechoslovakia not Poland.

It is the Cercle de Genealogie Juive (not Circle)!

What's Happening in Special Interest Groups?

**Vol 1 No
2**



Among the Special Interest Groups, SIGs for short, which are now popping, up are groups for Romania, Hungary, Czech and Slovakian, and also for the town of Mogilev in Russia (details below). Members of our society who joined SIGs connected with their research have found them valuable, and our society itself subscribes to STAMMBAUM, the German descent quarterly (in English), GESHER GALICIA, and LANDSMEN, the publication of the Suwalki-Lomza SIG. I have made contact with a number of people researching the same ancestral names through GESHER GALICIA, and I am impressed that many US writers for LANDSMEN have gone through the Mormon Birth, Death and Marriage records for Jews in towns in their area, translated and alphabetically listed them, and publish several of these lists in each issue. Our society library has these publications and they can be used at our Sunday morning workshops.

ROMANIA

ROM-SIG News is available for \$US 15.00 per year C/- Marlene Silverman, 3701 Connecticut Avenue, NW Apt 228, Washington, DC 20008 USA. For overseas airmail, it is probably advisable to send \$US 20.00. A second address supplied is for Sam and Joy Elpern, 27 Hawthorne Street, Greenwich CT 06831, USA.

HUNGARY

Sallyann Sack and Robert Perlman are starting this SIG. The address is JGS of Greater Washington, PO Box 436, Vienna VA 33183, USA. The fee for subscription to the publication is not known, but a base of \$US 100.00 to receive the Hungarian deportation lists was suggested some time ago in Avotaynu.

CZECH and SLOVAKIAN

This SIG is being formed and information can be obtained from Mindy Gottesgen, 733 Juniper Walk, Apt B, Goleta CA 93317, USA. Tel: 0011-1-(805) 685-3324. As mentioned in the Genealogy Bookshelf Section, Serge Klarsfeld is preparing a book on Jewish Holocaust victims from Bohemia and Moravia. Further information to follow.

MOGILEV

The address to write to for more information is Jerry Gilstrap, 2104 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore MD 21231, USA.

Forebears Australian Family Finder

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00001 Richard D. Plotz, 104 Eleventh Street, Providence RI 02906 USA. Seeking Australian descendants of the family of Albert Myers and of his sister Phoebe Myers Phillips. Their relatives Rev Emanuel Moses Myers and Rev Isidore Myers settled in USA last century, after ministries in Melbourne and in Bendigo.

00002 Dr B. P. Bergman, 58 Strensall Park, Strensall, York, YO3 5SH, ENGLAND. Seeking descendants of Grace Abrahams and her husband David Abraham, who emigrated to Australia circa 1856, first in Morses' Creek, later Melbourne. Eleven children, including Daniel Abraham, a well-known solicitor and Melbourne alderman. Will share information on own research.

Family Names from West Prussia

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The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain journal SHEMOT has reprinted an article from the German Jewish Genealogical JUDISCHE FAMILIENFORSCHUNG, September, 1992, LXVIII, available from 4170 Geldern, Tinnagel 5, GERMANY, which was translated by Michael Honey with the permission of its editor, Mr Arie Apfelbaum. The article mentions the acquisition of surnames by the Jews of West Prussia around 1808, and the fact that a publication found in the ARCHIVE OF GERMAN JEWS IN BERLIN lists 2,381 Jews from 35 West Prussian towns with their new names. The only West Prussian towns cited are those which contained Jews and were at that time part of Prussia.

A photocopied list of those names can be obtained for £2.50p from SHEMOT, JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN, 20 Francis Road, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 2ST, UK, or 32 Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, LONDON WC 2E 7PD, UK.

Tombstone Tip		Vol 1 No 2		
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This tip came from Sadie Cutchem of Alabama, USA, via her newsletter PRODIGY and via the Jewish newsletters SCATTERED SEEDS and MISHPACHA. To photograph a tombstone so that it is legible, try using a can of shaving cream and a ruler, or other implement with a long straight edge. Spray the tombstone with the shaving cream, and then wipe it off using the long straight edge. The letters of the tombstone will stand out and make a good photograph. This should not harm the tombstone.

German-Jewish Communal Histories Written Since 1988		Vol 1 No 2		
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The Library and Archives News of the Leo Baeck Institute reports that the number of histories of German-Jewish communities written since 1988 has increased significantly. The importance of the year 1988 in this regard is that 1988 was the 50th anniversary of the Kristallnacht Reichspogrom.

The histories range from pamphlet-size to large illustrated volumes. They were published by a variety of groups: political groups, municipalities, local German historical societies, groups fostering Christian-Jewish Cooperation, universities, and others. Many of the published German-Jewish communal histories used materials from the LBI archive and photo collections.

Contact: Leo Baeck Institute, 129 E. 73d St, New York, NY 10021 (212) 744-6400

Did You Know?	Stuart Shaw	Vol 1 No 2		
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1) The NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages has recently released the first of its Pioneer Indexes. This index, called the Federation Index, contains indexes to births, deaths and marriages which took place in NSW in the period 1889 to 1918. It is available on both microfiche and CD-ROM. The State Library of NSW has the CD-ROM version available for use. As there is a heavy demand for use of the CD-ROM index, it is advisable to book a session in advance. The library accepts phone bookings. The index can be used for half an hour by each user.

2) The State Library now subscribes to Avotaynu and has issues from Vol. 8 No. 1 (Spring, 1992). The latest issue is usually on display in the family history section of the Library. The State Library has also bought a copy of "Where Once We Walked", which is also kept in the family history section of the library. This could be of interest to those members who would like to make photocopies from either of these publications.

3) Overseas Telephone Books can sometimes be useful when searching for overseas relatives. They can be found in a number of locations in Sydney:-

Telecom International Directories Section, First Floor, 35 Grafton Street, Woollahra (Telephone 369-6000). They have Israel telephone books in English as well as the directories for most large American cities. Directories for most large European cities and South Africa can also be found here, as well as books for all Australian states. They also have an "Electronic White Pages" (EWP) terminal available for public use for which no charge is made. Using the EWP, an on-line search can be made of any telephone book in Australia, business or residential. The database is updated within 24 hours of Telecom receiving a person's change of address. For this reason, it is especially useful when searching for the names and addresses of people who have recently moved. If a person has a silent number, this is also shown, but the number is not given. A photocopier is available, copies are 20 cents a copy and change is available. Hours: 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Other places that could be of use are the State Library which has phone books for most countries of the world as well as directories for USA on microfiche and most consulates and embassies would have telephone directories for their particular country and, if only one phone number was required, would probably be prepared to look up one number.

Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf	Sophie Caplan	Vol 1 No 2		
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Holocaust Related Books : Memorial Books (continued from last issue)

(N.B. Those books with an asterisk (*) in front are held by our Society, books in the personal library of some of our members are marked with two asterisks (* *) and books marked with a A can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held).

Researchers in several countries have published books giving complete or almost complete lists of Holocaust victims deported from that country. Unfortunately no such books exist for the country most affected by Nazi extermination, Poland, so one has to rely on occasional family memorial books like * David Jakubowicz's "History of Chaim Schenker, his sons, his sons-in-law and their families", already mentioned, which encompasses a large network of related families from Oswiecim, Lvov, and nearby areas, or individual autobiographical memoirs which often mention other people. A list of those will be given under the heading "Books on Poland".

There is nothing either on the USSR including Ukraine, Bielorrussia, etc. or Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovakia ... Either the governments of these countries in wartime did not care what happened to their Jewish inhabitants, or any lists that were made of Jews being killed or taken to camps were destroyed. Apparently some lists were kept in Bohemia and Moravia and Serge Klarsfeld in Paris is now in the process of producing a book on the Jews taken from these two provinces of the former Czechoslovakia. We will let you know when it becomes available.

Apparently some years ago printed lists of those killed from Austria did exist. But all our efforts to get information about those lists from the Jewish community of Austria have met with utter silence. Similarly with alleged lists of Jews deported from Holland, requested from the Dutch Jewish Genealogical Society.

But some western European countries under Nazi occupation did require lists of the Jews being deported and in the last sixteen years these books have formed the basis of MEMORIAL BOOKS compiled by dedicated Holocaust scholars. Several of these books are owned by members of our society who will consult them for other members. Do not forget that many Jewish families emigrated from one European country to another and therefore your Polish or Romanian relatives, and even Turkish or North African Jews, might be found listed in the French, Belgian or Italian books, and Czech or Polish-born Jews also in German books.

*** * SERGE KLARSFELD "THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF THE DEPORTATION OF THE JEWS FROM FRANCE", 1978, Paris.**

*** * MAXIME STEINBERG AND SERGE KLARS- FELD "THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF THE DEPORTATION OF THE JEWS FROM BELGIUM", 1982, Brussels.**

*** LILIANA PICCIOTTO FARGION "IL LIBRO DELLA MEMORIA (MEMORIAL BOOK OF JEWS DEPORTED FROM ITALY AND THE AEGEAN ISLANDS)", 1991, Milano.**

*** * "GEDENKBUCH (MEMORIAL BOOK OF THE JEWISH VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM IN GERMANY", 1986, Bonn National Archives of West Germany. Contains 128,000 names, though incomplete.**

Each of these memorial books varies in the amount of information it offers, but all have first name, surname and date of birth, as well as information on date of deportation convoy. The French book has nationality, the Belgian, German and Italian books have maiden names of women. The Italian book has the most information on each individual, which includes name of spouse and of parents.

Many researchers have found out the dates their relatives were deported and sometimes the place of birth from these books. Many of the books which will be mentioned under various countries also were written as a response to the losses or memories of the Holocaust.

Books on Poland

Most of us have a part of our family which originated in Poland, and there is therefore immense interest in books which illuminate at least a part of Jewish Poland. A note of warning. Some books of Polish history, covering the period when Jews were a huge minority in Poland, have not one word to say about the Jewish presence.

Pictorial Books on Jews in Poland

*** * ROMAN VISHNIAC "POLISH JEWS" and " A DISAPPEARED WORLD"** are both compilations of some of the superb photographs he took in Poland in the 1930's. The way of life, the poverty, the dour reality, are all caught by his camera.

* * **FRANZ HUBMANN "THE JEWISH FAMILY ALBUM"** edited by MIRIAM and LIONEL KOCHAN, also has photographs of Vienna and Germany.

* * **"IMAGE BEFORE MY EYE S" A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF JEWISH LIFE IN POLAND, 1864-1939** edited by **LUCJAN DOBROSZYCKI AND BARBARA KIRSHENBLATT-GIMBLETT**, 1977, New York is a moving and evocative book of the same title as the video-film.

* **"MEMORIES OF MY LIFE IN A POLISH VILLAGE, 1930-1949"**, with drawings, paintings and text by **TOBY KNOBEL FLUEK** is a more intimate evocation of the exact dimensions of life in a Polish village.

History and Social History Books

* * **BERNARD D. WEINRYB "THE JEWS OF POLAND, A SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN POLAND FROM 1100-1800"**, 1972, Jewish Publication Society, will answer all your questions about how and when your ancestors came to Poland and what they did in Poland until 1800. Learned but easy to read. Possibly still in print.

* * **"THE JEWS IN POLAND"** essays on Jews in Poland, edited by **CHIMEN ABRAMSKY MACIEJ JACHIMCZYK, AND ANTONY POLONSKY**, 1986, Basil Blackwell.

* * **CELIA S HELLER " ON THE EDGE OF DESTRUCTION, JEWS OF POLAND BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS"**, 1977, Columbia University Press, recently still available in paperback, an absolutely marvellous book which will illuminate all you have been puzzled about with Polish Jews.

YISRAEL GUTMAN and SHMUEL KRAKOWSKI, "UNEQUAL VICTIMS, POLES AND JEWS DURING WORLD WAR II", 1986, Holocaust Library.
NECHAMA TEC "WHEN LIGHT PIERCED THE DARKNESS, CHRISTIAN RESCUE OF JEWS IN NAZI- OCCUPIED POLAND" 1986, Oxford University Press, a fascinating glimpse into Polish Jewish relations during world war II. Probably still in print.

SIMON DUBNOW wrote five volumes on the **"HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF POLAND AND RUSSIA"** which are available in many libraries.

SALO BARON wrote sixteen very learned volumes on the social history of the Jews, of which several have a lot on Jews in Poland.

In many libraries A **THE ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA** has entries of most towns of any size in Poland.

An index has been compiled for the rare English language Yiskor book on * * **KALISZ** by **DAVID WEINGOTT** of LONDON of all names in it and he has generously sent us a copy. There are a number of Yizkor books on various Polish towns in Sydney and Melbourne, but mostly in Hebrew/Yiddish/Polish, with possibly an English alphabet list of those who perished in the Holocaust.

There are books on the Warsaw and Lodz ghettos in the North Shore Synagogue Library, and probably in many others. The Warsaw Ghetto has probably more books on it in English than any other aspect of Polish Jewish history. There is also in various libraries **YITZHAK ARAD "GHETTO IN FLAMES"** about the Vilna ghetto, and information about various camps in Poland can be obtained from Sophie Caplan. But there ARE NOT ANY LISTS of inmates, victims, or survivors of ghettos or camps ANYWHERE in Australia. Your only hope is if anybody has filled in a PAGE OF TESTIMONY about your relatives, and filed it with Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The AUSCHWITZ MUSEUM in OSWIECIM, Poland also has a card system about long-term inmates, but not for people who were gassed on arrival. One has to write to the Auschwitz Museum.

Polish Jewish Cemeteries

Our Society has a book about Polish Jewish cemeteries compiled by Neil Rosenstein in the 1980's and a book about some of the stones of the **WARSAW JEWISH CEMETERY, "A TIME OF STONES"** by **MONIKA KRAJEWSKA**. A member has a small book about the LODZ Jewish cemetery history, and has donated a number of photographs of this cemetery, taken in 1983.

Autobiographical Accounts and War Stories

A number of autobiographical accounts of survival, autobiographies disguised as novels, etc. are available from libraries and, if need be, from members. Try libraries first.

CHAVA ROSENFARB "THE TREE OF LIFE" 1985, Scribe, a novel about the Lodz ghetto. On the Warsaw Ghetto, **LILIANA ZUKER-BUJANOWSKA "LILIANA'S JOURNAL 1939-1945"**; A **JANINA BAUMANN "WINTER IN THE MORNING"** paperback still in print; **JANINA DAVID "A SQUARE OF SKY"**, Penguin. For Lublin and Kielce, **NECHAMA TEC "DRY TEARS, THE STORY OF A CHILDHOOD"**. For Kielce district, **DAVID RUBINOWICZ "THE DIARY OF DAVID RUBINOWICZ"**. For Eastern Galicia, **ALICIA APPLEMAN-JURMAN "ALICIA, MY STORY"** 1988, Bantam Books, possibly still in print, unputdownable, and **LOUIS BEGLEY "WARTIME LIES"** 1992, Picador, also a marvellous autobiographical account masquerading as a novel, which won the Irish equivalent of the Booker prize.

Finally an **"ANTHOLOGY OF HOLOCAUST LITERATURE"** edited by **JACOB GLATSTEIN, ISRAEL KNOX, SAMUEL MARGOSHES** et al, published by Athenaeum, a great compendium of glimpses into many aspects of the Holocaust in various parts of Poland, and the Australian A **"FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT, SURVIVING THE HOLOCAUST"** by **NAOMI ROSH WHITE**, which unfortunately does not give the names, places of abode or professions of the Melbourne Polish survivor immigrants whose wartime history it recounts.

There are, of course, many more autobiographical accounts, but these are a selection of excellent ones.

N.B. The books cited are only books which are available through Australian communal libraries or through the Society. It is pointless to mention books which are only available in New York, London or Jerusalem.

TO BE CONTINUED

Editorial

Sophie Caplan

**Vol 1 No
3**



Since the last issue of this newsletter two major genealogical conferences have taken place in our ambit, both attended by your editor, and the first one also by your publisher.

They were the Fourth International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, held in Jerusalem from 29th April to 5th May, and the Seventh Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Family History, which took place in Brisbane at the University of Queensland from 7th to 10th July, 1994. The first is reported on elsewhere in this issue, the report for the second will be in the next issue.

Each conference was most worthwhile attending, and one could learn much genealogical craft at each one. Some of us cannot afford to attend a conference, either because of the fares and other costs involved, or because it is inconvenient to take leave from work or from one's family at that particular time. If my experience can be any guide to you, I strongly recommend that you try to budget your time and your money, and make family arrangements to attend at least one future genealogical conference. The next Jewish one is in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. from 25th to 29th June, 1995, and the eighth Australasian Congress will take place in Christchurch, New Zealand, in February, 1997 with Immigration Patterns as its major topic. So much can be learnt, so many contacts made and worthwhile experiences gained.

In Sydney recently we had the pleasure of listening to Dr Yitzchak Kerem at a meeting of our Society open to visitors at Beth Wizo in Edgecliff on Sunday evening, 17th July. Dr. Kerem is a lecturer in Sephardi History and Culture in the Department of Romance Languages at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and editor of the quarterly SEFARAD. He knows Hebrew, French, Greek and Judeo-Español, and reads Russian and some Turkish, and proved his thorough knowledge of a vast array of Sephardi archival sources in a variety of countries. He answered questions for nearly an hour and a half after his lecture, and there seemed no end to his erudition on this topic. (We have a copy of his talk on tape).

On Sunday 28th August we are staging a joint Jewish Genealogy Day with the Australian Jewish Historical Society, the Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and the Sydney Jewish Museum at the Jewish Community Centre and the Sydney Jewish Museum at 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst from 1 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. There will be a combined entrance fee of \$7 for both the Museum and for the displays of genealogical books, microfiche, videos and lectures or \$5 without the Museum visit. We are also calling on our members to volunteer to help with the display of our books and other artifacts, in order both to help the public who will come to view and use and gain knowledge, and to safeguard them for our future use.

We hope this year to have an excellent speaker on "Jewish Genetic Diseases and Qualities", and to hold an evening of video films on genealogical topics from films recently purchased in Israel and the USA.

We are receiving most encouraging feedback about the quality of the contents of our newsletter, and we aim to keep it up.

Northern Summer Research In Jewish Ethnology		Vol 1 No 3		
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Dr Valery Aronovich DYMSHITS, The Director of the Institute for the Investigation of the Jewish Diaspora at the Petersburg Jewish University stated at the Fourth International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem recently that he would be delighted to have Australian or other Diaspora students or retirees as participants in the research his Institute undertakes every northern summer into former Jewish towns, their synagogues and cemeteries, recording and photographing and trying to preserve what remains.

This is unpaid and participants must pay their own expenses.

For all information please contact Valery Dymshits directly at Tel: (812) 292-28-30 or (812) 233-50-95. Fax: (812) 268-75-68. By mail: POB 10, ST PETERSBURG, 196247, RUSSIA.

The International Seminar in Jerusalem	Sophie Caplan	Vol 1 No 3		
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For those of us who attended the Fourth International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy which took place in Jerusalem, Israel, from 29th April to 5th May 1994 inclusive, it was a week of fascinating experiences, diverse learnings, founding of new friendships with people of many backgrounds and cheerful networking.

My greatest memories are of finding a Page of Testimony on my maternal grandfather filled in by his youngest brother who had survived in Eretz Israel but whom I never met, in the Yad Vashem Hall of Names; of sighting the surname Traurig, borne by Rieke Nash's son-in-law, on a New York participant's list of names being researched, at the opening cocktail party; of proudly hosting the respective heads of the Polish and the Ukrainian National Archives through the Israel Museum; and of the moving sight of Ida Selevan from Cincinnati, USA, my friend from the 1987 London Seminar, catching sight of her son Barnea, an Israeli citizen, just back from a month's reserve duty, and embracing him still in his sweat-drenched fatigue uniform in the midst of the huge food display for the breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

We were approximately two hundred and fifty full-time participants, plus some daily attenders from the Israeli public. The majority were American but there were Jewish genealogists from England, Canada, Switzerland, Turkey, France, Germany and Russia, Brazil, and two of us from Australia. Also some non-Jewish genealogists researching their Jewish roots. Previous international seminars had taken place in 1984 in Jerusalem, in 1987 in London, and in 1991 in Salt Lake City, USA, but this was the best yet.

Having attended the 1987 seminar in London, and narrowly missed those in 1984 and 1991, it was a joy to meet again those friends made in London. Dr Anthony

Joseph, now also a member of our Society, Dr Sallyann Sack, editor of AVOTAYNU, René Loeb, president of the Swiss Jewish Genealogical Society, Chava Agmon, the custodian of the multinational Caro descendance, of which some of our members are part, and her husband Hugo, and Jürgen Sielemann, the archivist of the Hamburg Archives and seaborne emigrants lists, who attends these Jewish Seminars more assiduously than many Jewish genealogists, and the knowledgeable Randy Daitch. The arrangements made by the organisers were superb, working smoothly in the setting of a great and busy hotel, with taxis always available at the door, and within walking distance of both the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University, housing both the Hebrew and National Library and the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People and also a clutch of museums including the Israel Museum with its current "The Shtetl" exhibition, some new exciting archaeological finds, the Bible Lands Museum, and the Shrine of the Book. All the intricate arrangements worked well, with participants able to stay both at the Holiday Inn, formerly the Jerusalem Hilton, and at a cheaper venue. We had large conference rooms for the lectures, with ample seating room for those who preferred to network outside, facilities for sending and receiving faxes, a telephone message recorder in one's room, and those marvellously abundant Israeli breakfasts which sustained one all day, if need be, as one battled to rush from one archive to another, trying not to miss the rich array of lectures, which stretched from mid-afternoon to late evening, with only a two hour break to take in dinner.

Lectures ranged from "Jewish Immigration and Settlement in Argentina", "Resources for Jewish Genealogy in Spanish Morocco" to "Jewish Surnames in the Kingdom of Poland", "Genealogical Research in Germany Today" to lectures on "Research on Synagogue Art in Czechoslovakia" and how to get genealogical data from Nazi censuses for deportation in Hungary. The amazing diversity of Jewish geography and history in various parts of the world was well explored, and the only problem was how to follow one's major interests without missing out on important lectures featuring one's minor interest. Many of the lecturers were top academics in their field, and it was gratifying that my lecture titled "Your Australian Cousins", was also well attended and well received. It resulted in our gaining several new overseas members, including a young Brazilian student and some Israelis. Most time-tabling was of parallel lectures on Sephardi and Ashkenazi topics, possibly in the expectation that participants would be exclusively interested in one or the other. I would gladly have had a longer Seminar enabling me to take in more of the lectures by world authorities in their field like Professors Haim Avni, Haim Beinart, Aaron Demsky, or Ruth Kark.

Former President of the State of Israel, Yitzhak Navon, gave the opening keynote address on "The Importance of Genealogy for the History of the Jewish People", an erudite and moving speech, replete with memorable anecdotes, and Dr Paul Jacobi, a living treasure of genealogical knowledge on rabbinical families, was the scholar-in-residence who tried to help us with difficult problems. Dr Chaim Rapaport, who had been our guest lecturer in early November 1993, acted as his secretary and assistant.

The Resources Room, presided over by Gary and Ruth Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff, was always crowded. It contained computer terminals for the Dorot Archives worked by Dorot Personnel Diane Sommer and her staff, microfiche readers, indexes of names in printed registers and on microfiche, and samples of

books and journals and newsletters of most participating genealogical societies. We took it as a compliment that the four copies of THE KOSHER KOALA, arduously put into plastic folders, as requested, went walkabout on the first day and never reappeared, evidently collected by discerning participants. At the end of the conference I was able to "collect" issues of MISPOGE, the Dutch JGS newsletter, and the Russian equivalent which nobody else had thought worthwhile collecting because of the language barriers.

The best part of the Seminar was perhaps the networking, the meeting of people with interests in common in some aspects of Jewish genealogy. Informal meetings were arranged to discuss these. At every opportunity personal discussions took place, reinforcing links with overseas JGS. It was great to meet Belle Holman of Illinois JGS, Robert Weiss of Los Angeles, with whom I had corresponded, and not so great to be haunted in lifts and common rooms, seemingly forever, by an American gentleman who kept on reproaching me for having sent inadequate replies to his demands for research on an early 19th Century sea-captain active in Australian and New Zealand waters. I had actually passed his letter on to someone as being too hard for me....

Other highlights for me were meeting with several members of the French Jewish Genealogical Society, of which I am probably the only adherent east of Suez. I had enrolled as a member in 1987 in London, and have participated from afar with articles, queries, and responses to queries published in their excellent quarterly journal. But Rosine Alexandre and Jean-Louis Hollander, whom I met in London, were no longer active in the Society, so it was wonderful to actually meet people with whom I have corresponded, Phillip Abensur the General Secretary, and Editor of the Revue, Basile Ginger, the assistant secretary, Laurence Hazan, and others, and to speak French again.

I am definitely hoping to go to the next International Seminar, wherever it may be. I hope many of you will also come.

John Henry Richter (1920 - 1994)	Bernard Orenstein	Vol 1 No 3		
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"He will be greatly missed, apparently by more people than I could ever have guessed, and I say that as one who knew that his extensive correspondence reached every part of the globe. In addition to being a kind and loving father, he was an explorer and adventurer - a sleuth, really - who did not let distance or history alienate him from his task." Juliet Pressel - daughter of John Henry Richter, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1 May, 1994.

John Richter was born in Vienna in 1919 but was raised in Berlin and lived there until 1941. He deeply believed in his obligation to share the fruits of sixty years of family history research. His efforts have resulted in a personal archive of one thousand and sixty-five manilla folders containing some four hundred genealogical tables. In order to share his collection with contemporary generations, John Richter requested that his archive be relocated to the Leo Baeck Institute for German Jewish historical research in New York after his death.

His bibliography runs to more than four hundred published journal articles and four books. He was also a frequent contributor to Avotaynu. His last article was in the

Summer 1993 edition on "The families of Jewish private bankers - reflections on a genealogical study."

John Richter's first "guide to genealogy" was Dr. Jacob Jacobson, who was director of the German Jewish "Gesamtarchiv" for 20 years and author of the invaluable Berlin Jewish genealogical references: "Die Judenbürgerbücher der Stadt Berlin 1809-1851" and "Jüdische Trauungen in Berlin 1759-1813". John Richter records in his correspondence that: "In 1939 (almost too late) I went to see him in what will again be the place of the old Gesamtarchiv der Deutschen Juden (Oranienburgerstrasse 28, Berlin) where he patiently and most cordially showed me the original records of Maerkisch-Friedland..."

Although my correspondence with John Richter only began in July 1993, and I never had an opportunity to meet with him in person, I found him to have both an incredible wealth of knowledge and to be a most generous man. Using his background and skills as a retired librarian, he happily visited and corresponded with institutions such as the Library of Congress to help people like myself with their genealogical pursuits. Nothing was too much trouble. His last letter to me records how he grappled with huge volumes of original 1920 editions of the "Berliner Tageblatt" to copy notices on my behalf.

John Henry Richter died in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on 20 April 1994. Indeed, he will be greatly missed, not only by his family and friends, but by the international Jewish genealogical community as a whole.

**Finding Family with Phone
Directory Assistance**

Peter Nash

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As my father, Herbert NACHEMSTEIN, was getting on in years, I decided to get him to pass onto me as much information as possible about his side of our family. Fortunately he was a hoarder of old letters, postcards, photos and old address books, and also was very alert mentally and had a good memory. In one of his old address books I noticed two names: David NACHEMSTEIN and Erich NASH. David was a cousin but my father was not quite sure how he was related, while Erich was David's brother and had in fact changed his name to Nash just like I did when I was sixteen.

My father did not know if either of them was still alive. He had corresponded with David who was living in Muenster, Germany, but they had not been in touch with each other for about ten years. My father had met Erich in Los Angeles about thirty-five years earlier, but neither had been in touch with each other since then. So I decided to check with telephone directory assistance to see if I could get an active phone number. To my surprise I was given a phone number for each but I decided to write in the first instance and indicate my interest in researching our family connection. To David I wrote in German, with which I am still fluent, and to Erich in English. About one month went by without reply.

My daughter and son-in law happened to be travelling through Germany around that time (July 1992) and as I got an active phone number for David I asked them to try and visit David. It turned out that David was very much alive and ninety-two years of age! Of course he could not converse in English, but they managed to communicate

with the help of an interpreter. David had survived the Holocaust, but had lost his wife and one-year old daughter in the camps. He had a suitcase full of letters, photos, etc, including letters from my father.

My daughter then found an article from the Toledo, Ohio, USA, daily newspaper dated 3 November, 1948, describing the arrival of Erich Nachemstein and his family in the US to start "a new life". When David was quizzed about the article and his brother Erich, he steadfastly denied that Erich had survived the war and said that he had been shot dead. David had completely blocked out the existence of his brother who was two years older. The Toledo article also had a photo of Erich with his wife and three children and the names of the children, namely, Joe, Evelyn and Donnie. A ninety minute audio tape was also made of the conversations, including the contents of a letter written after 1945 by Erich, from Switzerland, to his brother then in Sweden, telling David that he should never consider going back to Germany to live after the tragedy that befell his wife and daughter. So the denial of Erich's survival through the war was certainly strange.

I then puzzled how I could find any of the three children. I decided to try telephone directory assistance again and asked for a phone number for Joe Nash in Los Angeles but without address. The operator responded with a 'negative' but that there was a phone number for 'Joseph Nash', which I then noted, saying "I'll take that". So I dialled that number and found myself talking to the inevitable "answering machine" - "You have rung the offices of Newmark, Nash and Bartlett, we are unable, etc, etc". I then realised that I was calling after 5 pm on a Friday local Los Angeles time. I tried again on the following Monday local time and was told that Joseph Nash was not in - but that his brother Dan would be in shortly, noting that the name in the article was 'Donnie'.

After dialling again I connected with Dan Nash and told him that I was calling from Sydney, Australia, because I believed that there was a family connection. Without hesitation Dan said "That's not possible". Well, I had anticipated that reply as, after all, I had reacted similarly on numerous occasions over the last forty years as my birth name was Nachemstein and not Nash. I then said to Dan "Your brother's name is Joseph ? - Yes". "Your sister's name is Evelyn ? - Yes". "And your father's name is Erich ? - Yes". Then your birth name was "NACHEMSTEIN - Yes". "How did you find us ?" said Dan. It was easy - "through telephone directory assistance".

Erich had died in 1978, apparently a very melancholy and morose man. He had never communicated any more with his brother David and the three Nash children and their mother were totally unaware that their uncle was still alive. Since then I have had regular contact with my cousins. I was also able to supply death notice and burial records of Erich and David's father, Joseph, as well as photos of his well-preserved tombstone located in the Weissensee Cemetery in Berlin, all of which were obtained by my daughter and her husband after their visit to David Nachemstein. My father recalled that he had been to the funeral of Joseph Nachemstein in the late 1920's, in fact he died in 1928, where he thought he also met Erich and David.

How am I connected to the Nashes in Los Angeles? Well, from the birth dates of our respective great- grandfathers, it seems that most likely they were brothers. Another interesting fact was the Hebrew name of Joseph's father inscribed on Joseph's

headstone: "Izhak". So now I have to prove that the Hebrew name of my great-great grandfather was Izhak !

Peter Nash, born Nachemstein in Berlin, Germany in 1935, he grew up in Shanghai, China (1939 to 1949) and now lives in Sydney, Australia.

**Jewish Genealogy
Bookshelf**

Sophie Caplan

**Vol 1 No
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BOOKS ON POLAND (continued from last issue)

(N.B. Those books with an asterisk (*) in front are held by our Society, books in the personal library of some of our members are marked with two asterisks (* *) and books marked with a A can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held).

A few more Holocaust related books have come to light:

A **EARL VINECOUR and CHUCK FISHMAN "POLISH JEWS: THE FINAL CHAPTER"**, 1977, McGraw-Hill Paperbacks, New York, is an account of what can still be found now of synagogues, cemeteries and monuments recalling the prewar days of Polish Jewry. Lavishly illustrated with good photographs.

* * **NAHUM COHEN and HOWARD ROITER "A VOICE FROM THE FOREST "**, 1980, Holocaust Library, New York, is a simply told tale of how Jewish partisans lived and fought in the forests during World War II.

A **ROBERT MARSHALL "IN THE SEWERS OF LVOV"**, 1990, Collins, London, is a Tasmanian-born author's true story of survival of a group of Jews in Lvov.

A **MARIAN PRETZEL "BY MY OWN AUTHORITY"** aka **"THE YOUNG FORGER"** is a true story of a group of young Jews from Lvov who survived in Ukraine, and later Rumania, by forging impressive looking documents. The author lives in Sydney.

The recent Fourth International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy also yielded the following: * **"GUIDE TO THE SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN POLAND"** in the Central Archives For the History of the Jewish People, 1988, Jerusalem. This lists the holdings on Poland in the Central Archives by period and alphabetically by names of towns.

* **DR HANNA VOLOVICI "POLISH SOURCES FOR THE GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE CENTRAL ARCHIVES FOR THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM"** is a typewritten text of nine pages, describing more precisely the holdings of genealogical interest in the Central Archives.

ISAIAH TRUNK has written two very informative books on Polish Jewry during the Nazi era:

A 1. **JUDENRAT, THE JEWISH COUNCILS IN EASTERN EUROPE UNDER THE NAZI OCCUPATION**, the definitive book on Jewish Councils.

*** * 2. JEWISH RESPONSES TO NAZI PERSECUTION, COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR IN EXTREMIS**, 1982, Stein and Day, New York. First published in Yiddish, these two very thorough books can be found in many libraries.

A number of books of folktales on Polish Jewry explain the history of the Jews in Poland through a mixture of history and anecdotes:

*** * DIANE AND DAVID ROSKIES "THE SHTETL BOOK"**, 1975, Ktav Publishing House, New York has a number of maps, a plan of a typical shtetl, photographs of synagogues and other illustrations to explain the life of a Jewish shtetl in Eastern Europe.

MARK ZBOROWSKI and ELIZABETH HERZOG "LIFE IS WITH PEOPLE : THE CULTURE OF THE SHTETL", 1968, Schocken Books, New York, a warm in-depth account of the varied customs of the Jews in the Shtetlekh of Eastern Europe with their daily life and festive occasions which will make you realise the origins of many of the customs current in your family, perhaps even now.

A MAGDALENA OPALSKI "THE JEWISH TAVERN-KEEPER AND HIS TAVERN IN NINETEENTH CENTURY POLISH LITERATURE", 1986, Zalman Shazar Centre, Jerusalem, is a study of the stereotype of the Jewish innkeeper in the village and his role in village culture. Of particular interest to those who had ancestors who were tavern-keepers.

*** * CHONE SHMERUK "THE ESTERKE STORY IN YIDDISH AND POLISH LITERATURE"**, 1985, Zalman Shazar Centre, Jerusalem. The story of the Jewish mistress of Polish King Casimir is a legend with resonances for both Poles and Jews, which reveals much about the two cultures.

A MATILDA ENGELMAN "JOURNEY WITHOUT END" and "THE END OF THE JOURNEY", 1977 and 1978, Lantana, Melbourne, is a very moving autobiographical story of a Polish mother and child's survival during the Holocaust years against all odds, and their subsequent emigration to Australia and early years in Melbourne.

*** * ADELE MONDRY "WYSZKOWO, A SHTETL ON THE BUG RIVER"**, 1980, Ktav Publishing House, New York, translated from the Yiddish by Moshe Spiegel, is a lively account of what life was like for shtetl Jews in Eastern Europe before World War II.

BOOKS AND PAPERS ON LITHUANIA

The Society has recently received its best resource book on Lithuania , *** NANCY & STUART SCHOENBURG "LITHUANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES"**, 1991 Garland Publications Inc., New York. It is being used constantly by many of our South African members. Its major value lies in the translations from the Hebrew of articles published in Volumes III and IV of Yehadut Lita, 1967, Association of Lithuanian Jews, Tel Aviv that were previously inaccessible to English only researchers. There is also a short history on how Jews came to be in Lithuania and some detailed maps. The Appendices include Yiskor dates for communities and some lists of survivors.

* We also have two short typewritten texts prepared for the recent International Seminar on two Lithuanian towns:

1. **LEIPALINGIS (LEIPUN)** by **YOSEF ROSEN**, translated by Len Yodaiken, two and a half pages and

2. **VIERKSIAI (VEKSHNYA, WIEKSZNIE, VEKSHNA)** by Professor **DOV LEVIN**, about a small town in Zamut, Eastern Lithuania.

* The periodical of the Suwalki-Lomza Interest Group, **LANDSMEN**, has an enormous amount of information of a genealogical nature on Southern Lithuania, as well as on north-eastern Poland. Many Births, Deaths and Marriage records of towns have been translated and published, often after alphabetical indexation.

BOOKS ON UKRAINE

Not many books on Jews in Ukraine are available in English in Australia. * *

BARBARA BARATZ "HOLOCAUST MEMOIRS FROM UKRAINE 1941-1944", reprint 1987, Darmstatter Blatter, is a reprint of the translation of the original Russian text.

In current politico-geographic terms, the former Eastern Galicia is part of Ukraine, but books on genealogy are distinctly about Ukraine or about Galicia, and the two areas had quite different histories until World War II and the years since, when they were united under Russian hegemony. Some of the books about Russia also apply to Ukraine.

BOOKS ON RUSSIA

* * **CAROLE MALKIN "THE JOURNEYS OF DAVID TOBACK"** as told by his granddaughter, 1981, Schocken Books, New York, is an account drawn from original memoirs in Yiddish, about life in the Russian Pale of settlement in the late 19th century and pre-revolutionary years.

Books on Russian Jewish History

A number of books tell the history of the Jews in Russia. Among them:

* * **GERARD ISRAEL "THE JEWS IN RUSSIA"**, Charles Knight and Co Ltd, translated from the French by Sandford L. Chernoff. A popular history, easy to read and to digest.

* * **JACOB FRUMKIN, GREGOR ARONSON, ALEXIS GOLDENWEISER, JOSEPH LEWITAN**, Editors, **"RUSSIAN JEWRY 1917-1967"**, Thomas Yoseloff, London and New York, 1969, is a collection of essays on Jewish history, not only in Russia itself, but also in Ukraine, Byelorussia and the Baltic countries.

A **LOUIS GREENBERG "THE JEWS IN RUSSIA, THE STRUGGLE FOR EMANCIPATION"**, 1976, Schoken Books, New York, tells of the struggle of the Jews in Russia from 1772 until 1917.

Several books concentrate on Jewish participation in socialist labour movements:

*** * NORA LEVIN "WHILE MESSIAH TARRIED, JEWISH SOCIALIST MOVEMENTS, 1871-1917"**, 1977, Schocken Books, New York, is not only about the Russian but also about the American and Eretz Israel Jewish labour movements.

A A. L. PATKIN "THE ORIGINS OF THE RUSSIAN-JEWISH LABOUR MOVEMENT", 1947, Cheshire, Melbourne. The writer, born in Russia, lived in Melbourne for many years and founded the monthly "The Zionist" in 1941.

*** * SAMUEL A. PORTNOY "THE LIFE AND SOUL OF A LEGENDARY JEWISH SOVTA..., THE MEMOIRS OF VLADIMIR MEDEM"**, 1979, Ktav Publishing House, New York.

Then there are books on Jews in the Soviet period of Russian history:

*** * LIONEL KOCHAN**, Editor, **"THE JEWS IN SOVIET RUSSIA SINCE 1917"**, 1978, Oxford University Press, Oxford, with articles by many of the authors of books mentioned previously.

A MOSHE AJZENBUD "THE COMMISSAR TOOK CARE", 1986, first published in Yiddish 1956, Globe Press, Melbourne, is a slightly fictionalised account of life in Soviet gulags during the Second World War. This book is being reprinted and still available from the author in Melbourne. Its price is \$AUS10.00 and the address is 43 Lincoln Avenue, East Brighton, Vic, 3187.

A ELIE WIESEL "THE JEWS OF SILENCE, A PERSONAL REPORT ON SOVIET JEWRY", 1968, Vallentine Mitchell, London, the book which electrified world Jewry with its first published reports that Jews in Russia still held vibrant Jewish feelings and were not totally lost to Judaism.

A MARTIN GILBERT "THE JEWS OF HOPE, THE PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWRY TODAY", 1984, Macmillan, London, tells about the experiences of some of the leading refuseniks in Russia in the 1970's and 1980's.

One book on Russia during the Shoah * * **"THE BLACK BOOK"** edited by **ILYA EHRENBURG** and **VASILY GROSSMAN**, 1980, YAD VASHEM, 1981, Holocaust Library, New York, documents the Nazis' destruction of one and a half million Soviet Jews. This book was suppressed by Stalin and therefore only became available in Hebrew in 1980 and in English in 1981.

BOOKS ON SLOVAKIA, BOHEMIA, MORAVIA and CZECHOSLOVAKIA

There are books available in English and others in German. Books in English include:

*** * a three volume "HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA"**, edited by the **SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF CZECHOSLOVAK JEWS**, 1968 onwards, and published jointly by the Jewish Publication Society of America and by the Society for the History of the Jews of Czechoslovakia.

* * **"THE TRAGEDY OF SLOVAK JEWRY"**, documents and photographs, 1949, Bratislaw, an early and excellent book. No author given.

EZRA MENDELSON "THE JEWS OF EAST CENTRAL EUROPE BETWEEN THE WORLD WARS", 1983, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, is an authoritative one-volume textbook on the topic, prepared for students and teachers, but with the right amount of information for the family historian. It deals not only with Czechoslovakia, but also with Poland, Hungary, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Still in print.

* * **B. VAGO and GEORGE L. MOSSE**, Editors, **"JEWS AND NON-JEWS IN EASTERN EUROPE"**, 1974, John Wiley and Sons/Israel Universities Press, is a similar volume edited in Israel.

* * **JIRI FIEDLER "JEWISH SIGHTS OF BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA"**, 1991, Sefer, Prague, is a guide-book which also has a long chapter on the history of Jews in Bohemia and Moravia. Also well illustrated with maps and with sketches of architectural features, it is a sort of Michelin guide on Jewish Bohemia and Moravia. Still in print and obtainable from Gefen Books in Israel at POB 6056, Jerusalem 91060, Israel, or from Gefen Books, 12 New Street, Hewlett, NY 11587, USA. Fax: (516) 295-2739.

* * **ARNO PARIK AND PAVEL STECHA "THE JEWISH TOWN OF PRAGUE"**, 1992, Oswald, Prague, also obtainable from Gefen, is a guide to the synagogues, Jewish monuments and cemeteries of Prague with short chapters on the history of Jews in Prague throughout the ages.

A HERMAN DICKER "PIETY AND PERSEVERANCE, JEWS FROM THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS", 1981, Carpatho-Russian and Hungarian Jewry, their history and social life.

A HANA GREENFIELD "FRAGMENTS OF MEMORY: FROM KOLIN TO JERUSALEM", 1992, Gefen, Jerusalem, is one of the few autobiographical accounts in English of the Holocaust in Czechoslovakia.

* **PETR EHL, ARNO PARIK, JIRI FIEDLER "OLD BOHEMIAN AND MORAVIAN JEWISH CEMETERIES"**, 1991, Paseka, Prague, explains how old tombstones are often the only significant archives left by a community. Lavishly illustrated.

* * **GERDA HOFER "THE UTITZ LEGACY"**, is a genealogical family history going back to sixteenth century Prague, published around 1985 and may still be in print.

* * **JAN PARIK AND DAVID SHAHAM "KAFKA-PRAGUE"**, 1980, Beth Hatefutsoth, Tel Aviv, is the printed book in Hebrew and English released for an exhibition on the quintessential Czech Jewish writer Kafka.

* * **MARTIN SPITZER "STORM OVER TATRA"**, 1989, Oasis Print, Salisbury, South Australia was purchased at the bookshop of Kibbutz Lohamei Hagettaot (The Ghetto-fighters' Kibbutz), but written by a resident of Adelaide, telling the story of a

Czech Jewish family and through it the fate of Czech Jewry during the Shoah. Still in print.

Missing in Russia Organisation		Vol 1 No 3		
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A new mutual self-help group for relatives of people missing in the former Soviet Union.

Details from PETER MAYO, M.I.R.O., 75 Wellmeadow Road, Hither Green, London SE 13 6TA, England.

Reprinted from SHEMOT, July 1994 Vol 2, No 3, Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain

Catskills Jewish Cemeteries Project		Vol 1 No 3		
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Since 1987, David Joel Prierer has been carrying out a project of transcribing and translating the Jewish tombstone inscriptions of Sullivan County in the State of New York, better known as the Catskills, or even the Borsht Belt. He plans to extend this project to cover Ulster County nearby as well.

David now has records of over 4,000 burials from 28 cemeteries and he is also cross-referencing these with newspaper death notices to obtain maiden names for women. While not planning to publish, David invites people who think they may have ancestors buried there to write to him with self-addressed envelope and international answer coupon at DAVID JOEL PRIEVER, P.O. Box 1062, South Fallsburg, N.Y. 12779-1062, USA.

(Some years ago we were able to help David find his Brunengraber connections in Sydney).

Did you know?	Stuart Shaw	Vol 1 No 3		
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The Society has recently purchased a set of the microfiche index to the Jewish Section at Rookwood cemetery put out by the Society of Australian Genealogists.

This is a microfiche index to the inscriptions on tombstones in the Jewish Section at Rookwood from Section 1 to Section 23A. It covers the period December 1905 to August 1988.

This index lists the person's name, date of death, age (not in all cases) and a six digit reference number. This reference number refers to a separate fiche mentioned below. This fiche contains the actual inscription on the headstone (the English inscription only), the person's date of death, the section number, row number and the plot number.

The actual inscriptions are on a separate microfiche which our society has just purchased. This microfiche can also be consulted at the Society of Australian Genealogists library. Only headstones with an English inscription were transcribed. Graves with no headstone do not appear in the index.

When checking the index for accuracy, I discovered that the last row in Section 19 has been left out. Another member of the society has also found the names of some of her relatives are also missing, so the index is not exhaustive.

Forebears Australian Family Finder		Vol 1 No 3		
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00003 DR KRZYSZTOF MAKOWSKI, Instytut Historii, Uniwersytetu im Adama Mickiewicza, ulica SW Marcin 78, PL 61-809 POZNAN, Poland.. Fax: 00- 48(0)61-535-535. Seeking information for a post- doctoral thesis about Jews who lived in Grand Duchy of Posen, later province of Posen/Poznan in years 1793-1918, including memoirs, documents, books, family knowledge of emigration from there. Reads and writes English fluently.

00004 AVIVA NEEMAN, P.O. BOX 48010, Tel Aviv, 61480, Israel. Tel: 972-3-699-2813. Fax: 972- 3-699-3852. Runs the JAFFE/JOFFE/YOFFE Family Association and would like to hear from anyone with ancestors or collaterals from that family.

00005 LEON CHAMEIDES, 65 West Ridge Drive, West Hartford, Connecticut, 06117, USA. Seeking members of the CHAMAIDES/CHAMEIDES/CHAMAYDES family who are recorded in Arolsen International Tracing Service records as having emigrated to Australia in late 1949 or 1950, David Chameides born 14.8.1923 and Rozi Chamaides born 21.4.1929, or their descendants.

00006 FREDERIC REVEREND, 22 rue du Faubourg, St Martin, 75010, Paris, France. Seeking information on families SIDI, MORDOH, NAHON originally from Spain and Turkey, from anywhere.

00007 JUDITH RABINOVITZ, 10 Homestead Road, West Simsbury, Connecticut 06092, USA. Seeking anyone connected with Moishe Mirkine and Basha Gensher or their children Fay, Israel Mayer, Louis, Ofim, Gershon born 1877 Kriechev, died 31.12.1965, married Sarah Schaffman, born 1881, died 23.3.1959. Their children were Louis, Thomas, Julius, Beatrice. Some family went to Australia.

00008 ROBIN H. NAFTALIN, 5 Rechov Ya'arot, Ahuzah, Haifa 34787, Israel. Tel: 972-4-345468. Seeking NAFTALIN worldwide from Lithuania and Latvia. Also SEGAL/SIEGEL, LEVINE from Trishky, Lithuania, ZUKERMAN, RUBIN, BERMAN, REZNEK/RESNIK, LEVINSTEIN, LIVINGSTONE, KURETSKY, GLICKMAN from Lithuania, U.K., and South Africa.

South African Jewish Genealogy Useful Addresses	Saul Isroff	Vol 1 No 3		
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From the lecture by Dr Saul Isroff of London as presented at the Jerusalem Conference 1994

Central Statistical Bureau, Private Bag X44, Pretoria 0001

Information about specific individuals, relationships, religion, year of arrival and place of birth.

The Registrar Births Marriages and Deaths, Department of Home Affairs
Private Bag X114, Pretoria 0001 Tel: 27 12-314 8911 (Sentrakor Buildings, 173 Pretorius Street)

The Chief, State Archives Department, Private Bag X236, Pretoria 0001 Tel: 27 12-323 5300
Fax: 27 12-323 5287

The Chief, Cape Archives Department, Private Bag X9025, Cape Town 8000
Tel: 27 21-462 4050 Fax: 27 21-452 960

The Chief, Free State Archives Department, Private Bag X20504, Bloemfontein 9300
Lists of private researchers in each province are available from these offices.

The President, Human Sciences Research Council, (Section Genealogy), PO Box X41, Pretoria 0001
Tel: 27 12-202 911

Master of the Supreme Court, Dept of Justice, Private Bag X60, Pretoria 0001
Tel: 27 12-286 521/ 27 12-286 512 (Santam Building, c/r Church and Queen Street)
Personal searches are required. Deaths in other provinces: consult the Master of the Supreme Court in that Province. Estates prior to 1900: consult the Magistrates Archives of the South African Republic.

The Chief, SA Defence Force Archives, Private Bag X615, Pretoria 0001
Chief Archivist, SA National Museum of Military History, PO Box 52090, Saxonwold, 2132, Transvaal
Tel: 27 11-646 5513 Fax: 27 11-646 5216

South African Jewish Board of Deputies, P.O. Box 87557, Houghton 2041, Johannesburg
Annerley House, Annerley Office Park, Killarney, Johannesburg Fax: 27 11-646 4940

The Secretary, Johannesburg Jewish Helping Hand and Burial Society (Chevra Kadisha)
2 Elm Street, Houghton 2196, P.O. Box 1105, Johannesburg Tel: 27 11-487 3840
Fax: 27 11 487 1318

United Chevra Kadisha, P.O. Box 543, Cape Town 8000

Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Cape Town 8000 Tel: 27 21-653 062

Office of the Chief Rabbi, United Hebrew Congregation, Wolmarans Street,
Johannesburg 2001

Tel: 27 11-725 54444

United Progressive Jewish Congregation of Johannesburg, Paul Nel Street,
Johannesburg 2001

Tel: 27 11-484 3003

Union of Orthodox Synagogues of SA and Beth Din, 191 Buitenkant, Cape Town
8000

Tel: 27 21-461 6310

Genealogical Society of South Africa, P.O. Box 4839, Cape Town 8000

Mr I. L. Meyerowitz, SA contributing editor, C/- Avotaynu, 1485 Teaneck Road,
Teaneck NJ 07666 USA

Joe Getz, Cape Town Jewish Genealogical Society, 701 Tulbagh Centre, Foreshore
8001

Family History Library, 1 Hunter Street, Johannesburg P.O. Box 33642, Highlands,
Johannesburg

Tel: 27 11-618 1890

South African Jewish Genealogy Bibliography	Saul Isroff	Vol 1 No 3		
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Abrahams, Israel. The Birth of a Community: a history of Western Province Jewry
from earliest times to the end of the South African War, 1902. Cape Town Hebrew
Congregation, Cape Town, 1955.

Arkin, Marcus (ed.) South African Jewry, A Contemporary Survey. Oxford University
Press, Cape Town , 1984

(Good review with extensive annotated bibliography).

de Saxe, Morris and Goodman, I.M. (eds.) South African Year Book 1929 SA Jewish
Historical Society, Johannesburg, 1929

Feldberg, Leon (ed) South African Jewry, A Survey of the Jewish Community: its
contributions to South Africa; Directory of Communal Institutions; Who's Who of
Leading Personalities 1965 Fieldhill Publishing Co, Johannesburg, n.d.

Feldberg, Leon (ed) South African Jewry, A Survey of the Jewish Community: its
contributions to South Africa; Directory of Communal Institutions; Who's Who of
Leading Personalities, revised edition 1967/1968. Fieldhill Publishing Co,
Johannesburg, n.d.

Feldberg, Leon (ed) South African Jewry 1976/1977 Johannesburg. (These four year
books have surveys of most aspects of Jewish life in S.A. and very good brief
biographies of many prominent individuals).

Gillon, Philip Seventy Years of Southern Africa Aliyah SA Zionist Federation-Telfed, Adar Productions Israel 1992.

Herrman, Louis A History of the Jews in South Africa from the earliest times to 1895 Victor Gollancz, London 1930.

idem revised South African edition, South African Board of Deputies, Johannesburg and Cape Town, 1935.

Kaplan, Mendel and Robertson, Marian Jewish Roots in the South African Economy, C.Struik, Cape Town 1986.

Kaplan, Mendel and Robertson, Marian Founders and Followers Johannesburg Jewry 1887-1915 Vlaeberg Publishers, Cape Town, 1991. (Comprehensive socio-history with very good bibliography).

Kosmin, B.A. Majuta, A History of the Jewish Community of Zimbabwe. Mambo Press, Gwelo, 1980.

Mendelsohn, Richard Sammy Marks-The Uncrowned King of the Transvaal David Phillip-Jewish Publications, South Africa and Ohio,1991

Saron, Gus and Hotz, Louis (eds.) The Jews in South Africa from the earliest times to 1895. Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press, Cape Town, London, New York, 1955.

Shain, Milton Jewry and Cape Society Historical Publication Society, Cape Town, 1983

Sherman, Joseph (ed.) From a Land Far Off. South African Yiddish Stories. Jewish Publications-South Africa, Cape Town, 1987

Shimoni, Dr. Gideon Jews and Zionism The South Africa Experience 1910-1967 Oxford University Press Cape Town 1980

Sichel, Dr Frieda (ed.) From Refugee to Citizen A.A. Balkema Cape Town-Amsterdam, 1966 (German Jewish refugees in S.A.)

South African Jews in World War II S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies, 1950

Sowden, Dora and Konvisser, Rev M (eds.) The Jew in South Africa: A Record of what individual Jews are doing in various spheres of the Country's life. Century Publishing, Johannesburg, n.d. circa 1945 (Good who's who).

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 1 No 4	
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This is the beginning of the Jewish traditional year 5755 and we wish all our readers a happy, healthy, prosperous and creative year with palpable advances in their genealogical research. With this issue, our third in 1994, we look set to achieve our goals of four issues per year.

Despite a full month of Jewish religious holy days involving days of prayer and fasting, family reunion dinners, and festive happenings interrupting the regular rhythm of our work, we managed to maintain our regular monthly Sunday morning workshops and also to participate as a society in two interesting events.

On Sunday 28th August we participated in Jewish Genealogy Day jointly with the Sydney Jewish Museum, the Australian Jewish Historical Society and the Association of Australian Jewish Holocaust Survivors at the Museum and in the Benefactors' Hall of the Jewish Community Centre. A record number of AJGS members, committee members, their spouses and older children helped man the facilities of our society, which were available for the information of members of the public who came to seek help. It is estimated that 160 to 180 people, informed by articles in the Jewish and in the general press, came to investigate their genealogy. We were kept busy using the microfiche readers, personal computers brought by members, and two large book display tables and answering questions. Several new people joined as members, and others went away satisfied with new directions we had been able to provide.

On Sunday 11th September we participated in a joint meeting with B'nai Brith Unit Alfred Dreyfus at the home of James and Elaine Altman in Killara, when our common member, Paul Hirshl, spoke of his "Genealogical and Political Journey to Burgenland in Austria and to Nikolsburg (now Mikulov) in Czechoslovakia" together with his wife Betty. It seemed that only those of our members living on the North Shore attended, but this thought-provoking evening was enjoyed by all.


We are waiting for a date to be set by Dr Norman Swan of the ABC Health Report to speak to us on "JEWISH GENETIC DISEASES AND MARKERS".

Our sole British member, Dr Anthony Joseph, a distinguished researcher of both British and Australian Jewish Genealogy, will be visiting Sydney in the last week of March, 1995. We have invited him to speak to us as the featured speaker at our AGM, or jointly with another group, and we are awaiting his agreement. Dr. Joseph is also the recently elected president of the Jewish Historical Society of England. We congratulate him on this great honour, and hope that his duties will not be so onerous as to interfere with his genealogical research. He has helped some of our adherents for very modest fees.

Several of our committee members have been involved in giving talks to a variety of groups on the subject of genealogy. Nigel Meinrath gave a talk on "FAMILY TREES AND FAMILY HISTORY" to Year 9 students at Moriah College in August. Sophie Caplan in 1994 has talked to the Monday regular attendees at the Burger Centre and to the Shalom Club for the aged which meets at the North Shore Temple Emanuel on "HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR FAMILY PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY".

On 9th October, Rieke Nash, who will be in Canberra on business, will speak to the Canberra Jewish Community on "RESOURCES FOR JEWISH GENEALOGY" at the National Jewish Centre under the chairmanship of our Canberra member, Earle Hoffman. David Landor will speak on "THE BROTHER'S KEEPER SYSTEM OF COMPUTER RECORDING" to the Society of Australian Genealogists in October. We try to share our knowledge with members of the public as well as with our own members, but genealogy is an active hobby in which you do the major work and the


discoveries, and others can only guide you. Our committee members are happy to respond to requests to address groups on Jewish genealogical and historical topics.

The Ten Commandments for Genealogists	Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern	Vol 1 No 4		
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(Reprinted from The Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento)

1. I am a genealogist dedicated to true knowledge about the families I am researching.
2. Thou shalt use family traditions with caution and only as clues.
3. Thou shalt not accept as gospel every written record or printed word.
4. Thou shalt not hang nobility or royalty on your family tree without verifying with experts.
5. Thou shalt clearly label the questionable and the fairy tale.
6. Thou shalt handle all records in such a way that the next users will find them in the same condition you did.
7. Thou shalt credit those who help you and ask permission of those whose work you use.
8. Thou shalt not query any source of information without supplying postage.
9. Thou shalt respect the sensitivities of the living in whatever you record, but tell the truth about the dead.
10. Thou shalt not become a genealogical teacher or authority without appropriate training.

Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern, the father of Jewish Genealogy, died earlier this year.

Seventh Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Family History	Sophie Caplan	Vol 1 No 4		
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Compared to the Jerusalem Seminar this was a gigantic assembly of nine hundred and fifty genealogy buffs from all over Australia and New Zealand, with participants from the United Kingdom, Ireland and USA. The theme of the Congress was "Blending the Cultures" and its logo of a Mobius strip encircling the earth was meant to convey this.

The venue was the campus of the University of Queensland at Santa Lucia, Brisbane, particularly the lecture rooms of the scientific faculties, the Student Union, the very modern Mayne Hall, and the residential colleges where participants were housed and fed. The programme focused on English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish and German descent, with a few lectures also on Aboriginal and Chinese parentage, and my lecture on "Some Basic Facts of Current Jewish Genealogical Research". Altogether twenty periods of five concurrently run lectures, a total of one hundred different talks over three and a half days, plus meetings of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) and of the Australian Association of Genealogical Researchers (AAGRA), as well as a nightly social programme. A complex undertaking which worked very smoothly, thanks to excellent organisation by seventeen Queensland family history and genealogy societies.

It was a great conference, where a lot of knowledge could be gleaned, though the weather, for "sunny Queensland" was cold and showery, and the lush tropical vegetation shading the campus seemed rather at odds with the wintry weather. Unfortunately my favourite uncle died suddenly on the first morning of the conference, and my husband and I dashed back to Sydney for the funeral, and then back to Brisbane afterwards to keep faith and give my rescheduled lecture. In the meantime the mother-in-law of our Brisbane correspondent, Morris Ochert, also died, so he missed much of the conference too. We missed most of the social events, except the remarkable formal opening speeches, and the final dinner. Nevertheless I found the opportunity to buy some genealogical books and smaller publications offered by many archives and by publishers of family history books.

Despite the vast throngs, I met Nick Vine Hall, who has been a friend of our society since its inception, ever ready with advice and news. Although our friendship had been established for three years by correspondence and telephone, this was the first time we met. I also made contact with a number of genealogists who have, or who suspect they might have, a Jewish ancestor up their tree. Some of them may join our society.

The lecturers ranged from Lord and Lady Teviot, both professional genealogists from England, to Nick Vine Hall, Australia's premier genealogist and broadcaster and author, his wife Patricia Barth the calligrapher, Gael Thompson, president of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, Larry Jensen of Brigham Young University in Utah, a specialist on research in Germany, to various librarians from several State Archives and State Libraries, heraldry experts, writers and researchers.

It is possible to buy the almost full set of lectures of the Congress for \$AUS 42.00 including packing and postage (in Australia). Unfortunately the typewritten text of my talk was not ready in time to be included. The address to obtain this is: The Australasian Congress Papers, C/- Queensland Family History Society, P.O. Box 171, Indooroopilly, QLD 4068. The next Australasian Congress is to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in February, 1997, and its theme will be "Patterns of Immigration".

Mormons Baptize Holocaust Victims		Vol 1 No 4		
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Reprinted from Avotaynu, Vol X No. 1, Spring 1994 and Lineage, JGS of Long Island, Summer, 1994

In June 1993, Gary Mokotoff, publisher of AVOTAYNU and president of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies was made aware that names of Jews murdered in the Holocaust were added to the International Genealogical Index, a database of persons who received the Mormon temple ordinance of baptism. It was determined that a group of Mormons in the Salt Lake City area had taken the copy of the Gedenkbuch located at the Family History Library, extracted many of the names, and brought them to their local temple to have the people baptized and endowed according to the Mormon religion. Mokotoff sent a letter to the Executive Director of

the Family History Department and received a reply. Both letters are reproduced in their entirety below.

Elder J. Richard Clarke, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints,
47 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150

Dear Elder Clarke:

It has come to my attention that well-intentioned LDS members are baptizing Jewish victims of the Holocaust into the Mormon faith. It shows incredible insensitivity to the anguish of the living relatives of these martyrs, some of whom saw their loved ones murdered, to perform a Christian ritual on people who were killed for only one reason; they were Jews.

Baptism is a Christian ceremony that is particularly repugnant to Jews. It reminds us of the centuries of persecution against Jews where our ancestors were given a choice; be baptized or suffer death. There are many Christians living today who can trace their family history back to people who chose option one. Our Jewish history books are filled with martyrs who chose option two.

I have been told that the LDS church does not support this policy; that it is the act of individuals. But the fact that the ritual is performed in a Mormon Temple is tantamount to condoning this practice.

At present this practice is known to only a few Jewish-American genealogists who noticed the entries in the International Genealogical Index. Once the Jewish world community is aware of the practice, it will seriously strain relations between Mormons and Jews.

Gary Mokotoff,
President, Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

Mr. Gary Mokotoff, President,
Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

Dear Mr Mokotoff,

Subject: LDS Temple Ordinances Performed for Jewish Victims of the Holocaust

Thank you for your letter. I sympathize with the feelings you share in your letter about temple ordinances performed for Jewish victims of the Holocaust without family members' knowledge or consent. I am hopeful this letter can help ease your concerns somewhat.

At the outset, I assure you that temple ordinances are generally performed at the request of a family member. We counsel members to obtain clearance from living family members before performing temple ordinances. Apparently this has not occurred in the cases cited in your letter.

In light of the concerns raised in your letter, we have reviewed our procedures regarding temple ordinances for the dead and have adopted the following refinements: first, that temple ordinances be performed only at the request of family

members; and second, that family members wishing to perform such ordinances also have permission from the nearest living relative before proceeding.

Please be aware that, given the nature of computer data-bases and the number of temples and family history centres operational throughout the world, we cannot guarantee that no work will be done. We are reaffirming our procedures and guidelines and must then rely on our patrons to act in a responsible manner.

Realizing that some inadvertent work may appear in spite of our best efforts to communicate with patrons, we do hope that future names will only be submitted in accordance with the above-mentioned directives.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns with us. We appreciate your friendship and hope that the changes outlined in this letter will help resolve the issue.

J. Richard Clarke, Executive Director
Family History Department

Birth and Death Records from New York City		Vol 1 No 4		
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Birth or death records from New York are available and cost \$US 15 each. Death records after 1949 are even available. A bank draft in US\$ or an international money order and a self-addressed envelope with two international answer coupons should be sent to: Vital Records, Dept of Health, PO Box 3776, Church Street Station, New York NY 10013, USA. Your request should include first name, surname, age, date of death/ birth, spouse's name, borough of domicile and parents' names if known. This will take 8-10 weeks to process. Tel: (718) 788-4520 or (718) 788-4523 for further information. (From Lineage, Long Island JGS, by Andy Bader).

My Research into the Guckenheimer Family	Hilde Hines	Vol 1 No 4		
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My interest in genealogy started after the death of my mother in 1981 when I discovered some family papers regarding my father's family, the Guckenheimers, dating back to relatives born in the 18th and 19th centuries.

I well remember all my uncles, aunts and cousins, so my first step was to communicate with these relatives all over the world and to get the exact dates of births and deaths of their families, as well as that of any offspring born in the meantime. I also wanted to find out the approximate date of the deaths of those who perished in the Holocaust. I sent a questionnaire to each of those who survived. They lived in England, America, Canada, and one in Germany. With this data in hand, I brought the family tree up-to-date.

The next step was to try and find information about the earlier Guckenheimers. I was not even sure of the name of the place where they had lived before Nuremberg. From anecdotal evidence I knew that Haslach was the name that was mentioned, whenever one of the uncles made a silly joke. It was referred to as a "Haslicher schmoos".

My first letter went to Stadt Haslach to the Mayor who very kindly told me that there had not been any Jewish families named Guckenheimer in their town. He sent me a list of all the places called Haslach, or similar, in Germany. Through that I came to

Burghaslach. He had mentioned that, as the family had been living in Nuremberg, a place called Burghaslach in Franconia may have been the right one.

I therefore wrote to the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde in Nuremberg, who told me that they passed on my request to the City Archives of the City of Nuremberg. They sent me quite some information about the family of my grandfather, as well as of one of his brothers.

In a second letter they advised me to get in touch with the Society for the Research in Franconia at the Stadt Archives of Nuremberg. I followed that advice and got some very interesting information regarding the birth dates and occupations of my ancestors from them. They also told me about the house which my great grandfather had lived in Burghaslach and that he bought this house from his brother for six hundred gulden out of the legacy left by his mother, Rebbekah.

The Society for Research in Franconia, in turn, gave me the address of the Archives of the Count of Castell as the one most likely to have records of Burghaslach, as it was under the Count's jurisdiction. My next letter went to this archive and there I struck gold! A most interesting and interested Professor was in charge and after various correspondence, and some payment, he sent me numerous papers referring to my family members.

At that time I read a book by Mr Schwarz, "Geschichte der Juden in Bayern" (History of the Jews in Bavaria) which gave me a great deal of information on life during the period when my family had lived there.

Following my correspondence with the Professor in Castell, we were able to organise for my husband and me to meet him at his Archives and that he would take us to the birth-place of my ancestors. He was kind enough to arrange that the cemetery there was to be opened for us and, by sheer chance, I was able to find the tombstone of my great-grandfather and great-grandmother. Both tombstones were in very good condition and I was able to take photos of the graves. Great-grandfather Samuel's had a jug on it and, on showing the photo to our Rabbi, it was explained to me that this means he was a Levi.

Another interesting incident during my family history research was that I found in the American Jewish paper, "Aufbau", a question signed by a Mr Julius Guckenhimer of New York. A correspondence developed with this gentleman, and I received the following information from him:

"The enclosed two copies are the results of long enquiries. I have been aware of the fact that our ancestors all originated from Switzerland and my enquiries culminated in the establishment of such presumption. All the Guggenheim's, whether they emigrated to Germany, Alsace, U.S.A., etc., descend from the small Swiss town LENGNAU, near Zurich, where also the well-known rich Oil-Kopper Guggenheim (G. Museum) come from. I visited this place twice, its very old synagogue and cemetery, and was able to collect a host of interesting documents from the "Juedischen Stadtarchiv" in Zurich, through the courtesy of Dr. Florence Guggenheim, who happens to be in charge of it.

The name of my father, Isaac, a victim of the Nazis, and his birth-town Gross Rohrheim, Kreis Gerau, give rise to my assumption that a link between your family and mine seems to exist."

Mr. Julius Guckenhimer sent me the additional information that the above mentioned Dr Guggenheim was the Archivist for the History, Language and Folklore of Jews in Switzerland. She had researched the Guggenheim family back to the year 1680 and had written an article about it, which was published in Switzerland, and he sent me a copy of this article as well.

I have also enquired in Israel at the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People at the Hebrew University. There I received the name of another family Guckenhimer in the U.S.A. who had also made enquiries. I corresponded with this gentleman, Mr Ludwig Guckenhimer, who sent me his family tree, and other interesting information. However, there is still a missing link between that branch of the Guckenhimer family and my own.

Close to home, I knew that my grandfather had emigrated as a young man to the U.S.A. On the original papers it was noted, "With police permission emigrated", but he obviously returned and settled in Nuremberg when this City accepted Jews in the middle of the 19th century. I have also learned that a brother of his had also been to the United States, and was called back by his mother when there was an epidemic raging in America.

However I have since discovered that a third brother of my grandfather settled in Savannah, Georgia, and I have been corresponding with one of his descendants. I am still in the process of finding out more about this branch of the family. Through another relative I was able to get the family tree of yet another brother of my grandfather.

I am subscribing to two genealogy publications, Avotaynu and Stammbaum, the latter being for families of mainly German origin. Through their information I am in touch with a family living in England who are researching the same place of origin as I am, Burghaslach, and we have exchanged much valuable information. Genealogy to me seems like a jigsaw puzzle, many little pieces are required to fill the mosaic. Maybe my experiences are of value to others.

Hilde Hines nee Guckenheim is a foundation member of our Society and our South Australian representative.

Search Ads from Shem Tov		Vol 1 No 4		
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The publication of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada

DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PEOPLE WHO WERE CHILDREN IN POLAND DURING THE HOLOCAUST AND WHO ARE SEARCHING FOR SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS?

FICOWSKA, Elzbieta, born in 1940 in Warsaw to Hena & Joseph Rochnman-Kopel. (Taken out of the Warsaw Ghetto).

LESZCZYNSKA-AJZEN, Maria, born 1933 in Konin near Poznan. Searching for family Lipszyc, Szykier and Ejzen from Konin as well as any other family from Konin.

BUDNICKA, (Hena Kuczer) born to Cyrka and Lejzor Kuczer from Warsaw.

OCHLEWSKA, Maria (Ester Horn), born approx. 1940 to Benjamin and Perl Horn from Chelman Lubelski.

ZENOWICZ, Wilhilm (Wilinke Fink), son of Menkin-Butrymaniec from Lithuania.

PODGORSKA, Krystyna (Chudy), daughter of Izaak and Irfene Sztyler from Lodz.

KAMINSKA, Maria, daughter of Sara and Sender Linder from Lwow (Lemberg).

HELA, Tos, daughter of Sala and Szymon Levi. In Lwow her grandfather was a Rabbi.

ASSENDRYCH, Basia born probably in Warsaw or Garwolin, in 1942. There was a note with name E.A. Zajdler-Szapiro plus a gold "Cyma" watch attached to the child.

LIKIERMAN, Irene, born 1933 in Warsaw is looking for her sister.

If you have any information on the above, call ANNA CHESZES 1-416-665-9592 or 1-416-229-0207 or

MARTA SHEMTOV 1-416-229-0207 (CANADA).

JUDELS, descendants of Judel Jacobs, born 1725 in Poland, came to the United States and perhaps also to Canada. Contact W.R.Muller, Einsteinlaan 23, 2641 ZL PIJNACKER, The Netherlands. Tel: 01736-95512.

Kathryn Michael is researching the Michael/ Michaels family. She is cross-referencing any information received and will respond to enquiries. (Enclose two international reply coupons). 56 Greenway Close Friern Barnet London N11 3NS England.

**What's Happening in
Special Interest Groups**

**Vol 1 No
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PIOTRKOV TRYBUNALSKI RELIEF ASSOCIATION

This is a non-political and non-profit fraternal society established in 1914 which publishes a "New Bulletin" in which genealogical enquiries could be made, and which contains much material which might be of genealogical interest.

Ben Giladi is the editor and the mailing address is: Joseph Gold, 135-32 82nd Avenue, Kew Gardens, NY 11435, USA Tel: New York 268 4907.

Our member, Sir Asher Joel is a subscriber and has made some copies available to us.

Nearby towns like Tomaszow Mazowiecki and Belchatow are also mentioned in stories in the Bulletin. The present Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, is a child survivor from Piotrkow Trybunalski, and his brother Naphtali Lavie, too.

SLUTSK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This is a society devoted to the history and genealogy of the town of Slutsk in Byelorussia, 101 Kms. south of Minsk. For details write to HARRY BOONIN, 112 Pocasset Road, Philadelphia, PA 19115, USA.

Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf

Sophie Caplan

Vol 1 No
4



(continued from last issue)

Those books with an asterisk (*) in front are held by our Society, books in the personal library of some of our members are marked with two asterisks (* *) and books marked with a ☆ can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held.

A few more books on Eastern European countries have come to light or have recently been purchased.

BOOKS ON POLAND

* * WILLIAM F. HOFFMAN "**POLISH SURNAMES: ORIGINS AND MEANINGS**", no publication date but probably 1993, Polish Genealogical Society of America, 984 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60622, USA, \$AUS 34.00. A chatty relaxed compilation which includes some Jewish Polish surnames and their origins. Also includes a list of reference works on Polish genealogy in Polish and in English. Very useful.

* "**A HISTORICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF POLISH TOWNS, VILLAGES AND REGIONS (Except Warsaw and Krakow)**", 1990, Polish Genealogical Society, Chicago Ill. lists books of reference on each town or province from a Polish non-Jewish viewpoint, but these books may also contain information on Jews. Books listed are mostly in Polish.

* * SAM HOFFENBERG WITH PATRICK GIRARD, "**LE CAMP DE PONIATOWA, la liquidation des derniers Juifs de Varsovie**" in French "The Poniatowa camp, the liquidation of the last Jews of Warsaw", Paris, 1988, Bibliophane, Jewish Documentation Centre. A book of historical witness.

* * RAPHAEL MAHLER "**HASIDISM AND THE JEWISH ENLIGHTENMENT, THEIR CONFRONTATION IN GALICIA AND POLAND IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY**", translated from the Yiddish by Eugene Orenstein, first published in English in 1985, Jewish Publication Society of America. A scholarly work giving the political-historical background to the Enlightenment.

* * M. J. ROSMAN "**THE LORD'S JEWS, MAGNATE-JEWISH RELATIONS IN THE POLISH-LITHUANIAN COMMONWEALTH DURING THE 18TH CENTURY**", 1991, Cambridge, Mass. Centre for Jewish and for Ukrainian Studies. Scholarly.

* * GERSHON DAVID HUNDERT "**THE JEWS IN A POLISH PRIVATE TOWN, THE CASE OF OPATOW IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY**", 1992, The Johns Hopkins

University Press, Baltimore, is a scholarly detailed account of life in a small Polish town. Not specifically genealogical, but like the Mahler and Rosman books gives a good background to life for Jews in Poland in past centuries.

Three more Holocaust-related books on Jews in Poland:

* * NORMAN DAVIES and ANTONY POLONSKY, Editors, "**JEWS IN EASTERN POLAND AND THE USSR, 1939-46**", 1991, Macmillan, London, is an excellent overview of what happened there by a top group of scholars from Israel, U.K., Poland, and USA, all experts on their part of the subject.

* * REUBEN AINSZTEIN "**JEWISH RESISTANCE IN NAZI-OCCUPIED EASTERN EUROPE**", 1974, Paul Elek, London, is a book with a strong viewpoint of pride in Jewish resistance, less scholarly but with much genealogical information.

* * SHIMON HUBERBAND "**KIDDUSH HASHEM: JEWISH RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL LIFE IN POLAND DURING THE HOLOCAUST**", 1987, Ktav Publishing House and Yeshiva University Press, New York, translated from the Hebrew. This book is of genealogical as well as of historical interest as it has a good index with names as well as place names.

* The Society owns two copies of the **BIULETYN ZYDOWSKIEGO INSTYTUTU HISTORYCZNEGO W POLSCE** which means BULLETIN OF THE JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE OF POLAND in Warsaw, 1989 and 1990, with brief English language summaries of the main articles on end pages. One article relates the deportation of Jews from Galicia to the extermination camp of Belzec in 1942.

* * LESZEK LUDWIKOWSKI "**THE OLD SYNAGOGUE OF CRACOW (former Kazimierz district)**", translated into English by Marianna Abrahamowicz, undated but circa 1982, Cracow. A booklet on the fifteenth century synagogue, architecture interwoven with the history of Jewish settlement in Cracow and Kazimierz.

BOOKS ON UKRAINE

* * HARRY E. BURROUGHS "**TALE OF A VANISHED LAND, MEMORIES OF A CHILDHOOD IN OLD RUSSIA**", 1930, London, George Allen and Unwin. Story set in KASHOFFKA aka KOZACHUVKA, Ukraine, 45 Kms NE of Chernovitz/Chernovtsy. A simple autobiographical account of life in pre-revolutionary Russia.

* L. MAZO and Z. YARGINA, "**WOODEN SYNAGOGUES**", a recent publication, possibly 1994, in the series Masterpieces of Jewish Art, published in Moscow. Lavishly illustrated, this little book in both English and Russian also has a useful detailed historical section.

* In the same series, D. GOBERMAN "**JEWISH TOMBSTONES IN UKRAINE AND MOLDOVA**", 1993, Moscow, Masterpieces of Jewish Art. Many tombstones clearly illustrated, if one can decipher the Hebrew inscriptions.

BOOKS ON RUSSIA

☆ REUBEN AINSZTEIN, "**JEWISH RESISTANCE IN NAZI-OCCUPIED EASTERN EUROPE**", 1974, Elek Books, London, mentioned above, also deals with Russia, Lithuania and Latvia.

* CHAYA LIFCHITZ and GERSHON SHAPIRO, Editors "**UNDER FIRE, THE STORIES OF JEWISH HEROES OF THE SOVIET UNION**", 1988, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. Originally published in Russian in Israel, this book is a compilation based on Soviet publications such as books, articles, newspaper accounts, plus additions from Israeli sources. Very useful for genealogy as it has a table of contents giving the list of the heroes with full names including patronymics and a photo of each hero described, as well as birth, marriage and death details. Bibliography in Russian and Hebrew.

BOOKS ON BOHEMIA, MORAVIA and CZECHOSLOVAKIA

☆ JIRI VSETECKA and JIRI KUDELA "**THE FATE OF JEWISH PRAGUE**", 1993, Grafoprint Neuberg, Prague, is one of the small avalanche of photographic studies of the Old Jewish quarter of Prague directed at the post-Cold War Jewish tourist. Lavishly illustrated by photographs it has a text given in five languages: Czech, German, English, French and Italian, giving some basic facts about the history of Jews in Prague.

* * HUGO GOLD "**GEDENKBUCH DER UNTERGANGENEN JUDENGEMEINDEN MAEHRENS**", 1974, Olameinu Press, Tel Aviv. This Memorial Book of the Disappeared Jewish Communities of Moravia, is part of a series researched by the industrious late Dr Hugo Gold on several Central European communities. It is a treasury of fact and names about large and small communities, lavishly illustrated with photographs of persons, mostly male, including former Moravian Jews in USA and in Israel. A boon for the genealogist. Still available from Hugo Gold's widow for DM40, or the equivalent in \$US. Write Olameinu Press, POB 3002, Tel Aviv, Israel.

* * MICHAEL RIFF "**THE FACE OF SURVIVAL, JEWISH LIFE IN EASTERN EUROPE PAST AND PRESENT**", 1992, Vallentine Mitchell, London, is mainly a pictorial book with seldom seen photographs of Jews in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Romania from the 1930's to the present day, with a text telling the basic history of Jews in those countries and a few selected biographies of prominent Jews from those countries.

* * MILADA VILIMKOVA "**THE PRAGUE GHETTO**", 1993, Aventinum, Prague, combines the history of the Jewish quarter with that of its inhabitants. The author is the widow of the Hebrew scholar and historian Otto Muneles, who survived because the Nazis set him the task of cataloguing all the Hebrew books they assembled for their proposed museum of an extinct race. Milada Vilimkova was an art historian renowned in her own field and had access to her husband's papers and manuscript. An important book, lavishly illustrated. Can be purchased from Beth Hatefutsot, the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, in Tel Aviv.

BOOKS ON AUSTRIA

There are a number of general histories of Jews in Austria, or more specifically in Vienna.

* * JOSEF FRAENKEL, Editor, **"THE JEWS OF AUSTRIA: ESSAYS ON THEIR LIFE, HISTORY AND DESTRUCTION"**, 1967, Vallentine Mitchell, London, gives a basic understanding implied by the title.

* * ROBERT S. WISTRICH **"THE JEWS OF VIENNA IN THE AGE OF FRANZ JOSEPH"**, 1989, Oxford University Press, Oxford, is a scholarly book of history, on Jews in Vienna in the second half of the nineteenth century and with names and personal details on the more prominent Jews.

☆ HUGO GOLD **"GESCHICHTE DER JUDEN IN OESTERREICH"**, 1971, Olameinu Press, Tel Aviv, is a Memorial History of the Jews in Austria, encompassing towns like Baden, Innsbruck, Graz, Linz, St Polten, but not Vienna or the eastern province of Burgenland, which are dealt with in separate volumes. German language compendium of facts and many names, photographs and brief biographical notes on about two hundred notable Austrian Jews, including many born in Czechoslovakia, Galicia, Hungary or Romania. Possibly still available from Olameinu Press, POB 3002, Tel Aviv, Israel.

☆ HUGO GOLD **"GESCHICHTE DER JUDEN IN WIEN, EIN GEDENKBUCH"**, 1966, Olameinu Press, Tel Aviv, is a memorial book on the history and institutions of the Jews of Vienna, in German, containing historical facts, many names, potted biographies and photographs, mostly of males. Probably still available from Olameinu Press, POB 3002, Tel Aviv, Israel for DM40.00 or its equivalent in \$US.

* * HUGO GOLD **"GEDENKBUCH DER UNTERGEGANGENEN JUDENGEMEINDEN DES BURGENLANDES"**, 1970, Olameinu Press, Tel Aviv, is a memorial book of the history and citizens of the destroyed Jewish communities of the Burgenland, Austria's easternmost province, adjacent to Hungary. The Jews of this province were the least assimilated, and their communities were destroyed immediately after the Anschluss in March 1938 when the Nazis came to power in Austria, even before Kristallnacht. Photos of former synagogues and personalities. Many names and stories of individual communities.

☆ GEORGE CLARE **"LAST WALTZ IN VIENNA"** is the best known autobiographical story of a Jewish family from Vienna, and deservedly so, although the author shows the usual prejudice against his Galician forebears by former Viennese Jews, pretending that Stanislawow was in Bukovina. May still be in print.

* * TRUDI KANTER **"SOME GIRLS, SOME HATS AND HITLER, a love story"**, 1984, Neville Spearman, Suffolk, is an autobiographical account told with a light touch, of a childhood and youth in Vienna in the 1930's.

☆ HELENA LADANYI **"WHERE DO YOU PEOPLE COME FROM?"**, 1988, Spectrum Publications, Melbourne, \$AUS 15.95. May still be available from Spectrum Publications. P.O. Box 75, Richmond, Victoria, 3121, Australia. This is also an autobiographical account of someone of Viennese birth who spent most of the war years in Hungary.

☆ PETER KOHN "**RACHEL'S CHANCE**", 1987, Hudson Hawthorn, Melbourne, is a novel written by a journalist on the Australian Jewish News in Melbourne, fictionalising the lives of his parents. Although the second half of the book is based on their lives in wartime Shanghai, the first part about Vienna in the 1930's and particularly around the time of the Anschluss is very moving. Still available from the author, Unit 23/310 Warrigal Road, Cheltenham, Melbourne, 3192 Vic., Australia.

* * STEVEN BELLER "**VIENNA AND THE JEWS, 1867-1938, A CULTURAL HISTORY**", 1989, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K. has a good index, excellent footnotes and mentions the names of those Jews who played a role in any of the arts, including those who converted to Christianity.

* MARLENE J. NORST and JOHANNA McBRIDE "**AUSTRIANS AND AUSTRALIA**", 1988, Athena Press, Sydney, is a marvelous little book about Austrians who emigrated to Australia from 1788 to 1988. Written by two "New Australians", one of Jewish descent, it has lots of names and background of utility to the genealogist. Many of the emigrants featured are Jews from Austria and parts of the former Austrian empire. Still available from the author, M. NORST, 107 Kurraba Road, Neutral Bay, Sydney NSW 2089. \$AUS 17 plus \$2.50 postage (\$8 overseas) from Athena Press, PO Box 1497, Potts Point, NSW 2011 Australia.

☆ KARL BITTMAN, Editor, "**STRAUSS TO MATILDA, VIENNESE IN AUSTRALIA, 1938-1988**", 1988, The Wenkart Foundation, Sydney, is a most interesting compilation of short biographies together with historical treatment of events connected with the Anschluss which caused mass emigration from Austria of the subjects of the biographies. Marlene Norst also had a hand in this book, which is about refugees who fled Hitler either because they were Jews or descended from Jews, or opponents of Nazism. Possibly still in print. \$AUS 25.

BOOKS ON YUGOSLAVIA

There are few books available in Australia on the Jews of Yugoslavia. This may be the only one.

* * HARRIET PASS FREIDENREICH "**THE JEWS OF YUGOSLAVIA, A QUEST FOR COMMUNITY**", 1979, Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, is a scholarly study of Yugoslav Jewry encompassing the communities of Sarajevo, Belgrade and Zagreb, now divided into Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia. Mainly historical and sociological in scope, with some biographical material of interest to genealogists.

BOOKS ON HUNGARY

We have recently received the first two memorial books of Hungarian victims of the Holocaust, purchased in May at Yad Vashem.

* DR GABRIEL BAR-SHAKED "**NAMES OF THE DEPORTED JEWS FROM HADJU COUNTY, HUNGARY**", no date of publication given but from internal evidence 1989 or 1990, Yad Vashem, B'nei B'rak. The foreword is in Hebrew, in Hungarian and in English. The lists consist of surnames, first names, names of wife if a man, but not husband's name, mother's maiden and first name, year of birth for most localities and address. Names are grouped according to localities of former domicile.

* DR GABRIEL BAR-SHAKED "**NAMES OF JEWISH VICTIMS OF HUNGARIAN LABOUR BATTALIONS**", no publication date but probably 1991-1992, Yad Vashem. So far we have only acquired volume 2, for victims whose surname starts with letters K-Z. The lists give family and first name of victim, mother's surname and first name, date and place of birth, date and place where last seen and a number for identification. The victims all appear to be males, as women were evidently not taken into labour battalions.

* * WILLIAM O. McCAGG "**JEWISH NOBLES AND GENIUSES IN MODERN HUNGARY**", 1972, Columbia University Press, is a scholarly work giving background history and sociology of one part of Hungarian Jewry.

☆ CHARLES FENYVESI "**WHEN THE WORLD WAS WHOLE**", 1991, Penguin Picador, London, previously published by Viking, New York. Still in print. An evocative set of family memoirs of 19th and early 20th century Hungary, of farming Jews near Debrecen.

* * ZOLTAN and EDI SCHWARZ "**THE BOY IN THE SOLDIER'S CAP**", circa 1985, Sydney. An autobiographical account of life in a Hungarian village during World War II and deportation to Auschwitz and survival.

LONDON'S JEWISH WEST END

This past northern summer an exhibition was held at the London Museum of Jewish Life about Jews who lived in the West End of London, and a book has been produced. Information from Mrs Sally Fiber, 8 New Farm Lane, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1HD, England.

**Computer Bulletin Boards
for Genealogical Research**

Gary Luke

**Vol 1 No
4**



A computer bulletin board is like a notice board where people all over the world pin up information or requests for assistance about various subjects. The responses might come from anywhere. Except for notices marked as "private", all notices are able to be read by anyone.

Among the hundreds of notice boards, each for a specific subject, some are relevant to genealogy: Australian, German, Spanish, British Isles, Polish, and Jewish. Whatever interest you may have, there is probably a bulletin board for similar aficionados - cooking, model trains, political discussions, disability resources, joke swapping, there are thousands of people in almost every country tapping into these systems.

Getting started can be a bit confusing because of the jargon used, and also because of the organizational structure of such a mass of messages passing around the phone lines of the planet. It's best to have someone more experienced help you at first.

To connect to a bulletin board (the normal abbreviation is BBS) an electronic unit called a modem is plugged between the computer and a normal telephone point.

Modems cost from about \$150 to \$600, some cost up to around \$2000 but the extra features are not necessary for BBS's.

You also need communications software for the computer, which starts from as low as \$20 or so for only a disk. For about \$150 to \$250 commercial software with manuals is available.

Initial membership of a BBS as a visitor is usually free. To upgrade your access and time per day typically costs \$25 or \$35 for a year. It's a very small contribution to the cost of the operator's equipment, phone lines, and service.

To give an idea of the accidental encounters that might help your research, these are extracts from a few messages from the Polish genealogy echo (or message area). I've reduced the senders' name to initials as I haven't asked their permission to reproduce their messages.

Polish Genealogy

#8 Dt: 23-03-94 21:23:00

By: L... W.....

To: S... M.....

Re: Przybylski

Skip,

My gggrandfather was Benzi PREBISH b. ca 1875 Russia. I think the name comes from PRZYBYSZ, I don't know Polish, but it seems pretty close to yours. A friend in Czech. told my mom that this is a common name there, unfortunately. Anyone researching this name?

** Origin: N.W. Family History BBS, Oregon City, OR 1-503-657-6578 (1:105/222)*

Two strangers having a public conversation open to eavesdroppers, one in Oregon (USA) has an ancestor with a name similar to an ancestor of mine. I posted the next message.

Polish Genealogy

#82 Dt: 22-06-94 01:11:00

By: Gary Luke

To: L... W.....

Re: Przybylski

My great-grandparents came from Makov, just north of Warsaw, first to Scotland in 1877 then to Australia in 1884. His name was something like Danker or Danser, hers was known in Australia as Prubulter. I know nothing at all about her family or original town. My father, also from Poland, suggested that it could have been "Prz..." and that the vowels may have been simplified for English speakers. Her main language was Yiddish, practically no Polish. Does anything of this vague tale tally with yours?

** Origin: Custom Built BBS, Sydney AUS (02) 660 8597 (3:712/517)*

When I showed this to my father he thought that Przybylski looked too much like a goyish (non-Jewish) name, that my note about Yiddish would cause a nil response. About 10 days later:

Polish Genealogy
#74 Dt: 03-07-94 01:33:52
By: L... W.....
To: Gary Luke
Re: Przybylski

Gary,
My grandfather's name is spelled Prebish and I have also been told that 'Prz' is the likely beginning of the name.
Someone looked up the name for me in a book and that is how I have come up with the spelling I am now looking for.
My great grandfather was born in Russia and so was his father, but with all the changes of the borders in Europe, I do not doubt that the name is Polish. My grandfather understood Yiddish, my great grandfather was fluent in Yiddish, neither spoke Polish or Russian. Story sounds similar to your question.
To be continuedMaybe the other person of the original message that I butted in on has a similar uncertainty about the same name. I'll send him a message to find out his version. Part of a message on the Australian genealogy echo which was addressed to "All":

Area: Australian Genealogy echo
912 Date: 08 Jul 94 10:02:03
From: M..... H...
To: All
Subj: GOLDWATER / GOLDWASSER
Hi All,

I have a modernless friend who is researching worldwide GOLDWATER/GOLDWASSER. The family originally from Poland/Latvia c1880 to UK, c1860 to USA? to Canada? Australia? NZ. Abraham GOLDWATER, who went to London c1880, was the father of five. Leon GOLDWATER b 25 May 1881 d 8 April 1951 m. Louise BUTCHER on 21 Feb 1905, he was an Auctioneer and Boxing promoter in England. His sons Benny, Freddy and Billy boxed under the name SHARKEY. Benjamin GOLDWATER/GOLDWASSER was a Bookmaker in Glasgow, Scotland, operating under the name GOLD.

I replied
4 Date: 12 Jul 94 03:38:25
From: Gary Luke
To: M..... H...
Subj: Re: GOLDWATER / GOLDWASSER

This might be an unexpected hint the names, places, dates, and professions suggest that the Goldwasser family were part of a major migration of Jews from east of Poland late last century. Do you know what area or town in Poland or Latvia they came from?

I wonder if his friend will want to know more. Maybe this is a fresh lead for them.

The BBS which I use has just recently, by special request, started bringing the Jewish genealogy messages into Sydney so I'm not yet familiar with the type of responses which might come through. It's on Custom Built BBS - (02) 660-8597 and comes into Australia via Axiom BBS of Melbourne - (03) 509-4417, it's also in Perth on (09) 305-2897, and a general genealogy system in Melbourne is on (03) 435-9934. The Sydney system operator is a member of the Society of Australian Genealogists so he runs more genealogy message areas than most BBS's. Axiom specializes in Jewish interests and carries a number of discussion areas.

In a different area of a BBS there are usually hundreds of files of information or programmes. The list following is a sample of a few from the Jewish genealogy files area.

JGSNEWS.ZIP 13-06-93	List of Jewish Genealogical Newsletters from Masspocha
HOLOCOST.ZIP 13-06-93	List of Holocaust information centres from Internet
JRYISKOR.TXT 28-06-92	Robinson Booksellers list of Yizkor books
YIZKOR.TXT 03-01-89	Institutions with collections of Yizkor books

These can be downloaded from the BBS to your own computer for reference. Some of these files are from researchers with interests in particular towns, families, or topics which might coincide with your own. Results of your own research can also be uploaded for distribution around the world if you think there may be items of interest to others.

I have a large list of shipping references, births, deaths and marriages, and some events in the UK, of the name Symons from around the middle of last century, as a result of trying to track down part of my lineage. If I put this list into the files section of the BBS and place a message to others that it's there, at least the hours I spent searching these records won't be wasted, and at best, someone might respond with a connection I didn't expect.

Using a computer bulletin board adds a powerful resource to your research. It puts you in touch with a worldwide community of genealogy experts and amateurs, and increases your chance of 'accidental' discoveries.

Gary Luke is a computer consultant and an active member of our Society.

**Forebears Australian
Family Finder**

**Vol 1 No
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00009 GILLIAN BAKER, 51 Marine Drive, Oatley, 2223, NSW. Would be grateful for any information about SIMON KOLINSKY KING, known as "Shima" who married Mary Elizabeth Violet Gelholm and lived with her in 1930's in various addresses in East Sydney and Darlinghurst areas.

00010 GAYLE KEYS-RILEY, 612 E Live Oak Apt A, San Gabriel, California 91776, USA. Tel: 1-818-287-7980. Seeking Jewish-descended family NAUGHTON in Australia.

00011 BARRY SILVER, 1416 Rock Glen Avenue, Glendale, CA 91205-2019, USA, Tel:1-818- 240-6631. Researching Australian Zimmermans, particularly STELLA ZIMMERMAN who married ROSENTHAL. Their daughter HINDA married BEN GREEN and died on 15 July 1954. Ben was active in the Jewish community. Descendants sought.

00012 BERNARD ISSERLIS, 9 rue de Marnes, Ville D'Avray, 92410, FRANCE is seeking anyone with surname ISSERLIS or ISSERLES.


00013 BEATRICE BOULOUNAUD-JUNKO, 24 rue Jean Rougerie, 87000 Limoges, France. Tel: 33-55- 0515-49. Seeking descendants of family JUNKO from WERCHRATA, district of Przemysl, Galicia, Poland.

00014 Mrs A. RICHARDS, 21 Pacey Road, Upper Brookfield, Queensland, 4069. Tel: (61) 7-374-1359. Seeking information on ancestry of JACOB MOSENTHAL born Kassel, Germany 1839 and died there 1900. Spent adult years in Breslau now Wroclaw where children George August born 1881, Richard Paul in 1884, John Barnard in 1887. George married Gretel Karkenstein. Will share information.

00015 ELLEN NADLER GOTTFRIED, 48 Sylvia Lane, Plainview, New York, NY 11803, USA. Seeking Holocaust survivor great-uncle or his descendants. MAX SOLOMON came to Australia after 1945, married REGINA, and had at least one daughter, JANET SOLOMON who married an accountant whose name may have been ALLAN RAY. Last known address was 3 Rockley Street, Bondi 2026.

00016 SHARON ROSE, 62 Boxtree Lane, Harrow Weald, Middlesex HA3 6JR, England. Seeking HANNAH BAGNO, born in Melbourne from survivor father Judah Bagno. Parents may have died as Hannah was cared for by Chabad as a child and may have been adopted. She visited her paternal relatives the Ginsbergs, fifteen to twenty years ago in England. We are related through Ginsberg and Bronfenson families.

00017 ELLEN KAHN, 3416 Ithaca Road, Olympia Fields, IL 60461, USA. Various families from Trier, Hunsruck, Rheinland, Ruhr, Wurtemberg and Bavaria: Bonem, Jacobs, Feiner, Kahn, Levy, Frank, Strauss, Baum, Kaufman, Lob/Low, Stern, Spiegel, May, Lukas/Lucas, Cahn, Landsberg, Schwab, Metzger, Stein, Goldstein, Rosenfeld, Seligmann, Steiner, Feldenheimer, Lippmann, Gundelfinger, Neumann, Schlesinger, Rimon, Niemeier, Scheile.

Jewish Genealogical Family Finder		Vol 1 No 4		
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Our society is a member of the international ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES which publishes quarterly editions of a loose-leaf Jewish Genealogical Family Finder of which we have just received the latest September edition. The price to individuals is \$US 40 per copy, which is probably

around \$AUS 55. There is also a microfiche version available for \$US 10.00 plus \$US 1.50 for postage and handling. The Society has a copy of this as well. Bank drafts should be made out to Avotaynu, Inc. and sent to P.O. Box 900, Teaneck, NJ 07666, USA. As a member of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, your first 16 entries in the JGFF are free of charge. Ask Rieke Nash or Sophie Caplan for forms. It is a magnificent resource for Jewish genealogists.

Search for Missing Relatives		Vol 1 No 4		
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One of the great resources for doing Jewish genealogy in Israel is the SEARCH BUREAU FOR MISSING RELATIVES, run by dedicated Batya Unterschatz on behalf of the Jewish Agency. For personal visits when in Jerusalem it is at 3 Ibn Gvirol Street, around the corner from the Jewish Agency Building in Hamelech George Street. For enquiries by letter, write to Search Bureau for Missing Relatives, POB 92, Jerusalem, 91920, Israel. And please enclose a fee of at least \$10, as this bureau exists on a shoestring.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 1 No 5		
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We have just completed the third year of our society's existence, with close to one hundred members living in five states of the Australian Commonwealth and some overseas. Volume two will start with our next issue, and we anticipate that from now on each volume will consist of four issues only. Eagle-eyed readers may have noticed that two issues ago we became respectable and acquired an International Standard Serial Number as part of our title, ISSN 1322-6401, through the good offices of Stuart Shaw and the National Library of Australia.

It is the season of Chanukah, dedication, the festival commemorating the liberation of Judea by the Maccabees from Greco-Syrian oppression, a festival we celebrate by the lighting of candles over eight days, eating latkes and soufganiot, and the singing of Chanukah hymns. Due to the proximity of Christmas, it has also become the season of the year when Jewish families exchange gifts, although this used to take place at Purim, in

February-March. It's certainly easier to shop for gifts now, when everybody else is, too.

We are approaching the end of the working year for most Australians, and the beginning of well-deserved summer holidays. From mid-December our society will close up shop until early February, but we are already able to give you advance notice of the 1995 dates of our monthly Sunday morning workshops at the Reverend Katz Library of the North Shore Synagogue on the next page.

In case you wonder why these are not on a fixed Sunday of the month, it is because we take account of Jewish religious holidays and the times when the synagogue requires the library. We are grateful to Mr David Blitz, president of the North Shore Synagogue, to Mr Toby Weiner, the executive secretary, and to the whole congregation, for making the facilities of the synagogue library available to us, and we hope this pleasant association will continue for a long time. It is helped, of course, by the fact that Rieke Nash, our vice-president, is also a very active member of the Reverend Katz Library committee, and is able to coordinate and supervise our mutual needs.

Several activities have been planned for 1995. On Sunday 5th March 1995 at Shalom College, University of NSW, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., will take place our third Seminar for Beginners in Genealogy. The seminar is being jointly planned by Rieke Nash and David Laufer, and the day's educational activities will take place under the leadership of Gael Hammer. David Laufer (Tel: 412 1259 a.h.) and Rieke Nash (427-6075) are organising some of our members and others, who have skills in the various areas of genealogy, to pass on some of their knowledge at the seminar. If you have had some valuable experiences that you would like to pass on to others, please contact David or Rieke. A 20-minute presentation is envisaged.

On Tuesday 28th March 1995 at 7.45 p.m. the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society and the Australian Jewish Historical Society are jointly sponsoring a lecture by Dr Anthony P. Joseph, M.B., B.S., of Birmingham, U.K., who is an overseas member of each society. He will speak to us on "ANGLO-JEWISH HISTORY AND ITS GENEALOGIES: A PERSONAL VIEW", a talk he gave initially at his recent inauguration as president of the Jewish Historical Society of England in London. Dr Joseph, who is a distinguished genealogical researcher in both England and Australia, is well-known to many of our members. It is expected that the lecture will take place at the Great Synagogue Israel Green Hall, 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

Our 1995 Annual General Meeting is planned for Sunday 23rd April in the evening, just after Passover 1995. All executive and committee positions are open for election and we hope that many new members will come forth for election, or even old members who have not previously made themselves available. You will shortly receive nomination forms and are asked to seriously consider nominating for a position.

In case you are contemplating a trip to the USA in 1995, we want to remind you that the next Jewish genealogical conference will take place in Washington D.C. from 25th to 29th June 1995 at the Hotel Washington, and that this will include special access to the USA Holocaust Museum and its research facilities, the Library of Congress, etc.. For further details please contact the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, P.O. Box 412, Vienna, VA 22183-0412, USA. In June or July 1996 a similar conference will take place in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

A lot of work goes into compiling and publishing the KOSHER KOALA and trying to make it interesting and informative. We get a lot of feedback from our readers both in Australia and overseas, telling us that they enjoy reading it. Most of the work is carried out by Rieke Nash and by me, and by those who supply us with articles bearing their names as authors. We are constantly looking for new contributors to describe their research experiences, their trip to the country of their forebears, or the ways and means in achieving success in genealogy. Although your editor reserves the right to select articles, and to edit and delete, much care is taken to preserve each contributor's individual style and voice. So do not be shy. Send us your contribution to our postal address at P.O.B. 154, NORTHBRIDGE, NSW, 2063. And have a wonderful summer holiday and a good rest.

Pieces of the Past

**Ralph B.
Bennett M.D.**

**Vol 1 No
5**



As a child, I remember that my Uncle Milos had a gloomy and cavernous railroad flat type apartment on North Racine Avenue in Chicago. It was a wonderful place for us kids to play hide and seek in, which we did whenever we came to visit. We used to

go there sometimes for marvellous dinners that my aunt and uncle used to host on special Sundays where the whole family would gather around; it was totally unlike the traditions of today, where we have small families and they're scattered all over the country. After the meal, Grandpa would make music on his stringed bandura, which was an instrument like a balalaika, and everyone would join in the singing.

The first time I can remember my grandfather Maier telling me stories about my ancestors' lives in the "old country" was at one of those family gatherings when I was a little boy of about six or seven. On that particular Sunday I must have done something naughty. I can't really remember what it was, but my father had chastised me and made me go and sit by myself in the corner. My grandfather, who was a wonderful old gentleman with a white handlebar moustache, came over to comfort me by telling me one of his secrets; when he was just about my age he had also done something naughty, much naughtier than the little affront that I had committed! What was it? He had gone out to the barn to see the new calf and he had started playing with a lantern; inadvertently, he had set the whole farm on fire! Maier had been born on that farm in 1876, in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains in territory that belonged at that time to Austria-Hungary; now suddenly, his family had become homeless. His parents were forced to divide up their family among various relatives and Maier was sent to live with a cousin in the city of Lemberg (now Lvov, Russia). Later on the cousin arranged for him to become an apprentice to a millinery manufacturer; there Maier grew up working in the haberdashery trade, first as a maker of hats, and later on as a salesman.

As I grew older, I learned more bits and pieces of grandpa's life story. The years had passed until 1904. Then one day, when Maier was twenty-eight years old, the woman who was to become my grandmother walked into the shop. Her name was Jenny Lapidos. Jenny was only eighteen years old at the time, but had been in business for herself already for three years. She and her sister Ida travelled all through Galicia (an area that is now in Southern Poland) selling women's fine haberdashery items which were manufactured in a workshop run by Jenny herself. Quite a remarkable achievement for an eighteen year old! She was beautiful, petite and bright as a penny. Jenny took one look at Maier and decided that he was the man of her dreams. They were married in 1905.

It was Jenny who first had the idea to come to America. She was ambitious and felt that business opportunities in the New World were much greater than anything she could ever hope to achieve in Galicia. Picking up and leaving was easier said than done, however; I remember hearing about all the many hardships they had to face along the way. First of all, by the time they decided to leave, Jenny was already pregnant with my father. I also knew that people had cheated them and robbed them of their money while they were en route. But I never realized how incredibly difficult their trip was until only recently, when I learned something about the experiences of the immigrants who were leaving Europe to come to the New World at the beginning of this century.

I had discovered the itinerary via which my grandparents had travelled when I obtained from the United States Marine and Navigational Service an extract of the record of their ship's passenger list. The document stated that the couple had "emigrated to the United States from Rotterdam, Holland on the vessel Noordam on

February 9, 1906 and had arrived at the port of New York City on February 20, 1906."

Some further research revealed that at the turn of the last century, Rotterdam was a major port for the exodus of refugees from Eastern Europe, along with Liverpool, Hamburg, Bremen and Southampton. The main shipping company using this Port was the Holland-American Line. In the year 1913, for example, over 82,000 immigrants sailed from Rotterdam to the New World. In the book *Days of Our Years*, Pierre van Paassen, who grew up in the Netherlands, described Rotterdam in those years. He wrote how, at the age of ten he saw all of the immigrants passing through on their way to the new land of freedom;

"Thousands...were waiting to board ships for the great unknown. It was evening when we arrived on the wharves. In the sheds, by the unsteady light of a few petrol lamps, we could see that mass of fugitives lying or sitting on their bales and sacks of baggage. Infants wailed. Young girls shrieked in their sleep. Old men were sitting forlornly in the open doorways, staring with unseeing eyes at the river which at that hour was sprinkled with silver by the last rays of a sinking sun. Most of these people were in rags. Hunger and long years of destitution had left an ashen imprint on their faces. There was an air of hopeless impotence about their movements; a dumb defeatist resignation, almost unhuman. We learned that many of the emigrants had not eaten for days. Others had spent their last kopecks in buying bread in local bakeries. Naturally, certain charitable organizations had done their utmost to relieve the distress, but their resources had proved inadequate. Every train from the east brought new contingents of poverty-stricken starvelings who had invested their last resources in a steamship ticket."

Not only did the couple leave Eastern Europe to come to a new country, but they also discovered that they had come into a whole new technological world as well. There were all kinds of inventions here including the telephone, phonograph, and automobile, which were entirely new to their eyes. They were also shocked to find that they had arrived in their new homeland in the midst of a financial crisis which became known as "the panic of 1907." So their early years here were economically very rough. They had gone from being substantial business people, to being suddenly quite poor while struggling to adjust to a new language, culture and locale. One thing I'd often wondered about is how my family had acquired our very British sounding surname Bennett. Again, it was only recently that the truth came to light, due to the discovery of an old document long forgotten amidst my deceased father's papers. It seems that his father Maier's original family name was Beresteczyk. After consulting with a number of linguistic scholars, I found out that the name was Polish in origin and meant "from the city of birch trees." The name referred to Maier's family's ancestral origin from the Polish city of Brest-Litovsk, which is now the Russian city of Brest. In any case, after my grandparents' arrival in North America in 1906, Maier found that his unwieldy name was not only unpronounceable, but also totally unspellable in English. He very quickly "Americanized" it and shortened it to Bennett.

I often think now how unfortunate it is that I never thought to ask my parents and grandparents more about our family's background while they were still alive and could tell me about it. Now that I've developed a thirst for knowledge about my

heritage, I have to rely on research from books, plus the scattered jigsaw pieces of my childhood memories, to put together the picture. But it is a quest I relish!

Ralph Bennett is a physician in Hayward, California. He first became interested in his family's history when he discovered that his wife's ancestors were among the first Dutch Jews to settle in Surinam, later Dutch Guyana, north-east South America, in the 1660's. Dr Bennett has published over three dozen articles on medical subjects, history, Jewish genealogy, art history, anthropology, and economics.

**More About John Henry
Richter**

**Robert
Beecher**

**Vol 1 No
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I was sad to read about John Richter's death in "The Kosher Koala". I corresponded with him for several years from 1984 and met him in his home and "underground" archives in August 1985.

John Richter was a short, stocky man with a total dedication to Jewish-German genealogy and a sincere wish to help anyone in that field. His enthusiasm often led him from one point to the next, sometimes leading a long way from where you started. But he was so enthusiastic and fired up that you were reluctant to pull him back.

He told us that his interest in genealogy started when he was a boy and later on, when he emigrated to the USA, he deliberately chose a job as a librarian which would give him easy access to genealogical information.

In 1985, on a trip from relatives in New York to relatives in Los Angeles, we decided to make a stop-over in Ann Arbor and meet him. It was in character that he sent very detailed instructions on how to get there and how to contact him. Let me quote from my diary, after our arrival:

"Phoned John Richter and he came to our hotel on his bicycle. Tried two German restaurants, but without any luck. Then dinner at Maude's. He talked almost continuously and I recorded this inspite of back- ground noise. Agreed to meet next day."

Next day:

"Walk and taxi to J.R. His work area is in the base- ment, down wooden steps. Big area of reference books, records, filing cabinets, boxes, stamp cata- logues. Stove, lamps and the classical records he plays while at work. Lots of talk by him. Enthusiastic, side tracking all the time as he gets himself more and more interested. Showed us trees, extracts of registers, correspondence, filing systems, photo of his great grandfather, biographies and told lots of stories. Told us of sources and who to write to. Reluctantly we had to catch a taxi and train".

After reading about John's death I put on the tape recording I made in the noisy restaurant and later at his home. Hearing the German accent I could almost see his intense eyes and I am glad that I met this remarkable and most helpful man.

Robert Beecher is a foundation member of our Society.

**The Jewish Dynasty of
Joan and Jackie Collins**

Sophie Caplan

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The father of celebrated film and television star Joan Collins and of equally famous best-seller author Jackie Collins wrote his own autobiography A TOUCH OF COLLINS, published in 1987 in paperback by Headline Book Publishing PLG, the year before he died.

In his book Joe Collins freely touches on his Jewish roots.

His mother, Henrietta Assenheim, was the seventh of the nineteen children of Joseph and Leah Assenheim of London. Others were Mark and Jack. Leah had converted to Judaism and gave her husband Joe a lively and hardworking brood. The family business in the East End was to make hokey-pokey, a kind of ice-cream, and to sell it from street stalls. Three Assenheim daughters took to the music-hall stage - Bessie, Hannah and Henrietta, who took the stage-name "Hettie Collins" at the urging of her boy-friend, later her husband.

Hettie's boy-friend, born Isaac Hart on 9th November 1876 in London, came from a line of East End fishmongers. His grandfather Zelig Hart had a fish-shop in Bayswater and his father Zuesman Hart opened two fish shops, one in Bloomsbury and the other in the West End Theatre district. This vicinity of the theatres enchanted young Isaac who abandoned the family calling to become a theatrical agent and changed his name to "Will Collins" in admiration of young London music-hall queen Lottie Collins, and also persuaded his girl-friend to become a dancer and singer and to change her name to Collins. They married in South Africa during a tour at the time of the Boer War. Their first child Joe Collins was born in South Africa during the same extended tour.

Isaac Hart's mother was Julia Phillips, the daughter of East End dealer, Isaac Phillips, after whom Isaac Hart was later named. Julia Phillips and Zuesman Hart married on 23rd February 1875 at the Great Synagogue in Duke Street, London. Although Will Collins drifted away from his paternal family, he still named his eldest child and only son after his grandfather Joseph Assenheim. Thus Joseph, known as Joe Collins.

Joe Collins married a non-Jewish Londoner, Elsa Bessant, and their three children, Joan, Jacqueline and William were not brought up in any faith. His second marriage, after the death of his first wife in 1962, was to a German-born Gentile, nee Irene Korff in Essen. Although not halachically Jewish, the Collins sisters are Jewish on their father's side.

Although Joan Collins was married several times, always in a registry office ceremony, it was never to a Jew. Her sister Jackie is long married to Jewish businessman Oscar Lerman, born in Philadelphia, PA, USA.

In his book, Joe Collins also speaks of his long career as a theatrical entrepreneur, particularly on the lighter side of entertainment. Among the many artists and agents

with whom he came into contact during his long professional life were the Beatles very early in their career, and their first manager, Brian Epstein of Liverpool, England. Nearly as famous were two young music hall artists, sons of a Russian immigrant trouser-presser and button-maker, Isaac Winogradsky and his wife Olga. The two young men Lew and Bernie (originally Barnet) became established in show business by winning Charleston competitions. Eventually they also became agents. Today they are better known as Lord Lew Grade of Elstree and Lord Bernard Delfont of Stepney.

There are some ASSENHEIMs in Australia, particularly in New South Wales.

**For Those with Sephardi
Jewish Roots in Turkey**

**Vol 1 No
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The "Roots Committee" in Turkey as appointed by the "Chief Rabbinate":

Ceni Bali Tel-233 8683
Address: Büyük Çiftlik Sok.,
20/14 - Nisantasi, Istanbul, Turkey

Seli Bahar Tel-372 3393
Address: Suadiye, Çamli Sok.,
Yilmazlar Apt, 13/7 Istanbul, Turkey

Leyla Ipeker Tel-260 0709 Address: I. Levant, Engin Sitesi,
Birlik Apt., 169/12, 80600,
Istanbul, Turkey

Stella Kent Tel-369 3542
Address: Suadiye, Ulus Sok.,
Saral Apt., 11/22 Istanbul, Turkey

Seli Kohen Tel-247 3501
Address: Halaskargazi Cad.,
Ocak Apt., 202/13. Osmanbey,
Istanbul, Turkey

Lizet Loya Tel-358 9682 Address: Tasmektep Sok., 13-B Daire 23,
Göztepe, Istanbul, Turkey

Sara Yanarocak Tel-346 9633 or 302 0462
Address: Sair Latifi Sok., 42/4, Bahariye,
Kadiköy, Istanbul, Turkey

Information courtesy of Leyla Ipeker.

**Some Burials at the Old
Jewish Burial Ground,**

**Vol 1 No
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Louth Park, Maitland, NSW, Australia 1849-1931				
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Michael Barnett, died 1905, aged 69 years.

Morris Benjamin, died 1897, aged 61 years. (We know that this man was buried by Rev. S. Levi; that he had 2 sons, Henry and Alfred, living at the time in Sydney. Also that he was born in Hobart).

Jane Cohen, died 1849, aged 11 years.

Hannah Cohen, died 1849, aged 16 months.

Barnett L. Cohen (of Murrurundi), died 1880, aged 36 years.

George Judah Cohen, died 1889, aged 69 years. He was the father of Sir Samuel Cohen and Alroy Cohen.

Henry Cohen, died 1860, aged 45 years.

Celia Cohen, daughter of Morris, died 1860, aged 21 months.

Morris Cohen, died 1878, aged 51 years. (We know that he was a member of the David Cohen family. He had five brothers living).

Leah Cohen, daughter of George and Rose Cohen, of Tamworth, died 1874, aged 5 years.

Henry Samuel Cohen, son of William and Sarah Cohen of Tamworth, died 1862, aged 1 year.

Ethel Cohen, daughter of George and Rose Cohen, died 1872, aged 9 months.

David, son of Lewis Cohen, died 1861, aged 7 years.

Harry Septimus Davis, son of Rev. A. B. Davis, died 1897, aged 35 years.

Henry Nathaniel Friedman, died 1877, aged 15 years.

Nathaniel Jacob Friedman, died 1877, aged 2 .

Daniel Frisch, died 1897, aged 63 years.

Rosina Goulston, died 1862, aged 2 years.

Solomon Goulston, died 1862, aged 3 years. (These children were the daughter and son of Joseph Goulston).

Solomon Harris, died 1878 aged 67 years.

Henry Harris, died 1859, aged 55 years.

Benjamin Hart, died 1905, aged 84 years.

Henry Hart, died 1931, aged 79 years.

Elizabeth Hart, died 1869, aged 36 years.

Samuel Hart, died 1877, aged 47 years.

Myer Illfeld, died 1924, aged 73 years.

Caroline Illfeld, died 1928, aged 72 years.

Elizabeth Israel, died 1865, aged 57 years.

Charles Lewis Israel, son of Isaac Israel, died 1868 aged 17½ years.

Joseph Friedman, died 1906 aged 68 years.

Isabella Friedman, died 1924 aged 76 years

Ruby Violet Irwin, aged 14 weeks (Granddaughter of Isabella Friedman).

Celia, daughter of L.W. Levy, died 1854, aged 2 years.

Julia, a 19-month old daughter of Benn W. and Zara Levy, died 1880.

Samuel W. Lewin, died 1903, aged 68 years.

Rachel Lewis, died 1908, aged 73 years.

George Levien, died 1852, aged 4 years.

Myalla Levien, died 1854, aged 4 years.

Robert Lipman, died 1902, aged 66 years.

Sarah Lipman, died 1903, aged 50 years.

Lena Rebecca Lipman, died 1882, aged 6 months.
 Lydia Isabella Levi, died 1898, aged 2 years.
 George Levie, son of Wilfred and Rebecca, died 1851
 Elizabeth Marks, died 1875, aged 30 years. (She was a daughter of Samuel Benjamin, wife of Joseph Marks. She died in childbirth, and the baby also died and was buried with her. She left a husband and three children).
 Harriet, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Marks, died 1869, aged 11 weeks.
 Hyam Elias Mandelson, died 1919, aged 58 years.
 Isaac Martin, died 1879, aged 32 years.
 John Samuels, died 1873, aged 79 years.
 Morris Reuben, died (Mudgee) 1859, aged 12 months.

Jewish Record in London

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The following is a brief list of the major series of records of genealogical interest held by various institutions in London.

Offices of the United Synagogue

Printed annual list of members arranged alphabetically by congregation 1885-1939
 Registers of Defunct Congregations
 Great Synagogue (1770-1973)
 Hambro Synagogue (1770-1938)
 New Synagogue (1774-1992)
 Bayswater Synagogue (1865-1965)
 Registers of Closed Burial Grounds
 Brady Street, Stepney (part) 1796-1858
 West Ham Cemetery (part) 1858-1872

Burial Society of the United Synagogue

General Burial Registers July 1872-1912
 Burial authorisation Registers July 1872 to date

Marriage Authorisation Office

Marriage Authorisations June 1845 to date

Court of the Chief Rabbi (London Beth Din)

Proceedings Books 1876-1938, 1940 to date
 Case Files C1945 to date
 Certificates of Evidence containing details of the applicant's dates and place of birth and/or marriage abroad required as proof of age etc. 1921-1966.

With the exception of the Certificates of Evidence, all series of documents held at the Beth Din are confidential and information will only be sent to those with a legitimate legal interest.


All enquiries of an historical or genealogical nature which involve the inspection of the above records are dealt with by the research unit of the London Beth Din. The

fees charged are linked to the time taken up by searches and the costs involved in making copies of documents.

Some series of documents of genealogical value contain particulars superior to those on vital records issued by the civil authorities. For example, the (240,000+) marriage authorisations issued since February 1880 state the parties' places and/or country of birth; this is not recorded in the marriage registers issued by the Registrar General's office. The same detail has appeared on the burial authorisations (350,000+) issued since 1896, although it did not appear on English death certificates until April, 1968.


The certificates of evidence are also an immensely valuable source since they refer, for the most part, to people who were never naturalised and thus provide evidence as to their place of origin and/or marriage abroad which is recorded nowhere else. Enquiries should be made to the Registrar, Court of the Chief Rabbi, Adler House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HP, U.K. from whom full details as to the likely costs involved will be available by return.

Editor's note: "The parties' place and/or country of birth", is often stated in very vague terms e.g. for my husband's grandparents, "Russia" for groom and "same" for bride. In fact they each came from Lithuania, one from GRODNO and one from VILNA. But the fees are very reasonable.

Landsmanshaft Burials in New York City Area for Lysyanka, Tagancha, Kuznica, Raciaz and Sokolka		Vol 1 No 5		
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Flora and Herbert Gursky of 10201 Walker Lake Drive, Great Falls, VA, 22066, USA, have compiled a list in the New York City area of Jewish burials for people who belonged to several landsmanshaft societies of towns from LYSYANKA and TAGANCHACHA in Ukraine, and of RACIAZ (Racionz), SOKOLKA and KUZNICA in Poland. In New York there was not one Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Burial Society), but groups bought large tracts in certain cemeteries and sold them to members of their particular ethnic area (landsmanshaft) who were buried there.

The information includes the name of the individual and, when it is available, the birth and death dates, age, Jewish name, and annotations of family relationships. The Gurskys have provided us with a list of surnames found in each cemetery, and many surnames are also present in Australia. For specific information write, citing surnames, with a self-addressed envelope with two international answer coupons.

What's Happening in Special Interest Groups		Vol 1 No 5		
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South African Jewish Genealogical Society Formed

The contact man for this new society is

IAN MALTZ, Green and Seapoint Hebrew Congregation, Marais Road, Sea Point, 8001, South Africa. Tel:439 7545.

The society's aims include helping the children of emigrants from South Africa to discover their origins in South Africa.

Northwestern Lithuania Special Interest Group Being Formed

This group at the moment intends to concentrate on the areas of Mazeikiai (Muravievo, Mozejki), Telsiai (Tel'she, Telsze), and Siauliai (Shavli, Szawle). This group is looking for people who will also help with co-operative research. They intend to develop and maintain a list of people who are interested in Jewish genealogy and history of that area. Anyone interested please send a letter or card with your name, address, phone number, fax number if any, and towns of interest to

EDMUND U. COHLER, 85 Bloomfield Street, LEXINGTON, MA 02173-5534, USA
Tel: 0011-1-617-862 1219. More towns or areas will be included if there is sufficient interest in them.

American Association of Polish-Jewish Studies

This Association is dedicated to preserving the history and culture of Polish Jews. It cooperates with the Institute of Polish-Jewish Studies in London in publishing in book form an annual journal called POLIN, which carries articles discussing various Polish-Jewish communities, social and political movements, and literature of high level. For further information write to
AAPJS, 1583 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA, 02138, USA.

National Yiddish Book Centre

This organisation endeavours to preserve Yiddish culture through the rescue and redistribution of Yiddish literature. They can help you acquire books in Yiddish which contain information about a family or shtetl IF YOU KNOW THE NAME OF AUTHOR AND TITLE. The emphasis is on literature, not genealogy. Write to:
National Yiddish Book Center, 48 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075, USA.
Fax: 0015-1-413 535 1007.


Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS)

This has been formed and we will investigate whether we should join. This federation plans to publish a newsletter dealing with new developments in Eastern European research.

Individuals interested in subscribing to the newsletter should send their name and address to the Editor

JOHN C. ALLEMAN, 377 N 220 W, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84103, USA.

Presumably this is a Mormon-sponsored federation, since it is centered in Salt Lake City.

From LINEAGE, JGS of Long Island Vol. 3 Nos 2-4, Summer 1991		Vol 1 No 5		
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(per SHARSHERET HADOROT, Israel G.S. Vol. 5, No. 3, October 1991)

Jewish Vital Statistics in Byelorussia

Yacov Gutman, a resident of Minsk, is willing to access and copy Jewish vital statistics from Byelorussia, for the period 1837-1913. He may be contacted via his daughter, Olga Gutman, 2402 63rd Street, Apt 6C, Brooklyn, NY 11204. Information from Rita Hodes of Miami JGS.

Researchers in Warsaw, Lublin, Lomza and Poznan

The following researchers are recommended by LINEAGE:

WARSAW Adam Jankiewicz, Sloczylasa 10, am5, 03-465 Warsaw (all regions of Poland).

LUBLIN Ewa Wierzbowska, ulica Mlodziczowa, 7/36, 20-468, Lublin, Poland.

LOMZA Polish Gen. Soc. of Connecticut, 8 Lyle Road, New Britain, CT, 06053, USA

POZNAN Irena Skoczyk, ulica Slowicza 32, 60-123, Poznan, Poland

(N.B. These names are offered by way of information and no responsibility is taken for any services performed by these researchers. The Editor)

Gravestone Inscriptions in Andrychow, Poland

A list of 200 Jewish gravestones in Andrychow, west of Cracow, was compiled by Jessica Skippon, 1/47 Shelton Street, LONDON WC2H, 9HJ, U.K. She is willing to share this information. Please send large self-addressed envelope and three answer coupons.

Research in Czech Republic

Those intending to do research in Czech archives are advised to obtain advance permission of at least two months from ARCHIVNI SPRAVA, OBRANCU MIRU 133, PRAHA 6, CZECHIA, 16621

Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf	Sophie Caplan	Vol 1 No 5	
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Those books with an asterisk (*) in front are held by our Society, books in the personal library of some of our members are marked with two asterisks (* *) and books marked with a ☆ can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held.

BOOKS ON AUSTRALIA

There are few books specifically on Australian Jewish genealogy, but many books on Australian Jewry which are interesting to the family historian as background reading, and also a few published family histories which may link up with the family you are researching.

☆ The **AUSTRALIAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL**, from 1938 to the present, Vols I-XI, is a mine of information, with all surnames indexed by volume. Present in major Australian and some overseas libraries, the full XI volumes can still be purchased from the Historical Society, 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, 2000, NSW, Australia, for \$AUS500.00 plus postage. This includes several books published under the aegis of the Society.

* * GEORGE F. J. BERGMAN and JOHN S. LEVI "**AUSTRALIAN GENESIS, JEWISH CONVICTS AND SETTLERS 1788-1850**", 1974, Rigby, Sydney, was a bench mark publication which tells the story of both individuals and communities in Australian Jewry. Now a rare book, but present in all good Australian libraries. Possibly to be reprinted.

☆ JOHN SIMON LEVI "**THE FOREFATHERS, A DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY OF THE JEWS OF AUSTRALIA, 1788-1830**", 1976, a special publication of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, Sydney, is still in print and available for \$AUS 10 plus postage. This includes an introductory chapter on convict transportation, the 1828 census and such matters, and the main part which is the indispensable biographical dictionary. The author, Rabbi John Levi of Melbourne, has been promising us the eagerly awaited extension of the biographical dictionary to 1850 at least.

* * NICK VINE HALL "**TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY IN AUSTRALIA, A GUIDE TO SOURCES**", second edition, 1994, published by author, is now out. Like its first edition, this is essential for anyone doing research on an Australian family as it guides one through the maze of state and federal records and archives, and even family history societies including our society and the KOSHER KOALA. Essential for "Finding" BMD, shipping and naturalization records. Distributed by Scriptorium Family History Centre, 386 Ferrars Street, Albert Park, Melbourne, Vic., 3206 at \$AUS 55 posted within Australia, \$AUS 65 overseas by surface mail, and \$AUS 85 overseas by air.

☆ SUZANNE D. RUTLAND "**EDGE OF THE DIASPORA, TWO CENTURIES OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN AUSTRALIA**", 1988, Collins, Sydney. This was the first of the general histories of the Australian Jewish community over the full two hundred years, giving an overview. A few copies still available from the Australian Jewish Historical Society, 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, 2000 NSW Australia at \$AUS 25 plus postage.

☆ HILARY and WILLIAM D. RUBINSTEIN "**THE JEWS IN AUSTRALIA, A Thematic History**" in two volumes, one by each author, 1788-1945 and 1945 to 1990, 1991, William Heinemann Australia, Melbourne, is a more ambitious history with Appendices of presidents of major Jewish organisations and many names and matters of genealogical interest within the text. Still in print. Recently seen selling for \$AUS 45.

☆ LAZARUS MORRIS GOLDMAN "**THE JEWS IN VICTORIA IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY**", 1954, published by the author in Melbourne, now a rare book, is a thorough and scholarly history with many names, well-indexed.

☆ HILARY L. RUBINSTEIN "**THE JEWS IN VICTORIA 1835-1985**", 1985, limited edition by Jewish Museum of Victoria Australia, Melbourne, tells the story of the first one hundred and fifty years of settlement in Victoria. Good index, many names.

☆ HILARY RUBINSTEIN "**CHOSEN, THE JEWS IN AUSTRALIA**", 1987, Allen and Unwin, Melbourne, is an earlier version of Hilary Rubinstein's major book, but a full treatment of the subject. Good index and bibliography.

* * AARON AARON "**THE SEPHARDIM OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**", 1979, published by the author, Sydney, is a thorough study of Sephardim in the antipodes, citing many names, with lots of photographs, but alas no index. Still available from author, 26 Curlewis Street, Bondi, Sydney, 2026 NSW at \$AUS 25 plus postage.

☆ HANS KIMMEL aka Dr Joseph Staedter "**SYDNEY'S JEWISH COMMUNITY, Materials for a Post-War (II) History 1948-1953**" in two volumes, 1953 and 1955, self-published by author, is a pioneering effort by this lawyer turned journalist and historian. Some copies still available from author's daughter, Elizabeth Segall, 308 Cricklewood Lane, London, NW2 2PX, England. Galley-proofs of the unpublished third volume are in the care of the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Names, photographs and index in published volumes.

☆ PETER Y. MEDDING "**FROM ASSIMILATION TO GROUP SURVIVAL, A Political and Sociological Study of an Australian Jewish Community**", 1968, F. W. Cheshire, Melbourne, is an in-depth study of the Melbourne Jewish community, which has some interest for the family historian.

"**AUSTRALIAN JEWRY'S BOOK OF HONOUR, WORLD WAR I**" is extremely rare, but has a list of those who served in the Australian military during 1914-1918, and a list of those who were killed. Probably in leading libraries. The Australian Jewish Historical Society has a copy.

☆ "**AUSTRALIAN JEWRY'S BOOK OF HONOUR, WORLD WAR II**", written by Jack Epstein, edited by Gerald Pynt, also has a list of those who served in the military and of those who died in active service. Unfortunately in many cases there are only initials instead of first names.

☆ SERGE LIBERMAN and JOY RUTH YOUNG "**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AUSTRALIAN JUDAICA**", 1987, Mandelbaum Trust, University of Sydney, is useful for its index of authors, its union list of Australian Jewish periodicals, its list of Jewish libraries and where to find reports and journals.

☆ ERIC SILBERT "**DINKUM MISHPOCHA**", 1981, Artlook Books, Perth, is the history of the extended Silbert and Masel families of Perth, Western Australia, and of the Reform congregation they established. Down home style, but has index and lots of information on Perth Jewry.

☆ DAVID MOSSENSON and LOUISE HOFFMAN "**HEBREW, ISRAELITE, JEW - THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**", 1990, University of Western Australia Press, Perth, is a major study of the Westralian Jewish community from the establishment of the colony on the Swan River in Perth, to Fremantle, Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie. Excellent index. Still available from Perth Hebrew Congregation Bookshop at \$AUS 30 plus postage, Cnr Plantation Street and Freedman Road, Menora, Perth W.A. 6050, Australia.

* * LOUISE HOFFMAN and SHUSH MASEL "**WITHOUT REGRET**", April 1994, Centre for Migration and Development Studies, University of Western Australia, Perth, is a collection of oral history derived biographies of Jewish refugees and survivors from various European countries including Germany, Austria, Italy and Poland, who settled in Western Australia. No index, but useful for the family historian.

☆ JOHN FOSTER, editor, "**COMMUNITY OF FATE, MEMOIRS OF GERMAN JEWS IN MELBOURNE**", 1986, Allen and Unwin, Sydney, is a moving and involving book on the fates of fourteen German Jews who had to flee Germany in the 1930's and who settled in Melbourne. May still be in print.

☆ ANNE ANDGELL "**FIFTY YEARS OF CARING, THE HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH WELFARE SOCIETY, 1936-1986**", 1986, Australian Jewish Historical Society, Sydney. A history of the organisation which sponsored many pre-war refugees and postwar survivors who immigrated to Australia. Still in print, \$AUS 10 plus postage from Australian Jewish Historical Society.

Two major family histories and some minor ones:

☆ BEVERLEY DAVIS "**BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY**", 1979, self-published by author, Melbourne, is the family histories of various families linked to the author's husband, John Mark Davis, namely Marks, Solomon, Moses, Isaacs, Rehfish, Snider, Davis, Plostok, Horwitz, Nathan and others. Clearly set out. Many photos, index. May still be available from author, POB 255, Camberwell, Melbourne, 3124, Vic., Australia.

☆ GAEL HAMMER "**PHILLIP BLASHKI, A VICTORIAN PATRIARCH**", 1986, P. Blashki and Sons, Melbourne, is a beautifully produced history of the fourteen Blashki children, really Wagczewski, born in Melbourne, and their descendants. Beautifully illustrated, with clear charts and a good index, this is an excellent family history by a member of our society. Still available from the author, P.O. Box 155, Rose Bay, Sydney 2029, NSW, \$AUS 30 including postage for Australia, \$AUS 35 for overseas.

* TERRY LYONS "**THE LYONS FAMILY OF LAUNCESTON**", 1992, unpublished manuscript, is a competent history of an English Jewish family which came to Australia. Lyons, Sutton and Jones are the original surnames. Terry is a member of our Society.

* * PETER BAUME "**BAUME, FURTHER RECORD**", 1980, self-published, Sydney, a family tree of the BAUME family including radio personality Eric and Liberal Parliamentarians Dr Peter and Michael BAUME. Also the families BRODZIAK, EHRENFRIED, AARONS, ABRAHAMS, COHEN, DAVIS, VAN MILLIGEN, YELDHAM.

A number of synagogues have had their history published.

☆ WILLIAM KATZ "**AND THE ARK RESTED . ..the Story of A Jewish Community Born During the Holocaust in Europe**", 1966, self-published by author, Sydney, is a moving and thorough history of the congregation where the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society has found a home. A few copies possibly still available for institutions. Names of all people married or who had Bar Mitzvah at North Shore Synagogue, Sydney. Appendices with names of Sunday school, etc., but no index.

☆ JOSEPH ARON and JUDY ARNDT "**THE ENDURING REMNANT, THE FIRST 150 YEARS OF THE MELBOURNE HEBREW CONGREGATION, 1841-1991**", 1992, Melbourne University Press, is the story of the congregation with many names in the text, an index, and an extended biographical appendix on leaders of the community. Of great interest to family historians.

☆ NEWMAN ROSENTHAL "**FORMULA FOR SURVIVAL, THE SAGA OF THE BALLARAT HEBREW CONGREGATION**", 1979, The Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, is the story of a small kehillah in country Victoria, which arose through the gold rush and is now practically defunct. A good index, and an appendix listing all burials in the Ballarat Jewish cemetery by name and first name, age and date of death makes it useful for the family historian.

* * HARRY STEIN "**A GLANCE OVER AN OLD LEFT SHOULDER**", 1994, Hale and Iremonger, Sydney, was recently published posthumously shortly after the author's death. It is an autobiographical story of a Jewish leftist who was born and bred in the Melbourne suburb of Carlton, the son of working-class parents who had emigrated from Safed, Israel. There are moving and instructive chapters on the poor Jewish milieu of Melbourne. Available at \$AUS 19.95 from Australian bookstores.

☆ ARNOLD ZABLE "**JEWELS AND ASHES**", 1991, Scribe, Melbourne, also published in USA in 1993, is an outstanding book recording the extended trip of a young Australian Jew to Lithuania, Poland and Latvia to search for his roots. At once informative and poetic, it is a masterpiece. Reprinted in Australia and also launched in USA in 1993, it is a model of the genre. Available in paperback.

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society has also acquired a number of books and booklets to serve as guides to the Australian family historian:

* JENNIFER HARRISON, Editor, STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND, "**FAMILY HISTORY GUIDES**", 1989, consists of seven booklets written by five different experts on aspects of research into Queensland family history. Nothing of specifically Jewish interest, but useful for those with roots in Queensland. One booklet is on holdings of the NSW Archives Office for genealogists, generally 19th century information.

* * ROD FISHER and BARRY SHAW, Editors, "**BRISBANE, THE ETHNIC PRESENCE SINCE THE 1850's**", 1993, Brisbane History Group Papers No. 12, Brisbane, has a nine-page section on "The Jewish Enclave in Brisbane" by John Trone, which is accurate and well-written and has some photographs. Probably still available from Brisbane History Group Inc., PO Box 12, Kelvin Grove, Queensland, 4059, Australia, \$AUS 18.

* * ANDREW G. PEAKE, Editor, "**NATIONAL REGISTER OF SHIPPING ARRIVALS, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**", 1992, Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations, Sydney, describes in which archive or library these shipping arrivals are kept, and whether there are microfiche available for purchase. IT IS NOT a list of shipping arrivals. Still in print.

* * ANDREW GUY PEAKE "**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AUSTRALIAN FAMILY HISTORY**", 1988, Tudor Australia Press, South Australia. This bibliography attempts to index by the primary surname, all published family histories and pedigrees with Australian connections. There are a number of Jewish family histories listed, including the Blashki and Davis histories listed above, some families researched and written up by Dr Anthony Joseph, our British member, and various families which may have been Jewish originally, such as Rose, Rosenberg, Rosenzweig and Kalish, all of South Australia. There are also histories of many German Christian families with names deceptively like Jewish surnames.

* NICK VINE HALL "**PARISH REGISTERS IN AUSTRALIA, A List of Originals, Transcripts, Microforms and Indexes of Australian Parish Registers**", 1990, published by author, Melbourne, is authoritative, but has little of Jewish interest, since few contemporary synagogues keep registers which are listed and available for perusal.

* * JUDY WEBSTER "**SPECIALIST INDEXES IN AUSTRALIA, A GENEALOGIST'S GUIDE**", 1994 Edition, published by author, 77 Chalfont Street, Salisbury, Queensland, \$AUS 12.00 plus postage, is not a complete listing of every index in Australia, but mainly a listing of those which are privately held and/or accessible by mail inquiry, as well as some published indexes. Little of specifically Jewish interest except Sadie Pritchard collection in S.A. Genealogy and Heraldry Society, but various indexes e.g. Queensland Hotels and Publicans pre-1900, or Sudden Deaths in South Australia, or American Civil War Veterans buried in Australia, might be of interest.

* * MARTYN KILLION and HEATHER GARNSEY, Editors, "**CEMETERIES IN AUSTRALIA, A REGISTER OF TRANSCRIPTS**", 1994, Australian Federation of Family History Organisations, is a listing of Australian cemeteries, the state in which they are situated, dates when in use, and WHERE transcripts of inscriptions are held, NOT THE TRANSCRIPTS themselves. Jewish portions of general cemeteries are included. Beverley Davis's transcripts of Jewish graves in Australia, New Zealand and various Pacific Islands are not included.

* * NICK VINE HALL "**MANLY CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTS, 1845-1993**", 1993, published by the author, has a full list of transcribed inscriptions, indexed, including some Jewish-sounding names, but no Jewish section. Manly is a northern suburb of Sydney.

* LINLEY HOOPER "**SEARCHLIGHT, A SELECTED INDEX TO JOURNALS IN THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA LIBRARY**", June 1994, Genealogical Society of Victoria, Inc., Melbourne, indexes some articles pertinent to Jewish genealogy from unknown journals.

* * JANET REAKES "**OVERSEAS RESEARCH FROM AUSTRALIA (NON-BRITISH)**", 1992, revised version, published by author, P.O. Box 937, Pialba, Queensland, 4655. The author is a Mormon and one of Queensland's leading genealogists, and this book explains the Mormon attitudes to genealogy and the IGI, short for International Genealogical Index, the facilities at the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City, addresses for LDS Family History libraries in Australia, as well as addresses of consulates and of many overseas genealogical societies, though not Jewish ones.

* * JONATHAN D. SHEA and WILLIAM F. HOFFMAN "**FOLLOWING THE PAPER TRAIL, A MULTILINGUAL TRANSLATION GUIDE**", 1991, Language and Lineage Press, New Milford, CT, USA, is a guide to understanding and translating family documents and papers obtained and collected by the family historian. Available in Australia from genealogical bookshops. \$AUS 45.

* LENORE FROST "**DATING FAMILY PHOTOS, 1850-1920**", Valiant Press, published by author, 8 Cliff Street, Essendon, Vic., 3040, describes the clues in identifying heirloom family photographs both by photographic technique and clothing fashions and obtaining a timespan for the photographs.

* ERIC and ROSEMARY KOPITKE "**EMIGRANTS FROM HAMBURG TO AUSTRALIA: 1856**", 1992, Queensland Family History Society Inc., Brisbane, seems to be one in a series of extremely clearly set out annual lists of emigrants to Australia via the port of Hamburg, giving surname, first name, age, profession and place of origin. Unfortunately there are very few Jews on this list.

* JOANNA ARMOUR RICHARDS, HEATHER GARNSEY, ANGELA PHIPPEN "**INDEX TO THE MICROFORM COLLECTION OF THE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS, as at 1990**", 1990, Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney is a record of microfilm holdings of SAG. Cost \$AUS 17.95 plus \$3 postage. Many of those will spare searchers a trip to the State Archives, or to another state. Non-members have to pay a daily fee to use SAG facilities.

* * C. J. SMEE "**FIRST FLEET FAMILIES OF AUSTRALIA**", 1988, Woolnough Publishing, Artarmon, Sydney, "**SECOND FLEET FAMILIES.**" and "**FOURTH FLEET FAMILIES.**", published 1990-1992. We intend to acquire also "**THIRD FLEET FAMILIES**". The author has painstakingly researched the dates of birth, marriage, and death of all the passengers of these four fleets which brought the official first white men and women to Australia, whether convicts or soldiers to guard them. Also places of BMD, names of ships, names and dates of children and grandchildren if these could be ascertained. There are of course Jews among them, and these books can serve as a supplement to John Simon Levi's "**THE FOREFATHERS**".

* "**NOMINAL ROLL OF INTERNEES TRANSFERRED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO AUSTRALIA PER H.M.T. 'DUNERA'**", "German internees disembarked at Sydney", "German internees disembarked at Melbourne". Through the courtesy of HENRY LIPPMANN of the DUNERA ASSOCIATION we have a list of the men who were shipped out from Great Britain on the DUNERA, arriving on 6th September 1940 in Sydney. This list of several hundred men is alphabetically

indexed but contains, besides many Jews also the names of many Gentile men of German nationality, both anti-fascists and Nazis, and some Italians, also shipped out on the same vessel. There is no way of determining which is which, except by guesswork from names.

Forebears Australian Family Finder		Vol 1 No 5		
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00018 LIESL MICHEL BINZER, c/o Beth Terezin, Givat Chaim Ichud, Israel 38935. Tel: 972-6-389515. Seeking ELFRIEDE ZAHLER from Vienna who was with her in Terezin until liberation and would now be 58. Any information welcome.

00019 IRVING B. SCHOENBERG, 1018 Winding Ridge Court, Dunwoody, GA 30338-3950, USA. Seeking descendants of families SCHOENBERG /SHONBERG/SCHONBERG, FISHMAN/FICHMAN, BRONSTEIN/BRONSHTEN and HOCHMAN/GOICHMAN, all from the shtetl of Telenesht in Bessarabia, or nearby. Planning a visit to Australia in 1995 and would like to meet relatives.

00020 EVA COWAN, 57 Golders Gardens, LONDON, NW11 9BS, U.K. Tel: 441-455 4602. Seeking information about family TRAUB, from Luka near Jilove, Czechoslovakia. Parents or relatives Marie and Josef Traub, daughters Vera, Hanka and Eva, possibly twins, all sent to Terezin with convoy Bg on 12 September, 1942 and from there to Birkenau on 18 December, 1943 with transport Ds. Eva and Hanka are believed to have survived and to have arrived in England in May 1946. Any information about this family appreciated.

Editorial		Vol 2 No 1		
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There is a sense of achievement in producing the first issue of Volume Two of our newsletter, which is also our sixth issue. Our newsletter has helped enormously in making us better known and in our growth to 105 members at 31st December, 1994. We are read not only all over Australia, but in London, Haifa, Philadelphia, in Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and Atlanta, as attested by our mail. Most people like our name, and THEY REMEMBER IT!

So far only 85 members have renewed for 1995, although we are generous in allowing members who join from October onwards to go to December of the next year. But for those who have not renewed, this is the LAST ISSUE of the KOSHER KOALA they will receive.

The bulk of our membership fee goes to the printing and postage of the journal, and the rest to acquiring books of value to the Jewish genealogist. We would like to publish a bigger journal, but postage rates would ruin us. Books are also expensive: TROWEN IN MOKUM, mentioned in this issue's Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf, listing 15,000 Jewish marriages in Amsterdam (1598-1811) cost around \$AUS 350. Luckily some books are donated by generous members. As a society we are also members of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, which unites over sixty JGS's world wide, and keeps us abreast of developments in Jewish genealogy, and of the roof-body of NSW Jewry in Sydney, and these have affiliation fees to enable them to function.

We receive journals in exchange with most overseas Jewish genealogical societies and, though this is costly in postage for us, since ALL other Jewish genealogical

societies are overseas, it does mean some serendipitous findings for some of our members, especially Selma Jackson and Peter Nash, through our Sydney Data Base, as well as exchange of ways and means in Jewish genealogy. We also have a journal exchange with a few local Australian societies.

Our members now stretch from Perth to Sydney, with others in Adelaide, Melbourne, Nambour and northern Queensland, as well as the Central Coast and country NSW. We also have members in Israel, and one in Brazil, and our esteemed British member, Dr Anthony Joseph, who is also president of the Jewish Historical Society of England, will be the guest speaker at a major function jointly hosted by us and by the Australian Jewish Historical Society on 28th March at the Great Synagogue, 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, at 7.45 p.m.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on 23rd April, just after Pesach at 7.30 p.m. at Beth WIZO, 53 Edgecliff Road, Bondi Junction. Our hardworking committee members are offering themselves for re-election and Gary Luke is a new candidate for the committee. His expertise is in computers. While we are all happy to continue our work for the Society, we always appreciate any offers of help from other members.

Those who deserve our special thanks are Rieke Nash and David Laufer who organised our recent successful one-day Seminar for Beginners in Jewish Genealogy at Shalom College, and Gael Hammer, Helen Bersten, David Landor, Gary Luke, Stuart Shaw, Terry Newman, Kim Phillips, Margot Salom, Peter Nash and Aubrey Schwarz who helped by giving of their knowledge. Also our interstate representatives: Ross Trobe in Perth, Hilde Hines in Adelaide and the indefatigable Morris Ochert, who always respond positively when asked to contribute.

Recently we have also appointed a representative in Melbourne, Aubrey Schwarz, who worked for several years at Moreshet Beth Saba, a genealogical facility in Israel. Aubrey will try to hold meetings in Melbourne with our present members to form a nucleus of our Society there. Aubrey's address is POB 30, Balaclava, 3183, Melbourne, Vic. We appeal to JGS's in USA and elsewhere to put this incipient branch on their mailing list.

This issue we have started a "Welcome to new members" feature, and we have written to interstate members to tell them when Dr Joseph was speaking in their city. Please send back your completed data base of names and towns you are researching. We cannot match you up if we don't know your research interests. Have a happy Purim. Chag sameach! (Happy festival!)

What is the International Genealogical Index or IGI?	Sophie Caplan	Vol 2 No 1		
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Many of our members have asked what was the International Genealogical Index or IGI for short. It is an alphabetical index of deceased individuals compiled by the Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) or Mormons, recording the individual's surname, first name, sex, name of father/mother and also spouse where known, and a birth, christening, marriage, or death date of the person whose entry it is. Since Mormons have as part of their religious beliefs, a search for ancestors and recording of these ancestors in the IGI, it is possible for Christian researchers to find a person they are seeking who is already recorded in the IGI by someone else previously. This can save a lot of work.

In theory there should be few Jews recorded in the IGI. But since some descendants of Jews have also become members of LDS, or Mormons, some of our Jewish ancestors may also have been recorded and notionally posthumously "baptised" and "sealed" into the Mormon faith. This can have happened despite the fact that this process should, according to Mormon authorities, not be done without first seeking permission of near relatives.

We have been assured that the Mormon authorities are vigilant and warn their members against posthumously baptising Jews, Catholics, or Protestants, whose surviving relatives find this custom abhorrent.

Nevertheless in the past few years, a number of Jewish genealogists, including the president of the Israel Genealogical Society, and prominent members of various American Jewish genealogical societies have discovered that their grandparents, great-uncles, and others, of whom they are the closest surviving relatives, have been listed in the IGI as having been "baptised" and "sealed" into the Mormon faith by well-meaning but misguided total strangers, who thought they were doing a good and worthy deed by lifting the names of deceased Jews who perished in the Holocaust from memorial books dedicated to victims of the Shoah and making them posthumous notional Mormons. They did not take into account the feelings of surviving Jews, or even distant relatives, who find this practice utterly distressing and totally abhorrent, in view of the long tradition of Jewish martyrdom in preference to baptism, as for instance at the time of the Inquisition. From internal evidence of these Jewish entries in the IGI, it appears that one source of the entries is the GEDENKBUCH (Memorial Book) of 128,000 Jews who formerly lived in Germany and who perished either in Germany itself, but mostly after deportation to Eastern European death and labour camps. The Gedenkbuch was put together by West German archives in Bonn. Frequently the place given in the Gedenkbuch is the last place of residence in Germany, and the IGI has copied this as the place of birth, proving that information did not come from relatives.

The Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies has tried to explain the situation to Mormon authorities. The last we heard was that there was a threat by Mormon authorities that, if Jews objected to their practice of haphazard and indiscriminate baptism, then the Mormons might no longer collect and make accessible Jewish records from Eastern Europe, on which so many of us depend.

Last November a delegation of leaders of USA Holocaust Survivors Association was due to go to Salt Lake City for top level talks with LDS authorities. Since then no word of these discussions has filtered down. It is time for the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies to let their affiliated members know what the position is presently.

Jewish Genealogical Society in Brazil		Vol 2 No 1		
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We have received the first issue of GERAÇOES, the bulletin of the Brazilian Jewish Genealogical Society which has articles in Portuguese with their English translation side by side. At last another JGS which can call its October number its Spring issue! There are articles on various topics which may have connections with early

Australian Jewish history: e.g. Genealogy and History, The Trial of Vicente Furtado. Could he have had links with Sarah and David Ribiero Furtado who came to Australia in 1829, or to the Abraham Furtado who played a part in the Portuguese Jewish community in Bordeaux, France, at the time of the French Revolution in pleading for emancipation? The article is by Professor Reuven Faingold of the Hebrew University, a co-editor of GERAÇOES. The same article also mentions Portuguese Jews previously written about in SHARSHERET HADOROT, newsletter of the Israel Genealogical Society. Frieda Wolff also has an article about a Nathan family which came from England and could well be connected to Nathans who came to Australia and New Zealand. Altogether a worthy addition to the panoply of Jewish genealogical journals which will enrich our knowledge of Jewish history and genealogy.

For those who would like to subscribe privately, all correspondence to:
 Guilherme Faigenboim, Rua Jardim Ivone 17, Apt 23, 04105-020 SAO PAULO SP,
 BRAZIL
 Tel/Fax: 55-11-574-8554

**Keeping it Nice:
 Conservation and Storage**

**Gael
 Hammer**

**Vol 2 No
 1**



I once inherited from a dear uncle his Cheder prize from 1910. It was a large and heavy leather-bound Old Testament, published by the British Bible Society, with beautiful Hebrew font, and Christian English. Come in Artscroll and Jewish Publication Society! Anyway, this bible was in a sad state because of the way it had been stored, so I enquired about rebinding. I can remember the price...\$15. That was half a week's housekeeping. Determining to do it myself, I enrolled in the Bookbinding hobby course at the Sydney Technical College. For three happy years I spent Tuesday nights learning the secrets of binding and conservation. For three minutes reading, I'll share some of my knowledge with you.

The enemies of paper are sticky tape, sunlight, acid, metal clips and staples. If paper is torn, sticky tape will mend it for only a couple of years. The glue will then disintegrate, leaving a yellow stain and the tear still there. There is archival sticky tissue paper, but it is very expensive. If the document is two-sided, it is best to put the torn papers in an acid free envelope and get advice from the Mitchell Library restoration service. If it is one sided, get a sheet of acid free paper and some PVC glue. Selleys has one. Dab the thinnest possible amount of glue on to the torn document using a new small house painting brush, or even better, a shaving brush. Avoid long brush strokes. Be careful not to allow wrinkles by rolling the pasted document on to the backing paper. Smooth it carefully with dry hands, then place it in a sandwich of greased paper and put it under a floor rug with a pile of heavy books on top. Leave it overnight. You can omit the floor rug if you have books big enough to keep it all flat. (The brush will need washing immediately).

You will have seen how metal leaves a rusty stain on papers. Plastic slide clips are now available inexpensively and although they bend paper, they do not do permanent damage. If you need to write on documents, use a 2B pencil which is dark, but can be rubbed out. Always identify old photos on the back in soft pencil. Photos today are printed on paper which only seems to accept ball point pen,

unfortunately. Our descendants will be furious about that, as ball point ink turns yellow with time.

Avoid storage areas in attics, cellars, tin sheds or near fireplaces. Humidity, dampness and heat all make paper brittle and disintegrate. Shoeboxes seem ideal but the cardboard is not acid free. You can use regular boxes if first you place the items in acid free envelopes or bags. Photographs and all paper records can be kept in oven bags. Being made of saran and not plastic they are very suitable for storage, their transparency an extra bonus. There is acid-free tissue, good for wedding veils and other fabric items as well as for photos and paper records. There are also acid-free envelopes, albums, boxes and wallets from Conservation Resources International, POB 729, Fortitude Valley Qld. 4006.

The "magnetic" photo albums, which everyone has as free gifts for something else, are lethal for photos. They are not magnetic. They very quickly fuse the photo to the page and the plastic to the front of the picture. Avoid them at all costs. Rather get the system which has plastic sleeves for each photo, although they are not perfect. The best system for keeping photos is with old fashioned photo corners on black paper loose leaf albums and I date and identify with a silver felt pen underneath.

Light is destructive of paper, so it is a good idea to get photocopies of important documents. The copy will need to be on acid free copy paper which is readily available. Have you noticed how fax paper fades in no time? If a fax is important, photocopy it and store everything in the dark. You can also take photographs of your special items. We tend to think that our current records are not so important, but your descendants are going to think differently and will be very grateful for your care of them. And are you identifying and dating every photo you own? It is later than you think. Who will know who all those people are when you or Aunty Esther are not here?

Books, like my uncle's bible, get damaged spines by not being stood up straight, and not being supported on either side. They need to be close together on the shelves but not so tight that you cannot get one out. Very heavy or tall books need to lie down flat. After a year in class, I resewed and bound the bible in brown leather, which took a long time and was not easy. The \$15 quoted would have been a bargain!

Gael Hammer is the editor of "Pomegranates" and the author of "Phillip Blashki, A Victorian Patriarch". She is a foundation member of our Society and, this month, the proud grandmother (again) of new New York-born grand-daughter, Bruria Bleich. Mazel tov, Gael!!

NOTE : If you want to rescue those photos frozen in "magnetic" photo albums, a quick careful blast with a hair dryer around the edge will sometimes free them!

The Use of Probate Files for Finding Lost Relatives	Peter Nash	Vol 2 No 1		
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When I became more seriously interested in my family's genealogy in the last few years, I found I needed to search more and more in the United States. I therefore read "Jewish Genealogy Beginner's Guide", Third Edition, edited by Irene Saunders

Goldstein, compiled and published by the JGS of Greater Washington, and began to follow some of the suggested references to locating vital records. For example, by mail from Australia, I was able to obtain the naturalization details of my paternal great-grandfather's brother. However, I was fortunate that I was able to travel to New York recently and actually visit some of the quoted archival resource centres.

As I was looking for birth or death registrations in the second half of the 1900's or possibly early this century, I went to the Archives Division at the New York City Dept of Records and Information, 31 Chalmers Street, Manhattan, NY 10007. These are the so-called Surrogate's Court of New York County. I started off in Room 103 where they hold birth records before 1898 and death records before 1930. My difficulties in finding the desired records immediately became apparent as I had no idea what were the relevant years as records are available on micro-films by year, that is no name index is available. My initial random search proved wasteful and frustrating and so I went back to the front desk to seek further inspired guidance.

My almost desperate plea was overheard and this gentleman, no doubt attracted by my quaint "foreign" Aussie accent, suggested that I should go up to the fourth floor to Room 402 and search through the records for granted probates, as this could quickly yield the year of death. The records for granted probates and also for so-called Letters of Administration, where a death was registered without a Will, are kept in very old hand-written cloth covered ledgers, as well as on typed index cards. The ledgers cover the years 1662 to 1949 and are divided up into irregular periods, according to when the ledger was filled. For example, 1662 to 1910, 1911 to 1923, 1924 to 1932, etc, while the cards are also grouped in periods from 1950 to 1988. All the records are filed in alphabetical order for a given period, which was an immense relief.

I had virtually instant success. I found that probate was granted for my great-grandfather's brother, and more importantly the date when filed. So now I had a date, that is, a year to focus on the death registration. I returned to Room 103 and soon found the death certificate on micro-film, which I was able to photocopy for a fee of \$US5. The action I took from then on will be the subject of another research story.

One of the interesting aspects of genealogical research is that a lead for one branch of a family suddenly may be a lead for another branch. This was the tack I suddenly took while searching through the Probate records. There was a branch on my father's maternal side of which very little was known. My paternal grandmother's birth name was Cecilia Weichmann and she was one of eight children. One of her younger brothers was Siegfried and he was married with two children, a daughter Ruth and a son Horst. My father knew that his cousin Ruth had married Fred Nissel and that they had one child, a son George, who sadly was handicapped, but all he knew about his cousin Horst was that he had married and that he had some children, but never found out their names. Letters from another cousin indicated that there were two daughters. They had all lived in New York after the Second World War.

As my interest in genealogy increased, I became more and more curious about the fate of my cousin George Nissel as well as the existence, if any, of the family of Horst Weichmann. I knew that George's mother and father had both died. So now I looked through the Probate card index and I first found a card for George Nissel with


a file number and a year of filing - this was 1941. This made me quite excited, but also puzzled me, as I knew that he was born around 1939 and this would have meant he died at the age of about two, which I knew not to be true. The card also had a single letter "G" noted on it and I quickly found out that this meant "Guardianship". That made more sense. I was then directed to another Room where these matters were filed and while I was not allowed to have access to George's file for privacy reasons I was given the name of the legal firm which had dealt with this matter. I was extremely thrilled to have got so far.

Meanwhile I returned to Room 402 and I now searched the card index for Ruth Nissel's name and quickly found it with the relevant file details. Probate was granted in 1981. I then asked the clerk how I could access the file and how long that might take, as I only had limited time for my stay in New York. In practically no time the clerk came back with a thick file for my perusal! It is only possible to immediately access files which were granted in the last 20 years or so as they do not have storage there for older files, for example, files dating back to 1920's could take about 8 days.

I was quite overwhelmed with what I suddenly had in my hands. The Probate file not only contained the details of the Will of Ruth Nissel plus Death Certificate which I was able to photocopy for 15 cents instead of paying \$5, but also mentioned the names of George's guardians and where George resided! The Will quoted all the beneficiaries including the names of Ruth's two nieces, the daughters of her brother Horst as well as contact addresses! So in "one hit" I found what I needed, but also that for which I was not actually searching. With the help of the 'old standby', telephone directory assistance, I was able to speak to my second cousins and their mother - another name I never knew. As I was committed to leave New York, we could not manage to meet on this occasion. They had no idea that there were any other living relatives from their husband/father's side. We are now in contact with each other. .

After I returned to Australia I decided to write in the first instance to George's guardian. Not long after, I received a phone call from my cousin George. It was short but very emotional as suddenly this yearning to find him had been realised. These newly found cousins are as close as any that I have, as I never had siblings nor first cousins.

Peter Nash (born Nachemstein) is a Foundation member of our Society

Clues from Food	Sophie Caplan	Vol 2 No 1	
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with apologies to Mona Freedman-Morris

An American Jewish genealogist, Mona Freedman-Morris, has written in "Scattered Seeds", the Palm Beach County J.G.S. newsletter, of how Jewish family historians can obtain clues from food which is traditional in their family, particularly appreciated by the older generation, and served on special occasions like religious festivals and family celebrations.

Some of the food she writes about, like "the common bialy" and "fritos" are unknown in Australia, at least in Sydney. But, she says, "prior to the Americanization of our palates, e.g. pizza, fried chicken, fritos, etc the foods our ancestors ate were often indicative of where they originated. The traditional division between sweet and tart divides Galicia and Lithuania. Further along, gefillte fish, with or without carrots, divide Poland and Belarus. Garlic and eggplant are common food to Romanians. Did your ancestors fry or boil kreplach? Many Ukrainians fried their kreplach while Poles generally boiled theirs. Did your ancestors use sour cream on borsht and blintzes?....When interviewing relatives do not forget to ask about family recipes. Since the tag Galitzianer and Litvak carried negative and positive connotations, depending on which you were, it is generally known by older relatives from which side you were. In most traditional families it was considered an intermarriage if you deviated from your group."

Indeed, even in Germany, England, Israel and Australia, most of my relatives married fellow Galitzianer or descendants of Galitzianers. I deviated. A descendant of Galitzianer, I married into a Litvak family. At times it wasn't easy. For many years, while our parents were alive, the joint family Seder, which took place at our home, was graced by two rival gefillte fish dishes. My mother-in-law's bland and carrotless, my own mother's delicately flavoured with just a soupcon of sugar, decorated with sliced carrot and accompanied by a flavour-some jellied sauce. While my parents gallantly ate from each dish, the Litvak contingent at the table showed their disgust at the idea of sweet gefillte fish. But the Litvak horse-radish was ten times as hot as the Galitzianer. As a result I never learnt to make gefillte fish, but my sister valiantly carries on the tradition of bringing "Polish" gefillte fish to the now mixed tribe at our Seder table.


I learnt to love one of my mother-in-law's great Litvak dishes, her tart chopped herring decorated with grated hard-boiled egg-yolk. Now that she is gone, I only taste it at our Litvak-descended, South African-born, rebbetzen's home, where it is served with deep-fried free shaped crisp dough biscuits called kiechel. My Galician mother boiled kreplach, and we ate borsht, kreplach and other dishes with "smetana" a light sour cream. Buttermilk was also served at our house, and she taught me to bake beautiful thin pastry apple strudel flavoured with cinnamon and sultanas, and a wonderful potato latke savoury pudding, baked in the oven called bilbovenik, which served cold, was the staple Galician Jewish farmer's breakfast, eaten with smetana.

The Litvak side of the family, born and raised in England, had already adopted English-style sponge-cake, fruitcake and "slices". Hailing from Ploesti in Rumania, my girl-friend Josie, makes beautiful mamaliga and egg-plant dishes and a delicate fish soup, which I have never quite mastered. And our friends of Hungarian ancestry just love to serve strudel with poppy-seed filling, and paprika with everything. As a Galicianer I like poppy-seed sprinkled on top of challah and bread-rolls, but not inside cakes.

And my French childhood has given me an ability to make excellent pareve chocolate mousse, vinaigrette salad-dressing, and pumpkin soup, not to speak of sauce mousseline, a light mayonnaise.

But how will our children and grandchildren get their clues from the food WE COOK? Not only do I serve roast chicken on Fridays, but I roast lamb, serve steak or make schnitzel on other days. I also do spaghetti bolognaise, lasagne, risotto, hamburgers, frankfurts, Indian and Thai curries, and Chinese stir-fry, all with kosher meat, and home-made pizza. The desserts eaten at our table include, not only traditional honey-cake and fruit compote, apple strudel and cheese-cake, but also tropical fruit salad, chocolate mousse and the Australian specialty, pavlova, all home made.

How will our children work out their ancestry through food? We have queered the pitch for our descendants. All they will know is that we lived in a multicultural society, and that the food we serve and enjoy comes from all around the world.

Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf	Sophie Caplan	Vol 2 No 1	
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Those books with an asterisk (*) in front are held by our Society, books in the personal library of some of our members are marked with two asterisks (* *) and books marked with a ☆ can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held.

BOOKS ON HOLLAND

There are no novels about Dutch Jewry in English, and no autobiographical accounts known to me about the period before the Second World war, but a number of books of great use to genealogists have been published about Jews in the Netherlands within the last decade and we have many of them available on loan to the Society. They are particularly easy to use because they have been indexed in multiple ways. Though some are in Dutch, we have added the translation at the beginning of each column of information.

* * **"MEMORBOOK, HISTORY OF DUTCH JEWRY FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO 1940"**, with 1100 illustrations and text by MOZES HEIMAN GANS, 1977 in English translation, Bosch and Keunig, BAARN, is a monumental compilation of 851 pages with an excellent index of names and a separate one for subject matter, with details about Jews in small provincial towns, as well as in larger centres and in Amsterdam. Many reproductions of painted portraits, and photographs of recent leaders and rabbis.

* * BERT VAN BEDAF, **"ABOUT THE DUTCH, THE FIRST EUROPEANS TO EXPLORE AUSTRALIA"**, 1988, AE PRESS/DI Bookshop, Melbourne, tells the story of Dutch contact with Australia, and is a complementary volume to MEMORBOOK for Australian Jewish genealogists.

* * JOSEPH MICHMAN, editor, **"DUTCH JEWISH HISTORY"**, Volume II, Proceedings of the Fourth Symposium on the History of the Jews in the Netherlands, 1986, Jerusalem, The Institute for Research on Dutch Jewry, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This is a collection of essays on various aspects of Dutch Jewish History from the 16th century to the Holocaust by a collection of Dutch and Israeli scholars. Presumably it is one volume in a series. It has an index of names.

* * **"JEWISH LIFE IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF AMSTERDAM, 1592-1796"** (Dutch title: Portuguese and Germans - Jewish Life in Amsterdam, 1592-1796). Text by JUDITH BELINFANTE, director of Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam, 1982, booklet prepared for the exhibition of the same name at Beth Hatefutsot, Tel Aviv. Text in English and in Dutch, many illustrations.

* * MOZES HEIMAN GANS, **"DE AMSTERDAMSE JODENBOEK IN FOTO'S ANDERMAAL, 1840-1940"** (THE JEWISH QUARTER OF AMSTERDAM THROUGH PHOTOS, 1840-1940), 1985, Ten Have, Baarn, gives a nostalgic look back at the lively street life of Jewish Amsterdam before the Holocaust.

* * **"REPERTORIUM VAN FAMILIENNAMEN 1811-1812"** (Repertory of Jewish Surnames) publisher and date of publication not indicated, is an index of Jewish family names in Holland, or a part of it.

* * DAVID VERDOONER AND H.J.W. SNEL **"INDEX OF KETUBOT OF THE PORTUGUESE JEWISH COMMUNITY, 1650-1911"**, AMSTERDAM, 1988. This register is indexed by bridegrooms' surnames and also by brides' surnames and also gives the names of their father and sometimes also of their grandfathers, as well as Jewish date of wedding. For Sephardi Jews in Amsterdam.

* * **"TROWEN IN MOKUM, JEWISH MARRIAGE IN AMSTERDAM, 1598-1811"** DAVE VERDOONER AND HARMEN SNEL, circa 1990, AMSTERDAM, in two volumes, no publisher given. This is a record of 15,000 announcements of intention to marry by Jewish citizens of Amsterdam. Names are listed in order of intended marriage date and indexed in several different ways, including alphabetically by names of witnesses, thus affording us the optimum possibility of finding our ancestors, if they ever married in Holland. Interestingly Amsterdam was known as MOKUM in Dutch-Jewish slang from the Hebrew word "makom", a place. Thus "Trowen (marriages) in Mokum". Places of origin of bride or groom, also indexed, include London, Gibraltar, Curaçao, Nuremberg, Lisbon, Prague, etc.

* DAVE VERDOONER, HARMEN SNEL, **"LIST OF DECLARED BURIALS IN AMSTERDAM RECORDED BETWEEN 1806 AND 1811"**, April 1991, Amsterdam, Community Archive is alphabetically indexed by first name and surname of major surviving relative. First names of dead children sometimes omitted.

* **"INDEX OF MARRIAGES OF THE ASHKENAZI COMMUNITY IN AMSTERDAM BETWEEN 1723 AND 1812"**, ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF SURNAMES FROM THE BRIDEGROOMS IN THE MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS (translation of Dutch title), no author, or publication date, obtained from Dutch Jewish Genealogical Society, Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie.

* * **"REGISTER OF TAKING OF NAMES IN AMSTERDAM from 1811-1826"**, compiled by HARMEN SNEL AND DAVE VERDOONER, published by Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie circa 1990.

* **"ACQUISITION OF SURNAMES IN ROTTERDAM in 1811"**, incidentally included with particulars from other sources concerning the acquisition of permanent

surnames. Compiled by HILLEGERSBERG and DRALINGEN in 1811-12, published by Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie, circa 1990.

* **REGISTER OF ENGAGEMENTS IN ROTTERDAM FROM 1621 TO 1811**, from Rotterdam Archive, originally compiled by M.J.BLITZ, and finally presented by MONICA ENGELER AND KAREL DUITZ. Published by Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie.

* * **PARTICULARS OF THE OLDEST BURIAL GROUND AND DEATH RECORDS FROM ROTTERDAM, 1640-1812**, compiled from the BLITZ COLLECTION, published by Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie, circa 1990.

* W.F. van ZEGVELD, **THE JEWS OF LIEDEN, Part 1**, including index and sources, March 1988, Capelle aan den IJssel, Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie. This book has more information on individuals than the others, and equally useful indexes, but help from someone fluent in Dutch would be advisable.

* SV.E. VELDJUIJZEN, CITY ARCHIVES OF THE HAGUE, Sectional Archives, **NAME TAKING BY HIGH GERMAN JEWS IN 1811**, 1982, The Hague. This book has an introduction in English which renders it user-friendly. It lists alphabetically the changeover from house-name and patronymic to new family name, and also an alphabetical index of the new names, one of patronymics and one of new names with all family first names.

It also explains why 1811 is such a key date in Dutch Jewish records. In August 1811, an imperial decree was issued, by Napoleon who had installed his brother Jerome as King of Holland under French hegemony. Between 4th November and 31st December 1811 the heads of Ashkenazic Jewish families had to opt for keeping a patronymic as a permanent family surname, or to choose another name. Although it was already the twilight of the Napoleonic era which would end at Waterloo in March, 1815, this affected the Dutch Jewish community permanently.

For a short but comprehensive history of Dutch Jewry see the **ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA**, under **NETHERLAND**.

* **"PORTUGUESE JEWISH MARRIAGES IN THE HAGUE, 1711-1714 and 1730-1778"**, with **"BURIALS IN THE HAGUE FROM 1697 TO 1724"** and **"REGISTER OF CIRCUMCISIONS AND BIRTHS OF THE PORTUGUESE-ISRAELITE COMMUNITY, 1755-1818"** from the notes of circumciser SALOMON SARUCO, in one volume, published by Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie. Many parties to the listed marriages were from Amsterdam.

* **"MARRIAGE DISPENSATIONS OF JEWS IN THE DUTCH PROVINCE OF WET FRIESLAND 1710-1774"**, compiled by A.J. STASSE of Utrecht, published by Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie. A slim volume concerning mostly widows and widowers seeking to remarry. A curiosity is the name Jacob Israel Saint Croos (Santa Cruz/Holy Cross), a Marrano name.

* **CIRCUMCISIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF FRIESLAND** excluding **LEEUWARDEN**, from **1760- 1822**, arranged by names of towns. Published by Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie.

* **CIRCUMCISIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF FRIESLAND IN LEEUWARDEN**, from **1757-1765, 1782-1828, 1803-1805**, and in a few other smaller towns, with **WEDDINGS IN LEEUWARDEN 1771-1811**, published by Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie.

* **ACQUISITION OF PERMANENT SURNAMES** from **1811-1813** and in **1826** in the **PROVINCE OF GELDERLAND**, with **JEWISH POPULATION IN THE YEAR 1813** including **ACQUISITION OF PERMANENT SURNAMES**. Published by Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie. Some 44 towns are included, and the information contain names of husbands, wives and children, occupation of husband, age, etc... Many Ashkenazi names are included.

* **DETAILS REGARDING THE JEWISH POPULATION OF OVERIJSEL IN THE YEAR 1813**, including name adoption in **ZWOLLE AND KUINRE EN VOLLENHOVE**, published by Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie.

* **LEERDAM, JEWISH POPULATION ACCORDING TO CIVIC RECORDS**, with additions and sections with particulars preceding 1811, published by Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogie. This is one of the few of the published indexes which has a lot of nineteenth century information.

* **AMERSFOORT CIRCUMCISIONS REGISTER 1753-1811, with REGISTER OF INTENDED MARRIAGES IN AMERSFOORT, 1768-1806**, has full name of father, son's first name and date of circumcision.

* * **H. BARTHOLOMEUS, "JEWISH GENEALOGY OF THE INHABITANTS OF MEERSEN"**, 1991, published by H. Bartholomeus, Burgm. Murisstraat 23, 6231 GH MEERSEN, Netherlands. This book is dedicated to the Jewish citizens of Meersen who perished in the Holocaust and contains information spanning from the late 18th century to 1943, including the camps where these Jews were murdered.

* * **JOHAN VAN GELDER, "MOOIE MENSEN"** (BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE) Geldersboek, PO 1057, 9701 BB, Groningen, Holland is a detailed family history of the Van Gelder family from Groningen, with photos, family trees as well as Holocaust information.

HOLLAND AND THE HOLOCAUST

Perhaps the best-known book of those associated with the Holocaust stems from Holland. It is of course **THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL** by **ANNE FRANK** who perished in Bergen Belsen, a book which every adolescent and adult should read. But there are others, less well-known.

JONA OBERSKI, "A CHILDHOOD", translated by Ralph Manheim, originally published in Holland in 1978, Hodder and Stoughton, 1983, London, is a heart-stopping story of a little boy sent with his parents to Westerbork camp. The parents perished but he survived and recalled what happened from a child's viewpoint.

* * FRED DANIELS, "**SHADOWS IN TWILIGHT, A 1940-1945 TESTIMONY**", translated from the Dutch by Mieke Daniels-Waterman, Gefen Publishing House, 1992, Jerusalem. It is an autobiographical story of a schoolboy who survived hidden by Dutch farmers, who themselves perished for hiding Jews.

* * LEESHA ROSE, "**THE TULIPS ARE RED**", Yad Vashem, 1978, Jerusalem, is the unputdownable story of a young Jewish girl, a nurse, who served in the Dutch Resistance during the Second World War, while her whole family died. Leesha Rose is a lecturer at Yad Vashem, and her book has gone through five reprintings

* * BARRY SPANJAARD, "**DON'T FENCE ME IN!**", AN AMERICAN TEENAGER IN THE HOLOCAUST. 1981, B. & B. Publishing, SAUGUS, California, is an autobiographical account by an American-born son of Dutch Jews, who were all sent to Bergen-Belsen.

There is a **MEMORIAL BOOK FOR DUTCH JEWRY** listing 106,000 Jews deported from Holland of Dutch and other nationalities. As far as is known there is no copy in Australia. Our numerous letters to try and obtain a copy were unanswered, and I discovered why last May in Jerusalem. The MEMORIAL BOOK is literally a memorial itself, with only some eight names per page to a total of forty-one (yes, 41) volumes. Yad Vashem library has these volumes, and probably major archives in the Netherlands and major Holocaust museums.

Each entry has surname and first name of victim, alphabetically indexed, date and place of birth, date and place of death, if known. I found that my mother's second cousin, an achingly handsome young married man, a refugee in Holland, whose siblings were all born in Germany, was born in Galicia, as his mother went back to her native shtetl and parental home for the birth of her first child. He perished in Flossenbug, on the death march in March 1945. His wife, who survived Auschwitz and the Union factory as one of 5455 deportees to live to return to Holland, was not listed.

JOSEPH MICHMAN and DAN MICHMAN, formerly Melkman, father and son, both historians, have written widely about the Holocaust in Holland, and their articles have appeared in various volumes of YAD VASHEM STUDIES and can be read in university and communal libraries.

* * "**STUDIA ROSENTHALIA**", the Journal for Jewish Literature and History in the Netherlands, is a periodical published by the University of Amsterdam. Some articles may be in Australian university libraries.

* * ELISABETH WYNHAUSEN, "**MANLY GIRLS**", 1989, Penguin, Melbourne, is a barely disguised autobiographical novel about a family of Dutch Jews who emigrated to Sydney in 1951. Readers from Sydney will recognise many characters, both Jewish and non-Jewish, and get a better understanding of Dutch Jewish settlers.

ADDITIONAL BOOK ON HUNGARY

* JARED H. SUESS "**HANDY GUIDE TO HUNGARIAN GENEALOGICAL RECORDS**", 1980, Everton Publishers, Logan, Utah, gives lists of useful words for genealogy in Hungarian, German and English, lists of first names and of the more

popular surnames, maps of the country at various periods and historical events, in which neither the second world war nor the deportation of the Hungarian Jews figure.

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IN TAYERER LANSMAN, Vol 1 No 1, January, 1987, published in Miami by the late Herbert C. Unger, there is a report on an International Symposium on the History of the Jews in the Netherlands. David Frost of Jerusalem writes that there is an Institute for Research on Dutch Jewry (IRDJ) run by Dr Joseph Michman and located on the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The IRDJ holds a collection of Dutch Jewish genealogies.

Gideon Yaari-Cohen who helped assemble the collection, stated that among Dutch Sephardim, siblings from one family often had different surnames. Dutch Jews had different first names in Hebrew, Yiddish and in Dutch, but these followed a pattern. Someone called Yehuda Leib was Levy or Levie in his Dutch first name. Asher and Anshil went together, as did Gumpel and Mordechai. One of the difficulties facing researchers is that Dutch Jews wrote their names differently on various occasions.

The Institute for Research on Dutch Jewry is interested in receiving copies of family trees with Dutch branches, at the Hebrew University, Givat Ram, Jerusalem, ISRAEL.

Olschwanger Journal		Vol 2 No 1		
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Members who attended the USA Fourth National Seminar in Jewish Genealogy in 1984 may remember Anna Olschwanger's workshop on publishing a family history magazine. Anne has just published the third Olschwanger Journal and donated a copy to our library. Interested individuals can purchase their own copy by sending a cheque for \$US40 (which includes postage and handling in the US) to:- Anna Olschwanger, 7117 Harps Mill Road, Raleigh NC 27615-5323. Tel: 1-919-870-0555.

New Address for Yivo		Vol 2 No 1		
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The major research institute for YIDDISH-speaking Jewry, i.e. on Jewish communities from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Rumania, Galicia, Hungary and Czechoslovakia has temporarily moved to a new address. It is now located at 555 West 57th Street in New York. Its telephone number is still 1-212-535-6700.

By early 1996 YIVO hopes to be able to move into its new home at 15 West 16th Street, New York City and to be joined there by the Leo Baeck Institute, which specializes in the history and genealogy of German-speaking Jewry from Germany, Austria, Bohemia and Moravia, and also by the American Jewish Historical Society and the Yeshiva Museum. In this way four major Jewish historical institutes will be under one roof, which will facilitate matters for visitors from Australia.

The combined libraries will exceed 500,000 volumes, and the combined archives will be well in excess of 50 million pieces of historical and genealogical data. A worthwhile place to visit.

Information for Holocaust Survivors		Vol 2 No 1		
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When Benjamin and Vladka Meed, both surviving Warsaw Ghetto fighters, came to the USA after World War II they founded a National Registry of Holocaust Survivors in the USA. They collected over 80,000 names over the years. This includes some survivors who settled elsewhere. Gary Mokotoff, president of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, computerised this list, which in 1993 was transferred to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington where it serves as a database for finding family survivors.

Information on survivors or refugees who have not been registered is still being sought.

Forms for registration, or information about relatives, can be obtained by mail from a volunteer at the Museum who is also an active member of the Greater Washington Jewish Genealogical Society, MICHEL MARGOSIS, 6412 N 26th Street, Arlington, VA 22207, USA. Tel: 1-703-534-1257

Or SARA OGILVIE, Tel: 1-202-488-6164/20/30 at the Museum.

(Information from MISPACHA, quarterly of the Greater Washington J.G.S., Fall 1993).

Forebears Australian Family Finder		Vol 2 No 1		
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00021 ARLENE B. EDWARDS, 1001 Highlight Drive, West Covina, CA 91791, USA Tel: 1-818-915-5354, Fax 1-818-966-2744. Seeking family of Simon and Chana Sara GUTTMAN of Romania. Eight children emigrated to Montreal at turn of century: Solomon, Sophie, Pauline, Rose, Samuel, Marcus, Leo and Lizzie whose descendants are known. Seeking brothers and sisters of Simon Guttman and their descendants.

00022 ARLENE EDWARDS (as above) seeking relatives of Barnet MAIMAN born in Ovruch, Ukraine, 1884-85, son of Josef and Bessie Adelman Maiman. Barnet's siblings: Ida settled in Chicago; Chasya, married Zalman Eisenberg, children Fira and Levi, last heard from in Vinnitsa, Ukraine in 1933. Brother Leon aka Louis Maiman ran away during a pogrom and was never heard of again.

00023 BILL ARNOLD, O'Connor Pharmacy, 7 Sargood Street, OCONNOR, 2601, ACT, AUSTRALIA. Seeking evidence of Jewish antecedents of my grandmother Ada Matilda GRAFF, daughter of Alexander Graff, born in London, and Sarah Seymour, born in Sussex, England. Ada Matilda was born in Sydney on 9th September, 1874.

00024 DR JON ALLAN, 193 Windsor Road, Northmead, Sydney, 2152, NSW, AUSTRALIA. Tel: 61-2-639-2851. Seeking lost uncle of Alexandra

CHAPKOVSKAYA, a Jewish student in Russia. Her great-grandfather Chazkel CHAPKOVSKI and wife Dvoira perished in Poland, aged about 70 in Nazi regime. Their children included Chaya, David, Rachel Alexandra's grandfather and another son who went to USA and developed a successful shoe business. Contact renewed after WWII was lost during Stalin years. Address of uncle destroyed, and even his first name forgotten by new generation. Now anxious to renew contact.

Do You recognise this Synagogue?

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David Laufer, a member of our Society, believes that one of his wife's ancestors, Arthur Wantoch, was the architect of this building in the 1920's. However, no one in the family knows where this building was located. Any information on the history of this synagogue would be appreciated by David.

[Click on the image for a larger version]

Editorial

Sophie Caplan

Vol 2 No
2



Despite Passover, Yom Hashoah, Hom Ha'Atzmaut, and the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of the Camps and of the end of World War II in Europe, which involved many of us and kept us busy, we have not neglected our genealogical activities.

In the second half of March, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane saw the visit of Dr Anthony Joseph, our English member, who gave a major talk in each of these capital cities on the subject of Anglo-Jewish genealogies. He is now back home in Birmingham, fulfilling all the requests for help which his talks engendered. Anthony's modesty, allied with his promptness, efficient handling of all queries, and very reasonable fees for services rendered, make him a very model of the Jewish genealogical researcher.

On the 1st May 1995 we had the pleasure of listening to another English Jewish genealogist and historian. This time the delightful Mrs Sally Fiber of London, who arranged the exhibition "Jewish Life in London's West End" last year.

The story of how we were able to invite Sally Fiber to talk to us is itself a perfect example of networking. Last September we published a short item on the London West End exhibition, together with Sally's name and address taken from SHEMOT, Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. This was read by a member of the Queensland Family History Society, Lorraine Applethorpe, who wrote to Sally. Sally wrote back telling her of a planned visit to Australia to see her son who is on a working holiday in Sydney. Lorraine rang me one Sunday morning in March to tell me all this, and gave me Jonathan Fiber's number at his digs. I rang him immediately and caught him just as he was going to a Sydney Jewish institution to offer Sally's services for a lecture. We immediately took up the offer, settled on a

date, and a faxed letter went to Sally in London that day, and she accepted by return. We managed to include a flyer about Sally Fiber's talk in the previous issue of the KOSHER KOALA. The remarkable feature of Sally's bubbling good humour and lively mind is that she is mostly confined to a wheelchair. Her lecture was enjoyed by all. The copies of Dr Gerry Black's book, "LIVING UP WEST, JEWISH LIFE IN LONDON'S WEST END" which Sally had brought, were all sold, one going to the Society library. Sally's own book "THE FITZROY, THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A LONDON TAVERN", will be published in mid- September and also available in Australia. It is the story of a public house opened by Sally's grandparents and kept for sixty years in her family in West London as a theatrical tavern.

Our membership has now climbed back to 105, some of them new members, including one from the Katherine in the Northern Territory. A particularly warm welcome to our first Territorian, Bubbles (Lilly) Segall, a registered nurse and midwife, and our first member from the Outback. Now we have members in every state except Tasmania.

Some of our American readers have been asking in print and by letter whether koalas are edible and, if so, whether they are kosher to eat. NO, to both questions. And they are not really cuddlesome either, and sport sharp claws. The KOSHER KOALA is our kinnui, our symbolic name, in true Jewish naming fashion. The koala lives exclusively on young eucalyptus leaves, and its flesh smells strongly of eucalyptus oil. It has no natural predators except man, who destroys its habitat, and viruses which sometimes assail it. A more cuddlesome Australian animal is the wombat which loves to curl up in human arms, like a fat brown pillow with intelligent eyes.

We are arranging an inaugural meeting for Melbourne members of the Society and prospective members, to take place on Wednesday, 2nd August, 1995 at 7.30 at MAKOR JEWISH COMMUNITY LIBRARY, BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 306 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South, 3162, under the chairmanship of our Melbourne representative, AUBREY SCHWARZ. Guest speaker will be our member, EPHRAIM FINCH, Director of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha in a talk on family trees and family histories "The Tapestries of Life". A small entry fee will be charged to defray costs.

Arrangements are being made for genealogy books to be held at Makor Library.

In Canberra, SYLVIA DEUTSCH will be in charge of books of Jewish Genealogical interest. Contact her through the Canberra Jewish Centre.

**New Developments
Regarding the International
Genealogical Index and
Jewish Holocaust Victims**

**Vol 2 No
2**



This communication from the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies reached us on 2nd May, 1995. We hope that the policy decisions outlined below will be given

effect, thus removing the grave differences which were developing between Jews and Mormons (Ed.)

Salt Lake City, Utah and
New York, New York
April 28, 1995

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors have reached an agreement over the issue of posthumous baptisms of Jewish Holocaust victims by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The final agreement will be signed at the New York Office of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on Wednesday, May 3, 1995, at which time a press conference will be held by leaders of both groups.

"The issue came to the attention of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors as a result of an article in a Jewish newspaper which stated, correctly, that a Jewish Holocaust victim who was killed in the Gurs (France) concentration camp was posthumously baptized by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," said Ernest Michel, Chairman of the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and an authorized representative of the American Gathering.

As a result of this article, Mr. Michel on behalf of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, initiated discussions with the Church which extended over a period of several months.

"From the very beginning these discussions were conducted in a positive and friendly manner," Michel said. "They concluded in today's agreement between the Church and the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors," he added.

In a statement issued today, the Church agreed, among other actions to be taken, to remove from the next issue of its International Genealogical Index the names of all known Jewish Holocaust victims who are not ancestors of living members of the Church. The American Gathering agreed to communicate with and inform other major Jewish organizations as to its agreement with the Church. Four other major Jewish organisations have also approved this agreement.

"For more than a century the First Presidency of the Church has taught that members of the Church have a solemn responsibility to identify their deceased forebears and to provide temple ordinances for them regardless of ethnic background or origin," said Elder Monte J. Brough of the Church's Presidency of the Seventy and executive director of its Family History Department.

"However, in violation of Church policy, lists of Jewish Holocaust victims and other non-related groups and individuals have been submitted for temple ordinances. The First Presidency directed in March 1991 that temple ordinances for Jewish Holocaust victims were made by certain individuals and posthumous baptisms in contravention of Church policy occurred," he added.

On January 6, 1995, the First Presidency again directed that the temple ordinances for Jewish Holocaust victims be discontinued unless they were direct ancestors of living members of the Church.

As a consequence of these discussions and the First Presidency's directive, the Church has agreed to:

Remove from the next issue of the International Genealogical Index the names of all known posthumously baptized Jewish Holocaust victims who are not direct ancestors of living members of the Church.

Provide a list of all Jewish Holocaust victims whose names are to be removed from the International Genealogical Index to the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Commission, the N.Y. Holocaust Memorial Commission, the Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles and Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, Israel, and confirm in writing when removal of such names has been completed.

Reaffirm the policy and issue a directive to all officials and members of the Church to discontinue any future baptisms of deceased Jews, including all lists of Jewish Holocaust victims who are known Jews, except if they were direct ancestors of living members of the Church or the Church had the written approval of all living members of the deceased's immediate family.

Confirm this policy in all relevant literature produced by the Church.

Remove from the International Genealogical Index in the future the names of all deceased Jews who are so identified if they are known to be improperly included counter to Church policy.

Release to the American Gathering, The First Presidency's 1995 directive.

The First Presidency reaffirmed that the Church, in accordance with past policy, will continue to make its family history records available to the public regardless of religious or ethnic affiliation.

Jewish Tombstones	Daniel Leeson	Vol 2 No 2	
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(from the Zichron Note Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area JGS issue 14:4)

Part 1: Origin of Tombstones

In the biblical age, the ordinary Jew was as anonymous in death as he or she was in life. Plain folk, unlike patricians were laid in common and unmarked graves. In fact, burial grounds of common people were treated with open contempt by the ruling

classes. For example, in Jeremiah (26:23) there is a reference to the slaying of a prophet by the king of Judah who "cast the dead body into the graves of the children of the People."

When inscribed stones (Hebrew:matzevot) began to mark the graves of ordinary Jews is unknown. Furthermore, when these inscriptions began to give names of the deceased and the dates of that person's passing is equally unknown. While Biblical records record such information with respect to the rich, nothing whatever is said to indicate the practice for other classes. For example, Genesis (35:30), there is a reference to the fact the "Jacob set up a pillar on (Rachel's) grave; the same is the pillar of Rachel's grave until this day." However the character of this pillar bears hardly any relationship to a tombstone of today. In fact it sounds rather idolatrous. Sacred stones and sacred trees were often to be found at the site of ancient Jewish tombs and some anthropologists believe they were primarily for ritualistic purposes and represented practices closely associated with primitive religions. Such stones, which were little more than rude altars, were anointed with oil and worshipped; the blood of animal sacrifices was burned on them in order to appease invisible powers and gain protection therefrom. Another view is that the ancient tombstone was erected solely as a warning marker that declared the burial spot to be sacred or taboo to all passers-by.

When during the period of the Maccabean's, as Judea fell under the cultural influence of Hellenism, the Jewish ruling class followed the then contemporary Greek style of building ornate family mausoleums for the dead. Such a place is described in Maccabees (13:237:29) when Simon Maccabeus put up an imposing monument for his fathers and brothers at Modin, presumably their place of burial. It consisted of seven pyramids bearing bas-reliefs of ships and weapons of war, sculpted in polished marble. Such ostentatious displays were completely unheard of in previous Jewish mortuary customs. It resulted in a comment on such practices in the Talmud: "The Jewish tombs are more beautiful than royal palaces."

After the destruction of the second temple, it became the Jewish custom to raise tombstones that seem in hardly any detail, to depart from their Greek or Roman models. The stones for Jews were inscribed in Greek with the conventional eulogy for the dead, and only one distinct feature set them apart: Jewish epitaphs ended with three fraternal words "shalom al Yisrael". Such tombstones might be adorned with characteristic religious symbols such as a menorah, shofar, lulav, laver, or a palm branch.

Part 2: Tombstone Styles

It appears to be the case that Jewish tombstones have always varied from region to region. Their style was affected only by taste and the fashions of the local Gentile environment. However, there were certain Jewish tombstone traditions that came from various geographies and periods which were transplanted in whatever places to which Jews migrated. Thus the Greco-Roman custom of interment in a stone sarcophagus with the lid bearing the identifying epitaph (a form of burial which wealthy Jews of Hellenistic times had adopted) was carried over into the early Middle Ages in Europe. In the ancient Jewish graveyard of Sarajevo may still be seen such Hellenistic style tombs. The custom of providing individual graves and of raising

headstones became traditional among Jews during the early Middle Ages. The Ashkenazim made it traditional to set the headstone in an upright position. The Sephardim laid the tombstone flat over the grave. The latter fact is explicitly noted in Longfellow's poem about the Jewish cemetery of Newport, Rhode Island laid out by the Sephardim in 1677.

*"And these sepulchral stones, so old and brown
That pave with level flags their burial place
Seem like the tablets of the Law, thrown down,
And broken by Moses at the mountain's base."*

The most interesting of all Jewish burial grounds in Europe is the Prague cemetery. Its oldest stones dating from medieval times are simple slabs of sandstone, Gothic in design, and with epitaphs cut in quaint Hebrew letters. During the Renaissance, the style of the tombstone underwent a transformation, it was cut in portal form, had a pointed gable, and was ornamented with animal symbols and tribal signs chiselled in the stone. If a deceased was a male and a Cohen, his tombstone would be depicted with carved hands, upraised and with the fingers outspread in the familiar priestly benediction. If he was a Levi, his stone bore on it the representation of a jug, or laver, to indicate the Levite role of pouring water.

The Baroque period, which smothered Christian art and architecture in Europe in a great deal of ornamentation also left its impression on the Jews of Prague. Instead of the unadorned upright style of previous centuries, the tombstone became a florid sarcophagus - a tent. It had four walls and was hollow within. However, this was only a formal memorial because the body of the deceased reposed beneath the sod. In such a tent, the almost legendary Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel (1520-1609) (creator of the Golem) lies interred. His stone is flamboyant in ornamentation and in the Biblical Hebrew inscription.

Most imaginative was the way the name of the deceased was often treated; it was graphically illustrated on the tombstone according to its literal meaning. If the Hebrew name of the departed was Yehuda, for example, a lion of Judah was carved on the stone; if Dov, a bear; if Zeb, a wolf; if Zevi or Tsvi, a stag or deer. If a woman's name was Chava (Eve) her stone was adorned with a scene from the garden of Eden; the surname of Hahn was represented by a rooster; that of Meisl a mouse.

The Jewish stonecutter, a folk artist in his way, found inspiration for his creative imagination in the callings and professions of the deceased. A tailor was represented by the carving of a pair of scissors on the stone; a doctor by medical pincers; an apothecary by mortar and pestle; a goldsmith by a crown and two chains; a musician by a violin; a printer by a book.

Part 3: Tombstone Formats

Aside from information giving the name of the deceased, the date of his death, his father's name, and in the instance of a wife, the name of her husband, and verbally overloaded gravestone also carried more often than not, elegies and eulogies for the departed. These were composed in Biblical Hebrew and were characteristically flowery and fulsome. The eulogy for Elijah Levite, the famous Hebrew grammarian

and Yiddish troubadour of Venice during the renaissance, is an excellent example. "The stone cries out from the wall, and mourns...for our rabbi who has departed and ascends into heaven. Elijah is gone to the L..d in a whirlwind-he who shed light on the darkness of grammar and turned it into light. He ascended at the end of Shevat in the year 5309 (i.e. 1568 C.E.) and his soul is bound up in the bond of Eternal Life". Even more pathos and extravagant metaphor is lavished on the tombstone of a Prague Jew who was buried in 1586. "With bitterness and grief I cry; 'Ariel - he has gone to G-d! Weep and lament, mourn, and shed bitter tears. He hastened to perform deeds of purity like a stag to the waterbrook."

Part 4: Modern Tombstones

Today's tombstones over Jewish graves are quite simple and matter of fact. Except perhaps, for the symbol of either a menorah or a Star of David and a few characteristic Hebrew words inscribed on them, many are no more traditionally Jewish than were those of Hellenistic times whose epitaphs were carved in Greek. Cemeteries of Conservative and Reform Jews display tombstones that, in shape and design seem to be little different from those that may be found in Protestant graveyards. However the stones of Orthodox and Ultra Orthodox graves, while to the beholder they may seem scornful of external beauty, nevertheless, strive to maintain some of the characteristics of the past, if not in the design of the stone at least in the epitaph. Whatever the manner of the religious adherence of the deceased, most Jewish tombstones follow tradition in a few details. On top are carved the Hebrew equivalents of the letters P and N which stand for Poh Nikbar. Here lies buried...At the bottom are inscribed the equivalents of the consonants

TNZBH (pronounced "Tenatzayboh").

This is the acronym made up of the first letters of the Hebrew supplication recited at the funeral service. "*May his soul be bound up in the bond of Eternal Life.*"

Custom dictates that around the time of the first anniversary of the death of the departed the family and friends of the departed gather at the graveside for the unveiling and consecration of his or her tombstone. Since the Talmudic age it has been a Jewish folk belief that it is good for one's soul to pay a visit to the graveside of a beloved person. It teaches humility and recalls to mind the emptiness of some of the values of the world, the need for devoting oneself to ideal goals and good deeds.

**How to Read the Hebrew
Years on Jewish
Tombstones**

David H Heller

**Vol 2 No
2**



Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois

Researchers in Jewish genealogy sometimes wish to read dates in Hebrew. While this may appear to be a formidable task, it is not really very difficult for anyone who can read the Hebrew alphabet (Most people can learn in a day). Here are a few simple guidelines for interpreting the years as they are written on documents and gravestones. In the Hebrew alphabet each letter can also serve as a numeral, but

unlike the notation we use every day, it is not entirely based on decimals, nor does it have a symbol for zero. Usually, a series of Hebrew letters being used as numerals will have a double prime mark ["'] before the last numeral, as in תשנ"ה

The Hebrew year begins at sunset on Rosh Hashanah in September or October of the civil year. Starting from the right, the first digit of the year may be a hay, followed by a double prime, as in ה'תשנ"ה, where the ה' represents the fifth millennium which started in the year 1240 and which will end in 2240. Since we rarely use dates from millennia other than our own, this number is often omitted. The centuries are usually represented by the next two numerals (See Table 1).

In the example given, namely תשנ"ה, it can be seen from the table that the first two numerals at the right, תש, are translated as 5700, corresponding to the century extending from 1940 to 2040. To interpret the last two numerals, נ"ה, refer to Table 2 which translates the decades and years. Looking up the last two numerals, ה' becomes 55. Adding this number to 5700, we arrive at 5755 as the complete translation of the Hebrew year. To convert this year to the approximate civil year, we ignore the first 5 and add 1240 to the remainder: (755 + 1240 = 1995).

Using the Letters if the Hebrew Alphabet as Numerals			
Numerical Value		Name of Letter	Approx. Pronunciation
1	א	Ah-lef	Silent
2	ב	Bet	B
3	ג	Gim-mel	G
4	ד	Deh-let	D
5	ה	Hay	H
6	ו	Vav	V
7	ז	Zah-yin	Z
8	ח	Khet	Kh
9	ט	Tet	T
10	י	Yod	Y
20	כ	Koff	K
30	ל	Lah-med	L
40	מ	Mem	M
50	נ	Noon	N
60	ס	Sahm-ekh	S

70	ע	Ah-yin	Silent
80	פ	Pay	P
90	ץ	Tzad-i	TZ
100	ק	Koof	K
200	ר	Raysh	R
300	ש	Shin	SH
400	ת	Tawf	T

Table 1 - The Centuries		
Civil Years	English (= 5000 plus)	Hebrew (= ה plus)
1240 - 1340	0	
1340 - 1440	100	ק
1440 - 1540	200	ר
1540 - 1640	300	ש
1640 - 1740	400	ת
1740 - 1840	500	הק
1840 - 1940	600	תר
1940 - 2040	700	תש
2040 - 2140	800	תת

Table 2 - The Decades and Years									
90		80		70		60		50	
Eng	Heb	Eng	Heb	Eng	Heb	Eng	Heb	Eng	Heb
90	ץ	80	פ	70	ע	60	ם	50	נ
91	צא	81	פא	71	עא	61	סא	51	נא
92	צב	82	פב	72	עב	62	סב	52	נב
93	צג	83	פג	73	עג	63	סג	53	נג
94	צד	84	פד	74	עד	64	סד	54	נד
95	צה	85	פה	75	עה	65	סה	55	נה
96	צו	86	פו	76	עו	66	סו	56	נו
97	צז	87	פז	77	עז	67	סז	57	נז
98	צח	88	פח	78	עח	68	סח	58	נח
99	צט	89	פט	79	עט	69	סט	59	נט

40		30		20		10		00	
Eng	Heb	Eng	Heb	Eng	Heb	Eng	Heb	Eng	Heb
40	ם	30	ל	20	נ	10	י	00	
41	מא	31	לא	21	נא	11	יא	01	א
42	מב	32	לב	22	נב	12	יב	02	ב
43	מג	33	לג	23	נג	13	יג	03	ג
44	מד	34	לד	24	נד	14	יד	04	ד
45	מה	35	לה	25	נה	15	יה	05	ה
46	מו	36	לו	26	נו	16	יו	06	ו
47	מז	37	לז	27	נז	17	יז	07	ז
48	מח	38	לח	28	נח	18	יח	08	ח
49	מט	39	לט	29	נט	19	יט	09	ט

Tapes for Borrowing

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The following is a list of some of the Society's collection of audio tapes that are available for any member to borrow. If you are willing to pay for the postage we are prepared to send them anywhere. It is an opportunity for out-of-town members to hear the talks given at our meetings and seminars, as well as tapes we have bought from the organisers of the overseas conferences.

Third International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy,
Salt Lake City, 1991

Family History Seminar, Sydney, 1992

Family History Seminar, Sydney, 1995

"Jewish Galicia" Rabbi Wunder, 1992

"Doing Research Into Chassidic Ancestry By Mail from Australia" Mark Tedeschi,
1993

"Research in Russia" Alex Mirvis, 1993

"The Rapaport Story and Jewish Genealogical Research"

Chanan Rapaport, 1993

"The Jews of Turkey and Greece" Yitzchak Kerem, 1994

"Jews of the West End of London" Sally Fiber, 1995

Cost should include Postpak as well as postage.

Send your request to: Mrs Selma Jackson, 13/21 Waverley Street, BONDI
JUNCTION NSW 2022

Radio Roots - Genealogical Talkback with Nick Vine Hall		Vol 2 No 2		
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Members might like to tune in or phone Nick for advice on research problems. He can be heard on:-

ABC Regional NATIONAL Every 1st Wednesday of month 11.30 am

2CN CANBERRA Every 4th Wednesday 2.00 pm

3LO MELBOURNE Every Friday 1.30 pm

7NT LAUNCESTON Every 4th Tuesday 9.30 am

7ZR HOBART Every 2nd Tuesday 2.30 pm

8DDD DARWIN Every 2nd Tuesday 2.15 pm

2CBA-FM SYDNEY Random times

Acquiring Records from the Russian Empire: A RAGAS Update		Vol 2 No 2		
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(This article appeared in "Forum", the publication of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and was reprinted in Ancestry, the Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Cincinnati, Vol.3 No. 2 March 1995).

The Moscow component of RAGAS, the Russian-American Genealogical Archival Service, has gone "private". The organization, which provides genealogical services for most of the countries of the former Soviet Union, is now an entrepreneurial venture of one of the men who did most of the research for the group, Vladislav Soshnikov. Previously, RAGAS was associated with the Russian archival system.

Soshnikov announced a number of items designed to improve the service of his organisation:

RAGAS has signed cooperative agreements with the two principal archives in Belarus, Minsk and Grodno, to assist them in researching in Belarus. Cooperative agreements with archives in Kiev, Odessa and the Saratov-Engels area are also planned. One of the difficulties with gaining record access to archives in the former Soviet Union is that (1) these archives are reluctant to do the work themselves because they have no means of getting paid in hard currency, and (2) they are unwilling to allow professional "outsiders" to profit from use of their records. These cooperative agreements mean that RAGAS, who has the means to acquire hard currency, can act as an intermediary between the archives and the genealogical researcher.


There is now an Internet address which permits E-mail communication directly to their office in Moscow. The address is vladrag@glas.apc.org. The E-mail link can be used to inquire on the status of projects previously given to RAGAS and to the feasibility of retaining them for new work.

The organization now owns a laptop computer which will be used in the field to record information found at the multitude of archives that exist in the former Soviet Union.

RAGAS was founded in 1992 as a joint venture of the Archives of Russia Society (AROS) and the United States National Archives Volunteer Association (NAVA). It is a non-profit self-supporting organization for assisting persons with Russian background in obtaining information concerning their ancestors. A National Advisory Board in the U.S. provides direction for the group. Members of the Board include representatives from FGS, National Genealogical Society, Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Organization of Russian-Americans and other interest groups.

In the first two year of operation RAGAS has received 500 requests from American genealogists. Nearly 85% of the requests have been from Jewish and Germans-from-Russia researchers, the two Eastern European ethnic groups with the greatest interest in genealogy. Almost all the requests were for research to be done in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

An initial non-refundable fee of \$US50.00 is required for a preliminary search of sources in the archives. In the event of a positive preliminary search, authorization can be given to continue the search up to a maximum expenditure at the rate of \$US6.00 per hour. Forms to initiate a request can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to RAGAS, P.O. Box 236, Glen Echo, MD 20812, USA.

Magyar Zsido		Vol 2 No 2		
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Semi-annual Publication of the Greater Hungarian Special Interest Group

We have started to subscribe to this journal of which Vol 1 Nos.1 and 2 are available for reading at our workshops. The contents cover information on the Austro-Hungarian Empire, on Slovakia, on the Kingdom of Hungary and on all aspects of Jewish genealogy which can possible be classified as Hungarian. Maps of Hungary at various periods of her history feature prominently. There are also lists of Hungarian, Slovakian, Carpatho-Russian and Transylvanian Yiskor books, though no indication of where these could be bought or found in a library. Also stories of genealogical trips to these areas.

Finally there is information on persons who will do research for a fee and who are receptive to inquiries by mail. e.g. in PRESOV/EPERJES: ZIDOVSKA A NOVOZESKA (Jewish community organisation) Desidor Landau, Obec ul.Svermova no. 32, 080 01 PRESOV, SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA (Slovakian Republic). Also Isadore Gold, aged 78, to whom one can write in Slovak, Yiddish or English. He particularly knows the small villages surrounding STROPKOV. Isadore Gold, Zahrabna 32, PRESOV, SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA.


There are also advertisements for a researcher specialising in Transylvania, and other worthwhile features.

Subscription rate is \$US16.00 annually outside North America to HSI, POB 34152, CLEVELAND, OH 44134, USA.

Tel: 1-216-661-3970

Fax: 1-216-291-0824 or 1-216-741-7329.

Editor Louis Schonfield also seeks correspondence and suitable articles (to same address).

The "Haschel" Talmud Torah School in Vienna	George Beecher (1893 - 1981)	Vol 2 No 2		
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(Kosher Koala readers, their parents or grandparents may enjoy the following reminiscences of almost one hundred years ago. It was written by my father, George Beecher, about twenty-five years ago when he was eighty. My father was born in Kolomea, Galicia, then part of Austro-Hungary, and migrated to Vienna when he was five years old with his parents. Bob Beecher)

There are probably few people who can remember the name "The Haschel". This was a Talmud Torah school in Malzgasse in Vienna. I was a pupil there from 1899 to 1904 (aged 6 to 11). I have many happy memories of this time.

The Haschel was a strictly orthodox Jewish primary school. The headmaster's name was Kohn, and some of the teachers were Heller, Pollack, Lueftschoetz and Muschl. Teacher Pollack taught us Talmud every afternoon and I often think of the Hebrew "Bowoh Mezhiah" and "Bowoh Medamah". I still remember some of the things we were taught which led to heated discussions amongst us pupils. (Also known as Baba Metzhiah and Baba Medamah. Ed.)

We had school on Sundays, but not on the Sabbath. On that day I went to the synagogue in Leopoldsgasse ("Die Polnische Shul") with my father. The service was conducted by Rabbi Mayersohn and cantor Schor with several Haschel pupils in the choir.

Malzgasse was a street full of history. Emperors and kings passed through it in their carriages to visit the Duchess Maria Josefa in the Augarten palace. Accompanied by the Austrian emperor, Franz Josef, were Czar Nicholas of Russia, the Shah of Persia, Emperor Wilhelm of Germany, Alfons of Spain, the kings of England, Italy and others. Near the Haschel was an orthodox soup kitchen named "Einheit" (unity) and the equally kosher canteen "Mensa Akademika". As a result, the various kings and emperors would see quite a lot of "Jidden" with ritual curls and velvet hats when passing through.


The "Franz Josef" holiday home in Tuerkenstrasse was connected with the Haschel. Every year this organisation took four groups of about 150 children on holidays to Tischnowitz in Moravia. For us poor children this was a land of milk and honey (Schlaraffenland). We were accommodated in a large building, like a castle, surrounded by gardens and forest. There were a number of dormitories and bathrooms. Each child was given a toothbrush, often their first one, as well as a facecloth and soap. These could be taken home after the holiday as rarities, much admired by parents, brothers and sisters.

The holiday home ensured that the children were fed nutritious and ample meals. Most of us gained around four kilos in weight during the holiday. The Haschel children were given special consideration because of their poor homes. I will never forget Mrs Zins, one of the most efficient holiday home ladies, who was called "Mrs Holiday" by the children. I wonder what became of her two daughters.

Much later, when I was a prefect at high school, I was sent to the holiday home at Tischnowitz and assisted Mr Lueftschuetz, a former Haschel teacher. He had a good voice and ran the Friday night service with a large choir. These were unforgettable occasions with candles and Sabbath bread on the table, in a clearing surrounded by trees with benches and chairs for the children and the guests.

The Haschel and the Leopoldsgasse synagogue were both destroyed by the Nazis.

The Beecher family, then Becher, emigrated from Vienna to Australia in December, 1938 after the Anschluss.

Jewish Genealogy Trip to Galicia, July - August 1995		Vol 2 No 2		
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The Special Interest Group (SIG) GESHER GALICIA (Bridge to Galicia) is sponsoring two trips to the area of former Galicia this northern hemisphere summer. One is to the area of Galicia which is now Ukraine, departing USA on Sunday 23rd July, 1995, and another to the part of Galicia which is still part of southern Poland, leaving USA on Sunday 30th July, 1995. The two trips can also be combined. It is possible to join the group either in Poland or after travelling directly from Australia, and one or two of our members are planning on doing this.

The facilities will include transport by bus, by mini-bus or by chauffeured car to all the towns desired by the participants, who will be grouped according to the areas desired to visit. A guide and translator will also accompany each group. Costs will depend on the number of people taking each part of the trip. For further information contact:

ALLAN MALLENBAUM, P.O. BOX 24, PLAINVIEW, NY 118033 - 0024, USA. Tel: 1-516-349-0425,


Fax: 1-516-349-1292 for Ukraine tour; PHYLLIS SIMON, 19 Earl Road, MELVILLE NY 11747 - 1313, USA. Tel: 1-516-673-3568 for Polish segment.

Or contact SOPHIE CAPLAN, 5 Woonona Road, Northbridge, Sydney, NSW, 2063.
Fax: 02-967-2834. Archives in each town will be part of the visit.

The Jews of South West England	Bernard Susser	Vol 2 No 2	
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The definitive study of the Jewish communities of EXETER, FALMOUTH, PENZANCE and PLYMOUTH was published in 1993 by University of Exeter Press, 272 pages for £25.

University of Exeter, Reed Hall, Streatham Drive, Exeter EX4 4QR, England. Tel: 44-392-263066 Fax: 44-392-263064.

Data from a Hebrew Book		Vol 2 No 2	
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A Hebrew book, "Two Hundred and Fifty Letters Addressed to Young People and All Who Are Attracted to the Language of the Past" (title translated by Rabbi David Rogut), printed in Vilna in 1902, has been given to our Society for possible identification of names and towns. It was found in an empty house being renovated and originally handed to the Australian Jewish Historical Society, which passed it on to us. The end-pages have a number of first and surnames and towns of presumably the owners of the book through the years. Those names have not so far been identified in Sydney. The author was M.M. DALITZKI and the book is wholly in Hebrew, except for a few lines about the publisher and printer which are in Russian characters.

The names of past owners are mostly written higgledy-piggledy in Latin handwritten characters: as well as remarks indicating ownership in German. This use of German and the location of the various towns all East, South-east or North-east of Krakow, according to "Where Once We Walked", seems to indicate that this book was originally purchased and used in Eastern Galicia and that it came to Australia from there. Perhaps it was passed down within a family.

Names, towns and locations:-

ABRAHAM HAMERSFELD
TARNOW, 75 km E of Krakow

ESTER NEUMAN
MIELEC, GALICIA, 107 km ENE of Krakow

To Dr HIRSCHWOHL

CHAIM ROTSACHS
MIELEC

Mrs CHAYA STERNGLANZ "for son OSIAS"
KRYNICA, 107 kms ESE of Krakow

This belongs to ISRAEL NEUMAN
MIELEC, GALICIA

BARUCH STERNGLANZ
DROHOBICZ, 69 km SSW of Lvov

BARUCH STERNGLANZ
KRYNICA

OSIAS STERNGLANZ
at Mrs Chaye Sternglanz

OSKAR STERNGLANZ
KRYNICA

OSIAS STERNGLANZ
WOJNICZ, "near Bukovina" 62 km E of Krakow

The last three entries are obviously by the same person, as Osias and Oskar/Oscar were the same name and often from the Hebrew name Yeshayahu/Joshua. There are also some Hebrew script names, unfortunately undecipherable and also some attempts to practice an illegible signature.

We would like to hear from anyone who recognises any of those names and places. Please write to A.J.G.S., P.O. Box 154, NORTHBRIDGE, SYDNEY, 2063, NSW, AUSTRALIA or fax (61-2) 958 2834.

Do You Own Any Yizkor Books?		Vol 2 No 2		
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A worldwide database is currently being established for the purpose of making the contents of Yizkor books more accessible to genealogical researchers. The database will include the names of people who own Yizkor books. If you own any Yizkor books, the following information would be appreciated:

- 1 Modern name of the shtetl
- 2 Modern name of the country
- 3 Transliterated name of the book
- 4 Author or editor of the book
- 5 Translated name of the book
- 6 Date of publication
- 7 Place of publication
- 8 Copyright, if any
- 9 Date of copyright, if any
- 10 Number of pages
- 11 Language(s) of the book
- 12 Portions translated
- 13 Name and address of owner (e-mail and postal)
- 14 Special notes by owner

Please send whatever information you have by regular mail to:

LEONARD MARKOWITZ,
Monitor Yizkor Book SIG, 1279 June Road,
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006, USA, or
E-mail to him at cayglla@prodigy.com or
E-mail to Martin Kessel at mkessel@world.std.com.

Please include information as to whether the Index or table of contents is also available in English.

Our Resource Librarian would also appreciate a copy of this information for the Society's records as well.

Postcards with Views of your Ancestral Shtetl		Vol 2 No 2		
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Alain Roth of 56/20 Kdoshe Ashoa, Herzlia Pituah, ISRAEL, Tel: 00972-9-554886 buys and sells postcards, prints and books on all towns, villages and cities in the world, particularly those of late 19th and early 20th century.

Write to him specifying which towns and villages interest you, and he will send lists of available holdings.

Genealogical Research in Great Britain		Vol 2 No 2		
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The British Tourist Authority in cooperation with the Federation of Family History Societies and the Society of Genealogists has published a free booklet for anyone thinking of doing genealogical research in Great Britain, either in person or by mail.

Write for a copy of "BRITAIN, TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS" to

The British Tourist Authority
Thames Tower, Black's Road
LONDON W5 9EL, U.K.

Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf	Peter Nash and Sophie Caplan	Vol 2 No 2		
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Those books with an asterisk (*) in front are held by our Society, books in the personal library of some of our members are marked with two asterisks (* *) and books marked with a ☆ can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held.

BOOKS ON THE SHANGHAI EXPERIENCE (1936-1949)

* * NOEL BARBER, "**THE FALL OF SHANGHAI**", 1979, MacMillan, London. The full story of the Communist take-over of China and Shanghai from 1948 onwards. Based on many interviews.

* * DAVID KRANZLER, "**JAPANESE, NAZIS AND JEWS**", 1976, Yeshiva University Press, New York. A researched work describing why and how the Jews escaped to Shanghai and their life under Japanese rule. Numerous references to the sourced interviews quoted.

☆ JAMES R. ROSS, "**ESCAPE TO SHANGHAI**", 1994, The Free Press, New York. An extremely well researched and constructed account of Jewish community life in Shanghai from 1937 to 1950. Based essentially on interviews with four former Jewish immigrants. Recommended reading.

* * EVELYN PIKE RUBIN, "**GHETTO SHANGHAI**", 1993, Shengold Publishers, New York. The personal story of the Popielarz family's escape from Germany to Shanghai in 1939 and their life in Shanghai until their emigration to the United States in 1947. Very anecdotal and fragmented.

* * MARVIN TOKAYER and MARY SWARTZ, "**THE FUGU PLAN**", 1979, Paddington Press, New York and London. The story of an ingenious secret Japanese plan to save a million European Jews from the Nazis and re-settle them in Manchuria. A well-written and very readable book.

* * PETER KOHN, "**RACHEL'S CHANCE**", 1987, Hudson Publishing, Hawthorn, Melbourne, Australia, is a true story, disguised as a novel, of the author's parents. They were Viennese Jews who fled to Belgium and then to Shanghai where they spent the years of World War II. An enthralling story. Still available from the author at 23/310 Warrigal Road, Cheltenham, Melbourne, 3192, Vic., Australia.

* * RENA KRASNO, "**STRANGERS ALWAYS, A JEWISH FAMILY IN WARTIME SHANGHAI**", 1992, privately published by author at Pacific View Press, Berkeley, California, is a story of a Russian Jewish family which resided in Shanghai from 1921 onwards to 1948. The father was one of the leaders of the community. Illustrated by photos of people and institutions, and a valuable map of Shanghai.

Forebears		Vol 2 No 2	
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00025 CAROL W. SKYDELL, POB 443, CHILMARK, MA 02535, USA Tel: 1-508-645-9468. Seeking address for George (Grigori) **SKIDELSKY**, born 1907 in Vladivostok, wife (name unknown), daughter Margarete, married name unknown. Margarete has two children.

00026 SOPHIE CAPLAN, POB 154, NORTH- BRIDGE, NSW, 2063, AUSTRALIA. Fax: 61-2- 967-2834. Seeking in USA descendants great-uncles **STEIN** who left Western Galicia area KALUSH as teenagers and orphans circa 1870. First names unknown, elder brother Meyer Stein in ZAWADKA, forester to a Polish count. Family Cohanin.

00027 CYNTHIA SHAW, 13 MOUNT DRIVE, WEMBLEY PARK, MIDDLESEX, ENGLAND, HA9 9ED. Seeking **BOAS** sisters, Renee and Katie, married in England and migrated to Australia about the 1940's. Father, Simon Boas, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

00028 Mrs ROS WEBB, 6 ZANADU COURT, GELORUP, WA, 6230. Seeking descendants of siblings of my great-grandfather BARNETT ASHER **FIENBERG**, born in Newport, Monmouthshire, U.K. in 1856, married Annie Facey in Sydney in 1883, or any information about this family.

00029 JANINA HOCHLAND, 70 BROOKLAWN DRIVE, WITHINGTON, MANCHESTER, M20 3GZ, ENGLAND. Tel:44-61-445-1847. Seeking ISAAC **WEINTRATER** or descendants, Born Kalisz circa 1915, survived WWII. Last seen in Lodz in 1945 before leaving for Australia.

00030 GEORGE TRIEF, 5310 LAS VERDES CIRCLE #106, DELLRAY BEACH, FLORIDA 33484 USA. Seeking **WEISENBERG WILI TRIF** or **TRIEF**, said to be living somewhere in Australia.

J.O.I.N. - the Australian/Jewish Electronic Networking Project

Vol 2 No 2



Everyone who believes in the importance of a strong Jewish presence on the Internet should support J.O.I.N.'s aim of building an Australia-wide Jewish community computer network. Just like the telephone, the more participants there are - the more valuable the service becomes. They are asking everyone who supports this goal to help them to continue and expand their efforts and activities into Jewish community networking by becoming a Member/Sponsor and by encouraging others to contribute to or connect through them. (This will allow them to upgrade what they offer to their members). Membership costs \$AUS25.00 for a student/concession, \$AUS50.00 for regular membership and \$100.00 for an organisation and includes free Internet address, special purchase price on modems as well as low cost subscription to the Electronic Edition of the Jerusalem Post.

J.O.I.N. - Jewish Ozzies' International Network

join@tmx.mhs.oz.au
Tel: 61-2-365 1974
Fax: 61-2-362 3476

Geraldine Jones, granddaughter of Shrage Feivish Gershenson, Harness Maker, Ukraine is the co-ordinator of JOIN.

Incredible Co-incidences

Geraldine Jones

Vol 2 No 2



One of Jewish networkings's greatest gifts is the way in which it facilitates family connections worldwide. In the very early days of JOIN, a year or so ago, we were delighted to have played a hand in re-uniting a family split between Israel, the U.S. and Australia.

JOIN was contacted last week by Howard Gershen in the USA who is researching the roots of the GERSHEN or GERSHENSON or GERSHENZON family because he had some news for an Australian, Mindl Rabinowicz who lost most of her family in the holocaust. A Melbourne JOINer has already tried to phone Mindl with no success and so we hope that someone reading this might know of her and be prepared to relay information to her, or better still, get her to JOIN.

So what of the amazing co-incidence I mentioned earlier? What Howard Gershen didn't know was that his family name "Gershenson" was the same as that of my late grandmother!!! Within 24 hours of me telling him this I received email from my cousin Daniel whom I had met as a girl in New York on my way to Australia after WW2. Daniel is an academic in Tel Aviv Uni and has been looking for me for many years. He was even in Australia a couple of years ago but only knowing my maiden name didn't help. I am absolutely delighted about my newly rediscovered cousin who has already met with my son, Quentin, founder of JOIN, in Tel Aviv.

If you find this pretty exciting and would like to know more about Jewish Genealogy on the net you can subscribe to Jewishgen@nysernet.org. Questions like Howard's can also be addressed to

JOIN-TALK@shamash.nysernet.org

Corrigenda		Vol 2 No 2		
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In the article on the LOUTH PARK CEMETERY IN MAITLAND (Vol. 1 No. 5), it was stated that the GEORGE JUDAH COHEN buried there was the father of SAMUEL COHEN later Sir SAMUEL and of ALROY COHEN. This is incorrect. It was another GEORGE JUDAH COHEN.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 2 No 3		
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In this Jewish New Year of 5756 we welcome to our fold fifteen new members in Melbourne who have joined Aubrey Schwarz and our ten earlier Victorian members in forming the Victorian branch of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. It all started in March 1995 when we thought it was a pity that our Victorian members had no easily accessible resources, and decided to order a copy of the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder and three other books for them to be sent to Aubrey. This inspired Aubrey to call a meeting for the 2nd August, 1995 at which our member, Ephraim Finch, was the inaugural speaker. The written version of his talk is the first contribution from Melbourne in this journal. Rieke and Peter Nash were able to attend this inaugural meeting in Melbourne, and David Grosz attended the second meetin a week later. Unfortunately your President was unable to be present as she was then on a genealogical trip in eastern Europe.

A tripartite agreement has been made with Rosaline Collins, the Executive Director of Makor Library and Resources Centre in Caulfield, Melbourne, Aubrey Schwarz, the Interim Chairman of the Victorian branch and Sophie Caplan as President of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, that the books, journals, tapes, etc. of the

Society in Victoria will be kept as reference books for members within the Makor Library and catalogued in such a way that, should there ever be a parting of the ways between Makor Library and the Victorian branch of this Society, it will be easy to establish which books, tapes, periodicals, etc. belong to the Society. In the meantime Rosaline Collins has been chosen by the Victorian branch as their Resources Librarian, which will facilitate everyone's task.

Ester Csaky is Honorary Secretary, Rhonda Lasky is Minutes Secretary, Bettye Susskind is Honorary Treasurer and Les Oberman will do Promotions and Kosher Koala liaison. In the next issue we hope to present you with a full list of the committee in Melbourne.

In the meantime our South Australian representative, Hilda Hines, is calling a meeting in her home for Thursday 12th October of all those Jews in Adelaide interested in genealogy. We may soon have a vibrant branch in that city also.

In Sydney our monthly Sunday morning workshops are taking place regularly. On 27th June, 1995 we heard Associate Professor Leslie Burnett, who is Assistant Director of the Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, Director of Clinical Chemistry at Westmead Hospital, Sydney, and his wife, Ruth Pojer, present to us: "GENES AND GENEALOGY: THE TAY-SACHS DISEASE EPIC". It was a fascinating topic to have explained, made more poignant by the presence of one of our members who had been the parent of a child affected by the Tay-Sachs syndrome.

On Sunday 20th August, 1995 Sophie Caplan spoke of her recent genealogical trip to the Ukraine with the Rosa Robota Foundation and to Poland with Gesher Galicia. Judging by the flood of questions many people were eager to hear more. We hope to have an article on this topic in the next issue.

No one from Australia attended the Washington, D.C. Summer Conference, but we sent our proxy for the election of a new president of the worldwide Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. Gary Mokotoff stepped down as president after six years, but he will continue as publisher of AVOTAYNU. Robert Weiss of San Francisco Bay JGS is the new President of the Association, Rolf Lederer of Toronto JGS is Vice-President, Harold Bookbinder of Los Angeles JGS is Treasurer, Steve Siegel of JGS, Inc., New York, one of the founders of TOLEDOT in 1977 which marked the rebirth of Jewish genealogy, is Secretary, and so-called members at large include Scott Meyer, Nancy Arbeiter, Arline Sachs and Linda Cantor. By the time you read this ARLINE SACHS will be in Australia, where she will talk to us on "JEWISH CEMETERIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD", the big project she is co-ordinating, on 12th October in Sydney and on 26th October in Melbourne.

Congratulations to our long-standing member Sir Asher Joel who was made a Papal Knight a few months ago for his service to the Papacy in arranging the Australian tours of two Popes. Can any other JGS boast of one of their members who is fully Jewish and a Papal Knight? We wish Sir Asher and Lady Sybil Joel continued good health.

This article is the result of a talk given on 2nd August, 1995 at the Makor Library in Caulfield by Ephraim Finch, director of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha, at the inaugural meeting of the Victorian section of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society.

It is with great pleasure that I speak to you tonight as the inaugural speaker for the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society in Melbourne. I would like to share with you some of my recollections of moments captured in my mind of the "Tapestry of Life" that I see and hear of everyday.

It all began eleven years ago, when I moved from Sydney to Melbourne. I was building and renovating a block of flats in Elwood, where I met a man whom I had been asked to evict before renovation proceeded. He was called "The Man With No Voice" as he spoke through a hole in his throat as a result of cancer. One day I met him on the stairs and politely asked when he would be moving out. To my surprise he asked me if he could delay his move for about one and a half weeks, I assured him that would be okay, as I would work around him. He then answered "What a mitzvah you have done". I was shocked and asked: "Peter Martin Gottinger, you are a Jew?" He answered "My name is Mordechai Zvi Ben Morenu Ha'Rav Israel Pincus". I asked him to repeat it while I wrote it down. Since that time I have not stopped writing. The conclusion to this story is sad, as it is in most cases. I was rung by the police to say that a man had perished in a house fire. They gave me his name, Peter Gottinger, which did not mean anything to me until they described his circumstances. I then made arrangements with the coroner for his release. I was contacted by his relations who came to my office to make the necessary arrangements. It was during our interview that I realised how little information the relatives could give me, I imagine that I was the only person who knew his Jewish name. If he had not told me his Jewish name he would have gone to the grave as Peter, but now his Hebrew name is etched on his monument as a permanent memorial to him and his family.

From that time on I noticed that the Chevra Kadisha, when the Form 19 of the notification of death was completed at the interview with the relatives, did not pursue the history of that family. If questions could not be answered, they were left blank, unfilled. The most astonishing thing was that this form, with however little information, was sent into the Births, Deaths and Marriages registry and we did not keep any record. I have changed that situation - from the government form which, I would like to say is the best form in Australia, as no other state asks for such details in a set order - we have designed our own family history with a Jewish touch, adding all relevant Jewish details.

We try to gather as much information as possible, and we ask that people bring in documents such as Birth Certificates, family trees, Ketubot, conversion certificates. I even have a Rabbi's Semichah. At present we have a four-drawer filing cabinet nearly full of family histories. We are in the process of upgrading our family tree programme on our computer. Much of our time is taken up in our endeavour to record family genealogies. I have spent countless hours trying to put on computer all

Jewish burials in Victoria since 1843. We are gradually getting there. We differ from the Historical Society because we can trace a person back to a particular grave number. For example, I received a phone call from a lady by the name of Alexa Cloud who wanted to know where her great- great-grandfather was buried in 1866. She quoted the name Feldheim. I called it up on my computer and it showed one name, Heiman Feldheim who died in 1866, buried in St Kilda cemetery, a coroner's case, where a jeweller was shot. She then asked me about a baby daughter who had died in 1864. I replied that I only had one Feldheim, and promised to ring her back if I found any more information. I then went through the microfiche for Carlton Cemetery and there was the daughter, Hellena, buried on 1st March, 1864. I then checked the grave number and found that another lady had been buried in the baby's grave some seventy years later! I made another entry and resurrected her on to our cemetery list.

As in all tapestries, the patterns vary and so does human existence. We try to involve the remaining spouse and the children. Unfortunately sometimes, only the children come to my office to make the arrangements, and they do not know all their parent's family tree. Once I had the opportunity of talking with a widower and his son, and found how important it is to probe whilst asking the normal questions; where born, if married once or twice, father's name and so on. The widower presented his father-in-law as a "businessman and who learned all the time." I asked him if he was a "Misnagid" or a "Chassid". He answered "Of course, a Chassid, a Gerer Chassid and so was his wife". I then asked him for his own details. When we got down to his father's occupation he also described his father as a businessman who learned all the time. I again asked if was a Misnagid or a Chassid. He answered "Can't you see by my name that I am named after a Rabbe from Alexander". I then asked about his mother and he told me she descended from a Gerer Chassid father. I then looked at him and our eyes met. Pointing to him I asked "What were you before Auschwitz?" He answered "A Gerer Chassid". His son who had been listening all this time to the weaving of his family's history burst out and exclaimed "What are you two talking about? I have never heard any of this". I turned to him and said "Your have just learnt about your family and the great tradition from which you came". He made contact with me about a year later and said that he had taken his father back to see where his family originated.

Another tapestry I want you to hear about is a lady who lost her husband. I got to know her very well and I listened to her describe her husband who had walked for eight weeks across Russia to join the Allied Army while she was in Bergen-Belsen. She related to me how she was one of the first ten to get out of the camp and to speak to the American soldiers who were broadcasting on radio, telling the world that these Jews were alive. The radio announced their names.

Meanwhile in Israel her husband was on leave with her family, and they heard the radio announcement. Her husband raced back across the Continent, and boarded a train to get to Bergen-Belsen, while at the same time she was on a train going to Paris. Finally they met. When I came to say his eulogy after learning of their separation and frustrated reunion, I could not do anything to stop myself from crying. Sometime later I met her at her late husband's monument at our cemetery. I inquired about her own family tree. "Why", she asked? "I don't have children". I told her how important it is to me to record her family details so that the world knows that she

existed. Whilst filling in the family details, I asked about her father's name, she stated in a proud manner, "My Father said I was always to state that my family name was Ish Horowitz" We parted and the paper was filed. One day at the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha a Rabbi came from Jerusalem. His name was Horowitz/Rabinowitz. I asked him about this lady who was descended from Ish Horowitz. He exclaimed that she had to be related to them for Ish stands for Abraham Isaiah Shabtai which was from the Shelah Hakodesh Rabbi Isaiah Horowitz (1565-1630). I met the lady again and she told me how now, she was excitedly researching her family tree.

Recently, I buried a gentleman, and after going through the family tree I discovered that he, too, was related to the Shelah Hakodesh. As I was writing about this particular family tree, I went back to this lady's family tree and found that her mother was from the Schaknu-Landau family, which is from the other Horowitz family, the Maharam. So now with the help of our computer program Family Tree Maker, we should be able to make many more connections.

As I listen and observe the vast tapestry of life which is spun in our office, I am always amazed at what a vibrant pulsating people we are, and what has happened to the wandering Jew. Here is another story which shows how intricate and interrelated Jewish family histories can be. When the family gave their name as Rubenstein, I suddenly remembered a story about the family name Rubenstein which had been told to me, revealing that it was not their real name. I guessed that this was the very family Rubenstein behind which lay a mystery. So I revealed that their real name was Pomeranz. They wanted to know from where I heard this piece of information and asked me to please complete the story: there lived in this village two families of the names Pomeranz and Rubenstein. The Pomeranz's were blessed with a lot of children and the Rubensteins were not. As the authorities were making their rounds to collect the children for army service, the Pomeranz's gave a child to the Rubensteins to protect. The family before me nodded in agreement proving me to be correct. There they told me how there is a large family of Pomeranz in U.S.A., with whom they are in contact. As you can see nothing is as it seems. On our records it is shown as Rubenstein/Pomeranz for clarification, uncovering this unique story for all the Rubensteins and Pomeranz's of the future.

Ephraim Finch has been a member of our Society for some time.

Rabbi Malcolm H Stern Award

**Vol 2 No
3**



After the sudden death in January 1994 of Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern, the genial and scholarly father of contemporary Jewish genealogy, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Philadelphia endowed an award in memory of Rabbi Stern's fostering of Jewish genealogy. In 1994 the recipient was HARRY D. BOONIN who is the person behind the SLUTSK Genealogical Society. In 1995 it was ELAINE B. KOLINSKY. Both are known for their activities in their local societies, and from their writings in AVOTAYNU and other Jewish genealogical journals.


Finding Aids

**Vol 2 No
3**



The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, 8 Lyle Road, New Britain, CT 06053-2104, USA publishes in its journal PATHWAYS AND PASSAGES some

useful finding aids which also have validity for the Jewish genealogical researcher. Enquire from above address.

It's a Small Sephardic World	Margot Salom and Kim Phillips	Vol 2 No 3		
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Like the rest of the Jewish world, the Diaspora of the Jews of Spain has been far-flung to many corners of the earth. Expelled from the Iberian Peninsula in the late 15th century, their dispersion has been wide, but along unique routes and usually following the expansions of trade of the mercantile empires of Holland, England and the trading ports of the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean and the West Indies. What are the chances of two descendants of the one ancestor from the early 18th century, crossing paths in Sydney in 1994, far from the usual Sephardic routes of settlement?

This is exactly what happened to Margot Salom and Kim Phillips when they met for the first time at the Sydney branch of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. The name of Romano, later Romanel, was mentioned by Kim at one of that branch's monthly workshops. Margot, new to the Society, immediately responded with much enthusiasm. This was a name prominent in her family tree. After exchanging information it was ascertained that indeed they shared common ancestors; Moses Haim Romano and his wife Ribca Safarty, who married in Amsterdam in 1722 (19 Iyar, 5482). It appears that Moses Haim and Ribca Romano had at least two sons: Abraham, who formed the ancestral link with Margot, and Raphael whose branch led to Kim. The generational difference between Margot and the ancestor Moses Haim Romano is six generations. For Kim, who is younger, the generations back to Moses Haim are eight.

Margot's Salom family tree, in fact marries three times into the Romano (Romanel) line. One hopes that there are no negative genetic problems with these consanguinous marriages!!

Abraham Romano, eldest son of Moses Haim Romano, was married twice. His first wife was Rachel Marcus, whom he married in The Hague, and who gave him two children, Rebecca and Benjamin. She died in childbirth. As a widower he married Rachel Salom, and they had several children together.

Rebecca Romanel, Abraham's daughter by his first wife, married Mordecai Salom in London in 1779 and her brother Benjamin Romanel married Hana Saruco. Their daughter Rachel in turn married her first cousin Abraham Haim Salom, son of Rebecca Romanel and Mordecai Salom. It was this couple and their children who came to South Australia in 1857, thereby establishing the family here.

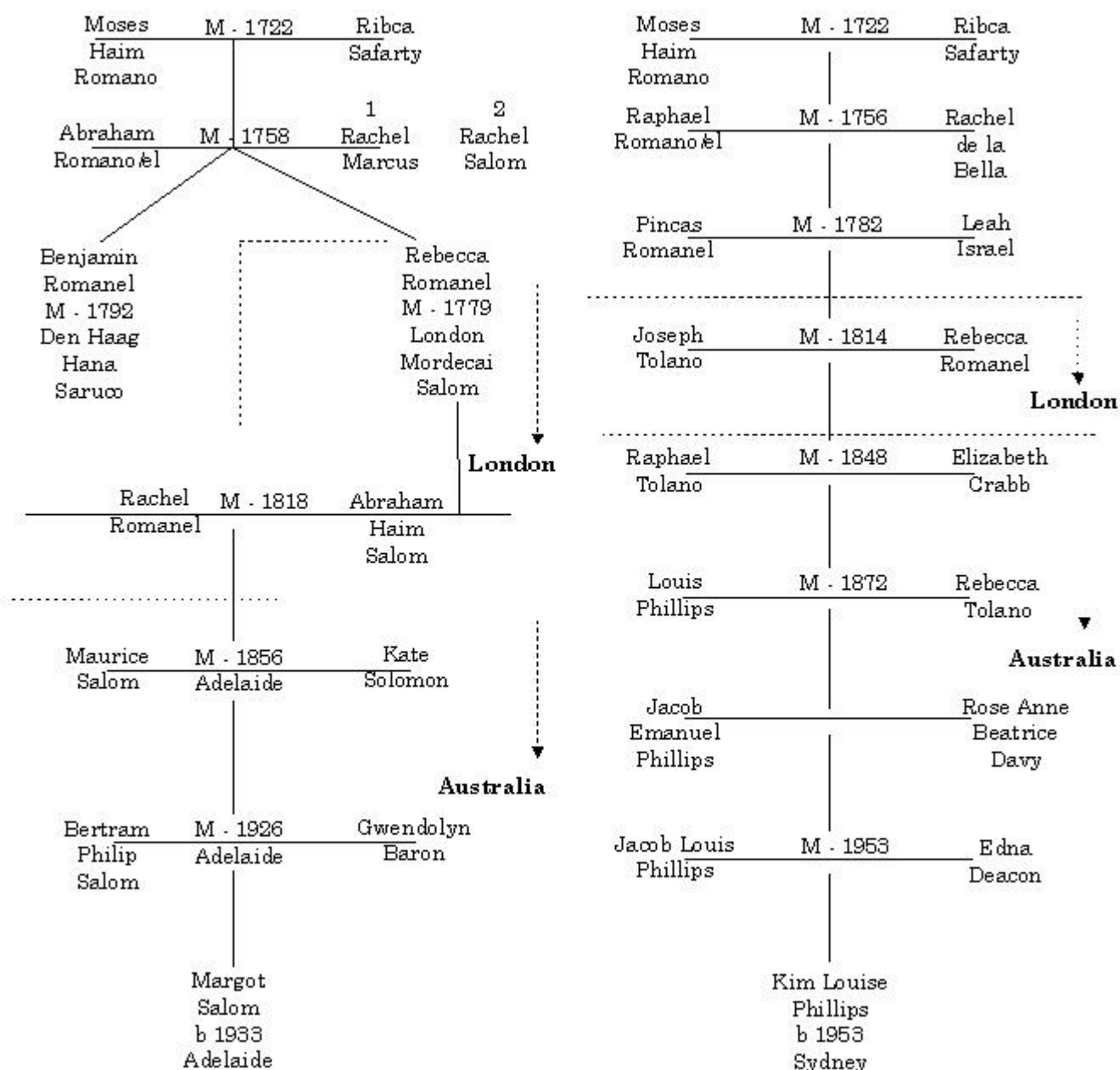
Amazingly, Kim's ancestors had the same migration pattern; Amsterdam-London-Australia. Or maybe not so surprisingly, as families tended to migrate in the same direction for obvious reasons. However, it is believed that there was no contact between Kim and Margot's recent ancestors in Australia as the Saloms settled in South Australia and the Phillips in NSW.

Kim's first ancestor to arrive in Australia was Emanuel Crabb. He arrived in 1833 with his wife and five children and was the first secretary of the York Street Synagogue which was Australia's first purpose built synagogue. One of his children, Elizabeth, married Raphael Tolano in 1848. Raphael Tolano, a great-grandson of Raphael Romanel, arrived in Sydney in 1837 from London, after his second conviction as a pick pocket. He was granted a conditional pardon in 1848. They had twelve children. Their daughter, Rebecca, married Louis Phillips in Brisbane in 1872. In 1878 they moved to Sydney, settling in the Moore Park area. They had numerous children. One of their sons, Phillip Nathan Phillips was better known as "Stiffy" or "Stiffy and Mo". One of their other sons, Jacob Emanuel Phillips, is Kim's grandfather. Kim's father, Jacob Louis Phillips, spent most of his first fifteen years living with his grandmother, Rebecca Tolano Phillips, and had countless tales of life with Stiffy, and his life within the Jewish community of Sydney.

What is so surprising is that in the mid-1990's when there are very few 'western' Sephardic people with remaining Jewish links in Australia, a country of great 19th and 20th century assimilation, Kim and Margot should have encountered each other over a common purpose to establish their Sephardic ancestry. This synchronicity is accentuated by the fact that both Kim and Margot have non-Jewish mothers.

Is this a small but defiant stand against total assimilation into the dominant culture? Both Margot and Kim are products of a national assimilationist policy which dominated Australia until the late 1960's. In getting to know each other, Kim and Margot have discovered much in common in their personal lives apart from an interest in a common Sephardic heritage. Could this be a genetic pre-disposition or just plain coincidence?

Descendants of Moses Hiam Romano and Ribca Sarfaty



Kim and Margot are members of our Society who have researched their family trees in great detail.

Documentation Versus Oral History as Historical Truth

Sophie Caplan

Vol 2 No 3



There is a firm belief that when there is a choice of evidential data between documents and family oral tradition to produce accurate facts, then documents ALWAYS are more accurate and should be considered as TRUE EVIDENCE. Documents, it is argued, are contemporary with the events described and have generally not been altered, while human memory is fallible and facts are more likely to be distorted through the prism of people's memories when elicited from family oral history. Recently I have encountered a few documents in the history of my family and that of my husband, which turn that belief upside down.

Firstly, Simon Sekel, the father of one of our members, translated for me from the original Polish a document I found among my mother's papers after her death. In translation the document read: "MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE As a result of the ordinance of the Prefecture, etc...the following is stated: the Bridegroom ISRAEL WOLF HAUSMANN recte (rightly) HALPERN, born and residing in NOWICA, son of BENJAMIN HAUSMANN AND DROZA HALPERN of NOWICA, age 28 years and 2 months, married on 19th March 1909 in KALUSH, officiating rabbi S.W. WEINTRAUB, witness KALMAN FRENKEL. We hereby state that the above extract from Registry Book is absolutely correct, Kalush, 20th June, 1929".

Had I taken this extract of their marriage certificate as "absolutely correct", I would have concluded that my pious and God-fearing maternal grandparents had not undergone a marriage ceremony until they had four children, and moreover that their equally pious parents never married, and that they were illegitimate. It was clear by the date of the extract, 20th June 1929, that its purpose was to provide documentation for my own mother's first wedding in August 1929.

Many years ago I had started collecting names, dates and facts on my family of origin and I knew that my maternal grandparents were ISRAEL WOLF HAUSMANN, eldest son of BENJAMIN HAUSMANN and DREZE (TIRZA/THERESE) HALPERN, and LIBA STEIN, eldest surviving child of MEYER STEIN and of ZOSIE (SHOSHANAH) REITER. My mother, their eldest child was born in December 1903, and other children in 1905, 1907, 1909, 1914, 1916, 1924. Did my two sets of greatgrandparents not marry at all, and my grandparents not until they had four children?

Unfortunately I did not encounter this issue until after my mother's death, and could not discuss it with her, but I believe that my Galician grandparents and greatgrandparents had what Dr Anthony Joseph recently called "silent weddings", i.e. religious weddings which were not registered by the authorities for certain good reasons. What were these reasons?

In my reading I recently came across Raphael Mahler's book "HASIDISM AND THE JEWISH ENLIGHTENMENT, Their Confrontation in Galicia and Poland in the first half of the Nineteenth Century", 1985, Jewish Publication Society of America, which was first published in Hebrew and then appeared as articles in English translation from 1938 onwards. Raphael Mahler (1899-1977) was an authority on the social and economic history of Polish Jewry, and he wrote of the heavy burdens put on the impoverished Galician Jewish population by the Austrian monarchy under Empress Maria Theresa and Emperor Joseph II, who increased taxes all the time and kept on inventing new ones. (On pp 4-5)". Still more invidious was the introduction in 1797 of the candle tax, which was trebled in the course of two decades. Every married Jewish woman was required to pay the candle tax of ten kreutzers on two candles to the tax lessee before the Sabbath began, whether or not she had any money to buy candles. The homes of those who could not pay promptly were raided by the tax collector on Friday night, and he was empowered to confiscate the household goods, including even the bedding. According to the reliable testimony of Wertheimer, one would often meet impoverished people on the street on Fridays begging for a few kreutzers in order to pay the candle tax. "Other burdensome taxes were a special marriage tax, a heavy residence tax and an annual tax on houses of worship and

even minyanim (private religious assemblies)." There is more, but this suffices to explain why my ancestors, and many others, chose not to let civil authorities know about their religious marriages, and it retrospectively leads to one's detestation of Maria Theresa.

Then I also recently acquired the birth certificates of all my mother-in-law's siblings born in London between 1891 and 1910 to Millie and Morris Gold, their marriage application, death certificates of two children who died in infancy or childhood, before Morris Gold learned to read and write English. And also those of her cousins. It is clear that the clerks who wrote down the names were writing phonetically according to what they heard. And what they thought they heard differed from clerk to clerk. The maiden name of Morris' wife was KARPINSKI, but the certificates show numerous variations ranging from KAPINSKY AND KOPINSKY TO GOLDPINKUS, KARPINKIS, KOPINKUS, GARPINKERS, CARPENTER, CARPINKUS and even JACOBS. It is only in December 1902 when Morris Gold registered the birth of his sixth child, at least fourteen years after his arrival in England, that his wife's maiden was properly spelt and from then on stayed properly spelt. My inference is that Morris had then learnt to read and write English. Indeed the copy of the document in December 1902 no longer states "the mark of Morris Gold", but "signature of Morris Gold".

But what of the name "GOLD" which family legend firmly attributes to Morris' first employer in England who found Morris' original surname hard to pronounce and harder to spell in English. He suggested that Morris take one half of his name which was GOLDSTEIN, either Gold or Stein. Morris opted for Gold. My acquisition of all these certificates was partly in the hope of catching a glimpse of the original surname, which would also allow me to go further back in family research. Alas, even the naturalization papers on which I had pinned my hopes do not mention the real, the true surname. There is no whisper of it on any of these official documents. The only clue we have is a bon mot from our late uncle, Harry Gold. He told a nephew that the original family name sounded like "two coughs and a sneeze". Now go and interpret that.

The birth certificates of the children of Mary/Merel/Miriam Karpinski are even more questionable as far as names are concerned. She married Hyman Schmidt, who came to England before the Public Instruction Act and who never attended any school except cheder. Though he may have learnt to read, he never learnt to write, as shown by the fact that all family documents to which he attested have "his mark", a cross, where the signature would be. Merel Karpinski lived with her sister Millie and brother-in-law Morris "Gold" before her marriage to Hyman Schmidt, when she called herself Gold on her application to the London Beth Din. Once adopted, this Gold name persisted in her children's birth certificates, except when it was written "Gould". Thus her brother-in-law's adoptive surname also became her "maiden name". Just as well that many interviews with her children taught me that Merel/Mary was born Karpinski in Vilna. Documents never lie?


Two American Jewish genealogists are compiling a Yizkor book in English on the district of LETICHEV in PODOLIA GUBERNIYA, using the work of over thirty Jewish historians and genealogists who have been accumulating information on this area.

Other genealogists with roots in this area, which includes Letichev, Medzhibosh, Derazhnia, Zinkov and Valkenivitz are invited to contact the compilers:

Ben Weinstock, 8121 23rd Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11214, USA or

Stephen Silverman 200 Old York Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046, USA

Information summarised from article in CHRONICLES, JGS of Philadelphia, Spring 1995, Vol 14, Nol. 1

Finding Olga	Beulah-Rose Gross	Vol 2 No 3		
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In the course of compiling my maternal family history I decided to search for Olga Ryss and her son, Yuri. Olga's mother and my maternal great-grandmother were sisters, Johanna and Mariana Mau. The Mau family came from Libau.

My grandmother, Henny, told me that Olga had been a famous opera star in Russia. She also told me that Olga had lived in South Africa for many years and had been involved in opera there before emigrating with Yuri to America. My mother and her siblings clearly remember Olga who is in a family photograph commemorating Mariana's silver wedding anniversary in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

The first thing I did was write to the Johannesburg Reference Library asking for information about Olga and her involvement with the development of opera in South Africa. They sent me a photocopy of an article about her in the South African Encyclopedia of Music. They also sent a copy of the programme of a concert held in Johannesburg in which Olga was the leading soprano.

The article gave me her proper first name, Golda Olga, and her date of birth. She had emigrated to America in 1935 and from 1956 had been the voice coach for famous opera stars such as Paul Sperry, Martha Schlamme, Vivien Thomas, Mike Trimble, Yoriko Abe and Jennie Tourel, her lifelong friend, in New York. She had also been active in the annual Summer Music Festivals in Aspen, Colorado for many years. The article mentioned nothing about Olga's husband or her son.

I then wrote to the Librarian in Aspen. I waited months for a reply. When it arrived, it was just a note from the Pitkin County Library signed 'Helen Palmer'. Scrawled in pencil at the end of my letter was an apology for taking so long and the suggestion that I write to one of the professional researchers on the list she supplied. She included a photocopied page from an un-named and undated newspaper featuring a short article about Olga's death in New York plus an obituary notice from the New York Times which stated that Olga was mourned by George, Genia and Raissa in Freeport, New York.

Bingo! I now had a date and place of death and George had to be the Yuri I was looking for! My grandmother had said that two of Olga's sisters were named Henny and Rosa. Could Genia and Raissa be these sisters? Was it possible that they, and perhaps their families, had been living in New York at the time of Olga's death? We had believed that everyone except Olga and Yuri had perished in the Shoah.

On the off chance, I wrote to George Ryss in Freeport New York but was not surprised when my letter was returned, 'Insufficient Address'.

I then wrote to the New York Public Library who could not help but passed my request on to their Music Division. They couldn't help either but they did mention a letter from an official of the Aspen Music Festival requesting support for the Olga Ryss Scholarship Fund.

I wrote again to Aspen, telling Helen what I had learned and asking her to dig a bit deeper.

In the meantime I visited America and contacted Sherrill Laszlo Stern, a Jewish genealogy researcher who had been recommended. After some research, she informed me that Genia and Raissa had died in New York. Raissa had been unmarried and as her surname was the same as Olga's maiden name, they were definitely the family I was looking for. I asked Sherrill to continue searching and returned home.

A letter from Helen was waiting for me. Pencilled on my letter to her is: 'Hello, All I can find is this man (son?) - George Ryss at (address supplied). He sent the money for the Scholarship but it no longer exists. This was given by the Music Associates, Ossia. Hope this helps, Helen'.

Bingo again! I wrote to George at once and, by return post, received an ecstatic reply. He had been about to discard my envelope as he thought it contained Art Union tickets but luckily he didn't.

Since then George and I have enjoyed a wonderful correspondence. He has proved to be a mine of information and has solved many puzzles about the family. He has also sent me original family photographs and newspaper articles about Olga's career as a world- famous voice coach in New York.

I now know that Olga graduated as a Laureate from the St Petersburg Conservatoire. I know that she married, in Tbilisi, Ilya Ryss, one of sixteen children of a rabbinical family from Rostov on the Don. Ilya had commanded a band of Cossacks in the Russian Army and was awarded the Order of St Vladimir medal for bravery by Tsar Nicholas 11 after being wounded. This was a most unusual honour for a Jew.

After he and Olga were divorced in the early 1930's, Ilya joined Max Perlman's Yiddish Company as manager and died in Buenos Aires in 1934 still in his 40's.

The most important information George has given me are the names and addresses of the grandson of Sarah Mau, sister to Mariana and Johanna, in Massachusetts and two of Sarah's grand-daughters in San Diego.

Needless to say, I wrote to them at once. There has been no reply from Massachusetts but the two ladies, Asia and Henny (a popular name in my family) have been most helpful.

Things took a decided upturn when I visited the United States again a few months ago. I arranged my schedule so that I could spend time with George in Freeport and Asia and Henny in San Diego. Unfortunately, I was not able to visit Boston to see Herbert but we conversed at length on the telephone.

George was charming and informative. Many photos of Olga and the opera stars she voice-coached and framed cuttings from newspapers about her adorn the walls of his tiny house. Interspersed are old photos of family, including one of his grandparents.

George spent some time adding to and correcting my notes and the information I had taken for this purpose and has promised to have the photos copied and sent to me soon. A valuable addition to the family tree and my project.

In San Diego, I spent a fascinating afternoon with Asia and Henny. I took them photographic copies of very old postcards of Libau (Liepaja) which had been sent to my grandmother in South Africa. Asia and Henny were entranced but did not want to keep the photos as they brought back too many memories of their earlier lives in that city.

Like George, Asia and Henny made many corrections to my notes. In addition, they filled in many names of family members and explained their relationships to each other. They also supplied the names, dates of birth, marriage and death of all these people. The date of death of many of them was December 15, 1941. When I asked why I was told that these members of my family, including Asia and Henny's father and sister, had been annihilated by the Nazis on that day. Many of these people had sent the postcards I treasure to my grandmother. (When I returned home I checked Simon Wiesenthal's excellent book "Every Day, Remembrance Day" to find that on December 14 and 15, 1941, the Nazis and their Latvian collaborators, had massacred 3,500 Jews in Libau).

Henny escaped death but was sent to a camp and sterilised when she was barely twenty years old. After the liberation of the camps, Henny went to Riga where she remained until three years ago when she went to live with Asia in San Diego.

Asia escaped because she was already married and living in Israel.

As promised during one of our telephone conversations, Herbert has sent me information about his branch of the family. He added fascinating details about Olga and her two sisters, Raissa and Genia, who was unmarried, with Genia and her husband, Vladimir Fortunato a renowned sculptor. Vladimir also made death masks of famous people and Herbert clearly remembers one of Woodrow Wilson which lay in a corner gathering dust!

The homes of Olga and her sisters were a haven for many Jews newly-arrived in America seeking a new home where they could pick up the pieces of their lives. Hot tea, a meal, advice about life in the 'goldene medina' and a lot of friendship were always available. Olga gave many free voice lessons to aspiring opera singers from the old country.

The information I've garnered from my recently-discovered relatives has filled many gaps in my knowledge but it has also opened up numerous hitherto unthought-of avenues for further research.

One is to have further dialogue with Asia and Henny, particularly Henny, because they have firsthand knowledge about the lives and deaths of all the people my grandmother told me about. Another is trying to find out more about Olga herself (George is mad keen for me to write her biography!) and yet another is to find out more about the 'home from home' she and her sisters offered to the post-war Jewish and Russian refugees in New York.

Clearly my project is far from finished and I have a lot of work ahead of me. Much of what I've discovered has been sad, even painful, but one thing heartens me. Although too many members of my family died, Hitler and his cronies did not win. My family, and that of many others, is alive and well, flourishing and increasing in numbers all over the world.

Kol Ha'kavod!

Beulah Gross is the Central Coast representative for our Society.

Jews in West Prussia

**Vol 2 No
3**



From Shemot: Jan 1994 Vol.2 No. 1


A general listing of all Jews in the Department of the Royal Government of West Prussia who have been Granted Citizenship Rights has been discovered. There are 2381 Jewish citizens listed with the new surnames chosen between 1800 and 1810 under orders from Napoleon. Most Jews lived in the following cities:

Berenderg	Bischofswerde	Baldenburg
Christburg	Cammin	Deutch-Eylau
Deutch-Crone	Ebling	Flatow
Freystadt	Pr. Friedland	Garnsee
Hammerstein	Jastrow	Kronjanke
Landeck	Maerkirsch	Marienwerder
Mewe	Neuenburg	Neuteich
Neustadt	Putzig	Rosenberg
Schochau	Schloppe	Schoeneck
Schwetz	Pr. Stargardt	Stuhm
Tolkemit	Tychel	Tuetz
	Zempelburg	

If you are interested in researching any names, write to:

Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain
C/- Shemot
20 Francis Road
Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 2ST, U.K.

There is a £2.00 charge to cover the cost of photocopying (add postage).

Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf	Sophie Caplan	Vol 2 No 3		
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Those books with an asterisk (*) in front are held by our Society, books in the personal library of some of our members are marked with two asterisks (* *) and books marked with a ☆ can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held.

SOME MORE BOOKS ON POLAND

Although Poland is one ancestral country for which books of Jewish genealogical interest are scarcer than most, the situation is gradually improving. Some books about one particular town or area are being published in England or America, and we are trying to acquire them. Others are being written in Poland, translated into English and sold at Polish museums and tourist sites for the benefit of Jewish tourists of Polish descent. I brought some of these back from my recent trip to Poland.

* ANDRZEJ K. PALUCH, Editor, "**THE JEWS IN POLAND**", Vol I, 1992 Jagellonian University Centre on Jewish History and Culture in Poland, Cracow, is a book of learned articles in English, French and Polish on Jewish history and sociology by major scholars. Purchased recently at the above Centre, Ulica Meisela, Cracow \$US 35.

* EUGENIUSZ DUDA, "**A GUIDE TO JEWISH CRACOW**", 1990, Jewish Information and Tourist Bureau, Library of Our Roots, Warsaw, is a 65-page booklet giving the basic history of the Jews in Cracow from the 14th Century to the present, with maps, short biographies and suggested itineraries for walks to cover buildings and areas of Jewish significance. A most useful booklet.

* JERZY MALENCZYK, "**A GUIDE TO JEWISH LODZ**", 1994, similar to above.

There were other booklets in that series which had been sold out where these were found: LUBLIN, GALICIA, BIALYSTOK AND SURROUNDINGS, PLACES OF JEWISH MARTYRDOM IN POLAND, A GUIDE TO JEWISH POLAND. Cost is \$US 4.50 plus \$US 1.50 for postage, per single booklet, or \$US 3.50 plus \$US 1.50 if one orders the whole series from PIOTR KADLICK, Poli Gojawiczynskiej 7 m 17, 01-773 Warsaw, Poland.

* "**HORTUS IUDAEORUM, CMENTARZ ZYDOWSKI W LODZI**", 1982-1992, is a folder of artistic photographs of the huge Lodz Jewish cemetery, "one of the city's major points of interest" as stated by the author of the introductory essay, given in both English and Polish, by Maria Swiatkowska. There are over 180,000 Jewish

graves in Lodz Jewish cemetery and the oldest date back to 1892. It is the largest Jewish burial ground in Europe and there is a preservation order on the entire cemetery, which has been designated a national monument of Poland. Photographs and graphics by ANDRZEJ PUKACZERSKI, Wydawnictwo Lodzkie, 1992, Lodz. Purchased at Cracow Jewish Museum.

* ADAM BARTOSZ, **"TARNOWSKIE JUDAICA"**, 1992, Wydawnictwo Pttk "Kraj", Warsaw, is a Polish language book on the history of the Jews in Tarnow in south eastern Poland, formerly Western Galicia, with an abstract in English and one in German. Many photographs of people and buildings and a map of the area showing Tarnow's relationship to surrounding towns and villages, make it worthwhile even for those who do not read Polish. Purchased at the Jewish museum in Tarnow

* ADAM BARTOSZ, **"IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE JEWS OF TARNOW"**, 1993, Tarnow is another small booklet on Tarnow which has a map in English of the former Jewish district of Tarnow.

* ANDRZEJ TAZCINSKI, **"THE TRACES OF MONUMENTS OF JEWISH CULTURE IN THE LUBLIN REGION"**, no date, but seemingly recent publication by Wojewodzki Osrodek, Informacji Turystycznej in Lublin, Hotel Orbis-Unia in Lublin, 12 Raclawickie Alley, 20-037 Lublin. Tel:320-61. Entirely in English, this 31-page booklet has excellent illustrations of synagogues and cemeteries as well as short summaries of former Jewish communities such as Wlodawa, Szczeczeszyn, Zamosc and Bilgoraj, and several others. Also plans for proposed trips to Jewish sites in region.

* THEO RICHMOND, **"KONIN, A QUEST"**, 1995, Random House, London. This is a marvellous odyssey to find the traces of ancestors and other Jewish inhabitants of the town of Konin in north-east Poland. The author visited survivors from Konin all around the world and spent seven years on researching and writing this moving and informative book. Obtainable from Australian bookshops at present.

* * BEN GILADI, Editor, **"A TALE OF ONE CITY, PIOTRKOW TRYBUNALSKI"**, 1991, Shengold Publishers, New York. This is an English language Yizkor book translated from the original version in Yiddish and Hebrew published in Tel Aviv in 1958, with additional contributions bringing the story of Piotrkow Trybunalski survivors up to date. Rabbi Meir Lau and his brother, Ambassador Naphtali Lau-Lavie, are both survivors of the city which had 20,000 Jewish inhabitants. Our senior member Sir Asher Joel is descended on one side from that town also and first made us aware of the work of Ben Giladi in recording the community of Piotrkow Trybunalski and its survivors. Still obtainable from Shengold Publishing, 18 West 45th Street, New York 10036, USA for \$US 37 including postage.

MORE BOOKS ON AUSTRALIA

☆ BRIAN KINO, **"THE CARNIVALS, A HISTORY OF JEWISH AMATEUR SPORTING CONTESTS IN AUSTRALIA, 1924-1974"**, 1975, York Press, Melbourne, Australia, was only printed in 700 individually numbered copies. It contains a wealth of information, clearly and accurately labelled photographs on all those who played a part in Jewish amateur sport in Australia during the years it covers. Very useful.

* * HEDI FIXEL, "**HOBART HEBREW CONGREGATION, 150 YEARS OF SURVIVAL AGAINST ALL ODDS**", 1995, Hobart, self-published, is a book of just over one hundred pages written by a modern stalwart of the Hobart Jewish community who, with her husband Ferry, was the heart and soul of Hobart Jewish community for many decades. Still available for \$18 including postage within Australia, \$US 20 including postage elsewhere, from Hedi Fixel, 5/57 Cadbury Road, Claremont, Hobart, 7011 Tasmania, Australia.

Leo Baeck Institute		Vol 2 No 3		
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The LEO BAECK INSTITUTE which holds information on the history, sociology and genealogy of Jews in German-speaking countries, is compiling a GENERAL USERS' GUIDE FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHERS to be made available to visitors to the Institute.

The Guide is divided into sections by geographic regions or states and will include the following information related specifically to the particular region:

- 1) Reference volumes in the LBI Library
- 2) Major collections in the LBI Archives of genealogical interest.
- 3) Names and addresses of Jewish genealogists with expertise in local families.
- 4) Names and addresses of German researches who specialise in the region.
- 5) Addresses of archives in Germany.

This will add immeasurably to the usefulness of LBI for Jewish genealogists with ancestors in German-speaking countries. The LBI is also appealing for those with expertise in any area of genealogical research in Germany who wish to be listed in the guide to let their interest be known.

Contact Dr Frank Mecklenburg or Karen S. Franklin, 129 East 73rd Street, New York 10021, U.S.A.

Tel: 0011-1-212-744-6400

Fax 0011-1-212-988-1305

Our readers are reminded that in 1996 the Leo Baeck Institute, Yivo Institute for Research into Yiddish speaking Jewry and the American Jewish Museum in New York are to move in to a common site, which is to be known as the Centre for Jewish History. We will keep you informed.

Slovakian Vital Records		Vol 2 No 3		
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Slovakian vital records have started to be filmed by the LDS Family History Library. These will not be available until catalogued, but it is reported that Presov and Kosice will be among the first towns whose records will be available.

Information summarised from DOROT, Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. New York, Autumn, 1994 Vol 16, No. 1. DOROT is a particularly informative JGS journal with much interesting information, particularly on new books on aspects of Jewish genealogy.

Forebears Family Finder		Vol 2 No 3		
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00031 JULIAN KEMPER, 59 GATTON ROAD, REIGATE, SURREY, RH2 0HP, ENGLAND. Can anyone help with Leonard Louis **WALTERS**, born London 1894, served RN, RNAS, & RAF. Post WWII migrated to Australia, exact date and destination unknown. Originally dental mechanic. May not have married. Also seeking additional material on De Sola family, which includes Sarah Orkin's recent book.

00032 REUBEN NICHOLAS LUBKA, M.D., 11705 WEST DIANE DRIVE, WAUWATOSA, WI, 53226, USA. Seeking descendants or connections of **SAMUEL FAIVEL LUBKA**, son of Jacob, from Sobkow SE of Lodz, born 1859 Poland.

00033 MARK TUKRNER, 34 HINDENBURG STRASSE, 4970 OEYNHAUSEN, GERMANY. Our local history working party at the Bad Oeynhausen High school seeks information on former Jewish members of our community who emigrated to Australia, to invite them back for a visit. We seek a Mr **MEYER/MEIER** who is said to have a car dealership in or near Sydney, and a man named **STECK** who may have settled in Melbourne and any other emigres from the Bad Oeynhausen, Amt Rehme and Kreis Minden area of East Westphalia-Lippe. Any information about former Jewish citizens from our area is appreciated.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 2 No 4		
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Happy Chanukah 5756 and a Happy and Healthy New Year! This ninth issue is coming out during our Festival of Lights, and just before the new civil year of 1996. The year 1995 has seen a growth of our membership to 148 throughout Australia, with a thriving group now established in Melbourne. Our Adelaide representative Hilde Hines found there were not yet enough people with an interest in Jewish genealogy in Adelaide to form a branch there, but she will try later.

Our larger numbers make our financial position less precarious, but one of our basic problems is the lack of dedicated committee workers to share the burdens of running the Society with the few stalwarts. Our correspondents who experience delays in receiving answers to letters should know that we are a group of volunteers who also have fulltime jobs, families or other research commitments, as well as needing to take breaks for health reasons, or trips overseas. We are neither a commercial outfit, nor part of the public service, and all our work is voluntary. Indeed those who work the hardest, put in more of their own resources. We endeavour to help each correspondent, but are often stumped for a reply to those who expect us to have

ready lists of Jewish inhabitants of Russian, German or Polish towns in the 1870's, or to know the fate of their relatives in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe from whom nothing has been heard since 1941 or 42. Back copies of KOSHER KOALA have dealt with some of these problems, and our annual Beginners' Seminar in Jewish Genealogy also teaches possible solutions. We cannot reiterate the full story in casual letters. Our regular feature "Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf" also endeavours to direct your reading to help yourself.

Our next Beginners' Seminar will take place on 3rd March, 1996 at Shalom College of the University of New South Wales on the Barker Street side, from 10 am to 5 pm. The cost is \$15 for members and \$45 for non-members with an additional \$8 for a salads and sandwich lunch.

In recent months we have effected some heartwarming family reunions of widely dispersed families e.g. between a family of former Egyptian Jews, now dispersed in USA and Mexico, who were seeking their Australian cousins.

I recalled that in Australia, Egyptian Jews were likely to reside in Adelaide and, thank to Hilde Hines' local knowledge, the cousins were soon found. Similarly we were able to quickly direct George Trief of New York, and now Florida, to the descendants of Triebs in Sydney who died thirty years ago.

We've been the beneficiaries of two generous gifts. Nigel Meinrath presented the Society with a reconditioned 486 computer and Bernard Orenstein gave us a microfiche reader. Two really useful gifts from which all Sydney members and visitors will benefit at our workshops. Our grateful thanks to Nigel Meinrath and to Bernard Orenstein.

A Genealogical Trip To Galicia	Sophie Caplan	Vol 2 No 4		
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In July and August 1995 I travelled to Ukraine and to Poland to the areas formerly known as Galicia. A year earlier Phyllis Simon of Gesher Galicia (Bridge to Galicia) had publicised that she would organise a group to tour Polish Galicia and I had returned a form indicating interest. But it was in May this year when a letter came with the news that the tour to Polish Galicia would be preceded by an optional trip to former Eastern Galicia, now in Ukraine, that I decided I would definitely go.

The trip was being organised by a New York Jewish travel agent with much experience in taking chassidic groups to Eastern Europe. This would be the first time that the agency Ideal Tours would send a genealogical group and the group leaders would be Allan Mallenbaum and Phyllis Simon. Gesher Galicia was worried about health hazards in Ukraine and so the Ukrainian segment came under the aegis of Allan Mallenbaum's Rosa Robota Foundation in memory of his relative who had procured the explosive for the destruction of the crematoria at Auschwitz. Phyllis and Allan wanted to create a flexible programme so that each participant could visit his or her shtetlekh with a car, a driver and a translator, while the main group went to check out other places. This required much preparation in identifying the precise locations of one's ancestral villages and small towns so that a suitable route could be worked out in advance. I gave the names of thirteen little towns and villages all in the area

between LVOV, now LVIV, formerly LEMBERG, and IVANO-FRANKIVSK formerly STANISLAWOW, while others had theirs ranging from east of Kiev to the Cracow region of Poland.

The US group flew out from JFK airport in New York on 23rd July, but I decided to join them in Kiev, having flown out a few days earlier from Sydney and spent a week-end in Frankfurt getting over my jetlag. Another two Australians from our Society were to join us a week later in LVIV, having previously had their own itinerary. I was worried about being met at Kiev airport since the Americans would have arrived several hours earlier, and I spoke no word of Ukrainian, nor could even decipher the Cyrillic alphabet. The plane from Frankfurt was filled with elderly Ukrainians and their middle-aged children returning from Paraguay and Brazil for their first visit in fifty years, but I had no one. The arrival routine at Kiev Borispol airport of having every piece of luggage X-rayed and of the people in front of me having their cash counted by the customs officers filled me with dread as I was wearing a moneybelt, but luckily they did not want to see my money.

We had been warned to take "snacks" and so I had brought Australian apples and large mandarines, small packets of sultanas, dried bananas, mixed nuts, as well as the mandatory large bottle of mineral water which is joining the camera as the sign of the tourist. Also all personal medication, make-up, soap, toilet paper, wet towellettes, and English language reading matter, as well as the usual clothing and footwear, and an arsenal of koala bears, lipsticks, eye make-up, matchbox cars, etc...for gifts for helpful locals. So I was well-loaded when I came out of the customs hall seeking out the promised cardboard placard with my name. It wasn't there, but an intense young man came up to me out of the large waiting throng and asked: "Are you Mrs Caplan?" "Yes, I am" burst out from me before I remembered the warning not to talk to strangers. "And who are you?" "I'm Vallick from Ideal Tours" and I knew I was in the right company. "But how did you recognize me? - Oh, it was easy. - But I did not send a photo. How DID you recognize me? - It was easy. You were smiling. In this country people don't smile." Welcome to Ukraine.

I followed Vallick and Michael our driver, owner of a roomy old Volga which looked like an American car of the 1960's. Vallick and Michael were Jews, like most of our drivers, guides and translators in the next weeks, which made me feel immediately at home. After depositing my luggage at our hotel, the Kreschatyk, we went straight on a tour of Kiev to the synagogue presently used as both shule and community centre, the former Central Synagogue now a puppet theatre, with its baroque façade right in the centre of the city, and to Babi Yar. At the present synagogue, a rather modestly decorated building which must have been a working men's synagogue before the Revolution, a man came out to display some Judaica trinkets: a likeness of the synagogue etched on wood, some painted wooden candlesticks, and some booklets and postcards. I made a few purchases thinking we would come across this phenomenon often, but it was the only time it happened. The vendor, Leib Pejsachowicz, said he had a son and grandchildren living at Chernobyl and was helping to support them.

At Babi Yar the main monument and dedicated area is most impressive with separate inscriptions in three languages, Russian, Ukrainian and Yiddish with Hebrew letters. But nowhere does the monument refer to Jews being killed, but only

to citizens of Kiev. In communist theory this was the right terminology, but a down-playing of the fact that most of the victims were Jews and that their fellow-citizens played a part in rounding them up. It also took decades to erect a memorial at all. A few years ago, with perestroika, the Jews of Kiev were allowed to erect a second monument a couple of kilometres away, specifically dedicated to the Jewish victims of Babi Yar. Vallick, my guide, who lives in Lviv, had been to that monument two years earlier, but we drove around for twenty minutes unable to find it because it is very small and hidden among factory stacks and the towers of a television station. Eventually I found it from the back window of the Volga, having espied a menorah in the distance. We approached it on foot and were pleased to see that a Latin-American UJA Young Leadership group had placed a wreath there just a few hours earlier as the flowers were still fresh. Babi Yar evokes images of barbarism and merciless death for the Jews of Kiev and the surrounding villages, but it is difficult to mourn the dead of the Shoah with passing army trainee joggers and other passers-by on the wide paths of which the monument is the crossing-point.

We also saw glimpses of other Kiev tourist attractions like the medieval strong point's Golden Gate, the university area, and Vallick took me down the incredibly steep escalators at the city metro station. I don't usually take kindly to being treated like a woman of a certain age, but the very steep deep escalators made me glad of the presence of a strong younger person holding my arm.

Back at the hotel I had arranged to meet the elderly widowed cousin of friends in Sydney. The fact that in the 34 ° C heat she wore a mended polyester dress and a handbag which had seen better days, spoke of the poverty in which people in her position lived. She was a childless widow of the Great Patriotic War, World War II to us, and as a retired language teacher was able to converse in both English and French. The old world charm of the Russian bourgeoisie emanated from her, and I was glad that I could add a little to the gifts I was bringing from her cousins.

The Kreschatyk Hotel, allegedly the best in Kiev, had facilities which would not have made two-stars in Australia, but it was centrally situated for tourist shopping of black lacquer boxes with exquisitely painted covers, babushka dolls of all types, and for a glimpse of big stores Ukrainian-style. We had been advised to bring U.S. dollars in small denominations as tips and for many purchases, but in Kreschatyk boulevard were many currency exchange booths where one could obtain the local currency, presently called "coupons", which was necessary for most purchases. Meals were incredibly cheap, but the six to ten page printed menus in hotels all over Ukraine, were merely there as possibilities. The actual menu, typed into blank spaces, was very modest. At the advice of an Australian-Ukrainian who had travelled to Ukraine the previous year, I stuck to vegetarian dishes and to cheese. It was full summer and the cucumber and tomato salads, the mixed mushroom dishes, and the fetta cheese were delicious. Although my American companions rigorously avoided salads, fruit and vegetables, my usually touchy stomach suffered no ill effects from my diet.

In actual fact I did not meet most of the rest of the tour group for 36 hours. They had dispersed to Chernigov and Uman, which were among "their towns". The day after my arrival I was joined by Dov and Chanan Rapaport of the Israel Genealogical Society and together with our translator we went to see Boris Vasiliyevich Ivanenko, the Director of the Ukrainian National Archives, who promised us cooperation from

the provincial Archives we were going to visit in Chernivtsi (Chernowitz), Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv, though he complained at the number of American Jewish genealogical organisations which were claiming exclusive archival rights in Ukraine. It seemed that some of our high profile predecessors had overreached themselves and made it harder for others. His assistant Dr Volodymir Lozytsky, whom I had helped to entertain in Jerusalem at the Fourth International Seminar in Jewish Genealogy, was away on summer vacation, but Ivanenko promised to notify the heads of each of the provincial archives of our impending arrival and to ask them to cooperate. Indeed we were given letters of introduction and he rang each provincial archives director which any of us were intending to visit.

Kiev is a beautiful and leafy city planted with thousands of trees, and we also visited the Museum of the Great Patriotic War which gave us the Russian version of World War II, with "social realist" statues, patriotic songs, and purely Ukrainian language legends to display items. There was no consciousness that tourists might want to know too. The total lack of any street signs, or shop names, or any signage left over from former eras when other languages had co-existed in a city like Lviv made it difficult from a touristic viewpoint. In the Kiev Museum the only items I could read were the Nazi proclamations in German. As I translated those into English for our little group, I noticed an Asian man hovering and listening. Indeed he was a Chinese molecular biologist from Beijing who attached himself to our group for the rest of the tour of the museum as we spoke a language he also understood.

That evening we finally all met in front of Kiev railway station to catch our train to Lviv. Our luggage went on a cart through a side entrance and we charged up and down stairs, Reb Nachman Elbaum of Ideal Tours at our head, to find our train and our carriage, a sleeper, allegedly the best train carriage in Ukraine. We just made it and the carriage was locked for our benefit after farewells from Reb Nachman. As I lay in my lower bunk it suddenly struck me that I had actually been at Lvov railway station, or Lemberg as we then called it, with my mother, stepfather and future aunt Sala in the spring of 1938 as a toddler on the way to visit my Galician grandparents, who were also to meet their new son-in-law and future daughter-in-law. Out of the shards of memory which flooded in I described Lemberg railway station to Phyllis Simon....and next morning there it was, with the buffet, where we'd eaten a memorable breakfast of which the family talked for years, still there but bricked up. This was the first of a series of "deja vu" experiences which hit me throughout the next few days. It was very moving to renew acquaintance with places and landscapes I had locked up in my memory for 57 years. Only the warm extended family associated with the Galicia of my childhood was no longer there.

On arrival in Lviv we were met by a small phalanx of porter, drivers and translators hired by Ideal Tours to look after our group. Luggage was distributed into cars and I was advised that for the next two days I could visit the shtetlech of my choice. Our accommodation had been booked in Chernivtsi for the next two nights and that proved to be the fly in the ointment, for Chernivtsi was about three hundred kilometres from Lviv which proved to be nearly four hours by road for the towns of my heritage, four hours there and four hours back in the small car allotted to me. While Chernivtsi allegedly had the best hotel in southern Ukraine, it was ludicrous to spend so much time travelling back and forth. Lviv was much closer.

We were four in our small car: Phyllis Simon , Helene Sinnheim, Oleg Zilberman our driver and translator, and I. On that first day we drove first to Drohobych, where a cousin had asked me to photograph her parental home on the town hall square. Now a pedestrian mall, the Rynek square was bright with spring flowers in well-laid out beds, with many groups promenading in the morning sunshine. We were warned by locals not to leave the car unattended as it would be broken into, so Helene and Phyllis stayed with the car, while Oleg and I walked to the Rynek. The Stempler house was still a pharmacy APTEKA as in the days of Tola Stempler Spiegel's parents, but nothing remained of the Jewish life of pre-1941 Eastern Galicia, except a few buildings now converted to other uses.

We drove to Stryj, the next town on my itinerary where relatives had lived. It was a bustling town with a lively atmosphere, but we spent an inordinate amount of time looking for a suitable public toilet. Our driver took us to the town hospital where he explained that we were American tourists and asked for permission for us to use the staff facilities. This was granted and the toilet unlocked. Without going into details, this was one of several examples we would meet in the week in Ukraine of appalling standards in sanitary hygiene, particularly in public buildings. I would have liked to have found if any synagogue buildings remained in Stryj, but consciousness of how much further we had to go that day, made us decide to press on to DOLINA where some of my family originated.

On asking for a synagogue in DOLINA we were directed to the Baptist church in Old Dolina, which had retained an old world atmosphere. On finding the Baptist church we discovered that it was housed in the restored former Dolina synagogue. I appreciated the delicacy which had made the Baptists in Dolina call their church "House of Prayer" on a large sign, instead of giving it the name of a Christian saint. We took photos of the former synagogue from the street and from the rear. It looked impeccably restored, but it was a Wednesday afternoon and everything was locked and barred. At the back immediately next to the shule were some neglected low building with signs of water piping outlets. We assumed these had been the mikvah buildings, but could not really tell.

In a nearby small valley was a stone monument with a brief inscription "In memory of the citizens of Dolina who were murdered by the fascists in 1943." There was no indication of who these murdered citizens of Dolina might have been.

Meanwhile Oleg had asked some passers-by if there was a Dolina Jewish cemetery, and a rutted roadway, almost a path, was indicated. We got into the car and drove upward to what appeared to be a semi-rural housing area on one side of the road, with chickens and geese pecking in the small cultivated front yards and a grassed common on our right. As we turned right into a continuation of the rutted road with houses on both sides, Oleg again asked some children for the way to the Jewish cemetery. "You've just passed it." It turned out that what we had assumed to be a village common since goats were tethered to graze there and chickens pecked away was the remains of the Jewish cemetery of Dolina. We parked the car and got out to walk about. Now we could see that at ground level many graves remained, but all of the upright stones were gone and many of the ground level stone or concrete pebble grave covers were at least partially broken. Not one letter of inscription remained. The cemetery was on high ground and the edge opposite the rutted roadway fell

away as a cliff, perhaps two hundred feet above the surrounding landscape. A small space recently fenced, with concrete tablets of the law, had been prepared by the Nissenbaum Foundation which has restored a number of Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe. We climbed into this enclosure and I was going to light a yahrzeit candle. But the breeze and the heat of about 35 ° C made me fear that we might thereby start a grassfire, so we just said kaddish and stood for a few minutes' silent contemplation.

Despite its dire state, the chickens and the goats, and the children playing at one end, the Dolina Jewish cemetery had a certain grandeur which filled my heart with nostalgic sorrow. Yet I was glad I had come to commune with my ancestors.

We drove on towards KALUSH and its surrounding villages where my maternal family had dwelt since at least the early decades of the 19th century. It was already mid-afternoon and I wanted to find the houses of my family in NOWICA, the village of my HAUSMANN grandparents, so we passed without stopping BOLEKHOV, KRECHOWICE, where my great-uncle ZURECH STEIN had lived and died, BROZNIOW where some of our SPIEGELS had lived, and HOLYN/GOLYN where my HALPERN greatgrandmother was born, then took the right-hand road to NOWICA. The two-lane road canopied by tall trees seemed so familiar that I felt I had been there in recent years....And there was the bridge over the shallow fordable river with its sandbank. Just as on family photos...The sense of having been here before gripped me into a highly emotional state. The last time I had travelled this road was as a little girl in my grandfather's farm cart with its triangular body. As we got onto the narrower village road on the other side of the bridge there was a road sign for DOBROWLANY. When Gary Mokotoff was researching villages and towns for "WHERE ONCE WE WALKED" he had not been able to find Dobrowlany on any map at the Library of Congress, and so he doubted my assertion that my grandmother Liba Hausmann had given birth there to my auntie Elsa on her return from market day in Kalush when labour started early. A photo of me to send to Gary showing the sign was taken by Oleg. Opposite the sign was a large family house. It suddenly struck me that this was the home of our ZEMAN/SEEMAN cousins, and on my return home I discovered that indeed it had been. The whole day it seemed uncanny how much I could dredge out of my memory as a five-year old. NOWICA was along the same road, after another bridge. Again we stopped and photographed the sign, and Oleg asked a woman in a yard nearby if she knew which had been the Jewish houses. She did not, but she invited us into her house while she called her father "who remembers everything" home from the riverside meadow where he was pasturing their cow. When he had washed and changed he came along in the car, while Phyllis and Helene stayed to rest in the cool house.

Ivan showed us Alter Fuhrman's house with cooing doves carved over the doorway, and the house of my grandfather SRUL (Israel) HAUSMANN. Nowica consisted of one street, which was also the road to LANDESTREU and to ROZNIATOW, which was now called Shevschenko Street after the Ukrainian national poet whose statues were replacing the toppled statues of Lenin and Stalin in every Ukrainian township. I was certain that what he showed us as my family homestead was the right house since we had photographs taken by my uncle Ben in 1937, but the frontage had been much wider. Now the land had been subdivided and new houses built on each side. My grandparents' barn, which had also been their stables for the cow and

horse, was now on the next property. We asked for permission to visit my grandparents' house and I was warmly received by the present owner, originally a Russian from Baku whose husband, a Russian officer, was granted the house when he was stationed in the area. He had died, but she continued to live there with her sons, one of whom had also recently died, and their families. She led me through the grounds, now sadly neglected, and shook the apple-trees in the small orchard to present me with an armful of small tart green apples from my grandparents' garden. A new well had been dug as the one I recalled from my earlier visit had run dry. A few goslings were being raised, caged against predators.

A quick tour of the inside of the house was bitter-sweet. What revelations and powerful memories had I expected more than fifty-two years after the murder of my family in the Kalush Jewish cemetery? The present owner assured me that there were no papers, or photos left when she moved into the house. Indeed the windows and doors had all been removed. Nevertheless the ubiquitous Christian holy images in every room alienated my search for family memories. I took no photos inside the house...The banisterless stairway to the attic in the centre of the house beckoned, as it had in my childhood visit, but I chose not to go up, which I have regretted ever since. I gave the present owner some American money, as I was moved by her recent misfortunes and touched by her warmth towards me. She asked whether it was true that my grandparents had run a small shop in the front room of the house, as there was now no shop before Kalush. I confirmed that they had run a small grocery shop.

We went next door where the spry eighty-one year old VASYL remembered my aunt Ruchel, also eighty-one, who had gone to the village school with him and confirmed that his barn was built by my grandfather. He remembered that my teenaged uncle Meir had been killed a year and some months before the others. This must have broken my grandparents heart, even before they were taken to their death.

We drove on to the site of the Nowica synagogue. The postwar owner of the property had not wanted to build on the synagogue site as a sign of respect, or was it superstition, and had built on the site of the synagogue courtyard. The synagogue site was now an orchard. The road continued to the former LANDESTREU, named by Swabian German settlers in the 17th century, now ZELENY YAR (green ravine) where my uncle and aunt Elsa and Oscar Tanne had lived. Old Ivan showed us the site of Shapse Tanne's former house which was burnt to the ground shortly after the Tanne's were taken away and never rebuilt. He did not recall the site of Elsa and Oscar's house.

Back at Ivan's daughter's house we picked up Phyllis Simon and Helene Sinnreich, after exchanging gifts with the family, and started on the long drive to Chernivtsi still around two hundred kilometres distant. The landscape of fields and dark green masses of dark green forests was heartbreakingly beautiful, with its succession of hay meadows and wheatfields ready for harvest and state forests still harbouring deer and other native animals. As an Australian I was prepared to use the wild roadside bushland for comfort stops, while nothing would induce my American companions to follow suit, preferring their discomfort. Some weeks later some Australians met in our Warsaw hotel who had been on a bus tour to Belarus told the same story of differing national reactions to natural functions.

Kolomya was on the road to Chernivtsi, a sprawling town through which the highway twisted and turned for twenty minutes, though most of the road was countryside. We met a number of highway patrols demanding fines for real or imaginary infringements of speed limits. Luckily the amounts were relatively small in our currencies, but it became clear over the next two days that this was a semi-legitimate way for highway patrols to supplement their inadequate salaries. Naturally I reimbursed our driver.

The entrance to Chernivtsi was over the Prut bridge, which evoked Helen's memories of her grandmother's tales. It was obvious that Chernivtsi like Lviv had been Austrian Habsburg provincial capitals and important centres. Though the glory of those days was gone, many elegant or interesting buildings remained, but street signs were only in Ukrainian. Indeed our expectation that an area which had gone through so many changes of identity would reveal this in street signs, as in Israel with its Hebrew, Arabic and English signs, was disappointed. Only Ukrainian signs were used everywhere. Even the streets which had Russian names only a few years earlier, before independence, now had new names.

Eventually Oleg found the Sheremoosh, a fairly tall new building of shoebox shape. Darkness was just falling and we were the last car to arrive, to Vallick's great relief. We had to rush to the dining room as the kitchen would be closing in an hour. Having survived all day on snacks, we were eager for a meal. As soon as we sat down, our table was approached by a slightly inebriated woman who introduced herself as Faigel, the executive secretary of the local Jewish community. She was celebrating her fiftieth birthday with a large party of friends and a festive meal and a band playing Jewish music. She insisted on presenting our group with a large bottle of vodka with which we had to toast her on the spot. We reciprocated with some of the make-up gifts we had brought, and in turn danced to the orchestra which played hora, the Sherele, and Israeli tunes like "Am Yisrael chai" and "Yaaseh shalom bimromav". It was a psychological release to dance after the memorial activities of that day. Although we were tired, it became a lively and memorable evening. But Oleg our driver could not participate. He had left his internal passport at home in Lviv and had to front up to the local police station to be allowed to stay in the hotel.

Although the Sheremoosh was dubbed "the George V hotel of southern Ukraine" by my friend Phyllis Simon, it boasted no hot water and the cold water soon turned the bath to a rusty orange....No matter. It was good to have a bath and to sleep in a bed. From our eighth floor windows was a vista of high rise workers' apartments, stretching to the horizon, just as there had been across the Dnieper River in Kiev.

The next day I had the car and driver-translator to myself. My former companions went to explore their roots in the Chernivtsi area. It was again a four hour drive to "my area", this time first to the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Archives. We were received by Katerina Petrovna Mitsan, head of the archives, who had been notified of our visit by Boris Ivanenko, the head of the National Archives. She offered me a seat, but let Oleg stand up for about an hour until overcoming his plea not to say anything, I finally asked for a chair for him in sign language. For reasons of etiquette which I could not fathom he had been reluctant to ask for a seat for himself.

We were not shown any registers, books or papers, but Ms Mitsan spent over two hours reading me the list of heads of families which had been murdered in the Stanislawow ghetto in 1942. When I suggested that it would be quicker if I read through the list myself, she asked if I read the Cyrillic alphabet. The list, which the Nazis probably compiled in the Latin alphabet, had now been transposed in the Ukrainian Cyrillic alphabet only. Just heads of families were listed, with their age or year of birth, and the number of other family members killed with them e.g. Seinfeld Nuchem, 66, alone, Spiegel Max, 49, three. Female names were only listed if they were heads of families.

The archivist did not know whether a similar list existed for those killed in Kalush where most of my maternal family had been murdered. I was also interested in birth, marriage and death certificates for my family, particularly in the 19th Century. Showing the archivist a photocopy of my grandparents' marriage certificate elicited a sharp "Where did you get that?" I explained that it had belonged to my mother. More pleasantly she took down sufficient information to identify the various lines of my maternal family, if any Jewish BDM records for the Kalush region were extant, and promised to set her staff to research for me. I wanted to pay in advance, or at least to give her a good deposit, but she absolutely refused that offer. We left after three and a quarter hours spent in the Ivano-Frankivsk archive with the promise of information by mail in return for payment, if any was found. So far, nearly five months later, no news. All I had obtained were the names of a few possible relatives who had perished in the Stanislawow ghetto.

We then drove to ZAVADKA, my mother's birthplace, where her maternal grandparents had lived. Although only twenty minutes' drive from Kalush, it was not on the road to anywhere else and its people were suspicious and less friendly than in Nowica. It was over seventy years since my Zavadka Stein great-grandparents had died, and no one recalled their name. But I did find out the name of the Polish count for whom my great-grand-father Meyer Stein had been estate manager and forester. To my amazement he had an Austrian surname, Count Stepan Krechmayer. We found a little old lady who had worked in his household and who attested he had been a good man. Or Meyer could have worked for his father. The local cemetery had only Ukrainian Orthodox graves and my relatives were probably buried in Kalush.

On the way to Kalush we found a woman who offered to show us the way to the Kalush Jewish cemetery. Just as well, since we would never have found it, surrounded as it is by high-rise apartment buildings. The cemetery was in process of restoration and the Kalusher Society in Israel, which had published the Yizkor book, was paying for a metal fence around the cemetery, and for the erection of a monument at the site of the massacre by shooting by Einsatzgruppe C. When we arrived it was towards sunset and we could not find the mass grave. We did not want to remain in the cemetery at nightfall.

Our guide told us of a Russian Jewish engineer Leonid Namz, who had settled in Kalush and who was supervising the restoration, and gave us directions to his house. The house was guarded by a vicious guard dog and by security gates. After a short stay, meeting his part-Tartar part-Jewish wife, Namz drove ahead of us to the home of an original Kalush Jew, Alexander Kohlberg, who had been in Russia with

the Polish army when the community had been massacred, just like two of my relatives. My relatives had left Eastern Europe, emigrating to Australia and informing us of the fate of the various branches of the family. Alexander Kohlberg stayed, married a Jewish girl from Kharkov, and recovered his parents' home. Their daughter Leah had married a Ukrainian and had a daughter and a son with him. Now the family wanted the teenage girl to go to Israel to study, but they were having difficulty persuading the Sochnut representative in Lviv that she was Jewish. I promised to try and help.

It was an emotional moment for me to meet with Alexander Kohlberg and his family. He recalled members of my family and wanted to show me the sites of their former homes and shops. Despite the long dusk, we felt we could not stay because of the long drive back to Chernivtsi. (To be continued in the next issue of Kosher Koala)

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Amsterdam - A Sephardi Experience	Margot Salom	Vol 2 No 4		
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Researching in Amsterdam is a relatively straight-forward experience for an English-speaking person. Most of the Dutch speak quite passable English, and they are usually more than happy to practise it. The Dutch also keep impeccable records, which put the English ones to shame. The thing that should be kept in mind, however, is that genealogical research is slow and painstaking despite the organization, quality and availability of the data. Don't try to squeeze one single afternoon in the archives into a hectic sight-seeing tour, and expect to find everything that is available in the archives .

The first time I visited Amsterdam in 1991, I had arrived from London feeling rather unwell and was staying in Rotterdam with a friend. By the time I got to Amsterdam after a forty-minute train trip I soon realized that an earlier start would have been useful. I needed to search for the street of the municipal archives where all the records of the Jewish communities are held and, after wandering around with an inadequate street map, asking passersby for directions, I realized that it was getting late and there would be insufficient time to get any real work done, even if I found the archives. Feeling dispirited, I gave up, only getting as far as locating Amsteldijk Street. Number 67 seemed too far to go and my energy had long since run out.

In 1993, on my second trip, I was prepared for real work. I found a small and pleasant hotel within walking distance of the archives and made an early start every morning armed with an English-Dutch dictionary, all my own family information to date, and a sandwich made from the very ample Dutch hotel breakfast.

I had already covered a lot of the tourist sites in 1991 and so felt determined that this time I would devote most of the time to research and only visit galleries or museums on the weekends when the municipal archives are closed. I spent two weeks in Amsterdam on that schedule, apart from two days when a friend came from London, and still felt I had not finished. Two months later I returned to Holland to have another session of research. I finished three weeks later.

It must be remembered that it is much slower work where all the signs etc. are in a foreign language, hence the need for a dictionary. To look at records, one also has to become familiar with the Dutch for such words as burial, death, marriage, birth, etc. Just when you have mastered all this, there is some other crucial word to comprehend. It is all much slower than speed reading through records in English.

Despite all this it is a wonderful experience to be in Amsterdam immersed in one's Sephardic origins. I was constantly aware of the unique history of the arrival of those 'secret Jews, Marranos,' and "new Christians" to this haven of religious freedom in the seventeenth century, a history which finally led to the development of the golden age of Holland and its mercantile successes in the new world, the era which heralded the birth of capitalism and to which the enterprise of Sephardic merchants and bankers contributed.

There are still remnants of that era which remain proudly despite the ravages of the Nazi era in Europe. One can't help but wonder what miracle has protected so much of this Jewish history while 70,000 Jewish Amsterdamers did not survive those horrific years. I always had the thought in my heart in Amsterdam "there but for the grace of god go I " if my ancestors had chosen to stay there in the eighteenth century and not left for London in 1769.

First I want to talk about the Gemeente Archief, or Municipal Archives, where all the old records from the various Jewish communities are held and are organized in an extremely accessible way. When I finally found it on my second trip in 1993, the Gemeente Archief was a rather stately old building overlooking the Amstel River. Despite my frequent and long visits there I never had the time to really explore fully its resources. My task there was purely to examine the genealogical records of the old Sephardic community. Some of these records are in book form such as the Index of Ketubot from the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue. These span the years from 1650 to 1911. However, you don't need to travel to Amsterdam for these as they are available from the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society.

Other records are accessible via microfiche or microfilm. I understand that the original ketubot are held at these archives and are available to be photocopied. I have not done this myself yet, so I can't tell you about the process. The archives also hold on microfilm the records of burial from the Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Cemetery at Ouderkerk ad Amstel on the outskirts of Amsterdam.

There are some records of circumcisions, but these are rather incomplete as mohelim records are frequently dependent on the record-keeping efficiency of the individual mohel. One of the most useful resources for genealogists available at the archives is "Trouwen en Mokum" (Jewish marriages in Amsterdam, D. Verdooner & H. J. W. Snel). The good news is that all these are now available at the Jewish Genealogical Society in Sydney, so you don't have to visit Amsterdam for this extensive resource. These volumes have organized and documented all Jewish marriages per the civil records in Amsterdam since the inception of the keeping of civil records (1598- 1811). These individual records can be photocopied for a reasonable fee.

I found the marriage of a sixth generation ancestor in these volumes which was not included in the ketubah volumes. This is a mystery that I still don't understand. This same ancestor and his wife are included in the burial records from Ouderkerk Cemetery so why their ketubah has not been included in the synagogue records remains a puzzle. Perhaps one can conclude that the ketubah records are not complete!!!! Despite my long hours at the archives I could not fully explore their Sephardic resources, probably because of the extent of the data on which I was concentrating (marriages, deaths and circumcisions).

The municipal archives is a very comfortable and well-equipped facility. There are adequate microfilm and microfiche viewers, despite the fact that an enormous number of the Dutch people are genealogists and the archives are usually well-used by the usual senior citizens. The archives are air-conditioned and there is a coffee lounge where the staff eat their lunch. This is also available to researchers but does not sell real food so take your own sandwich. The archivists and librarians are very helpful on the whole and most speak adequate English. It is a very pleasant venue in which to work.

On arriving it is necessary to sign in and give the nature of your research and the name(s) you are researching. It is also required that you leave your bags and coats etc there in safe-keeping for which you are given a ticket. It is only possible to take in with you your own needs, but no bags.

Just a small anecdote about my experience of having left my name in the sign-in book. One afternoon toward closing time I was approached by a man who asked whether I was researching the Salom name. With much surprise I said that I was. He was a PhD. Student of history who was writing his dissertation on the seventeenth century Jewish merchants of Amsterdam and their connections to the Barbary Coast pirates!! Apparently the Salom name was very prominent in his research. This was a serendipitous meeting. He has been of considerable help in my research and in 1994 he sent me an almost complete genealogy of the sixteenth and seventeenth century Salom dynasty from their origins in Portugal. I have yet to find if and how my line links into these Saloms, and their various aliases. I hope to meet with my Dutch benefactor this year in Amsterdam so we can put our information together, hopefully for some useful outcome for me.

Of course I was faintly horrified, albeit fascinated at the thought of dealings with pirates, but this clue sent me off into a new line of enquiry which has been most fascinating and educative in the history of the Sephardic merchants. My later time at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem was devoted to this research.

A warning about aliases. When the Marranos first came to Amsterdam from those countries where they had been forced into conversion, they came with their Spanish or Portuguese names, their Hebrew names either subsumed or forgotten. As they returned to Judaism they resumed their Hebrew names. But as many of these Marranos were still commercially involved with the Iberian peninsula, they frequently linked their Hebrew and Spanish or Portuguese names, using the Iberian component for business dealings with Spain and Portugal. Of course, synagogue records always used the Hebrew name but confusion can arise in doing research between different civil and religious sources. However, by the eighteenth century this practice of using

aliases had largely disappeared. However, the Iberian practice of linking the mother and father's surnames continued, a practice to which I rather subscribe as it gives recognition to the mother's identity.

To return to Amsterdam and its resources. It is really worthwhile for any Sephardic researcher to make a visit to the Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Cemetery at Ouderkerk. It is on the outskirts of Amsterdam, but is worth the trip for two reasons: historically, it is of great significance and it is a delightful experience to be there with the graves of one's ancestors, despite the fact that most of the headstones have sunk beneath the surface of the soil. I found it a place of great spiritual resonance. When I look at my family tree and know how many of my ancestors lie there, I found some sort of continuity and peace in this still place on the banks of the Amstel River.

If you want to do some research there, and this can be very useful as the card system there contains linkages (children of the deceased etc.) which are not recorded on the municipal archives' microfilm as the former cemetery caretaker has done a lot of extra research himself and added his findings to the cards. The present archivist there is Rabbi H. Rodrigues-Pereira who is also very helpful if you phone ahead to make an appointment with him. Be prepared also to make a donation.

The other possible source of Sephardic information, though not genealogical, is the Ets Haim Library which is situated in the precincts of the synagogue of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews. Although I have not visited this library as yet, I have had correspondence with them and found that they are cooperative and eager to help. The person with whom I have had contact is Jaffa Baruch-Snaj.

The Rosenthaliana Library at the University of Amsterdam is another source of Sephardic history in Amsterdam. This is also on my list for my 1995 visit.

If you have information that any of your ancestors lived in The Hague, the archives there are also very well organized and extremely helpful toward Jewish researchers. I only spent a half a day there, but found what I was looking for. A later letter to that archive resulted in a very useful response, although it took a long time to arrive. I might add that while the archives in both Amsterdam and The Hague were free in 1993 which I hope they still are, any mail enquiries incur researcher fees which are really quite hefty. My experience is that The Hague sent the information together with an invoice, but Amsterdam sent an invoice and withheld the information. So don't ask for any non-essential information as it can get quite expensive.

I would like to finish with the suggestion that you allow yourself sufficient time, both to use the wonderful facilities and available information, but also to take in the history of Jewish Amsterdam. Certainly visit the Sephardic sites but also the whole of Jewish Amsterdam. Like me, you will probably feel the impact of its four centuries of history. From the late sixteenth century when the Sephardic Jews came here as religious freedom was offered, those Marranos of several generations who had to learn to be Jews again in this city that allowed them to worship freely, to the later horrors of the deportations of the Jews from Amsterdam in the twentieth century. Memorials of the transportations include many classic Sephardic names amongst those of their Ashkenazi brethren. I urge you to take time from your research to spend a weekend afternoon strolling around the old Joodse Wijk (Jewish Quarter),

which is not far from the archives. Dominated by the magnificent and recently renovated synagogue of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews at its centre, this walk includes the Joodse Historische Museum which is housed in the renovated synagogue complex of the Ashkenazi Jews straight opposite the Sephardi Synagogue. This museum is a must for anyone interested in Dutch Jewish history. The beautiful old synagogue of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews which overlooks this area is a 'must see'. Recently renovated and re-opened, it is the focal point of the seventeenth century Sephardic life in Amsterdam. Now only a small congregation remains.

The other place you should visit is the Memorial to Transported Jews from Amsterdam, which is housed in the old Jewish Theatre which was used as a transit centre by the Nazis for arrested Jews. It is a most eloquent and moving memorial. There is a small museum upstairs which is a testimony to the details of the lives of those transported Jews. I found the Nazi order for presentation of a family who lived in the street of my hotel.

Somehow this small detail brought it all very close to me and I later went to look for the house just a few steps from where I was staying. This memorial is situated within the area of the walk around the old Jewish district. In this small and manageable area there is much to be seen that will be an emotional experience when linking it to the events of just over 50 years ago.

I have included a list of addresses, names and directions that will be of use to those wishing to spend time researching and exploring Jewish Amsterdam. I wish you well with your researching of Sephardic genealogy in Amsterdam and sincerely hope that it will be as a productive and gratifying experience for you as it has been for me.

Amsterdam Jewish Addresses

GEMEENTE ARCHIEF
(MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES)
67 AMSTELDIJK ST

Take Tram No 4 from outside Centraal Station. Get off Cnr. Van Woustraat & Ostade Straat, turn left and walk towards Amstel River, turn right and walk along River.

ETS HAIM SEMINARY LIBRARY
SPANISH & PORTUGUESE JEWS' SYNAGOGUE
MR. VISSERPLEIN 3 1011 RD AMSTERDAM

ROSENTHALIANA LIBRARY
AMSTERDAM UNIVERSITY
(near KLONINGSPLEIN)

OUDERKERK CEMETERY OF THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE JEWS.
RABBI H. RODRIGUES-PEREIRA (ARCHIVIST)
7 KERKSTRAAT OUDERKERK ad AMSTEL 1191.
TEL: 02963-3498

Take train to Schipol (Airport) station; Look for bus outside station, No. 175/4 for Ouderkerk and ask driver for stop closest to Cemetery.

CENTRAL BUREAU VOOR GENEALOGIE, DEN HAAG,
PRINS WILLEM-ALEXANDERHOF STRAAT 22
P.O. Box 11755 NL 2502
Phone: 703814651
Hours: Mon - Friday 9-30am - 4-00pm
Tuesday evening 6-00pm - 9.30pm
Saturday 9-00am - 1.00pm

Take a tram from the Den Haag Centraal train station. (Can't remember number)

JOODS HISTORISCH MUSEUM
JONAS DANIEL MEIJERPLEIN 2-4
Hours: 11-00am - 5-00pm daily.
Also has a small Library which may be useful.

Catch train from Metro station at Centraal. Alight at NieuwMarkt station and walk up Sint Antoniesbreestraat and Jodenbreestraat past Rembrandthuis Museum (worth a visit) to J.D. Meijerplein. You can't miss it as it is straight opposite the very magnificent Synagogue of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews.

Margot Salom is a member of our Society who is currently exploring her Sephardic roots.

Sources for Scottish Jewish Genealogy	Harvey Kaplan	Vol 2 No 4	
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Jews came late to Scotland. Unusual in the European context, there were no Jews here in any number until the late 1790's, and the first Jewish communities were established in Edinburgh in 1816, and Glasgow in 1823. Although these were to be the only sizeable communities (Glasgow reached 14,000 at its peak but has now halved in size), small communities were also founded later in the nineteenth century in Dundee and Aberdeen. The little Jewish outposts in Ayr, Falkirk, Dunfermline, Greenock and Inverness, no longer exist.

Genealogical research resources for Jews in Scotland fall into two basic categories: public records and those held by the Jewish community.

A - PUBLIC RECORDS

1. Civil registration of births, marriages and deaths in Scotland dates back to 1855, and the records can be examined (for a fee) in New Register House, Edinburgh. A research facility has recently been opened in Glasgow, covering records from the west of Scotland. The Indexes are computerised, and Scottish certificates generally offer more detail than their English counterparts.
2. The Census returns for Scotland are available (to 1891) in New Register House, and for Glasgow in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. A list has been compiled of approximately 1,000 Jews living in the Gorbals district of Glasgow, gleaned from the Census of 1891.

3. Naturalisation records for Scotland are available in the Public Record Office in London.
4. Jewish residents often appear in city directories, such as the Post Office Directory and Kelly's Directory. Both have indexes of names, classification by occupation or trade, and street by street listing of shops, businesses and some residents. Similar directories exist for other cities in Scotland, and all can be found in the major reference libraries.
5. Valuation Rolls annual property registers are also available in major reference libraries. Arranged by street, they provide details of ownership and occupancy of every house and shop, with rateable value or amount of rent.
6. Thousands of Jewish children have attended Scottish schools. Strathclyde Regional Archives (and presumably other similar institutions) have log books and admission registers for most schools in the area.
7. More than a million and a half immigrants travelled across Britain en route for North America. They would land at east coast port, such as London, Hull or Leith, and travel across by train to the west coast ports, Glasgow or Liverpool. Some stayed here for a few days or weeks, but others found work for months or even years, in order to raise the funds for the remainder of their journey. In many cases, the original goal of North America was abandoned, and the immigrants remained in Britain. Records of passengers leaving Glasgow for North America are to be found in the Public Record Office. The Mitchell Library in Glasgow has the Wotherspoon Collection, albums of photographs of the ships which carried the immigrants across the Atlantic. It also holds back issues of the "Glasgow Herald" newspaper, which contain advertisements for the ships leaving Glasgow, and also announcements of the ships arriving at the other end in Canada or the USA.

B - JEWISH RECORDS

1. The Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, based in the historic Garnethill Synagogue in Glasgow (1879) collects a wide range of material relating to all aspects of the history of the Jewish communities of Scotland.
2. The Historical Database of Scottish Jewry, available at the Archives Centre, collates and cross-references a wide variety of sources and lists relating to Jews in Scotland prior to the end of 1918. It has information on almost nine thousand individuals.
3. The Archives Centre has Register of births, marriages and deaths in the Glasgow (later Garnethill) Hebrew Congregation (from 1855). It also holds the Register of Marriages (1930-1981) for the former Pollokshields Hebrew Congregation, and a copy of the Register of Circumcisions performed by Rev J. Furst of Edinburgh (1879-1905). Garnethill Synagogue ran a hostel for European Jewish refugees, and there is a register from 1938, listing some 250 people, with age, place of origin, and eventual destination.
4. Other sources worth considering are minutes, membership lists, annual reports and year-books of synagogues and other communal organisations.
5. The Archives Centre has records of almost 5,000 burials in Scottish Jewish cemeteries, and those prior to the end of 1918 are indexed in the Historical Database of Scottish Jewry.
6. The "Jewish Echo", the community newspaper of Scottish Jewry, was published in Glasgow weekly from 1928 to 1992. It was probably the most comprehensive record of events in the community during this period. Announcements appear

for births, barmitzvahs, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, and tombstone consecrations. It has been succeeded by a Glasgow edition of the "Jewish Telegraph". Back issues of both papers are held by the Archives Centre. The national "Jewish Chronicle" has also reported briefly on Scottish affairs.

7. The Archives Centre has a copy of the Scottish entries in G. E. Harfield: "A Commercial Directory of the Jews of the United Kingdom", 1894, Hewlett & Pierce. This is a street-by-street listing of Jewish tradesmen in British towns and cities, e.g. Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Dundee. It serves as a snapshot of 1894, which can be compared with the Census lists of 1891.

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

The Registrar-General for Scotland
New Register House
Princes Street
Edinburgh, EH1 3YT

The Glasgow Department
Mitchell Library
North Street
Glasgow G3 7DN

Strathclyde Regional Archives
Mitchell Library
Glasgow G3 7DN

Central Library
George IV Bridge, Edinburgh
The Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AT

Public Record Office
Ruskin Avenue
Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

Scottish Jewish Archives Centre
Garnethill Synagogue
127 Hill Street
Glasgow G3 6UB
(open only by arrangement)

Glasgow Jewish Representative Council
222 Fenwick Road
Giffnock, Glasgow, G46 6UE

Glasgow Hebrew Burial Society
Fallock Road
Glasgow G42

Aberdeen Synagogue

74 Dee Street
Aberdeen AB1 2DS

Dundee Synagogue
St Mary Place
Dundee DD1 5RB

Edinburgh Synagogue
4 Salisbury Road
Edinburgh EH16 5AB

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Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry, 1990, Edinburgh

Alwin James,
Scottish Roots - A Step by Step Guide for Ancestor Hunters in Scotland and Overseas, 1981, Edinburgh

Cecil Sinclair,
Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors - A Guide to Ancestry Research in the Scottish Record Office, 1990, Edinburgh

Kenneth Collins (Ed),
Aspects of Scottish Jewry, 1987, Glasgow, includes detailed bibliography and list of sources

Kenneth Collins,
Glasgow Jewry: A Guide to the History and Community of the Jews in Glasgow, 1993, SJAC, Glasgow

Kenneth Collins,
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A. Levy,

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A.Levy,
The Origins of Scottish Jewry, JHSE, 1958

Abel Phillips,
A History of the Origins of the First Jewish Community in Scotland: Edinburg 1816, 1979, Edinburgh

Harvey Kaplan is probably the most expert living Jewish genealogist on Scottish Jewry. He is available for genealogical research (on a fee basis).

His address is: Harvey L. Kaplan
1/L 11 Millwood Street, Glasgow G41 3JY Scotland

New Addresses for Jewish Genealogy		Vol 2 No 4		
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The new address of the ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES is A.J.G.S.,
P.O. Box 50245, PALO ALTO, CA 94303, USA.

The address for AVOTAYNU or for Gary Mokotoff, former president of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies is the same as before: P.O. Box 900, TEANECK, N.J. 07666. This address should be used when ordering books from Avotaynu.

The new address for ordering the JEWISH GENEALOGICAL FAMILY FINDER is Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. Marsha Saron Dennis,
P.O. Box 6398, NEW YORK NY 10128, U.S.A.

The Horowitz Family Gathering, 1996		Vol 2 No 4		
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The Horowitz Families Association in Israel is organizing the First International Gathering of Horowitz Families, in conjunction with Jerusalem 3000, at the Diaspora Museum, Tel Aviv University from 14th July to the 19th, 1996. The conference is intended for all members of the Horowitz families (including Hurwitz, Ish-Horowitz and Gurevitz) from Israel and the Diaspora, and indeed for all those who are interested in the history of the Jewish people and the genealogy of this distinguished extended family.

Any individual or family interested in receiving further details about the program, registration and so on is asked to contact the Congress Secretariat, P.O. Box 53368, Tel Aviv 61533, ISRAEL

Photos from Pre-World War I Eastern Europe in USA National Archives in Washington		Vol 2 No 4		
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Marlene ZAKAI reports in MISHPACHA, Vol. 14 No 4, how she found a wealth of photos of pre-World War I Eastern Europe, particularly Poland and Rumania, including small towns, in boxes of photo archives of the "New York Times" Paris Bureau in files labelled "Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Prints:World Markets 1913-1939" Box RG 151 and RG 306NT 1199. All photos are labelled and reprints of a good size can be ordered and will be sent by mail. But she found the librarians at the National Archives reluctant to admit they had these in the Still Photos Division.

Perhaps next time you go to Washington, D.C. you should go there.

Arrival of YIVO's Pre-war Archives

Zachary Baker

Vol 2 No 4



After extended negotiations, the Lithuanian government have agreed to send YIVO's missing pre-war archives to New York to be restored and preserved. The rare Jewish books and documents were found in a Vilnius church when the government returned the building to the local Catholic diocese. Under the Soviet regime, the church was the site of the Lithuanian State Book Chamber, which is now part of the Lithuanian National Library. The documents, thought to have been destroyed during the Holocaust, arrived in New York in February. Portions of these historic collections have never before been seen outside of Eastern Europe. The 32 boxes of mostly unsorted archival material from the pre-World War II Vilna YIVO, contain letters, folk tales, autobiographies, school assignments, rabbinical manuscripts, posters, photographs, and YIVO office correspondence. These reclaimed documents from Vilnius will be organized, preserved, and microfilmed. Copies of the microfilms will be available in New York and in Vilnius.

YIVO Institute, 1048 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028

The Fitzroy

Sally Fiber

Vol 2 No 4



The book authored by SALLY FIBER, our speaker on the 1st May on "JEWS IN THE WEST END OF LONDON", has been published and is now available in Australian bookshops. It is **"THE FITZROY, THE AUTO- BIOGRAPHY OF A LONDON TAVERN"**. It is the story of a public house of which Sally's parents and grandparents were the licensees for over sixty years in the West End of London. It is selling for around \$16 and very entertaining, especially for nostalgic former Londoners.

Litvak Special Interest Group

Vol 2 No 4



The former SIG for Northwestern Lithuania has now expanded to encompass the whole of Lithuania and the cost mentioned is only \$US 5.00 for North Americans, which should make it \$US 10 or 12 for Australians with the additional cost for postage. Send your cheque together with the names of the Lithuanian towns in which you are interested to EDMUND U. COHLER, 85 Bloomfield Street, Lexington, MA 02173-5534. Tel: 0011-1-617-862 1219. Internet:ecohler@cspi.com

Future Seminars on Jewish Genealogy in Northern Hemisphere Summers		Vol 2 No 4		
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As we announced in our last Issue the 1996 North American Jewish Summer Seminar will be held in Boston. The 1997 International Seminar will be held in Paris, with possibly genealogical side trips being available afterwards to Eastern European locations. Other locations have also been announced:

1998 LOS ANGELES
1999 NEW YORK CITY
2000 SALT LAKE CITY

This last one should be in July, still making it possible to be home in Sydney for the Olympic Games in September.

Historic Documents Recall Pre-war Flight to Great Britain		Vol 2 No 4		
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Press Release from World Jewish Relief

Historically important identity cards issued to nearly 10,000 Jewish and 'non-Aryan' Christian children who fled Nazi Germany without their parents have been rediscovered by the Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief (now known as World Jewish Relief).

The organisation persuaded the British Government to allow unaccompanied children from Germany and Austria to enter Britain without national passports or British visas. Identity cards were issued to each child and listed the child's name, date and place of birth, as well as names and addresses of parents. A photograph of the child was attached to each card.

World Jewish Relief would like to return the identity cards to their original owners. Those wishing to reclaim their identity cards should contact the archivist, Dr Amy Gottlieb, at World Jewish Relief, Drayton House, 30 Gordon Street, London, WC1H 0AN.

The full name of the child, date and place of birth and names of parents, if known, should be clearly stated.

Victorian Report	Ester Czaky	Vol 2 No 4		
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The Victorian Branch of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society began just four months ago and already, the interest and enthusiasm of our members has shown itself. We've had four well attended meetings which covered a wide range of topics. Ephraim Finch, the Director of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha, spoke about his database and the fascinating family connections he has managed to unravel (see the last issue of The Kosher Koala).

Our Beginner's Workshop gave some insights to many of those who attended on how to begin their research and what basic resources are available. Rhonda Lasky shared her family research triumphs while explaining how she became involved in genealogy and the paths she followed.

In October, we were lucky to have Arline and Sid Sachs visit and demonstrate the cemetery project database. Many people have shown interest in this and we hope that in the future, our members will contribute to this worthy project. In November, one of our best known Australian genealogists, Nick Vine Hall outlined the many Australian resources available. Due to his wide knowledge of these genealogical resources, there are a number of our members who now have a new research path to pursue.

Our last function for the year will be a Chanukah get together where we will light candles and nibble on festive food while sharing our family history research to date and discussing what our future requirements are. This will create a greater awareness of our needs and the possibility of helping each other with future research.

For 1996, we are planning a number of workshop, speaker and information evenings which will cover topics such as how to access information at the Mormon Family History Centres, what genealogical resources are available on the Internet, a visit to the State Library of Victoria to learn about their genealogical resources and many more.

Our functions, which are held at the Makor Library at the Beth Weizman Community Centre, are always accompanied by a wonderful display of genealogical resources which enhance the occasion.

Please note that we are now receiving many exchange periodicals from overseas Jewish Genealogical Societies and recommend that you should consult them regularly.

Many thanks to Ros Collins and the Library staff for their help.

Ester Czaky, Honorary Secretary, Victorian Branch

Forebears		Vol 2 No 4		
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00034 BERYL WHEELER, 300 PICTON ROAD, MALDON, 2671, NSW. Information sought on grandfather **SAMUEL ISRAEL** who came to Australia from Egypt via England circa 1864. Married **LEAH HARRIS** in 1866 and **EMILY HOLDEN** in 1905 and died 1929-1932 in Chippendale, Sydney.

00035 SIMCHA MANDELBAUM, POB 328, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL. Information sought about Rabbi **BEZALEL MANDELBAUM** born in TUROV 1864, who came to Australia in 1905, served as rabbi and shochet in Broken Hill, Perth and Ballarat. Died 18 August, 1940. Daughters Rae Jerdan (died 1978), Mrs Rose Lipton and Greenberg. Also grandson Robert CHARNEY/CZERNY.

00036 KEIRA QUINN LOCKYER, POB 635, CORA, 2794 NSW AUSTRALIA. Tel: 61-63-411 517. Information sought on great-grandparents **BENJAMIN KEYSOR/KEYZOR**, probable Sephardi origin, born circa 1854 probably London, and wife **JULIA BENJAMIN**, England, and children, one of whom was NELLIE born circa 1882. Married Judge Brian Adams and emigrated to USA.

00037 PASCAL LABARRE c/- A.J.G.S. , P.O. Box 154, Northbridge, Sydney 2063, NSW, Australia. Fax 61-2-9967 2834. View inheritance, a French law firm is looking for descendants of Hungarian- born **RENEE** and **ARANKA KLOPFER**, married names unknown, emigrated to Australia between 1926-1940.

00038 DAGMAR GAPINSKI, Sandweg 2b, 21509, Glinda, Germany seeks **JUDITH GUTMANN** née **BENEDYK** and daughter **MARIANNE** or **MARGARET**, once of **BELLEVUE HILL**, Sydney. Judith may have been born in Jerusalem. Also seeking Mrs **ALOISE AUBRAM**. Fax in Germany 49-407-106924.

Editorial

Sophie Caplan

**Vol 3 No
1**



Our activities for 1996 have started with our regular monthly workshops and an all day Beginners' Seminar in Jewish Genealogy at Shalom College on 3rd March. Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday 10th March at the home of David and Diana Laufer in Chatswood West. We hope that some of you will want to work on the committee or volunteer for occasional help in some sphere of our work. Our reason for choosing a private home in which to hold our A.G.M. is that last year we hired a hall in Bondi Junction and we had a very poor attendance. Do come and make suggestions to your Committee and your executive, if you feel things could be improved.

We are delighted that our Society is growing though, as usual, many members take their time to renew and we are not yet back to 148. But we are concerned that so many members, even those living in Sydney or Melbourne never bother to come to workshops or to meetings with speakers. Does this mean that you are happy just receiving the Kosher Koala?

On Tuesday 13th February we tried holding an evening workshop from 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. for those who cannot make it on Sunday mornings, and we would like to have your written views on times, or places, where additional workshops could be held which YOU could attend.

Our Society owns a range of books on Jewish genealogy, both Sephardi and Ashkenazi, with something on most countries where Jews once lived, and we also receive and keep the journals of most other Jewish genealogical societies around the world and we subscribe to a range of special interest groups journals. Books belonging to our members and not part of the library, like for instance the **GEDENKBUCH**, or the Memorial Book of the Deportation from Belgium, can be brought to a workshop for you if a request is made by phone to Rieke on 427 6075 a few days before.

We have also acquired the tapes of the 1995 Summer Seminar in Washington, and they can be borrowed by members. We are sure that if you came you would gain something from the new resources we are acquiring.

In the past we have been able to purchase some books and a subscription to AVOTAYNU for the Melbourne branch, and they also benefit from books of genealogical interest held by Makor Library. We have also acquired books for the incipient Canberra group, for Morris Ochert in Queensland and hope sooner or later to supply other branches with books as the branches grow.

In recent days our member in Birmingham, Dr Anthony Joseph, has made us a gift of a set of microfiche of the Victorian Probate Indexes in their special container and of some Pioneer Index books. We are very appreciative of his generosity and thoughtfulness. Some of our Sydney members, who prefer to remain anonymous, also regularly donate books to our library. For this year we have planned a number of talks by our more experienced local members, starting with our Hon. Secretary, Mr Terry Newman, who has a wealth of knowledge on 19th Century Jewish Australian families.

PLEASE RETURN

Over the last four years I have lost two important books borrowed from me and lent in good faith: 1. ARNOLD LEVINE "THE JEWS OF SUNDERLAND" borrowed during our first Beginners' Seminar held at the Great Synagogue in March-April 1992, through Rieke Nash, on the day after the book arrived, and never returned. 2. NICK VINE HALL "TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY IN AUSTRALIA", second edition, borrowed from me at my home in August-September 1995, after a busy meeting and not yet returned. Please do not destroy my faith in the honesty of our members, and return these books.

TO OUR READERS IN USA, U.K., ISRAEL, FRANCE, etc....

Knowledgeable genealogists from sister societies who are planning a holiday or business trip to Australia, are invited to make their firm intention to visit any of our major towns known to us in advance. We are always delighted to have a visitor speak to us of their work, their tree, their book in progress. Though we cannot offer a fee we would be pleased to meet you and have you address our Society.

FOREBEARS, FAMILY FINDER FEEDBACK

Israeli lawyer SIMCHA MANDELBAUM contacted us in October regarding information on a book he is preparing to write on his late relatives Rev Bezalel MANDELBAUM, known in Australia as "Zalel", and his daughters Celia, Rose and Rachel Mandelbaum Jerdan Lipton. In our last issue we published a Family Finder advertisement, which was answered by our member Mrs Lia Friedler, the executrix of the Mandelbaum Estate, giving him several pages of information, while I was able to procure him a photo and have it copied and enlarged and to advise him of the very early future opening of a Mandelbaum House in Sydney, of which he had not known. Simcha Mandelbaum decided to attend the opening, which took place on 18th February, and his presence brought great interest to the opening. He also brought a large framed photograph of the original Mandelbaum House in Jerusalem, destroyed in 1948. A great example of the occasional serendipitous effects of our Society's efforts.

We hope that many of our members read the moving story written by our member DIANE ARMSTRONG "Return to PISZCZAC" and published in the magazine section of THE AUSTRALIAN for Saturday 24th February 1996.

A Genealogical Trip to Galicia. Part II	Sophie Caplan	Vol 3 No 1		
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The night time drive from Kalush to Chernivtsy took nearly five hours as it was interrupted at least five times by compulsory stops to show the driver's credentials to highway patrols at both permanent and at mobile checkpoints and to pay a toll for using the roads after dark. Again the amounts were inconsequential in Western currency terms, about \$US 2 or \$AUS 3-5, but it was a scary experience to be stopped so often. Especially when Oleg, my driver-translator, came racing back to take the keys out of the ignition, because he had heard that gang members had been known to jump into a car and drive off with passengers still inside while the driver was having his papers checked. Fortunately no such mishap occurred to us. We knew there would be no meal served to us in Chernivtsy, so we dined off the rest of my dried fruit and nuts.

I had been loath to use the Kohlberg's phone to ring Chernivtsy, and we did not know the hotel's number. Our two a.m. arrival at the Shermoosh Hotel was greeted with blame and recriminations, and a decision by tour organisers that I would be allocated to a different car and driver. I was treated like a naughty child being admonished and my request for a daylight visit to the Kalush Jewish cemetery, where I had yet to find the mass-grave of my grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, as well as pre-World War II graves of ancestors, was graciously allocated fifteen minutes exactly. It was then that I fully became aware of the absurdity of having to drive back and forth from the Kalush district to Chernivtsy for bed and breakfast, a distance of three hundred kilometers or more by road. It reduced the effective time in "my area" to a few hours over two days, with far more time spent on car travel. Since I had travelled from the other side of the world for the promised "adequate time" in my area, and spent considerable amounts of money in doing so, I felt somewhat cheated.

The car in which we travelled to Lviv the next morning had a Jewish driver, but one who only spoke Russian and Ukrainian, and my fellow-passengers spoke Ivrit among themselves most of the drive. Our stopover at Kalush Jewish cemetery was timed exactly for fifteen minutes to find the mass-grave into which the Jews of Kalush and surrounding villages had been shot by Einsatzgruppe C in November 1942. No one came with me out of the car, but a Ukrainian woman from a group working on the restoration of the cemetery came over to help me keep my balance walking over the ditches and potholes. The Ukrainian women were making a Magen David-shaped monument to those killed and buried in the mass grave, and fresh cement seemed to have been poured that morning or the day before for the first stage of the monument. Once again I had a Yahrzeit light and matches, but the slight breeze kept blowing out the flame. In the end I just left it there, unlit. It was also hard to say kaddish with a band of a dozen well meaning Ukrainian women chattering animatedly at my elbow. We could not communicate, and I did not wish to offend them by a gesture of dismissal as they seemed friendly and full of goodwill. There was no time to look for

the graves of my three great-grandparents, great-uncles and aunts buried in this cemetery, so I took a few quick photographs of the graves in the vicinity of the mass-grave, as my fellow-passengers were signalling that my fifteen minutes were up.

On the rest of the drive to Lviv I reflected on the fate of my STEIN, HAUSMANN, HALPERIN AND SPIEGEL families. I had not been able to find our family graves or to say kaddish properly, but at least I had been there, the first family member to go to Kalush, Nowica, Zawadka, Landestreu and Dobrowlany since 1946. I recalled the chassidic tale of the Baal Shem Tov going to a certain spot in the forest to say a prayer, sing a song and light a candle, and of succeeding generations being unable to find the precise area of the forest, or remember the tune, but their attempts at re-enacting the gestures still finding grace in the eyes of the Lord. Perhaps that tale now applied to me...I was the grandchild who could not find the exact spot, nor intone the prayer, nor keep the yahrzeit candle lit. But at least I had been in the cemetery and in the villages after forty-nine years.

Despite continuous jokes about my list of places to be visited being the largest of the group, I had not even been able to drive through Bolekhov, Rozniatow, Boryslav, Ilinty, Holyn, Brozniow, Perehinsko or Krechowice.

Our car was the first to arrive in Lviv at the Dniestr Hotel at 3 p.m., about two hours before the next one, which had taken other members of the group to archives and towns of their choice. By the time Phyllis arrived I had taken a bath, rung home and slept for an hour. It was obvious that I could and should have been allowed a proper exploration of Kalush Jewish cemetery to find my family graves, and time for a return visit to the Kohlbergs to show me the houses and shops which had belonged to members of my extended family. As a paying customer I had been treated very poorly. It would have been far more logical for me to have been accommodated in Lviv while visiting my goal area which was only two hours' drive from Lviv, instead of having to sleep at Chernivtsy. Besides the Dniestr Hotel was far more comfortable, and had hot water.

It was now Friday afternoon and our tour included a visit to the one Lviv synagogue which had been restored to use by the Jewish community after having been mis-used as a stable by the Nazis. It was within easy walking distance of the Dniestr Hotel and we walked past the nearby Kosciusko Park, a name familiar to Australians, since the nineteenth century explorer Count Strzelecki, a Polish patriot, had named our highest mountain Mount Kosciusko after a Polish democratic leader.

The synagogue service was already in progress when we arrived. The men in our party went downstairs where there was enough seating for them all, and we women went to the women's gallery upstairs where the sparse seating was already occupied. This enabled us to hang over the balustrade to view the rest of the building. The front wall above the ark and the two side walls were decorated with frescoes featuring wild animals and birds including a lion, a tiger, an elephant and even a kangaroo and a kookaburra. Like in the Kiev shule, the Aron Hakodesh (Ark of the Law) was fairly simple, but here it was the only piece of possible original furniture. The male section seats looked like high school desks while those in the gallery were like cheap cinema seats. It was an Orthodox service which only involved women in a passive capacity, so we tried to talk with those women who

spoke some Yiddish, or English or French. Most of them only spoke Ukrainian and Russian, and it soon became clear that like the families of our guides and drivers, none of them lived in Lviv before 1946. There appeared to be no ties to the prewar Jewish community of Lwow/Lemberg, except for one man of whom I had heard in Sydney from Marian Pretzel, and whom I did not have time to contact. Most Jews had come from the part of Russia which had not been occupied by the Nazis, or had fled to Asian Russia during the war and had moved westwards to Lvov, as it was known then, during its Russian phase. A few displayed religious fervour, but I got the impression that the synagogue represented a meeting place, a link with their ethnic past. There were about fifty men present, including the visitors, and about twenty women, and about half were about seventy years or over. Immediately after the service a substantial Shabbat kiddush and meal, prepared by other local Jewish women, was served in auxiliary buildings downstairs, with strict separation of the sexes in different halls. I got the impression that numbers had suddenly swollen, but I may be wrong, and there were children present at the meal. Phyllis Simon and I who had missed out on seats in the main women's dining hall, were taken in charge by another Faigel, wife of Moshe, one of our team of drivers, and seated in another women's room. It was classical East European Jewish menu, with some items apparently supplied by overseas Jewish organisations, like tinned gefillte fish balls. It seemed to me that the good free Shabbat meal was at least an encouragement to attendances at Friday night services.

We thought that this was the Shabbat meal we had paid for as part of our tour, until someone came to fetch us as our soup had just been served to tell us it was time to go the rabbi's home for our Shabbat dinner. We walked in a loose group formation, having been told to keep together. Apparently the previous year an American visitor who had walked the streets alone wearing a kippah had been abused by hooligans and set upon and his kippah destroyed. The rabbi's residence was barely two streets away from the shule and the rabbi walked home with us. It was made clear to us there were gangs of young men who could be a danger to groups identified as Jews or foreigners, so we walked fast and without loud talk. In the preparatory months of the tour it had been stressed that we should bring no jewellery whatsoever, and to dress as plainly and as inconspicuously as possible, and we all followed that advice.

The rabbi lived in an apartment on the second floor of a Habsburg era building. Lviv had not been the scene of any battles or bombardments during any phase of World War II and had been occupied by the Nazis without resistance being offered. The only buildings that were destroyed were synagogues and Jewish communal buildings, which the Nazis burnt or exploded during their occupation. Therefore Lviv is a city with an abundance of architecture from "la Belle Epoque", the time of Franz Joseph, the last Austrian Habsburg emperor, when it was the capital of Eastern Galicia. Its city streets, though lacking a touch of paint, are replete with charming and interesting examples of what we would call late Victorian or Edwardian era buildings.

We entered the flat through reinforced double doors and an abundance of double locks which themselves told a story, and were received by the young Rebbetzen Sarah Bald. Both she and her husband appeared to be no more than twenty-five or at most twenty-seven years old and were from the Stolyner-Karlin chassidic sect in New York. She had also studied at Gateshead Yeshivah in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and knew of the daughter of our Australian Gutnick-Feldman rabbinic dynasty. The

Balds were on Shlichut as emissaries in Ukraine with a mission to bring back Judaism to the religiously and culturally deprived Jews of Lviv and its region. They administer a relief action which provides poor elderly Jews of pensionable age with a supplement of the equivalent of \$US 15 per month living allowance whenever funds permit, and some of us made a contribution towards that after Shabbat was over. Rebbetzen Bald also runs a pre-school kindergarten and early primary school, which was going very well. Her worry was that so many people of part-Jewish descent were sending their children that there might soon be no space for children of full Jewish descent. I felt it was a pity that all comers might not be accepted, as this hunger for Yiddishkeit was a phenomenon which might not last.

Even though it was mid-summer, 28th July 1995, we were served a full menu of chopped liver, pickled cucumbers, tinned Israeli olives and other hors-d'oeuvres, chicken soup with kneidlach, roast chicken, kugel, roast potatoes, three salads, fruit compote, cake and tea. Two of us helped with the serving and clearing of dishes, which gave us a perspective under what basic conditions the young rebbetzen had prepared such a meal for close to twenty people. The president of the congregation Mr Goldstein and his wife also partook of the meal, though they could not join in the lively English language conversation. The rebbetzen had also baked her own challot (white Sabbath loaves), and had suffered some anxiety as to whether there would be any kosher killed poultry for this Sabbath. The flat had its own toilet and bathroom, but the handbasin was together with the washing-machine and indoor washing lines. The rabbinical couple was expected to perform at top level under difficult conditions. While we were eating, a facsimile machine in a corner of the floor of the lounge-dining room started delivering a letter. Rebbetzen Bald said this would be from her sister in Scotland (or New York?) where it wasn't Shabbat yet, but she would not tear it off to read it until her own Sabbath was over.

After only one Shabbat song, which only a few knew, and Birkat Hamazon (grace after meals), we farewelled the rabbinical couple and promised to come back for Sabbath lunch the next day. Since Rabbi Mordechai Shlomo Bald and his rebbetzen had to go back to the synagogue to check on something, Vallick, our young guide and translator who had brought us there and eaten with us, was asked to accompany them, while we waited at the street corner, since the rabbi's usual bodyguards were off-duty, and it would have been unwise for the rabbi in his Stolyn-Karlin chassidic garb to walk there alone. When Vallick returned we walked back to our hotel, again urged to keep fairly close together. There were groups of young men lounging about the streets and I felt a twinge of fear when some youths jumped into a car parked on the pavement just ahead of us and at first accelerated backwards before roaring off forward. Allen Mallenbaum, who was walking level with Vallick and me, asked Vallick why we were going back to the hotel by a different route: "So that if they are waiting to assault on the way back, it will be harder for them. But please don't say anything about this to the others." We got back safely and nothing was said to the others, but the various precautions I had seen taken that evening made me aware that they were probably needed. The Dniestr Hotel had a disco, which stayed open most of the night. I was very tired, but the noise of distant music and loud voices on the streets woke me for a short time every two hours, and I slept late the next morning.

Our lunch at the rabbi's home had also been prepaid and we walked there as a group. Our two other Australian participants Diane and Justine Armstrong, also from Sydney, had been staying at the Dniestr Hotel for several days and they now joined us. For the afternoon a walk through downtown Lviv, led by Vallick was scheduled. He took us through the centre of the city where the impressive Habsburg era opera house, Parliament and university were situated, and then to the so-called flea market which was really an arts and crafts market where embroidered garments, hand-carved wooden boxes, popular Ukrainian characters, novelties, and the ubiquitous babushka dolls in new guises, as well as lacquered and painted eggs and other objects were for sale, though less cheaply than in Kiev.

We also visited the former Jewish quarter where spaces that formerly held mezzuzot on the right-hand doorpost of houses could still be seen. The former Rosen Synagogue and other former Jewish communal structures were just empty spaces, or shells of one remaining wall with some plaque commemorating their history. There was nothing left to recall the prewar Jewish community.

We were due for an early morning departure by bus the next day, but Phyllis Simon had invited some Ukrainian contacts she had made on her earlier visit, Yuri Kobiv, a botanist specialising in local mountain flora, and Liudmila Grigorieva, a trained researcher, now employed as a marketing copy-writer in a cannery in BRODY. She spoke and wrote good English and French and was willing to do archival research in Brody for a fee. Her address: Liudmila Grigorieva, Vulitsa YAVORNITSKOHO 5a//32, LVIV 54, UKRAINE. Each of them spoke good English and it was interesting to meet some non-Jewish Ukrainian intellectuals.

Our bus left at 7.30 a.m. It was a West German guilt bus, now registered in Belarus, with more than ample seating for our group, and allegedly the only bus in the former CIS to possess on board toilet facilities. Its guardians were a team of driver and navigator, a well-muscled easy-going twosome, who only spoke Russian. Oleg came to say goodbye to us and Vallick was accompanying us to the frontier. An elderly man was also at the bus door trying to sell painted wooden eggs. By his now shabby suit it was obvious he was a victim of the political changes which had removed the social safety net. I bought some of his wares.

Living in a country which is also an island, one forgets that countries with frontiers usually have their worst enemies in their nearest neighbours. I had been told by Olkeg how badly cars with Ukrainian number-plates are treated inside Poland. We were soon to experience the displeasure of the Ukrainian frontier authorities at our use of a Bielorussian-registered bus. Vallick left us just before we entered the frontier zone, and there we were with no one able to speak to the customs men. It did not seem a particularly busy post, but we sat for an hour and a half in the frontier bus parking area with no one coming to deal with us. Our driving team came back from the customs office looking bewildered. Eventually Diane Armstrong, born in Poland who still speaks perfect Polish, volunteered to go back with them and managed to make herself understood, and used her charm to explain to the disgruntled frontier men how we came to have hired a Bielorussian bus in preference to an Ukrainian one. At last, after payment of a fine, the autobus papers were in order and we individual tourists had to front passport control. The set-up reminded me of Moscow airport passport control ten years before, when we came to bring support to the

refuseniks, with mirrors in the ceiling of the booth gazing into the back of one's dress and in the rear wall. On arrival in Ukraine we had been given a small piece of paper by passport control to show at our departure. Luckily I still had mine. One of our number not only had been unable to find his, but also had a sum of money in his passport, possibly as a bribe. This enraged passport control, determined to make an example of him. They sent him back to the Ukrainian side and refused to let him through. Naturally we could not leave without him, so we all became anxious. Again Diane came to the rescue with charming pleading, and payment of a fine, and our companion was free...The bus drove across to the other side, and once again the passport control rigmarole commenced and Diane's linguistic skills were needed. It took a while, but after over two and a half hours we were able to leave the frontier area when a new drama erupted.

On the Polish side, just past the frontier posts, a woman and child dressed in Sunday best had come to the door asking for a lift to Lublin. The drivers had let her get in but the organisers objected on the grounds of insurance liability. In the general discussion of this, the organisers forgot to look for and pick up our Polish guide and his team. Luckily we only drove a few hundred yards away to a milk bar and coffee shop to buy soft drinks, and there Wacław Wojciechowski with his three aides caught up with us.

Wacław, who was to stay with us until our second last day in Warsaw, turned out to be a specialist for Jewish group tour, with an abiding interest in European history and an in-depth knowledge of the Holocaust in Poland. He said he was obsessed by the topic, and his vast and accurate knowledge was proof of this. Our first stop was the camp of Belzec, less than twenty minutes by bus from the Polish Ukrainian border. Belzec was one of the killing centres in the same category as Chelmno, Treblinka and Sobibor, with one difference. There had been no survivors of Belzec, whose intake area had been south eastern Poland particularly Galicia. It had ceased operations in the autumn of 1943, after the revolts at Treblinka and Sobibor, its corpses burnt, their ashes dispersed, buildings and grounds levelled. There was little to see, except two monuments, a wallmap of the former camp, but I had relatives from Boryslav who had perished there, and the pilgrimage there was something I had to do. As far as I know there are no lists of those who were sent to Belzec to be murdered, nor any books specifically about it, but the testimony of an envoy of the Polish national underground who secretly visited the camp as part of his preparation for his mission of information to the Allies and was smuggled in in the uniform of an Estonian officer. It was Jan Karski, who in postwar years taught East European Affairs at Georgetown University and was on a speaking tour of Australia in November 1994. He also appeared as a chief witness in the film "SHOAH".

The rest of the afternoon was spent driving to Tomaszów Lubelski, where the Nissenbaum Foundation had restored the Jewish cemetery, with a brand new front and an ohel built over the grave of a famous rabbi. An extensive period of time was spent there and the woman cemetery keeper, who had brought keys for us to get in, told us that she rewarded road-workers who brought her Jewish tombstones which had been recycled as road-surfacing material, with a bottle of vodka and appealed to us to repay that expense. Although I had no connection with that cemetery or that area, I gave her \$US 20 in case what she told us was true.

We then went to Zamosc, where we visited the old fortress at the town entrance, now a recreation area and bought ice-creams and toasted sandwiches. Then we walked to the splendid former Jewish quarter nearby, with streets still named after the writer Peretz and the Esperanto inventor Zamenhof. Zamosc was a most impressive town architecturally with its monumental Italianate square. Poland, that Sunday, seemed full of ice-cream parlours and cake-shops, new cars and after Ukraine, felt like Western Europe. There was a palpable difference from my last visit in 1990. Not only the new cars on the road, and the then half-built churches now completed, but houses had been painted, and people looked more relaxed. And road signs were large and explicit and in Latin characters which we could read.

We arrived at the Unia hotel in Lublin in late afternoon and after being given rooms went out again with the bus to visit the former Great Yeshivah of Lublin, now the Lublin University Medical School. The Yeshivah's synagogue was now a large lecture hall, but two adjoining rooms downstairs were installed as a memorial to the Yeshivah, its students and rabbinical leaders and were obviously a pilgrimage site for Jewish groups. But on our way back to the hotel Diane Armstrong saw antisemitic graffiti on the outside walls of the medical school.

The Unia hotel with its large towels, proper soap, hot water, excellent restaurant, including buffet breakfast, added to the feeling of being back in the western world. In the morning we went on a walking tour of old Lublin, which included the former Jewish quarter with its interesting court-yards and romantic balconies, and then the Jewish cemetery now adjoining a freeway which had swallowed up the sites of two neighbouring major synagogues. The cemetery has a new modern memorial chapel in which visitors are invited to sponsor memorial plaques to their families, as well as notional tombstones on which families whose ashes are lost can be commemorated. Like in Tomaszow and most other Jewish cemeteries which still hold graves in Poland, access to the cemetery grounds is secured by keys and in Lublin by a keeper who dwells on the site. Lublin now again has a small Jewish community, but we did not meet any of them as it was midsummer and they were on holidays. Wacław, our guide, was with the main group, but his young aides Tomasz and Krzysztof, young men who spoke English and were familiar with archives, and Bogdan, the driver of a comfortable car, were available for those who wanted to visit their nearby shtetlekh and municipal or provincial archives.

Jewish Historical Institute of Poland	Yale Reisner	Vol 3 No 1		
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(from Lineage Vol 7 No. 4 Fall 1995)

Many who attended the Summer Seminar in Washington were deeply moved by a talk given by Yale Reisner, a New Yorker now serving as head of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project at the Jewish Institute of Poland. Yal has sent the following letter to the Jewish genealogy community:

Dear Friends:

The Jewish Historical Association was established nearly fifty years ago as Poland's Jewish community sought to re-establish its institutional life after the horrors of the Holocaust. The Association owns a vast archival collection, rich with primary source materials on the lives and deaths of Jews and Jewish communities throughout Poland and in adjoining regions historically connected with Poland. These holdings, ranging from the eighteenth century to the present day, survived through a combination of luck, ingenuity, the heroic deeds of historians and archivists (such as the Warsaw ghetto historian Emanuel Ringelblum - his "Oneg Shabbes" conspiracy to preserve the history of the Holocaust experience), the compulsive record-keeping of Nazi operatives and deliberate post-war efforts of scholars and communal institutions.

However during a half century of Communist rule, Jewish history was largely neglected and these materials, so vital to an understanding of Jewish history and critical to reconnecting broken Jewish families, while collected, went largely untended for lack of funds, equipment, trained personnel and political sanction. Now, times have changed and it is possible in theory to research Jewish history and Jewish family ties freely. In theory, not because of government opposition, but simply due to the continuing lack of funds, personnel and equipment needed to preserve the now quickly decaying primary source of materials.

Among the endangered holdings are: the Jewish community archives of Breslau (Wroclaw) from the late eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, including materials of Breslau's famed Jewish Theological Seminary; the Jewish communal records of Krakow from 1701 to 1939, including birth, marriage and death records, the records of Jewish organizations and institutions, school records, synagogue ledgers, etc.; a collection of thousands of pre-war (late 1930's) Polish passports of intending Jewish emigrants to Palestine, whose plans were dashed by the outbreak of the war in 1939; roughly 15,000 individual death records from the Warsaw Ghetto; deportation lists, giving the name, address and birth date of each Jew on each "resettlement" transport out of the Krakow Ghetto; records of the Judenrate (Jewish Councils) in various ghettos; records of Jewish properties seized by the Nazis in the Lublin District; correspondence from the various Nazi labor camps (including the Schindler factory in Krakow); photo ID's of Jewish prisoner of war held in Lublin; wartime and post-war records of Jewish social-welfare, education, health and refugee aid organizations, as well as of Zionist and labor movements, including photographic documentation; card catalogues of Jewish survivors, carefully collected some fifty years ago and now in danger of physical destruction simply for lack of proper housing (acid-free folders, boxes and shelves). These materials are used daily in search of documentation of wartime experiences.

Many people need these records to validate their claims to German pensions, so important as many survivors reach advanced age. In addition, these records have made possible - in the last few months alone - several reunions, fifty years on, of brothers and sisters, of parents and children and of more distant relatives separated in the Holocaust. Were these records only to be properly stored and computer catalogued, they would be far more easily accessible to researchers and perhaps more such dramatic results could be achieved. Yet the time for such discoveries is short indeed, due to the march of time and the frailty of the human organism.

While the costs of physically preserving these material and computer cataloguing them are prohibitive for the Jewish Historical Institute Association, they are modest indeed from a Western standpoint. For example:

- A gift of \$US18 makes possible the purchase of a dozen acid-free document folders or a half dozen acid-free storage boxes;
- \$US50 buys 1,000 vinyl document protectors for fragile papers;
- \$US180 would rebind the 1947 survivor list volumes, now losing their pages due to constant use by visiting tour groups and staff researchers;
- \$US500 could purchase a computer printer for the Archives, or a fireproof cabinet for a card file of deaths in the Warsaw Ghetto;
- \$US2,000 provides fireproof cabinets to protect the registration file of polish Jewish survivors, now in chemically-damaging wooden drawers;
- \$US5,000 would completely process the to-date unindexed collection of any one of several post-war Jewish relief organizations;
- \$US10,000 could chemically treat, organize, store and computer catalogue an entire major collection.

Any contribution, by cheque or in kind, from copy paper, to archival supplies, to an OCR-capable computer scanner, to a PowerBook laptop for field work, would be most welcome. My presence here for several years as a full time archival researcher and consultant is made possible by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation and my overhead costs and supplies are provided for, but the foundation has asked that I also assist my colleagues in seeking overseas support for the Jewish Historical Institute Archives for, without primary source materials, historical research is impossible.

If you agree that memory is crucial to our people not only to honor the past, but also as a foundation for future generations, please send a generous contribution, payable to the "Jewish Historical Institute Association", to the above address and earmarking it "for archival preservation". The full sum of your gift will go to physically preserving Jewish archival materials and making them more accessible through improved cataloguing. Should you have any questions, feel free to inquire directly at any of the addresses below.

Sincerely,

Yale J. Reisner, Director of Research and Archives

ul. Tlomackie 3/5. 00-090 Warsaw, Poland, Telephone/Fax: 48-2- 625-0400,

E-mail <reisner@plearn.edu.pl>

Lithuanian Ghetto Lists	Howard Margol	Vol 3 No 1		
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(Reprinted from Yichus Y'All, Vol 3 No 3 Summer 1995)

During a recent visit to Lithuania I was told about some amazing records that were found in the Lithuanian archives. Following is a description of these records as told to me by Rachel Kostanian, the Executive Director of the Jewish State Museum in Vilnius.

Vilna Ghetto

Before the beginning of World War II there were 58,000 Jews in Vilna. After the war started in 1939, Vilnius received many refugees from Poland. The exact number is not known. Some say 10,000 and some say even more than that.

The Vilnius record is a list of people who were incarcerated in the Vilnius ghetto in 1942, after the main massacres had already occurred. The list contains 14,300 names and includes their surname, date of birth, profession and their address in the ghetto. Usually, the entire family would be together in the ghetto. Consequently, all the members of the same family in the ghetto can be identified. The profession listed may not be entirely accurate because everyone tried to be an artisan. Even doctors and lawyers attempted to pass themselves off as artisans because it was a means of possible survival. Many artisans, such as chimney cleaners, were allowed to work outside the ghetto in other parts of the city where their skills were needed. This also enabled them to smuggle food and other contraband into the ghetto.

Siauliai (Shavli) Ghetto


The Jewish population of Siauliai was about 18,000 before the war. Approximately 14,000 were murdered in the forest of Kuzhiai near Siauliai before the ghetto was established. This ghetto list was also compiled in 1942 and listed 4,500 names. The information given is identical in nature and description to the Vilna ghetto list.

Kaunas (Kovno) List

This list is slightly different to the two ghetto census records. This list was compiled in 1944 by the Soviet authorities as soon as Kaunas was liberated by the Russian army. It is a record of the Jews who were prisoners in the Kaunas Ghetto and were killed during the Nazi occupation. About 5,000 names mainly of intellectual, intelligent people such as doctors, teachers, engineers, etc. are on the list. Also included are the names of rabbis killed during the Nazi occupation. This Kaunas record is typed in Russian and Lithuanian.

Anyone wishing to inquire about particular names that may be included on any of the above mentioned records, may do so. Send your request to: The Jewish State Museum of Lithuania, Pamenkalnio 12, Vilnius 2001, Lithuania. If any of the names are found, the museum will notify you. Upon receipt of \$US 10.00 a full record of everyone on the list with that surname will be sent to you. For each additional surname found, another \$US 10.00 would be required. A personal cheque or money order is acceptable.

The museum would like to publish the complete lists in book form but that would require funds that the museum does not have. Approximately \$US5,000.00 would be required to publish the entire record of the Vilnius ghetto alone. The museum is extremely anxious to accomplish this in memory of those who were incarcerated in the Vilnius ghetto. If you desire to support this endeavour, an amount larger than \$10.00 per surname would go toward accomplishing this. There are additional original documents that have not been published or publicized. With the necessary funds, the museum can publish these as well.

Another Report on the Institute's Projects	Carol Davidson Baird	Vol 3 No 1		
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(Taken from Discovery Vol 10 No 3 Summer 1995)

The most informative, touching, yet heart breaking lecture I attended at the 14th Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Washington D.C. was given by Yale Reisner, Director of Research and Archives, Ronald S. Lauder Foundation. The archives have a treasure of material for genealogists, buyt almost of all of it is not indexed and is stored in the worst possible way - in decaying wood boxes, on open shelves near open doors, or on dirty floors. It is imperative, if these valuable documents and other archival materials are to exist for future genealogists and historians, that they be archivally maintained. The problem confronting the archives is, of course, money. Lack of money for preservation seemed to be the main concern for all the lecturers speaking about Eastern European and CIS research. Since keeping the records safe for posterity is everyone' concern, it must fall upon us, the Jewish genealogical researchers, to help these archives save our families' history.

The Jewish Historical Instiute of Poland in Warsaw invites academic researchers, visitors, and genealogical requests (have patience, please). Yale Reisner gets many requests regarding Polish Jews from the International Tracing Service among others, through the Institute's "Project Search." Yad Vashem discovers Righteous Gentiles and Polish "saviours" through this Institute. The archives deal with Holocaust compensation claims. They have Judenrat records regarding the Jewish communities' government during the Holocaust. There are 7,000 testimonies, all not catalogued or indexed. Yale says nothing in the Institute is computerized.

Vital statistic records are NOT held by the Institute; they still must be requested from the state archives for \$US30.00, plus \$US15.00 per hour research time, plus \$10 per copy. Yale says the state archives will start a "metrical records project" over a period of years from 1995-97 to find and catalogue ALL metrical records for ALL faiths in Poland to include their whereabouts, inclusive years and nature of the record. They want to standardize the catalogues if they can and microfilm ALL of them for a central reading room in Warsaw. The flaws in this project are that 1) the filming does not include vital records offices with documents newer than 100 years, although they plan to include an addendum every five years, and 2) the filming does not include church archives, which quite often contain Jewish records.

The Nazis, Communists and neglect have destroyed a lot of the records we so desperately want. Even the Jews destroyed Jewish documents because they were afraid to be discovered during WW II and again in 1968. Sometimes Jews took the records or mislabeled them to save them.

The largest single collection in the Institute is from Breslau, Germany (now Wroclaw, Poland). There are birth, marriage and death records from the Cracow Jewish Archives for the period 1701-1942, including lots of marriage banns books 1837-1939, mostly from the liberal congregations in Cracow. Many boxes of uncatalogued birth, marriage and death information lay about disintegrating. Tens of thousands of Polish passports from the mid-1930's need to be catalogued, but they are at least

organized by town of origin and alpha by town of origin. There are the 1940 registration I.D. cards of Jews by the Cracow Judenrat, indexed in paper form. There are neatly typed 1941 transport lists of Jews from Cracow with names, birthdate, marriage dates, etc. In no order are the card files of the Jewish-seized property in the Lublin district, but indexed and in good shape are the Jewish prisoners of war in Lublin. Yale will soon try to translate the 300 Holocaust diaries the Institute has. Most widely used in the Institute are the survivor lists of 240,000 Polish survivors - they are indexed.

This is just a sampling of what Yale Reisner is trying to preserve for posterity. He spoke of REISNER'S LAW: The Conservation of Matter. If it matters, conserve it. The slides he showed, the examples he used of how important this archival material is to survivors and family historians, and his pleas for help with archival preservation, touched me as I hope it will touch you now as you read his "wish list". I would like each society to raise money for this preservation effort and send it to the Jewish Historical Institute to encourage the Institute to continue its efforts in preservation of our families' histories. Since so many of us have Polish roots somewhere in our family and because the preservation of such valuable archival material benefits Jews worldwide.

Editor: We would like all the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society members to seriously consider a contribution of \$10 to the help this project. If you send it to the Editor, she will pass it on to Yale who will acknowledge receipt of it.

Clues in German Name Suffixes		Vol 3 No 1		
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The following suffixes to German surnames may contain clues to the region of origin:

BACH	Southwest Germany
BURG	Throughout Germany
HAUS	Westphalia
ECKE	Hesse, Thuringia
INGEN	Bavaria
SKI/ZKE	Pomerania

Where the World's Jews Live		Vol 3 No 1		
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World Jewish Congress Supplement to The Jerusalem Report May 4, 1995

United States	5.8 mill.	Greece	5,000
Israel	4.42 mill.	Panama	4,500
France	600,000	Kyrgyzstan	4,500
Russia	600,000	Bulgaria	4,000
Ukraine	446,000	Estonia	3,000
Canada	360,000	Ethiopia	3,000
Britain	300,000	Serbia & Montenegro	2,500

Argentina	250,000	Costa Rica	2,500
South Africa	114,000	Tunisia	2,500
Australia	100,000	Croatia	2,000
Brazil	100,000	Hong Kong	2,000
Hungary	80,000	Turkmenistan	2,000
Germany	60,000	Puerto Rico	2,000
Uzbekistan	45,000	Ireland	1,800
Moldova	40,000	Finland	1,300
Mexico	40,000	Ecuador	1,000
Belgium	35,000	Japan	1,000
Belarus	34,000	Norway	1,000
Italy	31,000	Zimbabwe	975
Uruguay	30,000	Paraguay	900
Holland	30,000	Yemen	800
Iran	25,000	Guatemala	800
Azerbaijan	25,000	Bolivia	700
Turkey	20,000	Gibraltar	600
Switzerland	19,000	Luxembourg	600
Venezuela	18,000	Monaco	500
Chile	17,000	Kenya	450
Sweden	16,000	Bosnia	400
Kazakhstan	15,000	Cuba	400
Romania	15,000	Virgin Islands	400
Spain	15,000	Curaçao	350
Latvia	15,000	Zaire	320
Georgia	13,000	Syria	300
Poland	10,000	Armenia	300
Austria	8,000	Portugal	300
Colombia	8,000	Jamaica	300
Morocco	7,500	Singapore	300
Denmark	7,000	Thailand	200
Lithuania	6,500	Bahamas	200
Slovakia	6,000	Iraq	200
Czech Republic	6,000	Dominican Rep	150
India	6,000	Surinam	150
Tadjikistan	5,000	Honduras	120
New Zealand	5,000	El Salvador	120
Peru	5,000		

Communities with 100 or less Jews. Egypt, Philippines, Indonesia, South Korea, Taiwan, Botswana, Zambia, Aruba, Algeria, Mozambique, Barbados, Namibia, Trinidad and Tobago, Lebanon, Bermuda, Cyprus, Slovenia, Albania, French Guinea, Martinique, Malta, Swaziland.

Greater New York	1.45 million
Los Angeles	490,000
Paris	350,000
Philadelphia	254,000
Greater Chicago	248,000
Boston	208,000
London	200,000
Moscow	200,000
Buenos Aires	200,000
Miami	189,000
Toronto	175,000
Greater Washington DC	165,000
Ft Lauderdale	140,000
San Francisco	128,000
Kiev	110,000
St Petersburg	100,000
Montreal	100,000

Did You Know?

Stuart Shaw

**Vol 3 No
1**



The Mitchell Wing of the State Library of NSW now has a terminal which is permanently connected to the Internet. Bookings can be made for one hour at a time by ringing the reference desk on (02) 230 1414.

You can browse any site on the World Wide Web using the Web browser Netscape.

However, you must have had some experience in using the Internet, as the librarians do not have time to give tutorials in using the Internet.

JEWISHGEN, the Jewish Genealogical forum now has its own web page, and many subjects of interest can be found at this site. Their web address is:
<http://www.jewishgen.org>

Our Society's library now has a copy of a printout from the Jewishgen web site which gives most of the topics which can be found there.

Telstra (Australia's telephone company), has now put all of Australia's white pages telephone directories on the Internet. At the moment, this service is still free of charge. The address is:<http://www.telstra.cam.au>.
They can also be accessed from the Jewishgen web site.

It has just been announced that Israel's telephone company, Bezek, is soon to put Israel's white pages (in English) on the Internet. Their address is:
<http://www.bezeq.col.il>.

What's Happening in the Victorian Branch

Ester Czaky

**Vol 3 No
1**



There has been continued interest in the activities of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. Now, following a holiday break, the following events have been scheduled.

On 21st February, 1996 at 7.30 pm, BILL WHITE, from the State Trustees Office, outlined research carried out in locating the next of kin of people who have died intestate. Late November the death of Edmund Mandl was widely reported. He died leaving in excess of one million Australian dollars. It was Bill White's task to locate the next of kin. Tracing through pre-war Poland, Bill managed to find a relative. Bill's research was "The Biggest Genealogical Inquiry yet mounted by the State Trustees Office."

On 13th March, 1996 at 7.30 pm, SOPHIE CAPLAN, founding member of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society in Sydney, will speak about overseas resources, with special reference to her recent trip to Poland and Russia. Sophie has worked long and tirelessly in advancing the cause of Jewish genealogy in Australia. She has attended international genealogical conferences and has published articles. Members will have seen some of her story in the latest issues of The Kosher Koala. This event will be held at

Beth Weizmann Community Centre
306 Hawthorn Road
SOUTH CAULFIELD
Enquiries to:
Rhonda - 9578 6456,
Ester -9578 0368 or
Makor - 9273 5611.

For E-mail: esticsa@teachyou.com

Forebears Australian Family Finder		Vol 3 No 1		
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00039 RHONDA MAHER, 16 Deagon Drive, Biggera Waters, QLD 4216, Australia. Tel: 61-7-5529-1556. Seeking information and descendants of HENRY HYAM HART (MORDECAI) who arrived in Victoria circa 1852. Had 11 known children. Seeking Amelia Hart married Morris Harris 1855; Rebecca Hart married Lewis Harry Polak 1856; Laurence Henri Hart married Esther Levy 1872; Asher Hart married Ann Levy 1872; Elvinia Hart, husband unknown; Isabella Hart married Joseph Simmons 1870.

00040 JOHN KELLY, 67 BURKETT STREET, PAGE, CANBERRA, ACT, 2614. Tel: 61-6-2544883. Descendant of LOUIS BENNETT of Sydney early 1900's seeks descendants or connections of estranged brother of Louis, JOSEPH BENNETT born 1830-1840 London, St John's Wood, who moved from Melbourne to Sydney around 1900. Their father was SAMUEL BENNETT, a kosher butcher in Cold Harbour Lane, Brixton, London.


00041 RIEKE NASH, P.O. BOX 42, LANE COVE NSW 2066. Tel: 61-2-427 6075 Fax: 61-2-427 7530. E-mail: tonynash@ozemail.com.au. Seeking descendants of ISRAEL (REUBEN?) EIZENBERG (EISENBERG, ISENBERG), son of AVRAHAM

JOSEPH AND YETTA DEVORAH EIZENBERG. Was living in London from late 1800's. Brother of Harris, Feiga, Shifra and Morris. Originally from area near Warsaw (Wyszkow).

Also information and descendants of BENJAMIN AND SARAH BERNSTEIN married 18 December, 1895, Great Synagogue, London. Father of Benjamin was ELLIS BERNSTEIN, a reader in synagogue, and the father of Sarah was GUSTAVE TEMPLINSKY. Also seeking information about LEWIS and his son SAMUEL TEMPLE living in Glasgow early this century.

00042 HOWARD OSER, 11 Los Cerros Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904, USA. Tel: (415) 461 1118. Descendant of oldest son JONAS LINCOLN, (1835-1876), seeking background details, ancestry, connections of NANCY LEVI(Y) of Sydney, born circa 1810 (where?), married ISAAC LAZARUS LINCOLN, formerly LAZARUS, in early 1830's. He was a draper of Collins Street, Melbourne 1830's-1840's, and first accredited mohel in Melbourne. Whole family, except eldest son, perished in a storm at sea en route between Melbourne and California. (pp 299-300 "Australian Genesis") in 1850. Howard is also 4th generation descendant of Itzig Wolf OSER, born 11 June, 1819.

00043 CHARLES F PRINTZ, Human Rights Advocates International, Inc., Suite 460, 230 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10169. Fax:(908)289 8540. Seeking anyone connected to SAMUEL YARESHEFSKY, born Odessa circa 1875, wealthy shoe manufacturers and to SARAH WOLCZEK (1881-1955), born Warsaw, Poland. Siblings married USA, but seeking other relatives.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 3 No 2	
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The last three months have been busy and full of activities. We had our monthly Sunday morning workshops at the Rev Katz Library, and occasional evening workshops, too. Details on page 2. Our AGM took place on 10th March and returned almost the same committee, with the exception of David Landor and Nigel Meinrath standing down, and the return of Phillip Baynash as a committee member.

In April our honorary secretary, Terry Newman, gave us a treat by showing us over his restored Western Suburbs synagogue at Newtown, which had been firebombed about eighteen months before and is now back in service, and then talking to us about some of Sydney's early Jewish cemeteries, in particular Raphael's Ground at Lidcombe of which he took many colour slides in 1970-71 before this small cemetery was resumed and the gravestones destroyed. Terry and this Society are now applying for a special Commonwealth Grant for historical materials to help copy and preserve these slides.


On 12th March I flew to Melbourne for two days to meet with the members of our Victorian Branch and to view the premises of Makor Library at the new Beth Weizmann at Caulfield South. I enjoyed the warmth and friendship of our active Jewish genealogists in Melbourne and relished the pleasure of meeting so many people with similar interests. I also gave a talk to a sizable audience in the Beth Weizmann auditorium.

Since then our Victorian Branch had its own first AGM, at which Aubrey Schwarz, the facilitator and first chairman, stepped down due to family obligations. Lionel Sharpe has replaced him as chairman and Rhonda Lasky as our Victorian representative and contact person. More details on page 13.

In mid-May Hilde Hines in Adelaide tried again and we now have the pleasure of announcing the formation of the South Australian Jewish Genealogical Society with Hilde Hines as president, Marjorie Luno as vice-president, Dr Klee Benveniste as honorary secretary and Resources librarian and Ralph Kaiser as treasurer. Correspondence to Dr Klee Benveniste, C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation, P.O. Box 320 Glenside, S.A. 5065 Adelaide, Australia.

We also now have two members in Tasmania, John Farrar of Beaconsfield and Dennis Phillips of Binalong Bay, so now we have 171 members in every state.

In May we had the brief visit to Sydney of Arthur and Caryl Chassman of Greater Miami JGS, with whom some of our executive had the pleasure of sharing a Shabbat dinner. We look forward to a winter of workshops, talks, and advances in our research.

A Genealogical Trip to Galicia. Part III	Sophie Caplan	Vol 3 No 2		
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From Lublin we drove to Kazimierz Dolny, an exquisite small town which had been an important Jewish centre. Outside the town itself, on a hill overlooking the main road, the Jewish cemetery had many pictorial gravestones set in a memorial wall symbolically torn asunder. The rest of the still intact gravestones were on a site gradually being taken over by the adjoining forest. In the town the small Jewish quarter still stood, the kosher butchers' wooden stalls now a Polish national monument, and the solidly built synagogue, with a suitable plaque, now used as a local cinema. Kazimierz Dolny, on the banks of a river once an important trading centre for wool and for leather, has many interesting old buildings, including a Hansel and Gretel wooden witch's house diagonally opposite a wealthy citizen's just completed three storeyed villa with garage for several cars. The town square again showed Italian Renaissance influences as well as an interesting covered water well in the centre.

In the afternoon we were joined by the group led by Irene Mallenbaum which had just flown in from New York for the purely Polish part of the tour, and then we left Lublin to visit the site of the Maidanek camp on the outskirts of the city. Maidanek, like Auschwitz, had been both a "processing camp" to prepare prisoners for labour camps, and a death camp. Its gas-chambers still stand, with their tell-tale blue cyanotic marks on the wall and floors produced by Zyklon B, and their make-believe shower-heads in the ceiling. In April 1983 I viewed these gas chambers with a group of both West and East German historians from our Warsaw conference on "Nazi Genocide in Poland and Europe" and it made quite an impression on them as well. Of all the camp-sites in Poland, Maidanek is the best preserved, because the Lublin area was overrun by Russian troops in July 1944, before the Nazis could efface the

traces of their genocidal actions. It has a large number of barracks, some of them piled with shoes and clothing of the murdered victims, like in Auschwitz, and its crematoria and handling facilities for corpses are intact. It has not been photographed or filmed as much as Auschwitz, but for me the huge mound of ashes under its monumental dome is just as symbolic of the Shoah as the Gate of Death through which the trains came in at Birkenau. Many Poles were incarcerated in Maidanek and gassed there, but the peak of ignominy was reached on 11 and 12 November 1943, when, in response to the revolt by prisoners in Treblinka and Sobibor in previous months, over one or two days a total of 18,000 Jewish prisoners, were shot into a pit next to the crematoria, in an action cynically code-named Operation Harvest Festival (Ernte Fest). This time I brought a Yahrzeit candle which I was able to light in memory of HARRY GUMBINSKI, born in Danzig, resident of Berlin, who was deported from the South of France via Drancy and was the father of my aunt. When we came out of the camp site, feeling shattered and drained, a number of the new arrivals who had refused to come with us, complained about the time we had spent there.

Our luggage was on the bus and we drove straight on to Rzeszow to the Hotel Budimex, a fairly new hotel, with all mod. cons. including a souvenir boutique, the most comfortable rooms of the whole trip. That night we celebrated Phyllis Simon's birthday with pre-ordered cake and wine.

In the morning most of the group went to their towns or to the Rzeszow archives which were situated in the former main synagogue, a solid 16th century structure and the former community offices next door. The remaining small group went sightseeing in a town which had also been home to a significant Jewish community. A large and beautiful park adjoining the old synagogue was the site of the former Jewish cemetery. No graves remained. A few of us met with the archivist of the Rzeszow provincial archives. We were able to buy copies of a local academic historical journal which included several articles on the former Jewish community. Allen Mallenbaum discussed the possibility of getting those articles translated into English, published and distributed for the benefit of the archive and the authors to interested individuals and libraries. We hope to see a result.

Two of our group, though not knowingly related, both had roots in Lezaysk, a town whose brewery was supplying most of the beer available in this part of Poland, which gave them much pleasure. They went on a day trip to Lezaysk and Jaroslaw, as part of the day's diversified programme. I was part of a group which went to PRZEMYSL in the afternoon, a town in whose garrison my grandfather had served in World War I, and to which my grandmother, her children, her mother and many other family members fled just ahead of Russian troops in 1915-16. I also knew of other Hausmanns having resided there, so I went with Krzystof, one of the translators, to the municipal archives where a very amiable older clerk readily gave me births data on various Hausmanns, Spiegels and Reiters. Unfortunately their Jewish records only started in 1893. He would take no payment for the information.

On our way to the archives I discovered that Krzystof spoke much better French than English, and since I also speak French, he told me his story. After two days with Wacław and his aides, I had been intrigued to notice that Krzystof wore tzitzit. I had probably failed to observe them earlier because such a garment seemed

preposterous in present-day Poland and on a person named Krzystof. Apparently he had discovered he had Jewish roots from both his parents, though neither of them adhered to the Jewish religion. Krzystof's own first interest in things Jewish had arisen when, in Polish student circles, rumours went around of the superior sexual temperament of Jewish girls, and he had determined to test this. He had formed a relationship with a Jewish girl and they had intended to marry after the birth of their child. The girl had died shortly after giving birth, and Krzystof was now bringing up his daughter as a Jewish child, with the help of his parents, and himself returning to Judaism. He had no idea the his surname was well-known thanks to being shared with a famous Israeli radio-journalist. Such encounters certainly complicate one's views of Poland and the Jews.

In the late afternoon we drove to LANCUT, a town which was the site of a major Renaissance castle, built exquisitely in the Italian style, with fabulous gardens of striking romantic vistas. Was it the influence of Queen Bona Sforza, or some other factor, which had brought such a strong architectural influence from Italy to Poland?

After visiting the castle gardens, we walked up the street to the Lancut synagogue very close by. From the outside it looked like a fortress but the interior mural paintings were so beautiful they deserve to be better known. They were in the process of being restored, and I venture to state that they deserve World Heritage listing. I took lots of photos which came out well. Of the interior furnishings only the bimah remains.

The Lancut Jewish cemetery was another matter. Situated outside the town, up a steep staircase, it looked like an impenetrable jungle. After standing around for a few minutes, uncertain what to do, our group was making its way back down the stairs when we were hailed by a man and a woman, in undress at six in the evening, apparently the guardians of the cemetery, who had waited for us to leave before making an appearance and demanding a fee. Our organisers refused to pay anything for an attempted visit to a cemetery which was so unkempt. The guardians pursued us to the bus and shouted abuse as we boarded and drove off. Perhaps a gratuity should have been given. But their failure to appear while we were trying to find a way into the undergrowth, and their loud demands later, caused our leaders to refuse.

On 2nd August we visited the city of Tarnow. All that remained of the main synagogue was a set of stout columns which had formed the bimah, and which were now a city memorial to the Jews of Tarnow. There were many buildings and street names with Jewish connections, and even a Ghetto Fighters street. A Jew had once been mayor of Tarnow, perhaps a common elected position in the Western world but unusual in Poland. It was obvious that the Tarnow Jewish community had once been strong and influential. At a small museum we were able to buy illustrated books, with some English texts, though mostly in Polish, on the former Jews of Tarnow, as also at the Unia Hotel in Lublin. The Tarnow Jewish cemetery outside the city was mildly neglected but in a far better condition than any I had seen outside Warsaw and Lodz. We were told that its gates were newly replaced, the original ones having gone to the US Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C., which had paid for the new ones to be a copy of the old.

We drove for lunch to a small town (Krynica?) near the Slovak border, and after lunch to the Dunajec river where we boarded a punt for some two and a half hours of rafting down the rapids. For a mid-summer European trip I had brought no warm clothes or windcheater, and I sat down in the punt in bright sunshine wearing a thin cotton dress.

It was a pleasant experience at first, down a gorge with spectacular mountain vistas of rocky outcrops and some wild birds and fauna. Half an hour after we started, suddenly the sky became menacing and a thunderstorm broke out, followed by steady rainfall. We had two hours to go. Most of the other had accessible raingear. I had a raincoat in my suitcase on the bus. I got soaked to the skin, protected only by a plastic bag produced by one of our puntsmen. But an extraordinary transformation occurred in our group. Everyone rallied to protect the two oldest of our party to keep them as warm as possible. We sang, including some bawdy songs, told questionable jokes at which we laughed uproariously, and passed the time singing and laughing in the rain. It was one of the great moments of the trip.

When we finally landed from the punt, we were able to get at our suitcases and change into dry clothes. Gradually we got warm again. I fell asleep on the bus and woke up as we were driving into Cracow. Once more we were staying at the Forum Hotel, where I'd first stayed in 1983 and again in 1990. The public rooms were extended and much improved and it now had the atmosphere of an international hotel.

The next day a trip to Auschwitz and Birkenau had been planned. Since I had been there for a day in 1983 and again in 1990, I declined. The others mostly declined too, and so this was dropped. I had planned a trip to the Jagellonian Archives in Cracow, which I expected to be open, since those in Rzeszow, in Przemyśl and in some smaller towns visited by group members had been too. I had Bogdan as my driver-translator since Krzysztof and Tom had gone back to Lublin. Unfortunately in Cracow, just as we later found in Warsaw, the archives were closed in July and August for summer vacation. Even where a skeleton staff was on duty, they refused to discuss any matter with us. The Jagellonian Archives had also moved, and though we drove there, I never got the address.

The others had gone to the Kazimierz area of Cracow, the former Jewish quarter and before that a separate town to which the Jews were confined. The streets still bear Jewish names: Isak, Jakob, Meisels, etc and many buildings are former synagogues or Jewish institutions. Some synagogues are in process of restoration, but for the purpose of being used as public buildings. Only the Isserles synagogue, also known as the REMA, on the Kazimierz central square and the Tempel synagogue, the great Reform synagogue in the centre of Cracow which is in process of restoration, are still part of the Jewish community. The fourteenth century old synagogue has been for many years a State-run Jewish Museum. I went back this time to check on the 1930's Galician candelabra which is similar to our family heirloom, but it was not on display. I purchased a few English language books in the small museum shop and some music tapes including a set of two wonderful Klezmer tapes called "Kroke", which I have been playing and replaying since I got home.

In the afternoon the whole group visited the Judaica Foundation at 17 Meiselsa Street, Kazimierz, which is the Centre for Jewish Culture in Cracow. This centre is a result of the annual festival of Jewish culture held in May each year at which music, painting, films and performing arts are featured, and which has become somewhat of a "must" for intellectual Poles. "I always go to the Jewish Culture Festival in Cracow" was told to me by a number of Poles this trip.

In 1986 a Research Centre on Jewish History and Culture in Poland was established as a department of the Jagellonian University at 17 Meisels Street, which runs a summer programme for a month in July-August, in 1995 "The Modern History and Experience of Jews in Eastern Europe" which included Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and Christopher Browning on the faculty, as well as many Polish, English and American scholars not yet well-known to me. They give courses on Jewish history, including the Holocaust, on language, philosophy and folklore, and they welcome enquiries by foreign students. There is also a publication programme of books with scholarly papers on the topic "Jews in Poland" of which I bought the excellent first volume for \$US 35. The major part of the book is in English, with some articles in Polish and in French.

Then we drove to Camp Rychwol near Bielsko-Biala. A property had been purchased by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, or possibly it had formerly been a Jewish estate, in the foothills of the Carpathian mountains, where camps and seminar were held for Poles of Jewish descent, their partners and children, who were willing to explore their Jewish heritage for ten days to a fortnight. The camp we attended was led by Rabbi Michael Schudrich and his wife, together with Alizah Reisner who also runs the Jewish primary school now open in Warsaw.

My husband and I had met Rabbi Schudrich in Tokyo, Japan, in 1985 when he was the rabbi there. Apparently he relishes pioneer postings in which he has to master a new language as well as being shepherd to a small flock and bring Yiddishkeit and the Jewish religion to it. The previous week Camp Rychwol had hosted Polish Jewish teenagers. In the first week of August it was a camp for families looking to find some meaning in their sparse Jewish roots. Parents and children living together to imbibe a Jewish atmosphere with kosher food, Hebrew songs, folk dancing, play-acting, religious services and no compulsion to do anything, but strong motivation to be in everything. We participated in a ma'ariv service, followed by an evening meal with pickled herring, tomato salad and black rye bread the mainstays. I loved the food, but it was not to the taste of some of our group. Then there was a play about exile and dispersion after the fall of the Second Temple. The enthusiasm and energy of Rabbi Schudrich, Alizah Reisner and their international group of youth leaders and tutors was palpable, but it must have been exhausting to keep up throughout the summer. The volunteer madrichim (leaders) ranged from a young B'nai Akiva madrich from Glasgow, to an observant pater familias with wife, married children and their children all from England, and Israelis. It was exhilarating and awe-inspiring to see the effort and the enthusiasm. Will they succeed in bringing a significant number back to Judaism in Poland?

We had been meant to leave Cracow on Friday morning, and I had planned a visit to Lodz with Polish relatives now living in Frankfurt, to the sites pertaining to my stepfather's family. But the majority of our group wanted to stay in Cracow over

Shabbat and I did not dare to travel alone without interpreter by train from Cracow to Warsaw, so my plans fell through. Instead on Friday morning I went shopping with Justine Armstrong to Cracow's central square, an area of many interests for tourists. I was able to purchase beautifully finished lightweight wooden toys for my grandsons, linen tabling to hem and embroider, and reasonably priced amber jewellery to bring back as gifts.

In early July a kosher restaurant for tourists had been opened by the Nissenbaum Foundation in Kazimierz's central square, right next to the Rema Synagogue, and we had Shabbat dinner there, joined by Diane Armstrong's aunt who still lives in Cracow. It was a traditional Sabbath menu with roast goose and all the trimmings. Soon Phyllis Simon, who is even better at picking up strays than I am, noticed a man dining alone at a neighbouring table. A Jew should not eat alone on the Sabbath...so we soon invited Alexander Weinfeld to join our table, which added to the interest and to the conversation.

On Saturday many people attended shule, and then we again met at the Nissenbaum Foundation kosher restaurant for lunch. The food was really good, the setting, cutlery and service of a high standard. While a group visited the Cracow Jewish cemetery, which I had seen adequately in 1990, three of us walked back from Kazimierz to the Forum Hotel. In the evening there was going to be a treat, klezmer music while we ate a light supper at the Cafe Ariel in the Seriooka Square. The Armstrongs had invited their local relatives to join them, and Rebecca Pomeranz and her mother Joan brought two young Polish brothers, met in RADOMYSL WIELKI. One of them, RYSZARD ZIOBRON had written a Master's thesis on the Jews who once lived in Radomysl Wielki, and is prepared to share his knowledge with those who write to him.

Unfortunately the music was not really Klezmer or Jewish, but Russian and gypsy, so our expectations were not met. Nevertheless some of us understood that it was reasonable to have a cover charge for the music especially as some people ordered very little to eat, and the cover charge was equivalent to only a few dollars. But some of our American group members carried on as if they were asked to pay a fortune and cried loudly about "consumer fraud" and other such nonsense ... and refused to pay for their food, too. It was highly embarrassing for the rest of us, and so petty.

The next morning we left early by bus for Warsaw. The direct trip took five hours and our first stop was at the Warsaw Jewish cemetery now in the centre of the city, as it was too early for all our rooms to be free at the hotel. I had visited it thoroughly on my two previous visits, but there was no point in sitting in the bus. It is such a vast cemetery with such a variety of graves from several hundred years of burials that there is always something new to discover. A name indexed list of burials with dates of death would surely sell well throughout the Jewish world, particularly if it were printed in Latin characters and in English. Unfortunately a \$US 10 fee for each of two or three names paid to the English-speaking son of the cemetery keeper in 1983 or 1990 to advise me of the presence of important family surnames, resulted in no communication at all, although \$US 10 was then a small fortune in Poland. Since many other tourists also paid such a fee at that time, I wonder if anyone ever received an answer. A few books in languages other than Polish on some aspects of the cemetery by MONICA KRAJEWSKA, and on the Warsaw Ghetto Revolt, as well

as some locally-made Jewish trinkets can be bought from the kiosk at the cemetery entrance.

Finally at nearly 3 pm we checked in to the Warsaw Forum Hotel, where I had also stayed in 1983 for the Historians' Conference, and again it was clear how Poland had come on economically, just by the sight of the lobby boutiques, and all the foreign newspapers and magazines for sale.

A bus tour of Warsaw sights along the "Royal Route" of monuments gave us a glimpse of potential sites to visit. There was a series of free open air Chopin concerts in one of the city's large parks, apparently a tradition in early August. Some of our group attended the next day and enjoyed the concert greatly. We also visited the Umschlagplatz monument to those deported to Treblinka - a large surface of white and grey marble, with hundreds of first names, Polish, Yiddish and Hebrew, then current among Polish Jewry, engraved in alphabetical order in an aesthetically pleasing manner, from AARON, ABEL and ABIGAIL to ZACHARIASZ and ZURECH. Occasionally I have read of this monument being defaced by anti-semitic louts, but during our visit it was again pristine. Today the Mila Street 18 monument to the leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Revolt was also free of the graffiti it had sported in 1990, and finally we visited the main monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Revolt and the vast square and parkland around it. It had looked so splendid at the time of the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Revolt in 1983, but now quite obviously needed some restoration work done.

From our guide we learnt that the Polish government is expecting world Jewry, particularly the descendants of Polish Jews, to fund this restoration. While it would be a great shame to let this important monument deteriorate, it seems strange with all the visible improvements to the city of Warsaw in the last decade, that funds to restore this particular site should be so lacking.

We also saw the site of the orphanage which had been directed by Dr Janusz Korczak, one of many former Jewish buildings now acquired by the Polish State of the Warsaw municipality for their needs. Surely in consideration for the many heirless Jewish buildings which accrued to the Polish State as a result of the Holocaust, funds to restore the Warsaw Ghetto Monument could be found. We heard from Rabbi Michael Schudrich and Dr Yale Reisner that the present Jewish community of Warsaw is seeking the return of one of the three prewar Jewish school complexes, which the Polish State acquired after the war, to house the recently founded Jewish primary school which has outgrown its actual premises.

That first night in Warsaw I was so exhausted, I went to bed unable to attend the first of our two farewell dinners. The next morning was our day for the Warsaw archives, first the National or State Archives at 6 and also 5 Długa Street, whose General-Director Dr Jerzy Skowronek, I had met at the Jerusalem Seminar. Unfortunately he was on summer vacation and what staff were on duty were not prepared to do any research or to let us look at anything. We learnt that there is an initial inquiry fee of \$US 30 per surname which has to be prepaid for any inquiry to be initiated. Further there is a per diem rate and per page of any photocopied document. Without the preliminary fee of \$US 30 no answer will be sent. But we were assured that inquiries

could be in English or in French, if one could not write Polish. The National Archives are always closed in July-August.

The Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw is now funded by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation of New York, which employs the American Jewish scholar Dr Yale Reisner as its archivist. Dr Reisner studied Yiddish, Hebrew and Polish for his degrees, and thus was a natural for the job. We met him in the street on the way to the Institute on his first day back after the Washington conference. He is still in the process of sorting and classifying the material held in the Institute (see Kosher Koala Vol 3 No 1) but he told us that he had found material of genealogical interest going back to the 16th Century, and also that the Lauder Foundation concentrates on areas other than genealogy, so Jewish genealogists are asked to contribute to the preservation of the material by donating funds. Some of us made contributions there and then, and I was rewarded by receiving a few weeks later a certified photocopy of an eyewitness account in Polish of the destruction of the Jewish community of Kalush, which has been translated for me in Sydney. The Institute also has a large pile of handtyped lists of survivors of Polish Jewry who registered with Jewish groups and institutions from 1946 to 1949. This includes survivors of camps and labour camps, those who lived in false identities or as partisans, and the returnees from Russia and Siberia. But people had to register voluntarily. My cousin Marian Bielecki and wife were not on this list, though he survived, but other relatives and friends who later came to Australia I found on the list. Surnames, first names, prewar address and 1946-49 address, and sometimes the names of parents or spouse are listed. For a small fee I was able to obtain photocopied pages of people with the main surnames I am researching. Reisner will answer letters with a donation, but warns that he gets more mail than he can reasonably cope with, and therefore one must expect a delay in obtaining an answer. But Yale Reisner struck me as the sort of person who would go out of his way to help any reasonable request for information.

That night he, and his wife and little daughter were part of our farewell dinner at the Menorah Kosher restaurant, also installed and owned by the Nissenbaum Foundation. Unfortunately the service there was neither as efficient nor as amiable as in the Cracow kosher restaurant. The restaurant closes at 11 p.m. and by then had not served our large table with the lemon tea we had ordered several hours earlier, nor some of the desserts, and would not do so on the grounds that they were now closing. Needless to say they were not offered many tips. And so ended our trip on a less than happy note. Wacław had left us the previous day but we all tipped him, our previous guides, translators and all drivers. This is an expense which all participants on such trips must take into account.

We had seen much, experienced a lot together and separately, and came home a little wiser. Obviously we did not all have exactly the same experiences. Diane Armstrong, a seasoned travel journalist, has had published two excellent articles, several months apart in the Saturday editions of THE AUSTRALIAN. The most recent article "Return to Piczacz" was a most moving account of finding again the retired Polish Catholic priest who saved her parents' and her life during the war. Justine Armstrong had an article published in the AUSTRALIAN JEWISH NEWS, also most interesting, and Phyllis Simon has written in GESHER GALICIA, a brief account. I do not know what anyone else has written of this trip. For me it was disappointing to have lacked the "adequate time to visit your home-town villages or

cities", as promised in pre-trip publicity, and I deplore that to-date no response has been received to a lengthy comment from me invited by the organisers. But I enjoyed the rest of the trip.

SOME USEFUL ADDRESSES

The State Archive of IVANO-FRANKIVSK Katerina Mitsan, Head Archivist
3 ulitsa Griunvaldskaya, **IVANO-FRANKIVSK**, UKRAINE

CENTRAL HISTORICAL ARCHIVES, 3a Vulitsa Vozziednannia, **LVIV**, UKRAINE.
Director is OREST MATSIK.

Trained researcher, speaks and write English, lives LVIV, works five days a week in BRODY, willing to do archival research: LUDMILA GRIGORIEVA, Vulitsa Yavornitskoho 5a/32, **LVIV** 54, UKRAINE

Jewish contacts in LVIV:

MICHEL SHOYCHET, Vulitsa Chitakaya 1/94, or P.O. Box N581, LVIV, UKRAINE
Tel: 380 (322) 62 2219. SYNAGOGUE: Pr. Mikhhovsskih Street, 4, LVIV Tel: 380 (322) 622 219 and 330 524.
Rabbi Mordechai Shlomo Bald, Tel: 380 (322) 333 53 or 330 521.

ARCHIVUM WOJEWODZKJE, Ulica P.C.K. (Polish Red Cross) 37-700,
PRZEMYSL, POLAND

Excellent Polish Guide, expert in history of Holocaust:

WACLAW WOJCIECHOWSKI, KANJE, Ulica Mila 3, 05-805 OTREBUSY, POLAND
Tel: (48) 2 758 5850 Fax: (48) 2 628 18 08 (at Vinopol Travel Agency).

Archives in **KRAKOW**: ARCHIVUM PANSTWOWE, 1.Ulitsa Sienna 16, 2. Ulica Lubiez 25.

A Letter from Yale Reisner	Yale Reisner	Vol 3 No 2		
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Dear Sophie

Many thanks for your contribution of US\$100.00 to the Archives of the Jewish Historical Institute. Together with other, similar contributions, your funds will help preserve and computer catalogue our irreplaceable archival source materials.

I am pleased to report the recent arrival of sixteen new fireproof archival cabinets to replace wooden crates, brown paper and string. These cabinets were purchased entirely with donor funds. In addition, we are soon to receive several hundred new acid-free storage boxes for the historic eighteenth and nineteenth century Breslau Jewish archives. Computer cataloguing of our more than 7,000 eyewitness accounts has recently begun, at long last, and a database of Holocaust information is now being created. In addition, courtesy of the Polish-German Foundation, we today commenced an overall reconstruction and modernization of the Jewish Historical Institute.

With the help of friends and supporters like you, the future is looking a tad brighter each day and the light of our people's past is also being allowed to shine again as we unearth more and more previously unprocessed material.

You have done a great mitzvah. On behalf of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, the Jewish Historical Institute Association and the Jewish Historical Research Institute, I thank you for your continued generous support and thank you for enlisting others in support of this urgent preservation effort.

As to your final queries:

1) There are no known Treblinka lists extant as far as I have been able to ascertain. 800,000 Jews exterminated without a documentary trace. We do hold a small number of handwritten notes tossed out of trains enroute to Treblinka and found on the tracks, but these tragic documents are not yet indexed by name.

2) Chevra Kadisha lists for sundry communities and periods do exist. I know, for example, that we hold bits and pieces of Breslau, Krakow, Szydlowiec, Witkow, Kremza and Mordy Chevra Kadisha lists and probably a few Silesian and Posen Province communities. There are sure to be others in Israel and elsewhere; I don't know if anyone's ever tried to compile a comprehensive list. An index to burials in Bielsko-Biala (Bielitz) has just been completed.

Hope your Pesach went well. The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation provided supplies to eleven Polish Jewish communities this year, up from eight last year.

Sincerely yours

Yale J. Reisner
Warsaw, April, 22 1996

Reading 19th Century Polish Civil Records	Ester Csaky	Vol 3 No 2		
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My interest in genealogy began eighteen months ago and as I commenced my research, I was lucky to have a mother who remembered the names of many of her ancestors. We managed to construct a family tree which contained numerous names, but only four generations and few definite dates. The information about my father's side of the family was scant. Luckily, I only needed to check two place names; Lublin, Poland, where my mother's ancestors had lived, and Bychawa, a small town about forty kilometres from Lublin from where my father's family came. I was also lucky that neither of these cities were bombed during the war.

About this time, I discovered that the Mormons had microfilms of civil records and I became excited at the prospect of finding some information relating to my ancestors. I telephoned the Family History Centre of the The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, and was advised to make an appointment and to reserve a microfilm/microfiche reader. In this way, I would be assured of a reader and would not have to wait. On arrival at the Braeside Family History Centre, I was given the International Genealogical Index (IGI) microfiche. I searched and was disappointed

that none of my names were included. At that stage, I was unaware that the IGI was a list that should rightly NOT include Jewish names. It is a list of names of Mormons and those "baptised" by them.

I was then directed to another resource, a listing of European microfilms held by the Mormons. The volunteers at the centre were extremely helpful and explained that, with foreign records, I must look for the country, region/state and then city/town. If the ancestors came from a village, then one looks for the nearest town. Under the city there would be various civil records pertaining to the many different churches and a section called Jewish Records.

I looked for: POLAND, LUBLIN (region), LUBLIN (city) JEWISH RECORDS. What I found was a list of about twenty microfilms of civil records spanning the years 1826-1869.

To view the microfilm, it is necessary to order them from Salt Lake City. Each microfilm costs \$7 for a long term loan, and it takes about four to six weeks to arrive. It all depends, of course, if it is not being used by someone else somewhere around the globe. The microfilm is only available for viewing at a Family History Centre, and you must book a time and a microfilm reader. The next problem was which dates to order. I chose a few. One of the years was 1864 because my grandfather was born in 1884 and was the youngest child. I assumed that his parents, my great-grandparents may have been married around 1864. They had eight children as far as my mother knew, and a span of twenty years from first to last child seemed logical.

Four weeks later, I was notified that the films had arrived. Excitedly, I began looking through the records, trying to make sense of the numerous names and signatures, some even in Hebrew. Luckily, my mother accompanied me and was able to translate and show me how to hone in on the relevant information. Scrolling through each record was a tedious task. After two hours and having read only a small portion of the microfilm, I was ready to give up. The strain on my eyes and the concentration was enormous. I noted the record and began scrolling forward when, suddenly, half-way through the microfilm, there was an alphabetical index of names, each with the record number beside it. What a joy!! However, none of my names were listed. At the end of the microfilm, I found another index. This time, as I read the last names, a shiver ran through me. Here was the name of my great-grandfather ZAJFSZTAIN, CHAIM. I rewound the film to the record and there was a birth certificate for one of his children. The information I found in that one record was amazing.

247. Chaim Zejfsztein	Chaim Zejfsztein	1864
248. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
249. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
250. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
251. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
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263. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
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266. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
267. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
268. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
269. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
270. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
271. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
272. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
273. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
274. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
275. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
276. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
277. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
278. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
279. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
280. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
281. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
282. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
283. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
284. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
285. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
286. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
287. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
288. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
289. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
290. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
291. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
292. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
293. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
294. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
295. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
296. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
297. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
298. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
299. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864
300. Bychawa	Bychawa	1864

What I'd like to do here is present a 'literal' translation of this Polish civil record and show how it is possible to find information even though one does not know Polish. Apparently not all Polish civil records have indexes, and sometimes the record number in the index, does not relate to the actual record. The microfilm I have viewed from Lublin and Bychawa all have the same format. Each record begins with the name of the town and on the second or third line, the word 'Starozakonny' literally, a person of the Old Testament is mentioned. Sometimes an address is added, but there are no street names, just house numbers. The reason for the registration is mentioned and the names of witnesses are given. About two-thirds of the way down the document, the wife's name is mentioned (maiden name in brackets) and her age. If it is a birth or death of a child, the name is mentioned as well. Each record concludes with the signature of the witnesses and the clerk,

in Hebrew and in Polish. Some records also include the signature of the person who is registering and this is usually in Hebrew.

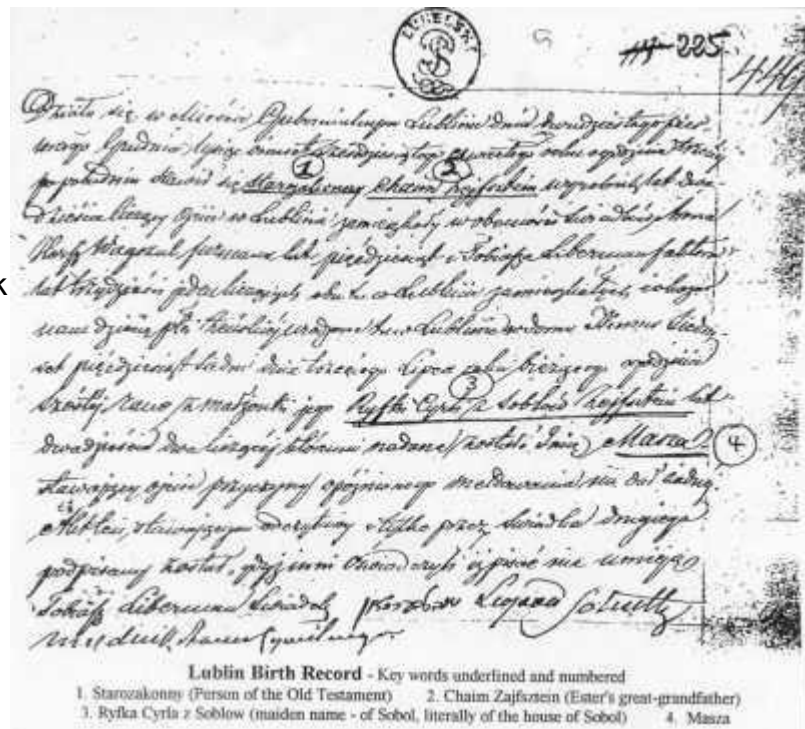
A translation of a Lublin civil record of 1864 (a very loose translation);

"It is stated that in the district town of Lublin on the 21st December, 1864 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, an orthodox Jew (literal meaning was "a person of the Old Testament") presented himself. Chaim Zejfsztein a tradesman, 20 years of age, the father, an inhabitant of Lublin, in presence of two witnesses Aron Hersh Wagszul, a carrier, 50 and Tobiasz Liberman, clerk (agent?) 31 both inhabitants of Lublin, and he showed us a female infant born in Lublin in the home number 757, on the 3rd of July of this year, at 6 o'clock in the morning to his wife Ryfka Cirila (Sobol) Zejfsztein, 22 years old, who was given the name Mascha. The father did not give any reason for the late registration. This act was read and signed by the second witness, the other declared that he cannot write.

Tobiasz Liberman

Leopold Schutz, clerk of civil registrations."

What did I learn from this record? The surname in the index is ZAJFSZTAIN however, the surname in the record is Zejfsztein. My grandfather spelled it Zajfsztajn. The registry clerk had a German name, maybe this was his version of the surname. When my grandfather was born. If he was 20 in 1864, then he was born in 1844. That his occupation was "tradesman", without specifying exactly what it was. That Chaim and Cirla lived in house number 757.



My great-grandmother's maiden name was Sobol and her other name was Ryfka. Though it's mentioned first, she must have changed it to Cirla later because my grandmother's name was Ryfka and it was not customary for mother-in-law and daughter-in-law to have the same name. Cirla was 22 and therefore born in 1842 and was 2 years older than her husband. Cirla gave birth to a daughter named Mascha. Masza was not a name my mother remembered as one of her aunties. What happened to her? Why did Chaim register Mascha almost 5 months late? Many answers but also some questions.

Reading through the other microfilms that I ordered, I've found what I believe to be my paternal grandfather's birth certificate from Bychawa. I have also found many records with the names Garfinkiel and Zajfsztajn and I have photocopies of these. They form part of the vast jigsaw which I hope to one day connect as I labour through more Mormon records.

Any members who have a Polish civil record and would like a translation, my mother would be happy to do so. No direct payment is required but a donation to AJGS-Victorian Branch would be appreciated.

Ester Csaky is the Membership chairman of the Victorian Branch of our Society and was previously the Honorary Secretary (Ed.)

Is the IGI Really Reliable?

Beulah-Rose Gross

Vol 3 No 2



(How some Mormons baptise Jews other than victims of the Holocaust and invent BDM details)

In October 1995, I consulted the IGI at the Family Research Centre at the Mormon Church in Gosford. I found one family name - Herman Mau born 7 December, 1868 in Kurland, Latvia. I knew that a brother of my great-grandmother was named

Herman, that he was a doctor, and that he had gone to live in Leningrad, where he married and practised. I also knew that the Mau family had originated in Libau, now Liepaja, the principal city of the province of Kurland in Latvia/Lithuania. I was, therefore, sure that the Herman Mau on the IGI was my relative.

I was horrified to find that Herman had been posthumously baptised. When I asked how this had happened, I was informed that a 'patron' - a Mormon who, I was assured, had to be related, but not necessarily by blood - had done this. There was some reluctance to give me the name of this person, until I said that if this person was a relative, I needed to find out what he or she knew about the family. I was then told that for \$6 I could order a microfilm which would contain the name of the patron, and possibly more information about Herman.

Some months later the microfilm arrived. It stated that Herman Mau had been 'baptised' by a Mormon woman living in Sweden, and it gave her name and full address. It also stated that Herman's mother had been born in about 1840, and his father in about 1836. Herman's name was one of many on this microfilm, all born in different places, all with surnames beginning with 'M' and all baptised by the same zealous lady. I commented, somewhat facetiously, that she must have had a large family, to which the librarian agreed!.

I wrote at once to a cousin in Sweden, whose grand-mother was a sister to Herman, and she contacted his Mormon 'patron'. A verbatim translation of the written reply follows. The bracketed question marks are my cousin's.

'The answer to your question if and how I'm related to Herman Mau is simply: NO. You need an explanation this is that I belong to the Mormon Church and believe that a man never dies and that we, here on earth, can do 'Temple work' to save the dead but only out of their free will (??). So we are encouraged to do research, that is to find the names of our ancestors (??).

'Since I was born in Estonia and as you know it was im- possible to do so in the Soviet Union, I had no result in trying, which made me very sad. So one day I was lucky to get in my hand two books, named "Album Academicum der Kaiserlichen Universiteit Dorpat" and "Album Academicum Universitas Tartuensis" with the names of all people who had studied at the university in Tartu, Estonia from 1802 to 1888 with 14,331 names and 1889 to 1918 with 14,656 names. Besides name, birthplace and year of birth, there are also results of the studies and, in some cases, year of death. I was extremely happy.

'Soon I discovered that all students up to the Second World War were men and of all nationalities. I couldn't tell who was Jewish since Jews lived all over. Estonians, who had been liberated from serfdom around 1830(?) couldn't start studying until after that, as far as I understand. I didn't care at all which nationality they had, but what made me wonder was, why they were all men. So I asked for permission from the authorities in charge (?) if I could write down father and mother as Mr and Mrs with approximate dates of birth and I got permission. So at least I could have one woman per two men and that is how I started with these names.

'But I never finished my work after Estonia was liberated and now I take care of my own family and my husband's and I don't have time for more than that. But I have found people there who have helped me since I pay them and they make research in archives. Maybe they can also give you help? Please notice that the place of birth for Herman Mau is Kurland which is now Latvia. He studied medicine.'

As Herman had not died in the Shoah, I knew that I had to make special application to Salt Lake City to have his name removed from the IGI. On the advice of Gary Mokotoff, publisher of Avotaynu, I wrote to the IGI Headquarters and included copies of the letter from my Swedish cousin, my letter to Mr Mokotoff, his reply, and a letter from Herman Mau to his sister, my great-grandmother. This letter confirms his date of birth as given on the IGI and his profession as a doctor, which in turn confirms that he is indeed my relative. The letter also mentions a photograph of Herman and his wife I have inscribed 'Onkel Herman and Tante Yulia' by my grandmother. A copy of this was also included and I stated that the family has always been staunchly Jewish, and I made my relationship to Herman Mau quite clear.

In March 1996 I received a letter from IGI Headquarters in Salt Lake City. This thanks me for the documentation I supplied, and goes on to say, 'The Church is keenly aware of those not of our faith who are concerned over the practice of temple ordinances performed for the dead. Members have been instructed by the First Presidency of the Church to do work for their own family lines, and in most cases, names are submitted by descendants of those for whom work is done.'

'As you discovered, Herman Mau's name was submitted by someone who is not a relative. This action was not taken by the Church, but by a well-meaning individual. Because of these circumstances, his name will be removed from the International Genealogical Index.'

I have had a satisfactory result to my efforts, but I am still concerned. Does the Church divorce itself from the actions of its 'well-meaning individuals'? Does it actually know what they are doing and perhaps turn a blind eye? But, what bothers me most is the information from Sweden. By her own admission and with permission from authorities - which must surely have been from IGI headquarters either in Sweden or even Salt Lake City - Herman Mau's Mormon 'patron' falsified the dates of birth of his parents. All this in her zeal to add female names to her 'Temple-work' of baptising as many people as possible!!


How many other parents and their dates of birth for the men she 'baptised', Jewish and non-Jewish, did she 'create'? How many other just as zealous 'patrons' have done the same? How reliable is the information we obtain from the IGI?

If you have any problems with the IGI records and the 'mormonisation' of relatives who did not die in the Shoah, write to:

Elder Monte J. Brough, Family History Department,
50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84150.

As this article reveals, some members of the Church of Latter Day Saints still think it proper to appropriate Jews and members of other religions and to notionally

"baptise" them years after their death. We find the practice absolutely abhorrent.
What do our readers think? (Editor)

Microfilm Numbers of Records from Belarus at the LDS Family History Library	Beulah-Rose Gross	Vol 3 No 2		
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as at February, 1995

From Mass-pocha Vol 14 No 4 Fall 1995

David-Gorodok	B	1893/1898	1,794,311
David-Gorodok	B	1899 -1910	1,920,791
David-Gorodok	BMD	1874/1892	1,794,310
David-Gorodok	BMD	1874/1892	1,794,311
Gorodok	D	1860 -1863	1,920,792
Gorodok	M	1913	1,920,795
Ivenets	D	1857	1,920,794
Kamen	B	1866	1,920,794
Kamen	B	1891/1911	1,920,795
Kamen	D	1860	1,920,792
Kamen	V	1908	1,920,795
Karolin	B	1860 -1872	1,794,309
Kojdanov	B	1896	1,920,795
Kojdanov	D	1867	1,920,794
Lakhva	M	1879/1915	1,920,792
Lepel	Members	1841	1,920,795
Minsk	B	1840,1847	1,920,793
Minsk	B	1852/1869	1,920,794
Minsk	B	1882,1895	1,920,795
Minsk	B Doc	1899 -1907	1,920,793
Minsk	BMD	1836/1839	1,920,792
Minsk	D	1840,1846	1,920,793
Minsk	D	1861	1,920,793
Minsk	D	1861	1,920,794
Minsk	M	1857	1,920,794
Minsk	School	1906 -1916	1,920,793
Minsk	V	1840	1,920,793
Mogilev	B	1837 - 1838	1,920,796
Mogilev	B	1854/1883	1,920,796
Mogilev	B	1864/1893	1,920,800
Mogilev	B	1870/1875	1,920,797

Mogilev	B	1872 -1875	1,920,798
Mogilev	B	1876 -1880	1,920,798
Mogilev	B	1879-1880	1,920,799
Mogilev	B	1881 -1882	1,920,799
Mogilev	B	1883 -1886	1,920,800
Mogilev	B	1887 -1889	1,920,800
Mogilev	B	1887 -1889	1,920,801
Mogilev	D	1853/1857	1,920,796
Mogilev	D	1870-1874	1,920,797
Mogilev	D	1875 -1878	1,920,798
Mogilev	D	1879 -1882	1,920,799
Mogilev	D	1883 -1886	1,920,799
Mogilev	D	1883 -1886	1,920,800
Mogilev	D	1887 -1890	1,920,802
Mogilev	D	1891 -1894	1,920,802
Mogilev	M	1857/1879	1,920,796
Mogilev	M	1880/1892	1,920,801
Mogilev	M	1880 -1892	1,920,802
Mogilev	V	1877/1890	1,920,796
Ostroshitskij G	D	1872 -1917	1,794,308
Ostroshitskij G	D	1872 -1917	1,794,309
Pinsk	B	1882,1922-29	1,794,309
Pinsk	B	1924 -1926	1,794,310
Pinsk	D	1930 -1939	1,794,310
Rakov	B	1869	1,920,794
Rakov	B	1877/1889	1,920,793
Rakov	B	1897/1917	1,920,795
Rakov	D	1860/1864	1,920,792
Rakov	D	1903	1,920,795
Rakov	M	1908	1,920,795
Rubezhevichi	B	1904/1912	1,920,795
Rubezhevichi	D	1861,1864	1,920,792
Rubezhevichi	M	1860	1,920,792
Rubezhevichi	Taxes	1839	1,920,793
Samokhvalovi	B	1865	1,920,792
Samokhvalovi	D	1859	1,920,794
Samokhvalovi	D	1860,1864-65	1,920,792
Senno	B	1861-1864	1,920,795
Stolin	B	1911	1,794,309

Stolptsy	B	1860	1,920,792
Stolptsy	D	1860 -1864	1,920,792
Zaslavl'	D	1856-1857	1,920,794
Zembin	M	1905	1,794,309

Some Thoughts on Genealogy

Morris Ochert

Vol 3 No
2



How shall we know who we are
If we do not ascertain who we were?
How do we ascertain where we are going
If we fail to find whence we came?
How may we progress into our future
If we have not examined our past?
How will we link with our descendants
Until we are familiar with our ancestors?

From Morris Ochert, OAM, Queensland Representative of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

What's Happening in the Victorian Branch

Vol 3 No
2



The Victorian Branch of the AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY held its first Annual General Meeting on 17th April, 1996 and elected its first permanent committee.

Chairman: Lionel Sharpe

Treasurer Sam Leon

Publicity Richard Reisner

Catering Enid Yoffa Elton

Resources Librarian Rosaline Collins

Membership Ester Czaky

Internet contacts Leslie Oberman

oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

Dr Albert Braunstein

sbr@bbs.ausom.net.au

Committee Leone Engel, Bettye Susskind

Miriam Pollak

Postal Address: P.O. Box 189,
GLENHUNTLY VIC 3163,
AUSTRALIA

The Victorian Branch planned two interesting meetings at the BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield at 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 29th May 1996

BRINGING TO LIFE YOUR FAMILY TREE, THE MAGIC OF INTERNET. Main speaker will be ANNE FOXWORTHY, Computer Sorceress othe AIGS who will speak about Accessing the Internet, and the information available for genealogical research, to be followed by our own Internet experts, LESLIE OBERMAN and

ALBERT BRAUNSTEIN who will speak specifically about Jewish Genealogical Web Sites (locations) on the Internet.

Wednesday 26 June 1996

LIONEL SHARPE, the new chairman of our branch will talk on EXPLORING FAMILY HISTORY THROUGH OLD PHOTOGRAPHS with the help of colour slide and demonstrate how old family photographs can bring to life the names on a family tree. He will also talk about the early history of photography, with particular reference to early portraits taken in Australia and in Poland, and the valuable cues these can give to an ancestor's back-ground.

Entrance fee: Members \$6, non-members \$9.
Bring membership card for member's reduced fees.

Enquiries to:
Rhonda - 9578 6456,
Ester -9578 0368 or
Makor - 9273 5611.

Welcome to the South Australian Branch		Vol 3 No 2		
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On 15th May 1996, a South Australian Jewish Genealogical Society was formed in Adelaide, with Hilde Hines as President, Mrs Marjorie Luno as vice-president, and Dr Klee Benveniste as Honorary Secretary. Ralph Kaiser has accepted the Treasurer's position. Klee Benveniste, who has already established contact with us is the Hon. Archivist of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation, succeeding the late Sadie Pritchard and taking care of the Sadie Pritchard Archive. Marjorie Luno is a descendant of the famed Rabbi Boas of Adelaide, and has an enormous family tree and family records dating back to the early days of Jewish settlement in Adelaide. Your editor had the pleasure of making her acquaintance in 1991 through the good offices of our friend Kingsley Ireland, who arranged for the Lunos to drive us from Adelaide to Angaston for a milchig luncheon, after an ECAJ conference in Adelaide. We are delighted to welcome the South Australian Society to the fold of Australian Jewish genealogy.

Isolated Graves		Vol 3 No 2		
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From SHALOM, monthly of the Jewish community of Queensland, 1995

Queenslander, Lew Rischin in July 1994 photographed four Jewish graves in a general cemetery in BROOME, Western Australia. Two of the photos were reproduced in SHALOM and the relevant information reads as follows:

- MARK ROSENBERG, dearly beloved husband of VICTORIA ROSENBERG, died 25th November, 1919. Hebrew inscription hidden by a tree branch.
- In loving memory of MAURICE EDWARD ISAACS, son of the late HENRY and KATE ISAACS, died 27th June, 1910, aged 41 years. The Hebrew name is Reb Moshe bar Zvi.

The Hebrew inscriptions on the stones show that they must have been brought from Perth, as it is doubtful that anyone with knowledge of Hebrew stone-carving ever resided in Broome.

New Tapes Available for Borrowing		Vol 3 No 2		
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The following tapes are now available to Australian members for borrowing. Send your request and \$5.00 to cover costs to Selma Jackson, 13/21 Waverley Street, Bondi Junction 2022.

Beginners' Seminar, Sydney, 3rd March, 1996

15-1 "Resources for Jewish Roots" Sophie Caplan (2 tapes)

15-2 "Researching a Lithuanian Town from Australia" Daniel Jacobson

15-3 "Using the Australian Jewish Historical Society Records for Family Research"

Helen Bersten

16 "Stories in Stone: Sydney's Early Jewish Cemeteries" Terry Newman

For Melbourne members, these tapes are available at Makor Library.

Czechoslovakian Interest		Vol 3 No 2		
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The International Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia 31 Craven Street, LONDON, WC2E 5NP publishes a Newsletter (or did so in 1989). I found a copy of Volume XX No. 90-91 which is replete with political and community news of interest to people of Czech or Slovakian ancestry, as well as several pages of "MEMBERS NOTEBOOK" which contain news about new members, search columns, news of "happy events", obituaries, birthday lists, all of which are a genealogical researcher's delight. No annual subscription was noticed, but they prefer life membership which is £GB100.00 in Britain and in Israel, and \$US200 for all other countries. There is also an address for an Israeli branch: HITACHDUT YOTZEI CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 15 Achad Ha'am Street, TEL AVIV 65142, ISRAEL. A marvelous tool for anyone with recent roots in Czechoslovakia, or for a genealogical library.

Forebears Australian Family Finder		Vol 3 No 2		
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00044 STEPHEN BRAUN, 8/61 Ryde Road, Hunter's Hill, Sydney, 2110 Tel: 61-2-879 6016. Seeking information on families from POSEN province, BRAUN from NEUSTADT AN DER WARTHE, MILOCLAW, KSIAC, MIESZ- KOWO, BRAUN from BERLIN, SENGER from NEUSTADT, TURK from city POSEN, HAMBURGER from SCHMIEGEL.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 3 No 3		
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Best wishes to all our readers for the Jewish New Year 5757!

Our membership is growing steadily and we are now passing the one hundred and eighty mark, but only few extra willing hands are coming forward to help with the multiple tasks which the Society and its very success engender...

Fortunately we find members ready to write interestingly about their experiences as family historians, whether as "lucky" beginners, or as more experienced

genealogists. But it is discouraging to find so few members coming to our Annual General Meetings and so few willing to share the work.

We are always eager for people with new skills and some members are helping in new areas. Kim Phillips is preparing an index to Volume 1 of this newsletter, while Gary Luke is readying a text to present us, as well as the Australian Jewish Historical Society and the Archive of Australian Judaica on the Internet. Nigel Meinrath is some way along on a computerised interfamily Sydney Jewish genealogical database.

Rieke Nash, our hardworking vice-president, resources librarian and publisher, also answers many genealogical queries directly sent to her, while your president and editor also copes with a sizable genealogical mail both from Australia and overseas. Occasionally other committee members take responsibility for answering letters within their area of expertise. We try to give helpful answers to all comers, but we are finding it impossible to write long answers to non-members, and to those seeking short-cuts to avoid membership. The best way to learn how to research your Jewish ancestry is to join this Society, to then receive and read this publication and attend our workshops, as well as our seminars and lectures by visiting experts. We endeavour to keep you informed of all new developments in Jewish genealogy.

At our Jewish Genealogy Day on 10th November we hope to hear a talk by Gerry Winerman on Jewish Genealogical Resources and Data in U.S.A. Gerry is president of the Los Angeles Jewish Genealogical Society and will be visiting Sydney and Melbourne and possibly other cities in Australia in November.

In February we expect the visit to Australia of Chava Agmon, the world expert on the CARO/CARA/KARO/ KARA genealogy. We are inviting her to talk to the various branches of our Society wherever she will be.

In early February there will be an Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Family History in Christchurch, New Zealand. Unfortunately so far the projected programme has nothing of Jewish genealogical interest, despite the title "Landfall in Southern Seas". The emphasis seems to be wholly on English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish and German origins with possibly some Maori topics.

In July the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies will hold its 5th International Seminar in Paris. Seminar documents will be published simultaneously in English and in French. The date has now been changed to 14th to 19th July, 1997 and the venue will be a centrally situated hotel in Paris. Once again there will be a panel of distinguished speakers on topics vital to Jewish genealogists and we urge those who can afford the time and the travel costs to do their utmost not to miss it. There will be simultaneously translations of lectures. A group of associated trips to various Eastern European archival and genealogically important areas are being offered as optional extras to participants of the Seminar. Some of us are planning to go to the Paris seminar.

We are interested to hear of others who are thinking of going.

My acceptance of the invitation from Sophie Caplan to contribute an article to the Koshers Koala reflects the emerging national growth and development of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society.

Following in the footsteps of the National body, the Victorian Branch, to which I was recently elected as chairperson, during its short existence has an active committee and stimulating programme and we all look forward with interest to future developments in the South Australian Branch, and hopefully the creation of branches in other jurisdictions.

One of the key tasks of a relatively new national organisation is to carve out a special role and develop an image or identity among the myriad of other Jewish organisations in the community. The expansion of the membership and an increase of knowledge about our activities are important if we are to create the resources needed to effectively serve those who seek our assistance.

We are not alone in Australia in the field of Jewish genealogy. The Australian Jewish Historical Society is approaching its sixtieth year and while its major focus is the historical development of the Jewish community in Australia, it has always dealt with genealogical enquiries and has developed a great deal of expertise and resources to assist members and others with their searches within Australia. Its contribution and dedication to this field of research is to be highly recommended.

Similarly, the Jewish Museums, both in Sydney and Melbourne, have a direct interest in history which goes beyond the social, religious, economic and political life of Jewish communities both here and overseas. Museums are also interested in people who played a role in the shaping of history and those who participated in the past life of the community.

Then there are those involved in Holocaust research. Recording the names and personal details of those who perished and preserving for posterity through written autobiographies and audio-visual testaments the experience of the survivors is a key and vital role for the Holocaust Museums.

All these activities reflect the concern of Jewish communities for preserving the past so that coming generations will know about their roots and have an understanding of the origins of those values they hold dear.

There are a number of urgent questions we, here in Victoria, must address. For example, what is our special role as an organisation solely dedicated to genealogy? How do other complementary Jewish organisations, as I have already mentioned, both here in Australia and abroad, assist and support each other? How do we conserve resources by avoiding duplication of both voluntary effort and scarce funds? How do we relate to other genealogical societies in the wider Australian community and internationally?

Developing a vision is a challenging task and one which all of us need to work on together if we are to play a meaningful role to the generations of tomorrow. Perhaps a 'mission statement' is the first step in this process. One suggestion is that our key goals be that of making accessible available resources and the transfer of skills from the more experienced members to help others access these resources.

One way of achieving this is to actively reach out into the community by providing training programs for those interested in tracing their ancestry. Another way is outreach into Jewish schools where students, as part of their studies, engage in family history projects. Many teachers may need guidance and assistance and the transfer of skills through teacher staff development seminars.

Like others in the Society, my interest was aroused through research into my own forebears and those of my wife. It's an exciting search and those of us who have learnt some of the tools of the trade are keen to pass that knowledge on to others. The Victorian branch along with our national body will continue to play its part in this national endeavour.

Lionel Sharpe is Chairperson of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society.

Victorian Branch		Vol 3 No 3		
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The Victorian Branch meets at the BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Melbourne

Postal Address: P.O. Box 189, GLENHUNTLY VIC 3163, AUSTRALIA

Internet contacts Leslie Oberman oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au Dr Albert

Braunstein sbr@bbs.ausom.net.au

Enquiries to: Rhonda -03 9578 6456, Ester -03 9578 0368 or Makor -03 9273 5611.

South Australian Branch		Vol 3 No 3		
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President: Hilde Hines Correspondence to:-

Dr Klee Benveniste C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation P.O. Box 320 Glenside SA 5065

The Long Arm of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society	Ruth Barnett	Vol 3 No 3		
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In December 1942, when I was a two-year-old growing up in Wagga, a baby named Maxine Roberta Blum was born in South Carolina. Maxine was our close cousin, yet for fifty-three years we were totally unaware of each other's existence. Last year our families were brought together in a "little miracle" for which we owe thanks to the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society and in particular to Rieke Nash.

Maxine's and my story begins in 1843, when Sarah, the second of nine children of Abraham and Elizabeth Myers, was born in London. Abraham was a respected cigar retailer, whose death on 24th August, 1897 was mourned in a long obituary in The Cigar and Tobacco World journal. His wife, nee Elizabeth Leith, almost certainly was a convert to Judaism (something we have not yet ascertained) but this was, if correct, a dark family secret! My late father never spoke of it, which was most uncharacteristic of him, and I feel sure that he was bound by a long-honoured promise. Nevertheless, Elizabeth died in 1903 a devout Jewess, as her headstone affirms.

Sarah Myers married Joseph Mok in London. They changed their name to Edwards, had ten children, one of whom, George, was destined to become Maxine's grandfather and sailed to America in the early 1890's.

In 1855 Elizabeth and Abraham Myers had produced a fourth daughter and seventh child: my grandmother Dinah. She married Abraham Mendes, from an old English Sephardic family, at Bevis Marks in 1890. Dinah was 35 at the time, and her husband 49 and they became parents of three sons, one of whom was my father. The entire Mendes family, with that of Dinah's brother Ike Myers, emigrated to Australia in 1920 and were welcomed in Melbourne by cousin Abe Sicree. My father began work as chief accountant for Maples' country furniture stores. In due course he was sent to Albury, where he enjoyed some of the happiest years of his life and grew to love and respect the Australian bush and its people. But he longed nevertheless for his "own" people, a longing he records touchingly in his diary as he describes an 80-mile journey to Wagga, in 1927, to participate in the Rosh Hashanah service in Sol Lewis's home. Wagga also boasted a Jewish hotelkeeper named Joe Levy, and Dad listened, enraptured, as Joe's young daughter Edna, a "typical Jewish beauty", played Grieg and Rachmaninoff on the piano.

My father's loneliness ended in 1936 when my mother, Bella Supran, accepted his proposal. They married in the Great Synagogue on the very day she arrived from London. She had known him since she was seven, and he twenty-one. Their families had been close friends. My mother always insisted that she loved him from the day they met, and knew she would never marry anyone else. Bella was a child of fourteen when the Mendes left for Australia, and their wedding day was their first meeting in sixteen years. They lived forty-six close and happy years together. Twenty-four of those years were spent in Wagga (my mother went there straight from Golders' Green!) where my father owned a furniture store, and where my siblings and I were born. To my knowledge, Dad never mentioned his American cousins. This was before the days of ready telephone access, and they had simply faded from his life.

Imagine my surprise, therefore, when Rieke Nash - unaware of my Wagga "connection", but knowing of my pursuit of my forebears - drew my attention to a notice in the Kosher Koala. "Seeking Mendes of Wagga Wagga," it said, giving an address and phone number in South Carolina, U.S.A. and a name: Maxine Koss. Yes, it was "baby" Maxine of 1942: Sarah Myers' great-granddaughter and thus my second cousin once removed. Maxine knew of Wagga through correspondence in the 1920s and '30s between her great-aunt Maude (Sarah's daughter and my father's first cousin) and my father's maternal family. I immediately rang her, to our

mutual delight. Amazingly, Maxine had in her possession a wonderful letter my father had written to the family in 1928, rich in vignettes of contemporary Australian life. To receive this letter, to see again the familiar, beautiful copperplate, brought a feeling of joy and a shiver to my spine. Here were my father's emotions and my father's wisdom, coming to me anew twelve years after his death. Genealogy brings many rewards, and they are not entirely academic.

Maxine's correspondence has also provided fascinating insights into the quirks of heredity. Photographs of her uncles bear an uncanny resemblance to my father's first cousins (and theirs, once removed), Maurice and Len Myers. They were unknown to each other, but all four, in their youth, sported a distinctive head of high, fuzzy, almost identical hair! Maurice and Len were the sons of Ike Myers (Dinah's brother) who "married out", and they were Dad's business partners in Wagga. Maurice's daughter Marion Stuckey still lives in Wagga; her handwriting bears a strange resemblance to that of Maxine. Marion was thrilled to receive a copy of a letter written by Ike Myers to his American family in the 1930s. She had never seen her grandfather's handwriting.

Maxine and I have enjoyed several phone conversations and my nephew, Peter, has already visited her, to be welcomed into the family with great affection.

There is an unrelated post-script to this story: further evidence that delving into one's genealogy sets in motion an endless chain of ramifications. Recently the Koshers Koala publicised *Roots and Recollections*, Sarah Orkin's reminiscences of London's old and scattered Sephardic families. I rang Mrs Orkin in London to inquire about purchasing a copy of her book on an imminent visit to London. My husband and I were instantly invited to take our Seder with her family and friends. What a remarkable lady! She is 87, and having asked for a computer for her 75th birthday, she proceeded to compile a detailed genealogy of her huge family - the de Solas, Pools, Andrades, Mendes and others. This research formed the basis for her book, published last year.

Among the guests at Mrs Orkin's Seder was Miss Lucy Ryder, grand-daughter of Dr Moses Gaster, the Haham of Bevis Marks Synagogue for decades and author of the bicentennial *History of the congregation*. Miss Ryder had many memories of her grandfather, who died when she was a child, and recalled the family's pride in his prominent involvement in formulating the Balfour Declaration. She regretted that in the end his advice - that there could be no secure State of Israel unless peace were at first made with the Arabs - was discounted. The Balfour Declaration in its final form was disastrously ambiguous, setting the scene for decades of war and suffering. "If only they had listened to grandfather," Miss Ryder remarked. I expressed surprise that Dr Gaster's warnings remained (apparently) undocumented, and she affirmed that this was so.

There are two further anecdotes resulting from my meeting with Mrs Orkin, bearing out my son's observation that "to be of Jewish descent is to live in a global village". On the plane trip home to Australia, I was reading *Roots and Recollections* when the passenger next to me - a youngish man - said, "Excuse me, but I couldn't help noticing what you are reading. The Andrades are my family". His name was Mike Cattermole, he lived in Cooma, and his mother's father was Philip Andrade. I'm still

reeling at this amazing coincidence. When he arrived home, Mike immediately phoned his mother in England - she and her brother had been researching the family and she in turn phoned Sarah Orkin, her long-lost relative. And to complete the story (for the moment, that is, for genealogy is like a snowball), I received a phone call recently from George Baur, a member of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. It transpires that he is also of Andrade ancestry, and he knew nothing of his relative in Cooma.

Mrs Orkin's book also mentions a Canadian relative, the world-renowned neurologist Dr Donald Calne who also happens to be a cousin of our member David Landor. This is the very Dr Calne under whom my son worked in 1993 as a visiting student at Vancouver University Hospital. Recently my son E-mailed Dr Calne to tell him of the connection. and his wife replied: "I knew there had to be a reason why I liked you so much!" It's said that fate works in many strange ways, but I'm sure it couldn't function without the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

Ruth Barnett is a member of the Society in Sydney with mixed English Ashkenazi and Sephardi roots.

JewishGen Family Finder		Vol 3 No 3	
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The responsibility for the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder (JGFF) has been handed over by Jewish Genealogical Society (NY) to JewishGen, Inc., an on-line Jewish genealogical service, and will be known as the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF).

As many of our members have discovered, this resource has been invaluable in broadening the opportunities for discovering long-lost branches and making contact with others who may be researching your towns or family surnames. All members who have submitted research information for the Australian Data-base of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society have automatically been included in the JGFF.

In the past, this information has been available in printed and microfiche versions available at Jewish Genealogical Societies so that the contact information, the names and postal addresses of researchers, has not been freely available. It is now intended to make the JGFF accessible from the Internet, which will expand dramatically the "client base" and therefore increase the likelihood of a successful contact. JewishGen, Inc. is aware of the problems of privacy and previous submitters will have the option of altering their contact information, but they need to be advised of those who do not want their names and addresses to be accessible on the Internet.

You need to decide on one of the following options:-

1. Your name and address can be freely available on the Internet.
2. Our Society's e-mail address can be given as your contact address.
3. You can provide your own e-mail address or phone number.

Our Society is prepared to up-date this information for you or you can write directly to:-

Susan King, President
JewishGen, Inc.
12 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100
HOUSTON TX 77046, USA.

E-mail: jgffhelp@jewishgen.org

In the near future, individuals with access to the Internet will find instructions on the JewishGen home page <<http://www.jewishgen.org>> for updating, adding, and deleting entries. E-mail addresses and telephone numbers will be included in future additions. JewishGen, Inc. plans to make the system flexible so submitters may choose how their information is to be available online, i.e. only names and e-mail addresses could be available online, while all the submitter information could be available in the printed and microfiche versions.

Included in this issue is an information sheet for those who have already submitted their data to our Society.

Using Polish Jewish Civil Records, a Continuing Experience	Bernard Freedman	Vol 3 No 3		
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Following the article by Ester Csaky in the June 1996 issue of The Kosher Koala describing her experiences in using the records of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (I will use the much shorter but I understand acceptable name Mormon in this article) and the very well attended visit of inspection to the Greenwich Family History Centre of the Mormon church, I felt that a few more happy experiences would help to fill out the possibilities for our members in undertaking this line of research.

I read somewhere that in the period 1860-1880, when the mass migration of people to Western Europe and then to America started, 80% of all Jews in the world lived in Poland or adjacent countries. It is quite likely that most of our members will have roots that extend into Poland during the 19th century. I have found the local Mormon family history centre is efficient, helpful and unobtrusive in the willingness to help.

The Mormon records which I have mostly used have been the birth-marriage-death records, which for Poland cover the period 1820 to 1880. They are described as civil registration documents which follow the Napoleonic format and are mostly in the Polish language but are in German in some areas and in Russian after 1868 until 1918. Napoleon's conquest of Europe allowed for the introduction of the Napoleonic Code in 1804 but its introduction was partial in Poland until about 1815, and it was not until 1820 that the records seem complete. At first the local Catholic parish church carried out the documentation, but the local Jewish community was allowed to administer the work and this seems to occur if a synagogue existed with a Rabbi

to organise on behalf of the community. The documents are handwritten in a record book, a copy of which was to be sent to the provincial capital. I have seen no evidence that this did occur and so provided a backup copy in the case of destruction of the local record.

The first big help in my gaining access to the Jewish records is that the International Jewish Genealogical Journal AVOTAYNU (Vol. 2, Jan1986) produced a list of all the Polish towns for which the Mormons' library has BMD records for the individual Jewish communities. The list identifies the Mormon order number of each microfilm and the years covered for each town. This list is available in our library, and it is spread over seventeen pages. I like to retain a copy, as I always seem to refer to it when I read or talk to friends. Listed alphabetically are approximately six hundred towns on 1735 microfilms covering the years 1810 to 1880. A few extend back to 1750 and up to 1936. They are often described as BMD documents but many include a film on family names, school and cemetery records. Each microfilm covers up to ten years for a small town, three years for a large town. The two towns which are mentioned by Ester Csaky in her June article represent almost the two extremes of size. Lublin is a very large Jewish community and requires twenty-eight microfilms to cover the forty-five years, whereas Bychawa is small and only requires seven microfilms to cover fifty years. I assume that most of our members will have read the book "Konin", about a Jewish community of three to four thousand people, and this town requires six tapes.

The tapes are ordered through any local Mormon family history centre at \$7.00 per tape. The centre will telephone and advise as soon as the tape arrives and allow you to book a time (usually a whole day) to start your examination. The waiting time can be two to three weeks for a tape available in Sydney or two to four months for tapes which have to come from Salt Lake City. The tapes should remain available for three weeks but this is treated sympathetically, and may be extended.

It is important to note that in addition to the six hundred towns listed I have found that many surrounding towns, evidently without a Rabbi or a recognised synagogue, are included in the adjacent larger or better organised Jewish community records. I have also found that, although travel was difficult and expensive, my family often found a wife or a job in surrounding towns, so that an extensive area has to be researched to cover the full picture. I am also aware that the spelling of the names of towns and the borders between Provinces as well as National States changed many times in the hundred year history of that part of Europe. So nothing is straight forward or simple. (Editor's note: It is well to consult the book "Where Once We Walked" for location and locality name changes).

All the tapes I inspected have a family name alphabetical index at the end of each year for each type of event in the BMD documents. Sometimes I found a change in the spelling between the document and the index and only once did I find a document omitted from the index. A typical document, one birth and one annual index are illustrated in our June 1996 issue as part of the Ester Csaky article. The documents or certificates have become rather personal as they often contain the handwritten signature of your relation, and it is easy to imagine all the members of one's family being present at the time the document was prepared. I like the marriage documents, as they contain the names of parents on both sides (their town

address, important if it is a marriage from two towns) the parents' occupation and often the single name of the mother. Girls are often more difficult to pick up genealogically speaking than boys together with the cross branching that marriages involve.

Assuming that you do not read Polish, in my experience it is impractical to take one's uncle or auntie along to help one read the microreader. This is a one-person task, which requires good eye concentration. Nineteenth century Polish is not easy for a non student of language.

Now comes the rather vital step or steps of being able to recognise the family name involved and the type of BMD document quickly as one reels through the microfilm reader. For me the decisive help came from the book "A Translation Guide To 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil Registration Documents", 2nd Edition compiled and edited by Judith R. Frazin. It is published by The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois 1989. I have found the book perfect for the specific task at hand. It gives you ways to quickly recognise the type of document, the location of the family names, occupations and the small but vital special references that may occur like the names of all other living children in the family, cause of death and original towns of birth or living. Often the handwriting is difficult and by grouping words for family relationships, legal, occupations and estates together both in English and Polish the penny tumbles and the mystery is solved. I must tell you that a not so short conversation with Sophie Caplan brought for me this great breakthrough.

As proof of my success with these records let me tell my story. My mother was one of ten children born in Bulli, near Sydney, between 1883 and 1905. I knew that her mother and father Jacob and Emma Glass were married in England, but came originally from Poland, Emma coming at the age of six. I was told that her family name of Cohen was Czerniak in Poland and that she was born near Posnan. After eighteen months of incompetent research I have formed a family tree from over one hundred BMD documents. It shows that when my great-grandfather left Poland in 1863/4 after some serious pogroms, he left behind nineteen first and thirty-four second cousins, if I assume that I have found most of them. Now comes the task of tracing them forward. I must also say that there is a lot of further researching to be done on the Mormon records before I can assume all my family records have been gleaned.

Happy hunting!

Bernard Freedman is a member of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society in Sydney, and a descendant of the Glass family of Bulli which also gave our community the well-known Sydney Glass, one of the Founders of the Australian Jewish Historical Society and his son, the late Judge Harold Glass.

Searching for my Biological Family

Pnina Gutman

Vol 3 No 3



My name is Pnina Gutman. I am 54 years old. I survived the Holocaust in Poland as a child. In 1950 I came to Israel with my adopting parents named Himmel. I remembered only two years of my childhood clearly, the years after my adoption in

1948. Earlier memories were unclear pictures - a Polish family, a church, Polish holidays and an orphanage in Otwock near Warsaw.

My adoptive parents did not talk either about my adoption or my past. To them I was their only beloved child. My adoptive mother used always to say: "A mother is the one who cares for the child, not the one who delivered it." Only now, after their deaths, I began to look for my biological family. Visiting the Żydowski Instytut Historyczny (ZIH), Polish Jewish Historical Institute, in Warsaw, I found documents which threw light on a part of my past life in the years 1944-48.

I was found abandoned in an empty railway waggon in Milanówek close to Warsaw. Later I was handed over to a Polish family named Kaczmarek by a Red Cross messenger (Kaczniczka in Polish). I lived with this family in Żyrardów, close to Warsaw, till the end of the war. After the war the family returned with me to their home town Sieraków, close to Poznań.

In 1948 I was taken away from the Kaczmareks by the Jewish Committee in Warsaw and placed in the Jewish orphanage in Otwock, close to Warsaw. In September 1948 I was taken from the orphanage by the Jewish family Himmel, and was later adopted by them and I came to Israel with them.

In June 1996 I met in Dieraków the son and the daughter of the Polish family Kaczmarek. They were happy to meet me and this reunion was very moving. But they could not add any details about my past to those I had given in 1944 when I was found: "My name is BARBARA REBHUN (REBHUN). I live in Aleje Jerozolimskie (A street by this name existed only in Warsaw). I am two and a half years old." I spoke Polish and German.

Another important fact is that, according to documents in the ZIH, in 1948 a certain family named Rebhun from Kraków looked for Barbara Rebhun....

During three months of enquiries I "found" four years of my former life. Now "only" two and a half years are missing.

I shall be most grateful to anyone who can help me solve the riddle of my life!

Pnina Gutman Kfar Meishar 76850 Israel Tel: 972-8-859 1693 Fax: 972-8-859 6702

Boston 1996	Albert Braunstein	Vol 3 No 3	
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The 15th Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy was held in Boston; the Hub of the Universe from July 14-19. Some 680 people attended from eleven countries including France, United Kingdom, South Africa, Israel and Brazil; the vast majority were from North America, and I was the only Australian representative.

Upon registration we were all presented with a blue and white tote bag containing a map of Boston, information about places to eat, syllabus of the program and lecture notes, names of the registrants and the surnames and towns they are researching. In addition we were given an excellent guide to the genealogy resources in the

Boston area; Hebrew College Library, the Boston Public Library, National Archives, American Jewish Historical Society, including opening hours and how to use the library or archive. An appendix contained a list of Yizkor books held at Boston Libraries and even recorded their call numbers, making it a simple matter to locate the one in which I was interested.

The Seminar began on the Sunday with walking tours of Jewish Boston and a Beginners' Workshop which attracted well over a hundred people. This stream was supplemented by lectures on how to find your ancestral town, how to use an LDS Family History Centre, how to read vital records in Polish, and so on. Frank Leister, creator of Reunion genealogy software, was there to demonstrate some of the new features which will be added to Reunion 5.0 which hopefully will be available by the end of the year. One of the new features is a Hebrew calendar, which will make it more user-friendly for Jewish genealogy.

Alexander Beider, the foremost expert on East European Jewish surnames, gave a discourse about his latest interest in Ashkenazi given names. He was also available each morning for ten minute consultations, between 8 and 10 am, which were very popular. Like a good doctor, Beider was running overtime, which gave me a chance to have a chat with Jeff Cymbler who was next in line. Cymbler, who was giving a talk on "Researching Your Polish-Jewish Ancestry", said that the thing that had surprised him most this year was how many of the registrants were connected to the Internet - about sixty per cent. At the previous seminar in 1995 only about ten per cent had email addresses, and Cymbler himself was one of those who had recently become online. Clearly, the Internet is a major growth area for Jewish genealogy, and the newsgroup JewishGen is not making an idle claim in calling itself "The Official Home of Jewish Genealogy".

The Computer Room gave onsite access to the Internet and various databases, including REIPP (Russian Indexing of Poland Project) and the Cemetery Project which currently has over 175,000 names from about 400 cemeteries. Last October Arline Sachs gave talks in Melbourne and Sydney about the project to document all Jewish cemeteries around the world. The Cemetery Project name data is not online, however it is possible to order the Cemetery Project DOS-compatible disks from Arline Sachs for US\$20 + shipping.

The resource Room provided access to books, periodicals, maps, microfiche and unpublished indexes. A translator was on hand for Yiddish and Russian. I had brought with me a document from the Austrian Consul, dating from 1882, granting my great-grandmother permission to practise as a mid-wife in Egypt. The document was written in the old German Gothic script and was practically illegible. Fortunately, a German translator was able to quickly translate it for me.

Those with interest in a particular geographic region gathered at Birds of a Feather (BOF) meetings to form networks and exchange information about resources. The Mogilev BOF was convened by Schelly Dardashti who, like me, had Luria ancestors in Mogilev during the 19th century. An index to the Mogilev birth records for 1864-94 had been created and was in the Resource Room. I found 40 Lurias who had fathered sons during that period. Schelly informed me that the Lurias were all interrelated, and that we must be cousins. Bella Nayer, a recent emigrant to the US

from Mogilev, gave a moving account of family life in Belarus. Due to the effects of Chernobyl, Bella's family had milk sent from St Petersburg; it was sour by the time it arrived, but at least it was not contaminated by radiation.

I would like to congratulate the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston for an extremely well-organized Seminar; it was obvious that a lot of preparation had gone into it. Apart from all the knowledge gained from lectures and workshops, one of the joys of the Seminar was meeting so many like-minded. crazy people obsessed with genealogy. Next year the Seminar be held in Paris and I hope to see some of you there.

ALBERT BRAUNSTEIN <sbr@pa.ausom.net.au>

Albert Braunstein is a member of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society in Melbourne, and a medical practitioner. His parents are also members.

**Resources Enhance Town
Research**

**Elaine B.
Kolinsky**

**Vol 3 No
3**



(Reprinted from Chronicles, Vol 13 No. 1, 1994)

EVREISKAIA ENTSIKLOPEDIA (EE)

SLOWNIK GEOGRAFICZNY KROLESTWA POLSKIEGO (SG)

MEGILAT HA-TEVAH (MT)

LE-TOLEDOT HA-KEHILOT BE-FOLIN (LT)

These are a mouthful, nu! They are also full of incredible information about your towns and ancestors. I'm sure you have heard about these resources and read about them in various articles, but let me bring them to life for you.

Before genealogy fever descended upon my household (six years ago), I asked a simple question of the surviving members of my father's family. I inquired about their shtetl Vakhnovka (Wachnowka), Kiev Gubernia. I'm sure you can guess what the answers were. Some examples are: "You don't want to know." "Let the dead stay dead." "It burned to the ground and it's all gone." The best one was, "I remember cows, mud, old men with long beards, and the killing in the streets (pogroms)." One day, in frustration, I consulted with Neil Goloff, our JGSP librarian and Resource Maven. He showed me an article by Heidi Auerbach Farkash (Post Office Box 576, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067) in which she asks genealogists to write to her (SASE) for information on their towns, based on the research she had done at The Hoover Institution.

This was the beginning for me in receiving substantial information about my Eastern European towns. I wrote to Heidi who suggested Yivo (New York) and The Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace (Stanford, CA 94305-6010). From these three sources, I became inundated with town information. Thanks, Heidi. You changed the course of my research.

Mr. Zachary Baker, Head Reference Librarian of Yivo Institute for Jewish Research (1048 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028, (212) 535-6700) will answer requests if

you supply the correct information. There is a small copy fee. The following resources should be explored for Eastern European town searches. Don't make the mistake of thinking your town was not Polish and omit searching SG. The following is a brief description and some of my findings in these resources at Yivo.

1. Evreiskaia Entsiklopedia. This is a Russian language Jewish encyclopedia covering localities in the former Russian Empire. Mr. Baker feels it is unsurpassed in any subsequent Jewish encyclopedia. One can easily have it translated for a nominal fee with your favourite Russian translator. It is an article on Vakhnovka telling the story of its history. For example, it refers to this shtetl as a small town (mestechko) in "Berdichev" Uezd (the district I had been seeking) in Kiev Guberniya. It quoted from the revision documents (which Harry Boonin has spoken about at several Russian Interest Group meetings). These revision documents were compiled in 1847 in the Vakhnovka Jewish Community and quoted "534" Jews. It also quoted from the 1897 census. In addition to all sorts of statistics, it speaks of the 150-year-old synagogue, prayer houses, Hasidic prayer houses and their history, its oldest cemetery, its Chevra Kaddisha, its new emerging brotherhood, and the private women's school. If translators are a problem, open Avotaynu for referrals.

2. Słownik Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego. This is a Polish language gazetteer with descriptive entries about Polish towns, a reprint of the 1880-1902 edition published a hundred years ago. The article on Wachnowka, referred to as Wachna in 1578, spoke of a little town on the Olshanka River in the district of Berdychew and reported its distance to two surrounding towns in yiorst (called wiorsta in Polish 2/3 mile) along with its 2,245 inhabitants. It went into great detail on the ownership by various Polish princesses through the years, and finally to the last owner who was once the former field marshal of the district Berdychew. (I wonder if he kept records?) At the freeing of the peasants, it listed all the new owners. Then it said something interesting. It referred to Wachnowka. as a "District" with 9 local villages, counties, encircling 15 localities and included the town of Wachnowka, 2 small peasant settlements, 4 inns, 1,666 houses, 10,382 inhabitants, and goes on about peasants, mansions, treasure, and church land. I will have to speak to the "District Maven" Harry Boonin about this!

3. Megilat Ha-Tevah (Scroll of Slaughter). This is Hebrew language material relating to the history of the pogroms and the slaughter of the Jews in the Ukraine, Great Russia and White Russia It was written by Eliezer David Rosental (Jerusalem-Tel Aviv: Havurah, 1927- 1930, 3 volumes).

Zachary Baker wrote a wonderful article in Toledot* (Vol. 4, No. 1-2, page 19) in which he describes Megilat Ha-Tevah. Of interest is the following information. Eliezer David Rosental, born in Bessarabia (1856), was a Hebrew teacher and writer in Teplik, Podolia at the time of the 1919 pogroms. After witnessing the destruction and killing, he dedicated the rest of his life to documenting the happenings in each town that had suffered. The result was the Scroll of Slaughter (Megilat Ha-Tevah). Unfortunately, he died at the age of 32 before completing all of the towns. Only the first nine letters of the Hebrew alphabet were covered: A, B, D, G, I, Kh, O, T, U, V, Z. Each letter has two alphabetical sections. One contains detailed descriptions of each town listed; the other lists the victims of those towns. Rosental states in his introduction that the material for his book rested on reliable eyewitness accounts,

official lists, official documents, and the author's own experiences. He wanted to create a memorial "for all generations."

My Megilat Ha-Tevah findings: Joan Gross of Philadelphia and Sheila Weber of New York (found through the JGS Family Finder) joined with me to fund the translation of these articles. Six typed, single-spaced pages described the pogrom of Vakhnovka, along with the atrocities in nearby towns. It included names of townspeople, Cossacks and bandits. Following these six pages, were five pages of victims from all the towns beginning with the letter "V". These were the most surprising of all. There, listed under another town name, was my elusive ancestor Abraham Sirota who came to the United States, married off his daughters, and returned to Russia because he didn't like it here. We never knew what became of him. In addition, I finally learned how to spell my great-grandmother's maiden name because a relative was listed with the correct spelling. Ironically, the poor soul had to die in a pogrom to get on a list for me to learn how to spell his name. Other names completed many endings to family enigmas. At the end of this victim list is another with the number of Jews killed according to the "lists". Yet, still, is an additional list according to "word of mouth" These showed discrepancies.

4. Le-Toledot Ha-Kehilot Be-Folin. This is a Hebrew language book on the Jewish communities of Poland by Zevi Hirsch ben Hayyim Aryeh Leibush ha-Levi Horowitz (Jerusalem: Mosad Harav Kook, 1978, 20, 560 pages). Also, in Zachary Baker's article in Toledot* (Vol. 4, Nos. 1-2, pages 19-21), he describes Le-Toledot Ha-Kehilot Be-Folin. Of interest is the following information. Horowitz's work did not appear in print until 1978, although it was written in the 1930s. According to Mr. Baker, it was intended to be a source for the history of the rabbinate of over 100 Jewish communities in and around Poland, especially Galicia, but World War I broke out, and the first edition never appeared. Entries for towns are in alphabetical sequence with a small supplement at the end covering five non-Polish communities. Each entry has a small sketch of the community's history and a list of rabbinical centers such as Apta/Opatow (my husband's town), Belz, Dukla, Greiditz, Hrubieszow, Tysmienica, and Zamosc, which are longer. There are no entries for Warsaw, Vilna, Cracow, Lublin, Lodz, or Lwow. There is no index of names. I have not translated Apta/Opatow's pages yet.

I think it would be a good idea for all parties interested in sharing translation costs for "common towns" to get together. I would be willing to be a liaison.

Write to Elaine Kolinsky, 7608 Dorcas Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111 (SASE).

Toledot issues (hard copy) can be found by writing to Sophie Caplan, AJGS, POB 154, Northbridge, NSW, 2063.

News from RAGAS

Linda Cantor

**Vol 3 No
3**



(Reprinted from Lineage, Spring-Summer 1995)

The first edition of its newsletter provides us with much information on the work of RAGAS, the Russian-American Genealogical Archival Service. Its stated goal is to serve as a clearinghouse for requests to the various archives in the republics of the

former Soviet Union. Consequently, RAGAS is also working to complete reference guides and indexes to records of the archives.

RAGAS/Moscow has been reorganized as the Genealogy and Family History Society ("G&FHS"), a non-profit organization registered with the Moscow Ministry of Justice. As a result, the Society was able to negotiate official agreements with regional archives in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.

You can contact the Society directly at P.O. Box 459, Moscow, 127349, Russia or at <vladrag@glas.apc.org> by E-Mail or by fax at 095/246-20-20, addressed to M-200 or 095/245-08-39, addressed to M-200. However, you should still send research requests to RAGAS/USA at P.O. Box 236, Glen Echo, MD 20812; fax:202/219-1250, or <RAGAS@dgs.dgsys.com> via E-Mail, but note that they no longer accept the Specific Request Form. Use the Fuller Request Form, with a non-refundable fee of US\$50, in order to initiate a search. This change was made to reduce the number of negative replies that were generated by the use of the single request form. Using a more general request will create a better chance of success, enabling the Archives to have a choice of records to look up for you.

Several categories of records are available in the various archives - census records (revision or tax census lists and population censuses), vital statistic records (birth, death and marriage), religious institution records, military records, court records (business records), police records, educational institution records, newspapers, and city and business directories. They do not all exist for all localities. Many records, in what was the western Soviet Union, were destroyed during World War II. In addition, many religious records were destroyed during the Stalin years.

Most archivists have limited understanding of genealogy and are not necessarily supportive of family research.. There are few finding guides, indexes, reference guides and, since most archives have been open to the public only since 1990, few archivists experienced in helping genealogists. RAGAS is trying to fill this void by setting standards and guidelines for all archivists to follow as well as establishing inventories and indexes for all available records.

RAGAS has had positive results in obtaining genealogical information from the Central Historical Archives of Russia in St. Petersburg, of Belarus in Minsk and Grodno, and of Ukraine in Lviv and from Ukrainian regional archives in Odessa, Kamenets Podolsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, and Chernigov. On the other hand, they have had little success with the Central Historical Archives in Kiev or the regional archives in Ivano-Frankovsk, Ternopol, Rovna, and Lutsk.

In future newsletters, RAGAS plans to provide brief summaries of archival records, descriptions of conditions in particular archives, a profile of the process of obtaining a specific report (with the consent of the requester), and a surname exchange list, without the requester's name and address. They hope this will lead to a permanent database for the family historians with roots in the former Soviet Union.

Listed below are those family genealogies developed by Dr Paul Jacobi that are deposited at the Dorot Center at Beth Hatefutsoth in Tel Aviv. Jacobi has devoted more than 40 years to tracing the 420 leading Ashkenazi families which shaped European-Jewish life for centuries before the Holocaust. Dr Jacobi is the outstanding expert on the genealogy of ancient Jewish families.

Badt	Lazarus (-Hirsh-Poesing)
Ballin	Lichtheim
Bamberger	Lida-Freimann
Bassevi (incl von Truenburg, Disraeli)	Lissa C (Frankfurt-am-Main)
Beyth	Litten
Buchner (Bochner)	Loeb (the MaHaRal's family)
Bunems A & B	Lowotitz
Cohn A (Hamburg)	Luria
Darmstadt (-staedter) - Manesse	Marktbreit(-er)
Eibeschuetz mi-Elrich (Mehlreich)	May
Emden A, B & C (incl Grenhut, Scheier, Embden Kolom=MaHarik)	Meisels
Ettingen A (Jona)	Naumberg
Ettingen B (Veit)	Norden
Falk B (=2nd Pnei Joshua)	Perles (Prague, Munich, Konigsberg)
Fernbach	Prager A
Frensdor(-fer)	Pringsheim/Dohm
Friedmann (Rushiner Hasidim)	Raschi
Frumkin A, B & C	Raschach
Geiger	Ree
Gombinner	Reishcher (-Backofen)
Graetzer (-Gratz)	Rintel A, B & C
Hakohen C (incl Schach)	Rothschild
Halevi A (incl Edels - MaHaRaMESH & TaS)	Schachna (-Neustadt)
Halevi B (-Charif) Hambro	Schick
Hamburg (-er)	Schidlow
Heilbut	Schotten
Helen	Schwelm
Henoch B	Segal
Herzkus (incl Lopatiner)	Selmik
Heschel	Serwatzter-Itzkowitz
Hollaender C (Semter etc)	Sobotka
Horowitz Vols I/III	Spira (-Schapiro Vol I/II)
Isserl A (incl Boscowitz, Loev)	Strass B
Isserlein	Temeris

Isserles A (incl ReMa,Opatow)	Teomin
Joshua-Maga'sh (first Pnei Joshua)	Traboat
Kalahora (-Kalifari- Lansberg, Sephardi family)	Utitz
Kalishch (v-er)	Volozhin (-er)
Kam	Wallach
Kara (Caro;I/II) von Kaulla	Wolfsohn/Bucki
Kisch	Wormser A
Klauber (incl Isserheim)	Wormser B (incl de Worms)
Krochmal	
Krotoschin B	
Krotoschin C	
Kuh	
Kulp	

From Shorashim Vol 3 No 3 Summer 1994

Eastern European Finds in Germany

Peter Lande

Vol 3 No
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The Standesamt I, Registrar of Vital Records (Birth, Marriage and Deaths), Rueckerstrasse 9, Berlin contains civil records for areas of the former eastern Germany which are now Poland and Russia for the years 1874 to the early 1940's. Most of this collection conforms to the pre-World War II borders but also includes Danzig (Gdansk) as well as some small towns in Grand Duchy of Posen.

Requests should include as much data as possible, such as place and date of birth, marriage or death; names of children; names of persons being married; maiden name of bride. All requests need to specify locality as that is how it is organised. The fee per inquiry is DM7 but may take as long as a year.

As with all German records, privacy regulations prevent information being given to anyone other than direct descendants except for "scientific purposes."

Peter also writes about other German holdings, for example the microfilming of the records of the Berlin Weissensee Cemetery which will eventually become available at the Centrum Judaicum Foundation, New Synagogue Berlin.

For more details refer to AVOTAYNU, Vol 9 No 1 Spring 1993 & Vol 9 No 3 Fall 1993.

Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf

Sophie Caplan

Vol 3 No
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Those books with an asterisk (*) in front are held by our Society, books in the personal library of some of our members are marked with two asterisks (* *) and books marked with a ☆ can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held.

BOOKS ON NEW ZEALAND

* LAZARUS MORRIS GOLDMAN, "**THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN NEW ZEALAND**", 1958, A.H. & A.W. Reed, Wellington, N.Z., is the classic book on the history of the Jews in New Zealand from Joseph Barrow Montefiore's visit in 1830 and Joel Samuel Polack, brother of Abraham Polack who settled in 1831 and founded Kororaraka to the end of the second world war. Rare, but probably in many libraries.

* * LAURENCE NATHAN, "**AS OLD AS AUCKLAND**", 1984, L.D. Nathan Group of Companies, Auckland, N.Z. This is the story at once of a family, a company, and of the origins of the Auckland Jewish community in the north island of New Zealand. With family tree, illustrative portraits, appendices and an excellent index. A fascinating book.

* * ANN and LAURIE GLUCKMANN, editors, "**IDENTITY AND INVOLVEMENT, AUCKLAND JEWRY PAST AND PRESENT**", Vols I and II, 1990 and 1992, are two volumes which tell the story of the Auckland Jewish community through the histories of families and of individuals, relating them at the same time to their families of origin in England, Holland, Poland, Russia, Czechoslovakia and Germany. The connections to families in USA and Israel make these two volumes of more than local Jewish genealogical interest. The families described include BARNETT, BRIESS, BRUELL, ASHER, MYERS, MIELZINER, NAREWCZEWITZ now NAREV, KLIPPEL, GLUCKMAN, ADLER, FILLER, SIMMS, ISRAEL and many others. Volume II is still available for \$NZ20.

Write to: Gluckmann, 6D The Pines, 75 Owens Road, Epsom, Auckland 3, New Zealand.

☆ STEPHEN LEVINE, editor, "**A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE**", 1995, Hazard Press, Christchurch, N.Z., is a massive (3 Kg) history of the Wellington Hebrew Congregation's first 150 years and of a large number of the individual families, though not all, who have been part of it. Many individual writers have contributed text and photographs, though those who were not included have been moved to complain. Yet it is an absorbing volume, with a wealth of details which even enabled me to find long-lost relatives of an uncle who perished in the Holocaust. An excellent index.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 3 No 4		
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This thirteenth issue of the newsletter marks just over five years since the foundation of our Society, five years in which branches have been established in Melbourne and Adelaide as well as our initial branch in Sydney, with small groups also active in the Central Coast of New South Wales and in Canberra, representatives in Perth and in Brisbane, and individual members in Darwin, in Northern Territory, Tasmania and in country towns in New South Wales and Queensland. We are now close to 200 members, though we are aware that non-renewals may bring this number down again early in 1997.

Our second Jewish Genealogy Day, again held in tandem with the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS), this time at Mandelbaum House, the new Jewish

residential college of the University of Sydney was very successful even though publicity had not been extensive and we had to compete with several major functions held to commemorate Kristallnacht, the pogrom of 9th November, 1938. The team work of the committee and several other members is very heartening, as is the joining of new members. It is also satisfying to help searchers for unusual information, as the SAG active member I was able to help with information on his own father who had died before his birth in another country, from my knowledge of contemporary Jewish social history and later from a book in French in my personal collection about Jews who fought in the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil war of 1936-39, probably the only copy held in Australia. Such serendipity is one of the great joys of genealogy.

On 9th March 1997 we shall be holding our fifth Beginners' Seminar at Shalom College of the University of New South Wales and one of its highlights will be the lecture "SPLIT TREE - FRAGMENTED BRANCHES, THE KARA/CARO FAMILY WORLDWIDE" by Chava Agmon, the expert on the descendants of Rabbi Joseph Caro of Safed, who will be visiting Australia and New Zealand in March. Chava Agmon will also be giving her lecture in Perth on Sunday evening 2nd March and in Melbourne at Makor Library on Wednesday evening 5th March.

On Genealogy Day we had another expert lecturing to us about "HOW TO ACCESS UNITED STATES CENSUSES AND ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS". This was Gerry Winerman, the President of the Los Angeles Jewish Genealogical Society, who is also connected to the Australian Sephardi-descended Mendoza family. Australia is becoming an ever more popular tourist destination for Americans, Israelis and Europeans, as well as Asians, and some of those tourists are experts in some aspects of Jewish genealogy. We shall endeavour to continue to invite them to share that expertise with our members, while showing them some hospitality in return, to the benefit of all concerned.

The Internet and email have brought great benefits to many genealogists and we shall try to inform our readers about Web sites of interest to Jewish genealogists. There are some genealogists who believe that email has made regular mail obsolete and have devised rude names for regular post. This obsolescence may exist when both parties to a correspondence have email and there is no more need for envelopes and stamps. There should however be a code of conduct for email users to ensure that others' rights are not infringed and that others are not burdened with the mailing or phoning costs which the email user is saving.

Let me explain. I do not have email and am not likely to have it in the near future. I prefer to get my messages by regular mail and to be able to answer the same way AT MY CONVENIENCE. Certain email users have taken to writing to me care of other Sydney email addresses, which means that the recipient has to phone me and/or fax me the message, thus incurring the telephone/fax costs saved by the emailer, who also omits usually to provide a regular mailing address, thus forcing me to respond via a friend's email, which is a bother both to them and to me.

Further, some emailers believe that they are entitled to a swift response to their enquiry to total strangers, and to send long insulting email messages if left to wait for an answer. I have received such rude messages and I deeply resent them and the people who send them. Perhaps an international opprobrium list should be compiled

of those who indulge in such childish and self-centered behaviour. Personally I request that mail from those who have not yet become personal friends be addressed to me at P.O.B. 154, Northbridge, Sydney, NSW 2063, Australia

Please don't forget the next International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy will now take place in Paris from 13 to 19th July, 1997. For each session of the seminar there will be simultaneous translations in French and English. A highlight for some attending this conference, will be the opportunity to visit some of the places being researched while in Europe. There is the possibility of guided field trips to Central and Eastern Europe being organised after the conference but these must be booked in advance. More details in our next issue.

International Genealogist Visits Melbourne	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 3 No 4	
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'You've all got relatives in America', exclaimed Geraldine Winerman, President of the Los Angeles Jewish Genealogical Society, 'it's just a matter of knowing how to trace them'. Mrs Winerman was addressing the Victorian Branch of the A.J.G.S. on November 13th at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre.

'Two million migrants flowed into the United States at Ellis Island between 1880 and 1914 and 60 volumes are in preparation containing the names of all settlers from Russia (including present day Poland) from 1875 to 1914'. Mrs Winerman said that these volumes will be available in the near future for genealogical research.

Mrs Winerman's enthusiasm for genealogy commenced fourteen years ago when she started to research her own family history. This led to the discovery of a Melbourne connection, Harry Mendoza, whom she met for the first time at this meeting of the Victorian Branch.

Taking time out from this first visit to her recently discovered relatives, Mrs Winerman spoke to the Society about USA census and citizenship records, manifests of alien passengers, synagogue records and the Mormon Family History Index.


She described family research as an adventure requiring an open mind and persistence. Using overheads demonstrating her own family records she introduced the audience to the Soundex/Miracode filing system and spoke about the traps in the spelling of surnames. For example, her husband's family name has been variously spelt as Weinerman, Waineman and Wainermann

She pleaded with the audience to lodge their own family trees with Dorot Archives at Beth Hatefutsoth, the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora in Israel and similar depositories, so that other Jewish descendants searching for relatives around the world might connect up with Australian families.

Lionel Sharpe, chairman of the Victorian Branch, had problems in closing the meeting and clearing the hall. The entranced audience persisted in seeking more information and clues for their own researching. Mrs Winerman invited the audience to attend the next Summer Seminar in Los Angeles in July 1998.

The Victorian Branch was also addressed by Ian Samuel, a Melbourne born solicitor, on December 4. His talk, "Discovering My Family, or How to invite 1900 relatives to your next family Simcha" demonstrated the interconnections discovered in researching an enormous base of 1500 family members in Australia alone.

The Victorian Branch is looking forward to a visit by Chava Agmon from Israel who will speak on March 5th, 1997 on the topic "Split Tree - Fragmented Branches - The KARA/CARO Family Worldwide".


Mariampole Index	Raymond Whitzman	Vol 3 No 4		
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A group of 25 researchers of Mariampol, have put together an index of births, marriages and deaths from 1808 to 1920. The town of Mariampol is now in Lithuania and was previously part of Suwalki gubernia.

Records were not available for all years. However it is virtually complete from 1826 to 1870. There are close to 9500 names listed. The information available includes number, year, family name of individual and the father's name, if available.


The costs for the index pages were over \$US 3,500 and these have not yet been fully paid. Most of the contributors paid \$US110.00. However two had to contribute considerably more so that the index could be acquired. We would like to see that those two should have the balance refunded. If anyone would like a copy they could email whitz@cam.org. The cost will be \$US110.00.

Raymond Whitzman whitz@cam.org

Victorian Branch		Vol 3 No 4		
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The Victorian Branch meets at the BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Melbourne Postal Address: P.O. Box 189, GLENHUNTLY VIC 3163, AUSTRALIA

Internet contacts Leslie Oberman oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au Dr Albert Braunstein sbr@bbs.ausom.net.au
Enquiries to: Rhonda 03 9578 6456, Ester 03 9578 0368 or Makor 03 9273 5611.

South Australian Branch		Vol 3 No 4		
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President: Hilde Hines
Correspondence to: Dr Klee Benveniste C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation
P.O. Box 320, Glenside SA 5065

My Trip to Russia and Lithuania	Selma Jackson	Vol 3 No 4		
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Knowing my interest in obtaining information for our family tree, my brother, Gerald Horowitz of Johannesburg, South Africa, sent me a cutting someone had sent to

him, advertising the July 14th - 19th International Gathering of the Horowitz/Horwitz/Hurwitz/Gurwitz Families in Tel Aviv, and there and then I decided that I was going to Israel - it was 22nd February in fact! I booked to leave on 6th July, 1996 so that I could spend a few days before the gathering, meeting cousins of my Berman family to whom I have been writing for some months. I asked Gerald to come with me, and he said he would think about it. Gerald called me one evening in March to say that his sons, Steven and Gordon, wanted to come but could only leave on 24th June, because of a family wedding, and we would have to go to Lithuania and Latvia first, as the boys were due back at school and university. I had wanted to go to Israel first, to talk to Luba, a cousin who had lived in Kvedarna (Dad used the old name of Chveidan) to find out where my grand-parents' house and shop was, etc. I would not have gone to my shtetlekh on my own, but now having gone, I could easily have travelled on my own with Regina Kopelowitz, our wonderful guide, interpreter and now a friend, whom I can highly recommend to anyone wanting to go to Lithuania. Wherever we went, she made it interesting for us. She went to talk to elderly men and women who may have had some information for us, and she certainly knows her Lithuanian and Jewish history.

Priority Travel in Johannesburg, about whom I had read in Elaine Solarsh's story of her trip to Moscow and Lithuania, has during the last few years, arranged a number of "finding one's roots" tours, and so we started organising our travel arrangements. There were a few hiccups, but finally things started coming together, and Moscow for two days was included, though I wasn't really interested in going to Moscow!

I left Sydney on Monday, 24th June, on Thai International and had to change to Lufthansa in Bangkok. Because we were late on arrival in Bangkok, the ground staff were in a frenzy, and it was only while flying to Frankfurt, don't ask me why, I decided to check my air tickets and found that not only had the ground staff taken my Bangkok/Frankfurt ticket, she had taken my return Bangkok/Sydney ticket as well! I called for the purser, who said she would advise Bangkok, and that on arrival at Frankfurt Airport, on Tuesday morning, 25th, I should go to the enquiries counter and report this. You cannot believe the length of the enquiries queue at Frankfurt Airport, and it took ages for me to be attended to. Luckily, as I was reporting what happened, the fax machine started, and there was a fax from Bangkok asking that they should broadcast my name and explain the position! They gave me a copy of the fax to present in Bangkok on my return. Then I couldn't find Gerald and the boys. I didn't see them in the transit area. They must have gone "looking" at the duty free shops, and they weren't at gate A23, from where we were to leave for Moscow. After running all over the place carrying my overnight case, I decided I just had to sit on my own at Gate A23 for three hours! Before I left Sydney, I thought I was very fortunate that my Lufthansa flight was arriving in Frankfurt five minutes before Gerald's Lufthansa flight from Johannesburg. Ha! Ha!

What a relief when the flight was called, and Gerald arrived!

Arrival at Moscow airport was quite a let down to me. We changed money at the airport (5030 roubles = \$US1.00). Adrian, our guide, introduced himself and we were driven to the Kosmos Hotel which is an "Intourist" hotel, at 150 Prospekt Marksa, about 10 kms from the centre of Moscow, evidently built for the Olympic Games, where the KGB accommodated their guests, and which was known to have been

bugged in communist times. The hotel is a 26 storeys high building containing 1767 rooms, a bustling, busy hotel, with many tour groups from all over the world e.g. Trafalgar Tours and Far East tour groups were there. I would have preferred a hotel downtown, but evidently "Intourist" decides where they put you up!

Once we checked in, made arrangements with Adrian to collect us the following morning for a morning tour of Moscow, put our luggage into our rooms, which were clean and much better than what I was given to expect, we took ourselves off to the railway station - "VDNKh" which was just across the main road from the Kosmos, via an underground. The first Metro line was opened in 1935. There were vendors along the pavements selling a few cakes of soap, toilet paper, fruit, vegetables, cheap jewellery etc. all trying to earn a few 'kopeks' for food. Unemployment in Russia is very high, and there is no social security payment (unemployment benefit). There are no shops as we know them, but in the station concourse, there are kiosks selling everything and anything - playing cards, radios, watches, wallets, toys, bottled water, cool drinks etc. Russian money is roubles and kopeks.

My nephews, being 'shomrei shabbat', were anxious to find the Moscow Synagogue, as their Rabbi in Johannesburg had given them the name of the Moscow Rabbi, who would organise a kosher dinner for us. We were lucky that the ticket office at our station was open, because on our return journey, the ticket office was closed, so we just put five kopeks in the machine, too bad if it should have been more! The escalators up and down are very steep, very long and travel terribly fast. You have to concentrate when you get near the bottom, and step off very quickly! The trains are very frequent, every few minutes and they whizz into and out of the stations, but once again the doors close very quickly, so you have to step aboard even before all the passengers getting off are off the train.

After six station stops, we finally arrived at Myasnitskaya station. Gordon, with his map in hand, certainly seemed to find his way around, and we finally found ourselves walking down a road, where we came across three young men with yarmulkas, and they took us to the Shul at Ulitza Archipova 14. As we walked up the steps, an elderly lady and gentleman put their hand out, begging! The Mincha service had just begun, so Gerald and the boys joined the service in the small shul, and I was left in the entrance. The lady on duty at the entrance to the building asked if I would like to see the big shul - wouldn't I just! She went to get the key and unlocked the main door of the Shul. What a wonderful sight! ME in the Moscow Synagogue! Who would have thought that I would one day actually stand in the Moscow Synagogue! After the service we made our way three doors up from the Synagogue, climbed seven or eight flights of stairs in a very derelict building, as the lift wouldn't work, to a small room in some flat, where arrangements had been made for us to have an evening meal, evidently the "Business Centre" at Ulitza Archipova 6, with the table laid just for the four of us. A pleasant meal served by a young woman. It wasn't easy getting back by train. We can't read Russian, and whoever we asked could not speak English. One has to know which way to go AND which platform to go to, but Gordon showed he has a very good sense of direction, and only asked someone with a briefcase to confirm his thinking.

Wednesday morning, 26th June, our guide Adrian took us by Metro into the city to the Intourist office at 13 Moklovaya Street, (National Hotel) where we were joined by

other tourists, and with the Intourist Guide, Alexander Sobolev, were taken on a three hour walk, 11 am to 2 pm, through the Kremlin, which means a fortress or citadel, built in 1495, has 2235 metres of walls surrounding 28 acres. Moscow celebrates its 850th anniversary this year. We saw the Lenin Library with figures around the outside and all the gold domes in the square of the five cathedrals. We saw the Cathedral of the Assumption, the large Cathedral on the right where the coronation of Alexander the Great took place, the Cathedral of the Annunciation, the private church of the Tzars and their families, Archangel Cathedral, Church of the Deposition of the Robe, the great Bell tower of Ivan the Great, 81 metres high, the Patriarchs' Palace, the tallest of the twenty towers is the Troyitsa Tower. There was also the Czar's Cannon weighing 20 ton, cast in 1586 and which has never been fired. The carriage weighing 15 ton had been brought from St Petersburg. The Headquarters of the Russian President was a yellow building, with all the big black limousines with darkened windows parked out front! To the left is another yellow building housing the Security Services. I just stepped off the pavement across the road from this building, to take a photograph, and I was very quickly told to get back onto the pavement. Then we were taken into a beautiful building known as the Armoury Museum with its magnificent treasures, the most wonderful collection of antiquities, coronation robes, one of which weighs 24 kg, clothing head gear, crowns and wedding garments worn by the Tsars and Tsarinas, a beautiful tapestry from Catherine the Great, coronation chairs, gifts given to the Czars over the years, precious tableware including gold and silverware from the 12th and 13th centuries, their summer carriages and winter sleighs. There was an oak carriage from 1604, ancient weapons, priests' garments and icons, Fabergé eggs given by the Tsar to the Tsarina, some designed by the Tsarina and given by her as gifts to family and friends. Unfortunately we were not allowed to take any photographs, and the postcards available did not show what is in the Armoury. Anyone who saw the small Fabergé collection here at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney recently can imagine what wonders are held at the Armoury.

To be continued

Selma Jackson is a member of the Society in Sydney to which she emigrated from her native Johannesburg, South Africa, about a decade ago. (Ed.)

New Books in our Library

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We have acquired several new books of Jewish genealogical interest in our Sydney library, many of them by donation from generous members. Others have been purchased. In Melbourne Rosaline Collins also finds generous donors to donate books which are also of use to members of our Victorian Branch, and will receive others from our purchases. In Adelaide Hilde Hines has purchased a number of books for her personal library which she also makes available to other members of the still small South Australian branch. In particular she has a number of books on Jews in Bavaria, one of her special interests.

SARAH F. ORKIN, "**ROOTS AND RECOLLECTIONS**", published by the author, and available from her by writing to 7 Blackstone Road, London, NW2 6DA, U.K. was donated to us a few months ago by Ruth Barnett. This is a family and personal

history of a very large Sephardi cousinhood embracing the Hart, Joseph, Andrade, De Sola, Belais, Pinto, Mendes, Benjamin, Sebag-Montefiore, Van Raalte, Pool and Gubbay families, as well as various Ashkenazi families which intermarried with them in England, France and Canada such as Wolff, Landau/ Landor, Blaustein and several other Sephardi families as well.

JURGEN SIELEMANN and PAUL FLAMME, "**JEWISH VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM IN HAMBURG**", 1996, Hamburg State Archives, was sent as a gift to Sophie Caplan by the author whom she has met at several international Jewish Genealogy Seminars. This book lists all the Jewish victims of the Holocaust who were either born in or who ever lived in Hamburg alphabetically by surname, with first name, maiden name of married women, date of birth, date of death if known or date of deportation and place to which deported. Although in German language, it is easily understood by those not familiar with the German language and it is a useful addition to the collection of Holocaust memorial books already owned by the Society or its members.

Sophie Caplan has purchased as a gift to the Society a set of ten volumes of the JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA, published in the USA between 1939-1943, which has much biographical data of outstanding American and German Jews, as well as geographical data on Jews in USA before 1939. Unlike the ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA published in 1972 by Keter in Jerusalem and simultaneously by Macmillan in London under the editorship of Geoffrey Wigoder after the death of Cecil Roth, and which has numerous entries on both large towns and shtetlekh in Eastern Europe and which largely documents the history of Eretz Israel, the JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA seems assimilationist in intent and content and largely directed at the non-Jewish American reader. Nevertheless there are many entries of genealogical interest for those who have American Jewish and American German Jewish connections.

A total contrast is "**THE BIALYSTOKER MEMORIAL BOOK**" edited by I. SHMULEWITZ, IZAAK RYBAL and Rabbi LOWELL S. KRONICK and published in 1982 by the Bialystoker Centre in New York, which has 205 pages in English and 396 pages in Yiddish. In the English section there are articles on the history of Bialystok Jewry, and about some of its outstanding scions like Rabbi Szmuel Mohilever, one of the fathers of modern Zionism, co-founder of Choveivi Zion and of the Mizrahi moderate religious Zionist movement, like Dr Josef Chazanowicz, founder of the National Library in Jerusalem, or Dr Ludwig Zamenhof, creator of the international language Esperanto. There are lists of some of the Shoah victims of Bialystok, but only a few, lists of those prominent in pre-war communal organisations, as well as lists of the four hundred and something postwar survivors, and stories of Bialystoker groups in USA and other countries. Photos of both individuals and groups illustrate the book. Of interest to those who have roots in Bialystok. Donated by Sophie Caplan.


The "**AMERICAN GATHERING OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS**" led by BENJAMIN MEED has published its book of survivors who came to USA after World War II, a list originally computerised by GARY MOKOTOFF the founder of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. While this is not necessarily complete since it was only attempted in the 1980's, it contains several thousand surnames, first

names and maiden names of those survivors indexed in three ways. Firstly alphabetically by surname, and this includes alphabetical listing by maiden names and by prewar surnames if those differ from postwar names. Places of prewar residence and postwar residence are also given, as well as camps and ghettos. The second indexed list is by places of prewar residence, and this gives people according to each name they have borne, so that one individual is often listed three to four times. The third index is by camp or ghetto, where again each name that individuals have borne is listed. This multiple indexing and listing gives the maximum chance to find an individual person. This book was donated to us by Diane Shteinman, our member and president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

Our South African born member Selma Jackson a few months ago travelled to Lithuania with her brother and two nephews to visit the places from which their parents and grandparents had emigrated and where remaining relatives had lived before their murder in the Holocaust. Selma who also attended the World Congress of HOROWITZ, HORWITZ, HURWITZ, GUREVICH families in Tel Aviv brought back as a gift for the Society the book by RABBI EPHRAIM OSHRY, **"THE ANNIHILATION OF LITHUANIAN JEWRY"**, 1993, published by the Judaica Press, Inc., 123 Ditmas Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y., 11218, USA. Tel (718) 972-6200 and (800) 972-6201, which details the fate of many large and small Jewish communities in Lithuania. This book of 312 pages is entirely in English and has an English index of names, though unaccountably the end maps are in Yiddish in the Hebrew alphabet which will make it hard to read for most readers.

"JEWISH LIFE IN GERMANY, MEMOIRS FROM THREE CENTURIES", edited by MONIKA RICHARDS, which will be included in our feature JEWISH GENEALOGY BOOKSHELF, BOOKS ON GERMANY, has also been donated by Sophie Caplan.

We are delighted that so many members now donate books to our Society.

Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf	Sophie Caplan	Vol 3 No 4		
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Those books with an asterisk (*) in front are held by our Society, books in the personal library of some of our members are marked with two asterisks (* *) and books marked with a ☆ can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held.

BOOKS ON GERMANY

There is more material available for family history researchers on Germany than on other countries, even in Australia. For researchers who travel overseas many libraries have an excellent choice of books available and there are two specialised libraries with excellent collections of German Judaica, one in London, England, and one in New York, USA. In London it is the Wiener Library which, although specialising in material on the Nazi era, also has some material useful to family historians and is well worth a visit at 4 Devonshire Street, London, W1N 2BH. In New York it is the Leo Baeck Institute, presently at 129 East 73rd Street, New York, N.Y. Telephone (212) 744-6400, which sometime in the next two years is due to move and have either joint or neighbouring premises with YIVO and with the American Jewish Museum.

The Wiener Library is now part of the Leo Baeck Institute in London at the same address and together they have published since the early 1950's a series of excellent yearbooks of high academic standard which contain much incidental information for family historians. These yearbooks are present in many university libraries and in some Jewish communal libraries, including the Reverend Katz Library and have excellent indexes. Early volumes were mostly in German, then mixed German and English, and nowadays all in English. There is also a Leo Baeck Institute in Jerusalem, Israel, at 33 Bustanai Street, but nothing is known about its library. Some volumes of the Yearbook may still be available by purchase from the above addresses.

A few years ago a Special Interest Group on German-Jewish Genealogy was founded in the USA and given the name STAMMBAUM, Family-tree, and published more or less consistently every quarter for two or three years. It contained a lot of worthwhile material and, despite its name, was published entirely in English. Late in 1995 the editorship of STAMMBAUM was taken over by Claus Hirsch of New York City with distribution to be handled by Karen Franklin of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. Since then the journal has appeared twice yearly but regularly, but distribution has been rather erratic with subscribers being treated rather high handedly. We hope that this will now be overcome. Subscription to STAMMBAUM is \$US 28 per annum for Australia or \$US 50 for two years at Leo Baeck Institute, 129 East 73rd Street, New York 10021-3585, USA. Fax (212) 988- 1305.

Ten years ago a German language Jewish genealogical publication was created as the quarterly journal of the Swiss Jewish Genealogical Society, **MAAJAN-DIE QUELLE**, the source in Hebrew and in German. At first edited by Rene' Loeb, it has now been edited for a long time by RAYMOND JUNG. Its address is Scheuchzerstr. 154, Zurich, CH-8006 and it is 60.-- Swiss Francs per annum for Australia. Its main focus is Swiss Jewish genealogy, which also covers the French province of Alsace, and Bavaria and other areas of Germany close to Switzerland.

THE EFFECTS OF THE HOLOCAUST ON GERMAN JEWRY

As with many other countries, the consciousness of the Holocaust has resulted in the publication of many books memorialising the victims or disappeared Jewish communities. In Germany many books which one could categorise, as Yizkor books were researched and written, not by survivors and their descendants, but by local high school teachers and other minor historians and published under the sponsorship of local Christian-Jewish Friendship societies. In January 1991, while visiting a relative who had returned to live in his former native town, I made contact with such a historian who had written a series of articles about members of my family, later published in a book. He took me to a meeting of the local chapter of the Christian-Jewish Friendship Society, who quizzed me for hours about aspects of my family. Whether this came under the rubric of Studies of a Lost Civilisation, or true nostalgia for a more varied society in Germany, I found their interest rather touching, even though I am well versed in the history of the Holocaust, and the relatives in question had all perished.

* * The major book is the two volume **GEDENKBUCH** or MEMORIAL BOOK of the VICTIMS of NATIONAL SOCIALISM IN GERMANY, published by the West German Archives in Koblenz in 1986, and costing circa \$AUS 320 a few years ago. It lists 128,000 Jews either born in or living in Germany in 1933 to 1942 who perished. Not all the people listed were German nationals. It appears that a second more complete edition has recently been published, or will soon be published.

A book of Holocaust victims from Berlin has been published in 1995 or 1996 and a copy can be consulted at the Sydney Jewish Museum and possibly at the Jewish Holocaust Centre Library in Elsternwick, Melbourne.

* JURGEN SIELEMANN and PAUL FLAMME have compiled a similar book of Holocaust victims from **HAMBURG** with first name, surname and maiden surname of women, date and place of birth, and place and date of death or deportation. The memorial books for smaller towns combine short histories of the towns with lists of victims of the Holocaust, lists of those who emigrated after 1933, or data about outstanding Jewish citizens of the town. They will be listed below.

* * NAFTALI BAR-GIORA BAMBERGER has published several detailed studies of towns connected with his family's history including a listing of every gravestone in the town's Jewish cemetery, a photograph of each stone and text in German of the deciphered stone. This is of great value to those whose families come from those towns.

* * "**DER JUEDISCHE FRIEDHOF IN HOCHBERG**", Wurzburg, 1991, Verlag Ferdinand Schoning, Wurzburg State Archives, pp.457. THE JEWISH CEMETERY IN HOCHBERG. The text is in German. There is also a complete indexed list of persons buried, which is further listed for place of residence and analysed for birthplace.

* * "**DER JUEDISCHE FRIEDHOF IN CELLE, MEMOR BUCH**", THE JEWISH CEMETERY IN CELLE, MEMORIAL BOOK, Heidelberg, 1992, pp 232, has a similar format as the book on Hochberg with each stone listed in Hebrew text, in German translation and with a photo, and an alphabetical list of all persons buried, a register of localities of origin, and a chronological index of burials. There are also a photograph of the restored interior of the synagogue and a map of the region.

* * "**DER JUEDISCHE FRIEDHOF IN GAILINGEN**", THE JEWISH CEMETERY IN GAILINGEN, two volumes, Tübingen, 1994, has the same format as the two preceding volumes with an additional feature of clearly photographed pages of the register of births in Gailingen between 1739 and 1811 indexed alphabetically. This is obviously a copied indexed version of a previous register. Family surnames like Gans, Metzger, Erlanger, Guggenheim, Jung, Bicar, Ottenheimer, Hasgall, Bloch, Weill, abound in all three books.

* * "**THE POSEN FAMILY, THE DESCENDANTS OF ELIEZER LAZARUS POSEN AND HIS WIFE BRENDINA WETZLAR - POSEN**", London, 1985, pp. 165 in English, circa 1940 in Hebrew, is a story of a family who came from the Posen province to Germany, became goldsmiths, prospered and then had to flee in the 1930's, and their descendants. Very clear listings of branches and of individuals, illustrated by family portraits. Many family surnames including Bamberger, Beifuss,

Elizur, Florsheim, Erlanger, Finkel, Fachler, Seekbach, Spiegel, Shavit, Wachter, Shomrat, Spitzer, and of course Posen.

Jewish Lads & Girls Brigade		Vol 3 No 4		
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Dorot, Summer 1996

The Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade in Great Britain celebrates its 100th birthday this year. The JLGB was called the The Jewish Lads' Brigade until the mid-late sixties when girls were admitted. Prior to the First World War there were branches of the JLB in Canada, South Africa and Dublin. **"A GOOD JEW AND A GOOD ENGLISHMAN"** by Dr Sharman Kadish, published in 1995 by Valentine Mitchell, describes the history of the JLB/JLGB. Copies of the book can be obtained from the JLGB direct. Many names are mentioned in the book and it might prove of interest to genealogists researching the UK, and London in particular, from the late 19th Century. The JLGB has fairly extensive records on members going back to 1895.

Their address is:

Camperdown,
3 Beechcroft Road,
London E18 1LA, U.K.

The Guckenheimers of Savannah, Georgia	Hilde Hines	Vol 3 No 4		
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My personal interest in genealogy started when I found amongst my late mother's papers the Guckenheimer family tree written by hand.

It started off with Hirsch Mossmann and his wife Treinla. Their first child, Malichen, married Samuel Guckenheimer. They had eleven children, of which eight survived to adulthood. Isak, their middle son, was my grandfather, Guckenheimer being my birth name.

I knew very little about the origins of my family, other than that they were all born in or near Nuremberg. It was only when the uncles made some weak jokes - the family called them "hasliche Spruch" - Hasliche sayings. I knew Haslach was a place, but there are various Haslachs in Germany. I wrote to a couple of them, to the Mayor, asking if there had been a family Guckenheimer living in that place. Eventually I found the one I wanted was Burghaslach, between Wurzburg and Nuremberg. After a lot of searching and writing I discovered that there was an Archive in Castell, and the Archivist kindly corresponded with me and sent me a number of very interesting papers regarding my family.

However even before this I had started to bring the family tree up to date, including writing to all the living members of my father's family spread all over the globe. Cousins in Chicago, Seattle, Toronto Canada, England and one who still lived in Germany. Eventually I was able to piece together all the relevant details and add them to the original paper.

In true genealogy style once you have started you will never stop and today I would like to tell you about my latest discovery. A relative living in England had sent me a photo of a little boy, Sam Guckenhimer, Savannah.

My grandfather had gone as a young man to America but he had returned and started his family in Nuremberg. So where did Sam Guckenhimer fit in, in Savannah? Grandfather's oldest brother was called Selka, which he changed to Simon. I subscribe to Avotaynu, the International Quarterly of Jewish Genealogy, and found that there is a Jewish genealogy Society in Atlanta, Georgia. So I wrote to them with all my details about Sam Guckenhimer, Savannah and my particular interest with regard to a relationship with my Guckenheimers. A professional genealogist took up my request and sent me a copy of the Savannah Morning News of the 20th February 1900 with the heading, "Simon Guckenhimer Dead. Death claimed one of Savannah's leading merchants". The article, written in the style of the period, describes in great detail his death, his illness, the doctors who attended, as well as his long life and the many organisations with which he was connected and also the esteem in which he was held in the town. Let me just quote extracts from this long newspaper obituary:-

"Mr. Guckenhimer was born of Jewish parents at Burghaslach, Bavaria, Germany, on April 6th 1830. He left school and was apprenticed to a merchant weaver in Burghaslach. It was while employed by this weaver, Mr. Haas, that an attachment was formed by Mr. Guckenhimer for Miss Sarah Haas, a daughter. The love of the boy for a girl of 13 endured and it was 9 years after his departure for America that Mr. Guckenhimer returned to his native land to claim his bride. He came to America as a young man in 1851 with \$20 in his pocket. In 1855 he opened a general store in Charlton county, Georgia. He was very successful in his new venture, his business acumen, coupled with unswerving honesty and a certain foresight that marked his career, winning him the custom of the surrounding country. In 1860 he sold his store and returned to Germany, where he claimed his bride. On October 23rd 1860 he and Miss Haas were married, and in November they took passage to New York, reaching Savannah on December 11th.

Mr Guckenhimer always enjoyed the reputation of being eminently public spirited. He was in all enterprises that looked to the development of the city and its betterment. Among the important posts he held was President of the Merchants' National Bank, of which he was still a director at the time of his death. For many years he was president of the congregation Mickve Israel, with whom he worshipped. From a poor boy to a merchant prince is a leap that many of the former dream of and yearn for, but it comes so seldom that all honor should be paid to him who, by sterling integrity and native ability, is able to surmount all difficulties and leave a name such as Simon Guckenhimer's."

Also included with this long article from the newspaper was the name of some of the descendants still living in Savannah. Of course, I quickly corresponded with them and found one, an attorney also interested in genealogy. Sam was Selka/Simon's oldest son. Savannah itself has been the subject of a book, "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" which, by chance, a friend had given to me. This added to the family connections, decided my sister and me to visit Savannah this summer. Cousin Alan, the lawyer, sent us a full list of all relatives still living in Savannah, as well as those buried in Savannah cemeteries. He was our kind guide and instructor during

the week we spent there. I had also encouraged another cousin and his wife who live in Chicago, and who are also interested in family history, to meet us in Savannah.

The town itself is beautiful and well-planned and preserved in a most unusual manner. Wherever two main street meet, there is a square with trees and lawns and benches and a memorial to Savannah's and America's historical figures. Cousin Alan had given us a book with the most interesting features of Savannah and in spite of summer heat we managed to see most of them. However the family memorials were the highlight. The synagogue has a large Guckenheimer stained glass window. In the cemetery were huge mausoleums for the various Guckenheimers, and there is even a Guckenheimer Place in Savannah. The story of Simon Guckenheimer and his family is written in the book, History of Savannah.

We met all the relatives and I have now been able to add another branch to the family tree! There is only one sad aspect to it, that in the year 1941 the then only living Guckenheimer decided to change his name, and that of his family, to Gaynor, as in the atmosphere of war the Guckenheimer name sounded "too German". We met all the cousins, and some of their children, on the Saturday morning at the synagogue, Congregation Mikve Israel, and were invited by each of them separately, after this, to visit them, so we had a chance to get toknow them. The synagogue is still a focal point in their lives.

From Burghaslach in Southern Germany to Savannah. What a journey it was! Mine was from Burghaslach to Nuremberg to Holland to Australia and now just a visitor to Savannah!

Hilde Hines is chairman of the South Australian branch of our Society in Adelaide, and we have previously published her articles on other aspects of her family history research.

Forebears Australian Family Finder		Vol 3 No 4		
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00045 YOSSEF PARDO, C/- Sierra de Fredos, 8, 2-B, 3005 Murcia, Spain. Tel: 34-968-290-150 Fax: 34- 908-276-341. He is a descendant of Conversos (Marr- anos) seeking information both on his Jewish ancestors and on their descendants wherever they may be. It is not clear whether these are only surnames being sought, or also towns: PARDO, MADRID, SOLER, AYALA, LOPEZ, PEREZ, ALHAMA, BALLESTER. Would also like to receive lists of Sephardic surnames of Spanish ancestry.

00046 RYSZARD J. REISNER, Apt 9,500 Glenhuntly Road, Esternwick, Melbourne, Vic, 3185, Australia.

Tel: 61-3-9523 7825 Mobile:0416 110416 Fax: 61-3- 9530-0999. Seeking following persons, or information on their fate:WANDA REISNER, born circa 1928, daughter of Dr Henry Reisner and Maryla Apfelbaum, supposedly adopted by family friends out of Treblinka Work Camp; FELA BERGHAUER, youngest daught- er of Hershel and Sarah, born circa 1900, sister of Channa, Meir and Moses. Lived with Channa Izygrim up to September 1939 and then married in Warsaw or area. Married name unknown. Supposedly left for Russia in 1940 with child and husband. RENATA

REISNER, nee BLOK, wife of MICHAEL REISNER who died as a Polish cavalryman in the campaign of September 1939. She was born circa 1910, married in Poznan or in Bialystok 1927-1935. Children unknown.

Editorial

Sophie Caplan

**Vol 4 No
1**



Another year, another volume of our newsletter! We continue to receive good feedback from our overseas readers in other societies, and some of our articles are quoted or reprinted, but hardly ever a word of comment or praise from the members of our Society for the enormous effort which your editor and your publisher put in to bring this journal out every three months. We would appreciate some comments. In the meantime Beulah Rose Gross's article on the IGI has been reprinted integrally by AVOTAYNU under a slightly different title, Morris Ochert's poem "Some Thoughts on Genealogy" has been reprinted in the February 1997 issue of BRANCHES, newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami, both with attribution. Both AVOTAYNU and SHEMOT have mentioned Bernie Freedman's and Ruth Barnett's articles in recent issues of the Kosher Koala, so we do figure in a modest way on the world Jewish genealogical scene.

These last months have seen our annual summer recess from mid-December to early February, so there is little to report: but we do look forward to many events. Our annual Beginners' Seminar on March 9, 1997 will, we hope, be graced by Chava and Hugo Agmon, our Israeli visitors. For the last twelve years Chava Agmon has been researching the CARO/CARA/KARO/KARA family and she will talk to us on "Split Tree, Fragmented Branches, the Kara/Caro Family Worldwide." It promises to be a stimulating session and we will accept visitors who wish to attend only that session of the seminar day. Chava will already have given the same talk in Perth and in Melbourne, and we were fortunate indeed to be able to persuade her to share her vast knowledge with our branches in the three Australian cities she is visiting on her vacation.

Some of us are preparing ourselves to travel to Paris in the northern summer for the Fifth International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, to be followed by some genealogical research trips to Eastern Europe and a mini-conference in London. Application forms for all these activities can be obtained from Rieke by email: riecken@zeta.org.au, tel: 02-9427-6075 or fax: 02-9427- 7530.

You can also access the forms directly on email for the Paris Conference on paris97r@jewishgen.org, for the post-conference trips on fjones@uniglobe-dynamic.com and for London on saul@swico.demon.co.uk.

Early application is advisable as the conference hotel in Paris may become booked out as rates are advantageous to conference attendees. If you can possibly afford the time and the money to attend this conference we urge you to go. Nothing can replace the boost to one's genealogical skills and connections offered by such a conference. It's also stimulating to meet other Jewish genealogists from all over the world. We hope that some of you will be able to join our contingent in Paris. Let us know if you are going. Au revoir.

News from the Victorian Branch	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 4 No 1		
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A number of visits and workshops were held in January and February as a start to activities for 1997.

Because of the heavy demand for visits to the Church of the Latter Day Saints, the Mormon Family History Library in Moorabbin, the Society arranged two visits in February. The library volunteers were very co-operative in assisting searches.

A beginner's workshop was held at Beth Weizmann Community Centre on Sunday afternoon February 9 in association with the Makor Library, which assisted in making resources available. This was well attended and newcomers were assisted individually in their searches following short talks from Ester Csaky, Rhonda Lasky, Richard Reisner and Lionel Sharpe. A number of new participants were surprised and excited by their success in finding leads and one person phoned the following week to express appreciation for the assistance given.

Two major events are planned for March.

Our Society will have a table and display at the "In One Voice" Festival in Caulfield Park on Sunday March 16. This Celebration in the Park is now an annual event comprising a six-hour celebration of Jewish music, song and dance, a Saturday evening concert and an art exhibition. A sub-committee is planning an eye-catching display and computer demonstration to attract new members. The event attracts many thousands of visitors every year.

Chava Agmon will be speaking at Beth Weizmann Community Centre in association with the Makor Library on Wednesday 5 March on "Split Tree - Fragmented Branches - The Karo/Caro Family Worldwide".

The second annual general meeting of the Branch will be held on Tuesday 9th April at Beth Weizmann. Nominations are being called for elections to the committee. There will be a guest speaker.

A number of members have indicated their interest in attending the 5th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Paris in July. Registration forms are available for Victorians from Lionel Sharpe.

Tel: 03-9523-6738. Fax: 03-9532-7797 or sharpe@rmit.edu.au

The Victorian Branch meets at the BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Melbourne. Tel: 03- 9273 5611.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 189, GLENHUNTLY
VIC 3163, AUSTRALIA

Internet contacts:-

Leslie Oberman oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

Dr Albert Braunstein sbr@bbs.ausom.net.au

Enquiries: Rhonda 03-9578 6456

Ester 03-9578 0368

News from the South Australian Branch	Klee Benveniste	Vol 4 No 1		
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The South Australian branch was formed in May 1996 and now has six financial members. Meetings are held quarterly unless anything of special interest arises.

At the second meeting in October, guest speakers Howard and Marianne Cooklin spoke about the Cooklin Family Reunion which they attended in London in July 1996. The reunion marked the centenary of the arrival of the Cooklin family in England from Rechysta in Belarus. Over 400 descendants attended the reunion from around the world with the Cooklins being the Australian connection. Their talk was accompanied by a detailed family tree of hundreds of descendants, many photographs of the reunion, and publicity about the event from the 'Jewish Chronicle' newspaper of July 1996. Their interesting presentation was enjoyed by all who attended.

The third meeting was held in January and was devoted to discussion of members' research interests. A visitor mentioned ancestral connections to the Levinsohn family of Ballarat, the Susman family of Tasmania and the Lazarus family of Sydney. Using these families as examples, resouce books were searched for information about surnames. Members became acquainted with useful books and journals, as well as the family names that other local members are researching. The value of members' knowledge of families and communities was also shown to be very valuable to aid research.

A committee has been formed to cordinate the Branch. The current committee is:
 President: Hilde Hines
 Vice-President: Marjorie Luno
 Secretary: Dr Klee Benveniste
 Treasurer: Ralph Kaiser
 Membership: Ruth Kaiser and Dorit Ninio

The branch often receives enquiries about South Australian Jewish families. Members so not have the resources to undertake extensive genealogical research for others. If an enquiry is connected to a family being researched by one of our members, it is notified to the member. Otherwise the Secretary will try to answer the enquiry when time permits. A considerable amount of time may be needed, so please be patient. Family history enquiries should always be in writing specifying names and dates and should be limited to personal relatives.

The contact address for the branch is

Dr Klee Benveniste,
 Honorary Secretary
 Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA branch)
 C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation
 P.O. Box 320, Glenside SA 5065
 AUSTRALIA



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Our Conference Group (email discussions) may be accessed from any Internet Service Provider, via either a mailing list (listserv), soc.genealogy.jewish (Usenet newsgroup) or Fidonet. These are three different ways of accessing the same message base. The Conference Group is "moderated". All messages are reviewed by Moderator Susan King or team members, who relay the postings that are of genuine interest to the group. To send or receive mailings via email, you need to subscribe to the mail list. You then will receive all mail postings sent to the list by its members. You may follow the discussions or join in on them. If you respond, you can send your response to the list (in which case, all members of the list will receive it), or to an individual on the list. You can signoff (unsubscribe) from the list at any time. So how do you subscribe? Connect to your favourite internet provider and send an email message to:

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After a cup of coffee at Intourist, we took a 2.45 - 5 pm afternoon bus sightseeing tour of the City with Sivieta, our guide, who pointed out the British Embassy, State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, KGB Headquarters, Temple of Christ, Tolstoy Museum, Bolshoi Theatre, Karl Marx statue, Metropole Hotel, Hotel Russia (the biggest hotel in Moscow), and the repaired "White House" which was badly damaged during the fighting last year. We then walked passed the St Basil Cathedral into Red Square, the main square where mass celebrations and military parades are held. There were not many people or tourists in the square, only a few Russian soldiers on tours of their own, some taking photographs of Stalin's grave, among other to the left of Lenin's Tomb, and a few gypsies trying to sell us postcards and imitation fur Russian hats. Gordon bought a hat. Quite honestly I expected Red Square to be much bigger as when we see the May Day parade on television it seems much bigger than it is! We saw Lenin's Tomb, Gum, the only departmental store in Moscow, and went inside a small church across the way from Gum. We then drove up to the University from where we could see the whole panorama of Moscow, and where students have street stalls selling a wonderful variety of beautiful hand painted Babushka dolls, lacquered boxes, amber, amethyst and semi-precious stone jewellery, real fur hats and church icons. A bride and bridegroom arrived with their retinue to have their photographs taken, with the Moscow background. Moscow has 9 million people plus 2 million visitors a year! At the end of the tour, Gerald, Steven and I went to McDonalds in Pushkinshaya Square for a fish burger. Gerald and I had wanted to go to the ballet, but when we enquired at the hotel that morning, we were told there were no seats available! My nephews decided they wanted to go and see the Moscow Circus, so off we all went! Yes, we again found our way there, with several train changes, thanks to Gordon, but we took a yellow taxi back to the hotel, having been told to only use the yellow taxis.

Thursday, 27 June, after leaving our luggage with the porter, we went back to the Moscow Synagogue, as Gerald and the boys had not seen the inside, and while we were waiting for someone to open the Shul for us, we noticed a big wired-in section in the Shul entrance foyer containing big boxes marked "from the American Joint", and about eight elderly men and women waiting nearby, who were then given food parcels from the cage. Upstairs and to the side of the Synagogue was a passage, with men and women in the passage, which evidently led to the Mikva, but I did not go through. There is a plaque at the top of the staircase saying that part of the building was requisitioned in 1941 as a military hospital, and later used as a medical institute. In 1987 Rabbi Arthur Schneier of the Park East Synagogue in New York, initiated negotiations with the Soviet authorities for the return of the building, and the Moscow City Council approved the return in 1989. The building was rededicated as a Jewish educational and cultural centre on 5 August 1991, under the patronage of the Mayor, Gavriil Popov.

Gerald had heard about the beautifully decorated platforms of the Metro, and our guide Alex, told us exactly which "Brown line" stations to go and see, so we decided to do a tour of the Brown line of the Metro. They are magnificent, each station different with coloured stained glass panels, beautiful light fittings, brass and copper designs, mosaics depicting different labour scenes in the period 1905-1917, one of Lenin and different arts and professions depicted.

We were being fetched at the hotel by the taxi at 3.30 pm, to be taken to the station, as the train to Vilnius was leaving at 5 pm, so with time to spare, we decided that on the way back to the hotel, we would go and see where all the people were walking to and we found a huge soccer field, a flea market and street vendors beneath the "Monument to the Success of the Educated" which was near our hotel.

When we arrived at the station, our taxi driver would not allow us to pay the porters 150,000 roubles (US\$30) that they quoted, to take our luggage, nine pieces, but when we were going to pull our own suitcases, one porter decided to accept what the taxi driver was willing to allow us to pay, 80,000 (US\$16)! The train was on the station, but the carriage was locked, and the lady on the train would only unlock at 4.45 pm! While standing on the platform waiting to be allowed onto the train, two lots of men arrived and gave the lady in charge big full plastic carrier bags which were evidently to be taken to be sold in Lithuania! Our first class compartment was very comfortable, draped with yellow and pink curtains and artificial flowers. The train ticket from Moscow to Vilnius costing US\$70.78 had been prepaid in Johannesburg, and we had to pay 7000 roubles (US\$1.40) each on the train for the use of the linen and blankets. Before the train left Moscow station, Gordon had made sure he had his supply of chocolates! We were previously advised to buy food before going on the train, so we opened tinned tuna with Provita for supper, but had I known there was a dining car on the train, which we later found out about, as one of the passengers in our carriage bought lovely smelling food, I would certainly have gone to buy a roll! The "babushka", the typical Russian lady in charge, but very pleasant, brought us, and all the passengers in our carriage Russian tea! She allowed me to use her bathroom, and Gerald and the boys quickly followed. She loved the little koala bear souvenir I gave her! At 10.10 pm the sun was still shining! It was a very pleasant train ride, not freezing cold as we had been warned.

Friday, 28 June. The countryside we passed through, with the shtetls among the trees along the way, was beautiful, green, well looked after vegetable gardens alongside each house with their corrugated roofs, oh so different to Russia! Having crossed the border, we stopped at Kana, where immigration officers came on board, and where Gerald, Steven and Gordon were to get their Lithuanian visas. They were not given their visas in Johannesburg, but they had a typed letter from the Honorary Consul in Johannesburg, stating that the visas would be handed to them at the border post! Travelling on a British passport, I did not need a visa, and they just stamped one of the back pages, and even though Gerald offered their three passports, the immigration officers refused to take them! We arrived in Vilnius (Vilna) at 9.45 am, and Regina came on board the train to meet us. Valera, (Valerijanes Orsevshis) the driver, loaded our luggage into a minibus and off we went to the Neringa Hotel at 23 Gedimino pr (street). The hotel, relatively new, was within easy walking distance of everything, the Jewish Museums, the Ghettos, and places of interest, to which Regina would be taking us. While we were sitting in our lounge working out our itinerary, I happened to mention to Regina that the others had not received their visas at the border, and Regina jumped into action, making a number of telephone calls to different departments, insisting that it was the immigration officials who had failed to attend to the visas. They told Regina that Gerald and the boys should go back to the border or to the airport for the visas, but Regina was having none of that! She insisted that as it was Immigration's fault, they had to come to the hotel and take the passports to be attended to! The police finally arrived, and

we had to wait an hour before they brought the passports back. Had Gerald and the boys not had the visas, they would not have been allowed to leave Lithuania! We went next door to the hotel restaurant for lunch and later walked to the Jewish Holocaust Museum where Rachel Kostenyan, who runs the museum, took us on a wonderful informative tour. The museum is temporarily in a wooden house, till a larger building is built. They have the history of the Lithuanian Jews during Nazi rule with statistics obtained from German records, which were evidently very detailed, of where and when most of the 250,000 Jews were killed. Unfortunately my photograph of a chart listing the numbers of Jews killed is out of focus, and unreadable. As we were finishing Rachel was called away, as two men from a TV station came to do some filming for a Holocaust story. Being deeply touched by what we had seen, Gerald offered a donation of US\$30.00, besides having paid the normal entry fee, but she wouldn't accept same, saying it was too small an amount, and she insisted on US\$50.00!! We then spent time at the Lithuanian State Jewish Museum on Pylimo Street, near Palangos Street. Valera then drove us to Paneriai (Ponar) where various memorials have been erected in recent years, and we saw three of the ten huge pits of mass graves where 70,000 Jews were buried. This being our first of many encounters with mass graves, we were overcome, very upset and it was sad to hear details of what had happened. During Soviet rule, no mention was ever made that those killed and buried there, were Jews, only "partisans" were mentioned, but now since liberation, permission was granted, Jewish inscriptions have been added, and Jewish memorials erected. Steven and Gordon went to Shul, as it was erev Shabbat, and they had been invited by the Rabbi to go back to his home for dinner. Gerald and I went to the Neringa restaurant next door to the hotel for dinner. At 10.30 pm it was still light.

Saturday 29th June, after breakfast I took a walk to see what was being sold in the kiosks and stalls on the square. Regina came to fetch us at 12.45 pm, and with Abraham Dimenstein we spent the most interesting 4½ hours, walking, seeing and hearing the stories of the Jews in the small and large Vilna Ghettos which were the downtown Jewish sections of the city. We walked to Skapo Street, where Yasha Heifetz studied at the Vilna Conservatory of Music. We were also shown where Montefiore received the Pale of Settlement, went through some faculties of the University of Vilna, saw beautifully decorated walls of the Arts faculty. We walked all the streets including "Glassmakers street", "Butcher street" where all the kosher butchers had been, "Jewish street" and "Gaon Street", and Abraham Dimenstein asked me to take a photograph of him standing on the steps where he had lived prior to the Holocaust. He is going to Israel on Aliyah at the end of 1996 to join his family. The buildings of the small and large Ghettos are very dilapidated, standing as they were in 1941, nothing having been done to them since the Judenrats selection of 1200 Jews took place in the courtyard of the Jewish Gymnasium, and they were sent to their death. On 7 September 1941, 2,000 Jews ("wos geharget" - murdered) were murdered in Panerai. A few buildings are getting a face lift. One is a very upmarket restaurant, where a wedding was being held! In the large Ghetto, 30,000 were sent to their death from 6 to 23 September 1943, of which 300 survived, many escaping through the Rudminky sewer to outside of the ghetto. September 23 is remembered as Shoah Day every year.

We walked along Zemaitijos Street and saw the wooden doors to the Synagogue of Valt. There used to be 140 synagogues, prayer houses and workshops with minyan

There was a separate prison for Jewish people, and the library in front shielded the prison from view. One of the dilapidated buildings opposite Lydos street was the Jewish market for fish and wood. Esra was the Jewish Religious School, and in Pilimo Street was the Jewish Teachers College. Unfortunately I do not know exactly which shtetl my Grandfather Hyman (Chaim) Salamson (family in America spell it Solomson) came from, other than "Vilna Gubernia".

From Valera we learnt that "Da" means yes, "Nuit" no, "Labadirna" good morning, "Atchee" thank you!

Sunday, 30th June. Regina and Valera, with his wife Linda, fetched us in the minibus and we left at 9 am for Anykst/Anyksčiai where my maternal grandmother's Schneider family come from, which was an hour's drive from Vilnius. A new modern suburb of Vilnius, Suskenia, is being built on the outskirts of Vilnius. The dual highway to Ponevys, the A2, is 140 kms long and 10 years old and has plenty of haystacks and Friesian cows along the way. When we reached Kurkliai, we went looking for the old wooden shul, which is the only one left. An elderly gentleman on a bicycle showed us the way between houses and fields, and here it is easy to imagine how the Jews were herded into the wooden synagogues and set alight! We then went to the Forest of Anykst, Puntuho Akmuo, 2 kms before Anykst, where earlier photographs show the Jewish youth enjoying their camp holidays. There is a huge rounded stone, more than 600 years old, and in 1933, the faces of two Lithuanian pilots were cut into the rock face as a memorial to them. This was where the Jewish Resistance gathered in the 1940's.



Selma Jackson with her nephew, Gordon, and the wooden synagogue in Kurkliai, Lithuania

We then went to the Anyskt Jewish Cemetery, which was on the way into Anyskiai. There are no tombstones to be seen on the level area near the road. Evidently most of the Jewish cemeteries in Lithuania are on a hill, maybe the reason being that when it rains, the rainwater would drain away easily. As we climbed to the top of the little hill, where the few remaining small low tombstones are, I fell into a hole, where a tombstone had recently been dug out! The inscriptions are hardly decipherable, but Regina rubbed sand over the inscriptions, and managed to read Avraham Eliezer ben Rov Gershon, 1896, and Yitzchak Zvi Hirsh from Svāt.

I did not find my great-grandfather Yehuda Jakov Schneider's tombstone. He is said to have died in 1906, after his return to Anykst from attending his daughter Rachel, my grandmother's wedding in Cape Town, South Africa. Let him, Yehuda Jakov, Great-Grand-mother Mary, Great-Great-Grandmother Goldie and Great-Great-Grandfather Chaim, rest in peace! Steven and Gordon said Tehillim (Psalms, as Kadish is only said with a minyan of 10 men). We drove into the shtetl, a lovely town, and bigger than I thought, and Regina showed us where the Synagogue and Jewish houses used to be, and where a big concert hall now stands. I thought nothing more about it! We walked along Synagogos g-ve, Baznyeios g-ve, and took a photograph of a two storey brick building on the corner of Baznyeios and Saltupio g-ve, and, had I, during lunch, looked at the map in the book "Anyksciai 9" I had bought at the Museum on the hill, I would have seen that my Grandparent's house at no. 7 Saltupio g-ve was just across the road from the building of which I had taken a photograph! So near but oh so far. It was not meant to be that I would stand outside my Great-Grandparents house! I have since received photographs of the house, for which I thank Daiva Gadliauskaite of the Anykst Museum. The house has been re-numbered No. 3 Saltupio g-ve.

The village green in the centre of the village is beautiful and lush, and each house in the village has a covered well. The people in the main street are all nicely dressed, in western style. I couldn't believe that I was actually standing in Anykst! We then drove to the Museum, which used to be the pharmacy, but before we went inside, there was a commotion, and we saw that a horse and cart had overturned, throwing the elderly man, woman and dog out onto the road. The lady's head was bleeding badly, and the ladies in the museum bandaged her head, while Steven & Gordon helped put the wagon together again! I then realised what the horse and cart was like that my Dad used to tell me he and his mother used, to go from Kvederna (Chveidan) to Memel (Klaipeda). By motor car today on good roads was a long way away, so what was it like in the early 1900's! It was here at the Museum that I bought the book on Anyksciai, which has the 1925 map of the streets, houses, and the names of who stayed where! After the museum we went to the restaurant on the weir on the Bangele River. I went to use the toilet at the restaurant, which was a hole in the ground, and I had to squat. I later asked a lady to take my photograph. We were laughing so much but she still would not take the photograph lengthwise, to show the hole! Wherever we went to eat, Steven and Gordon had their Osem Soup!

We decided to drive on to Panevezys (Ponevys), 36 kms, the home of the Rappaport family, as Gerald said his friend, Brian Jossel's family came from Ponevys, and he would be able to tell him about the place. Ponevys was the fifth largest city in Lithuania with a population of 130,000 before the war including 10,000 Jews. There had been two windmills, the chazen had owned the flax plant and a soap factory was owned by Jews. The Jewish hospital was famous with top class, very well known doctors. The mafia were 90% Lithuanian nationals. Education was a top priority and today the gymnasium is a bakery, and the old shul is a tyre factory! We saw many walls in the town built with Jewish tombstones, here and there one can see the Hebrew letters, as the builder had no doubt forgotten to turn the stone! By the time we got back to Vilnius at 7.30 pm we had done 350 kms! We stopped in at the Vilnius synagogue in Pylimo Street, where the boys decided to stay for Maariv, and they walked back to the hotel.

(To be continued)

Selma Jackson is a member of the Society in Sydney to which she emigrated from Cape Town, South Africa, about 8 years ago.

Attention all Horowitzes		Vol 4 No 1		
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Are you or were you a Horowitz, Horwitz, Hurwitz or maybe Gurvit, Gurevitch, etc.? The Horowitz Family Association has just completed its first international meeting in Israel. We are attempting to form a Horowitz Family Association in the Diaspora for genealogical purposes, family research and general information for your edification and so that you can inform your children and grandchildren about this important family in Jewish history. If you would like further information, please write to: Horowitz Family Association, P.O. Box 4023, Burlingame, CA 94011, USA (From The Jewish Journal, Sept. 20-26, 1996)

New Books in our Library		Vol 4 No 1		
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Our member from the Central Coast of New South Wales, BEULAH-ROSE GROSS has presented our Sydney library with a copy of her privately printed family history **"L'DOR VADOR, From Generation to Generation, The Family History of Henny AUSBRUCH dating from circa 1820-1996"**. This is a history of the AUSBRUCH, FELDMAN, MAU, GUTMAN, RYSS, ELIASOV, GOTTSCHALK, ALLISON AND BAETZ families of SHAVLI/ SIAULIAI, PIKELN/PIKELIAI, LIBAU/LIEPAJA, KOVNO/KAUNAS in Lithuania and later of South Africa, Israel, England, Canada, Sweden and Australia. It is a true labour of love into which have been incorporated a wealth of anecdotal details which bring the story to life, as well as dates and documents, and a large number of beautifully reproduced family photographs. One feature which makes this family history really special is that, unlike most equally lovingly assembled family histories, this one is based on the female line, going from Beulah-Rose's great-grandmother Mariana Eliasov née Mau, to her grandmother Henny Ausbruch née Eliasov, and to her mother Ida Baetz née Ausbruch, and including most of their descendants. Beulah-Rose has had letters and documents translated from several languages and included in the book, which also helps to give the book a great immediacy. Other families mentioned include BERMAN, CALO/CATO, FELDMANN, KAHN, KANGIESSER, BERNITZ, SIDELSKY, HORWITZ, LUTRIN, GOODMAN, GROSS, OBEL, KLUGMAN, KALK, MENDELSTAM and many others. The book is not for sale, but Beulah-Rose Gross invites data and comments to be sent to her to 10 Pixie Avenue, Green Point, NSW, 2251, AUSTRALIA.

Tel: 61-43-691-486 (w); 61-43-695-855(h);
fax: 61-43-631-522; or email:rachi@ozemail.com.au.

"IN MEMORIAM", the list of Jews from Holland who perished in the Holocaust, published 1995 in the Hague by SDU Uitgeverij Konininnegracht, has been donated to the Society libraries in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra by Sophie Caplan. This list of over one hundred thousand names and pp858, gives family names, first names, maiden names, dates and places of birth and dates and places of death of all those sent out to be killed from Holland. While most of those listed were born in various parts of the Netherlands, from Amsterdam to Groningen to Oude Pekela, there are also large numbers of people born in every other country in Europe, and


beyond. Since a number of transports went from Holland to Sobibor, this book constitutes one of the few published sources of names of those who were gassed at Sobibor. Many transports were sent to Auschwitz, but curiously this memorial book differentiates between Auschwitz, Birkenau aka Auschwitz II and where the majority of all Jewish victims were killed, and Monowitz aka Auschwitz III. This was a workcamp, a short way from Birkenau, to which those incapable of working anymore were returned for gassing. This is an oddity since most Jews after mid-1942 were in fact brought to Birkenau directly and died there, yet most notations here are for Auschwitz, the generic name for the whole complex, with some specified as Birkenau. Apart from this quibble, it is good to have lists of victims of yet another country available to family historians. Those who were deported but survived are not listed, unlike in the French and Belgian memorial books.

Betty Symonds has donated a copy of the 1996 AVOTAYNU publication "**JEWISH VITAL RECORDS, REVISION LISTS, AND OTHER JEWISH HOLDINGS IN THE LITHUANIAN ARCHIVES**" by HAROLD RHODE and SALLYANN AMDUR SACK, a good adjunct to researchers on Lithuanian Jewry. This is not a list of people's names, but of the contents of archival deposits still extant in Lithuania and concerning Jews. The same book has been presented to the Victorian and the South Australian branch libraries by Sophie Caplan.

The AJGS in Sydney and Makor Library in Melbourne have each acquired ALEXANDER BEIDER, "**A DICTIONARY OF JEWISH SURNAMES FROM THE KINGDOM OF POLAND**", 1996, Avotaynu, Teaneck pp570. Like its predecessor Beider's "A DICTIONARY OF JEWISH SURNAMES FROM THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE" publication of this book is a major event for Jewish genealogists worldwide who have Eastern European ancestry and it is a book which should be in every major Jewish library, including schools and synagogues. Beider's impeccable scholarship will facilitate the task of generations of Jewish genealogists. It is a reference book which we cannot lend. Come and consult it at one of our regular workshops.

We have also acquired DAVID S. ZUBATZKY and IRWIN M. BERENT, "**SOURCEBOOK FOR JEWISH GENEALOGIES AND FAMILY HISTORIES**", 1996, Avotaynu, Teaneck, pp456 which lists thousands of alphabetically indexed Jewish surnames and books, articles, unpublished manuscripts in public archival collections which throw a light on each surname. Again the broad range of the authors makes this an essential work of Jewish scholarship. Naturally one checks on those surnames one knows, and most of them are there properly indexed, except that unaccountably the important Australian Jewish family BLASHKI, on which Gael Hammer has published a book, is indexed under BEHREND, which is the surname of one of the Blashki sons-in-law. It also seems that the only manuscript Australian family trees listed are those held by the Victorian Branch of the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Let us hope that the main branch in Sydney will also be consulted for any new editions as well as Perth and Adelaide.

Sophie Caplan

Special Interest Groups as Sources of Jewish Genealogical Interest	Sophie Caplan	Vol 4 No 1		
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Have you subscribed to any Special Interest Groups (SIG's) connecting you with the areas whence your family originated? Although it is expensive for Australians having to pay annual SIG subscriptions in US dollars and often a \$AUS10 fee for an international bankdraft to your bank, receiving the SIG publication and being on its Family Finder can advance your research tremendously and puts you in touch more directly with those researching the same surnames or the same areas. Subscribing to GESHER GALICIA has certainly done this for me.

Since 1985 a number of SIG's have sprung up which publish bi-annually or quarterly and only exist through subscription and contribution to these journals. Each SIG specialises in its own area, Lithuania, Switzerland, France, and former Galicia (south-western Ukraine and south-eastern Poland), or some town in Russia. If your ancestry is linked to these countries or areas, it is worthwhile to become a member of its specific SIG and receive its publication and thus have contact with other members around the world researching the same area. Most SIG journals are published in English, but some are in French or German.

Annual subscriptions vary from \$US5 to \$US28 for Australia by airmail. Most cost \$US28. All subscription prices given are for Australia. Some give a special rate of \$US50 for a two-year subscription for Australia.

For those having our previous list of SIG please note that some have changed their addresses or fees. **AVOTAYNU** is the International Quarterly of Jewish Genealogy and the world leader in Jewish genealogical journals. Reading it is absolutely essential for the serious Jewish genealogist. Cost by airmail \$US37 for one year, \$US72 for two years, \$US106 for three years. World leader on all matters of Eastern European genealogy. AVOTAYNU also publishes many essential books on Jewish genealogy. In English. AVOTAYNU Inc., P.O. Box 900, TEANECK, NJ 07666, USA. Tel: (201) 387-7200 Fax: (201) 387-2855. Email: info@avotaynu.com

STAMMBAUM is the English language newsletter of German-Jewish genealogical research. It is now distributed through the Leo Baeck Institute in New York by Karen Franklin. Costs are \$US28 for one year and \$US50 for a two-year subscription to STAMMBAUM, Leo BAECK Institute, 129 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021, USA

REVUE DU CERCLE DE GENEALOGIE JUIVE is the French language quarterly of the French JGS which specialises in research on France particularly Alsace, the Comtat Venaissin and other areas where French Jewry was established for over six hundred years. There are two rates, one for subscription to the journal only, the other which includes membership and entitles one to free FAMILY FINDER column questions often answered by other readers. This membership plus journal is FR Frs 295 for Australia per year. New address: Cercle de Genealogie Juive, 14 rue St Lazare, 75009 Paris, FRANCE.

MAAJAN, DIE QUELLE, quarterly journal of the Swiss JGS, in German. Specialises in Swiss, Bavarian and also Alsatian Jewish genealogy. Costs Swiss Frs 60 per annum, to be paid by bank draft to SVJG, 8021 ZURICH, PC Konto 80-39475-5, or to René Loeb, POSTFACH 876, ch-8021, SWITZERLAND. Since September 1996 MAAJAN, DIE QUELLE has also become the organ of the HAMBURG JGS, jointly with the Swiss JGS.

ROM-SIG News is the journal of Romanian Jewish genealogical research. Cost \$US20. Write to Sam Elpern, 27 Hawthorn Street South, Greenwich CT 06831-4201 USA. Email: samelpern@aol.com.

MAGYAR SZIDO is the journal of Hungarian Jewish genealogical research on all areas which were once part of Hungary, including eastern Slovakia and Transylvania. Cost \$US10 from H-Sig, POB 34152 Cleveland, OH 44134, USA. Tel: 1-216-661-3970 Fax: 1-216- 291-0824. Email: lousmagyar@aol.com

LANDSMEN, journal of the Suwalki-Lomza interest group for north-east Poland and south-west Lithuania, comes as a quarterly, or in two double issues annually. Many translations of Birth, Marriage and Death records indexes for some towns and villages. Cost \$28 per annum. Suwalki-Lomza Interest Group, Apt 228, 3701 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA. English language.

LITHUANIAN SIG for central and northern Lithuania, started 1995. Not personally seen, but our Society has membership form. Cost \$US8. Write to Edmund U. Cohler, 85 Bloomfield Street, LEXINGTON, MA 02173-5534, USA. Tel: 1-617- 862-1210. Email: ecohler@cspi.com.

LATVIA SIG calls itself "A Journal of Jewish Genealogy in Latvia", though "on Latvia" might be more accurate. It has appeared for just one year and seems already to have established a good publishing standard. Cost \$US30 per year to Deborah Levine Herman, 22449 Douglas Road, Shaker Heights, OH 44122-2058, USA. Tel: 1-216-831-2727 Fax: 1-216-831-7375. Email: mgetz@capaccess.org. New Latvia SIG web site: <http://www1.jewishgen.org./latvia>. Comments to: werle@pacific.net.net.

SOUTH AFRICA JGS publishes a very small newsletter. Write to Ivan Elion at PO Box 1388, Parklands, Johannesburg, 2121, SOUTH AFRICA.

GESHER GALICIA is a SIG reuniting this area now covering south western Ukraine and south eastern Poland, from Brody to Cracow and Lwow/Lvov/Lviv/ Lemberg to the Carpathian mountains. Publishes a quarterly journal "The Galizianer" and an important family finder indexed by surname and by town every year. Cost \$US27. Send to Shelley K. Pollero, 549 Cypress Lane, Severna Park, MD 21146, USA.

KIELCE AND RADOM SIG This is a recently formed SIG which has just published the first issue of its journal, full of extracts of BMD records, Polish-English translations of occupations, etc.. Judging from this first issue this promises to be a most worthwhile investment for those whose ancestry is from these two provinces of Poland. Cost is \$US30 per year to Gene Starn, Cordinator, P.O. Box 520583,

Longwood, FL 32752, USA. Tel 1-407-788-3898. Email: genes@iag.net. Gene Starn was also co-ordinating ROM-SIG. It is not known if this still appears.

FEDERATION OF EAST EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES is not a Jewish SIG, but a general one, which includes some Jewish information. Cost unknown. Have seen citations of journal, but not journal itself. Write to John C. Alleman, 377 N220 W, Salt Lake City, Utah 84103, USA.

SHARSHERET HADOROT is the journal of the Israel Genealogical Society. Tri-annually in Hebrew and English. Cost \$US40. Write to Esther Ramon, 50 Rechov Harav Uziel, Jerusalem 96424, ISRAEL. Tel: 972-2-542-4197. Also publishes booklets and books.

SLUTSK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, concentrates on this one Byelorussian town. Cost not known. Write to Harry Boonin, 112 Pocasset Road, Philadelphia PA 19115 USA. In English.

CZECH and SLOVAKIAN SIG. Not know if this has started publishing yet. Cost not known. Write to. Louis Schonfeld, 23995 Wendover Drive, Cleveland, OH 44122, USA. Approx \$US12. Presumably in English.
MOGILEV SIG devoted to this town in Byelorussia. Cost unknown. Write to Jerry Gilstrop, 2104 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21231, USA.

SVISHLOSH/SWISLOSH devoted to another town presumably the one in Belarus though there are two of them. Write to Mark Melnicove, 385 Cedar Grove Road, DRESDEN, ME 04342 USA to establish which Svishlosh is meant. Tel: 1-207-737-8116 Fax: 1-207- 582-8227.

SHEMOT, journal of JGS of Great Britain is very informative and costs £ 20 in U.K. cheque or in sterling bankdraft. Write to Anthony Winner, 2 Milton Close, LONDON N2 0QH, ENGLAND.

DOROT, journal of New York JGS is also full of interesting information. Cost not known but includes membership of JGS. Write to Alex Friedlander P.O. Box 6398, New York NY 10128 USA.

SOCIEDAD ARGENTINA DE GENEALOGIA JUDIA BOLETIN (Bulletin of the Argentinian JGS) has appeared twice so far in Spanish and we receive a copy. Annual subscription is \$US20, Australian rate not quoted; \$US5 for a single copy. Provisional address: Paul Armony, Juana Azurduy 2223, Piso 8 (1429), Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tel: 54-1-701-0730. Email: armony@satlink.com. At the moment they are printing free of charge English language family finders ads for anyone who thinks he/she has relatives in Argentina and some of those printed are up to 80-100 words long.

IZMIR/SMYRNA Dov Cohen, Nof Ayalon, 306 POB 11, Doar Na Shimshon 99784, ISRAEL. Fax:972-8-979-0256. Email: dcohen@gezernet.co.il is a specialist historian of Sephardim and of Sephardi genealogy in this town in Turkey, as demonstrated in his article in the above Boletin. Has many details on families Benmayor, Benveniste, Benjakar, Caro, Eskenazi, Farhi, Naon, to cite a few.

PIOTRKOW TRYBUNALSKI, The Voice of Piotrkow Survivors, Ben Giladi, 135-30 82nd Avenue, Kew Gardens, NY 11435, USA. This is not strictly a genealogical newsletter but has much genealogical information. Our VIP member Sir Asher Joel, himself a descendant of Piotrkow Trybunalski Jews, sends us his copies after he has read them.

NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY INC., 23 Olive Street, Great Neck, NY 11020, USA is a still extant New York landsmannschaft. Not known if they publish a newsletter, but their address may be worth knowing.

SEPHARD SIG can be accessed on Internet through the JewishGen Infocfiles on <http://www.jewishgen.org> or by email to sefard2@jewishgen.org.

Many of the above, though not all, are received by the AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY through an exchange of journals with other JGS or through subscription in the case of SIGs, and can be viewed at our regular Sunday morning workshops. Others are subscribed to by members of the committee for themselves, and may be made available at some workshops through prior arrangements, e.g. the French Journal or Gesher Galicia.

In any case it is always worthwhile for members to come to workshops and to read through journals as each one covers a variety of genealogical information. Also note

FAMILY SEARCH BUREAU in ISRAEL Write to BATYA UNTERSCHATZ, POB 92, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL Write enclosing a donation of at least \$AUS 10, because this institution is run on a shoe-string and cannot help you without further funds. Very effective research, and

YAD VASHEM HALL OF NAMES for Pages Of Testimony, POB 3477, Jerusalem 91034, ISRAEL

Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf	Sophie Caplan	Vol 4 No 1		
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Those books with an asterisk (*) in front are held by our Society, books in the personal library of some of our members are marked with two asterisks (* *) and books marked with a ☆ can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held.

BOOKS ON GERMANY

* * EDWARD LUFT, compiler, "**THE NATURALIZED JEWS OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF POSEN in 1834 and 1835**", 1987, Brown University, under general editorship of Jacob Neusner, Scholars Press, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, pp181. This is an alphabetical list of Jews naturalized in the Grand Duchy of Posen (now Poznan, Poland) as Prussian subjects. The list was originally compiled by Isidor Hirschberg in Bromberg and published by him there in 1836, as a substitute for Jewish merchants needing to carry with them a certified copy of their naturalization certificate, so it marked acceptance of certain Jews, but also the antisemitic distrust of Jews which otherwise necessitated the carrying of naturalization certificates. Lists are indexed by

surname and also give first name(s), place of residence in the Posen Duchy, occupation, and date of naturalization, as well as the details of the naturalization decrees in Gothic German script and in English translation.

* * GARY J. ZIMMERMAN and MARION WOLFERT, compilers, "**GERMAN IMMIGRANTS, LIST OF PASSENGERS BOUND FROM BREMEN TO NEW YORK, 1847-1854, and 1855-1862**", two volumes, 1986, Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., Baltimore. This gives in each volume an indexed surname list, with many first names, but many initials only, age in years, place of residence, and numbers indicating ships and voyage. Naturally there is only a percentage of listed passengers who can be identified as Jews and by their name only. Most are gentiles, but this book could be a useful adjunct for the Jewish genealogist.

* * WALTER STRAUSS, editor, "**SIGNS OF LIFE, JEWS FROM WUERTTENBERG**", 1982, Ktav Publishing House, Inc., New York, pp389, a compendium of fairly brief biographical notices and essays on and by Jews who originated in the province of Wuerttemberg and who, one way or another, survived the Holocaust. These mini-biographies encapsulate a lot of interesting facts and family names. There is an index of place names, but unfortunately not one of surnames, which would have been of greater interest to a genealogist.

* * MANFRED BIERGANZ and ANNELIE KREUZ, "**JUDEN IN AACHEN**" (JEWS IN AACHEN), 1988, Alano Verlag, Aachen, pp166, is a well researched brief history of the Jews of Aachen from antiquity, with the main emphasis on the 19th and 20th centuries. The author, a liberal high school teacher, compiled this history of the Jewish community, with biographical sketches of its four rabbis from 1850-1938, lists of Jewish citizens of Aachen under Napoleonic occupation, lists of those arrested and sent to concentration camps at Kristallnacht, lists of those deported later, and lists of Aachener Jews deported from other places to which they had fled, as well as photographs and biographical sketches of various well known Jews from Aachen. Dates and places of birth are given in most of these lists.

* * MANFRED BIERGANZ, "**DIE LEIDENGESCHICHTE DER JUDEN IN STOLBERG WAHREND DER NS-ZEIT**" (The History of Jews' Suffering during National Socialist Times in Stolberg), 1990, published by author and by Stolberg Municipal Council, pp82, contains a short general history of Jews in Stolberg, and then focuses on a number of individual families which made their homes in that town: Falkenstein, Mainzer, Morgenbesser, Salomon, Wolff, Willy Cohn, Hollaender, Waechter, Zinader and their fate under Nazism. Since the last two families were my relatives, I found much useful information since the author consulted town records and correspondence, laying bare the systematic misinformation about Jewish citizens sent by the Nazi mayor of Stolberg to government bodies during the 1930's e.g. claiming that some only paid taxes under duress when there is documentary proof that taxes were paid promptly and fully. The author also has amassed unpublished evidence of just which individuals and corporations profited from cheap purchase of Jewish houses and businesses, but fears for his life if he publishes. The Hollaenders of Stolberg were relatives of Anne Frank.

* * KLAUS H. S. SCHULTE, "**DOKUMENTATION ZUR GESCHICHTE DER JUDEN AM LINKEN NIEDERRHEIN SEIT DEM 17 JAHRHUNDERT**" (Documentation for

the History of the Jews on the left bank of the lower Rhine since the 17th Century), 1972, Verlag L. Schwann, Dusseldorf, pp377 is an incredibly detailed scholarly but user friendly compilation in easily readable German. Its information touches all the towns and villages of the left bank of the lower Rhine, including Düren, Eschweiler, Euskirchen, Jülich, Lechenich, Meckenheim, Rheinbach and Zülrich to name just a few. There are lists of taxpayers in various localities, of deceased for whom epitaphs exist in Jewish cemeteries, of synagogue officials in some localities, of deportation lists from each locality with dates and often places of birth, as well as photographs, an index of surnames and one of localities mentioned in the text. A veritable genealogist's treasure trove. Includes Sydney family LUCAS.

* * GUNTER VON RODEN and RITA VOGEDER, "**GESCHICHTE DER DUISBURGER JUDEN**" (History of the Jews of Duisburg), two volumes, 1986 Walter Braun Verlag, pp1535. A very detailed history of Jews and Jewish institutions in Duisburg, including chapters contributed by other writers. The most important genealogical feature is a 354 pages long, double column, indexed list of Jews who were domiciled in Duisburg between approximately 1900 and 1945, though that generally means 1942. Each item includes surname, first name, date and place of birth, occupation and business address(es) while in Duisburg, home address, and the same for wife, with maiden surname, and children, including children's spouse and occasionally grandchildren, as well as a brief note on fate of each family member from 1933-1945. Thus each item is practically a brief history of the family and often also includes town of next domicile or that domicile at time of compilation of book e.g. Sommer, Hedwig - Paddington, Australia, and Sommer, Fritz - Dover Heights, Australia. Thus also a genealogist's treasure trove, with a large number of one-time Duisburgers born in various parts of Poland, but mainly in Eastern Galicia and not so far listed anywhere else. I found much material on my maternal collateral relatives Rechtschaffen, Strassman and Radomysler.

* * ESTHER RAMON, "**THE HOMBURGER FAMILY FROM KARLSRUHE, A FAMILY STUDY 1674-1900**", 1992, Posner and Sons Ltd, Jerusalem, Israel, pp183. Esther Ramon is the founding president of the Israel Genealogical Society and this is her lovingly compiled family history, done with scholarly care and including even descendants now converted to Quakerism, to Unitarianism, to Catholicism, and to Lutheranism. Includes an index of persons and one of places, photos and two family trees. A small selection of associated and included surnames is Aronstein, Baer, Beer, Boettingheimer, Elsass, Ettlinger, Frank, Goldberger, Goldschmidt, Gumprich, Kahn, Kaufmann, Marx, Mayer, etc.


* * WALTER THIEMANN, "**VON DEM JUDEN IM SIEGERLAND**" (About the Jews in the Siegerland region of Siegen, Westphalia), 1970, 2nd edition, published by Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation of Siegen, initially in 1968, pp57. This also has a brief history of Jews in that area, with lists of Jewish inhabitants in 1933, of Jews deported to Auschwitz, to Zamosc in Poland, to the camp of Theresienstadt, to Birkenau (which is given separately to Auschwitz, probably through ignorance of compiler), and of Jews who committed suicide. There are some brief biographies of notable Jews, as well as lists of Jews transported to places of death from neighbouring villages of HILCHENBACH, KLAFELD, WEIDENAU, NETPHEN, LITTFELD, DROMBACH, FERNDORF, EISERFELD. Again I acquired this some years ago as a gift from relatives who had contributed a biographical article, and

whose parents were listed on transport lists. These give dates of birth and place of birth, although in one case, two male relatives with the same first and surname, one not having even lived in Siegen, are mixed up. Still exact birth dates and places of relatives who perished are useful, as so far no documentation can be procured from Ukraine for our part of former Galicia.

* KURT LIPPMANN, "**OUR LIPPMANN FAMILY, A CHRONICLE SPANNING THREE CENTURIES AND THREE CONTINENTS**", 1995, Print Synergy, Melbourne, Australia, pp86. This is a family history of our member Kurt Lippmann and his equally well-known late brother, Walter Lippmann. Kurt has continued and translated and brought up to date a family history compiled by his relative Leo Lippmann. Family origins as far as they could be traced were in Gunzenhausen, Southern Germany, but spread to Feuchtwangen, Leutershausen, Hamburg, Berlin, and to the rest of the world, including England, Australia and USA. Numerous photos illustrate this history, and the Society has also been presented with an elaborate family tree with several hundred names. SELIGMAN, SEGALL, FASS, GOLDBERG, FREEHLING AND LANDAUER are some of the families associated with this tree. Dr Helen Light, Curator of the Jewish Museum of Australia in Melbourne is Kurt Lippmann's daughter.

* MONIKA RICHARZ, editor, "**JEWISH LIFE IN GERMANY, MEMOIRS FROM THREE CENTURIES**", translated by Stella P. Rosenfeld and Sidney Rosenfeld, 1991, Leo Baeck Institute Inc., New York and Indiana University Press, pp484. This abbreviation into one volume in English of three previous volumes published in German by the Deutsches Verlags-Anstalt from 1976-1982, now out of print but owned by this author, is a marvellous compilation of what life in Germany was like for Jews from 1800 until 1945. It is a collection of autobiographical documents by German Jews unknown to the public who deposited their manuscripts in the Leo Baeck Institute or Yivo. Each story mentions both family members and friends, as well as personalities with which the author came into contact. These names are listed in an index and are useful to the researcher on German ancestry.

* HERMAN HOLLANDER, "**MY LIFE AND WHAT I DID WITH IT**", 1979, Koren Publishers, Jerusalem, Israel, pp377. This is an autobiography from the religious Agudat Israel and Mizrahi milieu in Germany, and later in USA and in Israel, but also in Sweden. The author was the scion of two German rabbinical families whose grandfather founded the HOLLANDER GROUP which traded in skins and leather and other commodities and for years travelled the world on behalf of the group and met many leading Mizrahi Zionist party personalities, and even for a short time was involved in the Israel government in the early years after independence, until he lost his fortune. Index of names. Families closely involved include GUTMAAN, NEBENZAHL, SCHWARZCHILD, but many religious, business and political personalities are named.

Access to the London <i>Jewish Chronicle</i>	Gary Luke	Vol 4 No 1		
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The Australian Jewish Historical Society has microfilms of index cards, categorized by subject and by names, giving the year, date, page and column. The National Library of Australia has a full set of microfilms of the actual newspaper. These can

be ordered from Document Supplies Department of NLA by your local library, for reading in the library.

Title: Jewish Chronicle (..and Working Man's Friend)

Call No: mfm X132.

The paper changed its name a few times, always beginning with the first part as above, for a short time while they added the part in parentheses. All are under the same call number.

Charge is \$9 per request, up to ten consecutive reels are classed as a single request. There is approximately one year on each reel. They can accept payment from your local library after sending the films, or by a library's pre-paid voucher. Charge to yourself is by whatever system your library uses.

Jews of Posen Province		Vol 4 No 1		
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Edward David Luft, 1825 Corcoran Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-1607, USA advised us in a letter that he is presently compiling a larger work on the Jews of Posen province than his previous one, which he hopes will be the definite source on the Jews of Posen Province. We all look forward to its publication.

First Ever Jewish Genealogical Speaker in Perth		Vol 4 No 1		
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Using the opportunity of Chava and Hugo Agmon's visit to Perth, Ross Trobe, our representative in Perth, and his wife Dulcie, arranged a joint meeting with the Western Australian Jewish Historical Society on Sunday, March 2, 1997 in the foyer of the Perth Hebrew Congregation Synagogue at which Chava Agmon gave her talk on "SPLIT TREE, FRAGMENTED BRANCHES, the Karo/Kara Family World-wide" to an audience of about twenty-four, which included members of the Western Australian Genealogy and Family History Society. Many questions were asked and interest was aroused in this Society functioning in Perth possibly in conjunction with the Western Australian Jewish Historical Society. We hope that this may be the first step leading to the establishment of a proper branch in Perth.

Yichus from Ancestors		Vol 4 No 1		
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Mrs JENNIFER KING, our member from the country town of Orange, NSW, is making a special trip down to Sydney to meet Chava and Hugo Agmon. Jenny has been in touch with Chava Agmon far longer than anyone else in Australia. She is descended from both the Caro line and from the revered Gaon of Vilna which in Jewish genealogical terms is Yichus indeed!

Book on Descendants of Vilna Gaon		Vol 4 No 1		
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Jennifer King has also heard from Chaim Freedman that his book listing all the descendants of the Gaon of Vilna is almost ready for publication. If anyone else believes that they are descended from the Gaon, please let us know and we will try to put you in touch with Chaim Freedman. Unfortunately he advised most Jewish

Genealogical Societies around the world of his project, but not us. We believe that some fairly recent immigrated South African families in Sydney may be connected.

Jewish Museums in Europe		Vol 4 No 1		
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The recent issue of STAMMBAUM has enclosed a most useful list of European Jewish museums, alphabetically indexed by country with full addresses, telephone and fax numbers and names of directors.

Certificate Transcription Service for NSW B,D&M		Vol 4 No 1		
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Marilyn Rowan of MARBRACK SERVICES, PO BOX 38, Menai Central, NSW 2234 has informed us that she is now an approved transcription agent for NSW Birth Certificates from 1788-1908, and for NSW Marriage and Death Certificates from 1788-1918, at rates considerably lesser than official transcripts ranging from \$AUS5 to \$AUS10 for a full transcription, plus \$2 if Registration number is not quoted. Communicate with her directly at the above address. Possible payments by credit card make this a good alternative for overseas Jewish genealogists desirous of obtaining information on NSW certificates.

Another Israeli Kibbutznik is Searching for her Family of Origin		Vol 4 No 1		
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Pnina Modlin of Kibbutz Shluchot was born POLA MESZURES, the daughter of ASZES and RYWKA MESZURES on either 8 January or 8 February, 1939 in WYSZKOW. She does not specify whether it was WYSZKOW LUBIELSKI, ENE of Warsaw, or WYSZKOW, 50 Km NNE of Warsaw. She was separated from her parents at an early age and has no recollection of them.

She spent part of World War II in a Russian town called BUZULUK, now called BAZAVLUCHOK in Ukraine, 88 kms SW of Dnepropetrovsk, but does not know when she got there or with whom. After the war, in 1946, she was repatriated with a group of other Polish children to GLIWICE, Poland, formerly GLEIWITZ, and eventually was taken to Israel and raised in a kibbutz.

She is desperate to find any surviving members of her family, or even anyone who can throw any light on her history. Pnina is seeking anyone with the name or former name of MESZURES or MESZORES or Mesores, or any variant of these. She is also seeking anyone who knew someone with those names. She is looking for anyone who came from either LUTSK or WYSZKOW. She would like to hear from anyone who spent part of 1939-1946 in BUZULUK, USSR, or the surrounding district. She believes that there were both Polish and Czech army groups stationed around BUZULUK and would like to hear from anyone who was connected with either of these groups.

She would be most grateful for any scraps of information which might help reunite her with any surviving members of her family of origin or their present-day descendants. This includes help with perusing passenger arrival indexes for postwar

immigrants, ship or aeroplane, and looking for those names in any country of postwar immigration.

CONTACT ADDRESS:

PNINA MODLIN, KIBBUTZ SHLUCHOT,
Doar Na Emek Beit Shean, 10910, ISRAEL.

Tel/fax: 972-6-658-2241. Or by email to BEREL DOV LERNER:
bdlerner@post.fau.ac.il.

Other genealogical newsletters and journals please copy.

**Forebears Australian
Family Finder**

**Vol 4 No
1**



00047 ROSEMARY SCHONFELD, Cellar Flat, Buckyette Farm, Littlehempston, Totnes, TQ9 6ND, Devon, ENGLAND. Seeking information on aunt AURELIE NELLY SCHOENFELDOVA, born January 7, 1915 in OSTRAVA, who survived Terezin and Auschwitz, emigrated to Australia after World War II, and remarried there. Also on her first husband Dr MORRIS SCHOENFELD, born June 28, 1903, a famous radiologist and author on that subject, who perished in Auschwitz. New married name unknown.

00048 YACOB TSUR, KIBBUTZ NAAN, 76829, ISRAEL is seeking any information on PETR ENGELMANN, b. May 15, 1924, who survived Terezin and Auschwitz and returned to Prague after liberation, and on EMIL STEINER, b. March 4, 1920, who was sent to the Lodz Ghetto, liberated at Ludwigslust.

00049 ERNEST SEINFELD, 71 Pumpkin Road, NEW MILFORD, CT 06776, USA. Seeks information on ALICE STEIN, born 1909, who survived both Terezin and Auschwitz, and also forced labour in Hamburg. Emigrated to Sydney after the war. Contact sought with her or with descendants. Also PAVEL REISS who worked at Jewish school in BRNO and was sent to Terezin in December 1941, working as an instructor in Sudeten barrack and with youth. Perished in Auschwitz. Would like to hear from anyone who knew him.

00050 YALE REISNER, Jewish Historical Institute, ul. Tlomackie 3/5, 00-090, WARSAW, POLAND tells us that an elderly Holocaust survivor, SARAH WELCMAN, pronounced WELTSMAN, is seeking her two brothers who emigrated to Australia from KALISZ, Poland. ABRAHAM (ADOLPH) WELCMAN b.1910 arrived 1933 with a 3-year-old daughter. MORDECHAJ came in 1939. All information welcome on descendants. Please contact directly or through this Society.

00051 DIPL.ING.JAROSLAV KLOUCEK, Cista u Mlade Boleslavi 294 23 Czech Republic seeks Czech-born Jewish girl CATHERINE SLADKOVICOVA(?) who joined her uncle in Sydney in 1947, aged 16. Contact ceased in 1948. Photo taken in Katoomba in 1948. He would like to get back in touch with her.

Editorial

**Sophie
Caplan**

**Vol 4 No
2**



Since our last issue we have held another successful Beginners' Seminar at Shalom College in early March. We are flattered that some of our far-flung members from

country NSW make this seminar an annual event. It's a good occasion for them to look over the new books and other resources we've acquired and for the committee to meet these members. The presence of Hugo and Chava Agmon, our overseas speaker, and her stimulating presentation of her researches on the dispersed Caro/Karo family made this a memorable occasion.

On 13th April we held our fifth Annual General Meeting, again enjoying the hospitality of David and Diana Laufer. There were some changes in the distribution of jobs on the committee: Rieke Nash took on the additional position of honorary secretary, while Terry Newman became treasurer, and Phillip Baynash assistant treasurer and membership chairman. David Laufer has become minutes secretary and Gary Luke is officially our Web site organiser.

Our foundation treasurer and membership chairman Stuart Shaw has retired from the executive to do some studies. We presented Stuart with three books in recognition of his hard work and dedication. Nigel Meinrath continues on the committee without portfolio, and Sophie Caplan as president and editor.

While the dedication of past and present committee members is reassuring, it is disappointing to see so few other members of the Society attending our AGM. They are pleasant and civilised affairs where members can hear annual reports from the president, the resources librarian, the treasurer and the honorary auditor, and ask pertinent questions about the management of the Society. It appears that everyone is perfectly happy with the way the Society is run since so few members come to question their office-bearers.

The Society is making a major effort to get our constitution finally completed and to obtain incorporation in N.S.W. Your president has been remiss in letting this matter languish for so long, and now we are calling a Special General to adopt a constitution on Sunday evening 17th August, 1997 to be followed by a report on the Paris International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, together with reports on trips to Belarus, to Poland and to Ukraine. We hope that a large number of members will attend this important meeting.

It is hoped that later in 1997 a new scheme to help our members and others can be inaugurated. This is known as ONE NAME groups. Certain surnames surface repeatedly in Australian and English Jewish genealogy; BARNETT, COHEN, HARRIS, HART, ISRAEL, ISAACS, JACOBS, JOSEPH, LEVY/LEVI, MOSES/MOSS, NEWMAN, PHILLIPS, etc. We would like members who are researching one of these names to come forward to take charge of whatever information exists on their particular name, and to take responsibility to help others researching the name by answering queries, and in effect becoming an expert on families with their chosen name.

So far we have held special workshops on Lithuanian Jewish genealogical research, and recently had a workshop on English Jewish ancestry. Late this year we hope to hold a special workshop on Polish Jewish genealogy, and on Sunday 24th August Beulah Gross will host an all day workshop on the Central Coast.

An Australian Federation of Family History Societies Congress has been announced for September 2000 in Perth. As long as it does not clash with the Yamin Tovim, this may be a good opportunity for overseas genealogists to combine with a visit to the Olympic Games which will take place in Sydney in September 2000.
Chag Sameach for Shavuot.

News from the Victorian Branch

Lionel Sharpe

Vol 4 No
2



The Victorian Branch held its second Annual General Meeting at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre on Tuesday April 8. Following reports and elections Shmuel Rosenkrantz, President of the Holocaust Centre (Melbourne), spoke about the work of the Centre in educating the wider community about this tragic event. He also gave an overview of records and resources at their library.

The following committee was elected at the AGM.

Chair and Publicity	Lionel Sharpe
Secretary and Membership Officer	Rhonda Lasky
Treasurer	Sam Leon
Internet Co-ordinator and Publicity	Leslie Oberman
Internet Co-ordinator	Albert Braunstein
Publicity	Richard Reisner
Catering and Publicity	Enid Yoffa-Elton
Makor Library Liaison	Ros Collins
Committee Members	Bettye Susskind
	Rodney Eisfelder

Special thanks were extended to two retiring members of the committee, Ester Czaky and Leone Engel who had greatly assisted in the Branch's formative stage.

On May 6th, Rabbi Phillip Heilbrunn, Chief Minister of the St Kilda Hebrew Congregation spoke on the topic "Am I a Descendant of Casanova?" tracing his own family history.

Further 'Beginner's Workshops' are scheduled for Sunday afternoon June 1st and September 14th. To build up the resources for these workshops the Branch has purchased a complete set of nineteenth century maps and sets of microfiche from Avotaynu.

A great deal of press attention has been given to the recent launch of Mark Raphael Baker's book "A Journey Through Memory - The Fiftieth Gate", the story of his parents' experience in the Holocaust. Mark, a lecturer in Modern Jewish History at the University of Melbourne, was assisted in his research for the book by Krystyna Wyszogrodzki, a young Ph.D. student who recently commenced a private practice in genealogical research called "Lost Histories - Eastern European Research". Krystyna will address the Branch on Wednesday, 18 June at 7.30 p.m.

A number of members who are currently researching their ancestry will be given an opportunity to share their successes and failures on 23 July at 7.30 p.m.

The Victorian Branch meets at the BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Melbourne. Tel: 03-9273 5611.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 189,
GLENHUNTLY VIC 3163, AUSTRALIA

Internet contacts:

Leslie Oberman oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

Dr Albert Braunstein sbr@bbs.ausom.net.au

Enquiries: Rhonda 03-9578 6456

Lionel: 03-9523-6738 Fax: 03-9532-7797

News from the South Australian Branch	Klee Benveniste	Vol 4 No 2	
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The South Australian branch has increased to seven financial members as we welcome new member Jeanie Susman.

At our May meeting, guest speaker Dr Arie H Helfgott spoke about using the Internet for family history research. He presented the problems and benefits of using extensive American Jewish genealogical resources available on the Internet. He also described how to develop detective skills to observe family characteristics, develop a memory for details, take notes and search for small physical details in enlarged family photos. His fascinating presentation was accompanied by examples of computer searches and captivating family portraits. We lingered late into the evening listening to his adventures in cyberspace.

Members also appreciated having our own branch copy of the JewishGen Family Finder which was eagerly passed around for members to search for others researching their family.

Our next meeting is due to be held in July.

The contact address for the South Australian branch is

Dr Klee Benveniste, Honorary Secretary
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA branch)
C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation
P.O. Box 320, Glenside SA 5065 AUSTRALIA
Email:kaiserr@senet.com.au

News from the Western Australian Branch		Vol 4 No 2	
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In our enthusiasm to mention the exciting possibility of a branch in Perth, in our last issue we said that Chava Agmon's talk on the Caro family was the very first time there had been a Jewish genealogy lecture in Perth. This was, of course, untrue. Not only did our Birmingham member, Dr Anthony Joseph, speak on the links between Anglo-Jewish history and its genealogies at a meeting hosted by the Western

Australian Jewish Historical Society in March, 1996, but there were probably other lectures on like topics over the years. Your editor apologises for this inaccuracy.

But now our representative in Perth, Ross Trobe, and our member, Michelle Urban, are striving to establish a branch in Perth. We hope to bring you news of its establishment in our next issue. For news of meetings called, Western Australian readers should consult THE MACCABEAN, the Perth Jewish monthly.

Finding Family from a Piece of Scrap Paper

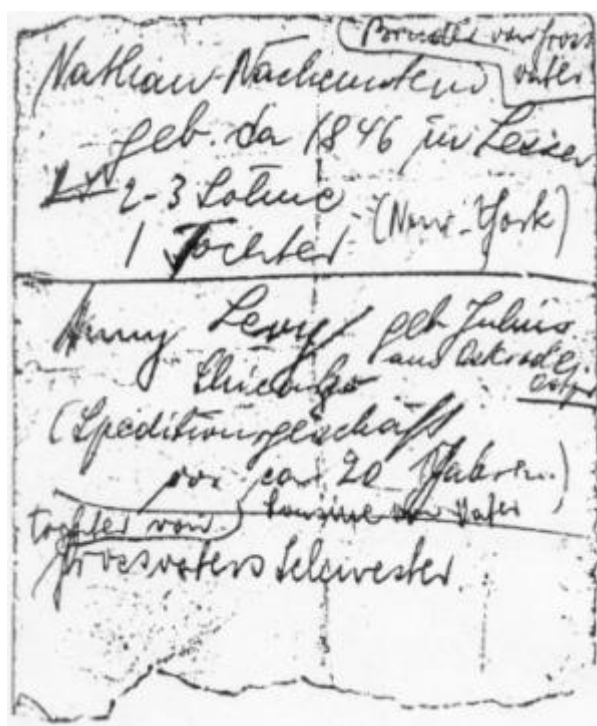
Peter Nash

Vol 4 No
2



Typically I got interested in my family tree when I realised that my parents were ageing and that being an only child, without even a first cousin, I wanted to know more about my ancestors. So I started asking them questions as well as going through their old letters, photos, certificates, etc.

I came across a piece of scrap paper on which my father, Herbert NACHEMSTEIN, had written two names (see copy). My father could not remember why he had written that note with the names of his grandfather's brother, Nathan NACHEMSTEIN and grand-father's sister's daughter, Anny LEVY. The note mentioned Nathan's place of origin, a town called Lessen in Germany, his approximate year of birth (1846) and that he had two to three sons and one daughter and lived in New York. But there was no approximate date of arrival or other information. Anny Levy originated from Osterode in East Prussia, and apparently lived in Chicago.



For several years I put this information to one side. Then about five years ago my wife and I became members of the newly formed Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. With the help of some of our resources and in particular the "Jewish Genealogy Beginner's Guide", 3rd Edition, published by the JGS of Greater Washington, I became aware of where to write in the United States for all kinds of records. In this case I wrote to the National Archives, Northeast Region in New York and requested details of Nathan Nacheinstein's naturalization record, if it existed. They responded promptly and sent me a copy of Nathan Nacheinstein's (spelt with an 'n' not an 'm') naturalization index card.

I was greatly excited by this, but how could I be sure that this was my great-grandfather's brother? This Nathan had emigrated to the United States in 1869 from Germany, approximately aged 23, and his occupation was shown as junk man! The fact that he was a junk man was very significant, since many of the Nacheinsteins were in the scrap metal business in Prussia, Germany, including my father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncles and

cousins. It seemed to be like a 'birthmark' in our family. The fact that Nathan's family name was spelt with an 'n' and not an 'm' I am sure is simply because when he arrived in New York his name was misspelt due to poor pronunciation! In any case the family name 'Nachemstein' always seemed to be a very unusual name. The card also gave Nathan's Manhattan NYC address and date of naturalization, namely 1890.

I then requested a copy of his Naturalization Certificate and after sending the required money I duly received it, but was quite disappointed as it did not mention what I had hoped for, any of Nathan's family names.

With the help again of the Beginner's Guide I became aware that the 1890 US Census had largely been destroyed by fire but that there was a New York Police Census for Manhattan for 1890, the year of Nathan's naturalization. As the index card also gave me Nathan's street address, I requested and soon obtained the 1890 Police Census for 294 Cherry Street and now found out the name and age of his wife, Flora, as well as each of their five children. It showed that Nathan was born in 1848. I was greatly excited by this completely new information about my great-grandfather's brother's family and so was our Society.

My next and more difficult step was to find living descendants of any of these cousins. Fortunately I visited New York City soon after and was able to go to the National Archives at 201 Varick Street where I viewed the microfilm for the Federal Census for 1900 starting at 294 Cherry Street. However, I could not find any of Nathan's family at that address and thought my luck had run out. But I casually flicked the film reel over and suddenly found that Nathan and his family were listed at 308 Cherry Street. This was obviously a lucky break which would not have come about unless I had been 'on the spot'. But as is often the case in genealogy you make your own luck. (Note: the Trow's NY City Directory could also have led me to Nathan's address at 308 Cherry Street. See further on).

As shown on the Census abstract, this gave me the names of five of the children as well as month and year of birth and their occupations. It also showed that the eldest had changed his name from Assia Nachenstein (1890 Police Census) to Charles A. Nack. The others were Annie, George, Morris and Louis (born October, 1887). In actual fact Flora had given birth to eight children, but only six were still alive in 1900.

N 252

Family Name NACHENSTEIN		Given Name or Names NATHAN	
COMMON Pleas COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY.			
Date of Naturalization MAY 9 1890	Volume or Bundle No. 681	Page No. —	Copy of Record No. 118.
Address of Naturalized Person 294 CHERRY ST. N. Y. C.			
Occupation TINK MAN	Birth Date or Age —	Former Nationality GERMAN	
Port of Arrival in the United States —	Date of Arrival AUG 1869		
Names, Addresses and Occupations of Witnesses To Naturalization			
1 CORNELIUS DONOVAN 609 WATER ST. N. Y. C.			
2 —			

Naturalization Index Card

As the 1910 Federal Census was not available I also checked the 1920 Census, but could not find any Nachensteins or Nacks at 308 Cherry Street. As I had no idea when (and where) Nathan died, it was suggested that I go to the New York County Surrogate Court at 31 Chambers Street to see if a Probate was filed for Nathan Nachenstein or any of his children. This I did and found that a Probate was granted for Nathan in 1921 which meant that he died in 1921 or possibly earlier. (Refer also to author's paper on the use of Probate records in Kosher Koala Vol.2, No.1, p.5). This led me to check the microfilm for deaths in 1921 which are on film in alphabetic

order. Thus I found his death certificate and immediately paid for and received a certified copy. This now gave me his last address and so I went back to Varick Street to check the 1920 Federal Census for this address and of course found Nathan, and surprisingly also another son Joseph who was the sixth child.

Due to my limited time in New York I could not obtain Nathan's Probate File for perusal as it usually takes about seven working days to retrieve an old file. So I had to leave this for another opportunity.

While I was still in New York I scanned the then current telephone directories to try and trace possible descendants of Charles A. Nack. I also checked for the name Nash especially if associated with a junk business. (Two other branches had also independently changed the family name from Nachemstein to Nash). I made quite a lot of phone calls, however I did not succeed with either approach.

I also checked the Trow's New York City Directories (alphabetically indexed names with occupations and addresses) and was able to follow Charles Nack's occupations over the years up to the last available directory year which was 1933/34. At that time he was a 'City Marshall' which I was told was the official name for a debt collector! So while still in New York I contacted the association with whom City Marshalls had to be registered and after explaining why I would want to enquire about someone registered sixty years earlier I was told : "Yes, we have a card for Charles A. Nack and his Badge Number was 102". I was instantly overcome with great emotion as this made my Charles A. Nack a "living person". Not unexpectedly, they did not have any information about a wife or family, only his address.

After returning to Sydney, I kept 'niggling away' at other possible leads to trace Charles Nack and any of the other Nachensteins. For example, I followed up a Family Finder advertisement in AVOTAYNU with someone who was researching the name 'NACK'. Although there seemed to be no connection, the other researcher voluntarily referred my search to an Irwin Nack who was himself researching the name 'Nack' and had become familiar with the name Charles A. Nack and in fact confirmed that he was a City Marshall. But Charles had no connection with Irwin's Nack because the original family name that he was researching was not Nachenstein. By this stage I was communicating by email.

Irwin Nack also referred me to Steve Zedeck (associated with the REIPP Project) who in turn referred me to his cousin Murray Zedeck, a medical doctor. From all this it turned out that Charles Nack's wife Dinah was a patient of Murray Zedeck and in fact related to the Zedecks by marriage. Murray knew of and gave me the name and address of the niece of Dinah Nack, namely Eleanor Garz. I phoned Eleanor and even though she was not a blood relation she was overjoyed that someone was trying to connect with 'her very dear Uncle Charlie' who had died about thirty years earlier. Unfortunately Eleanor knew nothing about any of Charles' siblings. Nevertheless, this episode clearly demonstrated the power of 'networking'.

As Irwin Nack was aware that I was basically tracing the name Nachenstein he alerted me to the date of death [April 4, 1942] of a George Nackenstein. Even though the spelling was with a 'k' and not an 'h' I was sure that this was one of Nathan's sons. I paid for and obtained his death certificate and, lo and behold, the informant was his brother Louis Nack, not Nachenstein! So now I knew that the youngest

brother Louis had also changed his name to Nack! This led me to my next breakthrough. Namely one evening when our Society had a guided tour of the Mormon record facilities at Greenwich, Sydney, I found a Social Security Death Index No. for a Louis Nack and also the year (1966) and state where he died (Florida).

Just prior to that evening at the LDS Library we had a visit in Sydney from the President of the JGS of Miami, Art Chassman and his wife Caryl. So I wrote to Art and Caryl and asked if they could get me the death certificate for Louis Nack. Being an efficient President, Art delegated Caryl to this task which she gladly did. The certificate showed that Louis died in Miami and where he was buried, but not his wife's name. The signature of the informant was quite unreadable but the address was clearly legible because it was typed. I wrote back to Caryl and asked if she could check if by chance the informant was still living at the given address, that is, thirty years later. Caryl wrote back and said that the person who answered the door, Sue Zeichner, was at first quite suspicious about this enquiry on behalf of 'someone in Australia'. However Sue confirmed that she was the informant and 'yes', her father was Louis Nack, but, said Caryl, it was the 'wrong' Louis Nack because his family came from Germany and the family name was 'Nachenstein'! Somehow I had either not told Caryl that my birth name was Nachemstein or she had forgotten this fact. I was ecstatic that I had finally found a living descendant, the granddaughter of my great-grandfather's brother!

I immediately obtained Sue's phone number from directory assistance and called her. She also was extremely thrilled that there was 'other' family as she had no inkling of this. Sue is eighty-two and childless, and also has an eighty-year old sister who has a son and daughter with whom I have already made contact. Meanwhile I wrote back to Caryl Chassman to tell her the happy news and Caryl was very proud to have helped in this 'detective work'.

Last month I was able to confirm from the LDS microfilm for Lessen that Nathan Nachemstein was indeed the brother of my great-grandfather, Leiser Nachemstein. So, a piece of scrap paper has now become a thick file. And now to find Anny Levy in Chicago.....?

Peter Nash is an active member of our Society together with his wife, Rieke. We would hazard a guess that when Herbert NACHEMSTEIN wrote down those names, it was in an effort to seek contact with relatives in the USA, who might have been able to send the family an affidavit to emigrate to the USA from Shanghai.

When the Jews left Spain, as well as settling in the countries of the Ottoman Empire around the Mediterranean Sea, many of them settled along the port cities of the eastern Atlantic Ocean in Bordeaux, Bayonne, Rouen in France, Antwerp and Amsterdam then both in Holland, and in Hamburg, Germany, and its satellite towns of Altona and Wandsbeck. A new book of essays has appeared on the Jews of Hamburg with essays in German, Spanish or English, on such topics as "The Storied Stones of Altona, Biblical Imagery in Sephardic Tombstones at the Jewish Cemetery

of Altona-Koenigstrasse", "Some Episodes of Sefardic History As Reflected In Epitaphs of the Jewish Cemetery in Hamburg-Altona", "The Spanish and Portuguese Golden Age Parnassus in Hamburg", "The Family de Lima between Hamburg, Curacao and Chili", etc.


Published 1996 by HELMUT BUSKE VERLAG, Richard Strasse 47, 22081 HAMBURG.

Tel: 49-40-2999-580 Fax: 49-40-299-3614.

Cost DM 98.--, possibly plus postage.

A previous title on the Sephardim of Hambur, title not known, has also been published by this firm.

Translated from MAAJAN DIE QUELLE,
December, 1996

Whatever Happened to Great Uncle Emanuel?	Philip Baynash	Vol 4 No 2	
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I had known for a considerable time that my great grandmother had a brother who had gone to New Zealand. For many years, we were happy to live with this limited knowledge, assuming that he had married out, or that there were no identifiable descendants left. This attitude didn't change even when we migrated to Australia in 1977.

Then I was bitten by the genealogy bug and discovered that there were interesting New Zealand records in the Family History Service of the NSW State Library. I got as far as finding out where and when he had died (Dunedin, 1920) and obtained his gloriously flowery application for naturalisation, and then my curiosity and enthusiasm went back into hibernation.

It wasn't until a third cousin in Manchester badgered me to enquire about this branch of the family that I acted. I wrote to the New Zealand Jewish Chronicle in January 1996 and asked about placing an advertisement calling for descendants to contact me. I received a charming reply from the editor, Anna Veritt, suggesting that she run my enquiry as a letter at no charge. This was my introduction to the kindness and helpfulness I encountered from almost everyone during my New Zealand researches.

The letter drew an immediate response. Exciting phone calls and letters arrived from New Zealand. They told of a large family still substantially Jewish and spread all over the country with representatives in Australia and Israel as well. Over the past twelve months, I have identified a total of over four hundred people spread over seven generations. Unfortunately, I have met very few so far.

From what we know, Emanuel Levy was the second of four children born to Yehuda and Channah Levy near Lodz in the western part of Poland. The whole family came to England over a considerable period during the middle of the 19th century before dispersing literally to the four corners of the earth. Newman, the eldest, married Betsy Cohen in London and emigrated to the US in 1867. His son Abraham and grandson, also named Newman, became well-known lawyers in New York.

Emanuel, as we shall see, arrived in New Zealand in January 1875. Rachel, who had married Isaac Peterskie in Poland, settled in Manchester and my great grandmother, Esther, married Samuel Abrahams in Manchester in 1872 and lived for sixteen years in New York, before returning to England and finally emigrating to South Africa in the closing years of the 19th century.

One of the fun parts of trying to track down Emanuel is that everywhere one turns, he seems to have a different female! And we thought they were more staid in those days!!

He seems to have married Golda Moses in Poland and to have had two children with her. The eldest, Amelia, was born either in Poland or London. The second, Abraham, was born in London in June 1861. This doesn't explain why the 1861 UK Census conducted earlier the same year has Emanuel living at Goulston Street in Whitechapel with a wife shown as Saria.

The next we hear of Emanuel is when he arrives in Lyttleton, New Zealand in January 1875 accompanied by the newly married Amelia and her husband, Myer Morris, the fourteen year old Abraham and Leah (aged 28) and Rachel (aged 5). "Who on earth are they?", I hear you ask. I am still trying to discover the answer. The New Zealand National Archives say that the way their names are listed, Leah must be his wife and Rachel his child. Yet I cannot find evidence in the UK of Golda's death, Emanuel's marriage to Leah or the birth of Rachel. Nor can I find what happened to them after they arrived, and no one in the family has ever heard of them.

Amelia went on to have nine children and died in 1932 in Newcastle, NSW, where she and several of the children were involved in running hotels. Abraham married into an even larger Levy family, had eight children and died in New Zealand in 1918.

In 1889, Emanuel married again in Dunedin a young non-Jewish girl named Hannah Tubman whose father was a farmer in the Dunedin district. Emanuel claimed to be aged forty-eight but was more like fifty-five at the time, and she claimed to be twenty-two and was apparently only nineteen. The marriage certificate states that he had been a widower since 1880 but Hannah later wrote that Emanuel's previous wife had died in 1876. Regardless of the date, no one who has been following this story will be at all surprised to hear that I have been able to find no trace of a relevant female Levy death during this period either in New Zealand or England.

Emanuel and Hannah had a son and two daughters, and he left her around the birth of the youngest in 1901. Hannah adopted the name of Moag-Levy (Moag being a family name) and, for good measure, changed her first name to Anna. She died in 1944.

I had known of this second (or was it third?) marriage but didn't know the bride's identity and couldn't think how to find out. While I was wondering how to tackle the problem, I received a phone call in September 1996 from Frank Moag who introduced himself as Emanuel's grandson. He had contacted the Australian Jewish Historical Society who had put him on to Rieke Nash, the secretary of our Australian

Jewish Genealogical Society who had remembered that I was looking for Levys from Dunedin.

Frank, now over 80, had been a career naval officer. He went to sea in the ranks of the Royal Australian Navy, became a gunnery specialist, rose to the rank of Lt. Commander and was awarded an MBE. He had several tours of duty aboard the cruiser, HMAS Australia, including his war service, but was not on board this ship during her major action at Lingayen Gulf in January, 1945.

He had fascinating stories to tell of his father, Hyman Levy, the eldest child of Emanuel and Hannah. Hyman, who was a merchant service officer, had changed his name to Roger Moag-Levy and then to Roger Moag, claiming imaginatively that "Roger" was an English version of "Hyman".

He worked for several shipping lines and met his future wife, Lucy Moyse, on a voyage to Norfolk Island. The couple surprised and discomfited her mother by going off and getting married on 8 July 1913. They settled in Sans Souci, Sydney, where Bidy (Bridget) was born in 1914 and Frank in 1915.

At the outbreak of WW1 Hyman/Roger, then a second mate on the South China coast, joined the battleship HMS Triumph claiming to be a Sub-Lt RANR and was "lent" to the destroyer HMS Kennet for the bombardment of Tsingtao (now Qingdao) on 21 August 1914. For some reason Hyman/Roger then left the navy and returned to Sydney. Was this because they were checking on his claimed rank in the RANR?

He enlisted in the army in Sydney, was quickly promoted to Sergeant and subsequently to Lieutenant and was shipped to a camp in Egypt. On his return from Gallipoli, he was court martialled on 10 February 1916 on a charge of drunkenness, found guilty, discharged and sent back to Australia in March 1916.

He later went to Canada, where he became a first or second mate on a troopship, HMT Halifax. His second "wife" received a postcard from him from the Azores dated 11 December 1917, and the ship then vanished without trace.

Like so many of his personal papers, his army record is riddled with obvious inaccuracies, almost certainly the result of his grandiose fantasies. His application for a commission states that he was born in Ireland in 1880. The truth was that he was born in New Zealand in 1889, but he often claimed Irish birth and usually exaggerated his age by ten years. His service record produced at the court martial describes him as being thirty-eight years old and the holder of an incredible array of decorations such as a Distinguished Service Order (typically awarded only to much more senior officers) and other decorations which are obviously not true, such as Boer War medals dated 1899, 1900 and 1901 (when he was in reality ten or twelve years old!) and a Royal Humane Society medal in 1914.

His personal life was messy to say the least. He had two children with Lucy and then left her when Frank Moag, the younger, was six months old. In New York he married a Canadian woman named Mary Miley (without, it appears, the benefit of a divorce from Lucy). Mary was in the early stages of pregnancy when he was lost at sea in

December, 1917 and the child was born in New York in June, 1918. He was named Roger John Moag and became a Roman Catholic priest in Louisiana!

Most of the hard information was obtained through the New Zealand National Archives which are extremely helpful and the Registrar-General, though a lot of pointers to research directions came from members of the family. I made contact with the synagogues at Dunedin and Wellington and received a lot of assistance from committee members and others.

I would be most remiss if I did not mention two New Zealanders whom I have never met face to face, but with whom I made contact through Internet newsgroups and who have dug and delved for me obtaining certificates on my behalf, all out of the goodness of their hearts. Pauline Sigglekow and Trevor Reeves have been fantastic friends. One day I hope to meet them in person.

Phillip Baynash is a member of the society in Sydney and has been on the committee as publicity officer and recently became membership chairman and assistant treasurer.

**My Trip to Russia and
Lithuania (continued)**

**Selma
Jackson**

**Vol 4 No
2**



Monday, July 1. The boys wanted to visit the Vilna Gaon's tomb, as we had arrived back too late the previous afternoon when arrangements had been made to meet the gabbai of the Shul, who had the key. The Gaon, Elijah ben Solomon Zalman, died in 1487, and when the first cemetery was closed in 1832, at the end of the 19th century his remains were moved to another cemetery, which was destroyed in the 1950's, prior to which, he was moved to the present cemetery, which is on a hill! Today there is a memorial stone where the Gaon was first buried. We drove to the Krakai fortress, and on to Trachai (Troki), the district capital, which is surrounded by five lakes. Steven and Gordon paddled across Lake Galia to the Trakai Castle, and when they got back, Valera was handed a parking ticket. We hadn't seen the "No Parking" sign! It was in this area that the Karaites used to live. They were Turkish speaking, said "not to be nice Jews", even though they lived by the Torah. In 1897 there were 880 Rabbinate Jews and 424 ordinary Jews, of the 2390 population, who were engaged mainly in vegetable growing.

Regina had arranged to fetch a Jewish guide in Kaunas (Kovno), Frieda Prieskin, who accompanied us to the Dransy Camp, today a museum, but which used to be the 9th Fort, one of the way-stations where, from 1941, the 10,000 French Jews were taken on their way to Auschwitz. Seven, then-millionaires, were interned in Dransy. There are only a few of the prisoners' names scratched into the walls e.g. Max Stein of Paris 18.5.44, A.Steinberg, Herskovetz of Monaco 19.5.1944, as the Germans and Russians had removed most of the names. It was raining on the Monday we went to the camp, and inside the floors were very wet, the cells very damp with the metal beds hanging from the walls. That was how the inmates lived while they were there. We walked up a bricked walkway, towards a huge impressive monument to the inmates of Dransy Camp that were killed there, and on the side

below the road, was a wall full of bullet holes with the inscription "THERE NEAR THIS WALL NAZIS SHOT AND BURIED PEOPLE IN 1943-1944".

We then went into Kaunas, and then on to Taurege, where one Jew, Judelis, a forester has cleared the forest to show the trenches where the Jews were shot. Today there is a memorial on the edge of the Antsunija woods to the 3000 Jews killed there in 1941.

When we arrived at the only 'hotel' in Taurege, Regina suggested I go with her just to see if the hotel was all right! Just as well. The receptionist took us to see the three rooms and bathrooms, which we declined.

On to the next shtetl, Silale, on the Lokysta River, which wasn't much better, but at least there was a restaurant of sorts, Medvegalis, across the road from the Ashutis Hotel. It cost 150 Lats for the three rooms! According to cousin Luba, it was four kms from Silale, after Tulein, (maybe "Tubines Forest") that the Jews of Kvederna were taken to be killed and buried in a big grave. We put our luggage in the rooms, and walked along the main street. The scene from our bedroom window was of old grey corrugated iron rooves. A few had TV aerials. The one and only shop was busy with the locals buying food and groceries.

Tuesday, 2 July, the director of the museum, Rita Durskevena, took us to the Silale Jewish cemetery, which had ONE tombstone left! Finally we were on the outskirts of the shtetl I had most looked forward to going to, Kvederna. Dad used to say "Chveidan" and that is what is written on my grandparents' tombstones on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. At 10 am we stopped at the road sign, "KVEDERNA". This was where my Dad, Nathan Horwitz, my grandparents and family had lived. On entering the shtetl, Regina had Vallera stop the car, when she saw an elderly woman in the yard of the first house on the right. Regina spoke in Lithuanian, and asked if she had always lived in Kvederna, which she hadn't and she called her husband, Jurhus Juozas, who had. Regina asked him if he remembered the name "David Horwitz" and he said "Yes, he had an old grocery shop in the main street" and so we thanked them and went into the centre, where Regina and I went into the municipal offices, hoping that there would be a map and names, as we had found in Anyksciai, but we were sent from one office to another. Regina began talking to a very officious type of lady who was in an office with three other women. Regina explained that my father and grandparents had lived in the town and I was hoping to find the house. They got very excited, or thinking about it now, maybe it was agitation, but they were very nice. When a gentleman came out of the office next door wanting to know what the commotion was about, plenty of Lithuanian talk followed. The gentleman was introduced to us as The Mayor, Nikolajus Sevcenko. He locked his office door, said goodbye to his two gentlemen visitors, and told the ladies he would show us Kvederna! Mr Sevcenko is Ukrainian.

He took us to see Bronia Busheckiene, who lived at 30 Silali Street, and who he thought would remember. She took some time to come from her vegetable garden, and we went into her wooden house. Inside was worse than the outside! She must have told the Mayor something, because he then made a telephone call. She had had strawberries and cream for breakfast, as they were still on the table. I called Steven and Gordon in, so that they could see what the inside of a Lithuanian house

was like! She did not remember David Horwitz or Hurwitz! Mr Mayor then took us to the hospital, where, he said, was the only Jewish lady who had survived the concentration camp! He went in on his own, saying he would call us when he had spoken to her, which must have been about 10-15 minutes later. Thinking about it now, they must have been cleaning her and the room, and maybe all the rooms we had to pass by, as there were no other people in the rooms. When I walked into her room, she was sitting in bed, and she looked at me and started crying, calling "Luba, Luba", and I said "No, Luba is my cousin and she lives in Israel" "Yes I know", she says! Evidently Barbara Stasynaite born in 1923, used to work for Luba's parents, Shmuel and Sheina Gita Rachmel. Barbara and Luba were in the concentration camp together, and have remained friends and correspond to this day! There was a very nice blonde lady there, whom Regina said was introduced as Barbara's daughter, but when I finally spoke with Luba when I was in Tel Aviv, two weeks later, she said Barbara has no daughter, or anyone else for that matter! Barbara, Luba and Rose (Luba's sister who lives in Chicago USA), were the only ones who survived the concentration camp. Barbara went back to Kvederna after being liberated, whereas Luba found her husband and went to Israel, where she knew other members of the family lived. The Mayor then drove with us to the town centre, where we parked the car in the main street, on the corner opposite the town square, which is today the Square of Remembrance to those who lost their lives in the concentration camps and Holocaust. I took a photograph of a brick two-storey house across the road from where we were parked, saying "Maybe it was my Uncle Naftoli's house!" The Mayor and I walked to an open grassed plot of ground that he said was where the synagogue used to be. Only when I got to Tel Aviv, did I find out from Luba, that the brick building now the butcher shop, outside which we parked on the corner of the main street, Silale Street, had in fact been my grandparents' brick shop with flat upstairs, where they lived with their son Shmuel Meier, my uncle, his wife Chia and sons, Meishe and Chaim, and their son Naftoli and his wife. Rivka and her daughter lived across the road in a big brick house.

We drove to the outskirts of the shtetl, to the Jewish Cemetery, where a black memorial has been placed where the Ohel once stood. There are not many tombstones standing in the cemetery, but those still there were all tall narrow tombstones, quite different from those in Anyksciai. I took details of a few; 1936 Mordechai ben Rav Aharon; 1905 Shrage ben Jacov; one white stone 1927 Yehuda ben Avraham, remembered by daughter and son in Johannesburg, South Africa. In each shtetl, wherever we went to the cemetery, Steven and Gordon said Tilim, but here in Kvederna, they said quite a few Psalms. I think even at their young age, HERE they felt an affinity with Gerald and me! I felt very drained and sad here. We took the Mayor back to the civil buildings, where I wanted to buy a postcard or photograph of Kvederna, but there were none, so I asked the postmistress to stamp the back of a postcard I had bought in Anyksciai. She even forgot to change the date stamp. Just as we were leaving, the Mayor came running back. We had already taken our leave of him, and thanked him for his help, when he arrived and presented me with a baked clay medal showing the town memorial square, commemorating the Holocaust, Concentration camps and survivors. All this and it was only 11.55 am!!

We then drove to Tytuvėnai, (Tzitaŭjan) which I think Regina said meant "to the river", where my paternal grandmother's Berman family originated. There had been sixty Jewish families before World War 1, and had the well-known Yavne school for

girls. On approaching Tytuvėnai, Valera pointed out a stork family sitting on their nest on the top of a pole. We drove into the town and stopped at a very pretty Baras-Kavine decorated with wood, for a late lunch, leaving at 3.40 pm for the drive to Klaipėda. Eighteen kms from Tytuvėnai, as we were passing Kelmė, in the Rasin District on the Krazhianta River, I asked Valleria to drive into the town so that I could take a photograph to send to a relation, Gerald Kane in Delmar Heights, San Diego. He had written prior to my leaving on my trip, that his grand- father, Naftoli, a cousin of my father, came from Kelmė. The area is full of forests, lovely scenery, flat fields, vegetable patches and no fences, such as we had seen in other nearby areas. To all our questions, Valera kept replying "Da, Da" which means "Yes". Unfortunately postcards are not available in any of these pretty shtetls. We passed Rietavas, and on to Klaipėda (Memel). I was visualising the story which my Dad used to tell me about going with his Mother Esther by horse and cart from Chveidan to the wholesalers in Memel to do buying for their shop. The Viesbutis hotel in Klaipėda was big and basic. In my diary I have "hotel terrible", although it was busy with lots of tourists arriving. Gerald wasn't feeling well, so Regina and I went walking around the old part of the city, where the Jews used to live, to the Jewish Community Centre and saw concrete monuments made from broken-up Jewish tombstones, also pieces of different tombstones that had been saved and embedded into the surrounding walls of the centre. After the war, 300 mostly old Jews came to live in Klaipėda. From Klaipėda the ferry goes to the Spit, neighbouring ports, and even across the sea to Russian ports.

Wednesday, July 3, I walked around near the hotel on my own, while Regina took Gerald and the boys to see where we had been the previous evening. There are quite a few shops near the hotel with many banks and financial institutions, with a market place nearby which is very busy. We drove around the city to the "Turgeviete" market, and then to a walk through a beautiful park, on the way to the Amber Castle, but as Gerald had a bout of gout, he and Regina sat at the edge of the lake, while Steven, Gordon and I went into the castle to see the story of amber, how and where it is found, and also saw beautiful pieces of amber jewellery. Then off to Palanga, a seaside resort north of Klaipėda, which in the 15th Century used to be a Jewish centre with 12,000 people. On arrival at Palanga, we had to get petrol. One has to pay first for as many litres as one thinks one may require, and also pay the 20 Litas (US\$5) tax before one could drive into the sea-side resort. There were lots of women standing around the Palanga office begging, offering accommodation in their homes, and bartering with the tourists. We saw two young tourists walk away with one of the ladies offering accommodation! We walked over the dunes to the beach, and I went to the water's edge to put my hands into the sea water.

On the way to Plunge, we drove through Kretinga, where Regina showed us a beautiful palace with a magnificent atrium which used to belong to a wealthy Jewish family. In Plunge we went to the flat of Dalia and Josel Jakov Bumka. Josel, now aged 73, who was in the Russian army, brought out his army jacket with all the many medals and insignia, and enjoyed telling us of his wartime experiences, and for what he won the various medals! Josel is a woodcarver, and all his figurines are on the piano in the lounge. Gerald ordered and paid for a figurine for Lisa, his daughter. Josel took us to where the Russians destroyed the synagogue and built a Russian school, gymnasium, and where he has managed to save eighty-eight Jewish tombstones. A symbol of resistance, he said. He has placed these tombstones in a

semi-circle, but says once he is gone, there will be no one to look after the stones. He has managed, together with an American, to get permission to transport the Wasserman grandmother's tombstone to New York. Aga, daughter of Mordecai Kirsh, died in 1918. Plunge was the only shtetl in Lithuania which had surnames on the tombstones. He then told us to drive into the country, where we saw beautiful woodcarvings that he had carved, depicting scenes of what the Jews went through. With the help of the America Joint Distribution Committee, he has cleared and built pathways up to the mass graves. The masterpiece is of a Rabbi looking over the four mass graves, which are sixteen steps down, saying "Var Vos?" Indeed "Why?" He has also put a memorial stone, in English, showing the place where "in this place 15/16 July 1941, the Nazi Assassins and their local collaborationists murdered ferociously about 1800 Jews from Plunge, children, women and men". We then went back to the Bumka's flat, where Mrs Bumka had laid out a wonderful afternoon tea with yellow and red cherries, strawberries, homemade biscuits, rye bread, cheese and honey, tea and coffee.

From Plunge, we drove to Telsiai (Tels) on Lake Mastis. No one we know comes from Tels, but once we were there, Gerald said we should go and see! The old Jewish gymnasium, school, still stands, and there is a mass grave for the 7,000 Jews who perished there. We drove to the Laukova cemetery. My uncle Shmuel Meier's wife Chai's family, Katin, came from Laukova where they all perished with their family. The stones in the cemetery date from 1800 to 1850. We drove on to Siauliai (Shavli), and after driving around to see the different hotels, we stayed the night at the Siauliai Hotel. We ate at the hotel that evening, but it wasn't good!

Thursday, July 4, the boys are fasting until 11.49 pm, as it is the Fast of Tammuz. There used to be 17,000 Jews out of 35,000 inhabitants in Siauliai, 20 survived, and only about 5 or 6 are still there! Jakob Frankel gave his elegant house, near the old shul, for a school, and it is being restored as a Jewish museum. We met Avigal Sidenkor, who took us to the Jewish Community Centre, which they rent from the owners, as the Jewish properties have not been given back to the Jews. (Avigal sent regards to Gerald Kleinman of Cape Town). We had lunch at a very popular restaurant, with red velvet curtains, and then we walked along the paved main street mall, with shops on both sides. With 4 Litas = US\$1, oranges cost 5.50; apples 4.00; cucumbers 2.00. Regina left us for a few minutes, and I think she must have bought the Anyksciai wine here, that she gave Gerald and me as gifts. The old synagogue is on Vilnius g. corner of Varpog. From the petrol station we saw new modern houses being built.

As we were approaching Gruzdziiai, Gerald decided to go into the shtetl, as his sister-in-law, Cynthia's father came from Gruzdziiai. We took a few photographs and enquired where the cemetery was. Regina asked a lady on a bicycle the way to the Jewish Cemetery, and she told us we had to go through someone's farm on the outskirts of the town. The farmer opened his gates to allow us to get to the Jewish cemetery, but on the way from the cemetery, we found that there was a proper road to the cemetery! The very first grave I looked at was "1919 Lea Gruzd, daughter of Josef" - Cynthia's Great Grandmother no doubt! While Gerald and the boys walked among the tombstones, Regina and I collected wild strawberries along the outer wall. We walked to the back wall of the cemetery, where we found the wall riddled with bullet holes, and opposite was the mass grave.

We left Gruzdžiai at 12.30 pm, and on the way to the border of Latvia, on a very bad 16 km road back in the direction of Siauliai, Valera tried to get the necessary Lithuanian sticker "LT" for the car, without which he would not have been able to take the car back into Lithuania, but without success. At the garage we used the toilets. The sign for the "ladies" we found out was an inverted triangle, and again the toilet was a hole in the ground! Just south of Joniskis, we saw in the distance, the Hill of Crosses, a Christian pilgrimage site, with thousands of wooden crosses, swords and rosaries piled high, going back hundreds of years, but evidently Christians today still lay their rosaries there! We reached Joniskis at 1.45 pm, where before the war there were 600 Jews of the 2,500 population. We went to see the two large synagogues which stand next to each other, the Kneset, still with the Magen David at the centre near the top, and the Beit Midrash.

Having bought the "LT" sticker from the road service office in Joniskis, we were expecting to spend at least an hour in the queue at the border, but with only three cars ahead of us, it took ten minutes at the Lithuanian customs and Latvian immigration. Once again Gerald and the boys did not get their passports stamped, but they were informed that they were the first South Africans to cross the border there! Again we saw a family of storks in the nest on top of a pole, and it seems that they nest near houses on the outskirts of villages. We passed Jelgava, a Latvian palace. The cost of petrol was 26 centimes for 1 litre petrol = US 50c. The Latvian LAT = US\$2.00 (Litas, centai and centu).

On the highway we passed the village of Juan Olaine, about 10 kms from Riga. I don't remember what the significance of this village was, but I will find out! Apartment blocks house 1 million people, the trams are old Russian ones. We drove into Riga across one of the three bridges over the Dogaba River, one is for trains only. We arrived at the Eurolink Hotel, 22 Aspazijas Boulevard, where we found Roman Blumenthal waiting for us. Regina and Valera were keen to return to Vilnius by that evening, so they did not wait to have lunch with us, and we said our goodbyes, having spent seven wonderful days together.

Riga - we were back in civilisation! The Eurolink Hotel is a good business class hotel, on the third floor of the Riga Hotel, with its own dining area, lovely bedrooms and bathrooms, security card to get into the room, hairdressing salon on the second floor! As there were no Kosher restaurants, the boys decided to go to the Synagogue, the Riga Choral Synagogue at 6/8 Pietavasiela, to make arrangements with the Rabbi, and Gerald, Roman and I took ourselves to the "Shalom" restaurant, Jewish owned, the cooking done by the owner and her family, where we ordered gefilte fish for starters, chicken soup and kneidel (Gerald had his borscht), and Tzimmes, with taiglach (nothing like my Mother's) to finish with black coffee! Later it was a pleasure being able to watch CNN on TV, and see what was going on in the world!

(To be continued)

Selma Jackson is a member of the Society in Sydney to which she emigrated from Cape Town, South Africa about 8 years ago.



The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in cooperation with the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Poland, is preparing for publication some Jewish Youth Autobiographies written in the 1930s. The editorial board is looking for any information about the authors.

Zygmunt Horowitz, born in 1912 in **Zakopane**, Poland. We know that he survived the Holocaust.

Wilhelm Kittenplon, born in 1917 in **Sambor**, Ukraine. He lived in **Drohobycz**.

Maks Lieber, born in 1914. He lived in **Krasne by Busk**, Poland.

Dawid Mlynarski, born in 1918 in **Sulejow**, Poland in the Ger Hassidim family. He attended the "Metivta" Yeshiva in Warsaw.

Abraham Rotfarb, born in 1921 in **Warsaw**; his pre-war address: Nalewki 45 Apt 37. He now lives in Israel and is looking for information about the fate of his brothers and sisters: Perec (b. 1923), Fajga (b. 1925), Chaja (b. 1927), Lejb (b. 1929).

Ludwik Stockel, born in 1914 in **Zofiowka by Biala Czortkowska** (Ukraine). He lived in **Tluste**. In 1933 he studied in Lvov University and was active in "Poale-Zion"

A. Szac, born in 1915 in **Pinsk**. He lived in **Bereza Kartuska**.

Hersz Wolf Sztolcman, born in 1912 in **Lazy** near **Sochaczew**. He lived in **Warsaw** and **Sochaczew**. We know that his brother, Aron Sztolcman, born in 1925, survived. According to the Yad Vashem Archive, Hersz Sztolcman, born October 1st, 1912 in **Gabin**, emigrated to Australia in 1951, possibly Melbourne.

Malka Szwarc, born in 1911 in **Vilna**. According to Yad Vashem, Malka Szwarc was born July 5th, 1912 and was living in the Displaced Persons' Camp in Bergen-Belsen in 1947.

If you know anything about any of the above persons, please send the information to:

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On the 29th September 1947 the ship Sagittaire docked in Sydney, Australia, carrying amongst its passengers Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. The National Council Of Jewish Women (Dimona Group) Melbourne, Australia will be holding a reunion to be held on Sunday the 14th. September 1997. Any person knowing the whereabouts of passengers who arrived on this ship or their descendants, would they please contact Alice Tiomkin at <oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au> or our Society.

The following is a list of passengers:-

AURBACH Beryez
BARASZ Lejzer
BAUMANN Rolph
BEKKER Mira
BERLINER Erich
BOMZOM Israel, Bella, Lionel
BRANDENBERG Dina
BUCHBINDER Lejzner, Ziva, Savari
CHARAK Kisel
CSILLAG Tibor
DAVID Zisla, Pineu
DREZNER Shulem, Hania, Jankow
DESSAUER Julius, Klara
ECKSTEIN Maxmilian
EISNER Maria, Peter
FINKELSTEIN Joseph, Frida, Michel, Adam
FINKELZTEIN Leib, Zipa, Aron
FUCHS Elsa
HEILIKMAN Alfred, Ita
FINDER Samuel, Ida, Felicia
FINK Heinrich, Irma
FISCHL Frederic
FRANK Luba
FRUCHTER Tibor, Juliana, Josepha, Georges
FREIBERG Gus/Cecil, Eva
GOLDSZTAT Mojszes, Bronia, Lajba
GRUNSEIT Benno, Cilly
GUTVACH Evelyne
GRECHOWSKI Choma
HAMMERMESZ Szlama, Pawel, Leckadia, Edwards, Kasimir
HERCHTAL Rosa, Julius, Ludwig
HOSENBALL Jenkil, Chana, Luba,
ILLIN Efroim, Sonia, Bella
JELLINEK Paul, Rudolphine, Jacki, Jonas Paul, Margarete
JOSKOWITZ Hesich, Lola
KAUFMAN Moses, Ele
KIRSCHERBLATT Szlamak, Ryma
KLEIN Georges, Madeleine
KANE Abram, Basia
KEMPINSKI Rudolph, Berta, Sophie, Liliane

KREIGER Babara
KUPPERT Ingrid
KRAUS Franciska
KURCBERG Szyra, Hinda, Wolf
KNOSSOV Cyla, Anulka
KUTNA Mari, Barbara
LEW Leo, Genia
LAEMNITZ Ern, Juta
LIPSYC Herman, Raya
LEWKOWICZ Hersz, Roza, Chaja, Cheskiel, Lipa
LUCHS Adam, Rizenda
MANDEL Katelen
MARGULIES Gabriel
MAYERTHAL Arnold/Aron
MIKE Margaret
MOSER Eugenia
NEUSTEIN David, Regina
ORENSTEIN Jankiel, Chana, Lew, Sara
POLICER Alice
PINCZEWSKI Mordhai, Karela
PRUZANSKI Tewel, Chana, Genia
RABINOWICZ David, Leia, Gruna, Maretta
ROSENSTRAUCH Max
ROSENTHAL Theodore, Liesl, Evelyn
REICH Heinz, Betty
REUTER Fritz, Selma
ROSENSTRAUSS Samuel, Naftalie, Chaja
RUBINLICHT, Sara, Alexandra,
RUTKIEWITZ Chaim, Mendel
SCHENK Emil, Hildegard, Gustav
SCHULTVATER Klara
SCHWARZ Eva, Thoma
SPECTOR Sender Szejja, Jankiel, Espir
SCHREIBERSDORF Arthur, Bronislawa, Ilza, Rita
TUREK Isak, Anna/Nusia, Josef
TRADELIUS Erna
WALLIGURA Chana
WIENER Clara
WURZEL Josef, Helene, Alexandre
ZELAZO Gerson, Luba, Rachela
ZERMAN Isac, Wanda

Leslie Oberman is the Internet correspondent for The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Victorian Branch. His email is oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

The Messageries Maritimes ship "Sagittaire" transported cargo as well as passengers and called at all the French colonies on its way from Marseilles to Sydney via the Straits of Gibraltar and the Panama Canal. It was July, 1947 and already Arab states were at war with the Jews and Jewish passengers were not allowed off the ship in Algiers, the first port of call. While we travelled over the

Atlantic Ocean and then the Pacific, the ship's bulletin board daily carried news of another more dramatic sea voyage, that of "Exodus 47" which was attempting to run the blockade by the British navy to the shores of Palestine, and was then returned to a German port.

Meanwhile we had a smooth voyage to Pointe a Pitre (Guadeloupe), Fort de France (Martinique), Colon (Panama) where the local Jewish community gave a banquet for the Jewish passengers, Papeete (Tahiti), Vanuatu and Noumea (New Caledonia). Conditions were steerage and very difficult for couples with young children, but for young teenagers it was an enchanted voyage, dolphins leaping alongside, no sea pollution, a clear starry sky, and dancing on deck each night to the piano accordeon of one survivor, with his wife singing the lyrics.

Fifty years later, many of the older and even younger passengers have died, but many led productive lives in Australia and left children and grandchildren. Even some of the then teenagers like ANNA TUREK and MARI KUTNA have died. And I also was a passenger on that voyage of S/S "SAGITTAIRE".

Editor

The Search for the Millionaire's Heirs	Klee Benveniste	Vol 4 No 2	
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A South Australian newspaper recently included an article on the search for relatives of the late Mr Aaron Feldman. The article in the Sunday Mail in Adelaide (April 13, 1997, page 3) announced that a seven-year worldwide search has failed to find the heir to \$A2.5 million, South Australia's largest unclaimed inheritance. The inheritance will probably be transferred to the State Treasury if it cannot be claimed by his relatives. The newspaper article explains:

"Aaron Feldman, formerly of Butler Crescent, Glengowrie, died in May, 1990 without a will after amassing a small property empire on Jetty Road, Glenelg. His wife died some years earlier in Melbourne and with no children, his estate passed to the Public Trustee to seek his heirs".

The search by staff genealogists at the Public Trustee office in South Australia has included Europe and Canada and currently centres on England where they believe he spent some time.

"It is believed Mr. Feldman was born in Austria in 1903 but may have changed his name amid the turmoil of World War II. Information gleaned from his marriage certificate suggests he spent time in England before arriving in Australia around 1950".

This arrival date contradicts information I have found in Adelaide Jewish archival records. The article does not mention his Jewish ancestry but I have determined

that, under the name Mr. H. Feldman, he and his wife came to Adelaide from Broken Hill in New South Wales where he had lived in the 1950's. Adelaide Hebrew Congregation had links with the Broken Hill congregation and a number of Jewish families moved to Adelaide when the Broken Hill community decreased. Other Broken Hill families dispersed to the eastern states of Australia. Although Mr Feldman was Jewish, the Adelaide congregation was not aware of his death until after he had been buried, so he did not receive a Jewish burial. Maybe, even after his death, we can do something to help.

There may be members of the dispersed Broken Hill Jewish community who remember him or might know where he originally came from and could assist in the search for cousins. By all reports, he was quite a character. In South Australia he was a landlord of shops rather than a retailer.

Jewish genealogists would have access to more specific resources to help to trace Mr. Feldman's ancestry and closest living relatives. For example, another congregation may have recorded his Hebrew name which could assist in determining his father's name which is currently not known. I have already been contacted by Beulah Gross from N.S.W. who had Feldman relatives but we have not been able to demonstrate a connection. If you know anyone who had relatives by the name of Feldman ask if they can demonstrate a link to a Mr. H. (or A.) Feldman who lived in Broken Hill in the 1950's.

The contact address for the South Australian branch is

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 Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA branch)
 C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation
 P.O. Box 320, Glenside SA 5065 AUSTRALIA

Forebears

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2



00052 SONJA MUEHLBERGER, (nee Krips) Karl-Pokern Str. 14, Berlin 12587 GERMANY, is seeking her former Shanghai childhood friend **DORIS KASWAN** or **KASWHAN**. Doris was born 1939 or 1940 in Shanghai and migrated to Australia with her mother in late 1940's. Would like to hear from anyone who knew her. Please contact directly or through this Society.

Editorial

Sophie
Caplan

Vol 4 No
3



This issue of the newsletter is very late. The reason is lack of helpers to bring it out. We are a Society with many members, but very few are willing to give up any of their personal time to give the handful of committee members in each state a hand in the many tasks which go into operating a successful organisation run entirely by volunteers. We need volunteers to take over tasks such as typing of the newsletter, organising its distribution, general publicity officer and database coordinator. Is there anybody out there who is willing to help? Last month our membership in NSW alone reached over 120. Surely **SOMEBODY** can give us an occasional few hours. If you can, please give us a call. Last month our membership Australia-wide reached 227

individuals. But when some months ago Rieke Nash, our vice-president and honorary secretary, asked to be relieved of the task of also publishing this newsletter, no one else could be found to do the task. Even one person who tentatively volunteered to do this dropped off before having started.

At the moment your editor is at a crucial stage of work on a book, but it seems as though there is no one to relieve either Rieke or me. We appeal to members who have good typing skills or who can spare time for any phase of this Society's work to please come forward and help. The whole weight of this organisation cannot be carried by just two or three people.

If not for this, our Society would be going forward by leaps and bounds. Both Rieke and I and our spouses from Sydney, and Dr Albert Braunstein from Melbourne attended the 5th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Paris and plunged for five days into the heady atmosphere of a meeting with people whose major hobby is also Jewish genealogy. Seekers for both Sephardi and Ashkenazi roots were well served in Paris, and I was privileged to preview the forthcoming **DICTIONARY OF SEPHARDIC JEWISH SURNAMES** prepared by Guilherme Faigenboim and his Brazilian Jewish Genealogical Society on the model of Alexander Beider's Polish and Russian Jewish surname books, which will encompass Jewish surnames from the whole Sephardi diaspora and also mention the places where they were mostly found in the last five hundred years. This will give an enormous boost to Sephardi research.

AVOTAYNU, Inc is presently investigating the possibility of a tax-exempt foundation to print more of the books which Jewish genealogists have been clamouring for, particularly those presently inaccessible to those who have only a basic or non-existent grasp of Hebrew or Yiddish.

The REIPP (Russian Era Indexing in Poland Project) to translate the indices for Jewish vital records and make them available on JewishGen on the Internet, is going ahead under the leadership of Stanley Diamond of Canada who also pioneered the work on identifying Jewish family groups genetically affected by the Mediterranean-basin originated anemia, Beta-thalassemia, which affects Jews from certain areas of Poland. REIPP includes vital records between 1868 and 1880 when, Poland having rebelled against Russian hegemony, the punishment became that all records in Russian-dominated Poland had to be in the Russian language and the Russian alphabet. This indexing in the Latin alphabet will also facilitate the work of Jewish genealogists.

In Paris I acquired a number of recently published books on various aspects of French Jewish vital records including a listing of 18th and 19th century ketubot from Alsace, religious marriages in Paris from 1848 to 1872 and the family tree books of families from the Papal area of France and Fontainebleau. I will be happy to make the contents available to any member with French Jewish roots.

There will be a full report of the Paris conference in the next issue, and also one on our pre- and post conference genealogical activities in Europe. The Annual General Meeting of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies which took place during the conference, resulted in the election of a new slate of office-bearers chosen by

the appointed Nominating Committee and the failure to elect the one person who was nominated independently showed that it is unfortunately the Nominating Committee which controls the election. Fortunately the new president is Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack of the Greater Washington J.G.S., founder and still editor of AVOTAYNU, the Review of International Genealogy, author of "A Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research in Israel" and co-author with Gary Mokotoff, the founding president of the Association, of "Where Once We Walked, A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust", perhaps the most important book in English on Jewish genealogy. Karen Franklin of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York and now also publisher of STAMMBAUM, the journal of German-Jewish genealogy, is now vice-president. Hal Bookbinder is again treasurer, Saul Isroff, a former South African, now resident in England, is now also on the committee, as is Bruce Kahn of Rochester. We will endeavour to give you the full list of committee members of the Association in our next issue.

News from the Victorian Branch

Lionel Sharpe

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3



The Victorian Branch experienced its best attended meeting this year when Melbourne based researcher, Krystyna Wyszogrodzki, addressed the Branch on June 18th, at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre.

Some eighty members and interested members of the community crowded into the hall to listen to her address illustrated with interesting overhead slide material. Krystyna had assisted Mark Baker in his research for his popular fast selling book "*A Journey through Memory - The Fiftieth Gate*". She is currently in private practice conducting genealogical research. Her business is called "Lost Histories - Eastern European Research". Krystyna is studying for a doctorate on a town in Poland which was the subject of her talk. She outlined her research methodology and the sources she used in exploring Jewish-Gentile relations in a Polish town, Lubartow, about 30 kilometres north of Lublin, at the outbreak of World War II. In 1939, Lubartow's population was 40% Jewish and 60% Polish. She spoke about the quantity of Jewish historical material which is available in some Polish archives for such towns as Lubartow and how to access this material.

A meeting on 23rd July was planned to encourage members to share their successes and problems experienced in their own family research. A number of members addressed the meeting and feedback was given by the audience to assist in opening new avenues for further research.

The question of the use of computer programs had been raised by a number of members and a meeting on August 19th was devoted to exploring the advantages and disadvantages of computer programs and the experience of members with various programs such as Reunion, Dorot and Family Maker. Two committee members brought along their own computers and the audience had an opportunity of doing some hands-on practice in the exploration of family trees and the production of charts and family reports.

Our regular beginners' workshop was held on September 21st and on this occasion Les Oberman's computer was connected to the Internet to explore the JewishGen

Family Finder database. The recently arrived collection of microfiche and nineteenth century maps purchased from Avotaynu in New Jersey attracted a great deal of interest and a microfiche reader was available for searching.

'Preparing your Family History for Publication' is the topic for the Branch meeting on October 29th. Wilder Ghostwriters, a Melbourne-based company, which specialises in writing books for families, holocaust survivors and commercial institutions, will discuss the process of preparing material for publication.

A visit to the Church of the Latter Day Saints Family History library is planned for the last week in October.

The Victorian Branch meets at the
BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE,
306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Melbourne.
Tel: 03-9273 5611
Postal Address: P.O. Box 189,
GLENHUNTLY VIC 3163, AUSTRALIA

Internet contacts:

Leslie Oberman oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

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Enquiries: Rhonda 03-9578 6456 Lionel: 03-9523-6738 Fax: 03-9532-7797

News from the South Australian Branch	Klee Benveniste	Vol 4 No 3		
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The South Australian branch has increased to eight members as we welcome new member Helen Twersky.

At our July meeting, guest speaker Dorit Ninio gave a fascinating presentation about the family history of three Jewish brothers each of whom settled in New Zealand and had a Maori wife. Her presentation included stunning pictures of female family members in traditional Maori dress, accounts of family traditions, and the significant contribution the descendants have made to Maori affairs and public life in New Zealand in general. We hope Dorit will prepare an article about them for The Kosher Koala.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held in October.

The contact address for the South Australian branch is

Dr Klee Benveniste, Honorary Secretary
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News from the Western Australian Branch	Michelle Urban	Vol 4 No 3		
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In June, 1997 a West Australian Jewish Genealogical Society was formed in Perth and now has five financial members. Although small, there was discussion of the interest levels for many who could not attend and we hope to build on that in the future. It was decided to meet quarterly with workshops at private homes in between.

The first workshop was held in August and took the form of an informal gathering. The afternoon ended pleasantly with consensus that the networking effect was of use to those interested in tracing their Jewish family history.

The next workshop will be held on the second Sunday, 9th November at 2.30 p.m. at Michelle Urban's, 21 Broomhall Way, Noranda 6062 Western Australia. Tel: 08-9375-3874.

The other contact is Ross Trobe, 1/24 Broomhall Way, Noranda 6062, Western Australia. Tel: 08-9375-1492

**From a Little Corner of the
Diaspora of the Jews from
Egypt**

**Klee
Benveniste**

**Vol 4 No
3**



On reading the newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami which arrived for the first time at the South Australian Branch, I noted a small item mentioning an 'Historical Society of Jews from Egypt' based in New York. It is not widely known that within the South Australian Jewish community of less than two thousand Jews are hundreds of descendants of families who fled the Egyptian Jewish communities of Cairo and Alexandria between 1948 and 1956 and settled in Adelaide. Many were related but at least a dozen males who had strong friendship ties as masonic brothers in the French Lodge of Cairo chose to stay together. The original refugees are now in their seventies and still speak French or Italian amongst themselves. Sephardi traditions in Adelaide differ from those of every other Australian city.

I made a note to write to the Historical Society of Jews from Egypt about a newsletter, but that evening to my great surprise, my husband brought home a copy of their newsletter 'Second Exodus' received in the post that day by two relatives who also did not know the Society existed. Wow, I thought, brainwaves are faster than electronic mail!

Our relatives were fascinated to read that the Society intends to establish a museum and a university for the study of Egyptian Jewry, in New York State. My mother-in-law avidly read the article on the House of Cicurel, a department store in Egypt, underlining names of bosses for whom she had worked. We were stunned to read that the New York-based Historical Society of Jews from Egypt demanded that all the Torah scrolls in Egypt must be given to them to take to the United States. The President of the Jewish Community of Cairo rejected their demand stating that all Sefarim have been classified as antiquities by the Ministry of Culture which means their export, sale or displacement is forbidden by law and punishable by ten years imprisonment. We were shocked to read that a "do-gooder" had previously sent over one hundred Torah scrolls overseas from Alexandria, only to find they were sold rather than given to ex-Egyptian communities as intended. We read an article from

Cairo about the need for foreign help to preserve the synagogues and cemeteries and learned that over two hundred locals and tourists attended the Chaar Hashamayim synagogue in Cairo for Purim.


Many of our older relatives in the Benveniste, Franco, Hasda and Mires families were married in Egyptian synagogues or have parents or children buried in cemeteries in Egypt. On reading the newsletter, our aunt immediately wanted to write to Egypt for a copy of her marriage certificate. Many couples who fled Egypt lost their Jewish marriage document, which was traditionally kept by older relatives or deposited in Egyptian synagogues for safekeeping.

My husband and I visited Egypt for three days in 1993 following the Maccabiah Games in Israel. His parents were born in Alexandria and married in the Great Synagogue of Cairo. Other relatives married in the synagogue in Alexandria and some were buried in Jewish cemeteries of Cairo, Alexandria or Zagazig. We knew many stories of their lives there, where they lived, went to school, worked or relaxed, and that a synagogue had an oil lamp they donated.

It was our first visit to Egypt and we were excited just to travel past places which relatives had mentioned. They had said that Egypt was now an Arab country, and there were few Jews left. We had read that in 1974 there were only 350 Jews in the whole of Egypt (M. Gilbert 'Atlas of Jewish History', 1984). We photographed where the family lived in Cairo, but finding family graves was impossible. Apart from having a synagogue address from a Jewish Travel Guide book, we had difficulty finding family sites as most Cairo streets had been renamed. We stayed one night on the beachfront in Alexandria. After a peaceful evening walk I could understand why his relatives loved Alexandria and were reluctant to leave.

That newsletter renewed our hopes of visiting the Jewish community in Egypt again one day, and of seeing the synagogues, cemeteries and historical sites. Next time we hope to have a Jewish guide. To any Jews in Egypt who may read this, as this newsletter also travels widely, just know that in another corner of the diaspora, on the other side of the world, other Jews who fled Egypt are thrilled to know that you are there in Cairo and you care about preserving our Jewish family heritage, and we say to you "Mabrouk!"

Dr Klee Benveniste is the honorary secretary of the South Australian Branch of the Society in Adelaide, and honorary archivist of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation.

Anemia or Beta-Thalassemia?	Stanley Diamond	Vol 4 No 3	
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(From JewishGen Digest)

It is eighteen months since I last posted a lengthy message outlining my search for carriers of the beta-thalassemia genetic trait. I welcome responses from all readers.

So much has happened in the past eighteen months that the full story will run far too long. If I cut it short, some key points are eliminated. I hope I have found the right balance. You, your family and friends, could hold some important clues for this

project. Please take the time to read the message and please ask yourself, "how can I help?" Knowing about the beta-thalassemia genetic trait may be vital to someone you know.

For years, thalassemia (also known as Cooley's anemia or Mediterranean anemia), was thought to affect only Greek, Italian, Asian, and Sephardic Jewish families. Recent discoveries indicate that Ashkenazic Jews also carry the trait and could be at risk for the fatal disease.

Several years ago, Dr Ariella Oppenheim of Hebrew University, Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem, and Dr Charles Scriver of McGill University, Montreal Children's Hospital Medical Research Institute, independently discovered that my family and a family in Jerusalem carry a newly recognized mutation of the beta-thalassemia trait. As a result, I embarked on a scientific and humanitarian project that invites the participation of genealogists around the world. The first scientific paper related to the project was published in January 1997 in the medical journal "*Human Mutation*" (Vol. IX, No. 1).

In Israel, where there is mass pre-natal screening for beta-thalassemia, only seven Ashkenazic families have been identified as carriers. This rarity creates a potentially dangerous scenario for Ashkenazic families with unsuspecting carriers. The thalassemia genetic trait (thalassemia minor) does not affect carriers themselves. However, it can be a ticking time bomb for their descendants because the trait is typically diagnosed as mild chronic anemia. Thus, Ashkenazic Jews and their physicians, particularly in the Diaspora, are unlikely to try to identify the cause of the anemia.

There is one in four chance that the offspring of two carriers will inherit thalassemia disease (thalassemia major), which, until recent medical advances, had always been fatal by early adulthood. It remains a devastating disease. With the growing rate of intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews, as well as the increased frequency of Ashkenazic-Sephardic marriages, there is an ever-increasing risk of this deadly disease occurring in an unaware Ashkenazic population.

To learn if you are a carrier, ask your physician about your MCV level, which is normally recorded in a standard blood test. If it is 78 or less, you should have an evaluation of your hemoglobin A2.

My initial goal in this project was to find other carriers of the specific beta-thalassemia mutation carried by my family, originally from Ostrow Mazowiecka (Ostrova) in the old Lomza Gubernia of Poland, and a family in Jerusalem (originally from Bobruysk in Belarus) and identify the earliest carriers of this mutation in both families. The project has already led to alerting unsuspecting Ashkenazic carriers outside my family and I want to continue to do this wherever possible. This is the most urgent aspect, because the beta-thalassemia genetic trait is not usually found unless physicians are looking for it. Carriers are often misdiagnosed as being anemic and are incorrectly prescribed doses of iron. Most carriers in my family learned that they carried the trait later in life, in some cases, long after having grandchildren. This late diagnosis could have been disastrous.

While I have not found other carriers of my family's specific mutation so far, outreach has turned up six other Diaspora Ashkenazic families carrying the trait. A few already launched programs to alert their extended families about the potential dangers to future generations. These families were found through JewishGen posts and articles in the general and Jewish press and Jewish Genealogical Society newsletters.

On-site research in Poland and the cooperation of the Polish State Archives and key Civil Records Offices enabled me to document over forty additional families who may be at risk. With descendants of so many families to be traced and contacted, my task, already immense, has now become virtually unmanageable. I need help from my fellow genealogists, their friends, relatives, and physicians, and anyone who might have knowledge of a carrier.

Here's how you can help:

1. Review the names below for possible matches with your family, friends and acquaintances. If the family can trace its roots to or near one of the towns, it could explain the mild chronic anemia which until now may have been ignored, discounted, or worse, incorrectly treated.
2. If you are, or know, an Ashkenazic carrier of beta-thalassemia, please contact me immediately. According to standard medical practice, all names will be held in confidence.
3. Contact the experts on Jewish genetic diseases in your area. This will usually be the chief hematologist at a general hospital serving a large Jewish patient base and/or a hematologist associated with a local children's hospital. Genetic counsellors may also know possible contacts. The question to ask is, "Have you, or anyone you know, ever identified Ashkenazic carriers of the beta-thalassemia trait?" If the answer is yes, please let me know the name of the attending physician. I will forward the full background on the project, which could then be given to the carrier. The next step would be for the carrier to contact me.
4. Send a copy of this request to your physician(s); ask that it be mentioned to associates, particularly in the fields of hematology, genetics, and pediatrics. This step is necessary since information about a carrier may not always come to the attention of the local expert.

If you want to help or need further information, please contact me via email (SMSDiamond@aol.com), telephone 1-514-484-0100 or fax 1-514-484-7306.

Stanley Diamond is the President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal and a member of the REIPP Board.

The 19th Century Lomza Gubernia and Bobruysk families who may be carriers of my family's novel mutation of the Beta-Thalassemia genetic trait are listed below. Known Anglicized spellings for some names are noted by square brackets [].

ALTERMAN/ELTERMAN

Bobruysk, Minsk,
Belarus

BEKAS	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
BENGELSDORF	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
BORENSZTEJN	Wyszkow, Poland
CANTOR/KANTOR	Bobruysk, Belarus
DOMB/DAB[DUNN]	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Wyszkow, Poland
DENDA	Poremba-Koceby, Goworowo, Poland
DMOCHER	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
DYSKANT	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Zaremby Koscieine, Poland
ELBERG	Bialystok, Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
FISZMAN[FISHMAN]	Poremba-Koceby, Poland
FUX/FUKS	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
GRABINA	Wyszkow, Poland
GRUMA	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
JARZEMBOWICZ	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
KAGUN/KAGAN	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Lomza, Bialystok, Poland
KAMIEN	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
KRAVETSKY	Bobruysk, Belarus
LUSTYK[LUSTIG]	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
MAJMUDES	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
MALOWANY	Poremba, Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
MANCHICK	Bobruysk, Minsk, Belarus
MILLER	Siedlce, Poland
MORDKOWICZ[MARKOWITZ/MARDEN]	Wyszkow, Poland
MYSZNE[MICHNER]	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
NOWES	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
OLENBERG	Wyszkow, Poland

OFFMAN/HOFFMAN	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
PALUCH[PEARLMAN/PERLMAN]	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Wyszkow, Poremba, Poland
RACHMAN/ROCHMAN	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Wyszkow, Poland
SEGAL	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
SOLNIK	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
STONEK	Jadow, Lomza, Poland
SZTABA	Szomowo [Lomza District],Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
VIDYLKA[VIDELOCK, WIDELOCK]	Lunna, Grodno, Belarus
WAJNGORT	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
WIDELEC [WIDELITZ,WIDLITZ]	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poremba, Wyszkow, Kamienczyk, Kaluszyn, Sochaczew, Dlugosiodlo, Poland
WIERZBA	Lomza, Poland
ZALCBERG[ZALTSBERG]	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland
ZELEK	Ostrow Mazowiecka, Poland

"Hollywood Chai"

Vol 4 No
3



18th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy
July 12-17, 1998
Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles invites all those with Jewish roots from around the world to come join us for the 18th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, or "Hollywood Chai" to be held at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles from July 12 to 17, 1998. You will be able to take advantage of a wealth of genealogical resources, learn from experiences genealogists, librarians and archivists, and enjoy the warm Southern California sun and other wonderful recreational opportunities.

Come for the Research

The Los Angeles Family History Library is the largest branch outside of Salt Lake City, with original records from the U.S., Great Britain, Poland, Germany, Hungary and more.

The Four Major Judaica Libraries are Hebrew Union College, University of Judaism, Yeshiva University Simon Weisenthal Center, and UCLA which houses the largest Judaica library west of the Mississippi.

The Los Angeles Public Library has a large genealogical and historical collection and an assortment of city directories.

Los Angeles County Public Records Offices has vital records, court and probate records, tax and real estate records, and voter registration records.

The National Archives has information for the Pacific Southwest Region.

Come for the Lectures

There will be "**Back to the Sources**" lectures on how to use original genealogical resources around the world with an emphasis on sources available in Southern California, "**Jews of the West**", a series on Jews in the Western United States, and "**The Rest of Us**" lectures about Jews in such places as France, Greece, Africa, South America, the Iberian Peninsula and others.

Come for the Fun

We offer sunny Southern California weather, miles of beaches, Disneyland (the original theme park), Universal Studios to see how movies are made, the Museum of Tolerance, the newly opened Skirball Museum and the world famous Getty Museum.

For more information contact:
Geraldine Winerman
C/- JGSLA, P.O. Box 55443,
Sherman Oaks, California, 91413-5544,
U. S. A.

The Poor Jews Temporary Shelter Database, London		Vol 4 No 3		
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Paul Cheifitz, President of the Jewish Family History Society of Cape Town has announced a new resource on the Internet. He is excited to report that the records of the Poor Jews Temporary Shelter in London are now on the web. The shelter was situated in Leman Street, Whitechapel in London. The database spans the period 1896-1914 and contains some 43,000 names. The shelter was set up to house immigrants on their short stay over in London before embarking on their cross continental journey. Some of the destinations include, South Africa, America, South America, Holland and England, among many others.

This project was coordinated and sponsored by the Kaplan Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town. The project was headed by Professor Aubrey Newman of the University of Leicester.

Although there are a few gaps in the registers themselves, these records will surely prove to be an extremely useful resource and significantly alter our knowledge of our immigrant ancestors.

The site can be reached at:

<http://www.hrm.uct.ac.za/shelter/shelter.htm>

This database will be of assistance to many of you and he is looking forward to hearing about the hopefully many success stories.

Centenary Celebration of Presov Jewish Community		Vol 4 No 3		
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The Jewish Religious Community of Presov, Slovakia, which was also once know as EPERJES, Hungary, is searching for all past members of their community and their descendants to help them celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the old Orthodox synagogue in Presov/Eperjes. The organizing committee has previously published a book containing a list of Presov survivors of the Shoah. They are now working on a book to contain a short history, and also a list of all Presov Jews and those of surrounding areas who were taken to concentration camps. They will also include a list of all Jews presently living in Presov, with addresses. They hope that through this the living Jews of Presov will be able to find a distant relative, an old classmate or a colleague who might contact them.

There will be many lists of interest to former Presov Jews and their descendants included in the book. Funds are also sought to help with its publication. Contact address for contributions and for further information is: ZIDOVSKA NABOZENSKA OBEC, Jewish Religious Community, Svermova 32,08001 Presov, SLOVAKIA.

Adapted from information in MORASHA, Volume XIII, No. 1

My Trip to Lithuania and Latvia (Final)	Selma Jackson	Vol 4 No 3		
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Friday, July 5, 1996. It was pouring with rain, and it was really a pleasure having a lovely buffet breakfast, in pleasant surroundings. Riga is a city of eleven suburbs with a population of one million people. Roman, with his driver Raymond drove us along Freedom Street, which is the fourteen-kilometre long main street out of the city to Salaspil, the Concentration camp where 100,000 Jews were experimented on and killed. Roman's mother Marina, and Eta Cohen of Johannesburg are two of those who survived this horrible place. Just then we heard a train go by somewhere in the neighbourhood, and Roman told us that, as in other towns, there was always a railway track nearby, so that it was easy to get the Jews in, and out to concentration camps. Salaspil is surrounded by a huge concrete wall which was originally of wood, and beyond are the Symbols of Resistance, two single statues, one of two men holding a third man up so that he doesn't fall, which would result in him being executed, as the lame were done away with, another depicts a mother trying to shield her children, and another of a man falling to the ground. Another memorial is a long flat black marble slab, from where one hears a continual beat, which represents the heart beat which will never be silenced. It is eerie! There were 30,000 Jews in

the Riga ghetto. We then went to Rumbulas Forest, where there is a huge stone memorial with Hebrew and Latvian incipations "BEHIND THIS GATE THE EARTH SCREAMS". At this point the Jews were made to take off their clothes, shoes, spectacles, jewellery and made to walk bare into the forest and shot. The memorial at the mass graves only mentions "victims of fascism", but 15,000 Jews were murdered on 30 November, 1941, and a week later on 8 December, 1941 another 15,000 Jews were murdered, and only one woman survived. Here, too, we heard a train go by! All the camps were far out of towns, so that the people of the towns could not hear the gun fire.

In the 13th and 14th Century, Riga was a Jewish area and centre, and in 1952 it was Russian. We drove along Ebrejuiela, Jewish Street, where a few of the old Jewish buildings still stand, to the old cemetery, now a park in the old part of the city. Only in 1995 was a stone with a large Magen David prominently erected at the entrance to the once old cemetery. Tombstones were used to build the wall around the park, and the pieces are there to be seen. We went to the site and remains of the old Gogal Synagogue, which was burnt down on 4 July 1941, and which remains a monument today. July 4 is remembered in this square each year. There used to be 82 Synagogues in Latvia, and Reb Meier Simcha has got 35 back. The Jewish shops used to be on Maiyas Street.

We then drove out to the Jewish cemetery where we saw graves with photographs of the deceased attached to the headstone. I always thought this was against the Jewish religion, and some have the faces etched out of the tombstone. (Ed: It is). There are graves where family members are buried in the same grave. Some graves are surrounded by low hedges, and some have a bench so that the person visiting the grave can sit. There are a number of "RYPEBNY" - "Horwitz" graves, one as late as 11 May 1995, Moshe, son of Josel, murdered because he was a rich man and they stole his Volvo motorcar. In the few lanes we walked along, we noticed the "Horwitz" name about eight or nine times, Frieda, daughter of Jacob, Simon son of Aaron 28 March, 1909, 6 August 1972, Masha, daughter of Josel, Chaim son of Leibe, and more. The records of this cemetery date from after 1950.

As it was too early to fetch Dina, Roman's daughter, we went to the Old Car Museum, which Steven and Gordon thoroughly enjoyed. We fetched Dina from the Summer Camp organised by the wives of the Lubavitch who are teaching the children about Yiddishkeit, their Jewish Heritage, the Festivals, our traditions and laws, sing Jewish songs and dances, and being Erev Shabbat, they baked challah for Shabbat. The camp is held at the Jewish Community Centre. We drove to Roman's mother, Marsha Blumenthal's flat, where Roman, Marina and Dina live with her. What a lovely early Shabbat dinner Marina and Marsha prepared for us! We had to eat early, because the boys couldn't walk from where the Blumenthals live. They have a very nice three roomed apartment, with a kitchen and bathroom. The lounge, with Marsha's late husband's piano on the one side, is her bedroom at night, the dining room where we ate dinner is Roman and Marina's bedroom by night, and Dina has her own bedroom. Living conditions in Riga are very poor, mostly communal living, each floor has a shared communal kitchen and bathroom, but Roman's father, an accomplished and well known pianist, had applied for and was granted his own apartment, because he had to practise all the time. Since his death, they have been allowed to stay in their apartment. When we arrived at Shul, at 8 pm, we were

greeted by ten elderly men, who are paid, either with a meal or with cash, to come to shul, morning and evening to make up the minyan. The Rabbi, a young American, was very pleased to see Gerald, Steven and Gordon, although I believe there were a few other visitors there the following morning.

Saturday, July 6, at 8.30 am, I went to the hotel's second floor ladies' hairdressing salon, which is divided into two sections, to have my hair washed and blowdried which cost L3.20 = A\$8.60. Roman and Raymond drove Gerald and me to Jurmala, a beachside resort 17 km from Riga, with 30 km of clean white sand beaches, where 1 Lat has to be paid before you can enter the resort. We walked along the 800 metre pedestrian mall, down to the beach where the stalls along the way were just setting up as it was evidently still early. There are a few shops along this walkway, with a couple of restaurants, an ice-cream shop etc. We drove past Breshnev's holiday house, all walls of pinky-beige marble with a high fence, and next door was a block of flats that the KGB used, to guard him. There are three train stations in this area, which allow the people of Riga and the surrounding areas to travel to the beach resort. We drove to see the house Roman and Marina's parents have been able to buy reasonably, a run down beach house, which they are having renovated. We met Marina's mother there, as she and Marina were redoing the garden while the workmen are there! It was then 3.40 pm, and taking Dina with us, we decided to drive out to Rundelas Palace, beyond Bauske, but 20 kms before we got there, we drove into and through a violent storm, and when we had to slow down to go past a huge tree that had just been uprooted and thrown across the road, Gerald decided that was the omen for turning back! I believe Rundale Castle is magnificent! We took Roman and Dina to the Shalom for early supper, and they sang Yiddish songs with the pianist, who had already serenaded me!

Sunday, 7 July, we left at 10.10 am for Daugavpils (Dvinsk), Raymond had put a video machine and TV in the car, and Roman showed us the video of Cecil Gelbart of Cape Town and Mike Getz, now living in New York. Roman has lots of family in Johannesburg, whom he has already visited. The scenery was lovely with the Plavinas Forests along the way. We stopped at a roadside cafe in Jakapils for tea and cake and while no one was in the cafe when we arrived, it filled very quickly! We arrived in Daugavpils at 2.35 pm and checked into the Latvija Hotel, another KGB hotel. The room was clean, but the bathroom I certainly didn't use, only putting my fingers under the running water. We had a first class room costing L40, and to give some idea, second class L30 and single L15. We went straight to the Community Centre, which is combined with the Synagogue, where we met Mr Birch, the Gabbai of the Shul, and Sofia Meerova, who is the head of the Jewish Society. What a lovely lady. They accompanied us to the Paqulauka forest, where 30,000 Jews were killed. There are 1,000 Jews in Daugavpils today. There were 56,000 before World War I, some went to Russia, the United States and Israel. Of the 30,000 in the ghetto, only about 300 survived, of which some who were deported to Germany, later went to Australia and South Africa. 3,000 Jews came from the Ukraine in 1990. In the forest, there are tombstones saved from the nearby Jewish cemetery, inscribed with the names of countries and how many Jews died there :-

Russia	125,000
Baltic countries	22,300
Greece	45,000
Luxemburg	1,000

Yugoslavia	20,000
Romania	300,000
Belgium	40,000
Poland	3,000,000
Italy	8,000
Norway	900
Holland	105,000
Hungary	450,000
Bulgaria	14,000
France	90,000
Denmark	Saved by the King

We were then taken back to the shul, where eleven men and women sat around a table in the community centre, and Roman asked them to tell Gerald how they managed, because most of the people were elderly. Sofia told us that the American Joint sends them medicines, some of which are of no use, and that 70 elderly and sick people are helped with subsidised food and monies, because of the generosity of a family from Johannesburg, South Africa. Then a big plate of cut-up bananas appeared, also a small box of liqueur chocolates, a bottle of vodka, with which they drank a "lechaim" to the family! One of the younger ladies went home to fetch her piano accordion, and for a long time thereafter, song after song, mostly Yiddish songs, were sung. Steven and Gordon were very impressed and didn't stop taking the video to show back home. One of the elderly ladies went to her home, and brought back aprons she had made and presented them to us. There was a general discussion as to what form of help, Sofia and the other ladies, including a lady doctor, felt was needed. Then it was time for the elderly men to go into the Shul and Steven and Gordon led the praying. At the back of the Shul was a lot of furniture, fittings, books etc, which evidently was left to the congregation by a doctor, who had died recently, for the use of others in the community. After evening service, the elderly men went into an ante-room, where their evening meal was served. We then left to go out for dinner with Sofia. She wanted us to go to a particular restaurant, but we found it was closed on Sundays. So we went down the road to another, Paradize Cafe, where we sat outside under the umbrellas, since inside was full. This building has been given back to the Jewish community, as the property was previously owned by Jewish people, but the present owners of the restaurant refuse to pay rent, or to vacate the premises, so there is going to be a court case!

Monday, 8th July, bats and swallows were flying around outside. I went walk-about to see what the town looked like. We had arranged the previous evening that we would go to Sofia's apartment in the morning before leaving, to collect a few more hand-made aprons for Cynthia (Stanley's wife) and Lisa. Well, when we arrived at Sofia's apartment, she had a banquet laid out for us - fried fish, salad, herring, potatoes, strawberries and vodka! What a lovely breakfast! Her son arrived to meet Gerald just before we left, and as he is unemployed, Roman offered to try and help him get a job! Back in Riga, we went to see Roman's mother-in-law, who lives in a communal building, opposite the Jewish Communal Affairs building, in downtown Riga, and this is where we saw what communal kitchen, bathroom and toilet living was like! As Steven and Gordon wanted to go to Jurmala, I asked Raymond to take me back to the hotel first, and I went walk-about in Riga - Freedom Square, Meistaru

Street and the "Three Brothers" - three four-storey houses, typical old Riga houses at 17-21 Maza Pils iela (street) near Butcher Street, built in 1646, where three brothers used to live! No. 17 was built in the 15th Century, no. 19 in 1646, and no. 21 in 1718. I walked into all the little shops, and although there were very few available, managed to buy four different shaped sets of amber cuff-links at different shops, for Harry, Michael, Daryl and Raymond. Joseph and Erica Brodie of Riverdale New York, having met Gordon at Shul that evening, called to say they were downstairs in the hotel, and they would like to meet me, as they were going to Anyksciai the following day with Regina. Erica was a Goldman from Melbourne, and asked me to phone Sue Lang, now Kimmel, my landlady's daughter in Melbourne in 1961, with whom she had been at school!

Tuesday, 9th July, our last day in Riga, Roman came to have breakfast with us at 7.45 am and then took us on a walking tour of the Old City of Riga. Roman no longer works as a guide, he is in business working with a young Jewish entrepreneur, who has a variety of businesses, but as Roman got to know Natie four years ago when Natie went to Riga, and also when Roman went to South Africa to meet his own family, he organised to take leave, to show us Riga and Dvinsk. On a drive around Riga, he showed us Doma Church in Doma Square, built in 1727, and where organ concerts are held, Riga Palace where the President lives, a replica of Sherlock Holmes' house at 332 Baker Street. Kramaiela is Rubbish Street. Huge uncompleted buildings were built by the collective farms, once allowed by the Russians, but there wasn't enough money to complete them. We then drove to the Markets, which Natie had told the boys we HAD to see. The number of people getting off the buses and arriving at the main train station to do their shopping at the markets, is unbelievable. Parking is a problem, but Raymond, our driver, knew how to deal with the parking attendant. There are five huge market halls, but as Gerald was not interested, we only went into the hall for milk, cheese, and fish. I would have liked to have seen what the other halls contained, as I believe it is very interesting with foods, clothing, furniture and much more. It was pouring with rain but we continued to drive around. In Revolution Square, St Peters Church stands seventy-two metres high. We took a lift to the lookout and saw a wonderful North, South, East and West panorama of Riga.

Then to the airport, a farewell speech from Roman, and we finally left Riga for the beautiful city of Prague, the next leg of our travels. Here we toured the Jewish Quarter, visiting all the beautiful old Synagogues, the old cemetery and other places of interest. We drove north-west to Horovice from where the family name of Horowitz/Horwitz was evidently taken and then south-west to Theresienstadt which was the infamous concentration camp from whence the Jews were sent to Auschwitz and other extermination camps and gas chambers and where thousands of Jews were murdered. The crematorium was built to look like a wood factory.

We finally arrived at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv on Friday July 12th and travelled to Jerusalem for the weekend to visit the graves of my paternal grandparents David and Esther Horwitz, who had left Chveidan (Kvedarna) in 1936. We then attended the International Gathering of the Horowitz/Horwitz/ Hurwitz/Gurwitz Family Association in Tel Aviv.


Gerald made a very good observation, that in Lithuania and Latvia where "they" had got rid of the Jews, the countries are poor and still living in the nineteenth century, whereas where there are Jews, as in Israel, it is bustling, vibrant, with new buildings going up everywhere. All countries in the world who allowed Jews to settle there have prospered and "Jews have had a staggering impact on society" as stated in the 15th October 1996 issue of the Australian Bulletin magazine.

I am very thankful I was able to make this trip, and will forever remember my wonderful but sad experience of seeing where my father, grandparents, great-grandparents and their families had lived in days gone by.

Selma Jackson is a member of the Society in Sydney to which she emigrated from Cape Town, South Africa, about 8 years ago.

SOME NOTES ON SELMA'S ARTICLES


Many of our readers have enjoyed sharing Selma's experience, knowing that they will never be able to have the pleasure themselves of visiting ancestral towns. They particularly enjoyed the small details reflecting the local conditions that are sometimes missing in other articles. There were however a few errors, some a result of misinformation from guides and guide books. Travellers should be aware that information may not be always accurate or complete. For example, a 1996 guidebook on Warsaw has only one Jewish reference, the Jewish Theatre. We thank Howard Margol of Atlanta for pointing out to us, in particular the error in the dates for the Vilna Gaon (1720-1797).

The Litvak Special Interest Group		Vol 4 No 3	
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The Litvak Special Interest Group can be accessed through JewishGen.

To access it, type <http://www.jewishgen.org> and scroll through the lists. You will be able to subscribe to discussion groups that are specifically focussed on the areas you are researching. This is particularly valuable for those countries where the records are difficult to access.

A Letter from Yale Reisner		Vol 4 No 3	
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Dear Sophie,

Many thanks for your latest contribution of US\$100.00 to the Archives of the Jewish Historical Institute. Thanks to contributions like yours over the course of this Project, the Institute has been able to purchase, for the first time in its fifty-year history, enough acid-free containers and fireproof cabinets to securely store its collections. Our priorities will now shift to the painstaking and time-consuming tasks of stabilizing deteriorating documents, cataloguing several collections not yet processed, and computerizing the information they contain for easier and more rapid access. Funds are also needed for the acquisition of indices to Jewish vital records and of other historical materials currently spread throughout Poland.

Through your gift, you have done a great mitzvah. On behalf of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, the Jewish Historical Institute Association and the Jewish Historical Research Institute, I thank you for your kind support and encourage you to enlist others in support of these efforts. Best wishes to you in 5758!

Sincerely yours

Yale Reisner

Director of Research and Archives

Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project at the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland

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**Pnina Gutman Requests
our Further Help**

**Vol 4 No
3**



I will briefly recapitulate the facts in my previous letter to The Kosher Koala Volume 3, September, 1996 and then give details of what I have learned since then. I hope that all the information will lead to the discovery of people who can help me find out about my biological parents.

My name is Pnina Gutmann. I was born 55 years ago in Poland and came to Israel with my adoptive parents in 1950. In 1944, when I was two and a half years old, I was found in a railway carriage in the small town of Milanowek near Warsaw. I said then in German that my name was Barbara Rebhun. I was handed over by the Red Cross liaison woman to a Polish family named Kaczmanek. They took care of me, first in Zyrardow near Warsaw and later in Sierakow near Poznan, until 1948. In March, 1948 I was taken from that family by the Central Jewish Committee in Warsaw and transferred to the orphanage at Otwock near Warsaw. After about six months there I was adopted by the Jewish Himmel family of Lodz with whom I came to Israel.

From June 1996 when I learned the name Rebhun, I sought the Rebhun family, thinking that they were my biological family. In March 1997, with the help of the Red Cross in Germany, I traced Wolfgang (69) and Adele (67) Rebhun. I met them in Germany and found that they were not my biological family but that our fates were intertwined. From them I learned what had happened to me between the ages of nine months and two and a half years.

I was born in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942 or at the end of 1941. My parents were a young couple, Warsaw Ghetto fighters, and I was their only daughter. At the end of 1942 or at the beginning of 1943, when I was 9 months old, I was smuggled by my mother out of the ghetto. I was given to Charlotte Rebhun, mother of Wolfgang (then 14) and Adele (then 11) to be cared for until the crisis passed. Charlotte was a Christian and her husband, a Polish Jew, had already perished in Treblinka before I came to them. The family had been expelled from Berlin in 1939, and Charlotte lived in the Aryan part of Warsaw at 33 Krochmalna Street. She hid other Jews, and brought me up as her daughter. I lived with the Rebhun family until August 1944,

when during the Polish uprising in Warsaw, all four of us were seized by the Germans. Wolfgang was sent to Mauthausen camp, Charlotte and Adele to Czestochowa. At that point I was forcibly taken from them by the Germans and left in the railway station. From then onwards the events are known.

Two additional pieces of information were provided by the Rebhuns. When I was handed over to their mother Charlotte I had a certificate round my neck (a birth certificate?) in the name of **WEGLINSKI** (which in Polish sounds like Wenglinski). In the Rebhuns' opinion this was a false name, and only the name Barbara was real. However, I do not rule out the possibility that Weglinski, a Jewish name, too, is the name of my family of origin. When my mother gave me to Charlotte, she said that, if she did not come back to take me, Charlotte should send me to my rich relatives in America. I know nothing of them.

I shall be grateful to anyone who can give me information about a young couple (Weglinski?) or their family who were in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942 and had a baby girl named Barbara. Please help me to solve the riddle of my life and complete the mosaic. Only the first nine months are now missing!

With thanks,

Pnina Gutmann, Kfar Mischar, 76850 Israel
Telephone: 972-8-859-1693 Fax: 972-8-859-6702

Forebears		Vol 4 No 3		
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00053 JULIAN KEMPLER Julian is researching the Sephardi families **MENDES, de FONSECA, de SOLA**, and would like contact with others researching same families. Email: 806713.376@compuserve.com

00054 BERNARD ADWOKAT, 65 Avenue du Roule, 92200 Neuilly-Sur-Seine, FRANCE originated from **RZESZOW** and **ROSWADOW**, Poland, and seeks anyone with the surname **ADWOKAT/ADVOKAT** from either of these towns.

00055 ELIE GARBARZ, 19 rue Lisfranc, 75020 Paris, FRANCE seeks anyone with connections to the name **GARBARZ, GARBIASZ** or variants.

00056 MEIR BEER, 2575 Palisade Avenue #2F, Bronx, New York 10463, USA. Email: meirbeer@smb.com Fax: 1-212-816-6163. Seeks information on fate of **JIRI BEER-WEISS**, born 31 July, 1939, who was in Jewish children's home at Sazavska 15, Prague, was deported to Terezin on 24 October, 1942 and stayed there until liberation. Father was **ISAAK WEISS**. Mother **TAUBE DONNER-WEISS** was sent east with transport AAh at times of Heydrich's assassination. Any information on Jiri welcome, particularly his address.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 4 No 4		
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As we prepare for Chanukah 5758 and for our summer holidays a big change is about to occur. As a result of the growth of the Society, particularly in NSW and in

Victoria, an agreement has been reached that the Victorian branch will become autonomous from the beginning of 1998. As Lionel Sharpe explains in the report from the Victorian branch they will now collect their own membership fees and process their new membership applications with all that this entails. In most respects they have been self-governing from their inception in August 1995 and have run a stimulating programme of their own in Melbourne. From July 1, 1998 they will also be autonomous vis-a-vis the international Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, which is a worldwide loose federation.

For the time being the Kosher Koala will remain the newsletter of the whole Australian Society, the Victorian branch aiming to add an insert, with items of interest purely to their members, two or more times a year. Details of distribution and financing of joint activities remain to be worked out. We will keep you informed.

To mark the recent bicentenary of the death of the Vilna Gaon, two new books on his descendants have been published. One is by our member in Israel, Chaim Freedman "Eliyahu's Branches: The Descendants of the Vilna Gaon and His Family", and another one by USA Jewish genealogist Neil Rosenstein. We will acquire both volumes.

In Sydney we recently had the benefit of an erudite and most interesting talk by Professor David Weinberg, of Wayne University, Detroit, who is an expert on Jewish emigration from Eastern Europe to Western Europe and North America from 1880 to 1939, and who has published several books on the subject. Although we did not have a very large audience, those who came found the talk most enlightening. It seems that although Dr Weinberg had been in Sydney for four months as a visiting academic at the University of N.S.W., we were the first Jewish group to avail ourselves of his expertise, thanks to my hearing by chance of his presence in Sydney after having met him, also by chance, at the YIVO Library in New York in 1981.

The networking of the Society often bears good results. In June we reprinted in our FOREBEARS column an item from a several months-old Theresienstadt survivors newsletter. This led to a family reunion among two new Society members' family.

Another success. In November 1996 our second Jewish Genealogy Day brought an inquiry from Bill Wallace of the Central Coast who had read of our Day as free publicity in DESCENT, the quarterly of the Society of Australian Genealogists. Both Bill's parents had died in 1937, the year of his birth, and he had been brought up by his mother's brother and his wife under their surname, but told that his father was a not so nice Jewish doctor named Szamuel or Simon Bulka who had been shot in Barcelona as an officer of the Spanish army. None of this made much sense to Bill Wallace, but he desperately wanted to learn something more about his father, so he turned to us. By chance he addressed himself to me, who realized immediately that Dr Simon Bulka must have been a volunteer in the International Brigades of the Spanish Civil War, and who possesses a book by the late David Diamant on Jewish volunteers in that conflict, purchased in Paris in a small Jewish bookshop in 1980.

Indeed I found Dr Simon Bulka in the index, and, at Bill's request was even able recently to find a copy of this nineteen-year old book for him on my recent trip to

Paris, as well as another more recently published one translated from the German with the title "Shalom Libertad", also mentioning Dr Simon Bulka. In genealogy, as in other parts of life, it is "horses for courses" and I was the right horse.

Alas, so far we have been unable to find any living Bulka relatives for Bill Wallace, or anyone who remembers his father, but his wife tells me that knowledge of his father's idealistic sacrifice of his life has changed Bill's outlook and made him very happy. He is now busy brushing up his French and ploughing through both books.

Our major workshop on first March 1998 will be a half-day seminar on Polish resources, with two or three short lectures on Polish Jewish history and information on how to access the available knowledge on Polish Jewish resources. We hope to see you there if you are researching your Polish Jewish roots.

Have a pleasant and restful summer. See you next year.

Victorian News	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 4 No 4	
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The Victorian Branch will be taking a step towards autonomy in 1998. Since the establishment of the Society in 1995 membership fees have been collected by the AJGS in Sydney and retained for the purpose of publishing the Koshers Koala, providing complimentary copies to overseas Societies and purchasing materials such as newsletters and books for the Branch.

This situation will be changing next year when the Victorian Branch will send out its own membership accounts, process new membership applications and place names on the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder. The Victorian Branch will retain a portion of the membership fee to purchase resource materials and undertake new initiatives. Details of the transition are still in the discussion stage.

A number of events have taken place since the last issue of the Koshers Koala.

Les and Sonya Oberman and Lionel Sharpe manned a table at the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Open Day in October at Blackburn answering questions and giving assistance to people of widely different backgrounds who were researching their Jewish origins. A great deal of interest was shown in the AJGS resource materials. The open day attracted huge crowds and our participation was appreciated.

Ari Unglik from Wilder Ghostwriters, a Melbourne based organisation specialising in writing books for families, holocaust survivors and commercial organisations, addressed the Branch on October 29 on gathering material and publishing family histories. A number of areas were covered such as ethical issues relating to revealing information about relatives, gathering family anecdotes for inclusion among the factual data, self-publishing and publishing costs.

A group of members will visit the Church of the Latter Day Saints Family Research Centre in Moorabbin on Wednesday, 19 November, and further visits are planned for the coming year.

Lionel Sharpe has been invited for an interview to speak about the work of the Society with Uri Palti on the SBS Jewish Radio program on Sunday January 4, 1998 at 11.00 a.m.

Sophie Caplan, AJGS President will be coming from Sydney to address the last Branch meeting for the year on Wednesday evening December 17 at Beth Weizmann Community Centre. Sophie will speak about her recent participation at the Paris International Seminar for Jewish Genealogy and her visit to Poland, Belarus and Ukraine. Prior to the talk Sophie will meet with the committee to discuss AJGS organisational arrangements for 1998.

The Victorian Branch meets at the
BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE,
306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Melbourne.
Tel: 03-9273 5611
Postal Address: P.O. Box 189,
GLENHUNTLY VIC 3163, AUSTRALIA

Internet contacts:

Leslie Oberman oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

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The Mystery of a 19th Century Photograph Solved	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 4 No 4		
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Among the few existing photographs and documents surviving in my family from the last century was a photograph of a tailor shop bearing the name 'Hermann Maass' in large letters above the doorway. Seven people are posed in front of the shop. On the back of the photograph, which was no doubt taken in the 1890's, were the names of the family group, all very well dressed for the occasion.

We had no idea as to how this photo came into the possession of my maternal great-grandmother who arrived in Melbourne, as a small child in 1854 from Schwedt-an-der-Oder in Prussia with her parents, Rosalie and David Lobascher. Nor did we know the people in the picture.


The photo was found in a suitcase in a garage by one of her many great-grandchildren, Trevor Cohen, an active member of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, many decades ago.

Earlier this year I casually looked for the name 'Lobascher' on Jewishgen Family Finder and came across a Canadian, who had emigrated with his mother from Germany in 1939, searching for 'Lobatz' from Schwedt-an-der-Oder in Prussia. I wrote to him out of curiosity to enquire about his interest.

He wrote back that his maternal great-grandmother, Frederike Lobatz, was married to a Hermann Maass and gave me some family details. I phoned Trevor Cohen and asked him about the photograph.

My Canadian correspondent was overwhelmed with surprise when I sent him a copy of the photograph which pictured his forebears. We are still attempting to find a familial connection. The fact that my great-grandmother received this photo late last century and with the similarity of the surnames does seem to indicate a familial connection. I am curious to pursue the search further.

Lionel Sharpe is the Chairman of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

5th International Seminar in Jewish Genealogy, Paris	Sophie Caplan	Vol 4 No 4		
13 - 17 July 1977				

We arrived in Paris on Wednesday 9th July, four days before the opening of the seminar and settled into the conference hotel, the Sofitel Forum Rive Gauche on Boulevard St Jacques in the 14th district of Paris. The conference facilities of the hotel proved to be excellent, but the guestrooms though containing all that was necessary, were small, ugly and utterly charmless, unlike the usual French hotel room which oozes comfort and style, even if modest. We were told it was a four star hotel, which was hard to believe, and also that it modelled itself on Japanese hotels, which was believable. Breakfasts in the main restaurant were excellent, with a large selection of foods, until the conference started, when participants were herded into a different breakfast hall and given minimal choice of the cheapest foods. The nearby Metro station was also on a branch line which closed for re-laying on 15th July, making it hard to get into central Paris quickly except by taxi. Earphones for simultaneous translation were available at the main sessions, though translation was not always of the highest calibre as I discovered when a talk I found very moving in the original French, was adjudged dull and boring by those who heard it in English translation. Luckily there were many small restaurants in the vicinity, an excellent fruit shop and small supermarket and a good bakery and pastry shop, even a kosher butcher.

Five Australians made the trip. Dr Albert Braunstein from Melbourne, Peter and Rieke Nash and Sophie and Leslie Caplan from Sydney. The two Sydney couples used the opportunity to make pre- and post-conference research trips, Peter and Rieke first to England and after the conference to Poland, and the Caplans first to Belarus via Poland and later to Ukraine. Reports of these trips will be in further issues of this journal.

The euphoria of spending four days and an extra evening with other addicts to genealogy soon made one forget the small irritations, although I came to the conclusion that four days was too short a time to sample all the things on offer. These fell into six categories:

a) Major lectures by personalities like Serge Klarsfeld, Batya Unterschatz, Sabine Zeitoun, Dr Anthony Joseph, Dr Sallyann Sack, Alexander Beider, Robert Weiss and Alexander Feigmanis. These took place in the afternoons and evening with a much too short dinner break.

b) Workshops on less popular topics likely to interest smaller numbers, which took place from 9 a.m. until late afternoon. There were usually four or five workshops going on simultaneously, so audiences were not always large and one had hard decisions to make regarding what one would attend. I gave a workshop on "Jewish Immigration to Australia After the Holocaust" and was grateful that my friends and supporters attended to fill the ranks.

c) Visits to places like the Paris archives, the French National Archives (CARAN), the Jewish Contemporary Documentation Centre, and the library of the Cercle de Genealogie Juive, as well as places of Jewish interest in Paris for non-participating spouses.

d) So-called wall-posters where people displayed the fruit of their research, generally very complex family trees or the stories of small communities e.g. the multi-poster HOROWITZ family tree over several centuries and most of Eastern Europe, of which I bought a set for \$130 from its originator, Michael Honey from England.

e) Displays of books and CDs for sale which included books published by AVOTAYNU and the publications of the French Cercle de Genealogie Juive, as well as some others. This was manned all day by members of the hosting CGJ and Gary Mokotoff.

f) Last but not least, the discussions over a cup of coffee and a sandwich in the hotel or a meal in the surrounding restaurants with other genealogists. In my case I was able to help people with finding Australian relatives rather than be helped, as I happened to know some of the people being sought. It was all interesting and most rewarding to meet fellow genealogists from France, England, Sweden, USA, Switzerland, Germany. Three people gave me, or sent later, books they had written. Also I met for the first time Stephane Toubanc with whom I had corresponded a decade ago because we had dead relatives in common, but had then lost touch.

It was also great to meet for the first time Eli Garbarz, Dan Leeson, Jean-Pierre Spingarn and Stanley Diamond and to discover that the expert Warren Blatt is so very young. And best of all to meet again those met at previous international seminars Rene Loeb and his wife from Zurich, our English member Dr Anthony Joseph and wife Judith with young sons Harry and Robin, two remarkably sensible boys, Jurgen Sieleman from the Hamburg Archives and now also the Hamburg JGS, Drs Larry and Sallyann Sack, and various French genealogists first met in Jerusalem or even ten years ago in London.

It was gratifying to all of us from Sydney that previous visiting lecturers to our Society and their spouses, like Chava and Hugo Agmon and Arlene and Sidney Sachs, looked on us as old friends, and this was mutual. There also seemed to be a special rapport between us and the English contingent, as I spent lots of time late in the evenings drinking coffee with Judith Diamond, Michael Honey, Julian Kempler and a

few others. An interesting bit of feedback, learnt one morning at breakfast, that my brief description in "Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf - Books on New Zealand Jewry" of Stephen Levine's 1995 book "A Standard For the People" on the community of Wellington, NZ, which had been reprinted in AVOTAYNU, had induced a Swiss genealogist married to a Jewish girl from Wellington, both living in Zurich, to buy the book and to get her brother, still living in Wellington, but who had never heard of the book himself, to order it for himself also.

The AGM of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies took place with the election of half the executive. The new president is Avotaynu editor and Greater Washington JGS member Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack, Karen Franklin of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York is vice-president, and Saul Issroff of London, UK and formerly South Africa, Bruce Kahn of Rochester, NY JGS, and Laurence Tapper from Ottawa, Canada were all elected as directors. Two previous directors, Howard Margol of Atlanta Georgia, and Arline Sachs of Springfield, Virginia, and of the Jewish Cemetery Project, and treasurer Hal Bookbinder of Los Angeles, stay in office till July 1998. At the AGM I spoke up and asked for the Association to strive to be less USA-centered in its attitudes and was then publicly accused of being anti-American. Luckily the new executive did not agree with this chauvinistic attitude. We look forward to a new international consciousness in the Association and an awareness that, for instance, mail outs take longer to reach us from overseas, the cost of purchases in US dollars is much dearer for us, and that overseas societies would like to be consulted in some decision making, or at least taken into account.

The Paris conference was, of course, much more convenient for European genealogists and one of the remarkable group attendances was by the members of the relatively new Hamburg JGS. Not only Jurgen Sieleman, but also Helga and Helfried Heilbut, Elizabeth Sroka of the Hamburg Historic Emigration Office, Steinstrasse 7, 20095 Hamburg. And Michael Halevy, the expert on Sephardim in Hamburg, who speaks not only German, Dutch and English, but also Azerbaidjani and Portuguese (address below) and Benjamin Hertzberg, author of the recent "Help to Jews in Hamburg from 1933 to 1945" in German. Another participant was professional genealogist Egmar Ruppert who specialises in research on Bremen, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony and Westphalia.

The president of the recently formed Swedish JGS, Carl Henrik Carlsson gave a talk on Eastern European Jewish immigration into Sweden. One of the talks to which I was most looking forward was the one by Diane Pelts, chief archivist at the State Historical Archives in Lviv. She spoke in French and her talk was translated by one of the French CGJ members after several sentences, because there were no simultaneous translation facilities in this small hall. It soon became apparent that he was leaving out a lot and also that he was not exactly an idiomatic speaker of English, so that people started calling out for him to translate more fully, but he took no notice. At that point I started an impromptu second line translation, filling in the gaps. It made the session rather chaotic, but afterwards a lot of people who did not understand French came up to thank me, but the official translator was not pleased. Diane Pelts revealed the existence of many previously unknown Jewish metrical records, but alas my Dolina and Kalush areas are still absent.

One of the joys of the Seminar for me was the ability to communicate in their own language with so many other genealogists in English, French or German, and a little Spanish. A knowledge of foreign languages is mostly of no use in Australia, but there it was a great pleasure to use them. I could well understand Basile Ginger's exhilaration at the final banquet when he told me that everyone at his table spoke Russian, for he is a lone Russian speaker in the French society. Another pleasure was to help Neil Rosenstein arrange for the display of his CDs on the book-selling table by translating between him and the French contingent.

No great breakthrough in research occurred for me at the congress, but the very fact of meeting so many fellow addicts and putting faces to names from articles read in other newsletters is stimulating and rewarding. I hope that more of you will have that opportunity in Los Angeles in July 1998.

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The Jews of Jamaica

**Vol 4 No
4**



The BEN ZVI INSTITUTE in Jerusalem has just published "THE JEWS OF JAMAICA, Tombstone Inscriptions 1663-1880", by the late English scholars RICHARD D. BARNETT and PHILIP WRIGHT, edited by ORON JOFFE. This is an important volume for both early American and Sephardi Jewish history.

Hardback 230 pages including 8 plates. Retail price \$US 40 plus \$US 5 for surface mail or \$US 10 for airmail. Discount for bulk purchase.

Can be purchased by credit card from Ben Zvi Institute, POB 7660, JERUSALEM 91076, ISRAEL. Tel: 972-2-5639-203 Fax: 972-2-5638-310. Please give expiry date for credit card purchase.

Richard D. Barnett (1909-1986) was keeper of Western Asiatic Antiquities at the British Museum and published widely on Anglo-Jewish and Sephardi history.

Phillip Wright (1910-1975) wrote on Jamaican history.

The Family I Thought I Knew

Vicky Rogut

**Vol 4 No
4**



I joined the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society to trace the remnants of my father's family who might have survived the Holocaust. Despite my best efforts I was unable to find any useful information on the Lithuanian shtetl of KRUK/Krok/Kriukiai which was situated close to the Latvian border. Similarly Zvi Hersch and Menucha LEISEROWITZ, nee JOFFE, could well have been a figment of my imagination, but for the fact that their youngest child, Issy Lazar, was my father.


My maternal grandparents, Meyer and Chaya Shapiro, migrated from Rokiskis (Rakushik) in 1905 with their infant daughter (my mother). All their siblings settled in South Africa and the Shapiro clan was enormous. I knew many of the cousins in person, and was familiar with the names of many of the others. The family scattered throughout South Africa, mainly in small country towns in the Orange Free State such as Koppies, Heilbron, Vredefort and Parys (my home town). I had never felt the need to delve into this side of the family as I thought I knew enough about them. Sheer frustration at my failure to uncover any data on my father's family motivated me to ask Rieke Nash to enter the "Shapiros from Rakushik" on the database.

Not long after I received a five page family tree from a gentleman named Aubrey Mendelow from Cleveland, Ohio. Glancing at the first page I felt somewhat embarrassed. I did not recognize a single name. He had obviously wasted his time. Flipping through the remaining pages, however, I nearly flipped! Name after familiar name jumped out at me from every page. I discovered that these were the descendants of one of my grandfather's brothers. I subsequently made contact with Aubrey as well as another cousin in South Africa, Dr. Alan Ginsberg, whom I remembered as a little boy, but had no idea that we were related. I was able to fill in large gaps in their knowledge and Alan has met with a large number of relatives in Johannesburg and Pretoria of whom he had no previous knowledge.

Aubrey rang me as soon as he received my letter detailing our relationship. His excitement matched mine. His words were 'I feel like Joseph' and I had no difficulty finishing the sentence 'being reunited with lost brethren'. We maintain contact via the internet and by phone. It is indeed a most exciting, exhilarating experience establishing those very important links with the past. We are very fortunate in having people like Sophie Caplan, Rieke Nash and their co-workers whose dedication has made it possible for us to research our roots. We owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

Now if I could find some trace of the Leiserowitzses from Kruk.....

Vicky Rogut is a member of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

Another Shannon Family	John Stanhope	Vol 4 No 4	
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Rabbi Apple writing of the origins of the Sydney Beth Din refers 1 to an "application, presumably for conversion, from a Mrs Shannon" in 1847. Samuel and Emelia Shannon, from whom my wife is descended, were born Jewish and were married and buried by Jewish rites². This second Mrs Shannon, her husband and an Esther Shannon who was buried in 1848 in the Sydney Jewish burial ground all seemed worth investigating for possible family links.

On 6 November 1847 "an ecclesiastical board" of the Sydney Synagogue consisting of Moses Rintel, Jacob Isaacs and Moses Moses was formed "to report on the case of Mr and Mrs Shannon, but no decision was made and the report was sent to the Chief Rabbi"⁴. Israel Shannon, a convict transported about 1833, had married a Christian woman to whom he had been assigned, and wished to have his wife converted to Judaism and his five children legitimated in Jewish law⁵. Convict indexes list no Israel, but Laurence (sometimes Lawrence, Louis or Lewis) Shannon, who was condemned to transportation for seven years for stealing clothes, at the Middlesex Gaol Delivery on 12 May 1831⁶. He was transported on the "Surrey 1" departing England on 9 April 1834 and arriving in Sydney on 17 August 1834. He was described as aged nineteen, could read and write, Jewish, single and born in London. He was a shoemaker's boy by occupation. He was "fair ruddy" in complexion, had sandy brown hair and brown eyes. His height was five foot three inches (=160 cm). Depending on whether his age was at trial or embarkation, he was born during 1811-1814.

On arrival at Sydney he was assigned to James Hutton of George Street⁷. As no other convict named Shannon was transported about that time, I believe Israel and Laurence to be the same person.

ISRAEL SHANNON

The Israel of interest is probably the one born on 30 January and circumcised on 6 February 1813 in London⁸. His parents were Jacob and Fanny, and his recorded siblings were Judith (born 12 June, 1803), Esther (born 2 September 1807; possibly died in Sydney 14 September 1848 "aged 42 years"³), Dinah (born 20 October 1809), and Sarah (born 16 May 1817).

LAURENCE SHANNON

On 11 February 1839, Laurence married Sarah Tucker at Saint James Church, Sydney⁹. He was described as "bachelor of Saint Andrew parish", she as "spinster of Saint James parish". The children identified as being born to them were Fanny 1839, Julia 1841, Mary Anne 1843, Esther 1845, Louis (Lewis, mayor of Cooma, 1902), and Henry, Samuel and Israel¹⁰, and probably twin daughters (born early 1847, one died "infant" at Clarence Street, Sydney, 13 December 1847, the other died aged one year at Kent Street, Sydney, both buried in the Sydney Jewish burial ground)¹¹.

His occupation, at least from 1839, was "shoemaker" and "bootmaker"⁹. His address in 1839 was "Sussex Street Sydney". later "Kent Street Sydney". The Kent Street shop was between King and Market Streets, and he was also described as a "general dealer"¹².

ECCLESIASTICAL BOARD OUTCOME

The report of the board was received by the synagogue committee on 21 November 1847¹³. Abraham Moses moved the reception of the report and the referral of the case to Rev Dr N. M. Adler, the chief rabbi in London. The letter was finally sent on 28 January 1848¹³. Dr Adler's reply was apparently unfavourable¹³, for Israel Shannon wrote to the committee asking for a local decision. However the committee resolved that it did not have "the power to form or appoint a Beth Din without the

sanction of the chief rabbi, Dr Adler"¹³. The late baptism of child five suggests that the family decided not to be Jewish in 1853.

COOMA

Laurence and family moved from Sydney to Cooma about 1858, based on the places and years of his children's births and marriages. In 1869 he owned freehold property in Cooma¹⁴. Laurence Shannon died in Cooma in 1893¹⁵. His parents were named as "Lawrence" and "Fanny" on the death certificate. His relationship to Samuel Shannon is not clear, but the coincidences of religion, birthplace, Cooma residence, his daughter Mary Anne Williams being a witness to Samuel's daughter Rebecca's 1860 marriage, and the naming of Laurence Shannon's son Samuel are suggestive. Possibly he was Samuel's brother. Samuel's father was Jacob, his mother not known. Sarah died in Cooma in 1896¹⁵. Associated surnames (sons-in-law) in Cooma were Parkinson, Roddan, Williams and Cronin.

Any clues that might link the Shannons mentioned herein with "my" Samuel Shannon (1802-1868) of London and Cooma would be appreciated. Full references available on request.

John M. Stanhope is a medical practitioner working in the field of Drug and Alcohol Addiction and a member of our Society.

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NSW Federation Index of BDMs



For many years the late Dieter Corbach and his wife Irene of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of the Cologne- right bank of the Rhine area laboured to memorialise the Jews of Cologne and in particular the first Jewish Realgymnasium (grammar school), Yavneh, and its founding principal Dr Erich Klibansky. Since Dieter's death a few years ago, Irene Corbach has striven alone to bring to fruition their joint dream of a memorial fountain featuring the Lion of Judah holding the Tablets of the Law near the former location of Yavneh High School, and of bronze tablets around the fountain featuring the names of 1,100 children of Cologne aged eighteen or less, who were deported and mostly perished. This was unveiled on 25 September, 1997. As a supporter of the Cologne project I have received a list of those 1,100 names, but please note I have no other details but names. If you want to know more, please write to

IRENE CORBACH, Hochwinkel 79, D-51069, Köln, GERMANY, enclosing a donation for the project which is not yet fully paid. Tel/fax: 49-221-68-35-24.

A book by DIETER CORBACH "6.00 Uhr ab Messe Köln-Deutz Deportationen aus Köln 1938 bis 1945", is on the deportations of Jews from Cologne, 704 pages, English and German text, featuring 7000 names, including one hundred life-histories. It is shortly to be published by Scriba-Verlag of Cologne for DM 34 pre-publication, and DM 48 later.

He had also previously published a book on the history of the Yavneh school in Cologne, the first Jewish high school in the Rhineland, and in memoriam to Dr Erich Klibansky, with short biographies of the Yavneh teachers, in German, DM 24, obtainable from Irene Corbach. Finally Irene requests information and photos on any former synagogues, shteiblech, or minyanim which may have existed in Cologne prior to 1939.



A number of people who are searching for their roots suspect, or hope, that they might have some Jewish ancestry, though it can be hard to prove. This is

MY STORY

by Almuth Hauptmann, nee Gurski

We did not often go to see my grandmother, the only grandparent who was alive when I was a child. There was friction in my family, so our visits had that element of formality required by etiquette. The line of divide in the Gurski family had my mother Hanna, my brother Roland, and myself on one side, on the other were my father Dr Walter Bruno Gurski, his mother Valeska Gurski (nee Cyfka), her two sisters Wally and Wanda Gurski, and cousin Jutta. But Christmas is Christmas so, on the 24th of December we would all turn up there, in grandmother's flat in the building she owned in Berlin, suburb Schöneberg. On one of these Christmases there, between 1948 and 1956, I lost my belief in Father Christmas, when the lady from the neighbouring

flat bungled the disguise. Her earrings were dangling in my face, and I recognised them.

I never thought much of the fact that my grandmother spoke German with a touch of an accent, but I was perplexed when I heard her speak in another tongue. My mother was furious when my grandmother said a few words in Polish to her sisters. 'She has no manners, no manners at all', she would grizzle the next day. Every time I came to grandmother's, the old ladies would burst out in high pitched voices 'Isn't she like Lene! Look at her, she is just like Lene'. I had no idea what to think about all this. One day I asked my mother, 'Who was that Lene?' 'She was your grandfather's sister, your great-aunt'. So, now I knew; I looked like someone from my grandfather's family.

My grandfather Franz Walter Gurski never featured in our lives. They told me, he had died before the First World War, when my father was very little. Before 1914 was light-years ago for me, and I busied myself with all the things children do.

The connection to my grandmother was severed by the separation of my parents. There were no more Christmases in Schoneberg after 1956.

When my father was transferred from Berlin to Munich, only a few months before the wall went up in 1961, I was 17. Every year, I went to see him, but we never talked about the family on the other side of the divide.

I graduated from high school and went to university. My grandmother passed away in 1965, before I was mature enough to take an interest in family history and ask questions about Knizenitz near Rybnik, where she had come from. In her time it was Prussia, but after the First World War it became part of Poland.

After two years at university I needed out. The next station of my life was Frankfurt, the newsroom of Associated Press. It sounds glossy now, but then it was not. We worked in shifts, the office was situated in the red light district and had that typical ambience of neglect with functionality. Later, I realised how much I learned there, but at the time I found it quite uninspiring. But inspiration was on its way.

I met the young man who became my husband. He was working in a photo lab, but his hobby had buckets of gloss. All his free time he spent playing the Russian string instrument balalaika, although he had no connection with Russia at all. He was a displaced German from Silesia, a province that was allocated to Poland at the end of the war. On the balalaika he was a real virtuoso.

Russian music became all the rage in the late sixties, triggered by Boris Pasternak and his Doctor Zhivago. So, it did not take long for our little group of musicians to turn professional. We recorded several albums and toured all over Europe, in the Middle East, South Africa, and finally Australia.

On some occasions in those eleven years of touring we were hired by Jewish organisations or businesses. Many Jews in Europe had their origins in the East; Russia, Poland, the Ukraine, and the like, so our music struck a chord with them. I always looked forward to these jobs when I noticed that unique sense of successfully

marrying creative endeavours with business. Change in personnel then brought a Jew into our group, a young man from the Moldavian region of the Soviet Union. He indicated sometimes that he took me for Jewish. Where on earth would he get that idea from, I wondered? Suddenly I remembered, I looked like Auntie Lene, and I did not know one thing about that side of the family.

Could my grandfather have been Jewish? My father was still alive then and when I talked to him about it, he dismissed the suggestion with gusto. Strangely enough he did not volunteer one bit of information on his father, either. 'He came from the East' (as seen from Berlin), he said. The conversation progressed into other areas. He mentioned that it had remained a mystery to him all his life, why his mother had gone to a lot of trouble and expense to have him declared of age by a Magistrate in 1931, when it was only six months before he turned 21. 'You would not dare ask any questions when my Mother set out to do something', was his only comment on this mystery.

The Nazis were already in the Berlin Parliament in 1931, not ruling, but a growing force. Could that effort have been part of a move by my grandmother to create 'clean' documents?

In 1975 my father suddenly died. The law required that I present his birth certificate to obtain probate. When I looked at the certificate, I found two surprises. My grandfather's religion was written down as dissident. Was there such a thing as a dissident religion? This birth certificate was issued in 1931 when my father was 20 as if someone had lost the original. Of course that might have been the case, but as a business woman my grandmother had kept myriads of documents for many decades. It appeared quite odd that she should have lost just this one. Maybe she lost it on purpose, were my thoughts.

More questions emerged. Why was my father brought up Protestant when his mother was a Catholic, and his father a dissident? I suddenly came to realize that there was no documentation on my grandfather with the exception of a photo of 1906. There was no clue; where was my grandfather born? When did he die? Maybe he did not die at all, then, in 1912 or 1913? Maybe he went back to the East and perished in the holocaust? Or could he have gone to Australia, like his granddaughter seventy years later? There were no more relatives to ask.

Relatives of my grandfather had existed, but we never knew them. 'Grandfather's family wanted nothing to do with us', I had been told. 'Why?' 'They did not agree with his choice of wife'. Later I learnt that Jewish families often shun the son who marries outside their community.

We pursued compensation for the two family properties in the Soviet Sector of Berlin, even though that was going to be a pittance. For one property, it was denied in 1980 on the grounds that my grandmother, the 'German' side, had bought the property to profiteer from aryanisation in 1941. I could not help thinking, would it not be nice if we could prove we were not as German as we appeared?

I started to resent pork. The fragrance of sausage sizzles at German festivities nauseated me, and I wondered if there was a genetic component to eating kosher, of if I was losing the plot.

Not long after in 1983 we moved to Australia, and I put all these things behind me. But you can never escape your ancestors, even if you run to the other side of the globe. This time it caught up with me in the shape of a Canadian novel *Solomon Gursky Was Here* by Mordechai Richler.

That Gursky family was Jewish. Maybe my family Gurski was also Jewish? Where do I start, and is there any point? No. Forget it, no point.

Then came the re-unification of Germany. On the 2nd October, 1990, the four Sectors of Berlin were released from Allied Four Power Control. Naive as I was, I thought, what the Communists had taken would be returned in an orderly fashion by the new Germany.

I was in for a rude awakening. While a new law was being prepared, the authorities planned for the sale of our land to profit the government. Only eleven days after the law took effect, they had studied the extensive building proposal well enough to clinch the deal. It had all been prepared while the attorneys pretended to negotiate. I should have hired a Jewish lawyer from the US, but it never occurred to me to think along these lines. There was neither compensation nor a share from the proceeds for the original owners. The Government pocketed the whole lot. A fight through the courts was estimated to cost a fortune and the authorities knew it. Folklore had it that many properties were returned to their original Jewish ownership and yes, I have to admit, I became green with envy.

In 1996 my mother died and I had hoped that among her papers would be some clue to the identity of Jewishness of my grandfather. I looked in the *Deutsches Einheitsfamilienstammbuch* of my parents' wedding in 1943. This time my grandfather's religion was listed as 'God believing'. Would that be the same as dissident, I wondered? There was an Aryan Certificate for my mother, but none for my father.

The pages, where the Hitler regime had required the ancestry and racial origins of the bride and groom to be listed were blank. In another document, even the space for my grandfather's birthday was blank as if there should be no traces.

I now look at the big dossiers of the properties in the former Soviet Sector of Berlin, monuments to abuse of power, and the helplessness of the individual. One property has to go back to the original Jewish owners, and I can live with that. On the other we fell victim to government profiteering and that is hard to stomach. Had I made an effort somewhat earlier to research my family's racial background, things might have been different for the property that was in our family since 1928.

Again the race card makes a difference in Germany. Where could I find out about my ancestry, I ponder. The registrar's records in Berlin from before the First World War are unlikely to have survived the bombs of the second war, and even if they still exist, they could have been 'cleaned up' by my grandmother. Maybe in the East,

some records have survived, but where is East - Warsaw, Lvov, Kaliningrad, Sverdlovsk?

In the meantime I have made a donation to the German Government in the vicinity of about a Million Dollars, and they did not even say thank you.

Almuth Hauptmann Tel/Fax 61-8-8682-3374
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New Special Interest Groups (SIGs)		Vol 4 No 4		
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A SIG for Jews born in the DOROHAI DISTRICT OF ROMANIA and including the towns of DOROHAI, DARABANI, HERTA, RADAUTI-PRUT, MIHAILENI AND SAVENI has been formed by Israeli Jews born in that area. The group has previously published three volumes, written in Hebrew and Romanian on the history of the Jewish communities in that area, with an English summary. More recently they have published a fourth volume, including genealogical data and oral histories with a greater part in English. Airmail price of this volume will be around \$US 100. Contact address: IRGUN YOTZEI ROMANIA SHLOMO DAVID, P.O. Box 134, KIRIAT BIALIK, 27101, ISRAEL.

Grodno Gubernia SIG		Vol 4 No 4		
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A new SIG was established two years ago for Grodno Gubernia, located in what is now north-western Belarus and parts of north-eastern Poland. The localities included are, according to names as in "Where Once We Walked": ANTOPOL, BEREZA (KARTOZ), BIALOWIEZA, BIALYSTOK, BIELSK PODLASKI, BOLSHAYA, BERESTOWICA, BRANSK, BREST (LITOVSK), BYTEN, DERECHIN, DOMACHEVO, FROGICHIN, DYATLOVO(ZETL), GRODEK, GRODNO, INDURA(AMDUR), IVANOV(JANOW), KAMENETS (LITOVSK), KNYSZYN, KOBRIN, KOSSOVO, KRYNKI, LUNNA, LYSKOVO, MALORITA, MOTOL, NOVOYELNA, OZERY, PRUZHANY, ROSS, RUZHANY, SELETS, SKIDEL, SLONIM, SOKOLKA, SUCHOWOLA, SUPRASL, SVISLOCH, TROSCIANKA, VOLKOVYSK, ZABLUDOW, ZELWA, ZHABINKA.

For information please post a self-addressed envelope and an international answer coupon to JIM YARIN, P.O. Box 1555, BROOKLINE MA 02146, USA with your full address, telephone, fax and if applicable your email address.

Our Shtetlekh of POROZOW and SZCZUCZYN LITEVSKI are not included in that list but, geographically speaking, ought to be. Perhaps others from that area have also inadvertently been omitted. It is not known whether this SIG publishes anything yet.

From Dorot, Summer 1995 per Roots-Key, Spring 1996

Shipping Information from Rotterdam, Netherlands		Vol 4 No 4		
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Ralph G. Bennett, M.D. writes that Rotterdam was a main point of departure from Europe in the nineteenth century and in the early part of the twentieth century. Information is available from Gemeente Haus (Government House), coolsingl #40, NL 3011 AD Rotterdam, Netherlands

From German American Genealogy Spring 1994 via Roots-Key, Summer, 1994.

Memorabilia of Galicia		Vol 4 No 4		
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Blossom Glasser of San Diego, CA USA has written that she was able to obtain some pre-World War II memorabilia of towns she is researching in Galicia, including photographs, early postcards and a rare illustrated guide-book of Przemyśl, dated 1917, from TOMASZ WISNIEWSKI,

P.O. Box 351,15-001 Białystok, Poland. Email: tomekwisniewski@vena.telbank.pl.

Blossom says; "Mr Wisniewski was fair in his pricing. He is conversant in English and anxious to do business".

From Discovery, Vol 12 No. 4 Fall, 1997

Forebears		Vol 4 No 4		
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00057 STEPHANE TOUBLANC, 8 rue du Commandant Rene Mouchotte, 75014 PARIS, FRANCE. Tel:33- 1-4335-4418. Seeks descendants of **MACHAUF** family of LVOV supposed to have emigrated to Australia after WWII and to have changed their name to **MACHOWSKY/MACHOWICZ** or similar. Also seeking families **ROSENMAN/ROZENMAN, STRASSMANN** and LANDAU from LVOV, BUCZACZ, TARNOPOL, BORISLAV, some involved in petrol industry in Eastern Galicia.

00058 ALAN TOBIAS,23 Pentland Avenue, Thornbury, Bristol, BS12 2YB England. Tel: 44-1454-412-831,Fax: 44-1454-281-676; Email: alantobias@compuserve.com seeks contact with anyone called **TOBIAS** or with OSTROLEKA roots.

00059 MANFREDO TICHAUER, Marius Bauer Plantsoen 19/2, 1062 AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND.

Tel: 31-20-617-8333 would like contact with **EVA TICHAUER/TISCHAUER**, aged about 90 in Australia, friends or descendants.

00060 JOHN KELLY, 67 Burkett Street, PAGE ACT 2614, Canberra, Australia. Tel: 61-262-544-883. Seeking descendants of **JOSEPH BENNETT**, who had lived in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and was Orthodox. He owned hansom cabs, then became a printer circa 1890, and was brother of **SAMUEL LOUIS BENNETT**, a journalist, my grandfather.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 5 No 1		
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It's nearly Passover again, the time to eat matzah and to have a family Seder. Perhaps also to ask family history questions from one's elders... Our year started with two excellent workshops on Sundays 1 February and 1 March, and some interesting speakers programmed for later this year. Our workshop on Jewish genealogical resources on Poland attracted forty people, several from Canberra and a visitor from South Australia.

The expressed desire of some of our Canberra members for an active group, with which to network in Jewish genealogy has already borne fruit and resulted in plans to hold workshops in Canberra, hopefully at the National Jewish Centre in the library under the direction of Sylvia Deutsch and Earle Hoffman. Sylvia will contribute a regular Canberra Corner to this journal, advising Canberra members of dates and places. She has already this month circularised them with details of the Society's holdings in Canberra. We will endeavour to augment these.

Our great Australian genealogical expert Nick Vine Hall is moving back to Sydney, and on Sunday 10 May, 1998 at 7.30 pm at the Jewish Folk Centre, 23 Saber Street, Woolahra will speak to us on "Finding Evidence of Your Family's Arrival in Australia". Then, on Tuesday 28 July at 7.30 pm Peter Landé of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., an expert on nominal lists of the Holocaust, lists of both victims and survivors from ghettos, camps, labour camps, will speak to us in a lecture we have arranged to share with the Sydney Jewish Museum at 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst. Peter Landé is German-born and came to USA with his parents before World War II, and became an American diplomat. He is probably the world expert on Holocaust lists.

We have been invited to participate at the annual SHOWCASE of the Society of Australian Genealogists on Friday 22 May, 1998 at Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street, Sydney from 10 am to 5 pm. While several committee members will be manning our table, we could do with some extra help from members who could give us a few hours.

From 12 to 17 July several members from Melbourne and Sydney will attend the 18th U.S. Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, dubbed "Hollywood Chai", in Los Angeles, at which Lionel Sharpe is presenting a paper. Anybody else still interested in attending, please contact Rieke Nash, or take the application form from the Internet.

A proposal made last year in Paris that the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies become the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, thus recognizing that it is now a worldwide grouping, is due to be voted on in Los Angeles.

Also shortly after we told you of the existence of REIPP (Russian Era Indexing of Poland Project), the project changed its name to JRI-Poland for Jewish Records Indexing - Poland. This project pioneered by Stanley Diamond of Montreal envisages translating the indexes of the Jewish vital records in the LDS (Mormon) microfilms and even microfilming some records overlooked by the Mormons, or not yet microfilmed by them. There are separate sections called Shtetl Co-ops for some of the former major Jewish communities in Poland, Lodz, Warsaw and Bialystok, and

Stanley Diamond is looking for more volunteers to help co-ordinate the translation and indexing of yet more shtetl vital records.

The decision made last trimester that the Victorian branch should become autonomous and administer its own finances has worked well. We continue to share the costs of the Kosher Koala and to publish the Victorian News, as well as inviting Victorian members to continue to contribute articles. Melbourne has a vigorous group of workers and runs a very active programme. We are about to be incorporated as a society in NSW at last, and the Victorian branch will follow shortly with their own incorporation in Victoria.

On 17 December 1997 I flew to Melbourne for a talk on the Paris conference, as well as my trips to Poland, to Belarus and to Ukraine to the Society in Melbourne. It is always stimulating to be with the interstate groups and new matters always come up. The hospitality given by Lionel Sharpe and his committee are always heartwarming. We look forward to being able to reciprocate a little during Lionel and Anita Sharpe's visit to Sydney.

We hope that a good cross-section of the membership will attend our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 22 March at 7.30 at the Wilson Hall of the North Shore Synagogue, 15 Treatts Road, Lindfield.

News from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 5 No 1		
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Already our program for 1998, in association with Makor Library, has got off to a good start.

Our first meeting for the year on February 10 was a fascinating talk by Ephraim Finch, Executive Director of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha titled, "Tu-B'Shvat - New Year for Trees". Ephraim is engaged in collecting extensive family data not only from those purchasing burial plots but also from the relatives of recently deceased persons. He talked about the importance of keeping a record of Hebrew names. The audience was very impressed by the growing database on computer for research at the Chevra Kadisha.

On Sunday March 1 we held our first Beginners' Workshop for the year at Beth Weizmann Community Centre. A demonstration was given of the recently released genealogical computer program, Reunion 5.

On Sunday March 15 we again have a display at the Expo of Jewish Community Groups in Caulfield Park. This annual event titled "In One Voice" has proved very popular, attracting thousands of people in a celebration of Jewish song, dance and art. Last year people were queuing to ask advice about family research.

On April 8 at 7.30 pm Rabbi John Levi, recently retired Senior Rabbi of the Temple Beth Israel and author of "*The Forefathers: A Biographical Dictionary of the Jews of Australia 1788-1830*" and co-author of "*Australian Genesis*", will address the group about his current research.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 5 at 7.30 pm at Beth Weizmann. Well known communal leader Kurt Lippmann is guest speaker and will talk about "Publishing the Lippmann Story". Kurt recently published a family history - *"Our Lippmann Family: A Chronicle Spanning Three Centuries and Three Continents"*.

On May 27 at 7.30 pm, Jo Ferguson, chairperson of the National Trust of Australia (Vic) Cemeteries Advisory Committee and a CAE lecturer will speak on *"Finding Your Way Around the Victorian Public Records Office in Laverton"*.


We extend our congratulations to a very active founding member of our Society, Ester Csaky, who has edited an autobiographical history written by her mother, Doba-Necha Cukierman. A huge crowd attended the launch of a 218-page book titled *"A Guardian Angel: Memories of Lublin"* on Sunday, February 8 at Beth Weizmann Community Centre. Ester had taken leave of absence from the committee last year to complete this magnificent book. This is another contribution from Australian writers to first hand personal accounts by Holocaust survivors and should encourage others to undertake this important task.

At least four Victorian members have indicated an interest in attending the international seminar in Los Angeles in July. Others interested in attending are asked to contact the Secretary. Sonia and Les Oberman are participating in the two-week genealogical river trip in the Ukraine in June. We look forward to hearing about this adventure on their return and seeing a video of the trip.

Following a successful meeting with AJGS President, Sophie Caplan and the Victorian Branch committee on December 17 the Victorian committee has decided to propose incorporation as a voluntary organisation at the AGM in May. More about this in the next Kosher Koala. Membership fees are currently being collected by the Victorian Secretary, Rhonda Lasky.

The Victorian Branch meets at the
BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE,
306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Melbourne.
Tel: 03-9273 5611
Postal Address: P.O. Box 189, GLENHUNTLY VIC 3163, AUSTRALIA

Internet contacts:
Leslie Oberman oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au
Dr Albert Braunstein sbr@bbs.ausom.net.au
Enquiries: Rhonda 03-9578 6456
Lionel 03-9523-6738 Fax: 03-9532-7797

News from the South Australian Branch	Klee Benveniste	Vol 5 No 1	
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Our December speaker was Marjorie Luno, who spoke about the contribution that the Boas and Solomon families made to the Adelaide Jewish community. Her grandfather Reverend Abraham Tobias Boas was spiritual leader of the Adelaide

Hebrew Congregation for over 50 years (from 1870 to 1923). Marjorie gave a historical presentation about Reverend Boas, his origins in Holland, and that of his wife Elizabeth Solomon and the extended Solomon family. We were also entertained by a reading from the biography of Casanova about his visit to Tobias Boas, a Court banker of the Hague (not necessarily an ancestor).

Apart from outstanding and devoted ministry to the Jewish congregation, and participation in many humanitarian causes, Reverend Boas was Senior Vice-President of the University Shakespearean Society and his eloquent letters to the Press in 1899 resolved a dispute between Catholics and Protestants.

Marjorie explained the relationships between various Solomon families; at one time there were so many people called Solomon in the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation that it became customary to address them without surnames, for example, as "Mrs. Moss". The contribution of Emanuel Solomon included building the first mainland theatre, which is currently being restored, and also being involved in the formation of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation 150 years ago. Members of the family were elected to government, and one became Premier of South Australia briefly. Descendants of both the Boas and Solomon families are spread all over Australia and numbered many hundreds.

Our next quarterly meeting will be in March. The contact address for the South Australian branch is:

Dr Klee Benveniste, Honorary Secretary,
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA branch), C/- Adelaide Hebrew
Congregation,
P.O. Box 320, Glenside, SA 5065, Australia.

Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutsch	Vol 5 No 1	
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This is the first appearance of a regular column for Canberra AJGS MEMBERS. Through the generosity of AJGS President Sophie Caplan and the Society in Sydney there is already the kernel of a collection of material on Jewish genealogy in Canberra. Presently it is held in the home of local AJGS member Sylvia Deutsch. It is hoped that arrangements can be made for this ever-growing material to be held at the National Jewish Centre in Forrest, with open days convenient to members to allow access.

The Canberra branch of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) has for some years included a session on genealogy in its annual programme, and local AJGS members will recall that they were notified last year when it was hoped that Sophie could come to Canberra. It is planned that in future this column will include information about forthcoming AJHS functions, which all are cordially invited to attend whenever they wish, irrespective of whether they are AJHS members or not.

Rather than list the current holdings in this column, local member Sylvia Deutsch - in whose home they are currently held - will send a letter to all Canberra members with

a complete list. In brief, there are 9 books, some small journal holdings, and a number of pamphlets and similar material.

The column will also list forthcoming AJHS functions, which all AJGS members are welcome to attend. Forthcoming AJHS functions: Monday 16 March, 1998 Visit to Yass, Monday 15 June, 1998 Blooms Night, Thursday 10 September, 1998 Genealogy night, Monday 30 November, 1998 Visit of Rabbi Raymond Apple. Meetings are usually held at the National Jewish Memorial Centre, cnr Canberra Avenue and National Circuit, Forrest, Canberra, at 8.00 p.m. (except the Yass trip obviously!)

Enquiries to Sylvia Deutsch in Canberra.
Tel/fax: 02-6248-6196
Email: deutand@ozemail.com.au

Are you a Hoarder?

Hilde Hines

**Vol 5 No
1**



A Plea from Hilde Hines

If you are, like me, then you have in your possession letters and papers referring to your parents and ancestors, or happenings in the past.

You may have kept them for sentimental reasons and your children and grandchildren may not be as interested in these matters as you have been.

PLEASE MAKE SURE all these articles are kept in a separate container and are marked clearly that in the event of your demise these are not to be thrown out as useless but handed over to the Jewish Museum, or similar. What may appear as useless trivia now may be of utmost importance to future historians or genealogists.

Please convince all your friends to act similarly so that we make sure that nothing gets lost. Rather err in sending too much than leaving one piece of paper unattended.

I URGE YOU TO GIVE THIS MATTER YOUR ATTENTION BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

Hilde Hines is president of the South Australian branch of the Society in Adelaide.

**Family Tree of the Jewish
People**

**Vol 5 No
1**



In a major new initiative, the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (AJGS) has announced plans to create a Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP) in order to disseminate Jewish family tree information worldwide. To participate, Jewish genealogists are invited to submit their computerized family trees to a common database that will permit easy access to information about millions of individuals. This new system is an outgrowth of the AJGS's Jewish Genealogical People Finder (JGPF) that was published on microfiche from 1991 to 1995 and which now has more that 300,000 names. Data from the JGPF will be included in the new database.

The AJGS will distribute the FTJP on CD-ROM to member societies of the AJGS at the 18th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Los Angeles, July 12-17, 1998. Plans also call for the database to become part of the computer system at the Center for Jewish History in New York City when it opens to the public in 1999. The goal is to reach one million names within one year. This is not unreasonable given the number of Jewish genealogists whose family trees are already computerized.

All Jewish family trees will be accepted with no prior conditions, except that the data must be in GEDCOM-compatible format on IBM-compatible 3 1/2" diskettes or Macintosh 1.4MB diskettes. GEDCOM is a standard interface between genealogical software systems that was developed by the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library. All modern genealogical software systems support the GEDCOM interface.

Send family trees on diskette to:

Family Tree of the Jewish People
P.O. Box 26
Cabin John MD 20818
U.S.A.

or you can send the GEDCOM file as an attached e-mail file to
vhwc10c@prodigy.com

To appear in the initial distribution at the July conference, diskettes must reach AJGS by March 31, 1998. There is no charge for submission.

A submitter may update previous information at any time by sending a new disk of their entire family tree with a statement that it is an update.

You can also submit family trees in GEDCOM format as a Zipped file to speed up transmission. It will be unZipped at our end. If you have more than one tree, submit them all. If you submit more than one tree and certain persons appear on more than one of the trees, we will eliminate duplicate records as long as they exactly match.

For deceased persons, each entry will indicate (if provided) the individual's family name, given name, sex, date and place of birth, date and place of death, father's name, mother's name, spouses' name(s). For living persons, only the name, sex and linkage to parents and spouse(s) will be provided. For purposes of FTJP, a deceased person is one for whom there is a death date or whose birth date is more than 100 years ago. All other information present in a GEDCOM file will be ignored.

All family names in the complete listing will be arranged according to the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System, to allow spelling variants of identical surnames to appear together. The submitter's name and address will be available to permit those finding matches to contact potential relatives. This is the only way that additional information will be obtainable for living persons.

Prior to submitting trees, family historians may wish to edit out family secrets or information they consider sensitive. Annulled marriages not normally known outside

the immediate family or, in the case of deceased individuals, children born prior to the marriage of their parents, are possible examples. Such editing is not a requirement; however, the database will not release information other than the items listed above.

The FTJP will only contain each person's name, sex, date and place of birth, date and place of death, and the links to mother, father and spouse(s). For living persons, the dates and places of birth and death will not be published.

All other submitted information will be ignored, so if your GEDCOM export program has the ability to ignore other information such as notes, provide the AJGS with the smaller file.

Mother's maiden name will be on the tree, a casual security check used in the past by banks and other institutions to confirm you are the individual you claim you are. Recent experience is that banks are no longer using this fact as the sole proof of a person's identity because it has become so commonplace it is no longer a secure method of identifying an individual.

Computer databases of family trees are not new. Two of the best known already established systems are the Ancestral File™ of the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library and one at the Douglas E. Goldman Genealogy Center at Beth Hatefutsoth (The Museum of the Diaspora) in Israel.

Broderbund Software, a commercial company, sells CD-ROM's containing family trees. Contributions to the Broderbund database have been so great that the company has already produced fourteen volumes of CDs. Other family tree databases exist on the Internet.

New Books in our Library

Vol 5 No
1



Our friend Kingsley Ireland from Angaston, South Australia, recently visited Sydney and was entertained at dinner by some of his old friends in the Society. On returning home he sent us a copy of "**BIRMINGHAM JEWRY, More Aspects 1740-1930**" edited by Zoe Josephs, and published in 1984 by the Birmingham Jewish History Research Group, a welcome addition to our library, especially for those doing research on Great Britain. This is the second volume of a series.

The Society has purchased CHAIM FREEDMAN's major book "**ELIYAHU'S BRANCHES**", published by Avotaynu, on the descendants of the Gaon of Vilna. It is an excellent compilation, whose user-friendly index makes it easy to use. There are many Australian descendants, particularly in the KOMESAROFF/KOMISAROOK families, but also our New South Wales member Jenny King and Northern Territory member Lily Segall. However one of our more knowledgeable members says that some dates in our Australian HAIM PHILLIPS descendance are not quite accurate. But this is a tiny flaw in a very scholarly work. Highly recommended.

"**THE JEWS OF JAMAICA, Tombstone Inscriptions 1663-1880**" by RICHARD BARNETT AND PHILIP WRIGHT, edited by ORON YOFFE, recently published by


the Ben Zvi Institute in Jerusalem, has been donated by Sophie Caplan. This is an excellent compilation with a most outstanding indexing of all elements of a name which also makes it very easy to look up an ancestor. But the binding leaves a lot to be desired, one section of our copy coming out of its binding on first opening. And it is too expensive to send back.

RANDY WASSERSTROM "THE OLD COUNTRY AND THE NEW: A WASSERSTROM FAMILY HISTORY, 1780-1930" about some intermarrying Wasserstrom and Schlesinger families in Poland, Hungary and Slovakia, has also been donated by Sophie Caplan. Published and distributed by the author.

"JFS, THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS' FREE SCHOOL, LONDON SINCE 1732" by Gerry Black, 1998, Tymsder Publishing, London, provides an interesting account of the school attended by many of our members' ancestors who migrated to London in the late nineteenth century.

"HAMBURG PASSENGERS FROM THE KINGDOM OF POLAND AND THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE, Indirect Passage to New York, 1855 to June, 1873" by Geraldine Moser and Marlene Silverman, 1997, Landsmen Press, Washington. This is a valuable addition to our resources as it lists migrants' towns of origin as well as their surnames, first names and ages. The names of the boats and dates of departure are also listed. Also beautifully indexed.

We are also looking forward to the arrival of Miriam Weiner's new book **"JEWISH ROOTS IN POLAND: PAGES FROM THE PAST AND ARCHIVAL INVENTORIES"** published jointly by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and the Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation, 1998. The book details for the first time the holdings of the Polish State Archives which include not only civil records but also other documents such as censuses and school records. With hundreds of photographs and other details it is a must for anyone planning a research trip to Poland.

A Family Reunion Through Kosher Koala	Peter Frybort	Vol 5 No 1	
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Great News!! The Kosher Koala was instrumental in connecting two people on opposite sides of the earth. Rosemary Shonfeld's search for her aunt Aurelia Nelly Shonfeldova finally ended when Evelyn Frybort, a new member, picked up the Kosher Koala for the first time. Her eyes nearly popped out of her head as she read the name, remembered that Schonfeld was my (Evelyn's husband's) mother's first married name and recognised the very brief life history which was offered to identify Aurelia. (We had copied this from a Theresienstadt survivor's quarterly. Ed)

My mother, a healthy 82 year old, now named Relly Bell, shed a few tears when she was shown the message as the memories of her first husband came flooding back. Her marriage in 1937 to Moritz Shonfeld terminated with Moritz's demise at Auschwitz. Since then Relly has moved from Czechoslovakia to Israel, where I was born, and then to Australia in 1956.

Rosemary was born to Moritz's brother who escaped to England and married there. Rosemary is thankful for any details which Relly can give her of her ancestors

because her father, deceased since 1985, was unwilling to reveal any details concerning his pre-war life in Europe. She in fact only discovered that her father was Jewish in recent years.

My mother is able to relate stories and descriptions of Rosemary's grandparents and relatives and has the only remaining work of art produced by Moritz. Since our initial discovery of Rosemary's message, several photos and letters have passed between us, bringing great fulfillment to Rosemary as she finds some answers in her search for her roots.

In the future, we will probably meet her when we travel to England. I hope our story has inspired you to continue enthusiastically with your search. Don't lose heart. Our story is proof that the Kosher Koala is helping to fill in missing links.

*Peter Frybort, is the husband of Evelyn, a member of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Sydney.
Any enquiries 61-2-9427-0072.*

**Jewish Burials in Vienna,
Austria**

**Vol 5 No
1**



From Shem Tov, Sept 1997

An edited version of an article by Gudrun Sailer which appeared in February 1997 in the official Austrian "**Wiener Zeitung**".

The "Schalom" society started five years ago with the rehabilitation of the largest Jewish cemetery of Vienna. Today the initiator, Mr. Walter Pagler, is looking through the window of his modest trailer, which is located at the central cemetery, and surveys with pride the work of helpers. Many of the 60,000 graves in the Jewish section have been restored, access is again possible, gravestones have been re-erected and inscriptions have been repainted in white or gold. Visitors from all over the world can, thanks to the EDV-database, find the location of the graves of their Viennese ancestors. A large filing cabinet contains the many letters of thanks which Walter Pagler has received from Vienna, Tel Aviv, Melbourne, Sao Paulo and New York.

Without the initiative of this 68-year-old former businessman, foreign visitors would not have been able to find what they were looking for after half a century. In the databank are contained more than 50,000 hours of voluntary labour, and its origin came about by accident. The Viennese police agreed in 1991 to restore the graves of their Jewish colleagues at the central cemetery, but who amongst the dead was a member of the police force? The death registers and the cemetery file index contained some information.

Finally the following was established: a list of 250,000 Jewish citizens with name, age, profession, address, date of burial and location in the cemetery. The list goes back to the year 1750 and includes 44 Jewish cemeteries in Vienna, Lower Austria and the Burgenland. Hundreds of volunteers, mostly women, transcribed the

handwritten (often difficult to read) information into the computers of the Economic University of Vienna and also into some personal computers.

This largest death register in the world can be inspected either at the Vienna Cemetery Department, the offices of the Vienna Jewish Community and at the office of the "Schalom" society at the central cemetery.

A series of newspaper articles and television programs have publicized the "Schalom" society and its work in a number of larger Jewish communities. "These days many young people from America are knocking on our door and want to find the graves of their ancestors. They are looking for their roots and often they bring along family trees," explains Walter Pagler, chairman of the "Schalom" society.

The second group of visitors consists of Jews who emigrated and who remember being present when they were children at the funeral of a relative. Sometimes they don't even remember the name of the relative. The investigation in such a case can take hours, but the Schalom members can often help. There was the case of the elderly gentleman who knew only the profession of the departed and the address which was near a hospital.

Many Jewish visitors told the Catholic Pagler their life stories and the passing of their relatives. "And then they are standing in front of the grave which they unexpectedly found and for the first time they have the opportunity to bid farewell to their long-lost family". Even if a search is unsuccessful, "We do not let anybody go away without consolation," says Walter Pagler.

The human and physical activity of Schalom has paid for itself in the true sense of the word. Those who have found the graves of their relatives have made arrangements for their upkeep. "We have restored 2,500 graves at the request of visitors. Only one person has not paid for the full amount of restoration." Schalom is totally dependent on voluntary contributions.

The address is as follows:

Schalom, Verein zur Wiederherstellung und Erhaltung der Jud.
Friedhofe in Wien
1110 Wien, Zentralfriedhof 1.Tor, AUSTRIA

New Family History		Vol 5 No 1		
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Our long-time member Kim Phillips recently presented us with a copy of her desk-top printed ONE FAMILY'S STORY pertaining to her paternal Sephardi family. Her story encompasses the CRABB, TOLANO and PHILLIPS families all originating in London and coming to Sydney, some as sentenced convicts and others as free settlers.

Emanuel Crabb was the first honorary secretary of the York Street Synagogue, the first purpose built in Australia. He died in Sydney in 1878, his wife Francis nee Davis having predeceased him. Their daughter Elizabeth married Raphael Tolano, a former convict who became the first gold buyer in the Bathurst area during the gold

rush, and later a publican and then a theatre manager. His daughter then married Louis Phillips, and the Phillips family then became closely associated with the stage.

The most famous was Phillip Nathan Phillips who from an acrobat became a vaudevillian chiefly known for his association with the comedian Roy Rene (Vandersluis) better known as Mo. Nathan Phillips, Nat, became known as Stiffy in Stiffy and Mo, a partnership that lasted until Nat's death in June 1932, and which still resonates sixty-five years after Nathan Phillips' death. He was Kim Phillip's great-uncle.

Members interested in Australian theatrical history can read ONE FAMILY'S STORY at our regular monthly workshops.

More About that Mysterious Photograph	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 5 No 1	
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In the December, 1997 issue of the Koshers Koala I wrote about a mysterious nineteenth century photograph found among the possessions of my great-grandmother, Natalie Lobascher, who migrated with her parents to Melbourne from Schwedt-an-der-oder in 1855. It was a family group photo taken in Schwedt in front of a shop with a sign out front, "Hermann Maass".

A search on JewishGen Family Finder led me into contact with a Canadian living in Toronto who was a descendant of Hermann Maass. He informed me that the wife of Hermann Maass was Frederike Lobatz.

I corresponded with this Canadian researcher trying to make a connection between the names Lobascher and Lobatz. We wondered whether we were descendants from the same family. Our research ran into a block until last month when a breakthrough occurred.

I had been invited to talk about the work of the AJGS on the Jewish program on SBS radio one Sunday morning in January. Uri Palti, the interviewer, asked me to give an example of the use of the internet for genealogy research. I related the story about the 1890's photograph in the family archives. My phone number was given to the listeners for further information about our Society.

On arriving home I received a call from a Melbourne resident Miriam Heymann who informed me that her former name was Miriam Lobatz, that she was born in Berlin and that she had a large collection of photos, documents and a diary relating to her late father and his family. I informed her that I had a photo of her father, Walter Lobatz, taken in 1904 when my great-grandmother, Natalie Lobascher visited Germany on an overseas trip.

A mere twelve minute drive from my home a few days later brought us in face to face contact. An amazing story emerged.

My great-great-grandfather David Lobascher (1825-1895), who was born in Obrzycko near Posen, had a sister Adelheid who married Myer Lobatz, the great-grandfather of Miriam Heymann. A comparison of family trees, photos, letters and other records allowed us to piece together our common ancestry. I was delighted

that she had a photo of David Lobascher still in excellent condition which had been sent to her ancestors from Australia in possibly 1880-1890.

To my surprise I also learnt that my mother's cousin, Dr Wolfe Davis, had sponsored Miriam and her parents to escape from Nazi Germany to Australia in 1939.

Furthermore, Miriam's first job was in my paternal uncles' department store in Melbourne and my own father had employed her father, Walter Lobatz, during the war years.

To make the connection between my Canadian correspondent and Miriam Heymann needs further work, namely, to find the family connection between Frederike Lobatz and Myer Lobatz. But we have come a long way.

This confirms my belief that genealogical research can be an exciting adventure. To think that with some lateral thinking, the use of the internet and, with a little bit of mazel, some missing pieces of a nineteenth century puzzle was found in a nearby suburb.

Lionel Sharpe is the Chairman of the Victorian branch of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. He will be a speaker at the Annual General Meeting of the Society in Sydney.

Offer of Translations	Gary Luke	Vol 5 No 1	
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Translations for a few Eastern European languages are available to members of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society through the Sydney Jewish Centre on Ageing. The COA is a self-help organisation for older people, based in Bondi Junction, Sydney. Among other activities they distribute Kosher Meals on Wheels to many homebound elderly Jews, and help with transport when needed. They hold weekly discussion groups on current affairs, and regularly invite guest speakers on a range of other topics.

Quite a few of their members migrated from Europe and still speak and read their original languages. However, the writing in some older documents can be difficult to decipher, and not many have a direct interest in genealogy themselves, so are not well-versed in the type of content of old family records.

Simon Sekel from the COA attended our recent workshop on Polish research, and managed to assist a number of members with documents they brought with them. A few COA members are currently having an interesting time deciphering and translating some documents from one AJGS member written in Yiddish in Rashi script.

Some of the languages known to their members are Hungarian, German, Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, Yiddish (in Rashi script) and Hebrew. Any documents that Australian Jewish Genealogical Society members wish to have translated should be sent to:-

The Hon. Secretary, Sydney Jewish Centre On Ageing
23 Saber Street, Woollahra NSW 2025

Send copies only. Please do not expect them to take responsibility for original documents. Make sure you include your name and return address in a cover letter. They accept donations.

Forebears		Vol 5 No 1		
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00061 BEULAH GROSS, Shop 1, Shopping Village, Saratoga NSW 2251, Australia. Tel: 02-4369-1486 (Office hours) 02-4369-5855 (after hours) Fax: 02-4363-1522. Email: rachy@ozemail.com.au. Any information about Max Perlman's Yiddish Theatre Company which toured the world. Particularly interested in the group's activities and movements in 1930's. At some time Ilya Ryss was the manager and he died in Buenos Aires in January 1934 while the company was performing there.

00062 BEULAH GROSS (As above). Any information about **LEON FELDMAN** who arrived in Melbourne on 16 February 1908, aged about 23. He found a job with a cigarette maker and later became a cigarette manufacturer himself. He married the daughter of the owner of two tobacco shops in Melbourne in 1910 or 1911.

00063 BERNARD F. MUELLER, 98-01 Avenue, Apt 3V, REGO PARK, NY 11374, USA. Looking for **MARTA MANDELIK**, born 10 April 1914, who arrived in Terezin on 8 July 1943 and survived the war. Any information welcome.

00064 JOANNNA MILLAN, 4 Court Close, St John's Wood Park, London NW8 6NN, ENGLAND. Tel: 44-171-586-5509. Looking for relatives or descendants of following: **LEO** and **LARILIE BECHNER** who in 1935 lived in Berlin at 4 Fehrberliner Strasse; **KURT ROSENTHAL**, born 1899 in Meseritz, Warthegau; **BELLA SCHWARTZ**, née **SCHALLMACH** circa 1890, who emigrated to USA and was a step-sister of **JOANNA ELSE ROSENTHAL**, who died in Terezin on 31 May 1944 and who was Joanna Millan's mother.

00065 ROBERT S. GREENE, 115 East 90th Street, New York, NY 10128, USA. Looking for anyone who knew **VERA** and **MAX RENNER** from Prague, and daughter **LIANA RENNER**, born 29 March 1926. She arrived in Terezin on 15 May 1942 from Prague, and was sent to Auschwitz on 1 October 1944. Not known whether she died there or was then sent elsewhere.

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland and the Shtetl Co-Op Project		Vol 5 No 1		
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For full and up-to-date-details about Jewish Records Indexing - Poland refer to the website at: <http://www1.jewishgen.org/jri-pl> or send a blank e-mail to jri-pl-2@mail.jewishgen.org

For researchers with ancestors from Poland, vital records are gradually becoming more accessible. Until recently the main source was the Family History Centres of the Mormon church. The article "Polish-Jewish Records at the Genealogical Society of Utah" Avotaynu, Vol 2, No.1 January, 1986 contained a listing of the 1,735 microfilms available from this source. In the Summer, 1995 edition of Roots-Key, the

newsletter of the JGS of Los Angeles, Ted Gostin has listed nearly 400 additions to the original 1986 list. These Polish records were mainly pre 1890's.

The main problem with this source was that films had to be ordered in from Utah, and then each index searched for a possible prospect. A further complication for the less experienced researcher was that the records were in Polish up to 1863 after which Russian was compulsory for vital record registrations. It was a very time consuming and sometimes expensive task but more importantly it became apparent that individuals all over the world were duplicating efforts to access this information.

The Russian Era Indexing of Poland Project (REIPP) was formed to address this problem. As the Project developed, interest was so great that it soon outgrew its initial objectives and a broadened mandate evolved. As a result the REIPP was renamed the Jewish Records Indexing - Poland (JRI - Poland). The new name now reflects the project's interest in all Jewish vital records, not just Mormon microfilms, and irrespective of whether they are in Polish, Russian (Cyrillic), German or Latin. Any related database that contributes to the ability of researchers to pinpoint and research the location of their Polish families will be included, for example, Voter Lists, Business Directories, etc.

The areas included in JRI-Poland database are classified by the Gubernias which existed between 1867-1917 or the Provinces between 1945 and 1975. The ten gubernias of Russian Poland between 1867-1917 were Kalisz, Kielce, Lomza, Lublin, Piotrkow, Plock, Radom, Siedlce, Suwalki and Warszawa. The five bordering Gubernias which were part of the Pale of Settlement were Galicia, Grodno, Prussian Poland, Vilna and Volynia. The Provinces between 1945 and 1975 were Bialystok, Bydgoszcz, Gdansk, Katowice, Kielce, Koszalin, Krakow, Lodz, Lublin, Lwow, Olsztyn, Opole, Poznan, Rzeszow, Szczecin, Warszawa, Wroclaw and Zielona Gora.

This main aim to create a searchable database of indexes to all available Jewish vital records has resulted in an index to over 200,000 records. The number of towns for which there are records in the database is now 80. This growth has been encouraged from an initiative called the "Shtetl CO-OP" where people researching the same towns, areas, and records can coordinate their efforts and minimize overlap or duplication. The JRI - Poland coordinates and assists these volunteer groups who through the Internet, can interact efficiently even though they may be spread across the whole world.

For each town with its own Shtetl CO-OP, a group of volunteers have come forward to offer their services and some funding to expedite access to information of interest to them. Each town CO-OP has a Project Leader who has agreed to coordinate the entire effort to index all their town's records in the LDS microfilms. Funds are used to cover costs of sending index pages around the world for JRI volunteers to enter data and, where necessary, transliterate the index listings. (JRI used professionals where volunteers are not available for the difficult-to-translate Old Russian index entries). Other volunteers who live near Family History Centers have assisted by ordering films and photocopying their indexes.

The coordinator of the Warsaw Shtetl CO-OP, Barbara Krasner-Khait, writes in February, 1998 that there are over 40,000 vital records on nearly 50 microfilms for

Warsaw. Together with the Douglas E. Goldman Jewish Genealogy Center (DOROT) in Israel, this CO-OP has undertaken to extract and translate into English this amazing resource. So far 1,387 birth records have been added to the JRI-Poland database and can be searched on-line.

From the Board of the JRI - Poland.

Judy Baston
Stanley Diamond
Barbara Khait
Hadassah Lipsius
Michael Richman
Vlady Rozenbaum
Sheila Salo
Michael Tobias
and
Webmaster, Steven Zedeck

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland

Provided by Steven Z. Zedeck

Here is a detailed listing of the index data accumulated so far towards the project.

The Gubernias of Russian Poland between 1867 - 1917

GA Galicia	Gr Grodno	KI Kalisz	Ki Kielce	Lo Lomza	Lu Lublin	PI Plock
Pr Prussia	Ra Radom	Si Siedlce	Su Suwalki	Vi Vilna	Vo Volynia	Wa Warszawa

The Provinces of Poland between 1945 - 1975:

Bi Bialystok	By Bydgoszcz	Gd Gdansk	Ka Katowice	Ki Kielce	Ko Koszalin	Kr Krakow
Lo Lodz	Lu Lublin	Lw Lwow	Ol Olsztyn	Op Opole	Po Poznan	Rz Rzeszow
Sz Szczecin	Wa Warszawa	Wr Wroclaw	Zi Zielona Gora			

Town	Gubernia Province		Town	Gubernia Province	
Andrzejewo	LO	WA	Piotrkow TRYB	PI	LO
Bakalarzewo	SU	BI	Plock	PL	WA
Belchatow	PI	LO	Przedborz	KI	KI
Bialystok	GR	BI	Przerosl	SU	BI
Blaszki	PR	PO	Punsk	SU	BI
Brok	LO	WA	Raciaz	PL	WA
Brzeznicza	PI	LO	Radom	RA	KI
Checiny	KI	KI	Radomsko	PI	LO
Ciechanow	PL	WA	Radzilow	LO	BI
Ciechanowiec	LO	BI	Rajgrad	LO	BI
Czyzewo	LO	BI	Rutki	LO	BI

Dabie	KL	PO	Sarnaki	SI	WA
Filipow	SU	BI	Sejny	SU	BI
Golina	KL	PO	Slesin	KL	PO
Grajewo	LO	BI	Slupca	KL	PO
Izbica	LU	LU	Sniadowo	LO	BI
Jablonka	LO	BI	Sompolno	KL	PO
Jedwabne	LO	BI	Stawiski	LO	BI
Kleczew	KL	PO	Suwalki	SU	BI
Koden	SI	LU	Szczebrzeszyn	LU	LU
Kolno	LO	BI	Szczuczyn	LO	
Kolo	KL	PO	Tomaszow Lubelski	LU	LU
Konin	KL	PO	Tomaszow Mazowiecki	PI	LO
Kozienice	RA		Tuszyn	LO	PI
Krasnystaw	LU	LU	Tyczyn	GA	RZ
Krotoszyn	PR	PO	Tykocin	LO	BI
Krzeszow	LU	RZ	Warsaw	WA	WA
Lodz	PI	LO	Wasosz (Wonsosz)	LU	LU
Lomza	LO	BI	Wawolnica	LU	LU
Losice	SI	WA	Widawa	PI	LO
Lublin	LU	LU	Wizajny	SU	BI
Mariampol	SU	BI	Wizna	LO	BI
Nowe Miastro	WA	WA	Wloszczowa	KI	KI
Nowogrod	LO	BI	Wysokie Maz.	LO	BI
Nur	LO	WA	Wyszkow	WA	WA
Olkusz	KI	KR	Wyszogrod	WA	WA
Opatow	KI	KI	Zambrow	LO	BI
Ostroleka	LO	WA	Zareby Koscielne	WA	LO
Ostrow Maz	LO	WA	Zychlin	WA	LO
Ozarow	KI	KI			

SIGs for Poland

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There are now five Special Interest Groups for districts in Poland. They are:- Grodno, Kielce-Radom, Piotrkow Tribunalski, Lomza- Suwalki and Galicia. See <http://www.jewishgen.org> for more information.

Editorial

Sophie
Caplan

Vol 5 No
2



The last three months have seen us celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the State of Israel, as well as commemorate Yom Hashoah, the day on which we particularly remember our families and friends who perished in the Holocaust.

Our AGM on 22 March was enlivened by the presence of Lionel Sharpe, Chairman of the Victorian branch, who gave us a glimpse into his own research, by Bill Wallace, Ellis Setton and Sunny Gold all of whom told us of their recent research

advances. There were no changes in the committee, but several members have now volunteered for various tasks, and this is greatly appreciated.


On 24 March we finally achieved incorporation of our constitution as a non-profit organisation and legal possession of our name in NSW. The Victorian branch is seeking incorporation in Victoria of a similar constitution, so that we can keep pace with one another.

On 10th May we heard Australia's foremost genealogist, Nick Vine Hall tell us "How To Find Traces of Our Ancestors' Arrival in Australia". He also answered many questions on other topics. Nick has been campaigning for years for the retention of name-identified census forms, instead of their destruction, so that after one hundred years' restriction they will be available to medical and genealogical researchers. This has now been recommended by a parliamentary committee, and may benefit future genealogists.

Eight members from New South Wales and four from Victoria plan to attend Hollywood Chai, the 18th USA Jewish Genealogical Summer Seminar, where Lionel Sharpe will deliver a paper.

On 28 July we will share a talk on how to access lists of Holocaust victims and survivors by Peter Landé of the Washington D.C. Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives with the Sydney Jewish Museum at the Museum.

Later in the year Kurt Lippmann is coming to give a talk on his research for the Lippmann Family Book, as he did in Melbourne. The date is still uncertain.

News from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 5 No 2	
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The 3rd Annual General Meeting took place at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre in South Caulfield on Tuesday May 7. The major item of business was to set in motion the incorporation of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Victoria) under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. This was approved and the objects of the Victorian group are the same as those of the AJGS in NSW with minor changes. The committee will now proceed with incorporation.

Election of Office Bearers was held and it was with regret that the resignation of Sam Leon (Treasurer) was accepted for family reasons. Sam was thanked for his contribution to the work of the group since taking over as Treasurer.

The following were all elected unopposed:

Albert Braunstein, Ros Collins, Ester Csaky, Rodney Eisfelder, Kurt Friedlaender, Rhonda Lasky, Les Oberman, Lionel Sharpe, Bettye Susskind and Enid Yoffa-Elton. Lionel and Rhonda will remain as Chairman and Secretary and Kurt has accepted the position of Treasurer. Roles and titles will be decided when the new committee first meets.

Special thanks were extended to the AJGS in NSW for their assistance in the transfer of administrative functions to Victoria and to Ros Collins and her staff at the

Makor Library for their co-operation in storing our resources and dealing with enquiries about our work. It was noted that we are very lucky to be able to provide easy access to our resources, as the library is opened five days each week.

Following the AGM our guest speaker, Kurt Lippmann, OAM, talked about his research which led to the publication of the history of the Lippmann family. He paid special tribute to his late uncle who had started this task before World War II broke out. He displayed a family tree which had been drawn up by a skilled calligrapher, building on an earlier version prepared by his late uncle. A high quality bound book has been sent to descendants of the early Lippmanns, who are now scattered all over the world and many of whom have now lost their Jewish identity.

Three of our members have indicated that they will attend the 18th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Los Angeles in July. Sonja and Les Oberman and Lionel Sharpe will represent Victoria and Lionel is presenting a paper "Our Cousins in Australia - How to Trace Them". This will be an illustrated slide presentation. Rabbi Dr John Levi, the recently retired Senior Rabbi of the Temple Beth Israel, spoke to the group on April 8 about his work in updating research on Jewish convicts who were transported to Tasmania in the early days of settlement in Australia.

A number of functions are planned for the coming months.

Jo Ferguson, a Council for Adult Education lecturer, will speak about the work of the Victorian Public Records Office in Laverton on May 27. Ester Csaky will discuss her research in assisting her mother, Doba-Necha Cukierman, write her autobiography, "A Guardian Angel: Memories of Lublin" on June 24. Another beginners' workshop will be held on Sunday 19 July at 2.00 pm and on August 19 Les Oberman and Lionel Sharpe will report on their genealogical discoveries in Odessa and Los Angeles.

Victorian genealogists will have an opportunity to examine a computer data base on Jewish refugee arrivals (1939- about 1950) registered in the records of Jewish Community Services. The data base which has almost 3000 family names will be available for inspection for the first time at the current exhibition at the Jewish Museum of Australia in St. Kilda.

The exhibition, "I Am My Brother's Keeper", displays photos and records relating to 60 years of Jewish Community Services in Victoria. The exhibition was opened by the Governor-General, Sir William Deane, on May 17 in association with the launch of a new book, "A Serious Influx of Jews - A History of Jewish Welfare in Victoria" by Dr. Rodney Benjamin.

Negotiations are underway with AJGS (Vic) to continue updating this data base to the present day.

The Victorian Branch meets at the

BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Melbourne.

Tel: 03-9273 5611 Postal Address: P.O. Box 189, GLENHUNTLY VIC 3163, AUSTRALIA

Internet contacts:

Leslie Oberman oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

Dr Albert Braunstein sbr@bbs.ausom.net.au

Enquiries: Rhonda Tel: 03-9578 6456 Lionel Tel: 03-9523-6738 Fax: 03-9532-7797

News from the South Australian Branch	Klee Benveniste	Vol 5 No 2		
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Our March speaker was Joe Bolaffi who described the lives and history of his parents and relatives in the BOLAFFI and AMBAR families. His father had emigrated from Italy to Egypt at the end of the 19th century where he married Joe's mother who was born in Iraq. We were amazed as he named all the descendants of each branch of the Bolaffi family who had fled Egypt during 1950's to settle in places as far flung as France, Australia, Italy, England and Venezuela. He had visited many of them in their new countries and described how different their language and social traditions were now. When he visited the descendants of his brother Victor in Venezuela, 25 Spanish-speaking relatives came to the airport to greet him!

His mother's relatives from the AMBAR family left Egypt for Israel and Joe is corresponding with one at the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora in Tel Aviv. Joe is helping to fill in the names of all the BOLAFFI branches of the extensive family tree of the descendants of REUBEN AMBAR from Iraq.

We were captivated by his stories of his Sephardi heritage, their religious observance, and of traditions such as arranged marriages, dowries, and naming a child in honor of a living relative. Italian Jews in Egypt had also been conscripted into the Italian army. We are grateful to Joe for a fascinating presentation and were pleased that he taped it so his own descendants could listen to their history in years to come.

Hilde Hines will speak about the GUCKENHEIMER family at our May meeting.

The contact address for the South Australian branch is: Dr Klee Benveniste, Honorary Secretary, Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA branch), C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation, P.O. Box 320, Glenside SA 5065, Australia.

News from the Western Australia	Michelle Urban	Vol 5 No 2		
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A meeting of the Western Australian Jewish Genealogical Group, a wing of the AJHS in Perth, was held at 21 Broomhall Way, Noranda, on Sunday 17 May 1998. Convenors: Michelle Urban and Gillian O'Mara.

Good resource materials displayed AJHS journals, an issue of AVOTAYNU, literature both fiction and non-fiction, general studies on Jewish histories and

personalities within the fraternity. Also two fiche readers were available, a computer for disk and CDs, as well as a loaned copy of AVOTAYNU on CD covering the first ten years. While many of those present had conducted some research, to a greater or lesser degree, most were uncertain where to seek research resources either in Australia or elsewhere.

Judy made it clear that when looking for material it was more economical, and better research procedure, to find the best source of information whether by phone, fax, e-mail, website or letter. Also, when requesting information enquirers ought to at least ask if there is a fee structure, not assume all is gratis. When writing for information, include a stamp of the country concerned, sufficient to ensure an airmail response, and, where possible, include an addressed envelope or an addressed label for the recipient's use to ensure that the letter finds its way correctly. International Reply Paid Postage Coupons are a possible source of stamps-at-a-distance, but not all post offices supply them and not all recipients can cash them.

The next meeting on Sunday, 12 July, 1998 at 1.00 pm at 21 Broomhall Way, Noranda 6062. Fax (08) 9375 3574 or 9385 2643 Tel (08) 9375 3874. Our guest speaker will be Judy Joseph from Birmingham, UK.

Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutsch	Vol 5 No 2	
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Canberra members of the AJGS should have received by now a list of current holdings in Canberra. Since then a copy of the following work has been donated by Sylvia Deutsch: Nick Vine Hall, *Tracing Your Family History in Australia. A Guide to Sources*, Rigby, 1985.

Please note the following meetings of the Australian Jewish Historical Society's Canberra branch in your diary. AJGS members are always welcome to attend. The Jewish community in Canberra is small, about 300 people in all. Not bad considering the last census listed only about 500, so it is not presently feasible to have a separate AJGS branch. Instead, Jewish genealogy is handled under the aegis of the local AJHS in the most amicable fashion, President Earle Hoffman OAM and vice-president Sylvia Deutsch are also AJGS members. The column will also list forthcoming AJHS functions, which all AJGS members are welcome to attend.

Forthcoming AJHS functions:

Monday 15 June, 1998 Bloom's Night Speaker on James Joyce's Jewish character Bloom in *Ulysses*

Thursday 26 August, 1998 Sophie Caplan LA Genealogical Seminar and her Genealogy trip to Poland, Belarus & Galicia.

Monday 30 November, 1998 Rabbi Raymond Apple Topic to be announced

All meetings commence at 8.00 pm at:- The National Jewish Memorial Centre, corner Canberra Avenue and National Circuit, Forrest, Canberra (entrance off National Circuit).

Enquiries to Sylvia Deutsch in Canberra. Tel/fax: 02-6248-6196
Email:deutand@ozemail.com.au

News from Birmingham		Vol 5 No 2		
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Dr. Anthony Joseph has informed us that Zoe Josephs, the noted Jewish historian of Birmingham Jewry, died on Sunday 24 May 1998. Zoe Josephs wrote herself, or edited with other contributors, five books: 'Birmingham Jewry, 1740-1914', 'More Aspects of Birmingham Jewry, 1740-1930', 'Story of Her School Years' and 'Voices from the Past, Memories of Singers Hill Synagogue'. Dr Anthony Joseph is to write Zoe Josephs' obituary for the London "Jewish Chronicle".

President's Report AGM 1998	Sophie Caplan	Vol 5 No 2		
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This is our sixth Annual General Meeting and my sixth report to you as president of this Society. We have thrived since our foundation in November 1991, and in December 1997 we reached a total of 227 members. Our membership year runs from January to December, except for those who joined us after October 1 of the previous year whose renewal is not sought until January, fifteen to thirteen months later. As it takes some members several months to renew, at this moment our membership stands at 151, plus 46 members of the Victorian branch, a total of 197. Most of our members, 116, are in NSW but, as you can see, not all choose to attend our AGM. As in many organisations, many of our members are content to belong and to receive our quarterly newsletter, and we only see them rarely.

We also have 13 members in the A.C.T., eight in South Australia, five in Queensland, four in W.A., two in Tasmania and one in the Northern Territory, though I have great hopes of this soon growing to two. We also have two overseas members.

The most important event in the life of our Society in the past year was our offer of autonomy to the Victorian Branch in 1998. This was mainly due to the fact that as an organisation depending on volunteers for its organisational work, the load on Rieke Nash, who does most of the day-to-day genealogical housekeeping for our Society, had become too heavy. We have with us tonight Lionel Sharpe, the chairman of the Victorian group who might tell us a little later how this autonomy has worked for them, and whether they are happy with it. We have continued to have most amicable personal and societal relations with the Society in Melbourne, and I have nothing but praise for all those members in Melbourne with whom I have dealt over the years, originally Rosaline Collins, Rhonda Lasky, Ester Csaky, Leslie Oberman and, of course, Lionel himself. We are still a happy extended family, but now we each run our own household. In November-December 1997 our treasurer returned \$1020 to Victoria to enable them to purchase the books they choose, or CDs, and to subscribe independently to those Special Interest Group publications which interest their members.

We still look after the interest of our members in Adelaide, in Perth, and in the dispersed membership in Queensland, by providing some of the important books

and pamphlets on Jewish genealogy which may help them. Of course, we cannot afford to purchase more than a few books where there are but a handful of memberships coming in, and where there may be reduced fees all round. Committee members not only put in time and effort, but also pay entrance fees to functions, and pay all sorts of things from their own pockets.

In some states we have representatives who are active retired people with limited incomes, who help us with answering queries and by looking after our resources in their area or state, but some pay no membership fee. On occasion I have been asked how or why these representatives were picked, and the only honest answer I can give is "opportunity, availability, and readiness to render a service to Jewish genealogy in their area".

In June 1997, a Western Australian Jewish Genealogical Society was formed in Perth under the direction of Michelle Urban with five members and a promise of at least four workshops or meetings a year. It is a very fragile plant so far, as Michelle Urban, the main leader of the group, not only works in her husband's business, but also runs a small part-time concern of her own. But the whole thing coalesced when we opportunistically helped them to coordinate a meeting with our friend Chava Agmon when she visited Perth, as well as Sydney and Melbourne, in March 1997.

In recent weeks I have been able to encourage Sylvia Deutsch and Earle Hoffman, both members of our Society, already very active in several organisations in Canberra, to also contemplate holding four or more workshops a year in Canberra for members of our Society who have been yearning for some networking in Jewish genealogy. Because of all their other community responsibilities, neither Sylvia nor Earle want to actually found a branch of our Society at the moment, but this is what will be de facto, if not de jure.

We have continued to hold monthly workshops for our members and visitors at the Reverend Katz Library of the North Shore Synagogue in Lindfield every month except January, as we close down activities from mid-December to early February. Extra space has been provided for our resources with a cupboard to which one of our members contributed privately. This year we also held again our Central Coast Open Day at the home of Beulah and Dr Richard Gross with the participation of a number of committee members, coordinated by Rieke Nash who brought down a lot of our resources. In lieu of our usual annual Beginners' Workshop at Shalom College we held a special seminar on availability of resources for research in Poland in the Wilson Hall at the North Shore Synagogue on Sunday March 1. This seminar attracted forty participants, including three or even four from Canberra, plus half a dozen people who came for the usual library workshop. The attendance was all the more pleasing because our previous resources seminar on similar lines for research on Lithuania had been most disappointing, despite the presence of a lot of people of Litvak descent nearby.

We expect our next such Resources Seminar to be on Research on Germany either later this year or early in 1999.

We have not held a large number of meetings with speakers, as few new interesting genealogical speakers came our way. On October 29 we heard an excellent address by Dr David Weinberg of Wayne University, Detroit, who was then a visiting scholar at UNSW, on "Jewish Emigration from Eastern Europe to Western Europe and USA

from 1880 to 1939" at Beth Wizo in Bondi Junction. Despite the Eastern suburbs venue, attendance was fairly modest.

In late August Peter and Rieke Nash and I all spoke on our overseas experiences, both at the Paris International Conference and our visits to Poland, Belarus and Ukraine at the Jewish Folk Centre, also in Bondi Junction.

We have continued to publish our newsletter, the Koshers Koala, four times yearly in 1997 with two issues of 16 pages each and two of 12 pages, and have just started our Volume V of the publication with the March issue. Thanks to Rieke's devoted publishing skills it continues to look superb. As editor I am obviously biased, but I believe that we are up there with the eight or so top Jewish genealogical journals. Our stories are interesting, well-written, and by a variety of authors, and we try in each issue to cover different topics and Special Interest regions in our articles and book notices. We also try to keep up a high standard of syntax, spelling and punctuation, while yet leaving each contributor his/her special style. You, our target audience, must tell us whether we succeed or not, but imitation being the highest form of flattery, I am always delighted to have some of our features copied, and also to receive some letters of appreciation from overseas.

We continue to send copies of the Koshers Koala to all overseas JGS's and also to several local and overseas Judaica libraries, and to have exchanges with several Australian state genealogical societies and state libraries, as well as the British Society of Genealogists.

Since the last AGM we have continued to acquire books on Jewish genealogy, both by purchase for the Society and by gifts from our members, particularly in the areas of their special interests. e.g. Peter Nash on Shanghai refugees and prewar Berlin Jewry, Terry Newman on English Jewry, Kim Phillips a self-published book on her family, and me on Poland and recently on Jamaica. The Society subscribes to AVOTAYNU, to STAMMBAUM on German Jewish roots, to LANDSMEN, to KIELCE-RADOM Sig, and to GESHER GALICIA.


This last year our committee has consisted of Rieke Nash as both vice-president and secretary and in charge of our resources, as well as publisher of the KOSHER KOALA, Terry Newman as treasurer, Phillip Baynash as membership chairman, David Laufer as Minutes Secretary, Nigel Meinrath as committee member without portfolio, Gary Luke in charge of our on-line services, and I, Sophie Caplan, as both president and editor of the Koshers Koala. Apart from Gary and Phillip, most of them are stalwarts from the foundation of our Society, six and a quarter years ago. Our big failure has been to attract more people to our committee.

My goal, when I retire as president, is to leave a strong set of Australian JGS's, one in every Australian city where there is a strong Jewish community, with its own basic library of Jewish genealogical books and a viable continuity. At the present rate I will have to stay at your helm till I am eighty. If you want to avoid that fate come and join us and help.

It looks as though this week on March 24, 1998 we finally reached our long term goal of incorporation of the Society in NSW. At our inaugural meeting on 3rd November 1991 Leo Wassercug, a solicitor, undertook to prepare a constitution for

incorporation. Sometime during 1992 we even held a special meeting to vote on several clauses he was suggesting. But when he left two or three years later for a year's delayed honeymoon trip, all his preparatory work was left behind with one of his friends. It took me several months to trace the friend and to get the paperwork back. At that juncture I reasoned that since we seemed to be operating perfectly well without a constitution, we had more urgent tasks to perform. Eventually my lawyer son, Jonathan Caplan, registered the name and set out to do something early in 1997, but left it to me to complete the task. This was taken on by Gary Luke and Philip Baynash, but it is Nigel Meinrath and a lawyer relative of his, who finally completed the task and performed the permanent re-registration of the name with the Department of Fair Trading and the registration of the constitution. We say "Schehechyanu" and a thousand thanks to Nigel for completing the task.

As Societies go, we seem to have our share of successes in reuniting people through the Forebears Family Finder column in Kosher Koala and in various other ways. We also seem to be esteemed in the world of Jewish genealogy, because we have helped a number of people to trace relatives. Recently I have been asked to join the Awards committee, the Nobel Prize jury of Jewish Genealogy, as the only non-American on the jury. Even though I am not afraid to speak up for other countries at the AGM of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, or perhaps because I do speak up, I was asked to do so. I hope to represent Australia worthily on this committee.

What's Your Real Name?	Beulah-Rose Gross	Vol 5 No 2		
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Much has been written about the origin of Jewish surnames.

Alexander Beider (A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire) and others have discussed how, why and when surnames originated and changed. As a result, we now know that many surnames indicate a city or town where a family once lived. We also may learn an ancestor's occupation from his name; the Danziger family may have lived in Danzig at one time, and the original Papa Shochet probably was a ritual slaughterer.

Not so well documented is the reason that some Jewish surnames were changed in Russia during the 19th Century. Under the reign of Czar Nicholas I (1825-55), boys were rigorously conscripted into the Russian Army. Even before this time, the sons of Russian soldiers were housed in barracks known as cantonments. They were instructed in military matters, given a basic elementary education and disciplined by way of starvation and corporal punishment. Thus, young conscripts to the army came to be known as cantonists.

In 1827 and thereafter, military service was made compulsory for Jews residing in the Czarist empire. Young Jewish boys were included in this conscription with a view to force them to become Christians; individual Jewish communities were made responsible for supplying a quota of such conscripts.

Kidnappers, known in Yiddish as khapers (captors of recruits), took Jewish boys, some as young as eight or nine, from their homes, and these children were thus lost to their families and Judaism.

Under Czarist conscription laws, a family's eldest son was exempt from the draft to remain at home and support ageing parents. To protect their younger sons and keep their families intact, many Jewish families took advantage of this law by changing the surnames of the younger sons to the maiden names of their mothers, grandmothers or aunts, or by "adopting out" the boys to families that had no sons. Thus, brothers acquired different surnames that remained with them forever. (The cantonist schools were disbanded in 1857 after the death of Czar Nicholas I, but the tradition among Jews of adopting out sons to protect them from the draft continued for many years afterwards).

These name changes and adoptions were surreptitious, so there are no records of when or how often they occurred. For genealogists, there is only family legend to work on, so one must always examine and research any tiny reference or chance word that might open a whole new line of inquiry and discovery.

Such name changes occurred in both my maternal and paternal families, but family legend kept the stories alive and allowed me to trace the related branches. My maternal great-grandfather's original family name was Chaimo. As the eldest son, he kept the name when the cantonist system was implemented, but to avoid the draft, his younger two brothers were adopted out to Polokow and Ausbruch families. My paternal family's original name was Manaschewitz, but again, only the eldest kept the name. One son became Herring, another Baetz (my maiden name).

Not everyone can know if their family names were changed to avoid the Russian draft, or if so, what the original names were. If when doing research, however, one finds someone who appears to have been related, but one cannot determine exactly how, consider the possibility that brothers may have been adopted out and see if that hypothesis helps pieces fit together.

Uncovering the lost connections between family members that resulted from name changes of this type is important for Jewish genealogy. I propose to establish a database that lists original names, name changes and family relationships where known.

Beulah-Rose Gross is a member of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. She can be reached on rachi@ozemail.com.au or fax: 61-2-4369-1522

New Books**Sophie
Caplan****Vol 5 No
2**


Our Society in Sydney has purchased "JEWS IN BRISTOL, The History of the Jewish Community in Bristol from the Middle Ages to the Present Day" by JUDITH SAMUEL, Sansom and Company, 81g Pembroke Road, Bristol, BS8 3EA, ENGLAND, 1997. Price £ 17.95, plus postage £ 2.60.

The history of Bristol Jewry goes back further than most, in fact to shortly after the Norman conquest. In the autumn of 1986, during redevelopment of an old police station site in Bristol's Jacob's Wells Road, what was identified as a medieval mikveh

(ritual bath) was found with a flowing hot spring and a Hebrew inscription 'Zochalim' (flowing). From various features, and the fact that this land was acquired by St Augustine Abbey, now the Bristol Cathedral, in 1142, the mikveh must be dated as earlier, probably circa 1100, making it the oldest ritual bath yet found in Europe and the only medieval Hebrew inscription yet discovered in Britain.

After the expulsion of Jews from England in 1290, Bristol also lost its Jews until the late sixteenth century. The modern community was established between 1740 and 1876, and has continued to this day.

The focus of this book is historical rather than genealogical, but anyone with an interest in the Jews of South-West England will find much of interest, including many names. There is an index, which renders it easier to use for the genealogical reader.

Whose Mother? Which Wife?	Jenny King	Vol 5 No 2		
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A journey through the Jewish Registers of Fordon and Bromberg (now Bydgoszcz), Poland, in search of one man and his descendants.

in the beginning

When I began family research I had no idea it would lead me to Poland. When I realised that I could recognise names in registers written in a foreign language and the type of record, excitement set in. When a cousin in a distant city accidentally found a translator I was over the moon. When I joined the AJGS and experienced the friendliness and the helpfulness of its members, my entry into the world of Jewish research blossomed.

And so has begun a journey which has proved to be challenging, frustrating, exciting and rewarding in very many ways.

the table below

The table includes all the relevant information taken from translations of the Fordon and Bromberg Jewish Registers. I began with the Fordon registers, and then widened the scope to take in Bromberg, as it was a major centre a few kilometres from Fordon. Many records were missing that I felt should have been found there. Perhaps some have been lost or simply never entered.

Two areas are shaded. The shaded rows are for records involving Mendel CARO, the father, a few of his marriages and deaths of some of some of his wives. The shaded column gives the wives', or mothers' names used in the records. This column is the topic of this article.

There was considerable variation in information supplied in the registers which has been frustrating and has created some of the problems I am now trying to solve.

names, names, names

I can cope with spelling variations but name variations are another matter. I am very much a learner when it comes to Jewish names and the way they can be interchanged between various languages.

Examine the Mother's Name column. Records 1 to 12 appear to be fairly straight forward. The earlier birth records (and marriages?) were not in the registers. The names Sara and Zore appear to be compatible but Scharne and Zielke? Record 12 rests on an assumption of mine. The marriage for Susannah Mendel CARO found in the Bromberg register matches Sorsche's birth but mother's names, Sara ITZIG and Sara LACHMANN? Was her mother the daughter of an Itzig Lachmann? Susannah uses the second name of Mendel. Her father had now died, so this was within the rules as I understand them. My assumption is that Susannah and Sorsche were one and the same.

Both Albertine and Aron, records 1 & 2, state 'mother dead' on their marriage records, 1839 and 1846 respectively. Who was she? The question remains. How many wives did Mendel Caro have?

There are no problems with Records 13 to 17. I can assume that Sara Itzig/Lachmann died between 1838 and 1841, but can I? Read on.

Record 17 gives two name variations, Jitel and Jette. Accept these as the same. The question is how many variations for Jette? Jitel, Janette, Julia, Gonette...

Records 16 and 20 are the most difficult to consider. Record 16, the marriage by Mendel Caro to Sara nee STYTKY; record 17, mother's name, Sara nee STYTKY; record 18, mother's name, Sara nee Priefe; record 19, mother's name, Prieu Zore nee ITZIG; record 20, death of Sara STITZKY (sic)!

What is going on here? Is record 19 the same Sara ITZIG mentioned earlier in record 12 & 13? There could be up to three different wives or mothers involved here! I simply cannot work this section out.

At least Records 21 to 24 appear to be straight forward.

The possibility also exists that errors may have been made by those writing the entries into the registers.
and further questions

Why was it necessary for Mendel CARO to marry so many times? Was it to provide mothers for children still yet to grow up? Did it provide security of a sort for the female - single or widowed? Did the wives have a dowry which was needed? I have not had access to material on social practices of these times.

What about the missing records - marriages and deaths of the wives of Mendel Caro? Where could they be if recorded somewhere? Why can't I find further records of many of the issue of Mendel Caro? The only deaths recorded are all for young children. Did all the other children survive? Did they emigrate to other lands before marrying? Did they simply move away? Record 2's Aron CARO, has been the only child who appeared to remain in Fordon. I have found records for his issue and many

came to Australia. There are other possibilities in the Bromberg registers but those name variations play havoc again!

No births appear for record 1, Albertine CARO and Louis LIPPMANN. Where did they go after they were married? What about Susannah CARO and Ascher LOWENBERG? I may have to reorder the LDS films in again and recheck for information I may have discounted as not being relevant at the time because of those name variations. I did copy all records I found that had the CARO or OPPEL name mentioned and I thought I did a good job.

and now for Julia

Julia CARO has not yet been mentioned. Julius CARO, record 9, in his will dated 1907 in Australia, left a small bequest to his sister Julia OPPEL, of Fordon, if still alive. There was no birth for a Julia Caro found. However, I did find a marriage, Jette CARO to Lewin OPPEL, 183(6?) in the Fordon registers. No ages or parents' names were stated. This meant that Jette (or Julia?) should have been born circa 1820 or earlier.

There are several children recorded for Jette and Lewin, one of whom Flora, appears in an old address book owned by a relative in Australia, 'Flora OPPEL, Stargard, Pommern', most likely recorded in the late 1800's. Unfortunately the early pages up to 'G' are missing in this book.

If anyone reading this has some ideas or even solutions to the challenges arising out of these records, I would certainly appreciate their thoughts. I can be contacted by email: jking@ix.net.au or through the AJGS, PO Box 154, Northbridge, NSW 1560, Australia.

Jenny King is a member from Orange, NSW descended from both Joseph Caro and from the Vilna Gaon.

Sources

LDS films: Fordon Jewish Registers: c 1820 to 1888 814573, 814574, 814575
Bromberg Jewish Registers: c 1823 to 1865 813087

Edward LUFT, compiler, The Naturalised Jews of the Grand Duchy of Posen in 1834 and 1835. Brown University, Scholars Press, Georgia, USA, 1987.

Address book of Emil Caro (son of Aron) who emigrated to Australia c 1885.

RN	E	Event Date	Forename	Mother's Name	Supporting Information	JR
1	B M	C1815 21.05.1839	Albertine (f)		c1815 - birth on countback from marriage information 21.05.1839 - marriage: Albertine CARO, 24, F: Mendel CARO, shopkeeper, M: dead & Louis LIPPMANN, 26, partner of the shopkeeper Mendel CARO	F

2	B M	C1822 10.03.1846	Aron (m)		c1822 - birth on countback from marriage information 10.03.1846 - marriage: Aron CARO, 24, trader, F; Mendel CARO, shopkeeper in Fordon, M: dead & Jette LEBENHEIM (m.2. Rosa Aronsohn)	F
3	B D	C1822 10.03.1846	Maje (f)		c1827 - birth on countback from death information 11.02.1831 - death: Maje, daughter of Mendel CARO, 4 yrs	F
4	B D	05.01.1825 21.07.1825	Itzig (m) Itzig	Zielke	05.01.1825 - birth: Itzig, son of Mendel CARO, trader & Zielke 21.07.1826 - death: Itzig, son of Mendel CARO, 6 mths	F F
5	B	02.05.1826	Schanne (f)	Scharne	20.05.1826 - birth: Schanne, daughter of Mendel CARO & Scharne	F
6	B	15.05.1827	Unnamed		15.05.1827 - birth: unnamed child to Mendel CARO, shopkeeper	F
7	B	03.05.1831	Lewin (m)	Sara	03.05.1831 - birth: Lewin, son of Mendel CARO, shopkeeper, and Sara	F
8	B	15.10.1832	Unnamed	Sara	15.10.1832 - birth: unnamed female to Mendel CARO, shopkeeper, and Sara	F
9	B	18.02.1834	Junius (m)	Zore	10.02.1834 - birth: Julius, son of Mendel CARO, shopkeeper & Zore	F
10		1834	Mendel KARO	Naturalised in the Grand Duchy of Poland Residence: Fordon		
11	B	28.02.1835	Isabella (f)	Sara	28.02.1835 - borth: Isabella, daughter of Mendel CARO, shopkeeper & Sara nee	F
12	B M	1836 11.03.1859	Sorche (f) Susannah	Sara nee LACHMANN nee ITZIG- CARO	1836 - birth: Sorche, daughter of Mendel CARO, shopkeeper & Sara nee LACHMANN 11.03.1859 - marriage: Susannah Mendel CARO, 22 yrs, daughter of deceased businessman Mendel...CARO &ITZIG-CARO and Asher LOWENBERG	F B
13	B	1838	Unnamed (f)	Sara nee ITZIG	1838 - birth: unnamed female to Mendel CARO & Sara nee ITZIG	F
14	M	21.04.1841	Mendel CARO & Rikel nee CARO		21.04.1841 - marriage: Mendel CARO, 50, shopkeeper, F: dead, M: Jette CARO & Rikel nee CARO, 36, F: Moses CARO, wine....in Breslau	F
15	D	09.1842	Rikel CARO		09.1842 - death: Rikel CARO wife of shopkeeper Mendel CARO, 53 yrs	F
16	M	09.08.1843	Mendel CARO		09.08.1843 - marriage: Mendel CARO, shopkeeper, parents dead & widow Sara Moses STYTKY	F
17	B D	16.07.1844 09.12.1844	Jitel (f) Jette	Sara nee STYTKY	16.07.1844 - birth: Jitel, daughter of Mendel CARO, shopkeeper & Sara nee STYTKY 09.12.1844 - death: Jette, daughter of Mendel CARO, 5 mths	F F
18	B D	20.08.0845 09.1845	Pauline (f)	Sara nee PRIEFE	20.08.1845 - birth: Pauline, daugter of Mendel CARO, shopkeeper & Sara nee PRIEFE	F F

					09.1845 - death: Pauline, daughter of Mendel CARO, 3 wks	
19	B	13.11.1846	Scheindel (f)	Priew Zore nee ITZIG	13.11.1846 - birth: Scheindel, daughter of Mendel CARO, shopkeeper & Priewe Zore nee ITZIG	F
20	D	29.11.1846	Sara CARO nee STITZKI		29.11.1846 - death: Sara CARO nee STITZKI, wife of shopkeeper Mendel CARO, 38 yrs	F
21	M	29.06.1847	Mendel CARO & Gonette FRAENKEL		29.06.1847 - marriage: Mendel CARO, 55, shopkeeper, parents dead & Gonette FRAENKEL	F
22	B D	07.10.1848 14.10.1848	Unnamed (m)	Janette nee SEELIG	07.10.1848 - birth: son of Mendel CARO 14.10.1848 - death: son on Mendel CARO who died before recieving a name	F,B F,B
23	B	24.10.1849	Seelig (m)	Jette nee SEELIG	24.10.1849 - birth: Seelig, son of Mendel CARO, shopkeeper & Jette nee SEELIG	F,B
24	D	24.05.1850	Mendel CARO		24.05.1850 - death: Mendel CARO, shopkeeper, 59 yrs	F,B

Jews in Poland in 1997

Simon Sekel

Vol 5 No
2



A brief synopsis of various Polish Jewish affairs from "Midrasz" the first issue of a journal of the Polish Jewish communities, 1997

How many Jews are there at present in Poland? The official statistics claim 3,000. There are however those that claim a minimum of 15,000 Jews or descendants of Jews. The real figure depends on the definition of who is a Jew? Is it only the one who has a Jewish mother? The one who attends a service at least twice a year, or attends some happenings connected with Judaism?

Amongst the older group are the ones who retained their Jewish identity throughout their whole life and are convinced they are the last generation of Polish Jews. The next category are middle aged or even younger who rediscovered their Jewish identity and by choice decided to join and take some part in some of the activities available in the 15 centres scattered through Poland. The "TSKZ" or Social & Cultural Jewish Association seems to be the busiest one. Then there are religious communities as well as ex-servicemen's groups. The collapse of Communism has brought about some increased activity and even in some towns the return of premises and some synagogues used for fifty years for many purposes.

In Katowice about twenty people meet in the "TSKZ" monthly. It is mostly the desire to be with other Jews that brings them together. They exchange the latest gossip, news of Israel, have a cup of coffee and cake. It all has a somewhat clandestine atmosphere and if someone at work finds out about their Jewish activities, that is the end of their career for sure. Also there must not be any visible sign outside the building, or the place will be vandalised or burned down. The meeting place is very modestly equipped, some Israeli posters on the wall and, if not for the Lauder Foundation, most of these clubs would not exist. During the New Year and Yom Kippur or Passover Holydays the attendance increases.

Lublin, once a huge Jewish community, now comprises twenty-two members of TSKZ. They are mostly very old or sick with eight males only, so there is no minyan available. Lately some commemorative plaques were attached to ex-Jewish community buildings, thanks to the efforts of a Doctor Symcha Weiss who has some influence in city affairs. This gives the overseas tourists some idea of past history.

Wroclaw (formerly Breslau) is yet another story. The very dynamic Mr J Krichler, who originally came from Cracow, introduced many activities including Hebrew lessons, study of Judaism etc. During High Holydays up to 250 people attended. It is a very liberal community and even those who only had a Jewish father are accepted. It is worth noting that it was in Breslau that Reform Judaism was born practically 150 years ago. Now however, Mr Krichler finds that because of all the activity, a lot of his members are lost to Aliyah.

Warsaw, of course, has a synagogue, a rabbi, a Yiddish theatre, TSKZ club, Jewish pre-school, historic society, even a periodical called "Folks Sztyne". The political repercussions of March 1968 which just about extinguished Jewish activities in Poland somehow did not affect the Warsaw community. However, earlier this year the synagogue in Twarda Street was torched and badly damaged. The mayor of Warsaw as well as other representatives, like the leader of the Greek Orthodox Church, came to a special service, but no one from the 95% Catholic community appeared .

In Poznan the less than twenty people occasionally meet in private homes mainly Mr Beryts' place. They are mainly old, but lately a few young interested people seem to join occasionally.

In Gdansk out of 10,000 only twenty-two survived. As recently as two years ago a group organised a Pesach Seder with about 70 people participating. This led to establishing an active community once again. Mr Jaacub Szadaj, the leader at present, remembers when in 1967 the Polish leaders instructed the Gdansk Jews to condemn Israel. The Jewish community walked out and disbanded as a group and any activities.

The Lodz community also recently returned to life. About 130 belong to the Lauder renovated "Great Synagogue" which was damaged by fire in 1987. About 60% of all properties in Lodz were Jewish owned before 1939. The Poles in Lodz, as in other ex-Jewish communities throughout the country, are constantly in fear that the rightful owners or descendants will return and claim their assets. This paranoia contributes to the active anti-Semitism in all of Eastern Europe.

Krakow has the active "Remu" and "Temple" synagogues, TSKZ Club with about 30 members and even a youth club. Some cafes claim a Jewish atmosphere and food but are mainly tourist-oriented and run by enterprising Poles. The Kazimierz district is full of Jewish relics. In the first week of July each year a festival is organised and a lot of so-called "lovers of Jewish Culture" participate. The festival is organised by Poles and no Jewish Club or group officially takes part.

Simon Sekel is the father of our committee member, Gary Luke, and an active practical supporter of our Society.

Some Valuable Sites in the UK		Vol 5 No 2		
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BMD Certificates for England and Wales as well as Census data from Family Records Centre can now be ordered through a web site. The cost varies depending on how detailed your information is. Also available are records from the London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library.

<http://www.gendocs.demon.co.uk>

A Victorian London A-Z Street Index can be found on

<http://www.gendocs.demon.co.uk/lon-str.html>

Forebears		Vol 5 No 2		
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00066 JOHN PAUL LOWENS, 225 Broadway, Suite 3604, New York, NY 10007, USA. Fax:(212) 962 7966. Tel:(212) 962 7960. Seeking information on family **KAHN**, wife **HANCHEN LOEWENSTEIN**, her parents **ELEASAR LOEWENSTEIN** and **MICHLA EHRMANN**, born in Beerfelden, Germany. **HANNCHEN**, also possibly **HANNA/JOHANNA** born in Breckenheim, Hesse, Germany, 3 February 1845, came to Australia probably 1863-1873, lived either Melbourne or Brisbane. Any information welcome.

00067 ROBYN VIVIENNE KASSAS, PO Box 3437, PARRAMATTA, SYDNEY, 2124, NSW. Tel: (02) 9687 2929; Fax (02) 9687 2990. Born Robyn Vivienne Ann on 24 April 1947 at Crown Street Women's Hospital, Sydney to **GLADYS DAVIS**, daughter of Rev. **ISAAC DAVIS** who worked at Great Synagogue. Gladys had a brother Charles and a sister Dot. Robyn was adopted at birth and seeks information about her birth mother's family and any information about her father.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 5 No 3		
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Leshana tova - Happy New Year for the Jewish religious year 5759 which has just begun, to all our readers. We hope that you enjoyed the Jewish New Year family celebrations and all the other holydays of the season. In the world of Jewish genealogy the last three months have been a busy time, with some unexpected events.

In mid-July the 18th USA summer seminar in Jewish genealogy took place in Los Angeles. This was dubbed "Hollywood Chai", because the word "Chai" which means "life" in Hebrew, has the numerical value 18. It is getting harder to differentiate USA seminars in scale and array of speakers from international seminars, apart from the fact that there are always more participants from the country where the seminar is held. A report on the seminar has been held over until next issue. This time there were ten Australian participants, three from Melbourne including Lionel Sharpe who gave a lecture, and seven from Sydney. For most it was their first international genealogical seminar and very rewarding.

As usual, the AGM of the Jewish Genealogy roof-body took place during the seminar. The voters are the society presidents, or the proxies present at the

meeting. Among matters discussed were some by-law changes, including a name change to International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, IAJGS for short, to reflect the world wide membership, so that we no longer share our initials with the association.

The executive of the IAJGS Board was voted in for two years in Paris in July 1997 with Dr Sallyann Sack as president, Karen Franklin of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York as vice-president, Saul Issroff, a former South African now from London as Honorary secretary, Hal Bookbinder of Los Angeles as treasurer, and Bob Weiss of San Francisco becoming immediate past president. This year it was the turn of the Board members to seek election for two years.

Those elected were Howard Margol of Atlanta, Georgia, Bruce Kahn of Roscheester, New York, and Arline Sacks of Greater Washington JGS who runs the Jewish Cemeteries Project. Robert Saltiel of the Dutch JGS was elected after nominating from the floor, while Laurence Tapper of Canada, a former board member, and two new nominees, lost the ballot. With approximately ten thousand Jewish genealogists now in the Association, many of the main players do know each other through publications and seminars.

The AGM lasted four hours and became rather acrimonious. The main contentious item was the proposal to supplement the work of the volunteers by appointing an Executive Director of the IAJGS to be located in New York, preferably in the emerging Centre for Jewish History (see below under that headline) at an estimated cost between \$US100,000 to \$US150,000 per annum, or at least for the first year for rental, fitting out of office, and salary. Sallyann Sack had the intention of raising those funds from appropriate Jewish charitable foundations, and even I had been asked some time ago to approach some suitable Australian Jewish charitable trusts for possible participation, and had taken steps towards that goal.

At the AGM no certainty existed about attaining the estimated cost of the appointment of an executive director, and the meeting was clearly worried about this. Eventually a motion to have detailed written proposals submitted to each member society about this appointment and funding for this appointment was passed.

The president of the IAJGS Dr. Sallyann Sacks, proceeded to write this detailed proposal and to send it for approval to each IAJGS president. Before this mailing had reached anyone in the USA, let alone us in Australia, we started to receive a spate of email on the Presidents' Forum of the IAJGS regarding this issue. The first letters from Ted Gostin in L.A., Karen Franklin (IAJGS vice-president) and the presidents of the San Diego and New York JGSs attacked Sallyann Sack for circulating the proposal when the IAJGS Board had not fully approved it, though no one else on the Board had wanted to recast it, and the deadline given by the AGM motion had been reached. These letters were rather nasty, and as a result Sallyann Sack resigned from the presidency of the IAJGS, as did Carol Baird Davidson, the immediate past president of San Diego JGS and original initiator of Presidents' Forum, who had undertaken to organise the year 2000 seminar in Salt Lake City where there is now no JGS.

Since then there have been many email messages of support for Sallyann Sack, asking her to reconsider her resignation. The IAJGS Board has appointed Karen Franklin as acting-president and Hal Bookbinder as acting-vice-president. Unfortunately neither has the track record, the stature, or the vision of Sallyann Sack, and those who know her personally, as I have had the privilege of doing for over eleven years, feel devastated. We hope that she may yet be persuaded to return to the presidency of the IAJGS.

On the local scene, on Monday 2nd November, we will have a meeting with two outstanding personalities. Our Melbourne member, KURT LIPPMANN, a past president of Australian B'nai B'rith, will speak of his research and bringing up to date of the book "OUR LIPPMANN FAMILY TREE A Chronicle Spanning Three Centuries and Three Continents", a task started by his uncle during the 1030s. The same evening we will have amongst us RENE LOEB, the founder and president of the Swiss Jewish Genealogical Society who will speak of its work. Both speakers will answer questions. Venue is the Wilson Hall of the North Shore Synagogue at 7.30 p.m.

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 5 No 3		
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We have been granted incorporation under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and now call ourselves AJGS (Vic) Inc. In accord with a committee decision made before the last AGM the office bearers of the incorporated association will now be as follows until the next AGM: Lionel Sharpe (President), Les Oberman (Vice-President), Rhonda Lasky (Secretary), and Kurt Friedlaender (Treasurer). Committee members are Albert Braunstein, Ester Czaky, Rodney Eisfelder, Bettye Susskind and Enid Yoffe-Elton.

On Wednesday, 24th June at Beth Weizmann Community Centre, Ester Czaky, AJGS Committee member, spoke on "The 3R's - Roots, Researching and Relations". There was also another successful 'Beginners' Workshop' on Sunday 19th July.

Les Oberman and Lionel Sharpe reported on their overseas trips at two meetings of the Society on August 26th and again on September 16th at Beth Weizmann. Both Lionel and Les attended the International Seminar in Los Angeles in July. (See report this issue.) Les and Sonya have brought back a videotape of their genealogical river cruise journey in the Ukraine which was shown at one of the meetings. It featured visits by Sonya and Les to Jewish synagogues, schools and cemeteries.

A number of books were purchased at the Seminar in Los Angeles and are available at the Makor Library. In addition, we now hold the CD-Rom of the World Cemetery Project and a CD-Rom of "Avotaynu" containing all issues from 1985 to 1996.

The following are available for inspection. Selected books will be on the open shelves for borrowing:

Angus BAXTER (1994) **In Search of Your European Roots: A complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in Every Country in Europe. (Second Edition)**

Warren BLATT (1996) **FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions About Jewish Genealogy**

Chester G. COHEN (1989) **Shtetl Finder Gazetteer**

Angelika G. ELLMANN-KRUGER (1998) **Library Resources for German-Jewish Genealogy**

Boris FELDBLYUM (1998) **Russian Jewish Given Names: Their Origins and Variants**

Chaim Freedman (1997) **Eliyahu's Branches: The Descendants of the Vilna Gaon and His Family**

John FREUND (Ed) (1998) **After Those Fifty Years: Memoirs of the Birkenau Boys**

Aleksander KRONIK and Sallyann Amdur SACK (1997) **Some Archival Sources for Ukrainian-Jewish Genealogy**

Jonathon D. SHEA and William F. HOFFMAN (1994) **Following the Paper Trail: A Multilingual Translation Guide**

Miriam WEINER (1997) **Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories**

Susan F. WYNNE (1998) **Finding Your Jewish Roots in Galicia: A Resource Guide.**

The next meeting of the Society will be held on October 21st at Beth Weizmann. Members will have an opportunity to present their recent interesting genealogical discoveries and new resources for research. The November meeting will be on Wednesday 25th at 7.30 pm.

Enquiries: Lionel 03-9523-6738 Fax 03-9532-7797
Les Oberman: oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

Reporting from Los Angeles

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AJGS committee members Les Oberman and Lionel Sharpe have recently returned to Melbourne.

Les and Sonya enjoyed a 14 day river cruise embarking at Kiev on a Jewish Heritage Tour in the Ukraine. A video was made of this fascinating trip. They spent time in the U.S.A. tracking down the Oberman descendants and caught up with

Lionel at the four day 18th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles.

Lionel flew to Paris then spent four day in Washington D.C. mostly at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum then on to Los Angeles where he presented a paper at the International Seminar.

He brought back a collection of new books on Jewish genealogy including Miriam Weiner's "Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories" and Ellmann-Kruger's "Library Resources for German-Jewish Genealogy" and the CD-Rom for 1998 World Jewish Cemetery Project which will be available in the Makor Library. (See above for full list).

Les and Lionel spoke about their respective trips and outline their findings at two meetings of the Victorian Society.

Canberra Corner

Sylvia Deutsch

**Vol 5 No
3**



Visit by AJGS President

Founding and current AJGS President Sophie Caplan visited Canberra on Wednesday 26th August 1998 to deliver a talk on her recent trip to Galicia and the 18th Annual Jewish Genealogy Seminar in Los Angeles in July. The function was being organised under the auspices of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (ACT).

Supporting AJGS activity in Canberra

There is already some overlap between membership of the Canberra branch of the Australian Jewish Historical Society and the AJGS, and the Canberra Jewish community is small. Jewish Genealogy had been incorporated in AJHS (ACT) activities for some years. Rather than duplicate activities and divide energies it is felt that the current cooperative arrangement between the AJHS (ACT) and AJGS should be strengthened, for the benefit of both Jewish and non-Jewish members.

AJGS members Earle Hoffman OAM and Sylvia Deutsch, in their respective capacities as AJHS (ACT) President and Vice-President, have made a formal request to the Board of Management of the ACT Jewish Community for AJGS material to be held at the National Jewish Memorial Centre. The transfer (from Sylvia's home) will be effected as soon as new locks are installed on the storage cupboard at the centre.

In addition the Board had agreed to their initiative to hold a number of genealogical open days on Sunday mornings to allow AJGS members to access the material and to meet informally. Dates for these will be announced in due course.

All AJGS members now receive regular AJHS notices about upcoming functions. All are cordially invited to attend whenever they wish, irrespective of whether they are AJHS members or not. Indeed it was good to see several AJGS members at the AJGS meeting 15th June when Dr Livio Dobrez of the Department of English,

Australian National University spoke on Leopold Bloom, James Joyce's Jewish character in *Ulysses*.

Forthcoming AJHS functions

All AJGS members are welcome to attend at any time.

Mon. 30.11.98 Visit of Rabbi Raymond Apple, to be held at the National Jewish Memorial Centre, cnr. Canberra Ave and National Ct Forrest, Canberra at 8.00 pm

Sun. 7.2.99 Bus trip to Sydney to Powerhouse Museum exhibition "Precious Legacy: Treasures from the Jewish Museum of Prague" (will not come to Canberra)

Mon. 15.3.99 Berrima excursion

Wed. 31.3.99 AJHS (ACT) annual general meeting

New Acquisitions

The Canberra holdings of material on Jewish genealogy have received an important contribution from AJGS president Sophie Caplan and the Society in Sydney. Our thanks for their generosity in purchasing these three key texts.

Gary MOKOTOFF and Sallyann Amdur SACK, **Where Once We Walked, A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust**, Avotaynu Inc., Teaneck, New Jersey, 1991, 2nd printing, ISBN 0-9626373-1-9, 514 pp.

Alexander BEIDER, **A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland**, Avotaynu Inc., Teaneck, New Jersey 1996 ISBN 0-9626373-9-4, 570 pp.

Alexander BEIDER, **A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire**, Avotaynu Inc., Teaneck, New Jersey, 1993 ISBN 0-9626373-3-5, 760 pp.

Enquiries can be directed to Sylvia Deutsch in Canberra - Tel/fax: 02-6248-6196 or email: deutand@ozemail.com.au

News from South Australian Branch	Klee Benveniste	Vol 5 No 3	
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Our May speaker was our branch President Hilde Hines who has traced her GUGENHEIMER ancestry back to Samuel Gugenheimer who lived from 1796-1838 in Burg Haslach in Germany. Burg Haslach belonged to the Counts of Castell and the Castell archive answered her enquiries. Records were kept on Jewish taxes in pre-1850's Germany, and Burg Haslach had a Jewish congregation list of 1795. Hilde also contacted the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Israel in her research.

A branch of the GUGENHEIMER family went to Savannah in America, and Hilde has corresponded with descendants and met them. The GUGENHEIMER family originated in Switzerland and although Hilde wants to trace the name back as far as she can, she explained that Jews adopted surnames relatively late in history (they were compelled by law to adopt surnames in France by Napoleon in 1812).

We were fascinated by the yahrzeit books which Hilde inherited. Her great-grandmother recorded the deaths of each of her parents (including public notices, funeral details and condolences) in specially printed Yahrzeit books which must have been available in Germany in the mid-nineteenth century. None of our group had ever seen such mementos before. Personal Yahrzeit books prepared with the same care as recording a child's first year must be very rare and we wondered how many others exist.

Hilde also spoke on "the Jewish Half Hour" on ethnic radio 5EBI-FM recently about the experience of going back to Germany this year to show her adult grand-children various places related to the family heritage.

Adelaide's Jewish community was visited for a week during August by Professor Victor Sanua, a clinical psychologist from St. John's University in New York. Prof. Sanua met with Sephardi Jews who fled Egypt between 1949 and 1956, of whom there are a substantial number in Adelaide. A Sunday afternoon talk by Prof. Sanua on August 9th was organised by the Bolaffi family and was attended by more than 60 people with most of the audience being first generation arrivals aged in their seventies. Prof. Sanua distributed research questionnaires to each family regarding their life in Egypt, their experience of becoming refugees, whether they suffered internment and loss of their possessions, and how they and their children adjusted to life in Australia.

We heard about plans for reunions, and maintaining contact between substantial communities of Jews from Egypt spread throughout the world including France, Italy, New York, Sao Paolo, and of course, Adelaide. There was a delightful atmosphere of reminiscing followed by coffee and traditional Sephardi sweets.

An evening meeting with the second generation aged in their 40's and 50's was also well attended. Prof. Sanua provided a copy of an international "Newsletter of the Association of Former Students from Alexandria" produced by Dr. Albert de Vidas of Fairfield, Connecticut, U.S.A. During his stay, Prof. Sanua spent time with individuals discussing his research including Richard Milosh who is undertaking a Ph.D. at the University of Adelaide and is interviewing various European groups who were refugees from Egypt.

Our last meeting was a research meeting for members in mid-September. The South Australian Branch welcomes two new members Margot Bailey and Ben Carr.

The South Australian branch can be contacted by post: Dr Klee Benveniste, Honorary Secretary, Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA Branch) C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation, P.O. Box 320, Glenside, SA 5065, AUSTRALIA.

**News from Western
Australia**

**Michelle
Urban**

**Vol 5 No
3**



The Western Australian Jewish Genealogical Group has greatly benefitted from the three months stay in Perth of Judy Joseph who has taught us some of the basics of Jewish genealogy, and given us an insight into many aspects of research.

Mosaic, a New Book on Crakow by Diane Armstrong		Vol 5 No 3		
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Our member DIANE ARMSTRONG launched her book on her Polish family from both Cracow and Lvov, "MOSAIC", this month. Diane has researched this book in Poland and in other countries and many of us will want to buy her book. She will talk to our Society at our AGM on 14th March 1999 at the Wilson Hall of the North Shore Synagogue about her book and you will also have an opportunity of buying it there.

Random House. Price \$AUS 35.

CD-ROM for Cemetery Project		Vol 5 No 3		
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A restricted number of CDs of the worldwide JEWISH CEMETERIES PROJECT were given to us to sell at the bargain price of \$AUS 35.00 plus \$AUS 5.00 for postage and packing. These sell for \$US 35.00 plus postage and packing in USA, but this special price was given to us to sell.

STAMMBAUM, ISSUE 13

Also we have a number of copies for sale of the STAMMBAUM journal, Issue 13, May 1998, wholly devoted to a large article on "MOSTLY HOLOCAUST SOURCES AND RESOURCES", a special feature prepared by Peter Landé, 32 pages, for \$AUS20, including postage and packing.

Send your cheque to Sophie Caplan, P.O. Box 154, Borthbridge, NSW 1560
If the Australian dollar falls further, prices may have to rise slightly, since we have to pay for all these in US dollars.

The Development of Jewish First Names in the Austrian Empire		Vol 5 No 3		
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From DOROT, Spring 1992

This is a slightly edited version of the Shem Tov article, which was a translation by Henry Wellisch of A Study of the Development of Jewish Personal Names of Modern Times by Dr Wenzel Zacek, in the yearbook of the Society for the History of the Jews of the Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior in Prague, as well as some documents from the archives of the city of Prague and the National Museum. Since the archives of the Austrian Ministry of Justice were destroyed in 1927, these are the only documents in existence dealing with this subject. The lengthy debates on the basic rights we take for granted today illuminate the struggle of our ancestors on their road to emancipation, and may give the reader a better understanding of life two centuries ago.

1. The Josephinian reform of Jewish names

Emperor Joseph II of Austria, a "progressive" ruler, in 1870 introduced far-reaching

reforms which included also the removal of many restrictions from the Jews of the Austrian Empire. Regulations dealing with Jewish first and family names were an important part of these reforms. The Emperor felt that Jews with proper German names could better integrate into society, while the confusing situation with some Jews being known under several names would be brought to an end.

An initiative of the administration of the crown land Bohemia, the Gubernium, a proposal to implement these reforms was sent to Vienna in spite of opposition by the elders of the Prague community. The court chancellery (Hofkanzlei) and the state council (Staatsrat) in Vienna recommended, and the Emperor approved, "the patent for the regulation of Jewish names." Published in July 1787, the patent applied to all Austrian crown lands, to Hungary and to Transylvania. In 1804 it was extended to the crown land of Galicia. The patent consisted of seven articles.

- 1) Required all Jewish heads of families and single Jews to take on a permanent family name by January 1, 1788. Unmarried females had to take on the name of their father, married females the name of their husband. All persons had to take on a German first name, which could not be altered during their lifetime.
- 2) Prohibited Jewish family names relating to a locality.
- 3) Required every head of household to register his name and the names of his family by November 30, 1787.
- 4) Required all circumcision, birth, death and marriage registers to be in German starting January 1, 1788.
- 5) Explained how to fill in the register form.
- 6) Gave assurance that all documents signed with the old name were still valid.
- 7) Listed the penalties for non-compliance.

Although the direction of the patent was clear, it did not precisely specify what was meant by a "German" first name. On September 21, 1787, the leaders of the Prague Jewish community, speaking in the name of all Jews, commented thus on this issue.

- 1) Jews should be allowed to retain their present Jewish first names as long as these could be written and pronounced in German. Various reasons were given to support this. It was pointed out, for instance, that the change in the name of business firms, some which were known under their current name for several generations, would lead to confusion. However it seems that the underlying reason was the fear of orthodox Jewish circles that the acceptance of German first names would have a negative effect on the Jewish religious faith.
- 2) Jews should be permitted if they so desired, to have a second or middle name. The reason given was that most Jewish People were named after a grandparent
- 3) Jews whose family names had been used for many generations should be allowed to retain them in the German language. This referred especially to those families whose family names were based on their present or previous

domicile. It was recommended not to extend this permission to those Jews who continuously changed their family names with their domicile..

- 4) Finally, the Jewish elders asked, in view of the size of the country, not to punish those who failed to submit their registration form on time.

The Gubernium forwarded the Jewish petition to the court chancellery with no objection except to recommend that vulgar or bowdlerized versions of names such as Schmul or Schlomo should be prohibited. At the same time, it invited the official translator for the Hebrew language, Leopold Tirsch, to prepare a list of all Jewish names used in the German Language. Tirsch was advised that the purpose was to assist the Jews in the selection of their names in the proper German version.

In response, a decree dated October 11, 1787 by the court chancellery gave the Jews nearly complete choice of first names and family names, stipulating that the chosen German names were permanent and that after January 1, 1788, Hebrew and Jewish names were prohibited. Item 2, however, pertaining to second names or middle names, was rejected with a few exceptions.

Tirsch completed his list at the end of October and sent it to Vienna for approval. There the court chancellery subjected the list to critical scrutiny; it was found to be unsuitable since it consisted mostly of Hebrew names. The list was then revised, certain names were deleted and a new list was established and published under court decree dated November 12, 1787. The decree reaffirmed that in the choice of first names only German names could be used and the Jews were advised to consult the approved list. Other names were strictly prohibited. The registration period was extended. The new list contained the following names.

Abadias, Abel, Hevel, Abdiel, Abdon, Abdenago, Absolon, Agia, Abiram, Abadon, Abraham, Achitophel, Adam, Odom, Alexander, Amminadab, Ananias, Andreas, Angelus, Ariel, Arnon, Aron; Balthasar, Barnabas, Bartholomaeus, Beer, Beermann, Benedikt, Benesch, Benjamin, Bernard; Damian, Dam, Daniel, David; Eleasar, Elias, Eliacim, Edlisaus, Emanuel, Immanuel, Enos, Ephraim, Ezechias, Ezechiel; Fridman; Gabriel, Gedeon, Gottlieb; Havakuk, Henoch, Hebron; Jakob, Japhet, Jason, Jeremias, Joachim, Joannes, Job, Jonas, Jonathan, Joram, Josaphat, Joseph, Josias, Josua; Isaias, Isaak, Ismael, Israel; Juda, Judas; Kabriel, Koppelman; Laser, Lazar, Levi, Lukas; Mathes, Mathias, Manasses, Markus, Mathusalem, Michael, Moises; Nabuchodonosor, Nathan, Nathaniel, Nahemias, Nephtali, Nikanor, Noe; Ochosias, Osias; Paul, Philip; Raphael; Salomon, Samson, Samuel, Seligman, Sem, Seth, Simeon, Sisara, Sorobabel; Thaduas, Thomas, Tobias; Wolf; Zabulon, Zacharias, Zachaus.

Female names: Abigail, Agatha, Agnes, Amalia, Anna, Aspasia, Athalia; Barbara; Cazilia; Demuth, Dorothea; Elizabeth, Ester, Eva; Joanna, Iphigenia, Judith, Julia; Libuscha, Luzia; Magdalena, Maria, Martha; Nikolaia; Paula; Rachel, Rebecka, Regina, Rosa, Rosalia, Rosel; Sara, Semiramith, Suranna, Sybilla.

Following is a partial list of the names that were deleted from Tirsch's list by the court chancellery:

Anselmo, Ascher, Bezalel, Baruch, Evigdor, Gerson, Gumpelman, Kalman, Kasman, Kosman, Mayer, Meschulem, Perutz, Pinkas, Susman; Bassia, Bela, Belka, Bluma, Buna, Blimche, Dina, Devora, Elka, Edel, Fromet, Gela, Gutel, Hindel, Hanerle, Kela, Livita, Malka, Nachama, Pezel, Perl, Rachama, Suvia, Sirel.

It is no wonder, then, that the Jews appealed on December 4, 1787 directly to the Emperor, to broaden the choice of first names. They asked for permission to use the German version of all names from the Bible and its five books of Moses. They pointed out that they, as well as followers of other religions, took their names from the Bible, while some name on the approved list did not originate there. It was also pointed out that 110 male and 35 female names were insufficient for the Jewish population and that this could lead to mistakes and misunderstandings.

This appeal had only limited success. The following names were then added to the approved list:

Falkman, Guttmann, Heilmann, Herz, Hirschmann, Liebermann, Lippmann, Low, Simon, Veit, Klara, Lea. The deadline for registration was moved to January 15, 1788. The Jews accepted the response and this brought to an end the Josephinian reforms of Jewish names. The patent and the various decrees were incorporated into the collection of Jewish Laws in 1792 and were again published in 1797 as part of the Judische Systemalpatent.

(Part 2 of this article will appear in the next issue)

Jewish Museum in London

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The Jewish Museum in London which used to be in WOBURN HOUSE and which was closed for over a year, is open again in greatly enlarged premises near Camden Town Underground Station.

It now comprises three galleries, the History Gallery, the Ceremonial Art Gallery and a gallery for changing temporary exhibitions. Its new address is: The Jewish Museum, 129 Albert Street, London, NW1 7NB.

Reprinted from the New York Times and Sharsheret Hadorot, Vol 10 No.1

A Centre for Jewish History in New York

**Vol 5 No
3**



A group of major Jewish institutions specialising in various aspects of Jewish history have acquired the former Helen Keller Institute situated on West 16th Street going through to 17th Street in the lower part of Manhattan in order to move into various parts of the same site, possibly in 1999. The first to move in will be the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, specializing in the history of Yiddish-speaking Jewry, the Yeshiva University Museum, Sephardic House and the American Sephardi Federation.

It is hoped to also establish a Jewish Genealogical Institute at the Centre, since already 40 to 50% of the enquiries currently received by the partners of the Centre relate to family research. However the Jewish Genealogical Society of New York and

the IAJGS Board seem to have somewhat different concepts of how this will operate and be staffed. Time will tell... But the Australian visitor will certainly want to visit the Centre for Jewish History in New York when it opens.

UK Certificates		Vol 5 No 3		
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One of our members, Stephen Mednick, has provided the following information on the JewishGen Digest. Birth, Deaths and Marriage Certificates can be obtained from the UK by email. The Office of National Statistics did have a security concern about sending credit details in an email message but that is up to the applicant.

The ONS also sent him the application forms that can be used to request a Birth, Death or Marriage Certificate and also a form listing all the fees. These forms are Word documents.

The ONS has a very good web site at http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons_f.htm

To request certificates by email use: certificate.services@ons.gov.uk

By fax: 44-1704-550-013

By mail: General Register Office, P.O. Box 2, Southport, Merseyside, United Kingdom PR8 2JD

The Beatle Connection	Sophie Caplan	Vol 5 No 3		
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From an article by Eric J. Greenberg in "The Jewish Week" of 24th April 1998 produced verbatim in "The Cleveland Kol" and quoting its editor Arlene Blank Rich of the JGS of Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A., it appears that the recently deceased Linda Eastman McCartney, wife of Beatle Paul McCartney, was of Jewish descent on both sides.

Linda's mother was Louise Lindner, the only daughter of a prominent Cleveland clothing manufacturer, Max Joseph Lindner, who was a member of The Temple, the major Reform Temple in Cleveland, as well as active in the Cleveland Jewish Welfare Fund and a director of the local Jewish Country Club. His wife was Stella Dryfoos, after who Lind McCartney named her youngest daughter. Stella Dryfoos's sisters also married Jews, Julius Feiss and Eugene Hays.

Lenda's father was Lee Eastman, who had changed his name from Epstein, and was a noted lawyer for the entertainment industry. There was no connection whatsoever with Eastman-Kodak. Linda's mother died in a plane crash when Linda was nineteen.

Linda was born in Scarsdale, N.Y. on 24th September, 1941 and died in April 1998 from breast cancer, a disease that targets a disproportionate number of Jewish women of East European descent. The McCartneys lived such a very private life that it is not known whether Linda Eastman McCartney followed the Jewish religion in any way. But one anecdote in the article shows that Linda occasionally acknowledged her Jewishness. Still this revelation will amaze those who recall her memorial service in a London church.

Gary Mokotoff has advised that if you find that the POSTAL address for a submitter to the JewishGen Family Finder is no longer valid, write to me and I will try to help you. Avotaynu maintains a list of more than 20,000 people with interest in Jewish genealogy and we may have a more current address. If an E-MAIL address is no longer valid, do NOT write to us; we do not maintain many e-mail addresses.

Avotaynu, P.O. Box 900, Teaneck NJ 07666, U.S.A. or vhwc10a@prodigy.com
Avotaynu web site: <http://www.avotaynu.com>

**The Plunder of the Banks:
The Stripping of Bank
Licenses in Nazi
Dominated Austria in 1938****Vol 5 No
3**

This is a list of Jewish banking houses (Bankhaus) and their directors (Gesellschafter) which had their banking licenses withdrawn and their directors removed after the Anschluss with Germany in March 1938. Supplied by Hannah Lessing M.A. of the National Fund of the Austrian Republic for the Victims of National Socialism, per Morris Ochert of Brisbane.

Glossary: Bankgeschäft = bankhaus; Nachfolger = heirs; Wechselstube = exchange dealer; Kommissionsgeschäft = commission house; hypothekenbureau = mortgage office.


BANKS	DIRECTORS
Robert Alt & Co.	Robert Alt
Georg Anninger & Co	Georg Anninger
Back, Steuermann & Co	Emmerich Back
Bankgeschäft Eduard Bellak & Cie	Rene Bondi, Eduard & Paul Bellak
A. Bardach	Otto Bardach, Emil Bardach
Hermann Beer, Realitäten & Hypothekenbureau	Hermann Beer
Alser Wechselhaus Paul Bjehavy	Paul Bjehavy
W. Berger & Co	Wilhelm Berger
Josef Blau jun, Nachfolger Blau & Taussig	Leo Taussig, Robert Blau
Bank & Wechselgeschäft Heinrich Bloch	Alfred Bloch, Hermann Bloch
Bankgeschäft Braun & Co	Rudolf Braun

Brull & Kalmus	Heinrich Gottlieb, Leo Gottlieb
Lucian Brunner	Heinrich Brunner
Caraco & Norbert Deutsch	Albert & Vikto Caraco, Norbert Deutsch
Julius Feingold	Julius Feingold
Bank & Wechslergeschafte J. Fischer	Jakob Fischer
Bankgeschäft & Wechselstube S. Fisher	Heinrich Gabriel
A. Fleischer & Co	Alfred Fleischer
Mor Frankel Bank & Kommissionsgeschäft	Otto Fixe, Hans Elischer, Bela Havas
Bank & Kommissionsgeschäft A Daniels	Abraham Frankel
A. Freund	Oskar Popper, Fritz Popper
Oskar Freund, Bank & Kommissionsgeschäft	Oskar Freund
Frid & Thiemann	Arthur Mayer, Richard Pappenheim
Friedstein & Co	Friedrich Freund, Walter & Paul Friedstein
Walter Friedlander	Walter Friedlander
Frohlich & Co. Bank & Wechslergeschäft	Theodor Adler, Wilhelm Mandl
Bank & Kommissionsgeschäft Leopold Frankl	Leopold Frankl
Band & Kommissionsgeschäft Gartenberg	Paul Brull
Bank & Kommissionsgeschäft Edmund Grun	Leo Willet, Hilda Willet
Grunwald & Co.	Ludwig Grunwald
Bank & Kommissionsgeschäft L. Hackler	Moriz Leon Hackler
Bank & Weschlergeschäft A. Hecht	Adolf Hecht
DM.Halfon	David M. Halfon
Herz & Strauss	Jacques Herzog

Hochsinger & Able	Gustav Muttenthaler, Alfred Brecher, Paul Herz
Wechselstube Hofmann & Co.	Albert Hofmann, Karl Stumpel
Gebrüder Kanitz	Richard Frankenbusch
Kaufmann & Willet Bankgeschäft	Nikolaus Kaufmann, Oskar Kemeny
Bankgeschäft F. Kende & Co.	Ferdinand Kende
Kenedi & Co Bankgeschäft	Ernst Kenedi, Otto Kenedi
J. Kohn & Co Bank & Kommissionsgeschäft	Kamilla Kohn
Bankgeschäft Karl Kollmann	Karl Kollmann
Hermann Korti & Co	Leopold Popper-Podhragy
Brüder Kux	Gustav Kux, Hugo Kux
Leopold Langer	Leopold Langer
Bank & Wechselhaus Langer & Co	Otto Kraus
Bank & Wechlergeschäft Moriz Lebowitsch	Moriz Lebowitsch
Bank & Kommissionsgeschäft S. Lemberger	Samuel Lemberger
M & J Mandl	Max u. Erich Mandl, G Steger
Hugo Marton, Bankgeschäft	Hugo Marton
Matzner & Co	Philip Matzner
Alois Mautner & Co	Maximilian u. Alfred Mautner
Mayer & Eisner, Bank & Komm.gesch.	Max Eisner, Berthold Mayer
Bank & Borsengeschäft E. Milhofer & co.	Ludwig Fenyo, Naurizio Kahn
Bankgeschäft Dr. Offenberger	Jakob Kurt Offenberger
M. Rohatyn Bank & Kommissionsgeschäft	Moriz Rohatyn, Arthur Rohatyn
Adolf Rosenberg & Co	Adolf Rosenberg
Bank & Komm.gesch. Michael Rosenblatt	Michael u. Sigmund Rosenblatt
Rosenberg & Neumann	Moriz Neumann

Bank & Wechselgeschäft Ignatz Rosner	Rudolf Rosner
S. M. v. Rothschild	Louis Rothschild
Schenkel & Co. Bank & Komm.gesch.	Max Schenkel, Jakob Schenkel
Fa. Jul. Schlesinger	Leonhard u. Julius Schlesinger
Schultz & Co	Heinrich Schutz
Bankgeschäft Josef Stein & Co	Josef Stein, John Schumacher
Kommanditges. Berthold Storfer & Co	Berthold Storfer
Telscher & Weidholz	Heinrich Hoffmann
Bankgeschäft Dr. Thausing & Schlesinger	Emil Berger
M. Thorsch & Sohne	Alfons Thorsch
Thorsch, Klein & Co	Berthold Klein
J. Turnauer	Jakob Turnauer
Bankgeschäft Tuschak & Co	Richard Tuschak
Bankgeschäft & Wechselstube	Ignatz Urbach, Robert Urbach
Bank & Kommissionsgeschäft Ernst Vogel	Ernst Vogel
Bernard Wachter Bank & Komm.gesch.	Bernard Wachter
Wallentin, Steininger & Co Bankgeschäft	Max Steininger, Richard Rubner
Walter & Co	Dezsa Spielberger
H. Weinreb & Co Bank & Komm.gesch.	Heinrich Weinreb
Alfred Weinwurm	Alfred Weinwurm
Adolf Weiss jun.	Georg Weiss, Ernst Weiss-Olah
Bank & Komm.gesch. A Weiss & Co	Berthold Weiss
Wiedner Wechselhaus Paul Zobel	Paul Zobel
Alfred Winter	Robert Winter, Karl Winter

Max Witrofsky, Bank & Komm.gesch.	Max Witrofsy
Dominik Wolf, Bank & Komm.gesch.	Otto Wolf
Wurzel & Brach Bank & Komm.gesch.	

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 5 No 4	
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It's Chanukah time again and we will be scaling down our activities until February, although this year for the first time we are participating in Chanukah in the Park at Hyde Park in the centre of the city of Sydney on 20th December, where we will be sharing a stall with the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Some extra helpers for the stall for a few hours would be welcome. Ring Sophie at 9958 6317 to volunteer.

Our recent activities have included our usual monthly workshops at the Reverend Katz Library of the North Shore Synagogue, and an evening with two speakers on different aspects of German-speaking Jewish genealogy: Kurt Lippmann of Melbourne who spoke about his updating of a family history encompassing three centuries and three continents - Europe, North America, Australia, and the publication of the Lippman family history, and René Loeb of Zurich, the founder and president of the Swiss Jewish Genealogical Society, which publishes the only German language Jewish genealogical journal *Maajan, die Quelle* (The Source), which is now also jointly the organ of the Hamburg Jewish Genealogical Society.

René Loeb told us something of the history of the Jews in Switzerland throughout the centuries and of the work of his society. We hope to reprint his talk.

The problems with the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies seem to have resolved themselves with Sallyann Sack's resignation becoming permanent and Karen Franklin now at the helm. Since Hal Bookbinder is now vice-president, a new treasurer has been appointed until next August, when all executive positions come up for re-election. It's Nancy Brant, president of Cincinnati JGS in USA. The next USA summer seminar will be in New York from 8th to 13th August 1999, though it is uncertain what will happen to the previously planned summer seminar in Salt Lake City in 2000. It has now been announced that there will be an international seminar again in London in the northern summer of 2001.

In September 2000 the Australian Federation of Family History Societies will hold a conference in Perth, whether during or before the Olympic Games in Sydney is not yet known.

During the Olympic Games, which will take place in Sydney from 18th or 20th September, 2000 for a fortnight, our Society presently envisages a possible hospitality programme for visiting international Jewish genealogists. If you are one of our overseas readers and planning a visit to Sydney during the Olympics, please let

us know well in advance by email to rieken@zeta.org.au or to our regular mailing address.

In the last fortnight we have suffered the sad loss of our member Sir Asher Joel, aged 86, who always provided us with his perused copies of Piotrkow Trybunalski landsmannschaft newsletters. Sir Asher was born a poor boy in a then slum district of Sydney, went to work at thirteen, served in World War 11 as Australian liaison with General Macarthur's staff, became a journalist and pioneer of the Australian public relations and media industries, a supreme organiser of royal, papal, and U.S. presidential tours to Australia, and of the opening of the Sydney Opera House. He was twice knighted by the Queen of Australia and was the first Australian Jew to be made a papal knight. He also wrote Australian Protocol and Procedures, and he was a good Jew and a loyal friend. We shall miss him.

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc

Lionel Sharpe

Vol 5 No 4



A well-attended 'Eureka!' evening was held on October 21. Members were invited to share their recent research findings and issues. Among those presenting short talks were Albert Braunstein, Naomi Ciddor, Eric Cohen, Bruce Colcott, Rodney Eisfelder, Lionel Sharpe, Stephen Schmideg, Mark Steiner, and Enid Yoffa-Elton.

A highly successful Beginner's Workshop was held at Beth Weizmann on Sunday 8 November at 2 p.m. Notes pertaining to Jewish Genealogical research in Victoria were distributed as well as a new reading list of books available at the Makor Library.

The final meeting for the year will be held on Wednesday 16 December 1998 at 7.30 p.m. at Beth Weizmann. Professor Bernard Rechter will speak on: *Dispersion from Spain - The Origins of the Sephardi World*

Individual or small group tuition on the use of the Internet for research. Ring for an appointment:

Les Oberman 9571 8251 (PC Computers)
Lionel Sharp 9523 6738 (Macintosh)
Fee: \$5.00 donation to the Society.
Enquiries: Lionel 03-9523-6738 Fax:03-9532-7797
Les Oberman: oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

Victorian Research Project

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The immigration archives of Jewish Community Services (J.C.S.) formerly Jewish Welfare, have been made available to the Victorian Society. A small group of members are currently updating a computer data base which already comprises nearly 3000 names initiated by J.C.S. last year.

Names and other data are being recorded from passenger lists of persons arriving through the Port of Melbourne as well as those arriving by plane. Lists contain thoses sponsored by the American Joint Distribution Committee (The JOINT),

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (H.I.A.S.), the International Refugee Organization (IRO), landsmannschaften and private sponsors.

The data is being entered into a comprehensive data base which will be accessible to the membership when completed. Names also include those who passed through Melbourne, but settled in other places such as New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand. The passenger records commence about 1938 and continue to the present day.

News from South Australian Branch	Klee Benveniste	Vol 5 No 4		
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At our research meeting in mid-September, we spent time scanning the newsletters and materials received by the branch. We actually possess very few resources, but this has been due to our small size and youth as a branch and branch concern about on-going care of a library by such a small group. We are grateful to Sophie Caplan for personally donating some books as well as sending a variety of leaflets and articles collected at the international conferences. While looking through the items, we enjoyed listening to Marjory Luno describe her visit to Sydney. Marjory expressed her appreciation of help given to her by Rieke Nash during her visit. Marjory was able to obtain a document about the history of the Boas family written in Dutch and is now researching for someone to translate it!

In mid-October, branch members had the chance to meet Sophie Caplan, President of the national society while she was spending a weekend in Adelaide on the first step of a holiday. Sophie had offered to speak to us about the recent Hollywood Chai Conference and about research in Europe. The meeting was well attended by members during the Caplans' busy stay.

At the end of October, we were delighted to have our first international visitor to speak to our branch. René Loeb, President of the Swiss Jewish Genealogical Society, offered to speak about genealogical research in Switzerland and nearby areas of France, Germany and Austria. He also answered questions about the Jewish community in Switzerland, how the Society was formed, and we found that our Societies had much in common.

We continue to receive many enquiries from members of the public who are not part of the Jewish community, but who are seeking help to research Jewish branches of their family tree. Although our resources are limited, we try to help them where possible. Our next meeting will be planned for January.

The South Australian branch can be contacted by post to:-

Dr Klee Benveniste, Honorary Secretary,
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society
(SA Branch)

C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation

P.O. Box 320, Glenside, SA 5065, AUSTRALIA.

Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutch	Vol 5 No 4		
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Profound thanks to President Sophie Caplan who visited Canberra on Wednesday 26th August, 1998 with her husband Leslie and addressed us. A most enjoyable and informative evening.

Canberra member Valerie Brown purchased a copy of the Jewish Cemeteries Project CD ROM from Sophie and has offered to lend it to members.

We've had an enquiry re the Jewish surname Blackstone. Can anyone help?

Forthcoming AJHS functions (all AJGS members welcome):

Mon.30.11.98 Visit of Rabbi Raymond Apple

Sun. 7.2.99 (tentative) Bus trip to Sydney to Powerhouse Museum exhibition "Precious Legacy. Treasures from the Jewish Museum of Prague"

Received from Sydney:

June 1998 edition of JewishGen Family Finder (ed Gary Mokotoff)

The following genealogy society newsletters have arrived:

Chai (Colorado), Vol 3 No.1, Fall 1998

Discovery (San Diego) Vol.13 No.3, Summer 1998

Branches (Miami) Vol.11 No. 1, Sept. 1998

Travel-Rite Inc. brochure:Reporting from Kiev in the Jewish Ukraine. Relatively Seeking: An Ancestral Odyssey (1998)

Enquiries can be directed to

Sylvia Deutsch in Canberra

Tel/fax: 02-6248-6196

Email: deutand@ozemail.com.au

Yiddish Press and a South African Migration Study		Vol 5 No 4		
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Saul Issroff writes that as part of a study on migration, he is looking for reports about South Africa that were sent to Yiddish papers such as Der Forwart, Hamelitz and Hamagid, especially between 1890-1915, on conditions in South Africa. Reports in other language presses would also be useful.

Also any family letters that may have descriptions of life and conditions in South Africa; and reports of the sea voyages, and the stay at the Jews Temporary Shelter in Leman Street, London East End.


Contact Dr Issroff at saul@swico.demon.co.uk.

ETSI, a New Sephardic Historical and Genealogical Society		Vol 5 No 4		
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ETSI, a New Sephardic Historical and Genealogical Society has been formed in Paris. Etsi ("my tree" in Hebrew) covers any region where Sephardi Jews have lived, including Spain, the Ottoman Empire, Northern Africa, Portugal, Italy and Gibraltar. A

quarterly review will be published and an Ottoman SIG will be formed. For further information, contact Laurence et Philip Absenur: laurphil@wanadoo.fr

(Branches Vol.11 No. 1)

The Development of Jewish First Names in the Austrian Empire - Part 2		Vol 5 No 4		
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PART 2. The Fight of the Jews for Free Choice of First Names. (Cont. from the September issue)

Over several decades the Josephinian laws regarding Jewish names were, to all appearances, observed. In those days, when the father registered the name of the newborn child with the municipality, the official checked the first name against the approved list. The Jews were more or less satisfied with the arrangement, but in the early decades of the 19th century a new generation which had grown up during the period of the Josephinian reforms were becoming dissatisfied with the restrictions on the free choice of first names. It was in Prague, one of the large Jewish centres of the empire, where the opposition to the restrictions was organised. It seems also that it was in Bohemia, and especially in Prague, where an antisemitic city administration enforced the law strictly.

The first challenge came in 1828 when a Jew from Prague, Benjamin Katzan, registered his new born son as Ludwig. His registration form was returned. Katzen then appealed to the Gubernium arguing that the decree of November 12, 1787 limiting the choice of first names was an inadmissible interpretation of the patent of July 23, 1787. Katzan maintained that the November decree was only issued because the stubborn old-fashioned Polish Jews refused to give up their favourite names, thus urging the authorities to issue a list of old Jewish names in a German version - this being a concession to those Jews who wanted to maintain very ancient Jewish names.

The Gubernium, however, rejected Katzan's application on December 18, 1828. Six Jews from Prague, Katzan among them, then submitted the following February a new application which, after being bounced back and forth between the court chancellery in Vienna, the Gubernium and city council was rejected by the chancellery with a court decree of August 26, 1830.

A petition signed by a large number of Jews accompanied by a brief from the leaders of the Prague Jewish community was next sent to the court chancellery on June 15, 1831. From there it went back again to the Gubernium, which asked the Jewish senior jurist Landan to compile a list of significant German first names. During the debate, some councillors voiced their concern that the Jews might choose the names of Christian saints, which could lead to unrest. Therefore, Landan was instructed to prove from the Old Testament that any names of Christian saints on the list had Jewish significance. After protracted negotiations between the Jewish leadership and Landan on the one side and the Gubernium on the other, the new list was submitted in December of 1832. The Gubernium then asked the official Hebrew translator, Karl Fischer, to comment on Landan's list. It was favourable.

By this time the Jews had become impatient and, on April 29, 1833, they enquired on the progress of their application. The Gubernium in the meantime decided to hear the opinion of the Catholic consistory of Prague. The preamble of the consistory's reply speaks for itself: *For a long time religious Catholics have been annoyed to see the names of their highly honoured and venerated saints preferred by the Jews, when they see that Jews give these names to their children and thereby appear by name as Christians, but are and remain Jews.*

In the eleven close-spaced pages that followed, the Consistory professed to be indignant that on the list were names of martyrs who had converted to Christianity, and names of recently canonized saints who had been arbitrarily linked to the Old Testament of the Jews. They went on to note that there is a big difference between religion and civic rights; that those who want to be members have to accept its dogma and that the church is not in business, does not bargain and cannot diminish its doctrine of faith, arrangements or remedies.

Amongst other things, the Consistory asked to strike from the approved list the names of Christian saints (**Bernard, Damian, Lukas, Markus, Veit, Agathe, Aspasia, Barbara, Cecelia** and others). The church wanted only to protect the names of the saints from profanation, and had no objection to the use of Persian or Greek names for Jewish children - although adding it may seem ridiculous for Jewish children to have names of heroes when it is known that Jews are not cut out to be either heroes or brave soldiers. The Consistory, after eliminating from the list 28 male and 25 female non-Jewish names, enclosed a new list of 342 male and 45 female names, all taken from the Old Testament. This list consisted mostly of obscure and totally obsolete names such as **Abdimeluch Abdinadab, Adonibesech, Achimelech, Achsa, Basemath, Maacha, Sunamittinn** and others.

It was explained by the Consistory that the enlarged number of names would accommodate the Jewish request for greater diversity and it was also suggested that the female list could be enlarged by adding a female ending (for instance the Abdimeluch could be the basis for the female name Abdimelucha). Finally, the Consistory proposed penalties for non-compliance with the regulations, and requested to be supplied with the official registers from time to time for control.

The Gubernium now had in its possession all the opinions, pro and con. The official adviser (General-referent), councillor Hartmann, after carefully examining all submissions, came to the following conclusion:

- 1) According to the laws of 1787, Hebrew names are prohibited; however, the free choice of names is restricted by the decree of November 12 and December 13, 1787. The fear of the Jews that the restrictions on the choice of names will have a detrimental effect on their standing in the country is groundless, since the respect of persons is based on their character, not on their names.
- 2) The list of names submitted by the Consistory consists of many outdated and incomprehensible names and therefore contradicts the patent of July 23, 1787.
- 3) The proposal of the Consistory to ban the use of Christian names should be rejected.

- 4) The existing approved list should be enlarged by 81 male and 60 female names (for example: **Adolf, Albert, August, Eberhard, Ernst; Adela, Albertine, Constanze, Eleonora**, etc.)

The Gubernium unanimously adopted these proposals and forwarded them to Vienna on July 31, 1834. The response, a decree dated November 6, 1834, pointed out that the patent of July 23, 1787 expressly prohibited the use of foreign and incomprehensible names and that it had specified the use of German names. Therefore, the patent gave the Jews the right to choose any German first name for their children. However, the Jews were not allowed to change their names. The decree did not mention the newly proposed list.

Although the decree decided in favour of the Jews, its text seemed to be too vague. The authorities in Prague felt that the problem of Jewish names required yet further study. Councillor Hartmann surveyed again the entire development of the Josephinian laws and came to the following conclusion: Israelites should be permitted to choose any name mentioned in the decree dated July 31, 1834 if the name is referred to in the Old Testament or if the name had significance in the German language. The Gubernium was divided on the issue and after a lively debate it voted to reject the Jewish request for free choice of first names.

The Jews of Prague had not expected this kind of response and were quite disappointed. It was not enough that the prominence of the patent of July 23, 1787 was acknowledged; they wanted explicit permission to choose any name and therefore continued their campaign. Eleven Jews from Prague submitted, on February 22, 1835, a new petition to the Gubernium to allow free choice of first names. The petitioners stated that they were speaking in the name of all the Jews of Prague and they asked the Gubernium to instruct the city council on the true sense of the decree of November 6, 1834.

On April 12, 1835, Prague merchant Markus Wiener complained to the Gubernium that he had tried to register his newly-born son as Ferdinand and had been refused by the registrar of the city council. Wiener used all the familiar arguments, but also pointed out that Ferdinand was the Emperor's name and the Jews had used names of Emperors (Josef, Franz) before, thereby showing their gratitude for the beneficial reform laws. Wiener quoted also from the decree dated November 6, 1834. The Gubernium sent the complaint to the city council, but it was mostly interested to find out who had leaked to the Jews the content of the decree of November 6, 1834. The city council investigated but could not find the culprit.

The Jews of Prague, seeing they were not getting anywhere with the Gubernium, appealed again to the court chancellery in Vienna on November 16, 1835. The petition was returned to the Gubernium in Prague, where in a discussion on March 28, 1836, councillor Hartmann now proposed to recommend to the Viennese authorities that Jews should have virtually free choice of first names. Members of the Gubernium were of general agreement with Hartmann's suggestion and Oberburggraf Chotek in his closing speech pointed out that it was the aim of the administration to break down the dividing walls between Jews and Christians. It was his conviction that this important encouragement would be received with gratitude by all Jews.

With these warm remarks the Gubernium ended its session and forwarded its decision to Vienna on the same day. In this changed atmosphere, the court chancellery issued a decree on July 20, 1836 stating that the Israelites were not to be restricted in the choice of desired German first names, not excluding those used also by Christians. Those first names must not have an addendum which would designate a Christian saint.

The Jews were finally successful. Over the next few years the clear-cut decision was properly observed and there were no complaints. From time to time Jews applied for a change in name, but in nearly all cases this was refused.

With the proclamation of the general law regarding civic rights of December 21. 1867, all restrictions came to an end.

The Story of an Unforgettable Weekend	Hilde Hines	Vol 5 No 4	
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Recently, I took my two English grandchildren and their partners, all in their twenties, to Nuremburg for a weekend. They had read the history of my family and were anxious to see the place where it all happened. My father was born in the centre of the City of Nuremburg - a city he loved. He knew every corner - hidden archways, courtyards, and byways. The family house was in one of the main streets, Karolinenstrasse, No. 8.

He loved all that Nuremburg stood for - its history going back to the Middle Ages, its art and craft and poetry. It was fortunate that my father did not live long enough to see what Nuremburg stood for in latter years. In his time anti-Semitism was something only attributed to uneducated hooligans. He was a soldier in World War 1, as were his brothers, and many of his relatives lost their lives fighting for the Kaiser and the German Reich.

I was still at school when Hitler came to power. I had to cope with the change in attitude, in life style - from being an ordinary German of Jewish religion to becoming a leper, an outcast, a person not wanted, part of a people who were responsible for all the bad things which happened to Germany.

I was fortunate enough eventually to be able to leave Germany in 1938, and we lived in Holland until November 1939, when World War 11 had started. We left Europe with the last Dutch ship and arrived in Australia in January 1940.

Nuremburg had rebuilt its mediaeval quarter beautifully. We went to the new little synagogue which is part of an old age home. You had to advise them beforehand that you were coming as a visitor, and announce yourself, before you were allowed to enter the synagogue.

Nuremburg had in its heyday approximately 10,000 Jews. After the war there were but ten Jews left in Nuremburg. A small influx of survivors came and the community grew to about 350 people.

The home of the Jewish nursing sisters had survived Allied bombing, and services were held in their little prayer room for many years. They eventually built an old-age home, with the assistance of the City of Nuremburg, and a small synagogue was included. In the last few years the community has grown through the influx of Jews from Russia and now has over seven hundred souls.

The religious service we attended was impressive - and there was no talking! At the end we were invited to the kiddush which was a sit down luncheon. We had a chance to talk to the cantor and other leaders of the community. He told us that there were seventy-two children participating in religious instruction classes. He himself came from South Africa, had lived in Israel and was reluctant to come to Germany, but was persuaded and felt it was his calling to help a small community such as this to maintain a Jewish life.

My English grandchildren who are all involved in Jewish activities, were urged to see if an exchange of young people between Nuremburg and England would be possible, to show Nuremburg youngsters what life in a big Jewish centre would be like.

We walked through the Old City of Nuremburg past the place where grandfather's house, which is now a part of a department store, had stood, to the location where the old Synagogue had been. A large monument has been erected showing that there had been a synagogue on this spot from 1874 until Kristallnacht when Nuremburg Nazis destroyed its main synagogue. We visited the place where I had lived as a child, a building which does not exist any more, but which has become part of a large school.

Nuremburg had been bombed very badly during the war and only very few houses remained here and there showing the old style and architecture. We visited various family places and I was able to tell my grandchildren of our life "once upon a time..."

On the Sunday morning we went to the Jewish cemetery, as both my father and Gus' father were buried there. There is a large War Memorial at the entrance to the cemetery in memory of those who fell from 1914 - 1918; the heroes of World War 1. On both sides there were plaques with the names of those who gave their lives for the Fatherland - amongst them one of my cousins, Fritz Rosenzweig. I was able to explain that I lost as many cousins fighting for the Kaiser in the First World War as were killed in the concentration camps in the second. Fritz's father, Ludwig Rosenzweig, had been president of the Nuremburg Israelitische Kultusgemeinde for many years between the two world wars. Underneath the inscription remembering the heroes of the First World War is a large plaque dedicated to those who died for their faith.

Germany, during the Hitler period, deprived us not only of our nationality - but of our personality. I had to reinvent myself and only found who I was by becoming an ardent Zionist with the hope of a Jewish Homeland, a Jewish country where we would be permitted to live by right and not by sufferance.

How do I feel regarding this city and this country where I once lived? I do realise that the German Government after the war has made considerable efforts to make restitution. But how much had the German character changed? The upsurge of Neo-Nazism is frightening. We experienced an evening at a restaurant - there were two tables of younger people, laughing very loudly and thumping the table with their fists

- a reminder that what was now being done in joy and laughter was very similar to what was done in fury and hatred in our time. I was glad when I left Germany again on the flight back to London, and I am happy to live in Australia, a country which now regards multi-culturalism as its way of life.

This is a weekend I shall never forget!

We saw, we spoke, we remembered!

I was able to pass on to the third generation

The tragedy of that time.

And they will now understand so much better

the Jewish life and suffering

of the Jews in Germany.

Hilde Hines is a pioneer member of our Society and the president of its South Australian branch in Adelaide. Ed

Afterthoughts on the 1998 Conference	Bernie Freedman	Vol 5 No 4	
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The 1998 Hollywood Chai Conference in Los Angeles was my first attendance at any annual international Jewish conference and I am thus not in a position to comment historically or to make comparisons with previous conferences. I certainly enjoyed and benefited from attending and I wanted to share that experience and then compel myself to think more deeply about it so that my future activities in Jewish genealogy might be influenced by this money-wise expensive trip.

Let me first set the scene of the conference as it affects the impression it made on me and various personal conclusions I then draw. The conference took place in a very large L.A. hotel with extensive conference facilities, lasting from Sunday night to Thursday night, with lectures from 9 am to 5 pm in two parallel sessions every day followed by two major lectures every evening until 9 pm. Special interest sessions were held during the lunch break, and tours to museums, university or Mormon Libraries meant that you had to miss lectures to visit. Certainly it was assumed that everyone attending the conference wished to attend continuous lectures as their prime purpose. There was certainly an atmosphere of quasi-dedication to Jewish Genealogy and such an attitude was accepted by all participants.

The standard of the lectures was good. Most were experienced lecturers and many had obviously carried out personal research into the subject of the lecture and could illustrate the lecture with slides of their family history.

Some personal comments: I have no figures for the non-American attendees, but to me the conference exhibited the American energy and enthusiasm on which the conference was organised, programmed and executed.

Relating to the Jewish basis of the conference, it is nice to comment on the friendly and co-operative integration of the speakers, lecturers and participants who in religious matters extended from strongly orthodox to complete liberal. It seemed that

searching for one's forebears is an honourable and spiritual pursuit, and in this context we were all Jews pursuing an approved area of research.

A description often levied at "collectors", (genealogists in this context could equally be described as "collectors") is that the particular view of the collector-object relationship often makes it difficult for a collector to be part of, or active in a group activity. The many hours spent in lonely pursuit of one's family tree could certainly produce such a problem, but the very opposite seemed to be exhibited at this conference. Everyone was ready to listen, assist and congratulate all other participants on their work. Whatever it is, the Jewishgen Soc., the internet communication system, or the religious common factor, the obvious group activity is the way to achieve far better individual results and perhaps something more in the way of community values.

Humour is often the way to describe one's insecurity, and an old Jewish Australian joke runs: In Australia I am a "bloody Jew" and in Israel I am a "bloody Australian". It may be my sensitivity on this subject that I associate the flood of Jewish interest in genealogy with the feeling of not fully belonging, the feeling which is expressed in "searching for one's roots". The American Jewish world is in a special period in that the achievement of the "American dream" for many has allowed them to devote their energy to organise an industry searching for roots, originally in Europe, and then scattered throughout the world in a way that has seen the holocaust destruction of their physical bodies as well as their culture. It is to be hoped that the search for roots will not stop at family tree skeletons, but will gain knowledge and understanding of these roots which will become alive and able to send new growth into the Jewish communities of the future to produce new trees of knowledge and new forests of culture.

Attending this conference gave me much hope that the energy and enthusiasm already existing in the Jewish Genealogical Societies will make it one cutting edge activity for the international Jewish community and our local Australian societies are doing well to be associated.

I am looking forward to the next conference to be held in New York in August 1999. Knowing the unique energy level of this city I am sure it could be a conference to launch the Jewish genealogical organisations into the third millennium with perhaps prospects for revival of Jewish culture. It is my hope that the N.Y. planning committee will introduce Jewish historians, philosophers, social scientists, psychologists, etc, with the intention of opening up the subject to one of gaining knowledge and understanding of our culture as well as our roots.

Bernie Freedman is a member of the Sydney branch of our Society.

From Queensland Family History		Vol 5 No 4		
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(Vol. 19, No. 4.)

The annual Alexander Henderson Award for the best family history published in Australia has been made yearly since 1974, in memory of Alexander Henderson, a

well-known family historian who made a significant contribution to genealogy in Australia. It is conducted by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, Inc. Entries close on 30 November each year. For conditions and guidelines of the award, apply to A.I.G.S. Inc., P.O. Box 339, Blackburn, Vic. 3130

Research in Latvia		Vol 5 No 4		
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A Jewish researcher who has helped our member Selma Jackson with Latvian research, is seeking more clients. Please contact him for further information:

ROMAN BLUMENTALS, Kr. Valdemara 109-19, Riga, LV 1013, Latvia.

Tel: home 371 2 371155. Email:intrad@parks.1v. Nothing further is known about Roman Blumentals and no responsibility taken by this society for your dealings with him.

What's New in Special Interest Groups		Vol 5 No 4		
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A GRODNO GUBERNIA SIG has been re-organised and is prepared to sell so-called Inventoried Items which are photocopied lists of names from various sources to its members. Membership is \$US20 p.a., but there are only email addresses as contact addresses, namely

Amy Levinson: arl@teleport.com and
Ellen Renk:Phrases @aol.com.

It is a pity that no proper mailing address is available for those of us not on email.

A BELARUS SIG for gubernia areas in Belarus other than Grodno, namely MINSK, MOGILEV, and VITEBSK, was formed on 14 July at the Los Angeles Seminar. It also has only an email address for its SIG co-ordinator, David M. Fox: fox@erols.com

New Books in the Sydney Library		Vol 5 No 4		
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We have acquired a few new books in our Sydney library recently.

LUBOML, THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF A VANISHED SHTETL, edited by Berl Kagan, published by Ktav Publishing House, Inc, New York, 1997 is the English language version of the Yizkor book originally published in 1974 in Hebrew for the Libovner-Voliner Benevolent Society, pp425. with appendices containing both Hebrew and German texts. Luboml was also called Libivne and was in north-western Volhynia, first settled by Jews in the fourteenth century. The community was exterminated on 1 October, 1942 with just fifty one survivors who lived by hiding, joining the partisans, adopting false identities, or serving in the Soviet army. In USA and Israel there were others who had emigrated before WWII. This book, one of the few Yizkor books to be translated entirely into English, is the result of gathering photographs and souvenirs from those who emigrated in time. It has a list of

Holocaust victims of the town in English, stories of survivors, and a wealth of illustration. Truly an amazingly user-friendly Yizkor book. Donated by Leslie and Sophie Caplan.

THE GAON OF VILNA AND HIS COUSINHOOD by Neil Rosenstein, published by the Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy, 654 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 07208, 1997, pp437, is the second book to be published on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the death of Lithuania's greatest Talmudic scholar and one of Judaism's greatest spiritual and intellectual leaders of modern times, Rabbi Elijah ben Solomon Zalman of Vilna, known in the rabbinical and secular world simply as the Vilna Gaon. "Gaon" in Hebrew means "genius" and this man has long been considered one of Judaism's greatest modern geniuses. Many people claim descent and this tome added to Chaim Freedman's previous one ought to resolve the matter once and for all.

But while Rosenstein's book has rabbinical approbations, and reproductions of many Hebrew documents, making it possibly more scholarly, Freedman's book is easier to use for the non-Hebrew scholar genealogist and seems to contain more names, including large groups of Komesaroffs from Melbourne, and the descendance of our member, Jenny King. Evidently the emphases of each author differ somewhat. But now the Society library in Sydney will have both and those hopeful of having gaonic descendance will be able to consult both. This volume is beautifully bound and illustrated, and is also the gift of Leslie and Sophie Caplan.

We have received a well-bound completely photocopied copy of the long out of print **AUSTRALIAN JEWRY BOOK OF HONOUR, THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918** compiled by the late Harold Boas (Hon.Lt.). Late Australian YMCA Jewish representative with the AIF, Perth, W.A., 1923, pp88. This contains a nominal roll of 35 pages of all known Australian Jews who served in the Imperial (British), Australian and Dominion forces, in alphabetical order, giving, first and family names, rank, army number, unit and state where they enlisted, plus information on honours received and casualties. Also a nominal roll of four pages with similar information on all known Jews in the New Zealand forces. Also statistics on honours awarded, including one Victoria Cross, a number of pages on individuals who received honours, giving the citations, and many pages of In Memoriam photographs of the Australian Jewish men who died on active service, as well as a page on Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash, the commander of the Australian Army Corps from May 1918 to the end of hostilities.

THE CROSS AND THE PEAR TREE, A SEPHARDIC JOURNEY by Victor Perera is an account of the complicated histories of the PERERA/ PERERRA/ PEREIRA/ PEREIRE families from the time of the Golden Age of Spain to the Inquisition, to Portugal, France, Israel, Egypt, Guatemala and USA, with conversions, steadfastness and returns to Judaism. Although mainly about one named family, there are other Sephardic families featured and this will be of interest to other genealogists who suspect Sephardic or converso roots. Published by Alfred A Knopf, New York, 1995, with illustrations and an index. Donated by Sophie Caplan.

FINDING YOUR JEWISH ROOTS IN GALICIA; A RESOURCE GUIDE by Suzan F. Wynne, published in 1998 by Avotaynu, Inc. in Teaneck, New Jersey, USA, pp220,

is an up-to-date guide to research in Galicia by the person who founded the Gesher Galicia Special Interest Group. It has everything one would like to know about Galician genealogical research, an alphabetical index to localities, as well as one showing administrative districts of towns, villages and even hamlets. Also lists of Yizkor books for Galician towns and lists of booksellers specialising in Yizkor books in both USA and Israel, and many other useful features. Alas it also shows that for certain parts of Eastern Galicia, such as the Kalush area, no births, marriages or deaths data whatsoever has surfaced so far. Donated by Leslie and Sophie Caplan. \$US 39.95 from Avotaynu, POB 900, Teaneck, NJ 07666, USA.

The Society itself has purchased JEWISH ROOTS IN POLAND, PAGES FROM THE PAST AND ARCHIVAL INVENTORIES by Miriam Weiner in cooperation with the Polish State Archives, published in 1997 jointly by Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc., and by YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, still for a short time at 555 West 57th Street, 11th floor, New York, NY 10019, USA, pp446. This book has been described as a tour de force and the ultimate guide to Jewish genealogical research in Poland and it deserved both these epithets. There are illustrations of documents, period postcards, identity documents and family photos on every page opening, as well as bibliographies, indexes of names and holdings. Some of this includes the part of Western Galicia still in Poland also included in Suzan Wynne's book, and some entries differ slightly. No matter. Both of these books are essentials for any self-respecting genealogical library and any self-respecting Jewish library. If you are a serious researcher and can afford to buy them do. \$US 60

The Society has also recently received the June 1998 hardcopy edition of the JEWISH GENEALOGICAL FAMILY FINDER, now containing over 300 pages and over 13,000 researchers supplying names and towns being researched. Copies are in our libraries in Adelaide, Canberra, Brisbane, Perth and Sydney, and Melbourne is acquiring its own copy for Makor Library. \$US 30 from Susan King at JewishGen, 12 Greeway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, TX 77046, USA.

Precious Legacy - Treasures from the Jewish Museum in Prague		Vol 5 No 4		
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From November 24, 1998 to 28 February, 1999 the above exhibition will be on at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. On display will be a rare and magnificent collection of Judaica which will include more than 300 rarely seen objects, some dating from the 16th Century.

Book Proposal: The Jews of Cornwall		Vol 5 No 4		
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To be edited by Godfrey Simmons, Keith Pearce and Helen Fry.(to be published early 2000)

We have been notified of a project to deal in depth with the Jewish communities of Penzance and Falmouth, following on the late Rabbi Dr. Bernard Susser's 1993 book The Jews of South West England, and the more recent The Jews of Bristol, both in our Society's Sydney Library. The new book will attempt to fill the gaps and will gather together for the first time in one volume major classic articles by Venetia

Newall, Cecil Roth (Penzance), and Alex Jacob (Falmouth), accompanied by updated editorial notes and commentary. These articles have major significance for contemporary research, but are usually inaccessible to Australian residents. There will also be previously unpublished material in specially commissioned chapters, to include complete surveys and tombstone inscriptions together with biographical and genealogical information, including Anthony Joseph's pedigrees. The editors are also interested to receive any relevant familial, genealogical and illustrative material or photographs. While no guarantee can be given to use everything sent, every item used in publication will be acknowledged.

But it would be preferable if copies only of photographs and other items were sent, so that all items could be kept permanently by the editors in their files for future reference. Please write and send to: Keith Pearce (Co-editor) 3 Albert Terrace, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 2DD, U.K.

The Jews of Newcastle

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Glenn Gordon, University of Newcastle is doing his PhD on the Jews of Newcastle. He is interested in early Jewish families and would particularly like to make contact with descendants of the following:-

Sir Samuel Cohen, H. Morris Cohen, S.J. Mitchell, The Hart family of Maitland, Isaac Lasker, D.L. Thalberg, Nicholas Dach, Charles Browne, Dr Israel, George Berrick/Berwick, G.F. Solomon, The Sussman Family, The Isak Morris Family, The Gubbay Family, Neville D. Cohen, A.B. Davidson (Maitland) Photographer

The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308
Tel:(02)4921-8765 Fax: (02)4921-8730 Email:ggordon@mail.newcastle.edu.au

Reading Tombstones

Vol 5 No
4



From "Dor to Door" Newsletter of Greater Houston Jewish Genealogical Society, Vol 2, No.1, October 1996.

These Hebrew phrases appear frequently on our ancestors' tombstones, and should be helpful to genealogists.

Son of	BEN	בן
Daughter of	BAT	בת
Title: Mr.	REB, RAV	רבי, רב
Son/Daughter of the honoured		ת"ר
The Levite	HA-LEVI	הלוי
The Cohen	HA-COHEN	הכהן
Here lies	PO NIKBAR	פ"נ
May his/her soul be bound up		תנצב"ה

Dear, Beloved (Masc.)	HA-YAKAR	הַיָּקָר
Dear, Beloved (Fem)	HA-Y'KARAH	הַיָּקָרָה
Father	AV	אָב
My father	AVI	אָבִי
Our father	AVINU	אָבֵינוּ
Mother	AIM	אִם
My mother	IMI	אִמִּי
Our mother	IMANU	אִמֵּנוּ
My husband	BAALI	בַּעֲלִי
My wife	ISHTI	אִשְׁתִּי
Brother	AKH	אָח
My brother	AKHI	אָחִי
Our brother	AKHINU	אָחֵינוּ
Sister	AKHOT	אָחוֹת
Aunt	DODAH	דּוֹרָה
Uncle	DOD	דּוֹד
Man	ISH	אִישׁ
Woman	ISHAH	אִשָּׁה
Woman(unmarried)	B'TULAH	בְּתוּלָה
Woman(married)=Mrs.	MARAT	מִדָּת
Old (masc)	ZAKAIN	זָקֵן
Old (fem)	Z'KAINA	זָקֵנָה
Child (masc)	YELED	יֶלֶד
Child (fem)	YALDAH	יֶלְדָּה
Young man	BAKHUR	בָּתוּר
Young woman	BAKHURAH	בַּחֲוֵרָה
Died (masc)	NIFTAR	כָּפַטַר
Died (fem)	NIFTARAH	כָּפַטְרָה
Born(masc)	NOLAD	כּוֹלַד
Born (fem)	NOLDAH	כּוֹלְדָּה
Year, Years	SHANA, SHANIM	שָׁנָה, שָׁנִים
Day, Days	YOM, YOMIM	יוֹם, יָמִים
Month	KHODESH	חֹדֶשׁ, חֳדָשׁ

1st of the Month Rosh Hodesh

Honest, straight

Complete, Wholehearted

Modest

Honoured, Distinguished

דאש חדש ; ד.ת.

ישר, ישרה

תם

צכוע, צכועה

נכבד

Forebears

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00068 LEWIS J. CHILTON/CHITRIN, 12666637-5 Ralston Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342, USA, has **SCHNEIDER, PLOTNIK, TOKER, TONELSON, ROTTENBERG, SELESNIK, BINDER, MILLER/MULLAR** and **KOPANS** ancestry from Anykst/Anyksciai, Swados and Troskuni shtetlekh in Lithuania and seeks contact with Australians researching same families.

00069 MISS DEBBIE OSTERMEYER, 7 Kent Drive, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN4 OAP, UK is researching surnames **SCHLACHTAUB, BRILL, OSTERMEYER, LUBINSKY, SCHWARZ, LAZARUS, SHRIMMER, LOEB, PREISS, BARE, SIMONI, ODENHEIMER, GROSSMAN, SCHUSTER, SIEDENER, LIVINGSTON, DAVID, HAHN, ABRAHAMS, FORST, KLEIN** and **LEVY**.

Editorial

Sophie
Caplan

Vol 6 No
1



We're starting volume 6, which is no. 22 of our newsletter - volume 1 had 5 issues - and a new year of activities. First will be our Annual General Meeting at the Wilson Hall of the North Shore Synagogue at 7.30 pm on Sunday 14th March, 1999. Our guest speaker after the formal part will be our member Diane Armstrong, whose extended family history, "MOSAIC", has been published to great acclaim in 1998 by Random House. She will talk in particular about her methods of research and how she traced both sides of her family in Krakow and Lwow over a whole century and five generations.

On 20th December, 1998 we participated for the first time in "Chanukah in the Park" organised in Hyde park by the Great Synagogue and the "Australian Jewish News" and shared a stall with Elana Traurig and her children's books and with the Australian Jewish Historical Society. We believe that our stall was one of the most interesting ones in the whole festive gathering. Rieke and Peter Nash, Miriam Shifreen, Bernie Freedman and Sophie Caplan shared the duties for our Society and were elated by the response of the public. We also recruited several new members and were able to help an American visitor with addresses of Sydneysiders born in the same town in Germany.

The two Sunday morning workshops since our last newsletter have been well attended. Our collection of books is growing well and has something for almost everybody. Although these books are rare and not for lending, sometimes the same

book is available for loan from the Reverend Katz Library where our collection is kept.

Since our foundation we have participated in the exchange of journals and newsletters with other Jewish genealogical societies (JGSs) world wide. While the more important journals can only be perused at workshops, Rieke Nash, our Resources Librarian, has decided that many sets of newsletters can be sent for loan to country and interstate, members who are willing to pay the postage there and back. Please contact Rieke Nash through fax 02-9427 7530, or POBox 42, Lane cove, 1595, NSW, or by e-mail: [rieken @zeta.org.au](mailto:rieken@zeta.org.au). This may be a great help to distant members.

We also run a loan service for tapes of lectures from both overseas conferences and local speakers, which is grossly underutilized. Contact Rieke Nash, as above, or Selma Jackson, our Tapes Custodian, at fax 02- 9371 9487 or by e-mail: [jacksonsel@ aol.com](mailto:jacksonsel@aol.com).

In the past few months our Society and its members have suffered several grievous losses. Our sympathy goes to our Sydney member Valerie Coppel and husband Ronald, and family, over the tragic and untimely loss of their gifted son, Clinton Coppel, aged thirty-six. Also to Sylvia Deutsch, our Canberra coordinator, over the loss of her father Theodore Karas, a gentleman of the old school, whom I had the pleasure of meeting at my talk at South Head Synagogue just a year ago. And these last weeks we lost Suzie Gold, who attended our Beginners' Seminar two years ago, and became a member just before being diagnosed with breast cancer. Suzie Gold had intended researching her own Sperling family from Poland as well as her late husband Sam Gold's Chester family, through which they were connected to the growing Australian Lubavitch rabbinical dynasty of Gutnicks and Feldmans. Alas, she never got very far.

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 6 No 1		
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A visitor from Lodz, Poland, Barbara Cellar was our first speaker for 1999. She spoke on the topic: "Archival Records of the Lodz Ghetto and the Lodz Jewish Cemetery" at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre on Wednesday, 17th February 1999 at 7.30pm.

Barbara Cellar works for the local city council in Lodz in strategic planning. Some of her work has been in the area of Jewish-Christian relations and she is a member of a Foundation concerned with information retrieval from archives pertaining to World War 11.

Recently, Barbara and her team, with the help of the Lodz History Museum, retrieved and sorted almost the complete records of transports to the Lodz Ghetto from Czechoslovakia and various cities in Germany.

Our next Beginner's Workshop will be held on Sunday, 7th March at 2.00pm at Beth Weizmann Community Centre and on Sunday March 14th we will have a table display at the annual "In One Voice" cultural event in Caulfield Park. The first Annual

General Meeting of the recently incorporated Victorian Society will be held on Wednesday, April 14th at 7.30pm.

We launched our very first six page newsletter in February and it has been well received by the membership. The aim of this newsletter is to provide information about local resources for research, new acquisitions at the Makor Library etc. While there may be some overlap in reporting about Victorian activities in The Kosher Koala it does not intend to simulate this national newsletter.

Interstate members wishing to receive a copy should write to AJGS(Vic)Inc., PO Box 189, Glenhuntly, 3163, Victoria enclosing two 45 cent stamps in a stamped (45c.) addressed envelope.

We are currently planning two major projects.

The President, Lionel Sharpe is joining a planning committee for a proposed conference in association with the Australian Association for Jewish Studies and the Australian Jewish Historical Society(Vic) Inc. The conference is planned to be held in Melbourne later this year.

A meeting has been arranged with the Jewish Holocaust Museum and Research Centre in Elstern-wick next month for the purpose of amalgamating the data base of names of survivors derived from such sources as passenger lists and video or audio interviews. It is hoped that we can develop a com-prehensive register of survivors who settled in Vic-toria after the Second World War.

Enquiries:Lionel Sharpe 03-9523-6738 Fax:03-9532-7797 sharpe@pa.ausom.net.au
Les Oberman: 03-9571-8251 oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

**News from the South
Australian Branch**

**Klee
Benveniste**

**Vol 6 No
1**



At our January meeting, Margot Bailey spoke to us about the Jewish community which once lived in Penang, Malaysia. Georgetown in Penang is one of five cities twinned with the city of Adelaide under a sister-cities scheme. It was fascinating to hear that there had once been Jews there who came originally from Baghdad and travelled to Penang along the trade route. It was once a sizeable community with a Synagogue and seven Torah scrolls. Jewish burials there dated from 1835 to 1978. Margot and her husband had visited Georgetown last year and had seen the graves, and found further information about the Jewish Community which once lived in Penang.

Our next meeting in late March will be a research meeting to give us time to scan the latest JewishGen Family Finder, newsletters and materials received by the branch, as well as journals and books owned by members.

The South Australian branch welcomes new members: Diana Terry and Myra Waddell. This brings our membership total to 15; 14 in Adelaide and 1 in Port Lincoln.

The South Australian branch can be contacted by post: Dr Klee Benveniste
Honorary Secretary, Australian Jewish Genealogical Society(SA Branch)
C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation, P.O. Box 320, Glenside, SA 5065, AUSTRALIA.

News from Western Australia	Michelle Urban	Vol 6 No 1	
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About twenty West Australian members were treated to a bright and breezy talk by prominent Jewish historian Louise Hoffman on Sunday 21st February, 1999. An Authority on the foundation of Jewry in Western Australia, Louise detailed the early years of the Jewish community through the eyes of many of those whose industry and endeavours were responsible for the successful establishment of the western colony. While men like Lionel Samson are well known for their exploits in the infant colony, Judaism really did not become a religion of significance until the migration of Eastern European Jews in the mid-1880s. The Fremantle congregation was first in W.A. but, as the balance of commercial power moved up the Swan River to Perth, so did the Jewish population. By the early 1900s, the Brisbane Street Synagogue became the focus for the most of the State's Jews.

With the discovery of gold to the east of Perth in the 1890s, the population of the colony swelled dramatically and amongst the many fortune seekers were sufficient Jews to establish small congregations in Coolgardie and later in Kalgoorlie. Within a relatively short period, however, only the Perth congregation remained as a viable centre of Jewish religious observance.

Louise's intimate knowledge of her subject made for an enthralling discovery by younger members who were unaware of the background to the congregation of the late twentieth century. There is little doubt that all members present are hoping that in a 'return bout' by Louise, they will learn even more about our heritage and the men and women who established the Jewish religion on such foreign shores.

There are a few members whose interests are in Slovak, and they found the Society's books, periodicals and journals, CD's and Microfiche which are growing through the help of the Sydney resources very interesting.

Workshops are being held with Guest Speakers on

27th June - Dr Ossie Tofler: Topic- Early WA Jewish Personalities.

29th August - Martin Levit: Topic - From South Africa to Perth, A Jewish View.

7th November - How To Use The Internet.

Enquiries can be directed to Michelle Urban Tel: (08) 9375 3874, FAX: (08) 9375 3574. E-mail: urban@wantree.com.au

Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutsch	Vol 6 No 1	
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The latest issue of Avotaynu has arrived (vol. XIV, No4, Winter 1998) and also newsletters from American Jewish genealogical societies.

Planning is under way for Jewish genealogy workshops in Canberra during 1999. These will be held on Sunday mornings from 10.30am - 12.30pm in the library of the

National Jewish Memorial Centre. AJGS members in Canberra will be notified of the dates by letter and through this column. These occasions will provide an opportunity for members and interested others to use the growing resources - books, journals, pamphlets etc - held for Canberra members and will serve as useful forum for sharing information.

Enquiries can be directed to Sylvia Deutsch in Canberra - Tel/fax: 02-6248-6196 or email: deutand@ozemail.com.au

Report from Queensland	Morris S. Ochert O.A.M	Vol 6 No 1		
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In the past twelve months, I have been fortunate to be joined by Carol Davis Stirk. She has proved to be most knowledgeable in genealogy and associated research and her secretarial skills have been put to great use.

Carol has, for instance, been invaluable in the preparation of my manuscript entitled "Headstones in the Jewish Cemetery at Toowong, Brisbane"; this should be of help, both to Jewish genealogists and historians.

Our tiny Brisbane organization acts as a suburban branch of the AJGS, which circulates literature from overseas, as well as the Kosher Koala, to our Queensland members: these publications are most interesting and of great value to researchers.

Carol, a member of the Queensland Family History Society (QFHS), has been instrumental in establishing an East European Special Interest Group - with emphasis on Jewish families - from the regions of Russia, Poland, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia etc. The first meeting was held on 30th January, 1999.

Carol has also facilitated a journal exchange between QFHS and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.

A Trip to Poland, Belarus and Western Ukraine (Part1)	Sophie Caplan	Vol 6 No 1		
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Part 1- Poland

In the Northern summer of 1997 my husband and I took a trip to Belarus and one to Ukraine in further search for our roots. The trip to Belarus was before the International Seminar in Paris and the one to Ukraine some twelve days after it. Our timetable was determined by the availability of our chosen guides, Wacław Wojciechowski for Belarus and Oleg Silberman for Ukraine. Each one was a guide I had first encountered in my 1995 trip with Gesher Galicia and found particularly helpful. I had kept in contact and recommended them to friends in Sydney, who had also been full of praise for their knowledge, good humour, and care of their clients.

Apart from securing our flights and hotel bookings, we needed visas, and we found that, the less desirable the destination, the higher the cost of the visa. One can get visas for Ukraine from Melbourne at \$AU90 each. Belarus does not have any consulate, legation or embassy in Australia. To get their visa one can either courier

one's passport there and back to Tokyo, not an inexpensive business, or obtain it at an intermediate stop. We decided to make Warsaw the hub of our trips to the rest of Eastern Europe and to get our Belarussian visas there. Even with a personal recommendation for us from the Australian Embassy in Warsaw, and with no other "clients" visible on the day of our visit, it took an hour and a half and \$US120 (= \$AU204 now) each to obtain a Belarussian visa for five days. Had we been prepared to wait several days, it would have been a little cheaper.

As well, both Belarus and Ukraine now require an "invitation" from relatives, or from an organization in each country, to obtain a visa. Since all of our relatives who lived in those countries have been dead since 1942, and because we did not wish to involve any Jewish Organization in our visits which were entirely private, it was necessary for our son's travel agency to sub-contract our hotel bookings to ethnic agencies which had the right contacts for our "invitation".

We were not going to Belarus on our own. In 1930 Leslie's parents had made a return visit to England with his older sister, then a little girl. Leslie's father Phillip and his older brother Abraham from Liverpool, England, had jointly travelled back to their home town of Porozow, then in Poland, to see their own father, who died a year later. Sixty-five years later two cousins, both named after the same grandfather and great-grandfather travelled together back to Porosova, now in Belarus. Leslie Fox had visited Sydney with his wife the previous January, and Leslie Caplan had proposed that they join us on our trip to Belarus on a journey recalling that of their father and grandfather. We flew to Warsaw and met Leslie Fox there. His wife did not come.

We were due to leave Warsaw the day after obtaining the Belarussian visa but, that same afternoon, my Leslie became acutely ill and the doctor called to the hotel advised that he be hospitalised to determine what was wrong. Naturally I was very hesitant to see my husband be treated in an Eastern European hospital, but he was in pain. By chance our family physician in Sydney, was born in Poland and still speaks perfect Polish, as he left Poland at sixteen. By chance also I had his home telephone number on me, and he was able to talk to the hotel doctor and to reassure me that it would be all right to go to the clinic suggested. We were assured that this was the clinic which treated the Polish Prime Minister and his cabinet, and so we went. Although it was very scary for the first few hours when the admitting sister spoke of an operation, everything was fixed with a relatively simple procedure, though Leslie was kept for observation, as they told me it would be unwise to travel to Belarus, without making sure that he was completely well again. Interestingly both the treating specialist and the "god professor" who ran that department, spoke perfect English. The professor wanted to keep Leslie longer "because he had such sad eyes". That scared me, as I recalled stories of Jews being identified in wartime by their "sad eyes". One cannot visit Poland without constantly recalling World War 11. The Lecnica Rzonkowa hospital in Emilie Plater Street in the centre of Warsaw was evidently considered "state of the art" in Warsaw, though it would not have been state of the art in Australia or the United States, and after the first scare we were treated very kindly.

Waclaw, our guide, was very understanding about postponing our departure, and came to see Leslie in hospital. We also decided in the afternoon to do a tour of

Jewish Warsaw for the benefit of Leslie Fox, who had never been before, and that I would come too while my Leslie rested in our hotel room after discharge, ready for departure, two days late, the next morning.

We started by going to look at the portion of ghetto wall, still standing because it was part of a building and within the landscaped courtyard of a block of flats. That wall carried a plaque affixed by President Herzog of Israel on a state visit to Poland several years before, and two small plaques showing where single bricks had been removed, one for display at Yad Vashem, the other at the Holocaust Centre in Melbourne. As we were examining these plaques suddenly a raw egg described a perfect trajectory and splashed down right next to us on Waclaw's briefcase and shoes but luckily not on anyone's clothes. We all looked up and there on a balcony on the third floor of the block of flats was a child, a little boy of about five, looking down at us. Our first assumption was that the little boy had thrown the egg, perhaps prompted by an adult, and Waclaw yelled up something in Polish which he later told us was: "If you do that again, I'll come up and kill you." But later we realised that no child could have thrown the egg so perfectly from a that distance, and that it must have been thrown by an adult male who then beat a hasty retreat and sent the child out to tell him where the egg had landed. Waclaw felt at once angry and embarrassed at this show of Polish anti-semitism and assured us that he often took tourists to that spot and nothing similar had ever happened before.

The rest of the tour was more routine and included a trip to a bookshop near Warsaw University where some books of Jewish interest on Poland in English could be purchased. Waclaw undertook to post them to me by sea-mail and they arrived safely here some months later. This time the monuments at both the sites of the Mila 18 bunker and the white marble memorial at the Umschlagplatz carrying all the variety of Jewish first names in Poland at the time of the Shoah were thankfully free of defacing graffiti. For me this memorial is particularly poignant because it contains the first names not only of relatives who disappeared, but also those we've given to our children and those carried by our grandchildren.

The large monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Revolt now definitely shows signs of needing restoration, and it seems that the current Polish government, or perhaps Warsaw municipality, is still waiting for Jews around the world to pay for this restoration. This seems at odds with the fact that so much renewal and restoration has already occurred since the end of the Soviet era in Poland. Gone is the drabness I saw on my first visit in 1983 at the time of martial law. Many parts of Warsaw have the look of an interesting and elegant city. Everywhere old buildings are being pulled down and new ones erected, some with British and Dutch joint venture capital. Nowy Swiat Street is full of elegant and expensive shops and the hotel we stayed in, the Warsaw Sheraton, is equal in standard and facilities to Sheraton hotels all round the world.

Unfortunately in July and August, when so many overseas Jews and others visit Warsaw, the Yiddish theatre is closed. On our visit to the Jewish Historical Institute Dr Yale Reisner was also away on his annual vacation, but on our return from Belarus the next week we met Grazyna Pawlak, his fellow director. We also met the impressive Konstanty Gebert who edits the communal Jewish weekly, both of them at the Centrum Kultury Zydowskiej (Jewish Cultural Centre) at 6 Twarda Street.

There are now also a Jewish monthly called Midrasz and a youth magazine. Both Grazina Pawlak and Konstanty Gebert represent the new assertive educated breed of Polish Jew, intent on Jewish continuity in Poland, if that is possible, as does Dr Stanislaw Krajewski whom Leslie and I met on a previous visit. Last July our meetings were necessarily brief as they were both attending the funeral of Yad Vashem Shoah historian Chone Shmeruk who had come from Jerusalem to die and be buried in Warsaw.

We left Warsaw early the morning after Leslie was discharged from the clinic, taking food brought from England and Australia, and fruit bought in Warsaw, for the days on the road and in Belarus. The original driver whom Waclaw had booked had reneged because of the delay, but Waclaw was using his own Volkswagen minibus and as a driver we had Marek, a neighbour of Waclaw's, who was a security guard by profession and an excellent driver. The places I had written Waclaw that we wanted to see included Szczuczyn, from where Leslie's maternal grandfather had come. I thought it was the one in northern Poland, but from all the information I had given him Waclaw had deduced it was Szczuczyn Litevski, north east of Vilna.


He also told us one other thing which was a revelation. In shtetlech and villages many Jews were traders and had small businesses run from their home. One could tell which were the former Jewish houses by the fact that there was a front door, whereas those houses which had never been Jewish and did not need to be accessible to potential customers, had their main entrance at the back where it gave the house-owner easy access to the back-yard to attend to the poultry and other animals. Now the Jews were gone and the businesses were closed and so the front door was permanently closed, steps which led up to it were often gone, paths to the front door overgrown with bushes hindering passage, and other signs of disuse. This simple set of facts led to interesting observations in all the towns and villages we then passed or visited.

We had planned to enter Belarus at the frontier post near Bialystok and then drive straight to Porosova, the nearest little town. As we drove along the road to the frontier we counted well over seventy semi-trailers waiting in line which we passed on the way to the frontier post. Unfortunately it turned out that no private cars were allowed to pass the frontier there. We had to drive north for two hundred kilometres along the Polish side of the frontier to the next crossing point at Bobrowniki. Here there were even more loaded semi-trailers waiting in line, plus two lanes of buses and private cars, loaded to the gunwales with people and goods. From time to time a car left the line in front of us and raced back on the remaining road lane, and then came back trying to re-enter its previous position. Eventually we had to do this too as the Bobrowniki municipality was exacting an "environment protection tax" which was one of the forms necessary to cross the frontier. Other forms included information on ownership of our vehicle and, for every passenger, a customs declaration which included information on any weapons, cameras, watches, as well as a minutiae of detail on all currencies carried, including travellers' cheques and in which currency they were, and detailed descriptions of any jewellery carried or worn. Not for the first time I became aware of the absolute obsession with gold and jewellery at customs of the Soviet and former Soviet countries. Since some of the things listed had to be inspected at the frontier post itself this was a slow and cumbersome procedure. From our arrival on to the queue cousin Leslie Fox entered into his journal all the

details of the procedures and their time sequence. It took us six hours to cover the couple of kilometers to the frontier post and through the customs procedure. And unlike most other cars we were not carrying machinery, or domestic appliances, or goods for sale. We had become aware that one line of private cars and buses was for those going to Belarus, and the other line for "transit cars" going on to Russia, since this road was the main one going on to Minsk and Mogilev and Moscow. The quality of the cars seen was amazing and Leslie Fox for the first time then, expressed the opinion that perhaps all the good quality cars stolen in England and in Western Europe took this journey.

The fast food shops on the side of the road were doing a brisk trade, as did the toilets. We were glad that we had brought our own food and drink for ourselves, our driver and our guide. It was eleven thirty when we were finally free to take the road to Grodno on the Belarus side. There were no street lights.

(to be continued)

Societies and Special Interest Groups (SIGS)	Sophie Caplan	Vol 6 No 1		
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Have you subscribed to any Societies or Special Interest Groups (SIG's) connecting you with the areas whence your family originated? Although it is expensive for Australians to pay annual subscriptions in US dollars and often a \$AUS15 fee for an international bankdraft to your bank, receiving the publication and being on its Family Finder can advance your research tremendously and puts you in touch more directly with those researching the same surnames or the same areas. Money orders on \$US can also be bought at post offices.

Since 1985 a number of SIG's have sprung up which publish bi-annually or quarterly journals, some through subscription and some on the Internet. Each specialises in its own area, Lithuania, Switzerland, France, and former Galicia (south-western Ukraine and south-eastern Poland), or some town in Russia. If your ancestry is linked to these countries or areas, it is worthwhile to become a member of its specific SIG and receive its publication and thus have contact with other members around the world researching the same area. Most journals are published in English, but some are in French or German or Spanish.

Annual subscriptions vary from \$US5 to \$US28 for Australia by airmail. Most cost \$US28. All subscription prices given are for Australian subscribers. Some give a special rate of \$US50 for a two-year subscription for Australia. For those having our previous list of SIG's please note that some have changed their addresses or fees.

AVOTAYNU is the International Quarterly of Jewish Genealogy and the world leader in Jewish genealogical journals. Reading it is absolutely essential for the serious Jewish genealogist. Cost by airmail \$US40 for one year, \$US77 for two years, \$US106 for three years. Back issues for \$US12 each. World leader on all matters of Eastern European genealogy. All our branches have subscriptions. AVOTAYNU also publishes many essential books on Jewish genealogy. In English. AVOTAYNU Inc., P.O. Box 900, TEANECK, NJ 07666, USA. Tel: (201) 387-7200 Fax: (201) 387-2855. Email: info@avotaynu.com

Web site: <http://www.avotaynu.com>

STAMMBAUM is the English language newsletter of German-Jewish genealogical research. It is now distributed through the Leo Baeck Institute in New York by Karen Franklin. Costs are \$US28 for one year and \$US50 for a two-year subscription to STAMMBAUM, Leo BAECK Institute, 129 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021, USA.

Email: frank@lbi.com

REVUE DU CERCLE DE GENEALOGIE JUIVE is the French language quarterly of the French JGS which specialises in research on France particularly Alsace, the Comtat Venaissin and other areas where French Jewry was established for over six hundred years. There are two rates, one for subscription to the journal only, the other which includes membership and entitles one to free FAMILY FINDER column questions often answered by other readers. This membership plus journal is FR Frs 295 for Australia per year. New address: Cercle de Genealogie Juive, 14 rue St Lazare, 75009 Paris, FRANCE.

Two new groups have sprung up in France.

GENAMI, Association of International Jewish Genealogy which publishes the quarterly GenAmi journal in French. Membership for non-French members is FRFR 95, without membership which entail certain privileges, the journal subscription if FRFR 115, + FRFR 15 for bank fee. This should be added to foreign membership, too. Address is Micheline Gutmann, 76 rue de Passy, 75016 Paris, France. GenAmi also publish items on Belgium, including nineteenth century citizenship lists.

LAURENCE ABENSUR-HAZAN, organising chairman of the 1997 Paris Seminar on Jewish Genealogy and Dr PHILIPPE ABENSUR, the immediate past president of Cercle de Genealogie Juive, have split off from that organisation in late 1997 or early 1998 and formed a new JGS with special emphasis on Sephardi genealogy. No name is known for the group, and no publication has been received in Australia but Laurence is specialising in research on Turkish, Greek and Middle Eastern Jewish roots. Write to

Laurence Abensur-Hazan, 77 Boulevard Richard-Lenoir, 75011 Paris France.
Fax (33) 1 43 55 4979. Email: laurphil@wandoo.fr.

LA LETTRE SEPHARADE published quarterly by Jean Carasso, GORDES, 84220, France, is a non-genealogical journal specialising in Sephardi history, books, accounts of journeys to places of particular Sephardi interest, music, gastronomy, happenings, and at least one page of text in Judeo-Espagnol, also know as Ladino. It is free on request to Jean Carasso. Most of the text is in French.

MAAJAN, DIE QUELLE, quarterly journal of the Swiss JGS, in German. Specialises in Swiss, Bavarian and also Alsatian Jewish genealogy. Costs Swiss Frs 60 per annum, to be paid by bank draft to SVJG, 8021 ZURICH, PC Konto 80-39475-5, or to René Loeb, POSTFACH 876, ch-8021, SWITZERLAND. Since September 1996

MAAJAN, DIE QUELLE has also become the organ of the HAMBURG JGS, jointly with the Swiss JGS.

MISJPOGE, quarterly of Dutch Jewish Genealogical Society, in Dutch,. \$US40, Write to Buurweg 24, 2203 CL Noordwijk, Holland.

ROM-SIG News is the journal of Romanian Jewish genealogical research. Cost \$US25. C/- Rae Barent, 4257 Saline Street, Pittsburg PA 15217, USA

MAGYAR SZIDO is the journal of Hungarian Jewish genealogical research on all areas which were once part of Hungary, including eastern Slovakia and Transylvania. Cost \$US10 from H-Sig, POB 34152 Cleveland, OH 44134, USA. Tel: 1-216-661-3970 Fax: 1-216- 291-0824. Email: imagyar@en.com

LANDSMEN, journal of the Suwalki-Lomza interest group for north-east Poland and south-west Lithuania, comes as a quarterly, or in two double issues annually. Many translations of Birth, Marriage and Death records indexes for some towns and villages. Cost \$28 per annum. Suwalki-Lomza Interest Group, Box 228, 3701 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA. English language.

The **LITVAK SIG** for central and northern Lithuania, started around 1995. It now functions through JewishGen at <http://www.jewishgen.org>

LATVIA SIG publishes "A Journal of Jewish Genealogy in Latvia", though "on Latvia" might be more accurate. Cost \$US30 per year.

Web site: <http://www.jewishgen.org/latvia>.
Email: werle@pacificnet.net.

The **SOUTH AFRICAN JGS** publishes YICHUS, a quarterly. Write to Ivan Elion, P.O. Box 1388 Parklands, 2121, South Africa. Tel Ivan Elion (011) 442 7048; Hannah Karpes (011) 640 6773.

Now also **THE JEWISH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF CAPETOWN**, Paul Cheifitz, PO Box 51985, Waterfront, 8002, South Africa. Tel: (021)434 4825 (021) 423 0223. Email: jewfamct@global.co.za

GESHER GALICIA is a SIG reuniting this area now covering south western Ukraine and south eastern Poland, from Brody to Cracow and Lwow/Lvov/Lviv/Lemberg to the Carpathian mountains. Publishes a quarterly journal "The Galizianer" and an important family finder indexed by surname and by town every year. Cost \$US27. Send to Shelley K. Pollero, 549 Cypress Lane, Severna Park, MD 21146, USA.

KIELCE AND RADOM SIG publishes its journal, full of extracts of BMD records, Polish-English translations of occupations, etc. A most worthwhile investment for those whose ancestry is from these two provinces of Poland. Cost is \$US32 for sea-mail delivery per annum, or \$38 for airmail delivery to Australia per annum. Send to Gene Starn, Coordinator, P.O. Box 520583, Longwood, FL 32752, USA. Tel 1-407-788-3898. Email: genes@iag.net.

FEDERATION OF EAST EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES is not a Jewish SIG, but a general one, which includes some Jewish information. Cost unknown. Have seen citations of journal, but not journal itself. Write to John C. Alleman, 377 N220 W, Salt Lake City, Utah 84103, USA. Web site: <http://www.feefhs.org>

SHARSHERET HADOROT is the journal of the Israel Genealogical Society. Tri-annually in Hebrew and English. Cost \$US40. Write to Israel Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 4270, Jerusalem 91041, ISRAEL and payments may be made with international credit cards Access, Mastercard, Visa or Diners Club. Previous publications can be bought for through librarian Reuven Naftali at Tel: 972-4-8345-468. Also publishes booklets and books. There are now also branch of the Israel Genealogical Society in Tel Aviv and Beer Sheva. See JewishGen for details.

SLUTSK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, concentrates on this one Byelorussian town. Cost not known. Write to Harry Boonin, 112 Pocasset Road, Philadelphia PA 19115 USA or Margot Tutun, 19 Tyler Road, LEXINGTON, MA 02173, USA. In English.

CZECH and SLOVAKIAN SIG. Not known if this has started publishing yet. Write to. Louis Schonfeld, 23995 Wendover Drive, Cleveland, OH 44122, USA. MOGILEV SIG devoted to this town in Byelorussia. Cost unknown. Write to Jerry Gilstrop, 2104 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21231, USA.

SVISHLOSH/SWISLOSH devoted to another town presumably the one in Belarus though there are two of them. Write to Mark Melnicove, 385 Cedar Grove Road, DRESDEN, ME 04342 USA to establish which Svishlosh is meant. Tel: 1-207-737-8116 Fax: 1-207-582-8227.

SHEMOT, journal of JGS of Great Britain is very informative and costs £ 20 in U.K. cheque or in sterling bankdraft. Write to JGS of Great Britain, PO Box 13288, LONDON N3 3WD, ENGLAND. Web site: <http://www.feefhs.org>

DOROT, journal of New York JGS is also full of interesting information. Cost not known but includes membership of JGS. Write to Alex Friedlander P.O. Box 6398, New York NY 10128 USA.

TOLDOT quarterly of the SOCIEDAD ARGENTINA DE GENEALOGIA JUDIA (Bulletin of the Argentinian JGS) published in Spanish. Annual subscription is \$US20, Australian rate not quoted; \$US5 for a single copy. Address: Paul Armony, Juana Azurduy 2223, Piso 8 (1429), Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tel: 54-1-701-0730. Email: armony@satlink.com.

IZMIR/SMYRNA Dov Cohen, Nof Ayalon, 306 POB 11, Doar Na Shimshon 99784, ISRAEL. Fax: 972-8-979-0256. Email: dcohen@gezernet.co.il is a specialist historian of Sephardim and of Sephardi genealogy in this town in Turkey, as demonstrated in his article in the above Boletin. Has many details on families Benmayor, Benveniste, Benjakar, Caro, Eskenazi, Farhi, Naon, to cite a few.

PIOTRKOW TRYBUNALSKI, The Voice of Piotrkow Survivors, Ben Giladi, 135-30 82nd Avenue, Kew Gardens, NY 11435, USA. This is not strictly a genealogical

newsletter but has much genealogical information. Our late member Sir Asher Joel, himself a descendant of Piotrkow Trybunalski Jews, sent us his copies after he had read them.

NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY INC., 23 Olive Street, Great Neck, NY 11020, USA is a still extant New York landsmannschaft. Not known if they publish a newsletter, but their address may be worth knowing. SEPHARD SIG can be accessed on Internet through the JewishGen Infocfiles on <http://www.jewishgen.org> or by email to sefard5@mail.jewishgen.org.

GRODNO GENEALOGY GROUP, Inc. for former Russian, now Belarus, Grodno Gubernia. Membership is \$US20 for calendar year 1999. See JewishGen for details but membership includes a semi-annual bulletin. Write to Grodno Genealogy Group, Inc. , P.O. Box 19007, Portland, Oregon. 97280.

The Brazilian Jewish Genealogical Society, **SOCIEDADE GENEALOGICA DE BRASIL**, Caixa Postal 1025, 13001-970 Campin Sp, Brazil. Tel: (5511) 881-9365. Email: faiguen@ibm.net. We used to receive their newsletter, but have not received it for a while. In Portuguese. Cost not known.

WHAT'S NEW? WHAT'S COMING?

Several new SIGs (special interest groups) were formed at the 18th Annual Seminar for Jewish Genealogy in Los Angeles July, 1998.

Belarus SIG led by David M. Fox, fax@erols.com will focus on Minsk, Mogilev and Vitebsk. (A fourth Belarus gubernia, Grodno already has its own SIG, formed in 1995) The Belarus SIG has a web page on JewishGen and has a discussion group, searchable databases, and an on-line newsletter.

Volhynia SIG Held an organizational meeting under the leadership of Marilyn Natchez

mnrnatchez@aol.com. The SIG plans to create an on-line newsletter and may publish a print journal in the future. This is a separate venture from the Volhynia Discussion Group currently housed on JewishGen.

Latin America SIG, "LatamSig" is ready to launch a mailing list, hosted by JewishGen free of charge. Contact Rob Weisskirch at rweisskirch@fulleton.edu or Carol Skydell at skydell@vineyard.net for more information.

Bohemian/Moravian SIG was started by a small group of researchers interested in th former Czechoslovakia. At the moment, members will be linked through e-mail. For more information and to join the SIG, contact Susan Boyer at vitdoc@aol.com or Anne Feder Lee at 103004.2157@compuserve.com

To join these SIG mailing groups on-line, go to the JewishGen homepage, <http://www.jewishgen.org>. In the Discussion Group category, click on "Special Interest Groups". Check off the SIG you are interested in, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "I want to Subscribe To A Mailing List". Follow the directions to submit your request.

From "Lineage" Summer/Fall 1998

Any of the above, though not all, are received by the AJGS through an exchange of journals with other JGS or through subscription in the case of SIGs, and can be viewed at our regular Sunday morning workshops.

Others are subscribed to by members of the committee for themselves, and may be made available at some workshops through prior arrangements, e.g. the French Journal or Gesher Galicia.

In any case it is always worthwhile for members to come to workshops and to read through journals as each one covers a variety of genealogical information.

Polish Provinces to Change

Vol 6 No
1



Just when you thought you knew where you came from, Poland has changed the names of its provinces!

On July 18, the Sejm - the lower house of the Polish parliament - approved legislation dividing Poland into 16 new provinces, to replace the current 49. The measure, part of a package of reforms aimed at doing away with the communist era administration and shifting power to local governments, took effect on January 1, 1999.

The change involves a redrawing of borders, not just consolidation of multiple provinces to create larger ones. As a result, parts of many old provinces are now in several different new provinces. The new provinces and their capitals, currently capitals of provinces with the same name, are shown below. Cities which will no longer be provincial capitals are: Bielsko Biala, Biala Podlaska, Chelm, Ciechanow, Czestochowa, Elblag, Jelenia Gora, Kalisz, Konin, Koszalin, Krosno, Leszno, Legnica, Lomza, Nowy Sacz, Ostroleka, Pila, Plock, Przemysl, Piotrkow Trybunalski, Radom, Siedlce, Sieradz, Skierniewice, Slupsk, Suwalki, Tarnow, Tarnobrzeg, Walbrzych, Wloclawek and Zamosc.

	Province	Alternate Name	Capital(s)
DS	Dolnoslaskie	Lower Silesia	Wroclaw
KP	Kujawo-Pomorskie	Kujawy	Bydgoszcz
		Pomorze	Torun
LB	Lubuskie	Lubusz	Gorzow
			Zielona Gora
LD	Lodzkie	Lodz	Lodz
LU	Lubelskie	Lublin	Lublin
MA	Mazowieckie	Mazovia	Warsawa
MP	Malopolskie	Little Poland	Krakow
OP	Opolskie	Opole	Opole
PD	Podlaskie	Podlasie	Bialystok
PK	Podkarpackie	Sub-Carpathia	Rzeszow
PM	Pomorskie	Pomerania	Gdansk
SL	Slaskie	Silesia	Katowice


SW	Swietokrzyskie	Holy Cross Mtn	Kielce
WM	Warminsko-Mazurskie	Warmia-Mazury	Olsztyn
WP	Wielkopolskie	Great Poland	Poznan
ZP	Zachodnio-Pomorskie	Western-Pomerania	Szczecin

The reform is also restoring powiaty, county-like provincial subdivisions abolished in 1975. Like those of the new provinces, borders of the more than 300 powiaty have been redrawn from scratch.


.Implications of this reorganization for the structure of the Polish regional archives system, for Family History Library cataloguing, and even for the names of some of our Jewish genealogical special interest groups are not yet known. One certainty is that all of us with roots in what is now Poland will need to do some geography homework in the next few months!

We thank the Polish Genealogical Society of America whose Summer 1998 Bulletin mentioned these changes, and also the Long Island, NY USA Jewish Genealogical Society. For more information on Poland's new provinces see <http://hum.amu.edu.pl/~zbzw/ph/pro/plpro.html>

From "LINEAGE", Long Island JGS Summer/Fall 1998

Forebears		Vol 6 No 1		
00070 AVA ATZRAM, 1637 Borbeck Street, 2nd floor, PHILADELPHIA, PA19111, USA. Ladyzram@aol.com. Seeks any connection to ABRAHAM GOREWITZ son of ISRAEL and CHAIKA GUREVITCH/HUREVITCH born in KIRIVOGRAD/KIROVO, UKRAINE. Israel was a cattle dealer who died in Elisavetgrad. Chaika was born circa 1874 and died in Ukraine in 1937. Children Zelda Koszokoff, Yonkel, Gittle, Laika, Zelman, Moishe/ Misha, Fanny, Lizzie, Lovla born between 1895 and 1919 being sought, or their descendants.				

00071 The French Holocaust Survivors Association (FFDJF) notifies that more and more French localities from which Jews were deported are erecting memorial monuments or plaques and staging reunions for family survivors or descendants. Inquiries to BERTHE BURKO-FALCMAN, tel (33)1 4280 3804; fax (33) 1 4453 6216.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 6 No 2		
Before we realise it, we are halfway through the year and into winter. Our AGM in March, after our previous issue went to press, resulted in the re-election of the previous office-bearers with two new committee members, Bernie Freedman and Kim Phillips. Both are expert genealogists of their own families, as well as being very competent with computers.				

Bernie is looking at the indexing of family trees which have been deposited with our

Society and with the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Sydney. When these indices are complete, genealogists coming to our workshops will be able to consult them. Kim is involved with a project which will make it much easier to access our resources. As you can see, there are still challenging tasks available for anyone willing to contribute their time and skills to our Society. All you need to do is to volunteer. We will welcome you with open arms, and you do not necessarily need to be a computer expert like Kim or Bernie. Barbara Dickens, one of our Canberra members, has just prepared for us a subject, author and name index of all the Kosher Koala articles published in 1995 in Volume 2.

Diane Armstrong, speaker at our AGM and member of the Society, spoke so well and movingly about some aspects of the story she told in her book MOSAIC, A Chronicle of Five Generations that there was scarcely a dry eye in the audience when she finished. Those who missed the AGM really missed a superb talk, as well as the various reports on our activities in the past year. My president's report is reproduced inside this journal.

Our recent speaker, Alan Davies, curator of photographs at the State Library of N.S.W, was also superb in a different mode. He instructed and amused us with his fund of knowledge about photography and how to distinguish different periods from its origins to the present day and his hints for preserving family photographs. He advocates taking black and white photographs at important occasions, as these are likely to outlast colour ones, and Kodachrome for preference if you must have these are likely to outlast colour ones, and Kodachrome for preference if you must have colour, and with cardboard corners and not with hold-down sticky plastic sheets, or one should keep photos in plastic oven bags. A thoroughly enjoyable and instructive evening.

Rose Lerer Cohen and Saul Isroff have started an urgent project to create a comprehensive list of names of Lithuanian Shoah victims, which seem to have been omitted previously. This has been publicised both through Avotaynu and through Sharsheret Hadorot, but since there are so many descendants of Lithuanian Jews, especially former South Africans, in Australia, we are also publicising this project. Write directly to Lithuanian Names Project, P.O. Box 11456, Jerusalem 91114, or email@roseron shani.net or saul@swico.demon.co.uk

Similarly Yad Vashem is making a drive to record the names and other personal details of the three million Shoah victims from all European countries which were occupied by the Nazis and who have not yet been recorded. A Yad Vashem Page of a Testimony form has been included with your Kosher Koala. Additional forms can be obtained from Sophie Caplan on mail request to our P.O. Box 154, Northbridge, 1595, NSW or can be downloaded from the Yad Vashem website on www.yadvashem.org.il/pot

Melbournians can obtain Pages of Testimony forms directly from the Jewish Holocaust Centre at 13 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick, 3185.

Yad Vashem is presently computerising all the information on Pages of Testimony already submitted and this will be an invaluable source of information for genealogists.

A few of our members from both Sydney and Melbourne will be attending the 19th Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in New York from 8 to 13 August, 1999. Anyone interested in attending but who had not registered yet can obtain information from our Society or from the Internet.

In May 2000 there will be an International Conference on Genealogy and Heraldry, general, not specifically Jewish, in Besançon, France. Anyone interested in attending please contact us.

All the best to all of you.

Jewish History and Genealogy in Switzerland	Rene Loeb	Vol 6 No 2	
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Lecture given in Adelaide, South Australia and Sydney, NSW Australia in October and November, 1998.

It is more than just a stone's throw between Switzerland and where I am now standing before you, and it is thus with great pleasure that I received your kind invitation to come and give this lecture allowing me to tell you something about research on Jewish family history in Switzerland.

Firstly I want to give you some information about this small country in the middle of Europe. Switzerland is surrounded by three large neighbours, Germany to the north, France to the west, Italy to the south and Austria and small Liechtenstein to the east. Switzerland, this small country in the heart of Europe, has an area of 41,293 square kilometres, a third of this being mountains, lakes and rivers, and thus uninhabitable. It has a population of somewhat more than seven million. There are four official languages in Switzerland: about 70% speak German, (or rather one of the several Swiss German dialects), about 25% have French as their mother tongue, about 4.5% Italian, and about 0.5% speak Romansch. Of the seven million inhabitants approximately 1.2 million or 17% are foreigners, for example Italians, Germans, Austrians, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Yugoslavs, Albanians, Turks, Greeks, Tamils and Africans. Of course this list is not complete, even some Australians live here, but the largest percentages come from the above-named countries. Switzerland is divided into 26 different cantons, and each has its own cantonal government. The number of members in the government varies, being dependent on the geographical size of the canton.

In Switzerland there are about 18,000 people of Jewish faith - this is about 0.25% (one quarter percent) of the population. About one-third of these live in or near the city of Zurich. There are four congregations plus six minyanim in the city of Zurich. Other congregations are to be found in Basel, Bern, St Gallen, Lucerne, Biel, Baden, Fribourg, Lausanne, Geneva and Lugano. Some of these are not members of the Association of Swiss Israelite Communities, which is the national roof organisation of Jews in Switzerland.

There is proof that even several centuries ago there were Jews who had settled in territory which now belongs to Switzerland. For example, in Basel, the first Jews

arrived with the Romans in the third and fourth centuries. Its first community, the earliest in the area that became Switzerland, was probably established early in the thirtieth century when Basel was still a German free city. During that century, Jews were sufficiently prosperous to be the chief financiers of the first bridge anywhere over the Rhine. But their community also ended in the Rhine, on a small island long since washed away by the river's current. On 16 January 1349, a half year before the Black Death reached Basel, the city's government spurred by the anti-Jewish guilds, decided to burn all 600-plus Jews as a prophylactic measure.

Jews were permitted entry again to help rebuild after an earthquake in 1362. A new community prospered until 1397, when rumours that they were poisoning wells scared them into flight once more. In 1434, a church edict requiring attendance at conversionist sermons precluded the re-establishment of Basel's Jewish community. But this did not mean the absence of Jews and their influence. In the sixteenth century, when Basel became a centre of humanism, Christian owners of paper mills and printing presses obtained residence permits for Jews who could proofread Hebrew texts. During this period, the presses printed a Hebrew Bible, a version of the Talmud, the Psalms and works by Hebrew teachers at Basel's university.

With the French Revolution, the seeds of the community's restoration were sown, as Basel granted Jews temporary residence. In 1797, at the French government's urging, Basel exempted French Jews from the "body tax". The departure tax for an adult male Jew was the same as for a cartload of coal. Today Basel, with Bern and Fribourg, are the three Swiss cantons to consider Judaism an official religion.

Generally, at the beginning of the 15th century, nearly all Jews were driven out of this area. The exceptions were those who were doctors and thus urgently needed. Not until the 17th century was there again - but only gradually - an increase in the Jewish population. To make a long story short, the Jewish settlements were finally restricted to the two villages of Endingen and Lengnau. Both of these villages are in the Canton of Aargau, northern Switzerland, between Zurich and Basel and near the Rhine River. Today, the two synagogues, each over 150 years old and each under the protection of the federal agency for the preservation of historical buildings, dominate the centres of their respective villages. Just about half-way between these two villages is one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in Europe, which is still being used today. In 1993 two volumes were published on this cemetery, and in 1998, two additional volumes were published describing the graves and specific details about those who are buried there.

Many of the Jews living in Lengnau and Endingen came from Alsace, from nearby areas in southern Germany, and from the Hohenems regions of Austria. It was not long before - even back then - the rabbis had to keep records of births, marriages, and deaths. Since in all the ensuing years Switzerland was mostly spared the ravages of war, all of these records dating from about 1720 AD are complete and available for genealogical tracing. Unfortunately, earlier records were destroyed in a fire.

Not until 1866 with the article in the Swiss constitution guaranteeing equality for all, did the Jews receive the right to settle anywhere they wished in all of Switzerland. Before that, this was only possible for Jews of French nationality, since France had

put a good deal of pressure on Switzerland to grant all its citizens the same rights in Helvetia that they enjoyed in France. Another exception was on the borders of Geneva, namely the area of the city we know today as the Quartier Carouge. In 1780 this area still belonged to Savoy-Sardinia and accepted Jews. In 1792 Carouge became a part of France. The Jews from Carouge were allowed to trade in Geneva, but they were not allowed to settle there.

After 1866, many Jews moved into cities and Jewish communities were founded, synagogues built, and bit by bit organisational structures as we know them today in the Jewish world were established. At the same time as this move into cities, more Jews came to Switzerland - from neighbouring Alsace, Germany and Austria. With the pogroms in Eastern Europe at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, more and more Jews who were passing through Switzerland on their way to America remained there instead of continuing across the Atlantic as they had originally intended.

All this means that there is a wide spectrum for the tracing of Jewish family histories in Switzerland. Of course, there have always been Swiss Jews who have been interested in their family tree, but they were always individuals struggling on their own. Even when in 1920 the first world-wide association for Jewish genealogical research was founded, there was no positive impact from this in Switzerland. After the Second World War Dr. Florence Guggenheim-Grünberg did intensive research on the history of Jews in Switzerland and, in connection with this, she also became involved in studying their genealogies. She described the origin of the Yiddish dialect of the Surbial region - this is the valley where the two Jewish villages Lengnau and Endingen (which I mentioned earlier) are located - as well as many other things which are important for the history of Jews in Switzerland.

Basel, again was the home of Ludwig David Kahn, whose ancestors came from Sulzburg/Baden Germany. He devoted much of his time to genealogical research and published the results of his studies as books. As his own publisher, he produced "The Loevinger Family of Laupheim - Pioneers in South Dakota" - in 1967, - "Die Nachkommen des Simon Guggenheim (1730-1799) von Endingen" (The Descendants of Simon Guggenheim (1730-1799) from Endingen") and also "Die Geschichte der Juden von Sulzburg" ("The History of the Jews from Salzburg") in 1969. His last work was published in 1971: "Die Nachkommen des Nathan Günzburger (1720-1775) aus Uffheim im Elsass" ("The descendants of Nathan Gunzburger (1720-1775) from Uffheim in Alsace). Except for the one book about the Loevinger family, these books are all written in German. The English titles I just gave you are simply my translation for; the purposes of this article.

I was fortunate to have my grandfather on my father's side write down the history of his family and his wife's family individually for his six grandchildren. This was after his retirement. He had been chazan, teacher and schochet at the Israelite congregation in Basel. He wrote by hand, in precise, very legible handwriting, from memory but without giving any dates. Having always been very interested in history, I found myself being drawn again and again to this personal written document. Not knowing any better, I had assumed that due to the wars in Alsace in 1871-2, 1914-18 and 1939-1945 there were no longer any official records existing which would permit me to check the information from my grandfather, in order to supplement it with more

specific details. While my wife and I were travelling around a bit in Alsace in 1980, we came to Reichshoffen in lower Alsace. This was the place from where, according to my grandfather, our ancestors came. So I took courage and went to the town hall, said I was trying to track down my ancestral history and would like to know whether there were any old records there. The man was very nice and asked me without hesitating a second which year I would like to start with. I was so taken aback by this unexpected though most welcome response that I was nearly speechless and could only stammer something like, "I would like to have a look at the records beginning back at 1800". The man then led us to into an unoccupied room, showed us where we could sit down, said he would be right back, and then he disappeared. In just a few minutes he was back with a whole stack of large, old, bound books, put them down in front of me, and wished me much success in my search for my ancestors. Although I actually was not successful and had to leave the town hall rather disappointed, the very difficulty with which I was confronted led to the genealogy "Virus" breaking out in me - and I'm still infected with it today!! So I worked for several years on various family trees of my family before finally reading quite by chance in 1984, that in Paris some people had joined together in the Cercle de Généalogie Juive of France.

I was the 36th member of this small group, and I hoped for contacts that would help me to find out more about my Alsatian origins. In 1985 I wrote to the two Jewish newspapers in Switzerland and asked them to publish an announcement - the purpose being to get to know other people in Switzerland who were interested in Jewish genealogy. As a result, in the spring of 1986 the Swiss Society of Jewish Genealogy was officially founded.

From the nine founding members it has now grown to a membership of over sixty. Our quarterly journal "MAAJAN - Die Quelle" ("MAAJAN - The Source") has now appeared fifty times. This is the only journal for Jewish genealogy which is published in German. It is related to the pre-war tradition represented by Dr. Czelitzer in Germany prior to 1938.

Our activities so far have included excursions, also to neighbouring areas across the Swiss border, lectures, workshops for beginners, films, exhibitions about Jewish family histories, and arrangements for a monthly meeting for the exchange of ideas. We also have a small library and small archives-both of which however are not yet open - to help round out the research help for our members. A big handicap, however, is that we still do not have a place of our own, since we do not have enough finances to rent space, and so far we have not found a sponsor.

I have headed this society for twelve years, and I have been looking for a long time for someone to take over for me, but so far, unfortunately, without success. One of our members recently said to me: "One can first say that a presidency is successful when a competent successor has been found" Hopefully, I can also soon say this for my own case!

René Loeb is the President and Founder of the Swiss Jewish Genealogical Society.

Our April meeting was a chance to catch up on research material. As well as our branch resources, we enjoyed the hospitality of Hilde Hines and the benefit of browsing through her personal collection of genealogy books including a new book on the Jews of Germany, and a stack of the journals Avotaynu and Stammbaum. We had a stimulating discussion on research use of genealogy resources on the Internet. We will be continuing the research at our next meeting.

We report with great sadness that Joe Bolaffi our foundation member and the first receipt holder in our membership book, passed away suddenly on 18 March 1999. He was a true gentleman and will be greatly missed by all who had the enjoyment of knowing him. Jewish communal activity filled his life. Since arriving from Egypt four decades ago, he had been a treasurer or auditor for virtually every major Jewish organisation in South Australia. He strongly supported fund-raising for Israel and Jewish causes.

Apart from the BOLAFFI family (a name which derived from Arabic words meaning 'father of health'), he was particularly interested in his maternal ancestry in the Ambar family and was helping to add all the Bolaffi family branches to the family tree of the descendants of Reuben AMBAR being compiled by a cousin working at Beth Hatefutsot (Museum of the Diaspora) in Tel Aviv.

How fortunate we were to have heard his story, and to know that he recorded it on tape for his descendants; a long life well-lived with many friends and relatives. Joe Bolaffi is survived by his wife Yvette, married children Allen, Richard, and Monique, and grandchildren.

The South Australian Branch can be contacted by post:
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Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutsch	Vol 6 No 2	
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The first of a series of Jewish genealogical workshops will be held on Sunday 23 May 1999 from 1.30-3.30pm in the library of the National Jewish Memorial Centre, corner of National Circuit and Canberra Ave., Forrest. If there is enough interest other workshops will be offered during the year, on 11 July, 5 September and 7 November 1999. This will be an opportunity to use the growing AJGS resources - books, journals, pamphlets, etc - held in Canberra, largely through the generosity of AJGS president Sophie Caplan and the AJGS in Sydney. The workshops are being organised in conjunction with the Australian Jewish Historical Society (Canberra).

Local AJGS member Judith Wimborne had kindly offered fellow members access to some of her own books on Australian Jewish History.

AJGS members are always welcome at AJHS (ACT) meetings. The next AJHS meeting is a genealogy evening on Wednesday 16 June 1999 at 8.00 p.m. in the library of the National Jewish Memorial Centre. Guest speaker is Steve Hart, great-

grandson of Henry Hart who built the Royal Hotel Yass, on "The Story of the Royal". Steve is also a genealogist who has built up a sizeable database on the Hart family.

Many thanks to Lionel Sharpe and the Victorian branch of the AJGS for copies of their first two newsletters for our holdings. Jewish genealogy newsletters from several USA groups continue to be received. A copy of Finding Families: The Guide to National Archives of Australia for Genealogists (1998) has been donated to the AJGS in Sydney.

Enquiries can be directed to
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Email: deutand@ozemail.com.au.

News from Western Australia	Michelle Urban	Vol 6 No 2	
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As reported in the last newsletter, our last meeting was a great success with more than twenty people attending. Louise Hoffman spoke on early Western Australian Jewry and was very well received. Her knowledge of early Perth Jewish History made for many questions. Memories of family stories abounded and set the stage for an interesting discussion after her talk.

Several of the attendees have contacted us to tell of their successes in searching for their ancestral families overseas and this is very exciting.

Michelle Urban was thanked for hosting the meetings and encouraging support of the group.

Our next meeting will be held at a different venue and on a different date to the one mentioned previously. It will be held at the Perth Synagogue in Freedman Street, Mt. Lawley, and will start at 1.30 p.m. on Sunday, 4 July, 1999. Our guest speaker will be Dr Ossie Tofler who will talk on the subject of "Jewish Families in Western Australia". Dr Tofler is a practicing cardiologist, but has had an interest in local Jewish history and began collecting data on Jewish families in Perth in 1968.

Our next meeting after this will be held on Sunday 29 August with Martin Levit and the topic is "From South Africa to Perth - A Jewish View", and the next meeting after that will be Sunday 7 November "How to Use the Internet and What Information is available on Microfiche".

Enquiries can be directed to
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urban@wantree.com.au

Genealogy - The Great Paper Chase	Kim Phillips	Vol 6 No 2	
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Ten or so years ago I began the hunt to discover my family history. I started, as most of us do, with my parents and worked backwards and outwards. Along the way I gathered documents, photos, memorabilia, certificates and some taped interviews.

Also I met "cousins" I'd never known before and we swapped information and promised to keep each other up to date with our "finds".

Now I have many, many "cousins" and a vast amount of documentation that is continually growing. Deciding on a system to keep it all sorted and "findable" wasn't easy, but, with time, I became reasonably organised. I use a computer to store all my dates and details. Using software that has a GEDCOM facility allows me to share my computer data with my cousins. But how to share everything else?

It was important to me that my immediate family had access to everything I found. So I started sending them photocopies, then colour copies of photos and copies of tapes. But this became very awkward.

Finally, I found a system that allowed me to share everything. I equipped myself with a good quality scanner and a CD writer, and began scanning everything. I then set up a web page and made an index of all the documents/photos/tapes etc. A photo of a family group could then be indexed under the name of each person in the group. A simple "click" on Auntie Miriam in 1923 brings you to that photo. Using this system I included such things as newspaper birth, death and marriage listings, maps of cemeteries with known graves marked, photos of headstones, all certificates and documentation, family photos.

I also included all my family details by using a process that converts a GEDCOM file to an HTML file (the files that a web page uses). This meant that all my computer family files would appear as family groups (mother, father and children). All relationships are there, so a "click" on a person takes you to their parents, children, siblings, wherever you want to go.

I then transferred all this information to a CD. The files can be viewed as a web page, using either Netscape or MS Explorer.

There are many benefits to this system:

- I can share all my data with my family and "cousins". They can print copies of any of the certificates or documents that they want, or they can pop into their nearest film developer and have coloured copies of photos printed directly from the CD.
- It doesn't matter whether you use a PC or a Mac, the CD is viewable on either system.
- You are using the digital resolution of your computer monitor to view the documents.
- CDs last a lot longer than a photocopy, and take up a lot less room.
- If I ever did lose my original documents, I have a backup (I keep an additional CD somewhere other than at home).
- I can send my CDs anywhere in the world and I can fit a lot more information on them (650MB) than I could on a normal web page (5MB).
- You don't need a modem, or to be connected to the internet to run the CD (you view it off line).
- If my "cousins" don't have a computer, they can use the facilities at a local library.

- I can produce a copy of everything on CD as I need to.
- I finally managed to be organised!

Because this system worked so well for me, I've decided to make it available to others as well. I'll scan 50 of your documents, set up an index, include your GEDCOM files and produce a CD - all for \$80. Additional documents are \$1 each. I'm trading as WEBTAMER, so look for my ad in this issue of Kosher Koala.

Kim Phillips has been a member of our Society in Sydney for many years and is now on our committee. We have previously published her article on her Tolano family written together with Margot Salom.

**President's Report of the
AGM of the AJGS 1999**

**Sophie
Caplan**

**Vol 6 No
2**



Welcome members, committee members, and friends to the seventh Annual General Meeting of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, and, particularly to our member and successful author, Diane Armstrong, who is our guest speaker tonight.

This meeting concludes another successful year for the Society with a total of 178 members in December, 1998 after the earlier separation from the now independent Australian Jewish Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc with its then 70 members who had previously been integrated with us. Our very friendly relationship never-the-less continues, with the Melbourne group's regular contributions to our journal, the Kosher Koala, and their members receiving it, although it is now bulk-posted to Melbourne and distributed from there.

We cannot tell you today's membership figures, as some members renew late. Some try membership, and then lose interest. We have slow but continuous growth, which is necessary for the acquisition of ever more of the stream of new Jewish genealogical books, CD-ROMs, and other items which become available and benefit our members. Your membership dollars are not wasted and many committee members who give of their time and their skills, also benefit the Society by paying for stamps, telephone calls, faxes and other items in serving our members.

In recent months we have also had the sadness of losing members who pass away, notably our great Sir Asher Joel, a great supporter even though he never came to meetings, and Suzie Gold. Please stand for a minute's silent contemplation in their memory.

We have continued our usual activities of a Sunday morning workshop once a month, except in January when we are in recess. Our library is also opened occasionally at other times like the recent Sydney visit of our Perth representative, when Rieke, our Resources Librarian, gives up her time to oblige such visitors.

We have also held a number of evening meetings with guest speakers, notably the leading Australian genealogist Nick Vine Hall, Peter Landé, the expert on Holocaust victims and survivors at the USA Holocaust Museum in Washington. DC, René Loeb, the president of the Swiss Jewish Genealogical Society, and our own former member from Melbourne, Kurt Lippman, who originally joined us, but who is now part

of the Victorian Society. We would gladly hold more such evening meetings, but there is a local dearth of available interesting speakers on topics connected to Jewish genealogy. Thanks to our overseas connections we are informed of projected trips to Australia by leading Jewish genealogists and we try to induce them to speak to us, not only in Sydney, but if possible also to our groups or branches in other cities.

Unfortunately we are not financially able to attract visitors by paying part of their fares, but we try to compensate them by offering hospitality in our homes, or by showing them around, or by taking them to good Sydney restaurants and offering each a worthwhile book on Australian Jewry.

In return I have in the last fifteen months visited, at my own expense, the groups in Melbourne (December 1997), Canberra (August 1998) and Adelaide (October 1998) and spoken to them of recent developments in Jewish genealogy. It has also been worthwhile to meet personally members from interstate and help them with some problems.

On the international level we are members in good standing of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, and since our inception we participate in a cash-free exchange of newsletters and journals, which also benefits our interstate branches and groups. Last year I was invited to be a member of a five person Awards committee in International Genealogy, the only non-American on the committee that year, and our Society's nomination of SHEMOT, newsletter of the British JGS in the newsletter section of the Awards, and of Susan King and JewishGen in another publication section, were successful. Although the Awards committee Chairman lives in Atlanta, another recent Olympic city, there were no free trips to view the exhibits and no gifts to committee members.

On the local level we belong to the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies on whose plenum we are represented by David Laufer. Our committee members individually also have connections to other Jewish organisations. Many of these organisations often refer genealogical inquiries to us which have been addressed to them. We believe that we are a crucial outreach organisation of the Australian Jewish community for the number of our members who are researching distant Jewish roots, our members who are Jewish but intermarried and not members of any other community body, and for the many Australians who approach us in the hope of finding a Jewish ancestral link. Indeed it is interesting to see our non-Jewish members attending work-shops more frequently than our Jewish members and making good use of the Reverend Katz library as well as of our collection.

On the national level we look after our interstate branches, our groups which are not branches, and the many individuals who are our members locally, in distant country towns, or the isolated people who are our members in such places as Katherine or Darwin in the Northern Territory, or small towns in northern Tasmania. Our branches are in Perth, Western Australia, ably led by Michelle Urban, in Adelaide led by Hilde Hines and by Dr Klee Benveniste. We have a group in Canberra led by Sylvia Deutsch, who does not want yet another hat to wear by forming a branch, but who runs the group as part of the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Canberra, with lectures devoted to genealogy and workshops to be started soon. In Brisbane we

have Morris Ochert, now helped by Carol Stirk, who valiantly tries to sustain Jewish genealogists in Queensland, which include a Catholic priest descended from a Jewish family.

Both Rieke Nash and I look after these various groups and individuals in our different ways, by trying to remember the names and places they are researching and keeping in touch. Nowadays the enormous growth of the Internet and e-mail and JewishGen has enabled even widely scattered Jewish genealogists to do long distance research at home from the various databases now available. But the less experienced, non-computerised, more isolated and less knowledgeable still need our help, sometimes with basic but real problems.

As a society we have also participated in two events in May 1998 in the Society of Australian Genealogists "Showcase" in premises in Kent Street; but only on the Friday of the two-day event, and in the Great Synagogue and Australian Jewish News "Chanukah in the Park" on 20th December 1998, where we shared a stall with a children's bookseller, Elana Traurig, and with the AJHS. At each we enrolled a few new members as well as gaining a larger profile.

Our committee this year has consisted of Rieke Nash as both Vice-President and Honorary Secretary, as well as Resources Librarian, and official e-mail receiver for the Society, a set of very onerous duties. We are grateful to Rieke for this enormous amount of work for our Society. Our Treasurer has again been Terry Newman who has continued to progress in his presentation of our monthly Treasurer's statement, thanks to our auditor Helena Rule's able guidance. David Laufer has kept our Minutes, and has developed an excellent format for these, while Phillip Baynash continues to be our Membership Chairman and keeps well-designed and up-to-date lists for the benefit of other honorary officers. Gary Luke had the initiative of developing our web-site and Internet presence, and continues to be our web-master. Nigel Meinrath is committee member without portfolio, but answers some letters of genealogical queries.

I have continued to be your president and also editor of the "Kosher Koala" which has continued to appear four times yearly. Although Rieke Nash has wanted to give up the page-setting and publishing of the "Kosher Koala", she has continued faithfully to help and support Miriam Shifreen, our new "Kosher Koala" page-setter and typist, and to gradually teach her the ropes. We hope that with Miriam Shifreen's planned acquisition of a new computer, and growing competence, we will be able to free Rieke from some of her duties.

We also want to thank Peter Nash, who supports us by helping Rieke with her activities and by his cartage work, known as "shlepping" for the Society at workshops and other events. Obviously a higher authority admires and approves his efforts, for he continues to be rewarded with heavenly luck in his research. Thank you also to my husband Leslie Caplan for letting me run up telephone, fax, and postal charges for my work for the Society.

We also want to thank Miriam Shifreen, Kim Phillips, Bernie Freedman and Selma Jackson who often help when required.

Our only complaint is that there is not building up in our Society a large group of members wanting to join the committee and show us of what they are capable. We really need some more volunteers to share the burdens, and it is sad that most of those one approaches for possible committee work are not keen to shoulder the load. We need you. Please join us. But we are lucky that both Kim Phillips and Bernie Freedman have agreed to join the Committee now.

Finally we would like to formally give a heartfelt thank you to the president and board of the North Shore Synagogue for their continued hospitality to us in the Reverend Katz Library and in this Wilson Hall. We greatly appreciate this and trust that you are aware that your help to us is contributing to Jewish continuity in this country and in this community.

New Books in our Library		Vol 6 No 2		
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The Society has purchased part V1 of the **Bevis Marks Records** which is the burial register (1733-1918) of the Novo (New) Cemetery of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation in London, transcribed by Miriam Rodrigues-Pereira, BA, honorary archivist of the congregation and by Chloe Loewe, Ph.D, assisted by Raphael Loewe and by David Nunes Vaz and published by the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation in London in 1997. This will be a boon to any genealogist whose ancestors were Sephardim in London. The names of the deceased, names of fathers, date of death in Hebrew calendar and from, 1784 also according to the secular Gregorian calendar, are indexed alphabetically and also row by row.

Sylvia Deutsch, chairman of our group in Canberra, has generously donated to us a copy of **FINDING FAMILIES, The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists** compiled by Margaret Chambers and published in 1998 by The National Archives of Australia in association with Hale and Iremonger in Sydney. This is a handsome, large format paperback of 330 pages which will be most useful.

Sophie Caplan is donating a copy of the **1999 ANNUAIRE DE RAPPROCHEMENT DES FAMILLES** (French JGS Family Finder) seventh edition of 138 pages, printed in Paris and indexed both by surname alphabetically and by place of origin.

Sophie Caplan has recently received a total of six volumes of enumerations of taking of permanent family names in 1808 in Lorraine, and in the provinces of Lower Rhine and Upper Rhine, all indexed by Pierre Katz, as well as Jean Fleury **CONTRATS DE MARIAGE JUIFS EN MOSELLE AVANT 1792** (Jewish Marriage Contracts in Moselle before 1792), an alphabetical index of 2021 Jewish marriage contracts for the use of genealogists, published in Paris in 1999, 3rd edition. This last one details first and second names of groom and bride as well as of each of their parents, and sometimes even of stepfather and/or brothers.

Also the **PROCEEDINGS** of The Fifth International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, held in Paris from 13th to 17th July 1997, with most lectures in French, but an English summary. If anyone would like to consult any of these, please advise Sophie Caplan.

The First Annual General Meeting of the recently incorporated Victorian Society, AJGS (Vic) Inc was held on 14 April at Beth Weizmann Community Centre and the following Committee of Management was elected:

President: Les Oberman
 Vice-President: Ester Csaky
 Hon. Secretary: Lionel Sharpe
 Treasurer: Kurt Friedlaender
 Committee: Albert Braunstein
 Rodney Eisfelder
 Bettye Susskind
 Makor Liaison: Ros Collins

Thanks were extended to Rhonda Lasky, retiring secretary, who had served the Society for four years and Enid Yoffe-Elton who is currently on a short stay in the United States. Lionel Sharpe stood down as President after three years in this position. The well attended meeting was addressed by Melbourne historian, Isidor Solomon, who spoke on "Researching Your Genealogy in Early Colonial Victoria."

Again the display table at the annual "Concert in the Park" in Caulfield Park on March 14 attracted a great deal of interest and over 200 enquiries were made by the huge crowd present. Another successful beginners' workshop was held on Sunday, May 2 which attracted a number of new members. Lionel Sharpe spoke to the B'nai Brith Menorah Lodge and the Child Survivors of the Holocaust group in April about Holocaust research.

The meeting on 26 May at 7.30 p.m. features three presentations:

"Traces" - Family Visual Histories

Naomi Bishops and Richard Raber, both graduated of the Victorian College of the Arts Film School, will show a short video and talk about their work in creating personal and permanent archives for those wishing to preserve their family records. Richard has spent the last three years filming video testimonials for the Steven Spielberg funded "Shoah Foundation".

Writing Your Story

Jean Holkner, a well known Melbourne Jewish writer, will talk on the topic of "Writing Your Story". Jean conducts courses on family history writing.

"Jews in Australia - A Swag of Stories"

Lionel Sharpe will demonstrate an innovative interactive multimedia programme on a new CD-ROM produced by the Jewish Museum of Australia entitled - "Jews in Australia - A Swag of Stories". It is now on display at the Jewish Museum of Victoria

in St Kilda. The interactive journey though family history takes us through the stories of three generations of four Melbourne families.

Another beginners' workshop will be held on Sunday, June 20 at 2.00 p.m. at Beth Weizmann Community Centre and there will be a lecture on Wednesday, July 7 at 7.30 (speaker to be announced).

Our new Web Page was created by Ester Czaky and can be seen on the Internet at: <http://www.melbourne.net/csaky>

Ester, a newcomer to this technology, is to be congratulated on this effort.

The second issue of the Victorian Newsletter, Vol 1 No. 2, May 1999, edited by Lionel Sharpe has been distributed. It has now grown to eight pages and features photographs. The front cover displays the Jewish Genealogy Month poster designed by Avotaynu Inc. New Jersey.

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Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738 sharp@pa.ausom.net.au

Photographic Conservation Materials		Vol 6 No 2		
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National Archives Advice - Index

<http://www.naa.gov.au/PUBLICAT/ADVICES/index.htm>

Protecting and handling photographs

<http://www.naa.gov.au/PUBLICAT/ADVICES/HTML/advice7.htm>

Caring for your family archive

<http://www.naa.gov.au/PUBLICAT/ADVICES/HTML/advice10.htm>

Supply companies

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Rose Bay NSW Tel: (02) 9371 6224 Mobile: 0414-949-543

Zetta Florence, 165 Gertrude St., Fitzroy VIC 3065

<http://www.zettaflorence.com.au> Tel: 1800-247-666 Fax: 1800-247-999

Albox, 56 North Terrace, Kent Town SA 5067

<http://www.camtech.net.au/albox> Tel: (08)8362-4811 Fax: (08)8362-4066

Conservation Resources Int. PO Box 729, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

<http://www.filing.com.au/cr/index.html> Tel: (07)848-0199 Fax: (07)892-3347

Report from Queensland	Morris S. Ochert O.A.M.	Vol 6 No 2		
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A steady stream of fascinating genealogical literature reaches us from the USA and we circulate it amongst those who are interested.

The Friends of the Toowong Cemetery is a large interdenominational organisation which studies the history and genealogy which can be learned in this historic Cemetery. On behalf of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, I addressed their assembly there on Mother's Day, 9 May 1999, after which I led them on an explanatory walk through the Jewish Section. We followed the route which I laid out in my booklet 'Toowong Cemetery Brisbane - Jewish Heritage Trail,' a copy of which was issued to each participant. I prepared this booklet in 1998 at the request of the Brisbane City Council, which met all costs and provided the photography. Both the booklet and my talk were very well received by the participants. We regard this as valuable public relations.

Carol Davis Stirk, who is my Hon. Secretary, has proved a great acquisition. She has made my task far lighter. Carol is our link with the Queensland Family History Society, which, as a Bicentennial Project, prepared a volume of all the headstone inscriptions in the Toowong Cemetery. As some of the very old sandstone monuments are eroding, such a record is essential. For the information of enquirers, I advise that a copy is held in the Museum of the Cemetery.

There is a steady flow of enquiries from people who wish to know details of their forbears who have lived in Queensland. Those whom I cannot help, I refer to our President, Sophie Caplan. Occasionally, my research ends in the conclusion that their folk were either not Jewish or did not identify themselves as such. An example, in May 1999, was an interstate enquirer who gave me the names and arrival dates of her great grandparents and their children. None of the Synagogue records of Births, Deaths and Marriages, nor the Toowong Cemetery Jewish Register, revealed their names. However, in the Register of a General Cemetery elsewhere, their names do appear. I explained to the enquirer that this does not prove that they were not Jewish, but only that they apparently did not identify themselves as such while in Brisbane. General Cemetery records do not state religion and I advised her to obtain copies of the marriage certificates, which do state religion.

Another fascinating research involved a Papuan tribe named 'Lavi Ipi.' They claim to be descended from the Tribe of Benjamin. Most names of this primitive clan were from the Old Testament. The illiterate men could recite, in their tribal dialect, huge passages of Genesis, although they are all illiterate and the tribe has no written records. After years of research, I could only suggest to them that a Dutch or German trader, either Jewish or Lutheran, who they state lived with them many years before, had introduced them to Genesis and they had identified themselves with the Israelites. Perhaps, too, his name was Levy, which possibly accounts for the clan name of 'Lavi.' Perhaps 'Ipi' would translate to 'clan' or 'tribe.'

Enquiries to Morris Ochert, 3/23 Lucinda Street, Taringa QLD 4068 or stirk@uq.net.au

Altered Surnames

**Morris S.
Ochert O.A.M.**

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2**



In the "Kosher Koala" of June 1998, under the heading of "What's Your Real Name?" reference is made to reasons why many Jewish people do not have the original

surname of their forebears. I call attention to yet another cause of these changes, as set out in my manuscript "Bondi Jewry between the Wars", in Vol X1, 1992, part 4 of the "Journal of the Australian Jewish Historical Society". My late father had escaped from Siberian internment soon after the turn of the century and, in China, he stowed away on a ship going to Sydney. On the wharf was a table, and on a box sat a grimy, illiterate migration officer with some forms. Sam joined the queue, while this official bit away some wood to expose the lead in his pencil.

"Wot's yer name?" he barked. (Another passenger translated into Yiddish.)


"Ochertyansky"

"Yair?" He shouted truculently. "We'll call ya 'Orchard'." Whereupon he laboriously pencilled his own version of that word - and to this day the entire dynasty carries the surname "Ochert" - at least that's our story!

A similar example was that of my father's youngest brother Jacob. At the U.S.A. Immigration Centre at Ellis Island, he was told that Ochertyansky would be unwieldy in America, and he was "given" the monosyllabic name of Sher. It is even shorter than the name allocated to my father.

Another reason for name change is the wish to shed a cumbersome name, characteristic of Europe, the shackles of which had been shaken off so recently; or the regrettable desire to abandon all connection to a Jewish origin.

Morris Ochert is the society's representative in Brisbane and in Queensland.

A President's Lament	Sophie Caplan	Vol 6 No 2	
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"My grandparents or great grandparents were JACOB and ESTHER COHEN and they lived in Warsaw/Kiev/Lublin/Roswadow. His birth date was February 3, 1891 and his mother was SARAH MELAMED of ROSWADOW. Esther was born on 20th March 1895 and her parents were ITZIG LEVI and FANNY SCHLOSSBERG from a small village about 30kms away from LODZ. I don't remember its name, but it was very well known.

Their children were ISAK born in 1920, FAIGE born in 1922, JOSEF (my father) born in 1924, MOSHE born in 1926, and little DVORA born in 1932. My father escaped to Russia in December 1939 and after the Second World War came to USA to his uncle Irving. Irving did not hear from his brother Jacob after September 1939 but we are hoping that you might be able to tell us what happened to my family. Did any of them migrate to Australia after the war?

I look forward to hearing about my family from you.

Sincerely,

Joanne/Michael/Steven."

A least once a month, sometimes more often, I receive a letter very similar to the above, or else inquiring about someone's great-grandparents who were left behind

when a son or daughter left Russia, or Germany or Poland some time during the 19th century, and expecting us to have the answers to all their queries. For free. Such people imagine that the volunteers at genealogical societies have magic computers which, on pressing a button, deliver extensive data on past Jewish lives from anywhere around the world, particularly their relatives.


While it is true that one can occasionally still find a relative who survived the Shoah, or who was lost in the depths of Russia until glasnost, it takes a lot of letters, time, and money. I did find a first cousin of mine who survived, but I did all the work.

In general, if you haven't heard from your relatives in Poland since 1939 or 1941, and they had "your family's" prewar address in USA or Australia, it is probably because they've all been dead since 1942 or 1943. It is very sad, but it is a fact.

In the early days of my genealogical activities I used to move heaven and earth to make inquiries for people who wrote me such letters. And spend a fortune on long-distance calls to all Jewish communities in Australia for that purpose. And rarely got any thanks and never got my costs reimbursed.

I also found that no one ever returned the favour to me. And professional genealogical help in USA has been expensive, and so far without results.

So now I, and the colleagues on my committee, do answer letters, within our respective areas of expertise, from members of our Society, or even others, if we can help with some simple advice. But we will not tackle complex answers for people who do not do their own previous homework at cost to our own leisure and our other activities.


Is This My Town	Rieke Nash	Vol 6 No 2	
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While researching one of my family towns in the publication "Hamburg Passengers From the Kingdom of Poland and the Russian Empire, Indirect Passage to New York: 1855-June, 1873", by Geraldine Moser and Marlene Silverman, Landsmen Press, Washington 1997, I found it spelt in twenty-nine different ways, not one of which is the currently used spelling.

Roslaweck, Warchawik, Warclawek, Wardslawik, Waslawicz, Waslowitz, Witzlawik, Wlowlaw, Wlotzlawe, Wlotzlawa, Worclawek, Wordslawek, Wozlawek, Wozlawa, Wreslawek, Wrezlowik, Wroclawek, Wroclawek, Wroczlawek, Wrotzalawek, Wrotzlawik, Wrotzlowack, Wrozlarek, Wrozlava, Wrozlaweck, Wrozlawecz, Wrozlawek, Wrozlawa, Wryzlawek.

Wloclawek is the current Polish way of spelling this town although it is usually found in English publications as Wloclawek.

Perhaps your town also hides under varied spellings in some publications.

1881 English Census		Vol 6 No 2	
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The 1881 English Census has just been released on CD-ROM. It consists of a set of 25 CD's and can be obtained from The Family History Centres of the Church of the Latter Day Saints for \$AUS55.00 including postage.

The transcription and indexing was a cooperative effort of the Federation of Family History Societies, British Genealogical Record Users committee, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, The Public Record Office, London, The General Register Office, Scotland and the Genealogical Society of Utah.

This amazing tool for those with English ancestry will be obtained by our Society and probably most local libraries with a genealogy section.

**Lithuanian Shoah Victims -
Research Project**

Saul Issroff

**Vol 6 No
2**



This message was posted on JewishGen on February 16, 1999 by Saul Issroff.

This announcement describes a Letter to Lithuanian Researchers about this project, a fact sheet relating to the project, the progress of the project, the formation of the The Lithuanian Memorial Foundation (Keren Zikaron Leyahadur Lita) in Israel, Lithuanian Names Project, a letter to Litvaks, February 1999.

Note: The full text of this letter is on The Lithuanian Names Project Web Site
<http://www.jewishgen.org/litvak/lithnames.htm>

A large project started in November 1997, namely, to collect as many names as possible of victims of the Lithuanian Holocaust (1941-1945). The goal is to publish a Memorial book; preserving the memory of the names of the martyrs for generations to come. It is of utmost importance to prevent the victims from being forgotten. No comprehensive record exists of the names and details of Lithuanian Jews who were murdered.

The methodology and research resources are described. The main sources of information are at Yad Vashem, the USHMM, the Vilna Gaon Jewish state Museum and from privately submitted names. A name submission form is attached to the web site. This is a further appeal for submissions of family names.

The database is outlined, and privacy and copyright guidelines are described. Go to the Lithuanian Names Project Web Site
<http://www.jewishgen.org/litvak/lithnames.htm> for further details.

Progress:

To date (February 1999) approximately 90,000 names have been collected. A searchable database has been constructed and the entry of individual names and where possible families, continues daily. Many archival and library resources have been investigated, both in Lithuania and in the rest of the world. Many relevant contacts have been made in various institutions. A number of unusual archival resources have been investigated. An initial list of six thousand names was given to Yad Vashem (at their request) for matching against Swiss Bank records. Approximately 40 press references to the project have been published.

The Lithuanian Memorial Foundation

(Keren Zikaron Leyahadt Lita) has been registered as an Amuta (charitable foundation) in Israel. The objectives are (broadly) to facilitate research, collect and publish information relating to the Holocaust in Lithuania.

The initial board is:

Rose Lerer Cohen M.A., Holocaust researcher.

Sol Ganor. Author of "Light Two Candles" and other works. Board Member Yad Vashem.

Joseph Harmatz. Director-General emeritus World Ort, Director General emeritus and comptroller Israeli Ort. Author of "Beyond the Wings".

Prof. Bernard Lerer. Prof. Experimental Psychiatry, Hebrew University Jerusalem.

Prof. Dov Levin. Head, Oral History, Department of Contemporary History, Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Author of "Pinkas HaKehilot Lita".

Rachel Levin. Secretary and Archivist, Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel.

Advocate Joseph Melamed. Chairman, Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel. Board Member, Centre of Organisations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel.

Website.

A website attached to Litvak SIG webpage has been constructed by webmaster Trevor Tucker.

This consists of : A letter to Litvaks, a factsheet, A name submission form, Multiple links relating to the Lithuanian Holocaust, References (books and journals) relating to the Lithuanian Holocaust.

Ten Facts about the Lithuanian Holocaust
<http://www.jewishgen.org/litvak/10facts.htm>

Dr Saul Issroff, London saul@swico.demon.co.uk

Rose Lerer Cohen, Jerusalem roseron@shani.net

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 6 No 3	
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It's Rosh Hashana again, the Jewish New Year of 5760 in the sixth millenium, and we wish all our readers good health, prosperity, and peace for all humanity, as well as fruitful genealogical research.

We've had a quiet three months, with our regular monthly Sunday morning workshops always well attended, but no lectures. In late May the Society participated again in SHOWCASE, the NSW genealogical show organised by the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) in and around their headquarters at 120 Kent Street,

Sydney, and various halls in the vicinity. It is an occasion when people can explore various aspects of their family history in a brief but convenient way, and browse at bookstalls of several state archives and BMD registries, and buy books on genealogy. One also makes friendly contact with other parallel societies, and the resultant comradeship is very stimulating. As last year, we only participated on the Friday, but we are grateful to SAG for giving us the opportunity of participating. Rieke Nash, Gary Luke, Kim Phillips, Miriam Shifreen and Sophie Caplan manned our table.

On the Queen's Birthday weekend we were invited to participate in the first ever LIMMUD OZ, an adult multi-topic learning experience with a vast array of lectures, at the Moriah College campus. Gary Luke and Rieke Nash gave a lecture on "New Developments in Jewish Genealogy" and had a small but respectable audience despite competition from another ten lectures at the same time. One could choose from an array of eleven topics each hour.

Those who are in Melbourne in early November are invited to participate in a joint conference sponsored by the Australian Association of Jewish Studies, together with the Australian Jewish Historical Society and our Society on the topic "Australian Jewry - from a Remnant of Israel to a Vibrant Community". This is the 12th Annual Conference, but the first time that the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society is associated with it. Dates are Sunday 7th and Monday 8th November 1999 at the Slome Hall, 74-82 Alma Road, St. Kilda, 3183 Victoria. Application forms and payment to Lionel Sharpe, AJGS (Vic) Inc., PO Box 189, Glenhuntly, 3163 or by email: sharpe@pa.ausom.net.au. Tel: 03 9523 6738, Fax: 03-9532 7797. Special cheaper rates apply to members of the three sponsoring organisations. There are also concession rates for students.

Rieke Nash and Lionel Sharpe attended the New York genealogical conference in August, and Rieke also attended a conference in Washington. We look forward to all the news they will bring.


The AGM of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies took place during the conference and has resulted in a new executive and two board vacancies. The new president is Howard Margol of Atlanta, Georgia, an expert on Lithuanian and Latvian research. The vice-president is Hal Bookbinder, of Oak Park, California, who became interim vice-president in September 1998 and was previously treasurer. The new secretary is Arline Sachs of Springfield, Virginia and member of the Greater Washington JGS, and initiator of the Jewish cemeteries CD-Rom Project. She and her husband Sid came to Sydney a few years ago when she addressed our Society. The new treasurer is Marilyn Natchez of Detroit, Michigan. The retiring president was Karen Franklin of New Jersey and the Leo Baeck Institute, Saul Isroff, a Londoner of South African origin, was the previous secretary, and Nancy Fels Brant, the interim treasurer. Vacancies on the IAJGS Board were left due to Howard Margol and Arline Sachs' elections to the executive. New candidates are being sought, but this comprises two trips a year to the seat of the International Association, now at 4430 Mt Paran Parkway, NW, Atlanta, GA 30327-3747, USA, at one's own expense for Board meetings. Accommodation is provided. The present Board members are Bruce Kahn, Rochester, New York, David Fielker, London U.K.,

Anne Feder Lee, Honolulu, Hawaii, and Rob Sealtiel, Israel, who will complete their two-year terms in July 2000.

The conference was also the occasion for the now established awards of achievement in Jewish Genealogy for which we were invited to make nominations some months ago. The lifetime achievement award went to Arthur Kurzweil, author of the epochal "From Generation to Generation", while Miriam Weiner received an award for her book "Jewish Roots in Poland", for which our Society also nominated her. Stanley Diamond, initiator of the research projects on thalassamia among Jews and on the Jewish Roots Indexing in Poland (JRI Poland) received an award for achievement via the Internet, while the Israel Genealogical Society was recognised for its outstanding publication "Sharsheret Hadorot", particularly for being a completely bilingual publication in Hebrew and English. And the JGS of Michigan received an award for being an outstanding society.

We've also gleaned two pieces of good news for Australian Jewish genealogists. One is that Rabbi John Levi, now retired from his ministry, is currently updating his 1976 monograph "The Forefathers: A Dictionary of Biography of the Jews of Australia, 1788-1830" possibly to 1850, as he said he would do one day. The other is that Malcolm Turnbull, Victorian editor of the Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal, is preparing a dictionary of biography of more recent Australian Jews who have played a notable part in the community. Both publications will be awaited with great alacrity.

Finally, while many communal bodies send to us queries they receive on genealogy and family history matters, we are now also receiving requests to trace Jewish individuals from the Australian Red Cross.

A Trip to Poland, Belarus and Western Ukraine (Part 11)	Sophie Caplan	Vol 6 No 3		
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We arrived around midnight and found that the hotel Tourist in Grodno embodied several characteristics of former Soviet hotels: inconvenience, lack of amenities including few food choices and unusual interior decoration. Ground level access was denied to cars and our luggage had to be carried up one steep outdoor staircase from street level to the entry. There were no porters available to carry the suitcases up those stairs, but luckily our guide and our driver were most helpful. At the same time the staff refused the almost obligatory tips. Our 'suite' had a gloomy sitting-room furnished in brown velvet and black-painted timber, while the bedroom was a mess of frilly white and pink nylon and looked like a Russian idea of a French brothel, and neither of our two bathrooms had the benefit of any spirit level in fitting shelves and basins. Everything hung askew.

Additionally we had arrived in early July, during the fifth anniversary celebrations of Belarussian independence from Russia and these celebrations meant no deliveries of fresh food or drink had been made for nearly a week. Hence the shortage of everything from bread to fruit and vegetables, to fish, to jam, to eggs, and even beer. At least that was the reason given for the lack of almost everything listed on the hotel restaurant's menu.

After a quick breakfast the next morning, we set off early to visit Svishlosh and Porozow, the home towns of the paternal ancestors of my husband Leslie and his cousin Leslie Fox. The eastern end of the city of Grodno where the hotel Tourist stood, was dominated by large multistoried bleak blocks of flats, only a few decades old and with no vegetation to soften the contours, but already showing clear signs of concrete cancer. As we drove to the edge of town a large and busy open-air car mart was in full swing, once again replete with large, expensive and new-looking western automobiles. We could not help but suspect that these were the products of large-scale car thefts in Western Europe, driven here for resale.

Our way to Svishlosh and Porozow took us eastwards and then south in the Grodno plain, a flat landscape to the horizon in all directions. There were large fields of wheat and other grain, only two to three feet high in early July, and not looking particularly heavy with grain. But there were also large extensive uncultivated fields left fallow, and occasional woodlands. Few villages, and very sparse traffic on the well-surfaced roads, and then only the occasional, horse-cart with its triangular profile, similar to those in Poland and Ukraine.

Svishlosh was the first town, and it seemed to have seen better days. The former Jewish quarter was in the centre of town, with one synagogue left standing, now the town cinema, and part of a complex which included the former rabbi's dwelling, complete with stables for horses and cart, now a garage. We were told that two other synagogues had been burnt by the Nazis. Nearby was a small street market, rather vestigial, with a few farmers selling potatoes and onions, not much else. The surrounding streets had the houses with front doors to the street, now unused, which had allegedly been Jewish houses. Many houses had wells, with buckets and chains, some wells roofed over, at the street frontage and most houses had kitchen gardens.

Svishlosh, Belarus. Water well currently in use, with bucket and chain at the ready, at front of a house in a street not far from the main Synagogue. All photos taken by Leslie Fox, Harrowgate, UK



We were directed to an old woman who was supposed to remember the Svishlosh Jews, but her memories seemed tenuous and she expected a reward for a vague sentence or two. We were also told of a Jewish man, the only one who had returned to Svishlosh, but by the time we heard of him, it seemed time to move on, particularly as it was now raining, so we did not follow this up.

It was twenty-three kilometres to Porozow and by the time we reached it the sun shone again and the atmosphere was altogether more pleasant. It was a substantial small town and we reached it just as worshippers were coming out of the Russian Orthodox Sunday service. We had a vague notion that the Caplan

family's house had been near that church or the Roman Catholic one, but we could not recall precisely father Caplan's stories on that point and now there was no one left to ask. Our driver stayed with the car while Waclaw, our guide, and the two Leslies and I tried to question the church-goers about the erstwhile Jewish community. One man looked as if he could be of part-Jewish descent, but as soon as we mentioned the Porozow Jews, he firmly took his wife by the hand and made off, while the others stayed and chatted. It made me wonder whether he could indeed have been of part-Jewish descent, but unwilling to have it revealed. Others were willing to recall the Jews, but we could not find out anything specific about our families. People recalled a Dr David Kaplan who had survived until 1943, some two years after the bulk of the community. His former house and clinic still stood, now a workers' club, and people recalled being treated by him. There was now no doctor in Porozow, nor was there likely to be one again. Unfortunately, we knew of no doctor in the family in that period, though he may have been a distant relative.

Near the doctor's house and clinic was the former compound of the synagogue, the rabbi's residence and the Beit Hamidrash. The lodge of the shamash still stood, now derelict, as did the large two-storey Beit Hamidrash built of rough cement and large river pebbles, now locked and barred. The townsfolk still called it by its Hebrew name, Beit Hamidrash, and it stood, a lone reminder and monument to the Jewish community of Porozow, murdered in 1941-43.

*Porozow, Belarus, 6th July, 1997. Beit Hamidrash building
- locked up and barred but still standing*

We were directed along a side street which led to the former Jewish cemetery, the street itself also paved with river pebbles. Most of the houses were built of handsawn timber, and with the tell-tale main door to the street now permanently locked. The picturesque yards with kitchen gardens growing beans, peas, cabbages and strawberries, covered wells and apple trees,



free ranging chickens, ducks and flocks of geese, looked like a stage set for out-door scenes of 'Fiddler on the Roof'. Leslie Fox was quite enchanted with the sights, declaring he would like to buy a house and come and live here again every summer. Indeed it looked idyllic in a bucolic way.

The street stretched for two hundred yards, veering right into the open country with wheatfields and a tethered grazing cow. The landscape was deserted except for us, a lushly fertile scene worthy of an impressionist brush, reminiscent of "Chemin Montant dans les Herbes", as we walked on to the site of the Jewish cemetery. This was on a hillside a few hundred yards on. The site was easily distinguishable, the lost gateway easily identifiable, though all fencing and gates had gone.

The whole site was fallow, self-sown with shrubs and young trees, and holes in the ground where graves had been. We toured the whole site, quite a substantial area, but every shred of tombstone material had been removed. Not one small piece of stone or masonry identifying a grave remained, only holes, shrubs, and young trees. We had hoped to pray at the graves of our ancestors, but there was nothing left. Their lives were obliterated a second time.

One of the church-goers who had spoken to us earlier came out again and told us how in the years since the war the inhabitants of Porozow had used the stones of the Jewish cemetery as foundation material for their new houses. The Beit Hamidrash was literally the last sign of the once prosperous Jewish community of Porozow.

We returned to the car quite sobered. We were grateful that both Avrom and Faivel Caplan had had the foresight to leave. The town had a certain antique charm, but there was nothing left for us.

*Wolkowysk, Belarus, 6th, July, 1997. Fragments of
Wolkowysk Cemetery viewed by Leslie Caplan*



On the way back we also stopped in Wolkowysk at the site of the former Jewish cemetery there, now a large flat fallow-field with half a dozen large remnants of masonry, including a part of the Ohel, clearly identified with a few Hebrew letters. On one cluster of stones a few picnicking drinkers were getting drunk, using the gravestones as seats. As the four of us were wandering around the

cemetery site, a number of local inhabitants came out to point out the visitors to each other in an aggressive way. When Leslie Fox turned his camera on them, they quickly dispersed. Back in the car we drove on to a main road from which there was a clear view of Wolkowysk railway station from where Faivel Shraga Caplan had left the district by train in 1910 and Avrom in 1903.

On the way back to Grodno we took a detour to visit Szczuczyn Litevski, the putative hometown of my Leslie's maternal grandfather. It was Wacław Wojciechowski, our guide, whom I had asked to take us to grandfather Morris "Gold's" home town who had concluded that this was the right Szczuczyn of the four possibles, from clues such as that he came from Grodno gubernia. We had hoped to find Grandpa Morris' elusive original surname, but this was not possible. Still Chana, the present leader of the eleven remaining Jews of Szczuczyn Litevski confirmed that the Prussak family, surname of two of my Leslie's great-grandmothers, sisters whose children married, was a numerous clan in pre-1941 Szczuczyn Litevski.

Chana, with whom I was able to communicate in Yiddish, took us to the Szczuczyn Jewish Cemetery. Here again, the Jewish tombstones had been used as quarry material for the foundations of new houses in the town. Both Chana and her friend claimed to know who the tombstone robbers were, but to be unable to act against them. There were half a dozen graves with tombstones left, but both women stated these would inevitably soon disappear too. There appeared to be no remedy. Chana was the only pre-world War 11 Jew of Szczuczyn Litevski. She had survived because she had joined the Russian army during the Russian occupation of 1939-41 and had married a Russian officer. She said that her children knew that she was Jewish and that they themselves were of Jewish descent. All the remaining ten Jews of the town had come from further east and each was intermarried.

Chana took us to the place of execution of the Szczuczyn Jews, at the edge of an airstrip and shooting range. A simple monument had been erected during Soviet times and Chana claimed, not very convincingly to us, but herself convinced of the truth of the matter, that the five-pointed Soviet star on the monument had originally been a Magen David six-pointed star, with one point having fallen off. We felt too

embarrassed for this nice woman to point out the impossible geometry of the matter, but duly took numerous photos. She also told of the poverty of the remaining Jews, so we gave her a sizeable donation in memory of our families, and dropped her off at her home.

Monument erected in recent years to 2060 Jews of Szczuczyn Litevski, Belarus, killed on 7th May (or March), 1942 and shot in a mass grave on this site. Text in Russian, Hebrew and Belarussian. The monument is surmounted by a red star, symbol of USSR

The next morning we checked out from the hotel and drove into central Grodno to look at some former Jewish sites there. From the central town square a narrow gateway led to the site of the former Great Synagogue of Grodno, the main Jewish cemetery and what had been the wartime Jewish ghetto. Above the gateway was a large bas-relief memorial plaque to the murdered Jews of Grodno, which gave their number as 29,000 and 1943 as the date of their final deportation to Stutthof Camp



The gateway led past several now derelict Jewish communal buildings and a small cemetery over-grown with nettles and other weeds and devoid of any tombstones. A few hundred yards further, on a magnificent cliff-site overlooking a large part of the lower town stood the three storied building of the Great Synagogue of Grodno. All entries and windows were nailed shut, and it appeared to be a mere shell of a large ornate 19th century building, abandoned for a few decades. The only signage were signs warning vandals of possible penalties if the building were entered or damaged.

Commemorative Plaque at the entrance to former Grodno Jewish Ghetto, memorialising the 29,000 Jews killed between 1941 and 1943



We understood that there was now again a small Jewish presence in Grodno, but Waclaw's enquiries in the main post-office and in various shops could not elicit its whereabouts. We sent some postcards to family and friends, and then drove back towards the Belarus frontier with Poland. Forewarned, this time we paid for our Environmental Beautification tax in

advance, and so the frontier-crossing shenanigans only took an hour and a half. Back in Poland, we lunched at the same hotel-roadhouse in Bialystok as on the way in, glad that herring, eggs and salad were freely available this side of the frontier. Then we took the road back to Warsaw, conscious that Waclaw our guide, was due to catch a train to Cracow that evening.

View of the rear of Grodno Great Synagogue

Everything went well until Wyszkw, 'the shtetl on the Bug', when traffic was reduced to less than crawling pace. After half an hour of this regime we found that the delay was caused by a jack-knifed and overturned semi-trailer. Once this was passed, traffic became normal. We paid Waclaw and Marek, our driver, while on the road, to save Waclaw's time on arrival in Warsaw. That night cousin Leslie Fox invited us for dinner in one of Warsaw's excellent first class restaurants, a huge contrast to Belarus.

The next day Leslie Fox flew back to England and we flew to Paris for the Fifth International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, which would be followed by our trip to Western Ukraine at the end of July when Oleg Silberman, our Ukrainian guide, would be available.



Address for WACLAW WOJCIECHOWSKI, Kanie, 3 ulica Mila, OTREBUSY, 05-805 (near Warsaw) Poland. Tel/Fax 48 22 758 5850.

News from Western Australia	Michelle Urban	Vol 6 No 3	
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We had a very interesting discussion on Sunday 4th July, our guest speaker being Dr. Ossie Tofler. He spoke about the demographics of Jewish people in Western Australia. It was also a very wet and windy afternoon so the turn out we had was fantastic.

The Western Australian Group met at the Perth Synagogue at 1.30pm on 4th July, 1999. Gillian O'Mara introduced Dr. Ossie Tofler, the guest speaker who is well known in the community. Dr. Tofler is a practising Perth cardiologist and formerly Head of the Cardiology Department at Royal Perth Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital. He has a close association with Carmel School and is founding editor and editor-in-chief of the WA weekly "The Maccabean".

Since 1968 Dr. Tofler had been charting Perth's Jewish families in his spare time. Dr. Tofler's demographic information proved the value of family trees. His research enabled us to see migration from such areas as the United Kingdom, Russia, Europe, Palestine/Israel, South Africa and the eastern states of Australia and other countries, from the last century through to this decade. The methodology he uses can also be used to predict: primary and high school enrolment numbers, the needs of aged care homes, etc., far into the twenty-first century. His work in this area is extremely interesting and should be encouraged.

Members of the Perth and Sydney groups, community members and three visiting Americans attended. One of our visitors was named CAPLAN which should interest at least one person in the Eastern States. In all, around fifty people attended Our normal group meetings of workshops interspersed with such speakers has proven to be a popular was of keeping up interest.

On 29th August we held a workshop and guest speaker meeting with Martin Levit whose subject was From South Africa to Perth: A Jewish View.

On 7th November we will be discussing the Internet and what is available and where and what to do.

Enquiries can be directed to

Michelle Urban Tel:08-9375-3874 Fax:08-9375-3574 Email:urban@wantree.com.au

Report on the 19th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy in New York	Anthony Joseph	Vol 6 No 3	
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For nearly twenty years there have been annual major Jewish Genealogical Conventions, mostly held at some venue in North America, but interspersed with

more international-flavoured seminars in Jerusalem, London and Paris. This latest example of the genre was the largest ever and over 1,300 people attempted to register for it. In the event, rather more than 1,200 attendees actually appeared, including some twenty from Great Britain and three or four from Australia. The Conference, like New York City itself, was impressive and the intensity of the Jewish genealogical experience was mirrored by the vibrant non-stop quality of the "The Big Apple". There were so many lectures, workshops, special interest group gatherings etc. as to provide a staggering choice for all genealogical tastes. The final banquet was addressed by Stephen Dubner who gave a most moving and fascinating account of his own personal odyssey through Jewish genealogy and the interaction of Catholicism with Judaism in his own family experience.

By just a coincidence immediately before this New York Jewish Genealogical Seminar opened, the news broke that Hilary Clinton had a partial Jewish connection. By any standards it was somewhat tenuous! It appears that her grandmother's second husband was a Jew and that he had brought to the new family set-up a daughter by a previous marriage who was, therefore, a Jewish step-sister to Hilary's mother. It did not escape the attention of many of us that this announcement coincided with Hilary's need to impress the New York electorate in advancing her own political career. With so many Jewish voters in New York it was no doubt a calculated political move. It may succeed!

I have, on numerous previous occasions, reflected on the odd desire by many non-Jewish people to claim Jewish connections. In so many cases these are entirely spurious, and perhaps based on misinterpretation of family stories, or names that have appeared in the background researching. I have written elsewhere about this "romantic legend syndrome" and, of course, we Jews are frequently equally guilty of claiming non-Jewish connections if they seem sufficiently charismatic. I plead guilty to linking myself to royalty through divorce. A distant cousin of mine was the late Ernest Simpson (son of an Ernest Solomon) who was once married to Wallis Warfield, whose subsequent marriage was to the ill-fated monarch, Edward VIII, later Duke of Windsor.

One of the most interesting presentations at this New York Seminar was on Rabbinic and Chassidic genealogy by Dr Neil Rosenstein. Neil repeats this talk frequently on these sorts of occasions and I have heard it at different gatherings and in different parts of the world many times over the past fifteen years or so. However, it is always fresh, brought up-to-date with the fruits of his continuing researching and presents a fascinating "snapshot" over so many interlocking and widespread dynasties. The involvement of both the Jewish and Gentile worlds and the display of well-known personalities from across the breadth of the human spectrum is well illustrated by Neil's story, although critics could be forgiven if it seems, on occasion, a vast exercise in "name-dropping".

Many of the sessions ran in parallel but, of course, it was possible to purchase tape recordings of those that could not be attended because of other commitments. I decided to concentrate on the American experience and I was able to learn much about the local history of New York, the growth of the Jewish Communities in North America and the methodology of accessing available records. Myself as computer-illiterate and non-electronic, I learned that some 89% of the registrants were on E-

mail and while I recognise the enormous advantages of the system, I am satisfied that there is still scope for older-fashioned technologies to flourish. If my ever-expanding "snail-mail" postbox is to be believed, (and it has not diminished since my return from New York), I may yet be safe pursuing genealogical researching in my own style.

Increasingly these Jewish Genealogical gatherings place emphasis on the involvement of the geneticist with genealogical activity and the mutual need that each group may have for the other. Several presentations in New York were concerned both with specific alleged "Jewish diseases" and the ability to sort out population movements from genetic evidence in disparate groups all over the world. Professor Vivian Moses from London was particularly impressive with the presentation of ethnographic data, information on the "Cohen Project" and identification of a "Lost Tribe" of a people indigenous to an area just north of South Africa who claimed descent from the Queen of Sheba. Although total proof of some of these ideas may not be possible, some of the suggested links and apparent confirmation of the course of Jewish history is, impressive.

Two ever-popular presentations from Israel which I have also heard many times at many similar gatherings and yet, like Neil Rosenstein's talk, never lose their appeal or relevance, are those of Batya Unterschatz and Diana Sommer. The former, a prodigious and dedicated worker for the purpose of reuniting families separated by such tragedies as the Holocaust, once again moved everybody by her latest accounts of successes and sad proofs of losses. Batya has struggled with her enormous work-load against so many odds and with constant threat of cutting even the limited resources available to her that it was not surprising to hear her say that this may be her last year before she tries to make life a little easier for herself. Diana's updating on the Douglas Goldman Jewish Genealogy Centre at Beth Hatefutsoth was, by contrast, upbeat and optimistic. Over 4,000 family trees have now been received and the Centre is well poised to accept much more data if people submit it to them. Diana also gave a moving and entertaining mention of how one of her own cousins had arrived at the Centre, unaware of her relationship to Diana. It must be every genealogist's delight to be working at the forefront of the research interest and have your own personal story expanded for you while going about your daily working business!

Although the Australian presence at this Gathering was, in number terms, "low-key", it was noticeable. Lionel Sharpe, suitably dressed in appropriate hat with corks, entertained his audience, notwithstanding attempted sabotage of the talk, by the overhead projector. He concentrated mostly on the State of Victoria and to some extent New South Wales, but scarcely touched on the other Australian States. Of course, in number terms, this was entirely appropriate since 90% of the Jewish population of Australia lives in New South Wales or Victoria, but it was apparent from the questions to him that there was considerable interest in the history and background of the Jews in the whole of the Australian Continent.

Was this Conference "the best ever?" Such judgments are always entirely subjective, and perhaps all I can say is that it was very much up to previous levels and it will have set a high standard for future gatherings.

Dr. Anthony Joseph is President of the JGS of Great Britain, a Past President of the Jewish Historical Society of Great Britain, and a long-term member of our own Society.

Exploring the U.K. 1881 Census	Rieke Nash	Vol 6 No 3	
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One of the Society's latest acquisitions is a set of 25 CD-Rom's which contains the 1881 Census for the United Kingdom. This Census covers England, Scotland and Wales and lists everyone present at each residence in April, 1881. The publication was a cooperative effort by the Federation of Family History Societies, the British Genealogical Record Users Committee, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, the Public Record Office, London, the General Register Office, Scotland and the Genealogical Society of Utah.

Searches can be made on one, some or all of the following fields:- given name, last name (choice of exact spelling or approximate), birth year (option to specify range up to 5 years), birthplace (country, city or town), census place (region, county, city or town). Searching for an address is not possible.

The resulting information includes dwelling address, census place, source LDS Film No., GRO Ref. Volume No. and enumeration district information. As well as for the above fields, each person is described either as head of the household or his/her relationship to the head. Labels include wife, son, daughter, boarder, visitor, brother, sister, cousin, son/mother-in-law, etc. Labels such as patient, inmate are used for hospitals and prisons. It is also noted if the person was Naturalized.

Sometimes it requires creative techniques but with its powerful search mechanism any of the fields can be used in the selection process.

This resource has already provided significant finds for some of our members. The first look-up was for our member, Miriam Shifreen, whose grandfather Solomon Levy was known to have lived in London with his wife Mary and children. Searching for Solomon or Mary Levy produced numerous possibilities, however using daughter Rebecca Levy, born in a particular year, produced the right family. For Miriam, the important piece of information was that Mary was born in Poland and so explained why she could never find her birth in UK records. Various spellings of Levy were listed, including Levi, Levey, Levie, McLevy and Le Vey.

Another member found that a female ancestor who was a resident of a Poorhouse with one of her children and another child listed in a Technical Boarding School. What story is hidden here?

Another of the first searches was for Gary Luke who knew that his ancestor Harris Lazarus lived in Glasgow at a specific address in 1881. There was no success initially. In desperation Gary tried First Name "Harris" and Place of Birth "Poland" for the Glasgow region and one of the responses was HARRIS LAWARUS!

This is a good example of the care needed in searching databases. The transcription can be faulty. I happened to notice one entry for the son of the family whose birth

year was 1761 i.e. 120 years old. Obviously the date should have been 1861. Another example was GOODMAN spelt as GWDMAN. In this case 'OO' was read as 'W'. These errors may have been made by the census taker initially or as typing errors by the transcribers, but they indicate that persistence is needed if the expected result is not immediately achieved.

Just scanning through records is fascinating. As it is possible to list the neighbours of a specific address, the crowded conditions as well as the ethnic mix is apparent. Images of an all-Jewish neighbourhood are dispelled by the listing of Irish and country born families living next to Jewish families.

This reasonably priced resource, \$AUS55.00 should be available in some local libraries and most family histories societies as well as LDS Family History Centres. It can be purchased from LDS centres.

Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutsch	Vol 6 No 3	
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Genealogical workshops were held on 11th July and 5th September. The last workshop for the year will be on 7th November from 1.30 - 3.00pm at the National Memorial Centre.

Many thanks to local member Valerie Brown for her kind donation to the Canberra group of Web Sites for Genealogists by Cora Num (3rd edition, 1999). The author is a local genealogist who has compiled a list of useful web addresses for people researching their family history.

Mention in the last Kosher Koala of the genealogy talk by Steve Hart, great-grandson of Henry Hart who built the Royal Hotel in Yass, led to two inquiries from other descendants of the family, one from Sydney and one from Melbourne. They were put in touch with Steve Hart and hopefully the contact will prove fruitful!


Enquiries can be directed to

Sylvia Deutsch in Canberra: Tel/Fax 02-6248-6196 Email: deutand@ozemailcom.au

Report from Queensland	Morris S. Ochert	Vol 6 No 3	
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The period under review has been quieter than for some time, with about six enquiries from Australia and three or four from overseas. I am preparing material for the visit of a lady from Kansas, USA who is attending an International Art Congress here and who is also involved in the symbolism to be found on Jewish Headstones. As I have collected quite an amount of that data to assist me in both historical and genealogical research we will have a useful and interesting day, mainly at our historic Toowong Cemetery.

Enquiries to Morris Ochert, 3/23 Lucinda Street, Taringa QLD 4068 or stirk@uq.net.au

A Montefiore Gathering in Brisbane	Morris S. Ochert	Vol 6 No 3		
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About forty years ago I wrote a manuscript titled "A Montefiore Family in Queensland". The editor of The Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal at that time, Dr. George Bergman, decided that it would be more appropriate to place it in the Mocatta Archives in England, together with a quantity of memorabilia of the late Sir Moses Montefiore with books, photos, letters, diaries, albums, etc. These had been collected by a local descendant of the Montefiores. The Mocatta Archives contain data on the Montefiore, Rothschild, Mocatta Sebag, Barrow and other strands of those families. The Archives are now a part of the library of Southampton University, in England.

In June 1999 some Australian representatives of the Montefiore family met in Brisbane at the home of David Stevenson, who has carried out considerable research into the Montefiores. David's wife is Jill, nee Barrow Montefiore. He prepared the following data.

Three family lines were represented:

Joseph Barrow Montefiore, a cousin of Sir Moses Montefiore, settled in New South Wales in the years 1829 - 1840 and later in South Australia in the years 1846 - 1860. He was the first president of the first Australian Jewish Congregation and a successful businessman. The families of two of his sons remained in Australia. The family of Jill Stevenson (Nee Montefiore), a great granddaughter of Joseph Barrow Montefiore, hosted the gathering at her home in Kenmore, Brisbane, Queensland.

Horatio Joseph Montefiore was the youngest brother of Sir Moses Montefiore. A grandson, Charles Monte Montefiore immigrated to Australia in 1878. His descendants were represented by Stanley Montefiore, Frederick Montefiore Snr., Frederick Montefiore Jnr, and Rohan Montefiore.

Sir Joseph Sebag Montefiore was a nephew of Sir Moses. A grandson, Cyril Sebag Montefiore immigrated in the early 1920s. His son John Sebag Montefiore attended the gathering.

The families are also connected through the maternal line. Joseph Barrow Montefiore's wife Rebecca Mocatta and Horatio Joseph Montefiore's wife, Sarah Mocatta, were sisters and their aunt Rachel Mocatta, was Sir Moses Montefiore's mother Sir Joseph Sebag Montefiore's grandmother.

News from Victoria	Leslie Oberman	Vol 6 No 3		
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Our secretary Lionel Sharpe and our treasurer Kurt Friedlaender have attended the 19th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy in New York and we are looking forward to their reports on Wednesday September 22nd.

We now have one hundred paid up members of the Victorian Society. Number 3 issue of our newsletter prepared by Lionel was distributed to members at the

beginning of August. We have given it the title of Jewish Genealogy Downunder and are looking for a suitable logo to go with it.

The workshop held on Sunday 20th June was successful and well attended. On 7th July we had a very interesting lecture by Sandra Riordan, the assistant director, public and reader services, National Archives of Australia. Lionel named our meeting on Wednesday 18th August A Eureka Evening. No not a revolution but an opportunity to share some of the problems members have and hopefully our 'mavins' were able to solve them.

The Victorian Society takes this opportunity to wish the members of all of our societies and chapters Shana Tova, a happy, healthy, peaceful and successful New Year.

Enquiries:

Les Oberman (03)9571 8251 oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738 Sharp@pa.ausom.net.au

What's New in Special Interest Groups	Sophie Caplan	Vol 6 No 3		
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1. Vilna Area.

Joel Ratner in U.S.A. has formed a group to purchase, translate and make available the data from a mid-19th century Revision list, which is a Russian Empire census list, of the town of Vilna and its surrounding towns Boguslavski, Gedrovitz, Gelvon, Intkurkes, Maishagola Mikaliskes, Moliat, Musnik, Nemenchin, Paberzhe, Shirvint, Tsiobikishi, Verkiai in one subdistrict, and Bystritsa, Ilya, Mitskunai, Redamina, Rukoiniai, Shalchininkai, Smusk, Varniai and Yoniskis in another sub-district. These Revision lists have a lot of information showing family groups, etc..

But funds are needed for the purchase, translation and publication costs and so interested genealogists are asked to contact Joel Ratner by email giving their full name, address, telephone and fax numbers, email, as well as towns and names of interest in the Vilna district. A financial contribution will be expected in order to participate in the project. Contact by email: Joelrat@aol.com

2. Gyor Cemetery, Hungary

Stephen Schmideg, member of the Melbourne branch, has recently set up a database of the Jewish Cemetery in Gyor, Hungary, which has over 3,000 graves, many of them containing multiple remains. It is one of the largest still functioning Jewish cemeteries in north western Hungary. Stephen has also set up a database of 3,500 Holocaust martyrs from the same area which can be accessed through the H-Sig JewishGen site. Stephen is aware that there are many people in Sydney whose families originated in that region of Hungary and he is happy to look up names from the cemetery lists. Contact by email: Stephen@sicore.com.au

3. Jews Transported from France in Convoy no.73 on 15th May, 1944

This convoy left France with 878 Jewish men and is the only transport from France which went to Lithuania and Estonia during WW11.A. book has been written giving the hitherto unknown story of that transport, giving a lot of information, including photos and documents. The second part contains the personal stories of almost fifty

deportees from that transport. Now a second printing is considered telling the stories of more deportees of the trans-port. Please contact Eve Line Blum for details about the book. Email:blume@edu.essec.fr

News from the South Australian Branch	Klee Benveniste	Vol 6 No 3	
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South Australian members have continued to meet every two months to discuss research. At the June meeting, Hilda Hines described the "Matrikel" (German for register or roll) which limited the number of German Jews allowed to live in each town in Bavaria. Jews had to take an oath of allegiance, could not immigrate unless they came to marry someone born in Bavaria, and required police permission to leave. Jews were privately Jewish at home, but could not be different in the street. The matrikel concept started in Napoleonic times and imposed legal restrictions on various groups, not only Jews. The rights of free movement by minorities and stateless persons have certainly improved since those times in Europe.

In other news, our Port Lincoln member Almuth Hauptmann has moved to Adelaide, so all South Australian members of the Society now reside in the State's capital. Almuth informed us that Emanuel Solomon, a Jewish philanthropist in mid-19th century Adelaide, is featured in a scene of a play about Sister Mary MacKillop, being performed at the Arts Theatre during August. Emanuel Solomon provided accommodation for a group of nuns who were forced to leave their convent, and who became known as the Josephite nuns. A move is now afoot to beatify Sister Mary MacKillop.

Please note that an incorrect phone number for our Chairperson, Hilde Hines, had appeared on the internet under a list of Jewish Genealogical Societies, and also in the journal Avotaynu. It should be 61-8-8379 6030. Thank you to the various overseas societies who send us their newsletters. We appreciate your gesture.

Dr. Klee Benveniste is Honorary Secretary of Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA Branch)

C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation P.O. Box 320, Glenside, SA 5065

Database of Holocaust Assets Posted		Vol 6 No 3	
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I hope that you will bring this message to your members and to anyone else you think would be effected. Please try to spread the word, especially to age holocaust survivors.

Avotaynu has just posted a database of 29,000 Holocaust-era Jewish names. If you recognise the name of a relative, you or someone in your family may be an heir to unclaimed Holocaust-era assets.

Go to <http://www.avotaynu.com> and click on "What's New?" You will find the names and instructions on what to do next.

The database comes from two sources. One is a list of unclaimed Swiss bank accounts released by the Swiss government. The second list comes from a collection of files held in the Austrian State Archives in Vienna.

The Swiss Banks have created a \$1.25 billion dollar compensation fund. Individuals may have a legitimate claim to some of this money even without ever having had a Swiss bank account. The class of those entitled to compensation includes anyone forced to do slave labour during the war; anyone denied entry into Switzerland when they were seeking refuge, or mistreated by Swiss authorities after entering; and anyone whose assets were confiscated by the Nazi.

The problem is that the letter signifying intent to file a claim must be postmarked no later than OCTOBER 22, 1999. Any claims not filed by this date will not be considered. Unfortunately, this information is not widely known.

The database was created by Mike Raddle, a member of the Philadelphia JGS, substantially assisted by Bob Wascou, president of the Sacramento JGS from documents provided by Greg Ruckman, aide to former U.S. Senator Alphonse D'Amato.

We are doing this as a humanitarian effort to help ensure some measure of justice is done. Please participate by spreading the word.

*Sallyann Amdur Sack, Editor **Avotaynu**, International Review of Jewish Genealogy*

Forebears Australian Family Finder		Vol 6 No 3		
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00072 BENJAMIN KARLINER, Palm Beach County, Florida, USA, email benkarliner@juno.com seeks Karliner or anyone from **BOGORODCZANY** near Ivano-Franklivsk, Ukraine. Also Ida Rottenburg and Bella Hunderd who allegedly emigrated to Australia, or their descendanats, Will share all ilnformation on Karliner line.

00073 INGOLF STRASSMAN, 12 Geiseltasteig strasse, D 81545, MUNICH, Germany, Tel 49 89 64 0671, Fax 49 89 64 3975 is researching a book on Jews who lived in **ALTENBURG** city and county in Thuringia. All with links to those places near Leipzig can contact him. Particularly seeking family of tailor **HEINRICH LIPPSCHUTZ**, born 1893, wife **JOSEPHINE**, born 1890s, daughter **GENIA** born 1925-28, who emigrated to Australia in 1938-9.

00074 IRENE LITE, 99-45 67th Road, Forest Hills, N.Y.11375-4, USA, Tel: 1(718) 775 9010 seeking any information on **FIGA** family from **KRASNOSIEC**, Poland, parents **ELI** and **FEIGA KERSZ FIGA**, children **NOAH**, **ITZHAK**, **CHAIJA**, **UDDLE**, **CYLA** and **FROMA MICHEL**.

00075 AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS TRACING AGENCY, JAN MURPHY, 159 Clarence street, Sydney, 2000. Tel: 02 9229 4211, Fax: 02 9229 4265 has appealed to us to find several people: **ALEXANDRA MYKOLAJTSAK/MIKOLAICHAK** nee **ZUSSMAN /SUSSMAN**, parents, born Ukraine 12.3.1926, parents Martin and Olga

Zussman, emigrated to Australia in 1953, sought by relatives. Ring above or 02 9229 4143, 02 9229 4233 or 1800 812 028 (toll free)

00076 AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS TRACING AGENCY, JAN MURPHY, 159 Clarence street, Sydney, 2000. Tel o2 :9229 4211, Fax: 02 9229 4265 seeking **MOSHE WAX/VAX** born April 1928 in SIEU, MARAMURESH province, Romania,. Last heard of in German hospital in Luebeck, June 1945, believed to have immigrated to Australia, or his descendants.

00077 MICHELLE V. POMERANTZ, POB 2354 Secaucus, New Jersey 07096 USA, Fax: 201 617 5440, Wildpom@aol.Com is seeking the descendants of her great uncle Ovadia **POMERANTZ**. He may have immigrated to Australia from BRESTLITOVSK, BELARUS at the turn of the century or even earlier during the 1890s. His brothers and sisters left for America and lost complete contact with him.

Editorial

**Sophie
Caplan**

**Vol 6 No
4**



Chanukah 5760 was early and we participated again in a most successful "Chanukah in the Park" in Hyde Park, Sydney. Once again we shared a booth with the Australian Jewish Historical Society and were kept extremely busy answering enquiries from the hundreds of visitors. We've already gained some new members from the many visitors who took our membership forms and hope that more will join us. We were even able to help a St John's Ambulance Officer with her very unusual inquiry. The Society team could be identified by the newly printed T-shirts with the Society logo in blue on white provided through the initiative of Kim Phillips. Some are still available at \$25 plus \$4 postage and packing, from Kim Phillips c/o AJGS. Those members who helped to man our booth this time were Ruth Barnett, Philip Baynash, Bernie Freedman, Rieke Nash, Kim Phillips, Jeanette Tsoulos and Sophie Caplan. Peter Nash helped to bring the boxes of material in the morning and to take them back in the afternoon.

In mid-September, just before our previous newsletter had to go to press, we were able to secure a talk by Myrna Teck, an expert on Jewish Art, formerly of Kansas City and now of Rockville, Maryland. Due to the short leadtime after learning of Myrna's trip to Sydney, on the way to a conference in Brisbane, we could not advertise her talk very widely and held it at my home. It was an illustrated lecture on "Jewish Cemetery Art in USA" with many slides taken by Myrna Teck in USA cemeteries. We were also able to arrange for guided visits for Myrna to Rookwood and Northern Suburbs cemeteries in Sydney, while Morris Ochert guided Myrna in Toowong cemetery in Brisbane.

On 8 and 9 November Rieke and Peter Nash and Gary Luke participated at the Melbourne Conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies, as described elsewhere in this issue by Lionel Sharpe. They were shown the usual warm hospitality by our Melbourne counterparts Leslie and Sonya Oberman and Lionel Sharpe.

In late September and early October I paid a short visit to London, where I was able to renew contact with Dr Anthony Joseph, our English member, and to speak by phone with Harvey Kaplan in Glasgow and David Fielker in London.

After notifying my genealogical friends in Israel of a personal visit in October I was invited to give a talk to the newly formed Family History Research Society in Tel Aviv, which is chaired by Aviva Neeman, the former editor of "Sharsheret Hadorot" who is also active in the Joffe/Jaffe Family Society, and with our friend Chava Agmon, who is the world expert on the Caro/Karo clan as Hon. Secretary. I spoke on "Australian Jewry, its History, and Current Religious and Educational Trends" and seemed to be well received. My talk took place at the Bible Lands Museum on Rothschild Boulevard, in the historic building where David Ben Gurion proclaimed Israeli Independence on Friday 14 May 1948. It was awe-inspiring to speak in such a place. Later the group took my husband and me to the excellent Yemenite "Zion" restaurant in the picturesque old Yemenite quarter of Tel Aviv. It was the best meal of our whole trip, and we appreciated the warm hospitality. Shelly Dardashi, formerly of Arizona, with whom our Society had corresponded, was also present, as she is in Israel researching the Jews of Persia in the Diaspora. Both at the talk and the restaurant it was good to renew acquaintance with several Israeli genealogical friends.

Recently we were informed by Rieke Nash, our Vice-President, Honorary Secretary and Resources Librarian that she had decided to take a year's leave of absence from the time of the next AGM on 19 March 2000. Rieke joined us at the time of the foundation of our Society in early November 1991 and has been a tower of strength, establishing most of the systems to record our resources, the welcome to new members, the Australian Database of names and towns being researched by our members, the link of this database with JewishGen, receiving the e-mail messages for the Society and for me as president, and responding to many of these messages, and establishing herself as a most knowledgeable, hardworking, and respected Jewish genealogist. She is an organizer par excellence and she codified the way she logged inquiries and all items that needed to be recorded. She also wrote the agendas for our committee meetings, and our publicity flyers, and insisted on herself supplying and bringing coffee, tea, milk and kosher biscuits for our lectures with speakers. As well she did an enormous amount of photocopying on her own machine for the Society as a whole and for members who requested photocopied pages from our books or other resources, bearing the costs of these services to the Society herself.


For the first twenty-three issues of the "Kosher Koala", she was the sole publisher, establishing the visual format of the journal, and in recent issues teaching the ropes and guiding Miriam Shifreen to take over that particular task. She also contributed the Australian Database pages at the back of the journal, and many snippets of information, as well as writing some articles. She also posted the journal and organized the system of address labels, and bulk postage to the Victorian Society. She has been creative, multi-skilled, and reliable in all the tasks she assumed, and perhaps we have all taken her and her work for granted.

Her husband Peter has also contributed by being ever ready to ferry boxes of books, papers, computers and microfiche readers back and forth from lectures, exhibitions and displays. He also uncomplainingly supported financially all the expenses which Rieke incurred for the benefit of our Society. We owe him a debt of gratitude, too.

Now that she seeks a break from all her duties, we have the task of finding other members to do all the jobs she carried out so well. It is quite obvious that no one will be found to do the multiplicity of tasks she carried out, but we need someone to assume her secretarial jobs, the responsibility of posting this journal, of running the workshops she established, of running the database and liaising with JewishGen. Ruth Barnett has already taken on the task of receiving e-mail messages for the Society and passing them on, and Jeanette Tsoulos will take on some of the duties of Resources Librarian, but she needs a back-up. We also need other members to respond to the challenge left by Rieke's projected absence if we expect the Society to continue to function and to thrive. We all have the responsibility of spouses, children, grandchildren, jobs and other interests, but the Society needs members who have never contributed other than a membership fee to now come forward and volunteer for a task. Otherwise the Society cannot continue to operate as well as it has with Rieke's work.

Will you respond to the challenge and help our Society to survive? Please ring me at 02-9958 6317 to offer your services in whatever skills you possess.

To Rieke we say: We hope that you enjoy your year away and that you will decide to come back to us afterwards. We need your skills, your initiatives, and your dedication. Whatever happens, the Society is grateful for all you have done so far.

News from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 6 No 4	
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The past three months has witnessed a great deal of activity in Victoria.

Lionel Sharpe and Kurt Friedlaender reported on their experiences at the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held in New York in August, at a meeting held on September 22nd. Lionel showed the colour slides he had taken of the Lower East Side synagogues as well as streetscapes and other buildings in New York including the new Holocaust Museum at Battery Point. Seventeen audio-taped lectures from the conference are now available at the Makor Library.

Lionel had presented a demonstration at the conference on the use of interactive multimedia in presenting family history. He illustrated the possibilities of this technology with the CD ROM which was produced by, and now on show at the Jewish Museum of Australia in St.Kilda, called "Jews in Australia - A Swag of Stories". The presentation was well received and one New York Jewish school has already ordered copies.

On Wednesday, 13th October, Oskar Delatycki, a Melbourne academic, spoke on 'Travels to Belarus'. Oskar has already visited Belarus three times to research archives relating to his family from Novogorodek and to obtain material to write about events which occurred in the area of his birth during the Holocaust. He spoke about the archives in Minsk and Grodno and the problems of getting access to records as well as his current Holocaust research.

This was followed by a talk by local member, Ian Grinblat whose business is called "Crafted Expression". He spoke about 'putting flesh and bones' on family trees through the publication of facts, stories and documents.

Again the Society had a display table at the annual open day of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies held in Burwood in October. The display was suitably located between the Irish and Scottish displays. Visitors also had an opportunity to go on conducted tours of the archives of the National Archives of Australia in the building nearby.

Another of the regular workshops was held on Sunday 24th October at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre which attracted a number of new members.

*Rieke and Lionel enjoying the famous lady of
New York*



The major event of this year was the joint hosting of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies Conference in Melbourne on 7-8 November. Apart from a full morning on genealogy a number of other lectures were of direct genealogical interest. Sonya and Les Oberman hosted a dinner at their home to welcome our colleagues from Sydney, Rieke and Peter Nash and Gary Luke who were attending the conference. A very productive evening was spent with members of the Committee of Management discussing matters of mutual interest. A report of this event appears in this issue.

The final event for 1999 (and the century!) is being held on December 8th when long standing committee member, Enid Yoffa-Elton will talk on 'Researching your Ancestry in Poland'. Enid travelled to Poland recently to research Jewish archives especially Warsaw and Cracow.

The fourth issue of the Victorian newsletter 'Jewish Genealogy Downunder' will be available at this meeting. Members outside Victoria can subscribe for \$8.00 p.a. for four issues.

The President, Les Oberman and members of the Committee of Management, wish all members good health and successful searching into the year 2000 and beyond.

Enquiries: Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738 sharpe@labyrinth.net.au
Les Oberman (03)9571 8251 oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

National Conference Report	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 6 No 4	
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Over eighty participants attended the 12th Annual Conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies held in Melbourne in November. This was the first time the AAJS conference was offered in association with two other organisations namely, the Australian Jewish Historical Society and our own Society.

Spacious Slome Hall was an ideal setting for the conference and another room was made available for the parallel session on the second day. Slome Hall is part of the Temple Beth Israel complex in St. Kilda and the conference extended over two days, Sunday and Monday 7-8 November 1999.

There were a total of nineteen lecture presentations and a genealogical workshop was conducted by members of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society on the second day. Rieke and Peter Nash and Gary Luke came from Sydney to assist with this event which attracted about twenty-five participants.

The theme of the conference: "Australian Jewry - From a Remnant of Israel to a Vibrant Community", aimed to reflect the growth and dynamism of the Jewish communities throughout Australia. Of major interest to genealogists was Rabbi Dr John Levi's keynote address - "The Hidden Truth - The Jews of Colonial Australia 1788-1850", where he offered glimpses of the forthcoming second edition of his 1960's book 'Australian Genesis'.

Gary Luke from Sydney presented a talk on 'Non-British Migrant Records in Australian Archives' showing the wealth of material in such documents as Alien Registrations. Lionel Sharpe gave an illustrated talk on the archives he is using to develop a data base on Jewish refugee arrivals to Australia between 1938 to 1953. Some other papers, such as a presentation by Judith O'Donnell on the convict Ann Solomon, focused on Jewish individuals of historical interest.

The experience of this combined conference augers well for future as these conferences give a high profile to the work of the AJGS.

News from the South Australian Branch	Klee Benveniste	Vol 6 No 4	
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South Australian members meet every two months. In August, a research discussion was held. In October, Margot Bailey spoke about 'Memories of Sir Lewis Cohen' her great-grandfather. We hope that Margot will write about these memories for the 'Kosher Koala' when she can.

The Jewish Community in South Australia held an exhibition titled 'The Tree of Life' in the community access section of the Migration Museum in Adelaide recently. Jews have lived in South Australia since 1836. The exhibits included a series of panels

with photos and short texts about some of the early Jewish settlers. philanthropists, members of the armed forces, Jewish mayors, artistic performers, and the development of the orthodox and liberal synagogues. The panels were accompanied by various artifacts on loan from families. Display of a prepared Shabbat table was accompanied by photographs of families celebrating Shabbat and the havdalah ceremony. A collection of Hannukah candelabra, and photographs of a wide variety of mezuzot from the doorposts of the community were displayed as well as a fabric hanging of a tree with each leaf prepared by a Jewish child in Adelaide introducing themselves and their families' country of origin. A video playing during the exhibition featured a series of interviews with individuals whose families had come during the waves of immigration which added to the local community, for example, English, South African, and Russian. The exhibition was put together by a group of people from a wide cross-section of the local community under the direction of Kitty Goode. Entry to the exhibition was free. As a result, a number of members of the general public spoke of their pride in their Jewish heritage.

The South Australian Branch can be contacted by post: Dr. Klee Benveniste,
Honorary Secretary,
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA Branch) C/- Adelaide Hebrew
Congregation
P.O. Box 320, Glenside, SA 5065 Or phone Chairperson, Hilde Hines 61-8-8379
6030

"Within the Walls" Exhibition		Vol 6 No 4		
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This remarkable exhibition about the Theresienstadt Ghetto 1941-45 has reopened at the Sydney Jewish Museum, 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst, Tel: 9360-7999. See it before the end of February as it then moves on to the Old Parliament House building in Canberra and later to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC, USA.

Family History Award		Vol 6 No 4		
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The Annual Alexander Henderson Award for the best published family history. Entries close on 30 November every year.

For information:
Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, Inc.
P.O. Box 339
BLACKBURN VIC 3130

Data Sharing Agreement Signed	Howard Margol	Vol 6 No 4		
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President, IAJGS

On Sunday night, October 24, as President of IAJGS, I had the honor and privilege of signing a tripartite agreement joining the International Association of Jewish

Genealogical Societies, Jewishgen, and Beth Hatefutsoth (the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv) in merging the Family Trees we each hold in our respective databases.

The formal signing of the agreement took place, at the Hotel Pierre in New York City, at a dinner honoring Harvey Krueger, Vice Chairman of Lehman Brothers, philanthropist, amateur genealogist and the catalyst for bringing together the three organizations. I signed the agreement as President of IAJGS, David Alexander, Director General, signed for Beth Hatefutsoth and Susan King signed for JewishGen. General (Ret.) Matan Vilnai, the Government of Israel Minister of Science, Culture and Sports witnessed the signing.

The finalizing of the data sharing agreement was the fruition of eighteen months of hard work and negotiations between the three parties. On behalf of IAJGS, I want to thank Karen Franklin, Bruce Kahn, and Larry Hamilton for their efforts and for a job well done.

I am proud to have been a part of this and to finally set into motion a collective effort to create a true Family Tree of the Jewish People.

Australian Jews in the Boer War		Vol 6 No 4		
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Russell Stern of Sydney is attempting to prepare a list and possibly a book detailing the exploits of Australian Jews who participated in the Boer War, which began on 11 October 1899. At present there is no record of their service, and generally their names are unknown. Some died in South Africa.

Australian's volunteered for "Australian" units as well as for "irregular units", these being formed in South Africa, and also in British units. They also served as nurses.

He has a listing of some 90 names at present. Many have been able to be confirmed as definitely both Jewish and Australian. For some their Jewish status has to be confirmed.

He would appreciate details, photos, letters from, etc relating to Australian Jews. If any of our readers have any information please contact directly:

Russell W Stern
42 Streatfield Road,
Bellevue Hill, Sydney, NSW 2023.
Tel/fax (02) 9326 1183

Jewish Genealogy Databases Unite to Create a Family Tree of the Jewish People		Vol 6 No 4		
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People throughout the world who are interested in tracing their Jewish roots and finding relatives will now have a vastly improved and readily accessible database of over 2 million names in a family tree format, thanks to a long-awaited agreement signed on Sunday, October 24. The three major Jewish genealogy organizations:

the *International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies* (IAJGS) (there are 75 genealogical societies worldwide),

JewishGen (the Internet site for researching Jewish ancestry), and

Beth Hatefutsoth (the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv)

have agreed to combine their family tree information. The agreement will allow this valuable resource to be available on site at the museum, on the world wide web, and on CD-ROM.

Prior to this agreement, anyone searching Jewish family lines had to contribute their family trees to all three organizations to ensure that they could be found by lost relatives and fellow researchers. Now, an Australian consulting the database on the web might find a cousin in Chicago who had registered the family tree with JewishGen or IAJGS, and an avid genealogist cousin in Israel who had donated the family tree to Beth Hatefutsoth. Long-lost relatives can reunite and learn more about their shared history.


Harvey Krueger, the Vice Chairman of Lehman Brothers, Inc., genealogy enthusiast and philanthropist, envisioned this agreement to help Jewish people graft together branches of their families that were torn apart by the Holocaust and separated by emigration, and was the catalyst for its completion. Combining the three databases will create a 2 million-strong family tree of the Jewish people, a tree that can only grow and flower as it is nurtured by this agreement.

To learn more about searching the database, which should be operational by the end of January 2000, and about submitting trees to the participating not-for-profit organizations, please consult their websites:

Jewishgen: <http://www.jewishgen.org>

IAJGS: <http://www.jewishgen.org/ajgs>

Beth Hatefutsoth: <http://www.bh.org.il>

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum - in search of these passengers		Vol 6 No 4		
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The Survivors Registry of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is seeking documentation on the fate of passengers from the 1939 voyage of the SS St. Louis. Anyone with information about a St Louis passenger - particularly any of the passengers on this list - still unaccounted for, should contact

Scott Miller
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW

Washington, DC 20024
 Tel: (202) 488 0495
 Fax: (202) 314 7888
 E-mail:smiller@ushmm.org

* Indicates passengers for whom there is documentation of survival, or death, but for whom minimal information exists on wartime experiences.

Name	D.O.Birth	P.O.Birth	Prewar	Wartime
Ball (Lippert), Magdalena	Mar 4, 1900	Berlin	Berlin	France
*Bruhl, Walter	Apr 13,1885	Berlin	Berlin	France
Buchholz, Wilhem	Jan 24, 1872	Schildberg	Berlin	Belgium
*David, Emma	May 25, 1880	Steinach	Erfurt	France
*Edelstein, Ida	Nov 10, 1879	Bonn	Berlin	Holland
*Epstein, Moritz	May 15,1895	Eichstatten	Pirmasens	France
Goldbaum, Anna	Dec 10, 1875	Wrietzen	Berlin	Belgium
*Goldschmidt, Fritz	May 11,1907	Kitzingen	Berlin	France
*Heimann, Erwin	Aug 6, 1903	Borken	Frankfurt/M.	Belgium
*Heller, Frantisek	Apr 14, 1903	Prague	Prague	France
*Jacobowitz, Walter	May 1, 1908	Breslau	Breslau	Holland
*Jonas, Julius	Feb 26, 1893	Bendorg	Bendorf	Holland
Kaminker, Berthold	Sep 29, 1897	Ulanow	Vienna	France
*Krohn, Regina	Feb 10, 1908	Konigsberg/Pr	Berlin	Holland
Leyser, Erich	Dec 10, 1881	Berlin	Berlin	France
Lichtenstein, Fritz	Feb 15, 1887	Berlin	Berlin	Holland
*Maschkowsky, Arthur	July 13, 1888	Culm/Westpr	Berlin	Belgium
*Moser, Edmund	Jun 20, 1871	Helmstedt	Prague	France
Munz, Meta	Jan 28, 1912	Altengronau	Frankfurt/M.	Belgium
*Oehl, Dorothea	Nov 24, 1870	Gostyn	Berlin	Belgium
*Oppler, Arthur	Jan 8, 1871	Gleiwitz	Berlin	France
*Prager, Siegfried	May 18, 1887	Laasphe	Nordhausen	Holland
Rebenfeld, Kurt	Nov 28, 1899	Frankfurt/Main	Krefeld	France
*Richter, Marianne	Apr 8, 1868	Neubreuck	Berlin	Belgium
Riesenburger, Hermann	Mar 4 1898	Krojanke	Berlin	France
*Rothmann, Martin	Sep 1, 1882	Kletzkow	Munich	France
Siegel, Arthur	Jan 19, 1891	Ems	Ludwigshafen	France
Sternlicht, Lotte	Dec 9, 1905	Forst	Dresden	Belgium
Velman, Walter	May 4, 1906	Altona (Hamburg)	Hamburg	Holland
*Wertheim, Fritz	Apr 5, 1899	Berlin	Berlin	Holland
*Wolf, Moritz	July 5, 1883	Dietzenbach	Dietzenbach	Belgium
Zweigenthal, Fritz	June 8, 1909	Vienna	Vienna	Belgium

Jewishgen, Making the Internet a Better Place to Research	Susan King	Vol 6 No 4		
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From Susan King and the Officers and Board of JewishGen

We are most pleased to inform our readership that JewishGen has been chosen by the Genealogy Forum on AOL to receive the Best Site Pick for the month of December 1999.

GFSByron@aol.com writes in part: "Your site has been chosen because of its comprehensive nature in providing a resource for people searching their Jewish heritage. For over fourteen years, JewishGen has been the leader in ploughing the path of Jewish genealogy on the cyber-world making it easier for those that follow behind. JewishGen not only provides surname databases where researchers can find each other and join efforts, but the volunteers at JewishGen have a gold mine by freely sharing their knowledge through research aids to help people learn where to search for their ancestors. JewishGen also needs to be commended for realizing the effects of working as a team not only among their 200+ volunteers but with numerous other Jewish interest groups as well.

The information and organization of your site shows your dedication and effort in providing easily accessible information to other genealogists.

On behalf of the Genealogy Forum on AOL, we would like to thank you for your time and effort in making the Internet a better place to do research."

To view the award logo go to our homepage, <http://www.jewishgen.org> and scroll down to the very bottom of the page. We display it proudly and with heartfelt thanks to our volunteers who work behind the scenes, to those who have come forth with their financial support of our efforts, and to all who contribute the information they have acquired, thus participating in the JewishGen mission of "preserving our history for future generations."

May I join with AOL and say to you all.. well done!

Catalogue of Works on Jewish Genealogy		Vol 6 No 4		
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We have available to our readers the latest catalogue of books, CD-Roms, microfiche and maps which can be purchased from AVOTAYNU Publishers on Jewish genealogy. Write to our postal address enclosing \$1.50 in unused stamps to cover the postage and envelope.

"The Jewish Victorian" (U.K.)		Vol 6 No 4		
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Genealogical Information from English Jewish Newspapers 1871-80 transcribed and edited by Doreen Berger ISBN 1 899536 38 8

It has six hundred pages with more than 20,000 entries and the pedigrees of hundreds of families. Inside the covers of this invaluable volume are all the birth, marriage and death entries from the Jewish newspapers. Also included are obituaries, gossip and events concerning individuals, reported as they were actually occurring. The book is arranged in the form of an alphabetic index, with details from the life of each subject listed under their name, in date order. Under each narrative is listed the subject's near relatives, including those of the subject's spouse.

The genealogies are cross referenced: old families were related to each other and married amongst themselves. Within these pages are accounts of women dying in childbirth, second and third marriages, forgotten murder mysteries, court proceedings, heroism and academic success. Light is shed on the attitudes of the day and class differences in Jewish Society. Read of the leading Jewish families as well as the middle classes and the poverty stricken.

Genealogists: Work out the pedigrees of hundreds of families.

Historians: Examine from the contemporary accounts the events of the decade.

Sociologists: Study the behaviour and traditions of both rich and poor in Victorian society.

Statisticians: Research the mortality rate and cause of death of a section of the population.

An invaluable reference book and genealogical tool

Doreen Berger

Doreen is a founder member of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.

She writes regular articles on stories from the Jewish newspapers of the past and is a contributor to the New Dictionary of National Biography to be published by Oxford University Press. She has given many talks on genealogy.

Go to the Jewish Genealogy Society of Great Britain website <http://www.ort.org/jgsqb> for further details, sample pages and an order form. Price:£34.95 per copy (£31.45 for members of JGSGB) plus £6 for surface mail delivery, or £113.50 per copy airmail

Order from: Robert Boyd Publications, 260 Colwell Drive, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX8 7LW, U.K.

Telephone: 01993 201182 Fax: 01993 201183 Email: BOYDPUBS@aol.com

A Trip to Poland, Belarus and Western Ukraine. Part III Western Ukraine

Sophie Caplan

Vol 6 No 4



On Sunday 27th July we flew to Warsaw after a week's Baltic cruise during which we had met my genealogical correspondent Cantor Maynard Gerber in Stockholm. A very pleasant morning was spent touring the Stockholm synagogue and Jewish community centre with someone who had become a friend through Richard Hoffman's Family News-letter, now defunct. When I had found that one of my dearest friends, now deceased, was distantly related to him I had introduced him by mail to the rest

of her family. This is one of the delights of Jewish genealogy, the ability to befriend people in distant countries through mutual help and similar interests.

Our cruise ship brought us back to Copenhagen, from which there was no direct flight to Lviv, so we flew to Warsaw, then to Frankfurt and thence to Lviv by Lot Airlines, as comfortable as any Western airline. On arrival in Lviv at 10.10 a.m. it took us an hour and a half to clear all arrival formalities, including the ubiquitous forms left over from the Soviet era, similar to those in Belarus, listing jewellery, cameras, weapons if any, and all currencies carried whether in cash or traveller's cheques. Australians tend to pack in side expeditions to various countries on the one trip away, and this meant long boring lists of currencies. Perhaps that was why we were the last travellers out of the customs hall after a detailed examination of our luggage. Luckily Oleg Silberman was there to meet us, having driven from Germany to guide us and to translate for us in Western Ukraine.

I had met Oleg when I had travelled with a Gesher Galicia group to Lviv by train from Kiev in July 1995, and found him a helpful, cheerful and personable guide. He was now living with his family as a Jewish refugee in Germany, but had decided to come and help us out, using the opportunity to visit his sister still living in Lviv.

Once again we stayed overnight at the Dniester Hotel while in Lviv. After settling in and lunch we went to see Diana Pelts at the Lviv provincial archives as I had arranged with her in Paris. Diana, chief archivist in Lviv, and speaking perfect French although she had never previously been to France, had been invited as a keynote speaker to the International Seminar in Paris a few weeks earlier and I had told her of my projected visit and arranged to visit her archives that day.

The archives were in a medieval building which had actually once been part of the Lviv ramparts, and also a monastery, not exactly a state of the art air-conditioned environment. On seeing the environment of the archives one becomes aware of the dedication needed by archivists like Diana Pelts. It seemed that the institution lacked every modern aid taken for granted by our institutions, even writing and copying paper. There were no Jewish B.M.D. records, but some records of land holdings, of taxes paid and of school student lists. Diana Pelts told us that at this time Jewish genealogists were those most interested in those archives. In view of the penury of the whole institution, I left a sizeable donation, and a few months later received photocopies of some landholding records which may have been of one of my great-great-grandfathers. Unfortunately the linking B.M.D. records which would verify that MECHSEL STEIN of DOLINA was the right person, are absent.

Our walks through Lviv that day revealed a town mostly built at the time of Emperor Franz-Joseph during the second half of the 19th century, replete with sadly neglected beautiful buildings of this period corresponding to our Victorian era, including the Opera House and various public buildings. We had dinner at an outdoor Pizza and ice-cream parlour, recently introduced and vastly popular.

The next morning we drove south-east, to the towns of my maternal family, particularly those I had not had time to see or even drive through during the trip with Gesher Galicia. This time we had booked in at the Roxolana Hotel in Ivano-Frankivsk, right next door to the provincial archives in that town, to which it had taken

a long dreary drive of over three hours in 1995 when the organisers had unaccountably lodged us at the Shermoosh in Chernovtsy. The Roxolana had opened in 1993, redesigned from two Belle Epoque mansions, very comfortable, with reasonable food and menus which even had English translations.

We drove through Stryy where we photographed the derelict synagogue, obviously once an imposing structure. Stryy is a medium-sized town which still appears prosperous and bustling. We also passed through Drohobych, where in 1995 I had found the former pharmacy of the father of our cousin by marriage, Tola Spiegel nJe Stempler, still a busy pharmacy, although its founder had perished.

Then we headed for Boryslaw, distinctive because of its many petroleum wells, where our relatives Berel Spiegel and Berel Rosenman had worked, the first as a foreman, the second in the offices. I tried to find the street where the Spiegels had lived, its proportions known to me from an often perused photograph, but without a street name, this was impossible. Then on to Bolechow one of the early centres of Eastern Galician Jewry, from which at least some of our ancestors may have come.

The Bolechow synagogue still stands in a reasonable state, having been used for decades until the fall of communism in 1995 as a trade union meet-ing hall and theatre. We were directed to the guardian of the building, a baker from the bakery next door, obviously originally part of the synagogue precinct. This man, a Ukrainian, pleaded with us to alert Jewish organisations abroad to the fact that the synagogue building could be restored with some funds. Unfortunately we do not have connections to these sorts of funds, but possibly a reader with access to Samuel Gruber and the American Fund for Cultural Heritage Abroad could do something about this.

The guardian of the building then drove with us to the Bolechow Jewish cemetery on a hillside at the outskirts of the little town, still extant though neglected, a real miracle after our visits to the destroyed Jewish cemeteries in Porozow, Volkovysk and Szczuczyn Litevski in Belarus. A few thousand dollars could certainly restore it as the stones are still standing and seemingly in excellent condition.

On to Ivano-Frankivsk, the former Stanislawow, along an excellent highway with very little traffic. The landscape was green and undulating with small rises and occasional hills framing an aged river valley. The land seemed better cared for than in Belarus, different in small intangible ways, with occasional cattle, but not the herds that Australians or Americans are used to, but single cows led by a teenager or an older person, or half a dozen at the most. Once during that week we saw sixteen cows grazing in a meadow on the way to Rozniatow, and that was the largest herd we saw. The Roxolana was comfortable, and the welcome was warm, also unusual in a former Soviet country.

The next day we drove to some smaller towns associated with my maternal family. Firstly to Holyn now Kotiatiche Golin, to its old quarter and small rural town hall where we asked about Jewish records. There were none, and the staff, though friendly, seemed surprised at such an outlandish request.

While we drove around I noticed a number of houses with the tell-tale front door to the street indicating a former probable Jewish house and wondered whether one of them could have been that of my Halperin ancestors. Then on to BROZNIOW and KRECHOWICE where my great-uncle ZORACH STEIN had lived and then died in a sawmill accident. It turned out that the only timber mill was in BROZNIOW the two small towns a continuous ribbon strip along the main road to Holyn and Kalusz. We stopped and went into the timber mill and factory and asked if there were any archives. The mill had been founded by a Jewish family named GLEISINGER, but the archives only went back to 1944 when the Russians had taken it over after the rout of the German army. All earlier papers had disappeared.

We then drove to ROZNIATOW, PEREHINSKO and DOLINA, all on the southern side of the Dniester River. Driving through the pleasant little town of Rozniatow, lush with summer greenery, tended to bring back memories of the English-language articles by Simon and Olive Liberman in the Rozniatow Yizkor book of their 1930's trips to the town, which was just as lush with new growth as now. Indeed their accounts peppered with surnames connected by kinship or friendship to my family, TANNE, RECHTSCHAFFEN, REITER HOROWITZ, LUSTHAUS, LODNER, WAECHTER, FASSBERG, have always led me to re-read them with pleasure, although the Jewish stores and landmarks described by them had all disappeared.

We asked about the synagogue, and it seemed to have gone, but to our utter amazement we were directed to the still extant Jewish cemetery. It was set in a block surrounded by houses, but could only be reached by hazardous jumping on to large stones over a small creek, which probably discouraged vandals.

We looked at and photographed a number of graves and I had just expressed the wish to find at least one gravestone of someone associated with my family, when my husband Leslie discovered the intact stone of KEILE STRASSMANN who was born a HAUSMANN and died in 1936 in Rozniatow. Shortly afterwards we found the grave of PINIE RECHTSCHAFFEN. We could have spent a lot longer in that cemetery, but we also wanted to visit PEREHINSKO and DOLINA. As we were leaving the cemetery neighbourhood, a woman from the house next to the footpath which ran along the creek, who had earlier explained to Oleg how to get to the cemetery, came out to invite us for a cup of coffee with her. Had we had more time we might have accepted, but we were conscious of how much I had missed in 1995 and did not want to have the same regrets this time, so we declined. Now, I wonder whether we could have learnt something important.

The drive to Perehinsko was through a flat verdant countryside, the road edged by trees, but Perehinsko looked a much poorer and less pleasant village. The Jewish cemetery still existed, also surrounded by houses, but only flat lying gravestones were visible, no upright stones, and the area was damp underfoot and over-grown with nettles and other weeds. It was also obviously used as an open-range feeding area for poultry and as a laundry-drying field.

The people from the surrounding houses seemed friendly as they answered the questions Olga put to them on our behalf, but unlike the Rozniatow and Bolechow cemeteries, it was not a place which invited lingering or contemplation. The whole effect of the cemetery and its surrounds was slatternly. We took a few photographs,

but without gumboots it seemed inadvisable to venture over the whole extent of the cemetery.

On to Dolina which I had visited thoroughly in 1995 with Gesher Galicia. The large main synagogue had survived and had been restored by the Baptists who now used it as their church. As in 1995 it was locked, but from the outside looked impeccably preserved. Again we wandered around the back to try to ascertain whether a mikva had been situated there. It was hard to tell, but it seemed probable that a mikva had existed since there were so many broken water pipes. We drove on uphill to the common fallow field which had been the Jewish cemetery. This time there were less remnants of masonry graves, but even in 1995 none had held any names or Hebrew writing. Again there were a few goats and many chickens feeding on the common. The most touching part of the visit was the young goat following me around for hand-outs as I ate a snack. In 1995 the very existence of the cemetery site where some of my ancestors had been buried was an emotional experience. This time the emptiness of the beautifully situated common field, atop a commanding cliff-site, dried my heart. For me, the name Dolina had always been a word to conjure with, now I realized there was really nothing left to come back to. I should have spent more time in Rozniatow.

It was pleasant to drive back to the Roxolana Hotel in less than an hour, to have dinner and a short walk. We knew that it was inadvisable to walk in the dark, so the three of us just took a quick turn outside the hotel.

To be concluded in the next issue March 2000.

**Studies in Anglo-Jewish
History**

**Vol 6 No
4**



Edited by Rabbi Bernard Susser (in association with the Jewish Historical Society of England)

1. Jewish South-West of England census returns, 1841-91

2. Jewish Tombstone Inscriptions in South-West England

Introduction Exeter Bristol (Barton) Falmouth Penzance (with photographs) Plymouth Gifford Place

3. The Old Jewish Cemetery on Plymouth Hoe

4. Jewish South-West of England Wills

[I shall gradually transcribe this handlist of all the wills that I can find in the Archive and add them.]

5. Jewish South-West of England Birth, Marriage and Death Registers

Exeter Marriage Register

Plymouth Birth Register 1829-1837

Plymouth Marriage Register

6. Biographies (c. 2,500) Of All Known Jews in South-West England

[Sadly, Rabbi Susser's card index of the Biographies appears to be lost. FJG]

Archive Transcripts by Rabbi Susser

Inscriptions in the Alderney Road Cemetery, London, 1696 - 1853
New Synagogue (London), Duplicate Ketubot Register
The Great Synagogue, London, Burial Register 1791-1823
Myer Solomon Circumcision Register
Asher Asher Circumcision Register
Circumcision Register of Joseph Joseph of Plymouth
Circumcision Register Edinburgh
Circumcision Register of Rabbi Ash of Dover
Wedding & Circumcision Register of Rabbi Ash
Marriage Register of the Western Synagogue
Hambro's Synagogue Burial Register
Norwich, Ipswich and Great Yarmouth Tombstone Inscriptions
Biography of Nathan Joseph Altmann
Exeter Marriage Register 1838-1907
Plymouth Birth Register 1829-1837
Plymouth Marriage Register 1837-1933
Plymouth Hebrew Congregation Deaths 1927-1963
Handlist of Plymouth Deeds, 1963
Handlist of Plymouth Synagogue Artefacts
Handlist of Plymouth Synagogue Artefacts, 1892
Handlist of Plymouth Synagogue Artefacts, 1934
Plymouth Gifford Place Cemetery Tombstone Inscriptions
Extracts from the Chief Rabbinate Correspondence for Devon and Cornwall
Report on Plymouth Sifrei Torah

The Susser Archive	Frank J Gent	Vol 6 No 4		
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The documents and papers of the late Rabbi Dr Bernard Susser, historian of the Jews of South West England, together with his computer disks, have recently been placed temporarily in the care of Frank Gent of the Exeter Synagogue in England. He will be extracting the data from Rabbi Susser's disks, and publishing these, both in written form and on a website, in honour of Rabbi Susser's memory and his work for the Jews of South West England, both present and past.

Rabbi Dr Bernard Susser was born in 1930 in North-West London, of Galician ancestry. His father was the beadle in the Dunstan Road Synagogue, whose kosher wine shop in the Golders Green Road was a local landmark. He was educated at Dame Alice Owen's school, Islington, and took his first degree and Rabbinical Diploma at Jews' College, London.

At Exeter University he took a degree in law whilst submitting a PhD thesis in the Department of Economic History on the Jewish communities of South-West England, 1181 - 1981. He published numerous articles on South-West Jewry; The Jewish Cemetery on Plymouth Hoe; an account of Chief Rabbi Adler's Census of Anglo-

Jewry, 1845; and The History of the Johannesburg United Hebrew Congregation. His definitive book, *The Jews of South-West England*, has been much acclaimed. He was preparing to publish works on Jews in the decennial Census returns, Jewish Wills, and Tombstone Inscriptions at the time of his death. (The Society in Sydney purchased this book which is available for consultation at workshops.)

He worked as a rabbi in England, South Africa and Israel till retiring to live in London with his wife, Sylvia. They have a son in London and a daughter and grandchildren in Jerusalem.

The Susser Archive,
Exeter Hebrew Congregation,
Synagogue Place, Mary Arches Street,
EXETER, DEVON EX4 3BA
Email: exeshul@eclipse.co.uk
Website: www.eclipse.co.uk.exeshul/susser


Other Historical Writings of Rabbi Susser

History of the Willesden & Brondesbury Synagogue

The Jews of South-West England

Social Acclimatisation of Jews in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Devon

The Jewish Historical Library of Rabbi Dr B. Susser

Genetic Research. Ancestry of the Ashkenazim	Vivian Moses	Vol 6 No 4		
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A group of us at University College in London are using genetic methods to try to unravel some of the ancestry of the European Jews, particularly those from Eastern Europe. The link between genetic ancestry and genealogy is very close, each able to shed light on the other, so that genealogists will find our work of direct relevance to their own interests. An outline of our project was presented to an interested audience at the Jewish Genealogical Society conference in New York and details are on our website: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/tcga/ashkenazim>

Through the good offices of the JGS and others, we hope to sample about 5,000 men of Eastern European Jewish decent who know, at least more-or-less, where in that area their paternal and maternal lineages originated. Sampling itself is trivial: just rubbing the inside of the cheek for a few seconds with a cottonwool swab.

Because of the difficulties of meeting so many people in person we are hoping to collect samples by mail. Would it therefore be possible for you to forward this email to people you feel might be willing to contribute a sample, asking them to send their mailing addresses to me? We will ship a sample pack to each one with our next mailing: just how soon that will be will depend on how rapidly responses come back but we will certainly get to everyone who responds.

Sampling Eastern European Jewish men or their descendents is the first phase of our study. Eventually we also hope to obtain specimens from many of the peoples, including perhaps descendents of the Khazars, who have been proposed as possible

ancestors. Indeed, in January we are planning to go to Bautzen in Germany to obtain cheek swabs from Sorbs, one group postulated on linguistic grounds as having contributed to the Ashkenazi gene pool.

With many thanks for your cooperation,
Vivian Moses

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Director,
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20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy
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Howard Margol

Vol 6 No 4



From: Howard Margol, President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

Mark your calendar and reserve the dates - July 9-14, 2000 - 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy - Salt Lake City, Utah - Home of the Family History Library. The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is putting on this conference. Our conference coordinators, Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Sack are hard at work and making great plans for an outstanding conference. If you have never done research at the Family History Library in SLC, you are in for a real treat. The Library has more Jewish records on microfilm than any other place in the world. If you have done research in SLC previously, you will still want to do some additional research. Special arrangements are being made in order for us to have maximum access to the Jewish records. Research opportunities will be available that would not be possible at other times. You might say, "why go to Salt Lake City when I can just stay home and go to my local Family History Center." You can accomplish more in four days at the FHC in SLC than you can in four years at your local FHC. Everything is right there at your finger tips. Additionally, you can access records in SLC that cannot be obtained in your city of residence. This is especially true in Europe as well as in other foreign countries. For information about the conference, visit our website at <http://iajgs.org/slcy2k> - visit it often as it is being updated every week. Mark your calendar and reserve the dates - July 9-14, 2000

My Road Back to Judaism

Miriam Mandryk

Vol 6 No 4



I began tracing my family tree about eight years ago. I was interested in learning about my origins and I hoped to track down my 'missing identity'.

I began tracing my father's line, thinking that one's identity lies with one's paternal ancestry. I found English, Irish, Scottish and German ancestors. However it wasn't until I was 25 and became more feminist in my thinking, that I decided to research my mother's line. My cousin in Poland sent me some certificates at my request and the names of my great-grandparents.

Later that year (1994) , I travelled to Poland to visit my relatives. At that time I was a practising Catholic and so I was quite surprised, when on board the flight to Rome, I found myself sitting next to a young Jewish man from Melbourne. I hadn't met too many Jews before, and I certainly never discussed religion with the few I did meet. This Jew was different though, he was religious - which seemed to be a contradiction in terms! I had been taught that G-d had sent the Jews their Messiah and they rejected him, so G-d rejected them. But this Jew was religious and it seemed to me that G-d was with him - how could this be? We talked and I learned that Judaism accepts converts, and if I had a Jewish ancestress on my direct maternal line that I'd be Jewish! As my mother was born of Polish parents who were taken prisoner during the war, the latter seemed a possibility. As for conversion, well I had been told by a priest that if I became Jewish that I'd go to hell for rejecting Jesus.

When I came back from Poland I read the Hebrew Bible (or as the Christians call it the "Old" testament). I then became very confused with regards to my faith and I decided to resume tracing my mother's line in the hope of finding a Jewish ancestress. Research proved to be a long and expensive process, but I wanted so much to be Jewish. I became convinced a number of times that my mother's parents were Jewish. My mother, whose first name is Roza, tells me her father used to call her Shoshanah when she was a little girl, and that her mother often made latkes (potato pancakes).

Shortly thereafter I commenced study at Newcastle University and so moved to Newcastle. I made contact with the synagogue there. The secretary of Newcastle synagogue told me if I couldn't furnish any documentation to prove I was Jewish, then I would have to convert. I had some documentation, but it was of little help in establishing proof of my grandmother's religion.

By now I had come to believe that Judaism is the true religion, and so I wasn't afraid of going to hell if I converted. So off I went on the train to Sydney, so I could see Rabbi Apple about conversion. My conversion took two and a half years. During that time I continued to trace my family tree in the search for a Jewish ancestress. Finally the certificates from the town registry office petered out and I had to start searching in the archives. The birth certificates which came from the archives said my ancestress had had a 'holy baptism' - this meant it was a Catholic baptism. I was bitterly disappointed and my conversion was proving to be very difficult indeed! With the help of the Alexander Beider book "Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland" I discovered that several of the names I had traced could in fact also be Jewish eg: Liczkowski, Owczarek, Marczak, Kusmierczyk (was Khirschner), Zemachowski (from the Hebrew Tzemach), Swiercz, Wozniakowski and Mandryk (from Madryk/Mondryk means Wiseman). Mandryk is my mother's name and it is also now my surname. Obviously I had Jewish ancestry, but where were my Jewish ancestors?

Shortly after I converted I found myself in Sydney for Passover. I was visiting the house of a kosher butcher and telling my story. I said it was strange that many of my mother's maternal ancestors had Jewish surnames, but yet their birth certificates said that they had been baptised. Then from my host I heard something very interesting - that many of the Polish Jews who had assimilated (ie. converted to Catholicism) heard that the Nazis were coming and would check registers. So the Jews who had converted out bribed officials to alter the registers for them in the hope of avoiding capture by the Nazis. I remember my grandmother telling me how she had grown up in a big house with lots of animals on a big farm. However when I arrived at my relatives' home, the house was but a small shack and the land and animals were very few. Perhaps they sold up their assets so they would have the money to bribe officials? Did my great-grandparents convert to Catholicism or was it their parents? And why were my grandparents taken prisoner? Many questions must remain unanswered as my grandfather is dead and my grandmother won't talk.

Recently I received some information from the Ukrainian archives regarding my grandfather's birth. (He was born in Kalush which before the war was part of Poland.) The names of his parents and grandparents were given. Again there were Jewish surnames - Mandryk (which I already knew about), Malaszkowski and Szafierowicz! The letter said he was Christian on his father's side (nothing about his mother's side).

Well, I suppose I know as much as I ever will. One of my conversion teachers told me that converts are Jewish. They either can't prove or don't know it, and that converts are lost Jewish souls returning. I continue to trace my mother's line. Although I've now converted, still I hope to discover some documentation that says an ancestor was Jewish. I hope some day to find this out.

Miriam Mandryk was a member of the Society in Sydney for several years before her conversion. She now lives in Melbourne. Ed.

Canberra Corner

**Sylvia
Deutsch**

**Vol 6 No
4**



Many thanks to local member Valerie Brown for another kind donation to the Canberra group. Valerie has kindly compiled a complete set of the National Archives of Australia's current Fact Sheets. These include an index and topics covered include immigration records, internment records and guides to the collections. The NAA will shortly be publishing a guide to records of Jewish interest in its collections, compiled by Dr Malcolm Turnbull. (No, not the high-profile republican; Dr. Turnbull is editor of the Melbourne edition, Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal).

The last genealogical workshop for the year was on 7 November from 1.30 - 3.00pm at the National Jewish Memorial Centre, ending the first year where these have been offered. The first workshop for the year 2000 will be on Sunday 6 February. Feedback is being sought on what activities AJGS members in Canberra would like planned for the year 2000.

Enquiries can be directed to
Sylvia Deutsch in Canberra: Tel/Fax 02-6248-6196 Email: deutand@ozemailcom.au

New Books in our Library		Vol 6 No 4		
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The Society has purchased Miriam Weiner's **Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova**, pages from the Past and Archival Inventories, published in 1990 by Yivo Institute for Jewish Research in New York, and written in cooperation with the Ukrainian State Archives and the Moldovian State Archives, 600 pages, abundantly Illustrated, and costing approximately \$AUS 120 plus postage and packing. This is a massive book on the lines of her **Jewish Roots in Poland**, published in 1997 to great acclaim. It covers some of the same ground as Suzan F Wynne's 1998 opus **Finding your Jewish Roots in Galicia** regarding the area of Eastern Galicia, now Western Ukraine, but covers the whole of the present Ukraine. Moldova is the former Bessarabia and Ukraine now includes Bukovina and some of what was known as Carpatho-Russia in Slovakia. there is an enormous lot of information for anyone with roots in those areas. It is however unfortunate that the maps are in Cyrillic script, with the Latin script underneath in much smaller size and giving also, the Ukrainian version of the name, not the former version, which most people would know.

Forebears		Vol 6 No 4		
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00078 Australian Red Cross tracing agency, Jan Murphy, 159 Clarence Street, Sydney 2000. Tel 02 9229 4211, Fax 02 9229 4265 has appealed to us to find **SEMION/SIMON MARGULIS**, mother **TUBA/TOBA**. Semion is being sought by a relative or friend in USA who has been advised by Belarussian Red Cross that Semion emigrated to Australia in May 1991. Sent to Australia via American Red Cross Holocaust Centre.


00079 Felix PirK, 26 Rechov Aluf David, Ramat Gan, 52226, Israel. Tel/Fax 972 3 674 8935. Email: felix1@internet.zahav.net Seeking information about **VICTOR** and **SOPHIE ZEISSL**, their descendents or family. Last known address in 1948-9 Anthony Street, Chatswood, Sydney.

00080 Sharon Farbman Dickerman, 68 Normandy Rd, Longmeadow, MA 01108, USA, seeking **FRAN ROBIN GOLDSTEIN** born circa 1941 and **JILLIAN KAYE GOLDSTEIN** born circa 1944, daughters of **JOYCE GOODMAN** and **CECIL GOLDSTEIN** of Bondi, nieces of **BERNARD GOODMAN**, granddaughters of **FRANK GOODMAN**. Last known address in 1948 - 3/9 Wonderland Ave, Bondi, Sydney, NSW. Sought by their cousin.

00081 Victor Wickard, 47 Priors Croft, Walthamstow, London, E17 JNJ, U.K. Would like contact again with **DAVID MENDELSON** of Marrickville and **APPLEBAUMs** formerly of Five Dock, Sydney, descendents of **SARAH** and **SOLOMON APPLEBAUM** (she died 1945) and their children **ABRAHAM** (died 1942), **JOHN** (died 1937) and **MAURICE** (died 1926) or any other family connection. We found David Mendelson about 18 months ago, but he does not reply to letters from Victor.

00082 Uri Caves, email: caves@garanti.net.tr Uri is a 16 year old, presumably Jewish, living in Istanbul, Turkey, who would like contact with an Australian Jew to tell him something of our community.

00083 Mrs Barbara Niven, 27 Anembo St, Narrabundah, ACT, 2604, is seeking people who may have known her late mother **JANINA LYZWINSKA** later **TOMASZEWSKI**, a Polish Catholic dressmaker, who lived at 72 Ocean St, Woollahra, Sydney from 1949 to 1954 and who died, aged 40, when Barbara was aged 2 in 1954. Janina had many Jewish dressmaking clients and acquaintances and Barbara would like to hear from them what they recall of her mother. Please contact her if you knew Janina.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 7 No 1	
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On Sunday 27th February a most successful joint meeting of this Society with the Australian Jewish Historical Society took place at Mandelbaum House in Darlington. It was a lecture addressed briefly by the director of the NSW branch of the National Archives of Australia, who had to leave for a meeting of all the directors, and more fully by the assistant director, Fiona Burn, who described holdings of the N.A.A. of particular interest to Jewish researchers and genealogists. The idea for this talk came from Gary Luke who organised the whole lecture and chaired it, and was rewarded by a record attendance of 71, the largest number since a talk by Dr Anthony Joseph several years ago at another joint function. More and more members of the Historical Society are also join-ing our Society, and vice versa, and yours truly is on the executive of both. But our interests do not coincide fully since the Historical Society focuses wholly and only on Jews in Australia, and the Genealogical Society also embraces what happened to our ancestors and cousins in other countries. Therefore we will not merge, and cannot offer reduced fees for joint member-ships as some people suggest we do.

We hope to soon have a session showing five short films taken in Poland in the spring and summer of 1939 and recording the vitality of Jewish life in Bialystok, Lvov, Krakow, Vilna and Warsaw. As it happened these films were the last visual accounts of the Polish Jewish world, taken just months before the German invasion of Poland and the destruction of most of Polish Jewry. We are looking for a house or a hall with a VCR and a screen large enough to be viewed by a group of people, and not demanding a large fee. Please advise me at 02-9958-6317 if you are volunteering your house for such an evening.

On Sunday the 19th March we will be holding our 8th Annual General Meeting at 7:30pm in the Wilson Hall of the North Shore Synagogue at Lindfield.

As well as annual reports and elections for the committee there will be four members who will present their recent research adventures and successes: Glenda Goldberg, Rieke Nash and Miriam Shifreen.

The same evening we will farewell for the next twelve months our hard-working honorary secretary, resources chairman and vice president Rieke Nash who is taking

a well-earned rest period. We hope that you will be present to honour Rieke on that evening.

While we have been able to find other members who will take over Rieke's functions as vice president, resources chairman and Australian database operator, we still have not found anyone to take on her job as honorary secretary. We need someone who is local to Sydney, familiar with the Jewish community, and who can type and has computer skills. While members from interstate and one from an outlying western suburb have volunteered, no one from the eastern or northern suburbs has done so. Again I have to state that if no volunteers come forth, the services which this society offers its members will diminish. Some of us have worked on the committee since its inception eight years and three months ago. Others take care never to be available for any job. Those who have been on the committee for several years are getting tired. Some faithful souls have indicated that this will be their last year in harness. If no new committee workers come forth before the end of the year, the society will simply collapse. It cannot be the same people continuing to work year in and year out. Not all jobs are onerous, but they have to be done and existing committee members cannot do more.

We want to thank very warmly Ruth Barnett who for over three months has been the receiver for the Society emails. She will now be replaced by Stuart Shaw.

A reminder that the Salt Lake City Jewish Genealogical Conference will take place in July, from 9th to the 14th. Anyone interested in attending can get application forms from the Internet or from us.

The National Archives of Australia have printed a slim book giving the details of their holdings on Jewish immigration, citizenship, etc. It is titled SAFE HAVEN and authored by Malcolm J. Turnbull of Melbourne, not the Republican, and available for \$10 from all NAA outlets in each state.

Happy Pesach

Sophie Caplan O.A.M.	Rieke Nash	Vol 7 No 1	
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To the delight of members of our Society, our President, Sophie Caplan has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, for services to the Jewish community and to genealogy. In 1991 Sophie founded the Society and has been President ever since. It was her idea and driving force that established this first such group in Australia and she has encouraged the formation of branches around Australia. Sophie has been involved in genealogy for most of her life and is known world-wide in Jewish genealogical circles.

She has been a contributing editor to AVOTAYNU, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy published in the USA, spoken at International Seminars on Jewish Genealogy on many occasions and has a reputation for being able to "find" lost relatives in Australia. She has spent many hours without payment researching and reuniting families. There are many members of the Australian community who will be forever grateful to Sophie for her persistence, knowledge and contacts. Her most valuable contribution to Jewish genealogy in Australia has been her continuing

purchase and donation to the Society of valuable materials that are often very rare and expensive. Her knowledge and contacts overseas have helped to establish a valuable resource that is available to all members of the community for their research.

Prior to the establishment of the Society, Sophie has for many years sponsored and coordinated the Hans Kimmel Essay Competition at Moriah College to encourage students to interview members of their family about their past. Over the last twenty-four years this has resulted in the documentation of hundreds of family histories that in time would have been lost.

Another member of our Society, Diane Shteinman, was also awarded the prestigious Member of the Order of Australia, for services to the Jewish community over many years and ultimately, as President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the head of the Jewish community in Australia.

We congratulate them on their achievements and thank them both for the hours of dedicated effort on behalf of our communities.

A Trip to Poland, Belarus and Western Ukraine - Part IV Western Ukraine (conclusion)	Sophie Caplan	Vol 7 No 1		
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Next day Leslie, whose interest in Galician cemeteries had been more than fulfilled, took a walking tour around Ivano-Frankivsk, the former Stanislawow, with a guide from the hotel, while Oleg and I drove to Kalusz to photograph individually the graves in the restored Jewish cemetery there. I had hoped to photograph them all in about four to five hours, but this proved impossible. I also ran out of film.

In late July 1995 the Kalusz Jewish cemetery had been in process of restoration, the fallen gravestones being in the process of being set up straight again by a troupe of Ukrainian women and , in a corner over the mass grave a large cement monument was being erected. This mass grave contained the bodies of all those shot by Einsatzgruppen in Kalusz in November 1942, including my mother's parents, her sister and brother-in-law, niece, and numerous first, second and third cousins. Her seventeen-year old brother had been shot fifteen months earlier, together with the Kalusz merchants and professionals, but his gravesite is unknown to us. The monument as well as the metal fence around the cemetery, and the restoration work had all been paid by the Association of Kaluszers in Israel.

We found the cemetery gate locked with a heavy padlock but, like everybody else, we squeezed in through a pair of metal bars which had been pushed apart. The others were a group of eight to ten-year old children who came in to relieve themselves in a circle in the centre of the cemetery. Oleg and I chased them away, but we knew that this was only temporary. There also came a woman of about forty who also squeezed in through the bars and who claimed to be the cemetery caretaker. She asked us for help in getting her some underwear and hose as hers were worn out and she couldn't afford new things. We took her address. She weeded for about ten minutes and was then joined by a man with a bottle and they started to

drink, weeding finished. Was she really the cemetery caretaker? How could one find out either way?

Unlike the other cemeteries we had seen in Bole-chow, Rozniatow and Perehinsko, the Kalusz Jewish cemetery was now in the centre of a large town, surrounded on three sides by multi-storey blocks of flats whose windows looked right down onto the cemetery. Is this good for the preservation of the gravestones, or does it make it easier for vandals? On the whole the gravestones seemed in fairly good condition. Let us hope they stay that way.

After a lunch of biscuits, cheese and fruit we had brought with us, we went to look for Alexander Kuhlberg, the only prewar Kalusz Jew who had returned after war service in the Polish army and married a Jewish woman from Kharkov. They had one daughter who had married a Ukrainian, and had a teenage daughter and a younger son from her now divorced husband. Oleg and I had found the Kuhlberg family in 1995 and spent two hours with them as Alexander had known some of my relatives before the war. He had asked me to try and help get his sixteen-year old granddaughter into a student ulpan in Israel and, if she was accepted, the family would all go on aliyah. Apparently the Jewish Agency representative in Lviv did not believe that this blond child could be the daughter of a Jewish mother. I met her mother and her grandmother, speaking Yiddish with both, and on my return to Australia had rung Frank Stein, an Australian from Brisbane whom I'd known as a student leader, now working at the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, to plead the cause of the Kuhlberg's granddaughter. But I had then mislaid their address and did not know the outcome.

Now fortuitously Oleg found his way back to the Kuhlberg house in a suburb of Kalusz, and we caught up with the family. The granddaughter was now in an upper secondary ulpan in Beersheva, hoping to attend university in the future, and the rest of the family was preparing to make aliyah in six weeks via a Romanian seaport. Their house was nearly sold, their ship berths booked, and they hoped to settle in Ashdod where some of their friends from this part of Western Ukraine had already settled. It seemed that my appeal to Frankie Stein had been successful.

Now Alexander took us shopping for more film, and then on a quick tour of some parts of Kalusz where my Spiegel relatives had a shop and where Malka Klinger Hausmann and her daughters had lived. I had hoped for much knowledge from this tour, but none of the original buildings had survived, or else Alexander Kuhlberg's memory had dimmed since 1995 when he promised to show me so much more.

Around four pm we drove him home and at last took the road back to Nowica (Novitsa in Ukrainian) my maternal ancestral village, six kilometres from Kalusz, where in 1995 I had found again my grandparents' house. This time I was bringing a very nice winter dress for the now six-year old child of the family who had lived in the Hausmann home since 1944, as well as soap, woollen socks, and some money. We were received warmly, as if we were really family, and this time I asked some of the supplementary questions which I had forgotten last time about whether any papers or photos had been found in the house. It appeared that when they had been allocated the house, even windows and doors had been missing. I also photographed all the rooms, but was aware that they would have looked different in

my grandparents' days. Outside, we took photos of the three women who lived there now, and also some with Ivan from next door who remembered my auntie Ruchel from their school-days in the 1920s. The land had been subdivided and my grandparents' stable, barn and cowshed stood on Ivan's property. On distributing the gifts I was told: "Come back every year."

We also drove to Landestreu, now Zeleny Yar, and on the way discovered that Nowica also had some side streets. I knew that in Landestreu, Shapse Tanne's house and stables and 'schenk' had burnt down, but satisfied myself that my aunt Elsa and uncle Oscar's house was also gone.

On the way back to Kalusz we stopped at the bridge to take a photo of the river at the swimming spot where the Hausmann, Spiegel and Horowitz children used to bathe. A 1930s photo of all those children frolicking in that spot in their swimming costumes only a few years before they all perished, is now a part of the display in the Sydney Jewish Museum. It was enlarged from a snapshot I gave. At least they still live in that photo.

As we returned to Oleg's car, the old farmer who had shown us around in 1995 and identified my grandparents' home, came out and greeted us. He remembered us from 1995, and it was great to see him. Luckily I had a gift of woollen socks left for him.

We went back to the Kalusz Jewish cemetery for another hour of recording tombstones photo-graphically before sunset.

The next morning we checked out of the Roxolana Hotel and went in search of postcards to send to family and friends with Eastern Galician roots. None were available anywhere, so I took photos of the Franz-Josephian railway station, including a horse fiacre. He thought he was getting a fare and posed amiably, so I gave him a tip in US dollars for taking his photo. Then we took the main road westwards past Kalusz, Holyn, Brozniow and Krechowice and back to Lviv with very mixed feelings. It was fulfilling to have seen the little towns and villages of my extended maternal ancestry which had always been part of the legend of my childhood, the names forming part of the conversation between my mother and her younger sister Ruchel, now Ruth, who lived with us until her marriage when I was seventeen. It was good to have seen the roads, the river, the houses, the landscape of Eastern Galicia. But the absence of the presence of the Jews left an emptiness, like a stage set without the actors. The places which had been bustling hives with Jewish artisans and small shopkeepers were like the palace of Sleeping Beauty waiting to be re-awakened. But the Prince would never come. He had been waylaid and killed. Those gravestones which still existed were the only things to come back to.

After a quick lunch and registration for one night at the Dniester Hotel, we went out again to look at the Belle Epoque buildings and the arts and crafts street market to buy some gifts to take home. As well as some babushka-type interlocking dolls satirising Soviet politicians from Stalin to Krushchev right down to Gorbachev identified by his birthmark, we bought some hand-carved presents for the grandchildren and some embroidered peasant blouses. It was good to see political satire among the artefacts on sale. Once again it was obvious that we were immediately

identified as tourists, and that all prices were quoted to Oleg in US dollars. Among our purchases was a wartime Kennkarte which went to the Sydney Jewish Museum, and an old Soviet army cap which, duly laundered, became the inseparable headgear of our six-year old grandson for two years.

In 1995 I had visited the ruins of two Lviv synagogues. We now took Leslie to see the old Jewish quarter. Some of the marks of former mezuzot in old building entrances seemed to have been erased in the last two years. Another memory of the Jews gone.

Lunch had been in the courtyard of an art academy, now an open air café, a very simple menu, but very pleasant. The new capitalism was resulting in some interesting enterprises. Lviv as a city badly needed some basic restoration of its charming 19th century buildings which could be vastly improved by cleaning its stonework and giving other buildings a few coats of paint. Some of the charmless features of capitalism were also visible. In a major town square cigarette girls were pressing on the numerous passers-by free samples of Marlboro cigarettes. We had seen the same free distribution of American brand cigarettes in St Petersburg ten or twelve days previously. US cigarette manufacturers, their profits diminishing through a growing anti-smoking movement in Western countries, were evidently trying to make new addicts in former soviet area countries whose citizens might still be deluded by an aura of false glamour surrounding these US cigarette brands. In the centre of Warsaw a month previously we had photographed a huge Marlboro billboard showing the familiar cowboy. What a shameful endeavour now that the link between lung cancer and heart disease due to smoking was proven.

After an unusually good dinner at the Grand Hotel, now under a Jewish owner, allegedly against the wishes of a local mafia corporation which was trying to get tourist agencies to boycott the hotel, despite its better facilities, we went back to pack.

The next morning Oleg farewelled us at Lviv airport where we were flying Air Ukraine to Warsaw, before flying home via Frankfurt. This was the only airline flying westwards that day and we were amazed to find we were to board an at least forty year old propeller aeroplane without allocated seats and with very primitive facilities. The lack of seat allocations meant three recounts of passengers plus two roll-calls by name. When at last we took off the noise of the propeller engines was immense, particularly as we happened to sit close to two side engines. Nevertheless it flew us to Warsaw in an hour and back to the 1990s. As usual it felt half-way home already when in Frankfurt we boarded a Boeing 747 for Bangkok and Sydney. Some people won't visit Australia because of the long flight. As far as I am concerned once luggage is registered, seats allocated, and hand luggage is stowed in the cabin, it's relaxation all the way home.

**News from Western
Australia**

**Michelle
Urban**

**Vol 7 No
1**



On Sunday 27th Feb Louise Hoffman spoke on the "Status in the Jewish Community - from 1900 - 1920s" at the Perth Synagogue Louise is a professional research

worker, her interests are Jewish bibliography and local Jewish history on which she has lectured and written articles. Afterwards a small workshop was held.

Our Western Australian Memberships are due 1st March: Single \$10.00 - Family \$15.00 On Sunday 28th May at 2.00 pm Ruth Miller will be speaking on "My Life in Kalgoorlie and the Jewish Community". This also will be held at the Perth Synagogue, Members \$2. and Non Members \$5, with a small workshop being held afterwards.

On Sunday 27th August from 2.00 - 4.00 pm there will be a Beginners' Workshop, which aims to help those who would like to know more about vital records, shipping list, naturalisation applications, overseas data bases, the JewishGen Family Finder and lots more. This will be held at Michelle Urban's house, 21 Broomhall Way, Noranda, 08 9375 3874 or contact Gillian on 08 9401 2835.

Members \$2.00 Non Members \$5.00

On Sunday 26th November from 2.00 - 4.00 pm : The Internet Workshop "For those who do not know & for those who know a little". Learn how to Browse the Internet for Information and lots more. Venue: 21 Broomhall Way, Noranda. Contact Michelle Urban on 08 9375-3874 or Gillian 08 9401-2835.

Enquiries can be directed to:
Michelle Urban
Tel:08-9375-3874 /Fax:08-9375-3574
Email: urban@wantree.com.au

News from Victoria

Lionel Sharpe

Vol 7 No
1



Our first meeting for the year 2000 attracted nearly sixty people on Wednesday, February 9th at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre. Dr.Martin Delatycki, a Medical geneticist, who works for the Victorian Clinical Genetics Services at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne spoke on 'Genetic Disorders among Jewish People'.

Martin leads the Tay-Sachs Disease Prevention Project for Victoria and has just completed his PhD thesis in genetics. The invitation to ask him to speak came out of recent research where it was shown that genealogists are able to assist geneticists.

The Society is holding a 'Beginner's Workshop' on Sunday, February 20th at 2.00 pm and a meeting will be held at Beth Weizmann on Wednesday, March 8th at 7.30 pm where Yvonne Hughes, Chairman and Secretary of the International Settlers Group, a service group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, will speak about the work of the Group.

We have again been invited to have a stand at the "In One Voice - Concert in the Park" which is an annual event attracting thousands of people in Caulfield Park. This year it will be held on Sunday March 19th. Last year over 200 enquiries were dealt with.

The Second Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, April 5th at 7.30pm at Beth Weizmann. Nominations for the Committee of Management will be called for soon.

Members are asked to note a change in our home-page URL. It is now:

<http://www.melbourne.net/csaky/AJGSmainpage.htm>

however, <http://www.melbourne.net/csaky/> will still take you to the home page which links correctly to the society's home page.

Enquiries:

Les Oberman (03)9571 8251

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Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutsch	Vol 7 No 1	
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An Internet workshop will be held on Sunday 30 April 2000 from 1.30 - 3.00 pm at the National Jewish Memorial Centre. Vernon Kronenberg, with his extensive experience of researching Jewish genealogy on the net, will lead this workshop.

More workshops to enable access to the holdings and to share information are planned during the year. Watch this space for dates. Collaboration with the Heraldry-Genealogical Society of Canberra (HAGSOC) is also planned.

Occasionally interesting genealogical information and requests are received by email. If you would like these forwarded, please advise your email address to:

Sylvia Deutsch in Canberra:

Tel/Fax 02-6248-6196

Email: deutand@ozemail.com.au

Sir Lewis Cohen - Adelaide's First Jewish Lord Mayor	Margot Bailey	Vol 7 No 1	
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Lewis Cohen was born in Liverpool, England, on December 23rd 1849, into an affluent family of Jewish merchants. In 1851 he came with his parents Henry and Elizabeth to Sydney. Henry then established himself as an outfitter and businessman. Henry and Elizabeth subsequently had twelve more children.

In 1863, at the age of 14, Lewis returned to England to complete his education at the Jewish College at Edmonton, near London. Three years later, in 1866, he returned to Sydney. He first worked in his father's office. Henry then financed Lewis to enter a partnership with a school friend, Adolphus Meyer Brodziak, to go to Fiji to trade in cotton, copra, trepang and tortoise-shell. In 1872 Lewis became a member of the first Fijian Legislative Council in Levuka.

While there is some confusion about the dates, it would appear that Lewis was in Fiji from about 1869 to 1874. In the book "The Jews in Australia" Hilary Rubinstein says

that Lewis's brother Isaiah, who was known as Reginald, joined Lewis in Levuka, (Fiji), in 1874.

Lewis married Selina Marks in Melbourne on 9 April, 1873. There exists an old faded carte-de-visite photo of Selina taken in Fiji. Either Selina visited Lewis in Fiji (no doubt well chaperoned), or Lewis returned to Australia in 1873, married Selina and she went to Fiji as a young bride. If that is the case their first child, Henry who was born in 1874, may have been born in Fiji.

Lewis was an asthmatic and it was suggested to him that the climate of Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, would be beneficial to him. So in 1876 Lewis and Selina and their young family moved to Adelaide. Lewis was aged 27. He opened a branch of the Melbourne based merchant bank London Loan and Discount Bank. He was also a stockbroker. In time he prospered and became one of the wealthy businessmen of the young colony.

Lewis was a member of the South Australian House of Assembly for the seat of North Adelaide from 1887 to 1893 and from 1902 to 1906. He was a staunch protectionist and rejected the free trade policies of New South Wales.

He was a member of the Adelaide City Council for 28 years between 1886 and 1927. He was Mayor seven times and Lord Mayor from 1921 to 1923. A great defender of the parklands, he declared in one of his speeches "Hands off our Park Lands". He was aware of the parklands being a unique feature of the City. Controversy about the use of the parklands still continues today.

Lewis and Selina went to London in 1911 to represent the City of Adelaide at the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. While in London Lewis initiated the campaign to have Adelaide granted a Lord Mayoralty. This finally took place in 1919.

Both Lewis and Selina were active in the Jewish community in Adelaide. At different times Lewis was president and treasurer of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation. For three years he was chairman of the Synagogue School. He defended ritual reforms inaugurated by the congregation, and was interested in Liberal Judaism. He attended at least one Service at Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne. In "The Jews in Australia: volume 1 1788 to 1948" the author, Hilary L. Rubinstein, says that Lewis Cohen was one of the Jewish community's natural spokesmen "who rarely surrendered an opportunity to counter aspersions on (the Jewish) people".

Other organisations in which Lewis Cohen was active were:

The Independent Order of Oddfellows

The South Aust. Ancient Order of Foresters' Friendly Soc.

The Australian Natives Assoc. (A Friendly Society with strong patriotic aspirations)

Freemasons

United Order of Druids

Lunatic Asylum

Automobile Assoc.

Lewis entertained lavishly. In his book "After Light" published by Wakefield Press in 1996, Peter Morton says "A warm, sociable man, Cohen was famous for his lavish hospitality. In 1891 (he gave) a ball in the Exhibition Building which was long

remembered as the most spectacular in the history of the city, with no fewer than 3,600 guests".

And also from Morton "The Mayoral dinner was a grand affair held annually in the banqueting room at the Town Hall. Paid for by the mayor personally, this function had a restricted guest list, but for a while at least it included many if not most of the corporation's staff. The one of July 1910 sponsored by munificent Mayor Cohen, ended with free front seats at Prince's Pictures, the cinema company which then operated in the Town Hall on Saturday nights".

When Lewis Cohen entertained privately it was with style. Dinner at the Cohen home at North Adelaide was a formal occasion. The butler and maid waiting at table wore white gloves. However Lewis was not a large eater, and when he had finished eating, the guests and family were presumed to have finished eating also. The meal was over.

Lewis was a handsome man, not tall, always well dressed, and maybe rather vain. A large painting of him hangs in the Council Chamber of the Adelaide Town Hall. The artist was A. McCormac. The painting was presented to the Council in 1891. The face area was re-painted in 1904 by George Webb. Oral evidence indicates that this was done because Lewis considered the original did not do him justice.

Selina's beautiful gowns were usually written up in the social pages of the Adelaide newspapers, and he often assisted Selina in the choice of her dresses. Lewis was very conscious of the public image of himself and his family. As well as the obvious very human reasons for this there was no doubt another reason - he was a Jew in a Gentile society. In "After Light" Peter Morton writes "To the end Cohen remained a stickler for the civic dignity. He was not an arrogant or a pompous man, but he was the purest form of romantic Tory. Like his co-religionist Benjamin Disraeli, he had that concern with the trappings of office often characteristic of those who, deep down, feel themselves outsiders."

Lewis Cohen was knighted in 1924.

Sir Lewis Cohen Avenue, which runs north - south between South Terrace and Greenhill road, was named in his honour before he was knighted. After he received his knighthood the name was changed from Lewis Cohen Avenue to Sir Lewis Cohen Avenue.

The 9th April, 1933 was Lewis and Selina's Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Invitations were sent out for a Dinner at 1.p.m at the Pier Hotel, Glenelg, to celebrate this occasion. At the age of 83 Lewis still desired to entertain on a grand scale. Unfortunately the function had to be cancelled due to his failing health.

Lewis died at his Colley Terrace, Glenelg, home on Saturday, 24th June, 1933. Selina died three months later.

Lewis and Selina had 6 children:

Henry Jessel 1874 - ?

Hannah Maude Bridgland 1876-1959 (my grandmother)

Mark Victor Napoleon 1878-1926
 Horace Alan Louis 1880-1900
 Jessel Rupert 1882-?1948
 Gladys Elizabeth Krantz Levy 1885-1966

I remember Lewis and Selina. I was their first great grandchild and I called them Pa and Ga. They died when I was three years old.

Appendix.

Jewish Mayors of Adelaide

John Lazar	1855-58
Judah Moss	1869-71
Solomon	
Lewis Cohen	1889-91, 1901-04, 1909-11
Isaac Isaacs	1915-17 (NOT Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs, the first Australian born Governor-General of Australia)

Jewish Lords Mayor of Adelaide

Lewis Cohen	1921-23
Walter Lewis	1966-68 (grandson of Lewis
Bridgland	Cohen)
Henry Ninio	1993-97 (father of Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio, of Woollahra Temple Emanuel, Sydney.

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News from Our Editor

**Vol 7 No
1**



Alexander BEIDER the author of two important books for Jewish genealogists, *A DICTIONARY OF JEWISH SURNAMES FROM THE KINGDOM OF POLAND* and *A DICTIONARY OF JEWISH SURNAMES FROM THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE*, who does research on the list of bearers of certain surnames in a given locality listed in his books for a charge of \$US25 (or is it \$30 now?) has moved. His new address is: Alexander Beider, 5 rue Paul Bert, 92370, MASSY, FRANCE.

The **INSTITUTE OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS** publishes various periodicals and books on current problems of Jewish life. Among the books is *JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF THE WORLD*, a comprehensive directory which contains authoritative demographic figures, the history and contemporary life of Jews in more than 120 lands, a list of Jewish sites, addresses and anecdotes in 256 colour pages. Their Internet Home Page is <http://www.netmedia.co.il/ads/wjc/intr.htm>

Mailing address is 21 Jabotinsky Street, POB 4293, Jerusalem, 91042 Israel.

Tel:972 2 635-261 fax:972 2 635-544
email: wjc@netmedia.net.il

RESEARCHERS FROM THE CENTRE FOR JEWISH ART at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem recently returned from a documentation expedition to the war-torn regions of former Yugoslavia, during which they concentrated their efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. Documentation was completed on synagogues and cemeteries in Sarajevo, Mosta, and Dubrovnik and Split. The Jewish population in these areas was predominantly Sephardi until the 19th century, when Ashkenazi Jews from Central Europe arrived. Some early synagogues remain Among synagogues documented were The Old Synagogue of Sarajevo, now a Jewish Museum, which was founded in 1581; the synagogue in the Talentina family home in Dubrovnik, established in 1537: and the still functioning synagogue in Split, established around 1500.

Reprinted from HAPPENINGS, the Newsletter of the Australian Friends of the Hebrew University, Autumn 1999

NEW MUSEUMS

New museums of Jewish interest seem to be opening with increasing frequency. Late last year a new Jewish Museum opened in Paris.

In mid-2000 the Imperial War Museum in London is to open a large new section on the Holocaust, including information on Jewish refugees who came to Britain and also the nearly ten thousand Jewish children from Germany, Austria and some from Czechoslovakia who came to England throughout 1938 and 1939. It is believed that the Imperial War Museum has benefited from the collection of artefacts originally assembled by Aaron Kleinlehrer, for his museum in Cleveland Street, Darlington, Sydney on the Shoah which lost popularity when John Saunders opened his Sydney Jewish Museum at 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst, Sydney.

In the not too distant future the Leo Baeck Institute in New York will be the third institution to move to the recently established Centre for Jewish History on West 16th Street in Manhattan, New York. Already YIVO, the archives and a library specialising in the history of European Yiddish-speaking Jewry, and the Yeshiva University American Jewish Museum have moved in. The Jewish Genealogy Society of New York is now also exploring the possibility of having a Centre for Jewish genealogy in the same complex, an idea that was rejected two years ago when first moved by Dr Sallyann Sack. It was then rejected for financial reasons.

NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY

Mrs DIANA D. I. WRIGHT, a descendant of Morris Joseph Levey, eldest son of Phillip Levey (1799-1862) and Leah Mordecai (1801-1869), of the famous and notorious family which included both Barnett, the father of Australian theatre, and Solomon Levey, the co-founder of the colony of Western Australia, has generously donated to our Sydney library a copy of her 1998 self-published book *OUR JEWISH CONNECTIONS* which details the fate of possibly over 200 descendants of the eight Levey siblings who came to Australia. These include the author Nancy Keesing and the wife of Sir John Monash, and many no longer Jewish. The book was donated

thanks to the good offices of Miriam Shifreen who has written a review published elsewhere in this issue.

THE LOST JEWS OF CORNWALL, edited by Keith Pearce and Helen Fry, under the consultancy of Godfrey Simmons and published in 2000 by Redcliff Press Ltd of Bristol, UK has been donated to the Sydney library by Sophie Caplan. This book of 344 pages, including index, and a bibliography, reprints many important earlier articles on the topic by a variety of authors, several deceased like Cecil Roth, Rabbi Bernard Susser and others. The authors state that the book deliberately refrained from being a handbook on Cornish Jewish genealogy be-cause of the complexity of the network of marriages, but those with Jewish roots in Cornwall will find the book an essential part of their family re-search and there is enormous genealogical information. Many names of Jews who resided in Cornwall also form part of the text and are indexed. Copies of the book can be ordered for £15 (plus £10 for postage and packing), by overseas bankdraft or postal order (no credit card facilities indicated) from Redcliff Press Ltd, 81 Pembroke Road, Bristol BS8 3EA UK.

It is hoped that the books *GREAT SYNAGOGUE OF LONDON 19TH-CENTURY MARRIAGES* and *THE JEWISH VICTORIAN* by Doreen Berger, which have been ordered, will be in our library soon.

Report from Queensland	Morris Ochert	Vol 7 No 1	
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We wish to express our gratitude to our President for making available to our small Queensland genealogical library, the massive volume "Where Once We Walked". The gazetteer, written by Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff and published by Avotaynu, will surely be a valuable facility for use in our work.

Another helpful reference source is the Fact Sheets from the National Archives in Canberra. A set of 180 Fact Sheets has kindly been sent to me by Valerie Brown (AJGS. Canberra Branch). It may be worth noting, however, that some contact references given in the Fact Sheets are subject to change from time to time and it would be worthwhile checking these before mailing requests for information. The Fact Sheets are also available online (at <http://www.naa.gov.au> - look under Services to Researchers), but for those of us who do not have access to a computer, Valerie thought it would be very helpful to distribute these as a package to all AJGS State branches.

Another volume which the Society has made available to us is "Czas Kamieni" by Monika Krajewski. This contains hundreds of unique photos of Jewish headstones in old Polish cemeteries.

Where Once We Walked, the Fact Sheets and Czas Kamieni are, of course, available for use by our Queensland members for reference purposes.

On behalf of all our Queensland members, we would also like to extend our congratulations to Sophie Caplan on being awarded an OAM for service to the Jewish community in the areas of genealogy and historical research, the recognition being well and truly deserved.

Enquiries to Morris Ochert, 3/23 Lucinda Street, Taringa QLD 4068 or
stirk@uq.net.au

**Book Review - Our Jewish
Connections**

**Miriam
Shifreen**

**Vol 7 No
1**



OUR JEWISH CONNECTIONS

(The Descendants of the Eight Children of Deborah and Moses Levey)

Written by Diana D. I. Wright

This is a self-published family history of 160 pages of careful research beginning with Moses Levy (d1789) and Elizabeth (d1820), their children and grandchildren but covering in greater detail the descendants of each of the eight children of Moses (d.1813) and Deborah (d 4/11/1840) Levey: Francis; Samuel; Solomon, convict, emancipist, merchant, and financial supporter of the Swan River settlement; Barnett, the first free Jewish man to arrive in Australia and known as the Father of Australian Theatre; Isaac, well-known as a businessman and for his portrait in the Great Synagogue, Sydney; Phillip; Susan; and Rebecca.

Records, letters, BDM records, and wills are given and the book contains a wealth of material about the Levey Family.

Unfortunately, as Mrs Wright explained, her computer broke down at the time of printing and the book lacks an Index of Names, rather crucial in a book that includes thousands of names and references, but this book will none-the-less provide an enormous wealth of information for researchers who trace their families back four or more generations in Australia. It includes the late Nancy Keesing Hertzberg, Sir Lewis Cohen (see P7 of this issue), and the many descendants of Levy, Marks, Harris and other pioneering Australian Jewish Families of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Diana Wright is a descendant of Phillip Levey and Leah Mordecai, so this section of the book has greater detail on individual family members. I found this book immensely interesting, especially the descendants of Susan Levey who is the ggg grandmother of my husband, Joe Shifreen, since this book deals with the Alexander family down to Joe's mother and her two sisters.

Diana has generously donated a copy of her book to our Library and welcomes any input from other family members.

Her address is:
Mrs D. Wright,
58 Wallace St. Nowra NSW 2541
Tel: (02) 4421-8426

**Jews, or People with
Jewish Surnames, Buried
in Manly Cemetery,
Sydney, NSW**

**Sophie
Caplan**

**Vol 7 No
1**



In 1993 Nick Vine Hall transcribed, indexed and published a first edition of the burials at Manly cemetery in Sydney's north-east, which was used for burials from 1845 to 1993. It was known variously as Balgowlah Cemetery, Fairlight Cemetery and Manly Cemetery. Although there was no specific Jewish portion of Manly Cemetery, there appears to be a relatively small number of Jewish burials there. After buying the book, I asked Nick Vine Hall for permission to reprint these apparently Jewish burials in this journal and he gave me that permission. It has taken me several years to do so, but here is the list, transcribed as per book, with total information as per grave inscriptions. There is no guarantee that these are definitely Jewish graves.

ARTHUR EMERY, died 22 January 1909, son of Aaron and Rachel Emery of St Marylebone, London, grave no. 95.

A.J. SENIOR, 'Jack' died 10 October 1909, aged 27 Grave no. 144.

CAPLIN MAHALIN, died 20 Nov 1905, aged 92, grave no. 110, widow of the late John Caplin, native of Suffolk, England.

MARGARET DAVIS, relict of the late Jan Hersh Davis, our mother, died 26 September 1896, aged 61. Grave no. 58.

THEO HARTENSTEIN, born 13 Oct 1854, died 10 June 1905. Grave 167 jointly with **ANNIE HARTENSTEIN**, born 7 July 1863, died 31 May 1943.

GINGER AGNES ADELINE, aged 2 years and 5 weeks, died 18 Jan 1902. Grave no 262, jointly with SARAH RIPPS, died 15 Aug 1911 aged 79.

LANDAU, ARTHUR SAMUEL, died 6 June 1932, aged 64. Grave 344 jointly with **LANDAU, WILLIAM**, of Birmingham, died 10 June 1935, aged 93.

CASTNER, JOHN WALDING (?), died 30 Dec 1886. Grave 193.

CASTNER, ISABELLA, died 17 April 1888. Grave 192.

CASTNER, THEODORE, children of John L. and Elizabeth Castner, died 25 Feb 1899. Grave 191.

CASTNER, ELIZABETH, wife of John L. Castner, died at Bournemouth, 3 Feb 1897, grave 190 jointly with

CASTNER, JOHN LOUIS, England, died 17 Nov 1908.

DAVIS, BENJAMIN JAMES, my husband, died 3 Dec 1936, aged 64, Grave 261, jointly with **DAVIS ROSETTA**, 'also our mother' died 25 Dec, 1941, aged 63.

BRANDON, ELLEN, 'our mother', died 26 July 1927, Grave 235 jointly with **BRANDON, ALICE**, died 30 July 1921.

FRIEDMAN, EMANUAL GODFREY, aged 16 months, died 14 May 1908, in joint grave, not numbered but may be 79, with **FRIEDMAN, ADELE** 'aged 6 years and 4 months, children of S and M.M. Friedman'. May be same date of death as brother.

DAVIDSON, ANNIE LYONS wife of James C., died 2 March 1926, aged 76, Grave 77.

WALLACH, EMIL, 'husband of Molly' died 7 Sept 1943. No grave number stated.

BLOOMFIELD, SAMUEL, born Great Ryburgh, England, 21 Nov 1848, died at Brookvale on 20 Dec 1908, aged 60, husband of Eliza. Grave 141, jointly with **JOHN MANLY BLOOMFIELD**, their son killed in action in France 30 Aug 1918, aged 32.

BLOOMFIELD, ELIZA, 'our mother', died 28 Jan 1925, aged 73. Grave 142.

COHEN, ESTHER EMILY, wife of Nathan Sydney Cohen, died 28 May 1919, aged 45. Grave 61.

FREUDENSTEIN, ELSIE CLARA, 'daughter of C.H. and C. Freudenstein of "Illiliwa", Manly, late of Martindale, Greenethorpe, NSW'. Died 26 Nov 1918, aged 25, Grave 47.

FREUDENSTEIN, REBECCA CLARA, wife of Caspar, died 16 May 1933 aged 64. Grave 48 jointly with **CASPAR H. FREUDENSTEIN**, died on 26 Jan 1944.

DAVIS, LOUISA, mother, died 1 Jan 1916, Grave 370.

HYMAN, FANNY, 'my wife, our mother', died 30 Aug 1932, aged 38. Grave 38.

HYMAN, ALBERT, 'aged 10 months', no date. Also grave 38.

BOESSER, ESTHER, died 4 Dec 1927, aged 64, Grave 129.

ROSHER, EDWARD ALFRED, 'my husband' died 5 Nov 1925, aged 57, Grave 289.

LISKI, LIONEL, died 19 Aug 1926, aged 34, Grave 439.

SALMON, ELLEN AGNES, 'only daughter of Alexander and Harriet Salmon', died 1935. Grave 495.

HART, HENRY GILBERT, 'my husband, born 30 June 1903', died 21 Jan 1935. Grave 547.

LINKS, MICHAEL, 'my husband, our father', died 26 May 1928, aged 62. Grave 596.

MERRIFIELD, ELIJAH, 'my husband', late 20th Battalion AIF, died 17 April, 1930. Grave 4J jointly with **MERRIFIELD, SUSAN**, died 3 Sept 1952, aged 84.

GOLOSKY, MINNIE 'our mother' died 12 July 1940, aged 49. Grave 124. J, jointly with **GOLOSKY, THELMA R.**, 'wife, mother and grandmother', died 22 Jan 1987, aged 63.

LEWINDON, WALTER, 'son-in-law of Mary and Daniel Robertson, husband of

Berthe', died 2 June 1954. Joint grave 21 with various members of Robertson family and **LEWINDON, BERTHA** 'wife of Walter', no date.

MONTEFIORE, HORACE B., 'our father' died 24 Nov 1920. Grave 37 jointly with **EDITH MONTEFIORE**, 'our mother', died 10 Sept 1927. Curiously there is also a grave for one **SARBEAN** (no first name), died 21 Aug 1924, inscribed 'faithful servant of Ralph, Clifton, Herbert and Daisy Montefiore'. Grave 298.

JONAS, ABE, died 8 Jan 1933, 'wife of Gladys, father of Warwick'. Grave 151.

MEYER, JOSEPH, 1866-1923, Grave 208.

MOSS, EMILA ADA, daughter of Eleanor Sirkett, died 26 Nov 1941.

ADAIR, MARTHA JANE, wife of Arthur A. Adair of Belfast, Ireland, died 20 July 1950. Name not likely Jewish, but gravestone shows a Magen David with inscription 'From the T.R.E. of LOL.ZZA 9 (or 22A)'. Grave 575.

PHIZACKERLEY, ISAAC, died 18 July 1940, aged 79, 'husband of Esther'. Grave YY.

MARKS JEAN, 'Madam - from the Ladies Choir'. No date. Grave 183.

SOLOMONS REBECCA, 'my wife', died 24 April 1929, aged 69, Grave 114 jointly with **WALTER DAVID SOLOMONS**, 'her husband' died 18 Sept 1949, aged 90.

GOODMAN, MINNA DIGOTT, 'my wife, died 27 Jan 1933. Grave 90L, buried jointly with her sister, **JESSIE BADAMS**.

HIRSCHBERG, ALICE JANE, died 20 Nov 1928. Grave 110L.

MALKIN, MABELLE, 'my only daughter', died 3 Nov 1928. Grave 44L joint with **JOHN JARVIS MALKIN**, 'my husband, MIZPAH', died 28 July 1916.

PYKE, GLENN STANLEY, 'our son and brother' died 7 Aug 1928, aged 26. Grave no number, section L.

VOGLER, RACHEL, née **REUBEN** 'sister in Australian Army Nursing Service' died 29 April 1937. Grave 368J.

ROSE, DANIEL, died 17 June 1933, aged 63. grave 199J.

SCHWAGER, EMMA MARTHA, 'mother' died 2 April 1933, aged 79. grave 207J

NOMMENSEN, HENRY LEWIN, 1874-1933. Grave 132J.

LOEBEL, ANTON HERMAN, 'our father', died 19 Dec 1935, aged 73. grave 299J.

WINKLER, IAN HOUSTON, 'husband and father' died 21 Dec 1986, aged 65. no grave number.


These names and the accompanying data have been transcribed in the order in which they appear throughout the pages of NICK VINE HALL's book *MANLY CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTS, 1845-1993*. It is possible that while some of the people listed above were indeed Jews, others were the non-Jewish wives of Jews, or descendants of Jews. The information given for each name is as it appears in Nick Vine Hall's book, so that while there are dates and place names for some individuals, for others there is no information except the names.

Information NICK VINE HALL, culled by Sophie Caplan.

News from the South Australian Branch	Klee Benveniste	Vol 7 No 1		
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In February, Kingsley Ireland was our guest speaker. Kingsley was a founding member of the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society. He has written and published a number of family history books for his own family and that of his wife, as well as co-written and edited books for others. He also assisted noted UK Jewish genealogist Dr. Anthony Joseph with his Australian research. He talked about the process of collecting material, explaining how he painstakingly followed up clues to write his family history books. The lecture was most informative and appreciated by our members.

The South Australian Branch can be contacted by post:
Dr. Klee Benveniste, Honorary Secretary,
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA Branch)
C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation
P.O. Box 320, Glenside, SA 5065
or phone Chairperson, Hilde Hines 61-8-8379 6030

Association of Polish Jews in Israel. List of Polish Landsmanshaften in Israel		Vol 7 No 1		
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Central Office: 158 Dizengoff St., Tel Aviv 63461, Israel
Tel: 972-3-5225078 Fax: 972-3-5236684

On the website of Ada Holtzman at
<http://www.geocities.com/Paris/Rue/4017/POLISH10.htm>

A Landsmanshaft (plural landsmanshsaften) is an informal association of individuals who originated in the same town or its surrounding areas. They meet occasionally for social occasions, memorial gatherings for the Shoah victims of their towns, or for psychological support. They may recall others from their town. Their languages of communication are probably Hebrew, Yiddish and Polish. Some on the list below may be able to read English or have someone who can translate for them. Editor.

Organization	Chairman	Address	City	Zip
BARANOVICZ	Itzhak Zukerman	38 Anatot St	Tel Aviv	69080

BELCHATOW	Sharon Menachem	27 Bezalel St	Tel Aviv	64683
BIALA-PODOLSKA	Avraham Gvirtz	14 Nordau Blvd	Tel Aviv	63113
BIALYSTOK	Michael Fliker	7 Lochamei Hagetaot	Yahud	56215
BIELSKO-BIALA	Michael Mechaof	79 Bialik St	Ramat Gan	52441
BOLCHOW	Shlomo Adler	7 Imber St	Kfar Saba	44451
BRODY	Lilian Finka	10 Yair St	Ramat Gan	52238
BUCZACZ	Ester Cohen	4 Fichman St	Tel Aviv	69027
BYDGOSZCZ	Mordechai Rubenstein	1 Barzilay St	Tel Aviv	65113
CHECHANOW	Yosef Klapus	24 Mivtza Kadesh St	Tel Aviv	69983
CHELM	Avraham Beker	61 Rothschild St	Bat Yam	59344
CHMIELNIK	Nachum Mali	80/a Hertzl St	Ramat Gan	52411
CHORZELE	Moshe Carmi	6 Ben Yefuna St	Jerusalem	93623
CHRZANOW	Shoshana Hirshberg	96 Jerusalem St	Ramat Gan	52363
CZESTOCHOWA	Arie Adeliste Adv.	18 Hayezira St	Ramat Gan	52521
DRECIN	Malka Bulkstein	52 Ben Gurion St	Ramat Gan	52604
DZIALOSZYCE	Moshe Roznek	1 Hayasmin	Herzlya	46631
GLOWACZOW	Yosef Rivo	23 Havradim St	Ganei Yehuda	56905
GOMBIN	Rivka Aloni	11 Hahistadrut St	Givatayim	53584
GORLICE	Paulina Bergman	5 Denkner St	Natanya	42276
GOSTYNIN-WLOCLAWEK	Zeev Belfer	8 Havatzelet Hasharon St	Kfar Saba	42937
GRODNO	Yosef Struvolski	6 Lamdan Blvd	Ramat Gan	52443
HORODENKA	Zvi Weicman	29 Keren Hayesod St	Raanana	43305
HRUBIESZOW	Mordechai Horowitz	40 Usishkin St	Ramat Hasharon	47210
JASIONOWKA	Avraham Poplevski	35 Moheliver St	Yahud	56208
KALISZ	Baruch Kolsky	12 Yehuda Halewi St	Natanya	42480
KARTUZ-BEREZA	Chaim Ben-Israel	220 Dizengof	Tel Aviv	63115
KATOWICE	Zila Katriel	21 Louis Marshal St	Tel Aviv	62668
KIELCE	Asher Gutman	9 Antokolowski St	Tel Aviv	64044
KLODAWA	Avraham Opocinski	9 Menora St	Givatayim	53490
KOLO	Arie Butzker	14 Klonimus St	Tel Aviv	62644
KOLOMYJA	Shlomo Horowitz	24 Hanassie St	Kiriat Ono	55000
KRAKOW	David Raizer	10 Brody St	Tel Aviv	69056
KRASNOSZILC	David Shachar	116 Uziel St	Ramat Gan	52302
KRINKY	Haim Sheinberg			
KUBRIN	George Bill	26 Borochoy St	Givatayim	53205
LAKOWICZE	Moshe Indiczki	PO Box 1686	Tel Aviv	
LASK	Israel Shai	43 Eilat St	Holon	58430
LODZ	Avraham Zelig	158 Dizengof St	Tel Aviv	63461
LOSZIC	Yosef Ben-Yaacov	64 Nordau Blvd	Tel Aviv	62381
LOTOTOW	Gershon Plata	Derech Hayun 10	Petach Tikva	49340
LUBARTOW	Mina Vesong	98 Weitzman St	Tel Aviv	62264
LUBLIN	David Stockfish	14 Hatzanchanim Blvd	Ramat Gan	52341

LUKOW	Yaacov Kesselbrenner	3 Brurya St	Ramat Gan	52526
LWOW	Yaacov Hener	16 Riding St	Tel Aviv	69024
LIVOV	Peretz Zohar	Even Shpolt 8	Hertzlva	46445
MAKOW MAZOWIECKI	Mordechai Tzechanover	1 Radak St	Ramat Gan	52403
MARKUSZOW	Israel Hoffler	25 Karl Neter St	Rishon Lezion	75285
MEZRICZ-PODOLSKI	Mordechai Lazar	13 Kinneret St	Bat Yam	59425
MIECHOW	Haim Keren	Bernfeld 11	Tel Aviv	
MINSK-MAZOWIECKI	Miriam Karmi	20 Bezalel St	Tel Aviv	64683
MILAWA	Moshe Peles	14 Geva St	Givatayim	53316
NOWOGRODECK	Hertzel Bruk			
NOWY-SACZ	Chaim Bronfeld	28 Gronyman St	Tel Aviv	69972
OPATOW	Eliahu Zilberberg	5 Mania & Israel St	Tel Aviv	69342
OPOCZNO	Aharon Karmi	20 Bezalel St	Tel Aviv	64683
OSTROLEKA	Yehuda Chamiel	12 Bavli St	Tel Aviv	62331
OSTROW LUBELSKI	Moshe Fishman	15 Hagr'a St	Holon	58306
OSTROWCE	Avraham Fridental	3 Avigail St	Haifa	34674
OSWIECIM	Mordechai Frey	PO Box 575	Holon	58105
OTWOCK KOLO	Arie Lederman	29 Sirkin St	Givatayim	53251
WARSAWY PABIANICE	Dr Lipshitz	5 Faivel St	Tel Aviv	62995
PINSK-KARLIN	Nachum Bone	Kibbutz Shaar HaGolan	Emek Hayarden	15145
PIOTRKOW-TRYBUNALSKI	Izhak Goldfried	47 Rupin St	Tel Aviv	63457
PLOCK	Yochewet Brown	D N Karmiel	Amirim	20115
PODWOLCZISK	Dov Brayer	13 Argon St	Kfar Saba	44259
POZNAN	Hersh Kronenberg	60 La Guardia St	Tel Aviv	67313
PRASZNIC	Dina Rot	51/28 Rogozin St	Ashdod	77440
RADOM	Chaim Kintzler	7 Mitzpe St	Ramat Gan	52493
RADOMSKO	Chaya Ash		Kfar Havradim	25174
RADZIMIN	Mordechai Zilberstein	8/a Rachel St	Givatayim	53482
RADZIN-PODOLSKI	Pesach Tunkelschwartz	41 Brandeis St	Tel Aviv	62001
RAJEWICZ	Tova Waks	12 Keren Kayemet St	Petach Tikva	49372
ROHATIN	Fishel Kirshen	34 Yehonatan St	Tel Aviv	69081
RYPIN	Binyamin Shtentzel	9/b Metzlot Yam St	Givatayim	53488
RZESZOW	Clara Maayan	8/a Epstein St	Tel Aviv	62962
SIEDLCE	Strawiski	44 Bar Kochva St	Petach Tikva	49261
SIEDLCE	Hertzel Kaweh	31 Hakneset St	Givatayim	53465
SLONIM	Zvi Shaft	10 Glicksberg St	Tel Aviv	69412
STARACHOWICE	Rivka Grinberg	3 Matmon St	Tel Aviv	62094
STARACHOWICE-WIRZEWNIA	Yaakov Snir		Givat Shapira	42912
STASZOW	Shimon Tuchman	2 Hagay St	Jerusalem	96262
STOK	Izhak Altshuler	37 Rosh Pina St	Ramat Gan	52273
STRYJ	Uriel Zur-Shitzer	26 Keren Kayemet St	Givatayim	52335
SVENCIONYS	Lea Holtzman		Ramat Gan	52302
SZCZUCIN	Itzak Wartman	128 Uziel St		
SZYDLOWCE	Yaacov Rotbard	18 Hanachal St	Ramat Gan	52302

TARNOW	David Shif	38/28 Yehuda Hanasie	Tel Aviv	52372
TISZOWCE	Zvi Naor	9/2 Ben Gurion St	Raanana	69206
TOMASZOW-LUBELSKI	David Barak	24 Aminadav St	Tel Aviv	
TOMASZOW-MAZOWIECKI	Benyamin Yaari	6 Hador St	Holon	58801
TUREK	Rafael Yachin	5 Kalisher St	Kfar Saba	44380
TURKA	Sara Rot	75 Smilanski St	Natanya	42434
VILNA	Michael Shmivich	Kashani 10	Tel Aviv	69499
WADOWICE-ANDRICHOW	Paulina Kosovor	14 Golani St	Ramat Chen	52224
WARSZAWA	Vanda Rotenberg	11 Warshavski St	Tel Aviv	66767
WARSAWA-PRAGA	Yaacov Nusel	1 Baltimor St	Tel Aviv	62194
WIELUN	Moshe Hirshberg	3 Hatam Sofer St	Tel Aviv	62482
WLOCLAWEK	Eliezer Tabcinski	12 Fishman Mimun St	Tel Aviv	64236
WLODAWA	Esfraim Fishman	22 Arlozorov St	Ramat Gan	52491
WYSZKOW	Menachem Negel	14 Hamaccabim St	Bnai Brak	51211
YANOW-OBOK. PINSKA	Ben-Zion Feinstein	23 Herzel St	Acco	24212
YAROSZAW	Edmond Hevenstreit	13 Hashomron St	Holon	58265
YASLO	Miriam Krishner	11 Evrona St	Givatayim	53442
ZAGLEBIE	Shaul Sternfeld	Margakit 31	Haifa	34463
ZAKLIKOW	Yehoshua Laks	PO Box 57137	Tel Aviv	61571
ZAKROCZYM	Issachar Fater	11 Brodetzki St	Tel Aviv	69051
ZAMOSC	Eav Bar-Zeev	6 Uri St	Tel Aviv	64954
ZAWIERCIE	David Bert	140 Kazanelson St	Givatayim	53280
ZULKIEW	Avraham Kirshner	23 Yanai Alexander	Tel Aviv	62494
ZYRARDOW	Bezalel Tigel	57 Newe Shaanan St	Tel Aviv	66056

Ada Holtzman is not responsible for the information contained in this document nor is the Editor.

Resolving unpaid Holocaust Era Insurance claims. How can you help? Back Then...

Prior to and during the Holocaust, members of Jewish communities purchased insurance policies including life, education and dowry. Those who purchased them intended to provide a secure future for their families.

People's lives including the financial plans were disrupted by the Holocaust. Many documents were destroyed or lost. Many of those policies still remain unpaid. Many plans were never realised. Now...

Now, as a result of the work of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance claims, individuals may be able to recover what their relatives intended for them.

In late 1998, the United States National Association of Insurance Commissioners in conjunction with several major European insurance companies, representatives Jewish organisations and the State of Israel established the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims ("International Commission"). Subsequently, several European regulators, as well as representatives of some governments, joined the International Commission as Observers.

The International Commission has developed a process that provides Holocaust survivors and heirs of Holocaust victims with a means for filing claims on unpaid insurance policies. This unique process provides the potential claimants with a central source of information on, investigation into and payment of unpaid policies.

How can we help?

Many may question how after so much time elapsed, can the International Jewish community help in resolving this issue.

As information on unpaid policies is surfacing at an increasing rate and as the insurance companies involved in this important effort are searching their archives and making information available, we must help the members of our communities. We must help them look at the histories of their families and deal with the memories of the past.

It is important and necessary that we, as individuals and as a community, help and support the commission with this process.

For information, on the Holocaust Era Insurance Claims Process call 1-8000-706.922 or visit the website: www.icheuc.org

Peter Waldheim, Manager Outreach Program

Australian Jewish Genealogy Discussion Group Formed		Vol 7 No 1		
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Gary Luke has formed a discussion group for Australian Jewish Genealogy. It is a meeting place for Australian researchers to help with access to records in other states, allow exchange of hints about overseas archives, and assist overseas researchers with Australian connections.

Information and subscription via: <http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy/> [It's the first link on the contents page]

Or send a blank email to AJGensubscribe@listbot.com
Any enquiries please email AJGenowner@listbot.com
Gary Luke, Sydney, Australia

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 7 No 2		
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Passover with its matzot and other special foods, and major housecleaning, hardly seems to be over and already it is Shavuot, the time of receiving the Torah by the Jewish people, with its dairy dishes to celebrate early summer in Israel. Being Ashkenazi we filled up on delicious cheese blintzes.

For the keen genealogist, it is time to pack up to attend the 20th Jewish Genealogy Seminar in Salt Lake City where the Mormon Family History Library, with "its mountain of records" awaits us. As far as we know two people are going from Australia. In our next issue we hope to bring you a report of the conference by Bubbles Segall, one of our Northern Territory members, who lives and works as a nurse in an Aboriginal health clinic in Central Australia, five hundred kilometres from Katherine.

We've had our usual workshops, the last graced by the loan of a 1938 telephone directory from Vienna, brought to this country by refugees in 1938, where our members could find grand-parents' names and addresses. The loan has been extended to enable us to have it at our next workshop on 2nd July before it is returned to its owners in Melbourne.

Our one major talk this last quarter was one we invited the Sydney Jewish Museum to co-host, thus sharing preparations. It was Peter Nash on "Escape to and from Shanghai", a talk illustrated by slides, which took place on Sunday the 21st May in the Sydney Jewish Museum theatrette. Peter gave a deeply moving account of a childhood in World War II Shanghai after escaping from Nazi Germany with his parents and one set of grandparents.

Our next function will be a talk by visiting Professor Yom Tov Assis of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on "Sephardic Traditions in the Sephardic Diaspora After the Expulsion" on Sunday 23rd July at 4pm in the theatrette of the Sydney Jewish Museum. Professor Assis is an expert on Sephardi Jewry and has several books on Sephardim to his credit.

In April we mourned the passing of our esteemed Melbourne members, Rabbi Ronald Lubofsky A.M. and Kurt Lippmann O.A.M. Kurt came to Sydney to speak to us in November 1998.

Very recently the North Shore Synagogue which gives us the hospitality of its Reverend Katz Library for our books and our monthly workshops, and also gives the use of the Wilson Hall several times a year, suffered the loss of its congregation President, David Blitz, at a comparatively young age. David Blitz was always supportive of our Society's use of these facilities of the congregation, and we mourn his loss.

On the other hand Rabbi David Rogut and our member Vicky Rogut, will be celebrating twenty-five years of service to the congregation of the North Shore Synagogue, and so a number of books are being donated in their honour to our Society's collection and others to the Katz Library collection.

Recently I enjoyed entertaining on Friday night relatives discovered through Jewishgen and who were visiting Sydney. All the best for the rest of our very cold winter.

Escape to and from Shanghai	Peter Nash	Vol 7 No 2	
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This is the story of my family's escape from Germany to Shanghai - and later from Shanghai to Sydney.

My mother's parents came from former Prussian towns with my grandfather coming from Hohenstein, now Olsztynek in Poland, and my grandmother from Danzig, now Gdansk, Poland. My mother's name was Ingeborg LEWIN and she was born in Berlin in 1910.

My father was Herbert NACHEMSTEIN and he was born in 1905 in the former West Prussian town Gnesen, now Gniezno in Poland and which was then part of Germany. He came to Berlin in 1921 having been sent by his father to further his opportunities as a scrap metal merchant. A few years later my parents met and married in 1932 and I was born in 1935 - their only child.

The rise of Hitler and Nazi tyranny in the 1930's forced every Jew of the 500,000 strong German community to think hard if it was safe to stay not only in Germany, but also in Europe. Luckily many took the threat seriously already by the mid-1930's, having obtained visas and emigrated to wherever they could. However, many others in Germany strongly believed that their "Fatherland" would never harm them and this also included the heads of my family - because, after all, they had fought for Germany in the First World War. So they believed strongly that this would surely be respected. They also believed that the Nazi reign would be short-lived. Thoughts of staying evaporated immediately after the devastating and infamous Night of Broken Glass - the Kristallnacht - which erupted throughout Germany on the 9th November 1938.

Escape to - where?

Some thought just getting into an- other neighbouring country would be the best first step, and so quite a number went to Belgium or Holland or France and some even went east to Czechoslovakia or Lithuania and elsewhere. Meanwhile the waiting list for visas for most overseas countries was already well beyond stated intake quotas. Word had got around that the only place where no visa was required was Shanghai. Sephardi Jews originally from Baghdad and later Bombay, as well as Ashkenazi Russian Jews had settled there for decades past. Reaching Shanghai in the years 1938 to 1941 then became the goal for a total of about 18,000 German, Austrian, Czechoslovakian, Lithuanian and Polish refugees as well as about 2000 orthodox Polish Jews.

We went by train from Berlin to Genoa, Italy, where we boarded a German ship the SS "Scharnhorst" and sailed through the Suez Canal, stopping off in Colombo, Manila and Hong Kong, and after about three weeks arrived in Shanghai on the 19th of May 1939. My mother's father died one month later, having suffered from a heart attack when he picked up the boarding tickets on the eve of leaving Berlin.

Hongkew on the eastern side of Shanghai used to be a heavily populated Chinese district until it was partially destroyed by bombardments during the Japanese invasion of China in 1937. It became the only available area for the European refugees at prices they or the Jewish Relief Aid Committees could afford. Many of the new arrivals who came with very little were issued with the bare necessities and were soon queuing up in a 'soup kitchen'. Life changed drastically for the refugees as most were still dressed in their best and fashionable European clothing, often all they had.

Those that could not afford to rent their own rooms were housed in Heime (Homes) which held up to 150 men, women and children. Morale sunk very low as living conditions were depressing. In 1938 the trickle of refugees built up to about 1500 and the Relief Aid Committees could cope, but when the trickle became a flood in early to mid-1939, they could not cope anymore. That's when urgent calls went out for relief funds from all over the world.

We rented one large single room in a three-storied terrace house in Hongkew which was divided up into a curtained-off sleeping area, the kitchen - essentially sink, stove and table - and a living section which my father used as an office and storage area. My father soon met a former Berlin colleague and his friend suggested my father could also find work at his company which was in transportation - of all kinds of goods. Working hours were very long and physically very hard, and my mother helped my father. In 1942 he started his own transportation and customs broking business and it proved to be very successful.

As we tried to settle into this new existence, my parents also had to focus on those of our immediate family who were left behind in Europe. My father's parents remained in Gnesen in Poland and his only contact with them was by mail which took usually 5 to 6 weeks either way. After the War started in September 1939, the Nazis began the Final Solution for the systematic extermination of all Jews. They created concentration and work camps in the occupied countries - especially Poland.

This tragedy became real again not so long ago, in fact in July 1997, when my wife and I visited the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw where we met Yale Reisner, a dedicated American archivist and researcher. He showed me deportation lists from Gnesen and neighbouring towns, with the devastating evidence that on the 13th December 1939 my grandparents Leo and Cecilia NACHEMSTEIN were rounded up and deported from Gnesen to the Ghetto of Piotrkow Trybunalski together with others from my family. Letters from my grandparents stopped in February 1941. Not so long ago I found out that all the Jews held in Piotrkow were exterminated in the Treblinka death camps.

The refugees mostly made the best possible of an unwanted and generally unhealthy situation. Gradually, grocery stores and delicatessens, sidewalk cafes and tailor shops opened. Against all odds, the demand for world news and cultural activities was constant. Several dozen periodicals were published by enterprising refugees. Literary and musical recitals, chamber concerts, plays, operettas and revues were performed, often by former well-known artists from Berlin and Vienna.

Religious services for the refugees on High Holydays were often conducted in rented premises. The Jewish community of Shanghai, old and new alike, was in no sense unified, and there was little social interaction between the various groups. Daily life however was strongly affected by the Japanese occupation of China after war was declared with the United States at the end of 1941. The Japanese gradually came more directly under Nazi influence and so reversed their previous pro-Jewish policy, introducing special zones which required passes for entry, bringing the refugees under the direct influence of the Japanese commander of Hongkew, an erratic and neurotic small man, named Goya. However survival in Shanghai was not endangered so much by the activities of war but rather by poor diet, bad sanitation, and low resistance to tropical diseases.

Schools and educational institutions were either long established, such as Shanghai Jewish School or newly created, such as Shanghai Jewish Youth Association School and Professor Deman's Gregg Business College. The world renowned ORT had hundreds of students.

All kinds of sport flourished for the young and not so young. Soccer, table tennis, athletics and boxing were the most popular as was chess. Another favourite activity was Scouts and Guides and also Betar.

Normal war activities such as air-raids and battles were hardly experienced. However the worst episode was on 17th July 1945 when 40 European refugees died from a US bombing raid on telecommunication targets which were close to the refugee ghetto area in Hongkew. Apart from the war casualties over 1600 refugees died from various causes between 1939 and 1945. The German language weekly paper *Aufbau* published a list in 1946 of those refugees who died between 1940 and 1945.

The end of the war in August 1945 also became a nervous and dreadful time as refugees tried to find out what had become of the rest of their families in Europe.

But it was also the start of huge amounts of commercial activity. In fact my father's business in transportation and customs broking was booming, especially as many refugees began to leave at the end of 1945 for other countries, such as Palestine, United States, Australia and elsewhere. It was also quite euphoric, as now Shanghai was overrun with American armed forces who were in an 'occupational transition mode'. Gradually an unease befell all the Western communities of China as civil war erupted between the Red Communists and the White Chinese Nationalists.

Escape - to where?

It was time to think about migrating again. But where to this time? The rules for quotas and visas had hardly changed since the 1930's. The dispersion of the Jewish community of Shanghai as well as Harbin and Tienstin had commenced - and accelerated by the time the Communists took over in September 1949, thus creating the People's Republic of China.

With the Communist threat my father racked his brain to find a new haven. He tried hardest to get to Australia because the quota restrictions to the US were hopeless, as immigration was restricted in numbers which corresponded to the 1920 intake by

nationality. Technically we were Stateless, but my father again came under the low Polish quota guideline. Also, the then Australian Labour government created many obstacles to entry by stateless Shanghai refugees. Without a sponsor there was virtually no chance to get visas for Australia. So my father co-opted a former Berlin business colleague to be our sponsor, in fact, claiming that he was my father's cousin and eventually in February 1949 the visas were granted, and on the 15th February 1949 we sailed on the SS Gen. Meigs from Shanghai stopping off first in Hong Kong. Then we boarded the 4000 ton SS Changte and after 3 weeks we finally sailed into the very beautiful Sydney Harbour arriving on the 13th March 1949 - exactly on my father's 44th birthday. And what a wonderful feeling that was. Three years later I changed my name to NASH.

The realisation of the enormity and devastation of the Holocaust had also sunk into consciousness, as my father tried to find out the exact fate of his parents, aunts and uncles and cousins. It is very much a tragic fact - that I have forty-nine names in my family as victims of the Holocaust. I have submitted these on Pages of Testimony and sent them to the Yad Vashem Holocaust victim archives.

I will close with an interesting genealogy story. After arriving in Shanghai we stayed briefly with my paternal grandfather's cousin - Leopold STEINHARDT and his family. Over the years there was very little contact with the Steinhardts in Shanghai and none after Shanghai. More recently I started to wonder how we were related to them and if there still was anyone alive. I tried to trace the family but various avenues failed. Finally after considerable "networking" a suggestion led me to contacting the **Landesverwaltungsamt in Berlin** (Social Services Department) and specifically the department which processed applications for restitution claims. I found out that it was possible to request a letter to be forwarded by the department to a person who may have made a restitution claim for any reason associated with their forced emigration from Germany in the Nazi era - which is precisely what I did. Not long after, the daughter of Leopold Steinhardt wrote back to me from Florida, absolutely astounded that I had traced her - especially as she had not only married another Shanghai Jew - but also that they had changed their name. A piece in the family genealogy jigsaw fell into place.

Peter Nash is a founding member of the Society and has vastly increased his knowledge of the former Jewish communities of China. He has contributed the chapter on China in the forthcoming Avotaynu book: Research Guide to Jewish Genealogy.

The above article is a condensed version of his recent talk at the Sydney Jewish Museum which was accompanied by many archival documents and photos presented in the form of overheads.

A group tour of Jewish places of interest in China is scheduled to take place after Simchat Torah, leaving Sydney for 16 days in late October and returning in mid-November this year. It will be led by former Sydney Jewish Museum Director, Alan Jacobs, who is presently developing an exhibition on the Jews of Shanghai. As well as visiting Shanghai, which includes a Shabbat meal with the Shanghai Jewish community, and Kaifeng, where the group will meet descendants of Chinese Jews, the tour will visit Louyang, Suzhou, Nanjing, Xi'an and Beijing, taking in more traditional tourist spots in China. These include the Imperial Summer Palace, the Terracotta Warriors and the Great Wall.

The tour is designed for anyone interested in Jewish or Chinese history and preferably both. However, the tour organisers are making a special appeal to ex-Shanghailanders and their descendants who wish to re-visit their own or their parents' roots.

Special add-on tours can be arranged for those who hail from Harbin, for those who wish to remain longer in Shanghai or for those who simply want to see other parts of China. There are only a limited number of places available on the tour. For further information, please call:

Ju Yang at Imperial China Tours on 9299-0899

or

Alan Jacobs 9365-1991

Jewishgen is Expanding

Susan E King

**Vol 7 No
2**



Due to the tremendous growth JewishGen is experiencing and recognizing the need to focus on Business and Corporate Development, it is with great pleasure that JewishGen can announce today the appointment of Mr. Glen Strauss as our Director of Business and Corporate Development. This newly formed position will report directly to the President of JewishGen with input from the Development Sub-Committee. Glen's role will be to strengthen and build JewishGen's business relationships within the Jewish genealogical community and to develop ongoing relationships within the world's corporate community.


Born in Illinois in 1954, Glen graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. degree in music education in 1976. He graduated with a J.D. degree from the University of Southern California Law Center, and has been admitted to practice law in the State of California. He joined Smith Barney as a financial consultant in 1983, and is now a Senior Vice President of Investments/Financial Consultant and a Director of the Consulting Group at Smith Barney. He has served on the Directors Council at Smith Barney for nearly fifteen years, and has been a member of the Directors Advisory Group.

As co-chairman of the Yitzhak Rabin Peace Memorial Fund, he recently succeeded in having a large bronze bust of the late Prime Minister installed at the entrance to the municipality building in Tel Aviv.

For the last two years, he has been very actively pursuing his genealogy hobby and, through the help of JewishGen, located over 3000 descendants of his maternal great-great grandfather. Glen has organized two family reunions - one in July, 1998

in Chicago attended by over 260 relatives, and one last October, in Tel Aviv, with over 225 attendees. His family website at <http://www.eisenstein.nu> houses over 2000 family photos. Glen has also successfully arranged for the translation of the Yizkor book from Drogichin, the shtetl in Belarus from which both his maternal grandparents emigrated.

Over the next few months, Glen will be contacting the coordinators of all those groups we currently serve either by email or telephone. We look forward to the opportunity to broaden the awareness of JewishGen in the worldwide Jewish community and to strengthen the relationships with our partners and hosted organizations as we strive towards our mission of preserving our history for future generations.

When Life is Fortunate	Helen Twersky-Steiner	Vol 7 No 2		
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Shabbat on 6th May 2001/1st Iyar 5760 was a celebration at Beit Shalom Synagogue, Adelaide. Helen Twersky-Steiner, Joe Lipert and Alan Lipert and their families paid homage to their great-grand-parents Abraham Jacob Solomon and Julia Solomon by marking the 150th Anniversary of their arrival in the new Colony of South Australia on 23rd December 1849.

This occasion will be recorded forever by the dedication of a beautiful bronze plaque of the Tablet of the Ten Commandments sculpted by Andrew Steiner. The plaque with its blue-green patina, the stainless-steel and silky oak 'Tree of Life' and the stained glass window 'Eternal Dream' are visual expressions of Andrew's joy and recognition of Beit Shalom.

Rabbi Adam Morris linked the special Parashah Kedoshim with the Anniversary and the dedication of the plaque. The sensitivity of the service was further highlighted by the use of 'the yad' which Abraham Jacob, the first Reader of the Congregation in Adelaide, used at the dedication of the First Synagogue in Adelaide in August 1850. It was on loan from the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation for this special Shabbat.

For all Jews the lives of our forefathers have been influenced by the countries in which they sojourned/or resided, 'the quality of mercy' of its rulers, the pacts and treaties which changed borders and the powerful dominance of 'the church'. I have been sensitive to their adherence to Jewish values, beliefs and practices, their adventurous and courageous decision to migrate and become early colonists, and the consequent untroubled lives we have led in one of the most peaceful Jewish communities. All these aspects made it important to honour them.

The following are excerpts from articles which appeared in the January and May issues of the monthly Beit Shalom Synagogue Magazine with points of interest in their lives.

To South Australia's Shores They Came In 1849!

On 4th July 1849 twenty three year old Abraham Jacob Solomon and twenty year old Julia Isaacs married in the New Synagogue, City of London, Rabbi N. Adler, Chief Rabbi of London officiating.

Julia's parents, both born in Holland, settled in London between 1815 and 1819. Abraham Jacob was the 'grandson of the world renowned matza baker of London of the same name' - Ya'acov ben Avraham Ya'acov.

After a journey of one hundred and five days on the barque 'Constant', they arrived at Port Adelaide without wharf, jetty and conveyance for luggage and baggage. For the voyage, passengers provided 'bedding and utensils such as knife, fork, spoon, plate, and a tin or pewter drinking mug'. They arrived at a time when the colony was in difficulties, for the first ten years were a time of food shortages and financial crisis. For example flour was a hundred pounds a ton!

Immediately on their arrival Abraham Jacob Solomon became Reader and in September 1850 officiated at the consecration service of the first Synagogue in South Australia. At this time there were one hundred and forty Jewish people in the colony 0.3 % of the population. All, except for seven families, lived in Hindley Street.

In writing about Nineteenth Century Adelaide Bernard Hyams states (A.J.H.S. Journal 1994): without a minister the newly formed congregation in Adelaide had speedily appointed one of its members Abraham Solomon for the post of Reader....due to the state of Synagogue finances in 1851, Solomon offered to serve in an honorary capacity.

In 1852 he served in the Melbourne Hebrew Bourke Street Congregation for six months, returned to Adelaide and, like others, joined the lure of the goldfields, basing himself at Carisbrook, Victoria. They were drawn back to Adelaide and, now with three children, returned in December 1855.

His obituary in the South Australian Advertiser read: 'On returning from the Victorian goldfields he became the lessee of the old Victoria Theatre, being the first theatrical manager in Adelaide. He subsequently kept the Blenheim Hotel in Hindley Street and on retiring from this entered into business as a hotel valuer and broker.' Interestingly at this period activity was moving away from the western area of North Terrace in Hindley Street to King William/Rundle Streets. His business was conducted in the name of A.J. Solomon & Son, Exchange Building, Pirie Street, Adelaide.

He must have been a highly revered mohel, and on occasions travelled to Clare, Truro, Auburn and Kadina to visit country families. His original Brit book housed in the A.J.H.S. N.S.W. Reference Library, covers these mitzvot. Until 1876 he performed over one hundred and fifty circumcisions. His prayerbook, a present from his father on leaving London is also there. His 'yad' is in the collection of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation at Glenside.

Julia must have been a strong resourceful woman and homemaker - they moved house within the city and North Adelaide many times, always within walking distance of the Synagogue. They parented fourteen children - six sons and eight daughters -

five of whom died as young children. Fifty years after their arrival, at the turn of the twentieth century, their now adult children were dispersed - three in Sydney, one in Broken Hill, one in Brisbane and four remained in Adelaide including our grandmother Rachel, their fifth child, who in 1833 had married John Barnet Saunders.

Abraham Jacob Solomon died suddenly on 10th January, 1889, Julia Solomon on 30th December 1895. Their final resting place is in the West Terrace Jewish Cemetery.

'With Pride and Reverence.....'

In the January Beit Shalom Magazine in the article '*To South Australia's Shores They Came - in 1849*', I wrote about their arrival in the colony of South Australia and some events in the lives of Abraham Jacob and Julia Solomon, our great grandparents.

In writing now I would like to contrast the City of London they left and Colonial Adelaide, particularly the religious element, travelling and social changes they experienced.

On their arrival, on 23rd December 1849, the Jewish community numbered one hundred and forty people. The London they left comprised at least eight synagogues founded between 1701 and 1778. The first community established at the time of Oliver Cromwell (Lord Protector from 1654 - 1658) was an outcome of the visit of Menasseh Ben Israel from Holland. He advocated there could not be 'redemption' until Jews were dispersed in all lands - the antithesis of the modern concept of the 'ingathering of the exiles'!

The Jews of Adelaide were forming the nucleus of a religious community and holding services in private homes. By 1846 the community numbered fifty and by 1850 one hundred and forty people, less than 0.3% of the population. Most families lived at the western end of North Terrace/Hindley/Currie Streets.

A month after their arrival and six months after their own marriage conducted by Rabbi N. Adler, Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, Abraham Jacob officiated at the marriage of Leah Solomon, daughter of the late Moss Solomon to Mr Morris Marks on the 30th January 1850. Reports in the Observer and Mercury Chronicle described him as 'a Jewish Rabbi lately arrival from London'. Later in the year on the 30th August, AJS was reader at the service consecrating the first synagogue in South Australia.

London and Adelaide's settlement were both experiencing social difficulties. The colony was in financial crisis, in fact there was near bankruptcy of the Land Fund, and dire food shortages. The Wake-field Scheme, the basis of the South Australian Act of August 1834, linked land, labour and capital.

Considering that Australia was conceived as a convict settlement, the Act's rules and regulations for South Australia were radical. For example:

'No person having husband or wife or child or children shall be conveyed unless all

are conveyed...

...the natives will not be enslaved as were the natives of the Spanish colonies ...in church freedom there was...to be no tithes or land rates. Taxation only for education, roads and hospitals...until found necessary'.

In 1851 the first single House of Parliament was formed with twenty four and in 1852 the Gwynne Bill with far-reaching consequences for Jews and education, was passed ensuring non-denominational education, but including '*scripture readings would be in the last half-hour of the school day and children of conscientious objectors would be allowed to leave before then.*

Further economic downturn occurred in 1851-1852 with the exodus to the goldfields and they also took this challenge with three small children. A fourth was born at Carisbrook, near Maryborough, Victoria. On return to Adelaide AJS became the lessee of the Old Victoria Theatre 'being the first theatrical manager of the colony' (*South Australian Advertiser*, 11th January 1889).

England too, was strained. The effect of the wars against Napoleon culminating in the battle of Waterloo, the consequences (particularly unemployment) of the agricultural and industrial revolutions and bad harvests, had precipitated crises. Although Jews had received 'freedom of the City of London' in 1831, individuals were seeking religious freedom, work opportunities, fortune, adventure! Emigration was widely mooted and fashionable! To where?

The Sunday Observance Act of 1677 forbade the carrying on of ordinary work of business. The Shops Act 1919-1922 tacitly implied that this Act was still in general operation:

'A person of Jewish religion may carry on business on Sunday provided that: he does not do so on Saturday; he gives previous notice to his local authority; he posts a notice in his shop.'

Jews were a specific minority, a distinctly alien sub-culture.

Travel: Our expectations of the present make it impossible to perceive a sea journey in 1849. The 'Constant' was a three-masted rig barque of 535 tons Her first voyage in 1843 brought convicts to New South Wales; her last in 1855 resulted in being shipwrecked at Portland, Victoria. The traveller of this period was not a tourist. The odds of a safe comfortable trip were low. The reports of the arrival of the 'Constant' in *The Times* stated 'No deaths occurred during the passage'. *Power:* ..the ocean wind. *Laundry and toilet facilities:*...a wooden or iron bucket. *Infirmity space and medical supplies:*...scarce. *Food:*...B.Y.O. and D.I.Y. *Fare:*...fifteen pounds and cost of baggage. They at least travelled with the young Jewish girl who had been the servant in AJS' home.

The development and social change over the next five decades were diverse and momentous and South Australia had many firsts. The Torrens Act in 1858; the city lit by gas in 1863; the first capital city to be connected to London by telegraph in 1872; the unique horse tram and water borne sewerage in 1881; and the passing of the law of the 21st March 1895 giving women the right to vote although their enrolment was

not compulsory. Julia could not have voted - the first election was held on the 25th April 1896, four months after her death.

Jewish commitment was central to their lives. Rabbi A.T. Boas, Marjorie Luno's grandfather, eulogised 'his charming rendering of ritual' ... 'skilful blowing of the Shofar', for AJS was superintendent of the choir and a committee member of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation for many years.

At the consecration of the first Adelaide Synagogue (his voice) 'The voice of the reader was heard without, saying,

Open unto us the gates of righteousness, and we will enter them and praise the Lord'.

The entrance doors being opened... the scrolls were borne in and he continued the service;

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, into his courts with praise,
Come let us worship and bow down, let us bend the knee before the Lord our Maker
-
Worship the Lord with gladness, come into His presence with exalting song*

(South Australian Register, Adelaide Thursday September 5th 1850)

Families in the mid north settlements also heard his voice. Among the one hundred and fifty two circumcisions he fulfilled until 1876 many were in country towns.

As now, families became dispersed. Of their fourteen children, five died in early childhood; six moved eastwards; and descendants of the three daughters who remained in Adelaide - Miriam married Joseph Solomon, Rachel married John Barnet Saunders, and Rebecca married James Slater - were present. The family members who moved eastward were: Judah Abraham married Martha Townsend, Sarah married Jacob Neustadt, Henry married Hannah Phillips, Sophia married John Eisner and Julia Blanche married Manny Bloom.

I would enjoy sharing my writings with any of their descendants.

Each and everyone of us is a composite of all that has gone before!

Helen Twersky-Steiner is a member of the Adelaide branch of the Society.

**Sources of Information on
Holocaust Victims and
Survivors**

Peter Landé

**Vol 7 No
2**



*(N.B. All institutions marked with an * have their addresses at the end of this article.)*

AUSTRIA *Totenbuch Theresienstadt* lists all Austrian Jews who were deported to Theresienstadt. *Gescheiterte Flucht* by Gabriele Anderl lists over 1,000 Austrians murdered in Yugoslavia while attempting to escape. For several years a project has been underway by the *Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes** to

identify all Austrian Jews who perished in the Holocaust. So far, it has identified over 50,000 victims. While the results have not yet been published, inquiries regarding specific individuals will be answered. Our Society library in Sydney has the *Totenbuch Theresienstadt*.

BELGIUM *Memorial de la Deportation des Juifs de Belgique* lists 25,000 Jews and gypsies deported from Belgium, many of them non-Belgian, and identifies those who survived. It gives date of birth but not place of birth or profession, although the latter two pieces of information were contained in the deportation lists from which the book was prepared. The lists are held by the Ministry of Public Health* and access is permitted. There are separate lists of Belgian deportees to Natzweiler and Stutthof, but it is not yet clear whether these names are included in the deportation lists mentioned above. Our society owns the book.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA The Yad Vashem Archives* has copies of Slovakian deportation lists. The American Joint Distribution Committee's Register of *All Persons Saved From Anti- Jewish Persecution in Slovakia* is available at the USHMM*, Yad Vashem and Harvard's Widener Library and lists survivors who returned to Slovakia. The Statny Ustredny Archives in Bratislava may have further information. The recently published *Terezinska Pametni Kruha Zivdovske Obeti Nacistickych Z Cech A Moravy 1941-1945* lists approximately 15,000 Czech Jews who were deported from Bohemia and Moravia. Another book is promised listing non-Czech Jews deported from Bohemia and Moravia. The USHMM* has lists of victims from Boskovice and Bardejov.

ESTONIA The USHMM* archives has partial records from the Klooga concentration camp with about 2,500 names and YIVO* has records on various Jewish communities. *Kuudad 1941* lists Soviet deportation from Estonia just prior to the German invasion. Many Jewish names are include-ed. Eugenia Gurin-Loov's *Holocaust of Estonian Jews 1941* has several lists of Jews who were murdered in 1941. Researchers should also consult the files of the *Extraordinary Commission* (see Soviet Union, below) and Stutthof files (see below).

FRANCE For many years the lists contained in Klarsfeld's book *Deportations from France* were the only source of information on Jews deported from France, most of whom were non-French. A new and expanded edition of this book was published in 1997. (These lists are currently being compared with other lists recently acquired by the USHMM.) Beginning in 1986, the French Government's Ministère des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre* published lists of deportees (Jews and non-Jews) who were deported from France and who perished during the Holocaust. These lists appeared in the *Journal Officiel*, the French equivalent of *Hansard*. The lists are only roughly alphabetical and take considerable time to use. These can be consulted in Paris or written inquiries will be answered. (The *Journal Officiel* is also available in a few libraries in the United States.) The lists furnish information that is not contained in the Klarsfeld book, e.g., maiden names for women, and place and date of birth for all victims. This includes more Jews than are listed in Klarsfeld (as well as non-Jews). Unlike Klarsfeld these lists do not include survivors. These lists supercede *Liste Officielle des Décédés des Camps de Concentration* which was published much earlier. In addition, the USHMM* recently acquired from YIVO* a very large (104 reels) filmed collection of documents from the *Union générale des*

Israelites de France (UGIF) 1940-44, consisting of extensive information on persons in various camps, residents in orphanages, old age homes, asylums, hospitals, internees with mixed marriages, etc. There is no personal name index to this collection and, until the collection is computerised, a search is difficult unless one knows where an individual was held or employed. Another part of the UGIF collection, 65,000 membership cards, is available at YIVO, but not at the USHMM. Our Society's library in Sydney has the 1978 edition of the Memorial book.

GERMANY The German Government's *Gedenkbuch* includes the names of about 125,000 Jews, formerly resident in West Germany and Berlin, who are believed to have perished in the Holocaust. The Bundesarchiv is now preparing a new edition including all of Germany in its 1937 borders. This will not be completed for some years but should substantially increase the number of identifiable victims. It should be noted that the *Gedenkbuch* was published over 20 years ago and its authors did not have access to large amounts of material, which became available later. The fates of many persons with the notation *verschollen* (missing) have now been established. In addition, more recently, a large number of cities and towns, primarily in western Germany, have published their own memorial books. These include three of the major cities where Jews lived before the Holocaust, Berlin, Hamburg and Köln. Researchers should begin with the 1939 census of German Jews (approximately 234,000 names), which covers all of Germany (except for Thuringia and a few Rhine-land cities where the records have been lost). This is available through any LDS Family History Centre. The recently published first volume of *Juden in Thuringen Biographische Daten A-L* helps close this gap, and this will be followed by a second book completing the alphabet. The difficulty in using the census is that one must know where the individual being sought lived in 1939 (not where he/she was born) since the information is organised by city/town. Within each locality the names are organised alphabetically. Also, obviously, the census does not include any Jew who left Germany prior to May 1939. However, many of these persons only got as far as neighbouring countries, such as France, and were arrested later there.

GREECE While many Greek names turn up in Auschwitz and other camp records, extensive deportation lists have not been found so far. The USHMM library has one memorial book in Greek which lists 4172 Jews from smaller (not Salonika or Athens) communities as well as a list from Volos. *The Jewish Martyrs of Rhodes and Cos* includes a large number of names for these islands. *Property Declarations* for Thessalonika and Athens, which were required from Jews during the German occupation, are reportedly available in Greece and a memorial book of Greek Jews published by the Athens Central Board of the Jewish Communities 1979 (in Greek) is also available in Yad Vashem* and at the USHMM*. Heinz Kounio, chairman of the Thessalonika Jewish community, recently located a record of 43,000 Salonika Jews. This list includes date of birth and possessions on the eve of deportation. This list has been filmed and a copy will be available at USHMM when processing is completed. The Jews of Rhodes and Cos are included in the Memorial Book for Italy, which our Society has.

HUNGARY Hungary is unique in that the 1944 census of Jews and the family histories which Hungarian Jews were forced to prepare have survived. Both are held in Yad Vashem. One part of the census, *Hajdu County*, has been published and other parts may be published in the future. More recently, Yad Vashem* has

published *Names of Hungarian Jewish Women in the Stutthof Concentration Camp*. (A comparison of this book's entries and the original Stutthof material shows a large number of discrepancies and apparent omissions. It is, therefore, recommended that researchers contact Stutthof* or utilise the filmed copy of these files held at USHMM). The Yad Vashem archives does not have the staff to reply to written inquiries regarding the census, but Professor Gabriel Bar Shaked at Yad Vashem has up to now been willing to look into family histories in response to letters. Please include an international postal reply to coupon and state that you would be happy to receive a reply in Hebrew or Hungarian if this would facilitate a reply. Other sources include the two volume *Names Of Jewish Victims of Hungarian Labour Battalions*, which contains the names of 30,000 Jews who were deported as well as Counted Remnants, which list 65,000 Budapest Jewish survivors. Lists of victims from Mako, Mezokovesd, Ujkecske and Des are available at USHMM.* Our Society has *Names of Jewish Victims*.

ITALY A large number of Jews, of various nationalities, deported from Italy are listed in Liliana Fargion's *Il Libro dall'Italia della Memoria Gli Ebrei deportati*, while Francesco Folino's *Ferramonti un Lager di Mussolini* discusses Italy's largest concentration camp and lists many Jews held there. The first book is held in our Society's Library in Sydney.

LATVIA Extraordinary Commission victim lists exist for over 25 Latvian communities. The USHMM* archives also has a large collection (33 reels of film RG 18 002M,) of material acquired from the Latvia Historical Archives in Riga. This material, in Latvian or German, primarily deals with German administration of Latvia, but includes lists of escaped Jews, Jewish property which was seized and Jews used as forced labourers. The collection is only partially catalogued. Large numbers of Latvians were sent to Stutthof and this camp's records should be consulted.

LITHUANIA There is fragmentary information on Jewish communities in various cities including Kovno. Also see Extraordinary Commission records, Nancy Schoenberg's *Lithuanian Jewish Communities*, and extensive filmed records held at USHMM* archives. The Lithuanian State Archives has more information on victims. The Jewish Museum in Vilnius* has a list of almost half the persons held in the Vilnius ghetto but its willingness to respond to inquiries is not known. The Museum has published a book, *Vilnius Ghetto: List of Prisoners Vol 1*, which lists Jews in the ghetto, street by street. Unfortunately, the book has no index to names and if one does not know the street where a person resided it is necessary to go through the entire book. In the longer run it is hoped that a computerised list of names will be made available. Many Lithuanians were deported to Stutthof in 1944 and this camp's files should be consulted. Many Lithuanians, Jews and non-Jews, were deported to the Soviet Union. The partial list of these persons, organised by community, has been published in *Lietuvo 1941-52 Metu Tremtiniai*. The Society has the Schoenberg book.

NETHERLANDS A number of lists of Dutch and non-Dutch Jews who were deported from the Netherlands and who perished have been available for some years but these lists were fragmented and difficult to use. These have now been consolidated in book form under the title *In memoriam*. (There are some problems in utilising this book - see my review in the Fall 1996 of Avotaynu.) The USHMM* has fragmentary

lists of victims and survivors for various towns. Most, but not necessarily all, of the victim lists may be subsumed in *In Memoriam*, which is held in our Society's library in Sydney.

POLAND No transport lists for Polish victims has been located up to now. The USHMM* and Yad Vashem* have the largest single list of Polish (and non Polish) victims presently available in *Lodz -Names*, with over 200,000 names of persons who were interned in the Lodz ghetto. It also has extensive records on the Cracow ghetto as of 1940/41 (RG 15,056). Both of these lists are alphabetical. Unfortunately, there is no similar list for Warsaw but a 1941/42 Warsaw phone book, as well as fragmentary lists from several other cities such as Zdunska Wola, Mszana Dolna, Biscupice, Wisznice, Jaszerow, Zamosc and Bedzin are held at the USHMM. The USHMM also has a large collection of material prepared by the Main Commission for the Investigation of Crimes against the Polish Nation, which is similar to the Soviet Union's Extraordinary Commission. This material is largely organised by town (e.g. Sosnowice, Gorlice, Jaroslaw, Jaslo, Tarnow, Kielce, Kepno, Srem). It consists primarily of material relating to Nazi war crimes and often does not give personal names of victims. However, there is such an enormous amount of material which provides information on what happened in these towns, with or without name lists, that this source should at least be checked by town name. This can be done on the World Wide Web. If this discloses the existence of material, a personal examination will be necessary since the USHMM cannot conduct this search for you. The Jewish Historical Institute* has lists from various Jewish communities. Yad Vashem has identity cards for Radom.(see *Survivors*, below, for information on Polish survivors).

ROMANIA The USHMM* has 50 reels of film containing records on Romania, Transylvania and Transnistria. (RG 25,004M and RG 51,010). Among these, are lists of survivors who returned and some material on Czernovitz ghetto as well as a number of small lists from Cluj, Iasi, Golta, Ploesti, Bivolari Neamt and Vaslui. *Tragedia Mefkure* by Albert Finklestein lists those who died in 1944 sinking of the Mefkura refugee ship in the Black Sea.

SOVIET UNION The Extraordinary State Commission compiled extensive lists of those killed in the Holocaust and the circumstances of their deaths. No one has counted the number of names contained in the lists but they may well total over one million. The lists, organised by town, have been filmed and are currently only available in Moscow, Yad Vashem*, and at the USHMM*. The USHMM has prepared an index, alphabetically listing the towns where name lists are included. It should be noted that these lists are best for smaller towns, where survivors knew more about those who perished. Less information is available for larger cities. The lists are in Russian and are of variable quality and legibility. The USHMM also has partial lists of work permits in Lvov and Brest ghettos and material listing victims in Borisov, Grodno, and Zemin. It also has partial records for camps run by Romanians in southern Ukraine to which many Ukrainian Jews were sent. These lists are not indexed.

YUGOSLAVIA The Federation of Jewish Communities in Belgrade is preparing a list of all Yugoslav Jewish Victims of the Holocaust. This project is moving very slowly and cannot be accessed at present. In the meantime, *Jugosloveni u Koncentracionom Logoru Ausvic 1941-45* by Tomislav Zugic lists 17,000 Yugoslavs

deported to Auschwitz while *Deca Na Lomaci Rata u Neza Vignoi Drza vi Hrvaatskoj 1941-45* Jasenovac lists 19,500 children killed in the Jasenovac concentration camp. USHMM* has a list of 6,000 Croatia Jewish victims and a list of Belgrade Jews whose property was expropriated. Jasu Romano's *Jevreji Jugoslavije 1941-45* lists Jews who were deported and gives brief biological information. Zmila Kolonomus' *Evreite vo Makedonija vo Vtorata svetska vogna 1941-45* lists 7,148 Macedonian Jews who were deported to Treblinka.

CONCENTRATION CAMPS Fairly extensive records exist for the following major camps: Dachau, Buchenwald, Theresienstadt, Mauthausen and Stutthof. Partial records exist for Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen, Neuengamme, Ravensbruck and Gross Rosen. Fragmentary records exist for Majdanek. The following are books which contain lists of camp victims (none is complete): Dachau: *Zmarle Polacy w Dachau 1939-45* (mostly Polish victims) and *Martyred Jews of Dachau* (mostly Lithuanian and Latvian victims). Bergen-Belsen: *Gedenkbuch Bergen Belsen*. Neuengamme: *Totenbuch Neuengamme*. Gross Rosen: *Ksiega Zmarlych Wiezniow KI Gross-Rosen*. Gurs: *Sie sind nicht vergessen* (1,400 German Jews) and *Le Camp de Gurs iste victimes*. Auschwitz: *Sterbebucher von Auschwitz* (85,000 names) and *Memorial Book: The Gypsies at Auschwitz Birkenau* (10,000 gypsies). Auschwitz Chronicle is a day by day account of what took place there and includes a few thousand names. *Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka*: There are no name lists from these death camps but, if one wishes to check on what happened to particular transports Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka gives the dates of arrival of trainloads of people from various locations. It can be assumed that almost all persons sent to any of these camps perished on the date of arrival or the next day.

Some camps' records (particularly Dachau, Buchenwald, and Mauthausen) are available on film at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. Others, such as Stutthof (305 reels of film) and Sachsenhausen as well as fragments from other camps are on film at the USHMM* archives. The Auschwitz Museum*, Majdanek*, Gross Rosen* (has card catalogue of 60,000 victims) and Ravensbruck have replied to inquiries in the past as has Beth Theresienstadt*, which has computerised Theresienstadt records.

SURVIVORS Just as there is no single list of Holocaust victims, there is also no single list of Holocaust survivors. Survivors often did not end up in the countries from whence they came, so that e.g. Greek survivors turn up in Belgium. Until the numerous survivor lists are computerised and collated, the most useful, largest and most accessible (for those who can find someone to do the research at Yad Vashem*) source remains the filmed ITS records discussed above. The largest single computerised collection is maintained by the Survivors Registry at the USHMM*, about 60,000 names, and this information was published in book form in 1996. Survivors and their families who have chosen to register are listed by names and by birthplace and location during the Holocaust. Current addresses are not given but, if requested, mail will be forwarded to them. Work is almost completed at the USHMM on computerising roughly 33,000 names of persons whose names appear in 1945-46 issues of *Aufbau* as survivors. Inquiries as to specific names may be sent to the Survivors Registry at the Museum.

Among the printed materials are extensive lists of displaced persons in camps after world war 11, and 60,000 names are consolidated in *Shearith Hapleithah*. The Register of Jewish Survivors, a two-volume work, published in 1946 by the Jewish Agency for Palestine, lists about 60,000 survivors, mostly Polish. The USHMM recently received a filmed list of 300,000 Polish survivors, listed alphabetically (unfortunately, with an involved soundex system), and this is being computerised. This list includes name, names of parents, year of birth, pre- and post- Holocaust city of residence. Using these lists as a base, one can often determine where these survivors went by inquiring through the Red Cross. The Swiss Government archives recently published a list of about 22,000 Jews who were admitted to Switzerland and this list can be examined at the USHMM. (Unfortunately, no similar list exist for those who were denied admission.) Other collections of survivors' lists exist at YIVO, The National Archives (RG 59,238, 260 and 338) and HIAS. The Jewish Genealogical Society has made an extensive survey of State Department visa and consular service records and these are available on microfiche.

The Search Bureau of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem continues to be an outstanding source of information on survivors who reached Palestine/Israel. The list of name changes which, appeared in the Palestine Gazette, and is available on micro-fiche, gives both previous and new names, is a very useful way of overcoming the difficulties in researching families who emigrated to Palestine/Israel, where name changes often took place. Our Society in Sydney has a the 1996 book.

ADDRESSES

Dokumentationarchiv des Oesterreichischen
Widerstandes
A 1010 Altes Rathaus
Wipplingerstrasse 8
Vienna, Austria.

Yad Vashem
POB 3477
Jerusalem 91034, Israel.
Fax 011 972 2 643 3511

Ministry of Public Health
War Victims Administration
Square de l'Aviation 31
Brussels 1070 Belgium.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Abbreviated as *USHMM
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place S.W.
Washington D.C. 20024-2150, USA
<http://www.ushmm.org/>
Internet: research@ushmm.org

Ministere des anciens combattants et victimes de guerre
Delegation a la Memoire et l'Information Historique

37, rue de Bellechasse
75007 Paris, France.

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
16 w.17th Street
New York City, N.Y. USA.

Jewish State Museum of Lithuania
Pamenkalnis 12
2001 Vilnius, Lithuania.

Jewish Historical Institute
Ul. Tlomackie 3/5
00-090 Warsaw, Poland.

Muzeum Stutthof
Woj Elblasklie
82-110 Sztutowo, Poland.

Dachau K.Z. Gedenkstätte
Alate Romerstrasse 75
85221 Dachau, Germany.

Auschwitz Museum
POB 32-603
Oswiecim #5, Poland.

Majdanek State Historical Museum
Ul. Droga Meczennikow Majdenka 67
20-325 Lublin, Poland.

Gross-Rosen
Ul Starachowicka 9a
58-300 Walbrzych, Poland.

Panstowowe Muzeum Gross-Rosen
ul Starchowicka 99
58-300 Walbrzych, Poland.

Beth Theresienstadt
Givat Haim-Ichud 38935, Israel.


Search Bureau for Missing Relatives
POB 92, Jerusalem 91920, Israel.

Gedenkstatte Bergen-Belsen
29303, Lohheide, Germany

Nationale Mahn und Gedenkstatte Buchenwald
19427 Weimar-Buchenwald, Germany.

Peter W. Landé, 3002 Ordway St., N.W. Washington. D.C. 20008.
email: pdlande@compuserve.com

Peter Landé was born in Germany and came to USA before WW11. He fought in the US Army and later joined the US Diplomatic Service and served in several foreign posts. He is an active genealogist and in retirement he works as a full-time volunteer for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, particularly in gathering information on victims and survivors.(Editor)

News from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 7 No 2		
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The Victorian Society held its second annual general meeting as an incorporated association on Wednesday, 17th May at 7.30 pm at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre. The following Committee of Management was elected:

President:	Les Oberman
Vice-President:	Enid Yoffa-Elton
Treasurer:	Kurt Friedlaender
Secretary:	Lionel Sharpe
Committee members:	Penny Blankfield
	Albert Braunstein
	Rodney Eisfelder
	Gerald Shapiro
	Bettye Susskind
Makor Library Liaison:	Leonie Fleiszig

A message was received from IAJGS President, Howard Margol, from Atlanta USA congratulating the Victorian Society for five successful years since its foundation as a branch of the AJGS. The President, Les Oberman, especially thanked retiring Vice-President, Ester Csaky for her service to the society since its inception in 1995 and Lionel Sharpe in his role as Secretary.

Leonie Fleiszig has now taken over from Rosaline Collins as director of the Makor Library and the Society thanks Ros for her co-operation and enthusiasm for the work of the Society over the past five years. Good wishes go to her on her retirement even though she continues to involve herself in the work of the library.

The Society is also proud to continue to produce its own 12 page newsletter 'Jewish Genealogy Downunder', now in its second year. Interstate members can subscribe by contacting Victorian society.

Following the AGM the guest speaker, Itiel Bereson , a Melbourne educator, historian and writer, gave a fascinating and stimulating illustrated lecture using a sequence of maps on the 'Changing Borders of Eastern Europe'.

Further functions are planned:

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc. in association with the Makor Jewish Community Library invite to you hear ANGELA HENDRICKSEN from Zetta Florence (Aust) Pty Ltd 'Archival Storage of Family Photographs and Precious Records' on Wednesday, June 14th. 2000 at 7.30 pm at Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre 306 Hawthorn Rd., South Caulfield, Melbourne. During the past 10 years Zetta Florence has been servicing major museums, art galleries and libraries throughout Australia with archival quality products. Angela Hendricksen will discuss and demonstrate how to preserve your family records for future generations. Members: \$4.00, Non-members: \$8.00 JUNE WORKSHOP

Beginner's Workshop - 'Researching Your Ancestry' Learn how to use available genealogical records and research on the Internet. Date: Sunday 25th June 2000 at 2.00 - 4.00 pm Place: Beth Weizmann Community Centre, 306 Hawthorn Rd., South Caulfield. Members: \$4.00, Non members: \$8.00

Victorians were both shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of Rabbi Ronald Lubofsky A.M. and Kurt Lippmann AO. Both men had an active interest in genealogy. (See obituaries in this issue).

Enquiries:

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See our home page on: <http://www.melbourne.net/csaky/AJGSmainpage.htm>

Obituaries		Vol 7 No 2	
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RABBI RONALD LUBOFSKY A.M.

The Victorian Jewish community was shocked to hear on second day Pesach of the sudden death of Rabbi Ronald Lubofsky at the age of 71 years.

Educated at Jews' College, London, he arrived with his wife Shirley in 1957 having accepted a position at the Great Synagogue in Sydney. In 1963 he moved to Melbourne where he served as Chief Minister at the St. Kilda Hebrew Congregation for 25 years.

He was a driving force in the establishment of the Council of Christians and Jews and was renowned as a lecturer, antiquarian, Judaica collector, bibliophile and music lover. He founded the Jewish Museum of Australia and very recently, the Melbourne Jewish Men's Choir.

One aspect of his wide interests, not mentioned in the many other obituaries, was his interest in Jewish genealogy. During the past few years he attended some of our meetings and was actively researching his forebears.

A few months ago I visited him in his home and he proudly showed me some rare genealogical documents and books in his impressive library. I also learned that he

had taken a course in bookbinding and had bought binding equipment to enable him to restore many well-worn and damaged books he had collected over the years. He will be greatly missed and we extend our condolences to his wife Shirley and to his four sons and their families.

Lionel Sharpe

KURT LIPPMANN, O.A.M.

We were saddened to learn about the passing of our Victorian member, Kurt Lippmann, who died on 25th April.

His role as a communal leader in B'nai Brith, the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society, the JNF and other organisations is legendary and a packed synagogue service prior to the funeral paid tribute to his contribution to the community.

Perhaps the most fitting tribute to him was the manner in which the funeral itself was conducted. His step daughter, Naomi Feigin, in a letter to the Australian Jewish News wrote as follows: "Kurt was buried by the Chevra Kadisha last Friday in the Rose Garden of Temple Beth Israel. The Chevra Kadisha... brought the coffin into Temple Beth Israel and transported it for interment to the assigned Temple plot. Kurt's ability to bring people together not only marked his life but also marked his death."

Kurt had a keen interest in his own family history. The Lippmann family arrived in Melbourne from Hamburg in 1938 escaping the Nazi terror. His family had for many generations played an important role in both the Jewish and general communities of Hamburg.

Using material originally researched by his uncle, he produced a family history for coming generations - '*Our Lippmann Family: A Chronicle Spanning Three Centuries and Three Continents*,' bringing it up to date. He was guest speaker at our annual general meeting in May 1998 when he talked about his research which led to the publication of this book.

We pass on our sincere condolences to his wife Marion and his loving family.

Lionel Sharpe

Kurt Lippman joined our Society in its first year, before there was a branch in Melbourne and was always supportive. He also came and spoke about his research at a meeting in Sydney in November 1998. We shall miss him.

Sophie Caplan

**News from Western
Australia**

**Michelle
Urban**

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2**



The first talk for the new millennium was given by Louise Hoffman on Sunday 27th February, 2000.

Louise's talk entitled: "The status of the Jewish Community in W.A. from 1900-1920" gave a broad overview of life in those times. It highlighted the fact that this earlier Jewish society was an outward looking group which mixed freely in the wider population and attracted support from many non-Jews who contributed to funds for the establishment of synagogues such as those of Kalgoorlie and Freemantle Congregations. Freemantle Shule, in fact attracted as many non-Jewish donors as Jews.

The discovery of gold and boom conditions in 1891-1900, brought an influx of migrants to W.A. including an increase in Jewish people. The first years saw a predominance of Yiddish speakers from Czarist Russia and Turkish Palestine.

Initially the Jewish Community was dispersed around the state. The pearling industry in Broome attracted identities such as Mark Reuben and his brother-in-law Abraham De Vahl Davis, as well as Dr Alexander Goldstein, who devised medical treatment for divers with the bends. Abraham de Vahl Davis perished at sea with 140 others en route to Broome. Superstition had it that a black pearl he was carrying brought bad luck to the boat. He was the father of Gerald De Vahl Davis and grandfather of Professor Graham de Vahl Davis, both of whom became prominent in the Sydney Jewish Community.

Other early arrivals who lived away from the City included the Rich family in York who used bark from the local trees as a source of tannin for leather making, Berl Hoffman who worked land at Wickiepin, Samuel Dvoretzky who introduced the dairying industry and the use of milking machines to the Armadale area, the Finklesteins who were wheat farmers at Shackleton, and Saul Solomon who was mayor of Northam.

By 1920 however, over 80% of Jews resided in the metropolitan area not far from the Brisbane Street Synagogue, the Perth Hebrew Congregation having established itself as the Central organisation of W.A. Jewry The Jewish community had begun to flourish and was well regarded by the wider society.

Courtesy: Carolyn Milton-Smith.

Ruth Miller's talk *My Life in Kalgoorlie and the Jewish Community* held on Sunday the 28 May will be reviewed in the next newsletter.

Forthcoming Events to be held at 21 Broomhall Way, Noranda from 2-4 pm:

A Beginners Workshop will be held on Sunday 27th August 2000 This workshop aims to help those would like to know more about vital records, shopping lists, naturalization applications, overseas databases, the Jewishgen Family Finder, on the net, Surname dictionaries, Avotaynu and lots more.

An Internet Workshop will be held on Sunday 26th November, 2000 "For those who do not know and for those who know a little". Learn how to browse the Internet. For information and more.

Enquiries can be directed to:

Michelle Urban
Tel:08-9375-3874 /Fax:08-9375-3574
Email: urban@wantree.com.au
or Gillian: 94012835

Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutsch	Vol 7 No 2	
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Following an excellent suggestion from local AJGS member, Valerie Brown, collaboration is under way with the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra. Their members have been notified re workshops and they are providing a list of their holdings.

An internet workshop was held on Sunday 30 April 2000 from 1.30-3.00pm at the National Jewish Memorial Centre. Vernon Kronenberg, with his extensive experience of researching Jewish genealogy on the net, led this workshop, with help from Barbara Dickens and David Rosalky. Many thanks to you all!

Remaining genealogical workshops for 2000:

Sunday 2 July

Sunday 10 September

Sunday 26 November

All are from 1.30 -3.00 pm in the library of the Centre.

Thanks to AJGS president Sophie Caplan OAM for the donation of two items:
Great Synagogue [London] Marriage Records 1791-1830
Create a Jewish Genealogical Society in Your Hometown

Occasionally interesting genealogical information and requests are received by email. If you would like these forwarded please advise your email address to:
Sylvia Deutsch - tel/fax: 02-6248-6196
or email: deutand@ozemail.com.au.

Letter to the Editor	Rieke Nash	Vol 7 No 2	
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At the end of eight years of being involved with our Society, I wish to thank everyone for their kind wishes to me for my "Sabbatical". The task has been enjoyable, if hectic, and very worthwhile as I know that everyone appreciated my efforts to help them. The new knowledge, the networking and the many new friends here and overseas have kept me happily occupied and now I hope to make some progress with some of the puzzles in my own family research.

Best wishes,
Rieke Nash

Report from Queensland	Morris S. Ochert OAM	Vol 7 No 2	
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There is little to report in this period for a few reasons. My wife and I have been in Melbourne for Pesach; I had been handicapped by a severe problem with my sight;

this has been a period in which only a few, relatively simple contacts had been received, mainly from non-Jewish people seeking their Jewish roots. In that regard, I am constantly surprised at the enthusiasm which many non-Jews have for hoped-for Jewish ancestors. The days seem to have passed when Jewish origins were a matter for embarrassment. This parallels the trend in which Jewish given names are very much prized. When I was young it was inconceivable that a Christian parent would name a child Jacob or Rebecca. Today, the old Testament is a rich source for those names and it is quite common to encounter Zachariah, Abigail, Aaron, Solomon, Rachel etc. Maybe we are becoming a little more acceptable?

Some more valuable books have reached us, from our president Sophie Caplan. While we have a comparatively small Jewish population in Queensland, Sophie feels that we should have an adequate library which can be consulted by inquirers into Jewish genealogical matters in Queensland. We greatly appreciate her generosity in this matter - I use that word, for those expensive volumes are paid for by Sophie Caplan herself.

Enquiries to Morris Ochert, 3/23 Lucinda Street, Taringa QLD 4068 or stirk@uq.net.au

**News from the South
Australian Branch**

**Klee
Benveniste**

**Vol 7 No
2**



Abraham Jacob Solomon, who arrived in South Australia in 1849, became the first reader of the Torah in the synagogue dedicated by the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation in 1850. On Shabbat 6th May 2000 (1st Iyar 5760) his great grandchildren: Helen Twersky-Steiner, (nee Lipert), John Lipert, and Alan Lipert, and their families held a 150th anniversary celebration of the arrival of Abraham Jacob and Julia Solomon in Australia.

The Torah was read at Beit Shalom Synagogue, Adelaide with the same Yad (ie Torah pointer) used by their ancestor 150 years ago, kindly loaned from Adelaide Hebrew Congregation for this special Shabbat.

The occasion was also marked by the dedication of a beautiful bronze plaque of the Ten Commandments sculpted by artist Andrew Steiner, Helen's husband.

Also present were descendants of other branches of the family. The couple had 14 children of whom five died in childhood. Descendants also spread over the eastern states of Australia. Helen has submitted an article on Abraham Jacob and Julia Solomon published in this issue of Kosher Koala.

Our June meeting will be a trip back in history. Helen Twersky-Steiner will describe the travelling conditions of the people who migrated to the free colony of South Australia in the mid 19th century and discuss what Adelaide was like when the first synagogue was built in 1850.

Dr. Klee Benveniste, Honorary Secretary,
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA Branch)
C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation
P.O. Box 320, Glenside, SA 5065

or phone Chairperson,
Hilde Hines 61-8-8379 6030

Rookwood Cemetery Project	Kim Phillips	Vol 7 No 2		
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We are trying to get together a group who will photograph the headstones and record the transcriptions on headstones in the OLD Jewish Section.

It should be noted that a lot of the headstones have already been transcribed, by Terry Newman and SAG. The plan will be to use these where we can, and add the ones that aren't there. We estimate that there are around 1000 graves. If we were to have 10 to 20 people photographing, etc, we would come close to getting it finished over 2 days. Sunday 9th July, will be our first day at Rookwood, starting at 10:00 am. The second day would then be some time in August. Further days would be decided as needed.

If we don't do this now, we may not have anything left to preserve in the future. Next year may be too late. If you can help, phone Kim on (02) 9878 1540.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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Greetings from Sydney, the city of the year 2000 summer Olympic Games which recently ended. We were all gripped by Olympic fever, and your editor spent a good chunk of her time as a volunteer at the Olympic Village main dining hall in menial but necessary tasks. This and illness in my family caused the abandonment of a separate September issue of this journal. At least one USA Jewish swimmer, Lenny Krayzelburg, born in Odessa, won several gold medals. And I had the good fortune to be present in the Olympic Stadium on the night described as "the defining moment" of these Olympics, when 'our Cathy' Freeman won gold in the 400 metres. And I noticed that when the mayor of Athens accepted the Olympic flag for the 2004 Olympics his name was Avramopoulos, 'son of Abraham'. Many Jews were volunteers, including David Landor, Simon Nash and Steven Traurig, son and son-in-law of Rieke and Peter Nash of our Society.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur, caused a quiet three months, without speakers. We continued our regular monthly Sunday morning workshops. Back on Sunday 23rd July, we had a joint lecture at the Sydney Jewish Museum when Professor Yom Tov Assis of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem spoke to us on "Sephardi Culture and Tradition After the Expulsion". Professor Assis intends to visit Australia again in July-August 2001 to give a series of lectures on aspects of Sephardi culture on which he is an expert. We hope that we can again secure his services for our Society.

Last year I purchased in Israel, an English language video series running 6-8 hours on "The Sephardim of Spain and Portugal," narrated by Itzchak Navon. This was considered too long to be shown at one session, but it has been touring Australia free of charge to our members with Sephardi roots and has even caused new members to join our Society in order to be able to borrow it. Each borrower posts it

on to the next member as instructed, once they have finished watching it. Among the many interesting facts revealed in this video are two major Spanish Catholic librarians and archivists stating separately that they have come to the conclusion that Christopher Columbus was a converted Jew, born in Majorca and that his original name was Jacob ben Maimon. Apparently Columbus had an unusually detailed knowledge of the Five Books of Moses and the Hebrew Bible, as evidenced in his journals and correspondence, which would have been unheard of among Catholics.

Also he started many of his letters with the Hebrew script letters **ב** **ת** used by religious Jews above the main text. According to the two Spanish archivists the story that Columbus was born in Genoa and was an Italian Catholic was disinformation spread with the connivance of the Spanish royal family to hide the fact that the man who was instrumental in their acquiring their colonies and their wealth was a converted Jew. You will recall that Columbus left for his first epic voyage on the final day of the expulsion with several Jews, including Luis de Torres, on board.

Both Bubbles Segal and I attended the Salt Lake City Jewish Genealogical Conference. Bubbles was honoured for being the person who travelled the furthest to attend the conference, a total of 35 hours, beginning with a long drive from Kalkaringi, five hundred kilometres from the Katherine in Central Australia, to Darwin, and several plane trips to follow. In comparison my nine hours from Sydney to Los Angeles, then two to Salt lake City was very quick.


The conference had six hundred and twenty participants, far less than the 1300 who attended the previous one in 1999 in New York. But New York had seven hundred local Jewish genealogists who attended and six hundred from elsewhere. Since SLC has no JGS, the 620 who attended were equivalent. The conference speakers were the usual high standard with the Russian archivist Vladislav Sosnikov, Regina Kopillevich from Vilnius and Jerusalem, Stanley Diamond of JRI-Poland, Warren Blatt and Susan King as my personal favourites.

The very high standard Jewish Genealogy Yearbook 2000 prepared for the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) by its current vice-president, Hal Bookbinder, is presented as part of the conference registration package to each participant, with printed input from each JGS and each speaker. Great demand for the book has resulted in the reprinting of 200 copies at \$US35 each, which can be ordered from the IAJGS

Marilyn Natchez,
IAJGS, P.O. Box 251683, West Bloomfield, M.I.48325-1683, U.S.A.

As usual the most rewarding part of the conference was meeting again old friends and acquaintances, and the hours spent at the Family History Library researching one's own ancestry. Unfortunately the daily programme of three simultaneous lectures every hour, plus the hours one wanted to spend at The Family History Library, meant that there was a constant conflict of interest for each participant. Spending a large amount on fares from Australia, or Europe, or Israel, for a very crowded five days of conference, not to speak of jetlag, seems to suggest that a less crowded conference programme over seven or eight, or even nine days, would make more sense to most participants.

One paid in advance for a seat at the final banquet and was assured by organisers that there were "no reserved seats". It would have been delightful to sit with a mixture of attenders from several countries. Yet Jean-Pierre Stroweis, the president of the Israeli JGS, and I met in the middle of the banquet hall, each trying to find a seat at a table with obviously still unoccupied seats, but which were notionally "reserved" by zealous agents of this or that U.S. JGS who turned us both away. Eventually we joined forces and I suggested that we both make for a totally unoccupied table at the furthest corner of the hall where we were joined by a few other rejected Israelis and others. This matter of being unable to sit anywhere pre-empted by a US state JGS will make me, for one, think twice before booking for another USA-based IAJG conference. It reminded me of being left out as a Jewish child in Nazi Germany, and later as a refugee child and a new immigrant. It is not a set of feelings which I would have expected to resurface at a Jewish Genealogical Conference.

Call for Papers by Limmud-Oz		Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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Limmud-Oz is a dynamic festival of Jewish learning and culture to be held at the University of NSW in Sydney from June 9th -11th, 2001. Its purpose is to provide the community with the largest and most diverse Jewish educational experiences.

Members of the community and visiting scholars are invited to make presentations at Limmud-Oz in their areas of interest or expertise.

Topics should be suitable for one or more of the following streams:

Jewish lifestyle; Jewish Story and Literature; Relationships; Hebrew or Yiddish Language; Jewish History; Jewish Film Studies; Judaism and the Environment; Social Justice; Ethics; Torah; Spirituality; Jewish Philosophy; Jewish Music, Dance, Drama, or Art; Contemporary Issues; Israel; Holocaust Studies.

Sessions may be presented in a wide range of styles: lectures; workshops; forums; debates; or text-study.

Please submit a 50 word proposal/ abstract and a brief CV, including relevant contact details, to: "Limmud-Oz", c/o The Shalom Institute, UNSW, Sydney 2052

Enquiries: 96630655

Fax: 93137145; e-mail: limmudoz@hotmail.com

My Lucky Research	Miriam Shifreen	Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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In this article I am going to talk mainly about the amazing good luck I have had with my research into the Alexander, Moses, Moss and Levy line of my husband's family with the support and help of a large number of very special people. Not that I haven't spent many tedious hours on this research, but every time I think of giving up, I make a new and unexpected discovery.

When my husband Joe, took me home to meet his family, his grandmother, Edith Alexander, must have liked me straight away, because at that very first meeting she told me all about the Alexander, Moses, Moss, and Levy family history.

Unfortunately, all that I remember are three family myths: one, that her mother-in-law, Catherine Moss had a twin sister who had married Sir John Monash, two, that her father-in-law, Lewis Moss Alexander had owned a huge and valuable property called Norwood, in Goulburn NSW, and three, that the first known Alexander in the family had come from Alsace where his name had been La Pique. He had changed it to Alexander, because he was called The Pig in England.

Some years later my mother-in-law, Thelma Alexander Shifreen, mentioned to me, in passing, that a new antique shop had opened up near her and she was planning to sell all the old family photos that she had been storing down in an old garden shed. Nobody wanted them, she said.

By this time I had been the archivist at The Correspondence School for a number of years, storing away pieces of paper. I was good at collecting things, so I persuaded her to give me the photos, amongst them were pictures of her parents and grandparents and a number of newspaper cuttings about family events. As I said, I was good at storing things, but I didn't really do anything with this material at that time.

And, of course I didn't really become interested in genealogy until there was no one of whom I could ask the really relevant questions.

But, one day while on holidays, some 12 or so years ago, Joe and I were driving through Kiama, south of Sydney when I saw in the NRMA magazine that Kiama had just opened a genealogy centre and the volunteers there were willing to help any interested newcomers. Suddenly, I wanted to know all about that twin who had married Sir John Monash.

I spent the morning at this Centre and, as there was no one else there, the volunteer was very happy to give me her full time and for a small fee showed me how to use microfiche and Indexes and by the time I left, I had discovered that Joe's grandmother's mother-in-law, Catherine Moss wasn't one of twins, although indeed she had two sisters who were but, of course, neither had married Sir John Monash!

So my next move was to visit the Woollahra Library for a biography about John Monash and to see whom he had married. He had married Hannah Victoria Moss, daughter of Rebecca Alexander, as it turned out subsequently, Catherine's first cousin. So, I've come to believe that family myths have an element of truth, that one must take with a grain of salt.

And talking about family myths. In my own family there was the story that the Chalezkys of Nicapol, in the Ukraine, derived their name from the Hebrew word Chalutz, meaning a pioneer, and that the "sky" ending in the name showed they had probably come from Poland. A bit far fetched I had always thought, until recently when the Belarus Newsletter, had a story by Chaim Freedman, that the Czar had forced Jews to leave Belarus and settle in the Ukraine, and Chaim named those

towns where Jews had been forced to go, and those towns all surround Nicapol! One of the towns, Metapol, is the original home of a Chalezkly family that Sophie Caplan discovered for me, living in Washington, USA, and while we cannot link our families, I'm sure there's a connection somewhere. Thank you Sophie!

So, now I must go back to the story about Norwood, the property at Goulburn. Was there a myth here too? I wrote to the Goulburn Historical Society and Goulburn Genealogical Society and back came some details about Moses and Moss families that were irrelevant, but there was a very important newspaper cutting about Norwood, itself. The owner of the original land grant had sold the property to a Maurice Alexander and following the advice of Mr Roberts, a volunteer who answered my query, that if I approached Mr Bob Wood, the gentleman in charge of the archives at the Lands Department Office in Macquarie Street, I could see the original land sales documents. His assistant Peter Chadwick helped me discover Maurice Alexander had transferred this property to his nephews, Lewis Moss Alexander, Joe's great grandfather. and his brother George Moss Alexander. So, myth number 2 was correct.

Of course this stirred me on! Months went by at Woollahra, Waverley and Sydney Libraries, looking up Indexes, reading newspapers, and Sands Directories. I even visited St Catherine's House and the London Chief Rabbi's Archive Office for marriage certificates, while on a visit to London for a family wedding. I made copious notes in case I discovered an important connection at a later date. As I was about to put all this aside again, I decided to visit the Jewish Historical Society and with the help of Helen Bersten wrote to a Margaret Davis née Alexander.

Months after I wrote to her, and when I was watching the final episode of a serial on television that I been following for months, Margaret rang. So, while I will never know how the TV story ended, that phone call led to one of my greatest finds. Margaret, of course wasn't related to my husband's Alexanders but to an earlier branch, the Leveys and she led me to a tree in the Jewish Historical Society which took me back a further four generations.

Helen Bersten provided me with the family tree that Margaret Davis had suggested, and based on this tree, a huge book of individual family trees. Where to start? Believe it or not, on the very first page that I opened at random, were the names that I was looking for: Alexander, Moss, Moses, and Levey. And though I spent the rest of the day going through every page of this large book there was not another single reference to these names. I had found it all in the first half hour! This was an exciting find because now I had a family tree stretching from our daughter back ten generations to Deborah and Moses Levey, his father and his grandparents, Moses and Elizabeth Levy.

I've had luck too, finding the original or at least one of the earliest Alexanders, Isaac. Through our own Society, I wrote to Carlton Brooks, an Alexander researcher, in Arizona. He passed me on to Bill Gladstone of Toronto, Canada. Bill was writing a book at the time I wrote to him, and said he would help me when it was finished. A year or so later, as he had instructed, I wrote again, and bingo, he discovered amongst his records, the relevant file held by the LDS. A teacher friend, offered to look up the reference for me at SAG (The Society of Australian Genealogists), and she found the relevant page and copied it. Isaac Alexander, Yitzhak Isaac ben Meier,


son of Meyer, born in 1791 in Whitechapel who married Susan Levy on 23rd Oct 1817 at the Great Synagogue, details from the 1851 Census followed. So, is there a La Pique out there waiting for me to find him?

And talking about Censuses, when the 1881 English Census came out on disc, I casually asked Rieke Nash could she find MY grandfather, Solomon Levy! Of course, wasn't nearly everyone called Solomon Levy? But Rieke found My grandmother Miriam Benjamin Levy, at 64 Umberstone Street, St George in the East, London, with the most important information that both my grandparents were born in Poland. Thank you Rieke. And so a new search will begin. And I wonder, can I continue to be as lucky?

I'd like to add here, the 2000-strong Shifrin Family Circle found us when Seymour Kawaller, Editor of the Shifrin Family Circle Newsletter, was on a holiday in Australia, and he decided to do a search of the name in the Sydney Telephone Book and he phoned us. Since then we have not only kept up a regular correspondence, but we have attended a weekend Reunion at a Shifrin-owned hotel, The Pines, up in the Catskill Mountains outside New York, and so met a large number of 'cousins' from all over the USA and even from Melbourne. Finally, I have this latest stroke of luck to tell you.

In the middle of last year the Newsletter of the Jewish Historical Society mentioned a book called the Eight Children of Deborah and Moses Levey. It was some six months before I finally got around to looking at this book. The author, Mrs Diana Wright had done immense research and had covered each of the branches including the Alexanders right down as far as Joe's mother and her two sisters. (And if you think you have a connection to this family, Diana has just donated a copy of her book to our library.) My immediate reaction was that I could have just got this book in the first place and saved myself twelve years of time and effort. But of course, if I hadn't done all that research I would never have known about the connection to Deborah and Moses Levey in the first place!

Miriam Shifreen gave this talk to the Jewish Genealogical Society's Annual General Meeting on 19th March 2000. She is a member of the Society in Sydney and now publisher of this Journal. (Editor).

20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy	Bubbles Segal	Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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9 - 14 JULY 2000 Salt Lake City, Utah
A Report by Bubbles Segall

What an experience! For someone who rarely touches a drop, an observer could be forgiven for thinking I was high on alcohol for a week. From the day preceding the conference, events took the form of a whirlwind with so much happening, so many people to meet, talk to, exchange information with, events to get to, a most wonderful library that was hard to leave to fit in anything else and the most wonderful group of people I could ever hope to know.

I met Sophie Caplan, President of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society for the first time the day before the conference opened. She made sure I knew the ropes inviting me to the pre-conference wine and cheese reception as her guest, and everything blossomed from there. People were amazed at the distance I had travelled and had some trouble getting their heads around the remoteness of Kalkaringi where I live, finding it hard to imagine an eight-hour drive before I could get on the plane in Darwin, let alone the twenty seven hours of air travel that followed. This proved to be a great icebreaker, for many people approached me wanting to know about my trip, my work, Australia, and how I manage to do research living in such a remote location.

A distant cousin from West Hollywood whom I had never met earlier, made the effort to attend. We got on famously and together contacted many other American relatives by phone. A family reunion is sure to come out of this in the near future.

The conference set up was outstanding. Some of the highlights for me were putting faces to names of people associated with "Avotaynu," "JewishGen" and "Kosher Koala", meeting fellow Litvak researchers, assisting fellow genealogists with their research, learning more about the Family History Library, networking, making new friends, and of course, listening to many notable speakers. The program featured many well-known speakers including Alex Abraham, the Director of Yad Vashem Hall of Names, Gary Mokotoff, the publisher of "Avotaynu", Susan King from 'JewishGen', Dr Neil Rosenstein the author of "The Unbroken Chain", and many, many more.

Throughout the week I was torn between attending sessions at the conference or poring over the large amount of Jewish records at the LDS Family History Library. There was always too much on. I was very impressed with the staff at the library. They were extremely helpful and went out of their way to make our visit memorable.

Something I must share with you. My postal address is a private Mail Bag in Katherine, some, 500 kilometres from where I live. On the first day of the conference people started telling me there was a Canadian genealogist who saw my address in the list of registrants' publication and who was desperate to meet me. It turned out that his Australian-born mother (who died when he was a young teenager) served as a nurse in Katherine during W.W.11. I lived and worked in Katherine for many years and I was able to give him a number of details on the spot and have followed up by providing information about the role of army nurses in Katherine during the war, the significance of her service medals and of Anzac Day to Australians. He had little idea of the part this plays in the Australian psyche.

As I said in the beginning 'what an experience!' I can wholeheartedly recommend attending the annual conference (next year in London), if ever, you get the chance.

Bubbles@nt-tech.com.au is researching these names: Claff, Goldman, Gutman, Kibort, Leiserowsky, Lurie/Lourie, Milwidski, Pikela, Segall/Segal, Sharfanovich, Silkes, Weiner.

Lilly "Bubbles" Segall has been a steadfast, if unseen, member of our Society for several years, always living in the Northern Territory, previously in Darwin. In fact before the foundation of the society, circa 1990, she was unwittingly responsible for an interview I was asked to give to ABC radio reporter Sandy McCutcheon, now of

"Australia Talks Back", on the topic of Jewish genealogy, because she had lent him a copy of "Avotaynu" where my name appeared. (Editor)

The Australian Association of Jewish Studies 13th Annual Conference		Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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February 11th-12th

Shalom College, University of NSW, Sydney

The Conference theme is - "From Destruction to Redemption"

Details of the Conference at www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy/brochure.htm

If you would like to present a paper, please visit -
www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy/papers.htm

Please address all correspondence to M.Dacy@library.usyd.edu.au

The AGM of IAJGS at Salt Lake City	Sophie Caplan	Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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The Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies also took place during the Salt Lake City Conference. The executive was elected at the 1999 AGM and stays in place until July 2001. It consists of Howard Margol, president; Vice President Hal Bookbinder; immediate past president Karen Franklin; treasurer Marilyn Natchez; honorary Secretary Arline Sacks. However shortly after the conference ended we were advised that Arline Sacks had resigned from the executive, and she has been replaced by one of the newly elected council members.

Eight people nominated for the six places on the IAJGS committee apart from the executive, of which the following were elected: Dr Anthony Joseph from Birmingham, U.K., who is also a member of our Society; Michael Brenner from New York, Michael Posnick from Minneapolis, Daniel Schlyter, the Mormon head of the International floor at the LDS Family History Library and Gary Stein of Toronto.

Arthur Kurzweil, who in recent years was given the Lifetime Achievement Award in Jewish Genealogy, offered himself for election in absentia, but was not elected.

At the conference it was announced that instead of a second CD-ROM on Jewish cemeteries world-wide, the records of some 800,000 tombstones will be entered on a new Jewishgen site. Later a new CD-ROM will also be produced.

Other new initiatives were also announced at the conference:

The long-term project of the Family Tree of the Jewish People combining the three databases of the IAJGS, started by Gary Mokotoff, Jewishgen and the one from Dorot Archives at Beit Hatefutsot has now been successfully accomplished by Bruce

Kahn and will soon be available on CD-ROM (Windows) at what is stated to be an affordable price, hopefully also in \$AUS.


The 1897 Census of the Jews of Lithuania has now been indexed and will later be available on JewishGen thanks to the efforts of Harold Rhode, Howard Margol, Peggy Freedman and others.

JewishGen will incorporate data from Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) at the site <http://www.jewishgen.org/JRI-PL> and will include cemeteries information and records now part of the archives of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw e.g. Records of the Liberal Synagogue of Krakow.

Many of the lists held at Yad Vashem: Pages of Testimony, deportation lists, transport lists are also being indexed. Alex Avraham, director of the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem demonstrated through a link-up with Jerusalem how all the information available on one victim of the Shoah will be brought together on one page of archival material.

Altogether the glimpses into the future initiative should greatly simplify access to archival material, provided of course such material exists and is made available by the holding authorities. In the case of Belarus Jewish BDM this is not available, but archivist Vladislav Soshnikov has made lists of Jewish families and their members through revision lists and other archival material which is available. Some of us paid him \$US25 to find any material to be found about our families I will keep you informed of any results.

Unfortunately Eastern Galician records are also not available for Jews. It has been suggested that these records are being held back by Polish National archives, for reasons not yet understood. However some information will, from the indexing of the contents of the 1929 Polish Business Directory which includes the whole of inter-war Poland i.e. Congress Poland, Belarus Galicia, Dantzig, and Lithuania.

Emigration of the Dutch Sephardim from Amsterdam	Vibeke Sealtiel Olsen	Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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The archive registers in Gemeentearchief van Amsterdam has lists that cover the period 1757-1813 with the names of the poor Sephardic Jews who were granted an amount in Dutch guilders against the promise to leave Amsterdam and not to return within the next 20 years. The author would like to hear from anyone who discovers one of their ancestors in the list and would like to share the information. His email is vibekeolsen@yahoo.com

The lists can be found on the websites:-

<http://maxpages.com/donadeli/migration> (A-N) and


<http://maxpages.com/donadeli/migration2> (O-Z)

For example, the entry :-

Carvalho Delucena Raphael Curacao 150 1760 08-03 015 means that Raphael

Carvalho was paid 150 guilders to migrate to Curacao on 3 August, 1760 (entry on page 15 of register).

The lists highlight the fascinating variety of destinations where Sephardi ancestors settled. Places include Constantinople, Surinam, London, Jamaica, Hamburg, Livorno, Marseilles and Tunisia.

Final Chapter of Reunion	Peter Frybort	Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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A long lost niece's search for her aunty, (my mother) began many years ago and came to our attention when you advertised a notice in the KK Vol 4 No 1 March 1997 (00047 ROSEMARY SCHONFELD seeking information on AURELIE NELLY SCHONFELDOVA

The KK Vol 5 No 1 March 1998 carried my story of the contact - A FAMILY REUNION. We invited Rosemary to Australia and she planned to come in 2000. In the meantime, we developed a relationship via mail, email and phone.

In February 2000 Rosemary came to Australia to visit us and meet her Aunty for the first time. It was an emotional experience for all of us and we enjoyed her company for two weeks.

Attached is her account of her search, her links with the past and our time together. It may be a little long, but I'll leave it to you to decide if it is worth including in the KK.

Thank you for your help and dedication in bringing families together.

My Successful Search for my Aunt Relly Bell - 30 March 2000		Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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In 1996 I joined a newly formed Second Generation group in Bristol, England. A Czech member, both of whose parents were Auschwitz survivors, brought back from a visit to Prague in 1997, a recently published two volume tome in Czech of all the Transports which had gone through Theresienstadt. Thanks to 'German efficiency', the names, dates of birth, dates and places of transport and death of everyone was listed. Here I found names of my Uncle Moritz and Relly.

With this specific information I felt able to start placing Search notices. I went to the Wiener Library in London, which is the main Holocaust archive in Britain, and looked up the addresses of International Holocaust centres and as many Australian Jewish organisations as I could find. I also placed a notice in Beit Theresienstadt, a newsletter which my Czech friend had told me about. One of the organisations I wrote to, and I do not know which one, placed my notice in The Kosher Koala. I had not heard of this newsletter. By sheer luck, Relly's daughter-in-law Evelyn had just acquired her first issue, herself beginning to explore her own roots, and saw my notice. In August 1997 I received a lovely letter from Relly's son Peter, informing me that Relly was alive and very well. It was such a wonderful moment that I was

temporarily speechless. I was able to show the letter to my partner, but was not able to say anything at all. What words are relevant for such a momentous event?

Letters and phone calls followed, and I was very lucky that Relly and her family were so open to me. I had known that if I ever did find Relly, there was no guarantee that she would either be interested or willing to communicate with me. Perhaps such painful memories would not want to be disturbed. Fortunately for me, Relly has extraordinary strength of spirit and did not mind telling me about my father's family and the order of events. She had also managed to salvage one of Moritz' paintings after the war, which now hangs on her sitting room wall. In one of her first letters to me she enclosed a photograph of it. Both these things turned my father's family from myth into reality for me. It is hard to describe the effect on me, but it has been profoundly positive.

In February this year I visited Relly, Peter and Evelyn and their children in Sydney. They had very kindly said I could visit and stay as long as I wanted. Very generous to a virtual total stranger! I stayed for two weeks between Relly and Peter and his family, who live close to each other. They showed me the sites in and around Sydney and I had a simply wonderful time. I feel very lucky indeed to have found Relly and my new wonderful relations.

The Internet has increased the chances of successful Searches, but I hope that the fact that I conducted my search before the Internet explosion which has facilitated Jewish Genealogical Societies encourages people to keep trying, whatever their resources might be.

*POSTSCRIPT: Actually it was your editor who used her initiative in taking several notices from the Beit Theresienstadt newsletters and adapting them for our 'Family Finder column'. Throughout the 1980's when I worked as an oral historian I occasionally wrote to Beit Theresienstadt Archives to confirm names and facts from survivors I had interviewed. I always sent a cash donation with my query and they became convinced that I had a personal link to Theresienstadt Camp and put me on the mailing list for their newsletter, which I still receive. I was inspired to re-publish some of their queries, and the above family reunion was the result.
Sophie Caplan, Editor.*

Online Worldwide Burial Registry (OWBR)		Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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Many genealogists have been eagerly awaiting the release of the Jewish Cemetery Project Second CD-Rom. This will now be replaced by the Online Worldwide Burial Registry. We all have cause to be grateful to Arline and to Sid Sachs of Greater Washington JGS who pioneered the Jewish Cemetery Project and administered it on a voluntary basis for several years. Editor

What is it?

The Online Worldwide Burial Registry is a searchable database of Jewish burial records the world over. We hope to catalogue extant names and other identifying

information from cemeteries and burial records, from the earliest records to the present. This project is a joint effort of JewishGen, Inc. and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), who have agreed in principle to enter into a data sharing agreement for this purpose.

The project links two databases: a database of burial records and the database of information on cemeteries worldwide that had been an integral part of the former IAJGS Cemetery Project. In addition, we are requesting that any available photos of the gravestones (matzevot) be mailed to us. The appearance of the database will be similar to that of the Bristol Cemeteries database at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/bristol.htm>

How will the project work?

Indexing of burial records is the responsibility of the Research Division of JewishGen under Joyce Field, Vice President of Research, and Gayle Wilton, Technical Coordinator of OWBR. The cemetery data, which had been a part of the IAJGS Cemetery Project, is the responsibility of Ellen Sadove Renck, IAJGS Cemetery Project Coordinator.

To help accumulate burial data, we are initiating an "Adopt a Cemetery Plot" program to encourage Special Interest Groups, local Jewish genealogy societies, synagogue youth groups, Jewish Federations, and other interested parties to adopt a cemetery or a landsmanschaft plot and index its records for submission to this project. We hope to appoint coordinators for cities, states, and countries outside the United States who will organize efforts to collect data for their areas. Those people who wish to become coordinators should contact Joyce Field at jfield@jewishgen.org

Forms

All forms and explanatory material are available online at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/> a donor's agreement, a template in Excel for data entry, and an explanation of the fields. If you cannot download the Excel spreadsheet or the donor's agreement, please contact Joyce Field at the above email address or Gayle Wilton at gwilton@jewishgen.org and we will send the forms as an email attachment.

If for some reason you are unable to enter the data yourself, please contact Gayle Wilton and we will arrange to have this done by one of our volunteers. Please also remember that we are not accepting information on individual burials, only information for landsmanschaft or synagogue plots or cemeteries.

All contributors of burial data will be asked to submit a donor's agreement giving permission for this material to be put online. On this form there is a box for the donor to indicate if the burial data may be included on a possible CD version of the database. Persons who contributed burial data to the former IAJGS Cemetery Project are asked to resubmit the data along with a donor's agreement.

Completed spreadsheets and donor agreements are to be returned to Gayle Wilton at the address on the donor agreement.

Again, contact Joyce Field to volunteer as a coordinator, Gayle Wilton for technical questions on burial data, and Ellen Sadove Renck for questions about and submissions of cemetery data.

Joyce Field, jfield@jewishgen.org
Gayle Wilton, gwilton@jewishgen.org

In the coming weeks and months, we look forward to the OWBR becoming an extraordinary resource for those researching their Jewish heritage. We look forward as well to a broad base of grass roots support to see this project to fruition.

Susan E. King
President
email:susan.king@jewishgen.org

**News from the South
Australian Branch**

**Helen
Twersky-
Steiner**

**Vol 7
Nos. 3 &
4**



The South Australian members enjoy spending an evening together. For months we had been promising ourselves a "research" evening.

On Wednesday 16th August Klee Beneveniste packed our small collection of resources which we have through the thoughtfulness and generosity of Sophie Caplan, into two cardboard boxes. Manolo and Marjorie Luno transported them; Hilde Hines added some "Avotaynu" issues and we met at the home of Andrew Steiner and Helen Twersky-Steiner.

The weather co-operated with a low bleak temperature, so it was an ideal night to be in a home warmed by a wood fire.

Some members broadly browsed, others pursued specific information and there was sharing of 'finds'.
We held a short discussion centred on two features. The first, to consider adding to our resource materials; the second, the possibility of a base, a place of residence, for our material so that it is centred in one place rather than in several homes.

We are extremely fortunate that a member, Jeanie Susman, is a librarian with previous experience in setting up the research and historical collection at the noted Urrbrae House on the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide. Would that ours was comparable!

Our next meeting took place on the 18th October at the home of Hilde Hines at 8pm.

In late October, Kingsley Ireland, a Council Member of the Pioneer Association of South Australia, addressed their Luncheon. His topic was Philip Levi one of the early Jewish colonists in South Australia. Levi played an important part in pastoral and mercantile pursuits.

In his halcyon days it is logged that he 'owned a thousand hills and 172,000 sheep and cattle' and for more than half-century he was a 'most familiar figure'.

The Pioneer Association's members are descendants of migrants who arrived in the Province between 1836 and 1845. Only an energetic and committed genealogist like Kingsley could 'detect' so many descendants - some meeting for the first-time.

Marjorie Luno and I were both honoured and delighted to be there.

Our meeting of the 15th November is the last of this year: One pressing problem has been the appointment of a new secretary and a new treasurer. Although the actual appointment cannot take place until our AGM in February next year, Jeanie Susman has consented to become secretary, and will be immediately accessible on her e-mail address:

Chatsworth@picknowl.com.au

Ben Carr will take the position of treasurer. The members then brought us up to date on the success or otherwise of their particular searching via the Internet.

Helen Wishart brought along a guest, Rabin Baban, a Jew from Kurdistan who has endured a long hard land journey over some years, from Kurdistan to Adelaide. Maybe we can help him locate some family in Israel.

And speaking of journeys, next month Margot Salom will launch her book about the Salom family, here in Adelaide. "*In Sure Dwellings: A Journey from Expulsion to Assimilation*"

The South Australian Branch can be contacted by post:

Jeanie Susman, Honorary Secretary,
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA Branch)
C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation
P.O. Box 320, Glenside, SA 5065
Or phone Chairperson, Hilde Hines 61-8-8379 6030

Vale Ralph Kaiser

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4**



24th May 1929 - 6th October 2000

Our gentle modest member and honorary treasurer Ralph Kaiser died suddenly and left the Adelaide Community in shock at his untimely passing.


Son and elder child of Albert and Thea Kaiser, he was born at Unruhstadt, Germany on 24th May, 1929. He met and married Ruth born in Aberdeen, Scotland at Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi, Israel, where their first son, Alon was born. This second child, Geoffrey was born in Adelaide.

Ralph was a committed Zionist; for fifteen years the Hon. Treasurer of JNF in South Australia and for over twenty years a Committee Member. The current 'Drop of Life

Project' focusing on the water-recycling scheme for the people of Shlomi, the people of Peace, in Israel's western upper Galilee will bear a memorial plaque in Ralph's honour.

Ralph was an involved and beloved member of Beit Shalom Synagogue. Whenever a volunteer was required-Ralph would be the first to stand in line. A past headmaster of the Sunday School, and editor of the monthly journal - his reliability, his willingness, his open friendliness will be missed.

We extend our sincere sympathy, to Ruth, Alon, Geoffrey and their families.

News from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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The Society was alarmed to read in the Jewish press during August about the planned expansion of the Coffee Shop at the entrance to the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre in South Caulfield. If approved by the City Council, the Makor Library will lose a sizable area of floorspace. Our concern is that Makor Library houses our genealogical resources. As at November there has been no further news of this development.

The Makor Library is a vital and valuable community resource which is open during normal working hours Monday to Thursday, Wednesdays to 8.00 pm and Sunday afternoon 2.00 to 5.00 pm.

The Society has held a number of functions over the last few months. On Wednesday 12th July, a very well attended meeting listened to a panel discussion with Basia Celler-Lacey, formerly of Lodz, Poland and Penny Blankfield and Enid Yoffa Elton, Victorian committee members who recently visited Poland. The topic was *JEWISH ANCESTRAL RESEARCH IN POLAND*.

Basia Celler-Lacey was born in Lodz, is a lawyer and a graduate of Lodz University on Public International Law and Civil-Property Division. She has been a director of Monumentum Iudaicum Lodzense Foundation and is now married and living in Melbourne. Basia presented us with a recent map of Poland indicating Jewish sites of interest for the traveller.

On Wednesday evening, 16th August , Jenny Harkness, spokesperson for the National Public Affairs Council for the Latter-Day Saints (LDS) spoke on *FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH AND THE MORMON CHURCH* to a capacity audience. Using a large number of overhead slides the lecture explored a number of ways of accessing the data on www.familysearch.org/

Our regular beginners workshops were held on Sunday, 27th August and again on Sunday 29th October at 2.00 pm at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre. On Wednesday 13th September at 7.30 pm Penny Blankfield gave an on-line demonstration of new useful internet sites such as www.jewishgen.org/ using an overhead projector. There was great excitement when members of the audience discovered ancestral names.

A very successful trip to Ballarat took place on Sunday in November 12th. Ballarat is a city about 90 minutes drive from Melbourne. Its old Synagogue and Jewish cemetery are of particular interest to genealogists. Local cemetery expert, Dot Wickham, guided us through the cemetery, which has Jewish graves dating back to 1857 and local resident, John Abraham, President of the Ballarat Hebrew Congregation, opened the Shule.

The following week the Australian Jewish Historical Society invited us to join them on a bus tour to Sorrento, where Jewish convicts first set foot on Victorian soil, and the Point Nepean Quarantine Station. A full report of these events appear in the November issue of 'Jewish Genealogy Downunder'.

Our final event for 2000 will be held on Wednesday, December 13th at 7.30 pm, at Beth Weizmann Community Centre. Rodney Eisfelder, AJGS Vic. committee member, will present a demonstration of useful AUSTRALIAN DATABASES available in our collection on CD-ROM. He will use our newly acquired converter which enables us to project computer images on a TV screen.

We are also pleased to advise our members that we have acquired three used computers which we plan to upgrade for use in our regular workshops. Members will have an opportunity to search our British Census records, the Australian Vital Records Index, Cemetery records and other CDs in our collection. Our next workshop will be held on Sunday March 4th, 2001 at Beth Weizmann.

The first year of this century has been a busy year packed with activities. Our President, Les Oberman and his committee wishes all our interstate friends a healthy and productive 2001.

Enquiries:

Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738

sharpe@labyrinth.net.au

Les Oberman (03)9571 8251

oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

See our home page on: www.melbourne.net/csaky/AJGSmainpage.htm

**Leo Baeck Institute and
YIVO Move**

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As of July 5, 2000 the new address for the Leo Baeck Institute and YIVO will be:

The Jewish History Center
15 West 16th Street
New York, N.Y. 10011-6301
Tel:(212) 246 6080 fax (212) 292 1892
Leo Baeck Tel.:(212) 744 6400
Leo Baeck fax:(212) 988 1305
Leo Baeck: e-mail:lbi1@lbi.com

(Leo Baeck information submitted by Carol Davidson Baird) from *Discovery* Vol 15 No. 2 Spring, 2000.

New Books in our Library	Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4	
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We have acquired Doreen Berger's *The Jewish Victorian*, an index of names culled from *The Jewish Chronicle* and two other Jewish newspapers which appeared between 1871 and 1880, giving short biographical notes as well as cross-indexing for relatives. A very valuable book for those who had ancestors in England in that period.

Also *Marriages In The Great Synagogue of London* between 1790 and 1830. Both books were described in greater detail in Vol 6 No 4 page 8.

Also, *The Lost Synagogues Of London* by Peter Renton, Tymsder Publishing, PO Box 16039, London, NW3 6WL, UK, published 2000, pp210. This is a lavishly illustrated account of the many synagogues that were destroyed or put to other uses, both prior to the expulsion of Jews from England in 1290, and in recent centuries due to population movements or to bombing during the Second World War. The illustrations include, photographs, reproductions of paintings, sketches, maps, and also portraits painted or photographs of rabbis and cantors. It is interesting to see what the synagogue where one's grandparents got married looked like.

A new book to complement our copy of Abraham Laredo's *The Names of Jews from Morocco* (in French) is *Les Juifs de l'Afrique du Nord, Demographie et Onomastique* (*The Jews of North Africa, Demography and Surnames*), first published in 1936 in Algeria by the Chief Rabbi of Algiers Rabbi Maurice Eisenbeth and republished in 2000 by the French Cercle de Généalogie Juive and La Lettre Sepharade in Paris. Although this book is in French, its format makes it easy to use by those with a modicum of French linguistic knowledge.

A Dictionary Of English Surnames, by P.H. Reaney, third edition with corrections and additions by R. M. Wilson, published in 1997 by Oxford University Press. The surnames cited include some common Jewish surnames found in England.

The Last Eyewitnesses - Children of the Holocaust Speak, edited by Wiktorja Sliwowska, translated from the Polish and annotated by Julian and Fay Busgang, was published in 1998 by Northwestern University Press in Evanston, Illinois. It is the individual stories of survival of sixty Jewish children from various parts of prewar Poland, including those which are now in Ukraine or in Belarus. All of these children's survival was due to Poles who took pity on them, some ordinary people, some priests or members of religious orders. These children by definition also remained in Poland after the Second World War and some of the youngest did not know until recent years that they were Jews. Most of them are now members of the Association of the Children of the Holocaust in Poland.

In 1998 or 1999 the surnames and original names of these children were put on a website. This resulted in a reunion with her first cousin in Krakow by Saba Feniger, an active volunteer of the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Melbourne. Each cousin had believed for over fifty years that the other had perished. All these books were presented by Sophie Caplan.

A book donated to the Reverend Katz library, so that it may be borrowed is Dr Gerry Black's *Lord Rothschild And The Barber*, The Struggle To Establish A Jewish Hospital In London, also published by Tynsder Publishing in 2000. This has an excellent index and biographical details of all who participated in the struggle, and also medical personnel, including relatives of some of our members.

Gary Luke has donated a copy of *Safe Haven, Records Of The Jewish Experience In Australia* by Malcolm J. Turnbull of Melbourne (NOT the Guru of Republicanism) a research guide published by the National Archives of Australia in December 1999. The cover photo includes the likenesses of the parents of the late Rabbi Schmu-el Gorr and of the father or grandfather of Itiel Bereson. It can be purchased by mail from the National Archives, PO Box 7425, Canberra Mail Centre, ACT 2610, or by fax (02) 6212 3699, or by e-mail archive@naa.gov.au

We omitted to mention previously that Gwenda and Alec Charleson last year donated Rose Zwi's *Last Walk In Naryshkin Park*, published in 1997 by Spinifex Press, pp 272, in memory of the 220,000 Jewish Lithuanians who were massacred in 1941 by the Nazis and their local collaborators in Lithuania. This book covers much of the Holocaust in Lithuania.

On the same topic we recommend our readers see the Australian-made film shot in Lithuania *Uncle Chazkel*, about a 95 year old man who lived through the Russian Revolution, two world wars, Nazi genocide, a communist regime, and the transition of Lithuania from Soviet republic to independent state, and was the compiler of major dictionaries of the Lithuanian language. A moving and heart-warming film about a relative of the film-maker.

News from Western Australia	Michelle Urban	Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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On Sunday 28th May 2000, our second meeting took place and attracted nearly fifty people with Ruth Miller presenting a talk entitled : *My Life in Kalgoorlie*

Ruth's English greatgrandparents, Charles and Sara Alman, travelled to Kalgoorlie from Ballarat in the late 1890s and established themselves as small shopkeepers.

They had the first ice-making machine in town.

One of the drawbacks of living in early Kalgoorlie was that it was difficult to obtain water. Until the opening of the Mundaring to Kalgoorlie pipeline in January 1902, subterranean salt water had to be boiled and condensed into fresh water and cost eight to ten shillings for 100 gallons. It was necessary to padlock water tanks at night to prevent theft.

The first Jewish religious service in the area had been held in Coolgardie in 1894 on Rosh Hashana, in a tent with 11 men. *The Goldfields Congregation* obtained land from the government and constructed a wooden synagogue on it in November 1896. With the discovery of rich gold mines in Kalgoorlie however, the majority of the Community relocated to Kalgoorlie and by 1899 *The Goldfields Congregation* was disbanded in Coolgardie. The new *Kalgoorlie Hebrew Congregation* had its first meeting on October 1901 and in 1902 a shule was erected for approximately 70 members.

Due to lack of finance a loan was raised to pay for the building and, over the years it was let out for other purposes. It was finally sold and the proceeds donated to the Maurice Zeffert Home for the Aged in Perth, in 1969. The Scrolls of the Law, as well as a kiddush cup and a shofar, were given to Perth's Temple David by Ruth's grandfather, Louis Alman, who was the Mayor of Kalgoorlie, and President of Kalgoorlie Hebrew Congregation from 1931 until his death in 1969.

Ruth was raised in a traditional Kalgoorlie country style house with big verandahs and a central hallway, and a woodstove in the kitchen. In the intense heat of summer Ruth often slept out on the verandah or on the lawn. Attached to Ruth's house was a shade house for hammocks, plants and a Coolgardie cooler for storing food.
[This is an Australian homemade food safe and evaporation method cooler. Ed.]

The Kalgoorlie lifestyle was good for children: schools were of a high standard, weekends revolved around sporting activities, and camps at Esperance provided trips to the sea.

Ruth's only negative memories were of being chased by local convent students, because she was Jewish and she "killed Jesus". At thirteen, Ruth attended her first Habonim camp and experienced a deep emotional link.


She later moved to Perth to continue interacting with fellow Jews and to complete her education.

On her marriage in 1962 Ruth and her husband became one of the first Jewish families to settle in Dianella, a new Perth suburb.

Submitted by Carolyn Milton-Smith

A Beginners' Workshop took place on Sunday 27th August and our final meeting for the year was an Internet Workshop on Sunday 26th November 2000 both held at Michelle Urban's house.

Enquiries can be directed to:
Michelle Urban
Tel:08-9375-3874
Fax:08-9375-3574
Email:urban@wantree.com.au
or
Gillian: 08-9401 2835

Exciting Announcement for all Litvaks	Howard Margol	Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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By Howard Margol, President, IAJGS

On January 3, 2000 a momentous and history making endeavour began in the Historical Archive in Vilnius, Lithuania. A project to microfilm ALL of the Jewish vital records stored in the archive got underway. As a result of an agreement between the Lithuanian Archive Administration, and the FHL in Salt Lake City, Utah, the archive is doing the actual filming with the use of microfilm equipment furnished by the Mormons.

When completed, the microfilm will contain over 500,000 Jewish vital records. It is estimated that it will take approximately 18 months for the completion of the project, After that, it usually takes 18 to 24 months before the Mormons have the rolls of film available to the public.

In the meantime, learn how to recognise your ancestral surname written in Russian Cyrillic as the vital records are written in that language. The vital records are also repeated in Yiddish so if you cannot read the Russian Cyrillic but you can read Yiddish, you are in luck.

Stay tuned for further announcements.

London Conference. 9 - 14 July, 2001		Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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London 2001: promises a catalogue of events as varied and as exciting as London itself. The really exciting news is that our location allows us to present a platform for speakers from all over the world, including Eastern Europe. London 2001 will provide unequivocal first-hand information, advice, and research opportunities, as well as a jumping-off point for travel around the UK and to Europe and beyond.

Our speakers: archivists, librarians, historians, geneticists, and expert genealogists. See below for an appetizer. Lectures, seminars, panel discussions, special interest groups and birds-of-a-feather meetings, and workshops for beginners and experts alike, will all be featured.

Archival resources (a few highlights): guided tours to Public Record Office, Family Records Centre, Metropolitan Records Centre, Mocatta Mormon Family History Library, and British Library.

Side trips: of Jewish interest in and around London. Visits to the East End (London's old Jewish quarter); the Imperial War Museum's new permanent Holocaust Exhibition; films and theatre; regional tours to provincial England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales should all be considered.

London highlights: Tate Modern and the Millennium Bridge, Tate Britain, Courtauld Museum, Wallace Collection, Jewish Museum, British Library, Shakespeare's

reconstructed Globe Theatre, the classic tourist destinations of Tower Bridge and the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey and Big Ben, music, dance, theatre, Royal Parks, shopping, restaurants (it's true :London is now one of the food capitals of the world). And, finally. . . .

Linked tours for conference participants: Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, Ukraine, Provence, Alsace, Morocco, Tuscany, Romania, Hungary, Israel -

ShtetlSchleppers London2001

ShtetlSchlepper: a person who has already taken a quantum leap out of the present and visited the towns, cities or shtetls of ancestral origin and who, in the words of one such traveller, has enjoyed "a life changing experience".

The Pre or Post London2001 JewishGen's Shtetl-Schleppers programs will be available in both scheduled group or individual departures to any of our presently listed hub cities in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, Ukraine, Romania, and Hungary. Trips to hub cities in Provence, Alsace, Morocco, Tuscany, or other major areas of Jewish interest.

This is a perfect opportunity for family groups, research groups and individuals who wish to return to and search their ancestral towns of origin to have a departure customized to meet their needs. It is not too early to begin the planning process. ShtetlSchleppers basic itinerary: all are one-week programs, extendable if required. The design is to select a hub city in the country of interest, spend three days there to learn the country and the customs and then four days on individually planned visits to towns or shtetls of ancestral origin.

The hub city always includes visits to sites of Jewish interest, and a meeting with the Jewish community. All these city tours and meetings have the services of a professional guide, knowledgeable in both the language and history of the area. The four day visits to ancestral towns include the services of a private car or small van, a guide who speaks the local language and is equipped to read the Hebrew on gravestones.

Prior research: available by contracting for services of a local researcher. Adequate information must be provided a minimum of 6 months prior to departure to insure research results will be available.

Sephardic heritage trips: are in the planning process and will be available if sufficient interest is shown. For further information: we invite any and all inquiries and encourage you to visit our web site:
www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSchleppers/2000.html to see what is available for this year or feel free to
email us at: shtetlschleppers@jewishgen.org

Schedules for London2001 will be available mid September/early October
<http://www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSchleppers/>

A small selection of the speakers at the LONDON2001 CONFERENCE:

Professor Aubrey Newman:
Patterns of Migration and Transmigration

Karen Franklin (New York): Leo Baeck Centre *German Jewish History Centre*

Paul Armony:
History of the first Jewish Settlements in Argentina

Laima Trasviate (Director) & Galina Baronova (Head Archivist):
Lithuanian State Historical Archives

Vitalije Gircyte (Head Archivist):
Newly discovered holdings in the Kaunas Archives

Professor Ruvin Ferber:
History of the Jews of Latvia

Irina Veinberga (Head Archivist) & R.Bogdanova, H.Polovceva (Archivists)

Ilana Tahane:
Illustrated Hebrew Manuscripts in the British Library

Peter Nash (Australia):
China: European, Russian, & Sephardic Communities

Professor Vivian Moses:
Genetics, Genealogy and Jews

Professor Michael Alpert:
Crypto-Jews and Inquisition Records

Dr. Anthony Joseph:
The Jews of Birmingham

Stanley Diamond:
Jewish Record Indexing-Poland

David Hawkings:
Criminal Records in England & Wales 16th-19th C.

Ezra Kahn:
Genealogical sources at 'Jews College' Library

Wendy Bellany:
The Jews of Methyr Tydfil and the Welsh Valleys

Frederick E. Cohen:
Jews in the Channel Islands during Nazi Occupation

Anton Felton:
Jewish Carpets: genealogy of the carpet makers

Michael Gandy:
Jews in non-Jewish Records

Susan E. King:
JewishGen, Inc.

Miriam Rodrigues-Pereira:
Bevis Marks Records

Bill Williams:
Jewish Community of Manchester & Salford 1728-2000

Shirley Flaum:
Sources of Jewish Records of Lodz


Henry Wellisch:
Canadian Records of Jewish Interest

Check the rest of the programme on the LONDON2001 website:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/london2001> or info.london2001@talk21.com

Hope to see you next year in London!

Dr Saul Issroff

Queensland Report	Morris Ochert	Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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Only routine activities were carried out in the period under review, and I have nothing out of the ordinary to report. Therefore, I take this opportunity to remark on the various excellent genealogical publications that reach us from various parts of the USA.

They are most interesting and are valuable for those who research Jewish genealogy and history. The dedication of the many folk who are involved in that labour of love is made obvious by the number of conferences, some overseas, which they attend and the research and writing in which they occupy themselves. It must be at a great expense of time, money and effort!

I would say that 'AVOTAYNU' is the 'flagship' of all those periodicals and the work of Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff is truly spectacular. I make special mention too of the Spring 2000 issue of 'Generations', produced by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan. On its front cover is a brief article and photo of US Commodore Uriah P. Levy (1792-1862) who is among the outstanding figures in modern Jewish

history. A few years ago I prepared a small manuscript about him and will now make it available to Sallyann.

What I have written above does not detract from the quality of the 'Kosher Koala'! Our Founder-President edits a periodical, which does not suffer by comparison with any of the overseas publications. To our own Sophie, we must say "Kol Koved" - "All Honour" - if she did not exist, we would have had to invent her!

Enquiries to:
Morris S. Ochert OAM,
3/23 Lucinda Street, Taringa Qld 4068
AUSTRALIA
Email: stirk@uq.net.au

Or Carol Stirk
PO Box 7192
East Brisbane Qld 4169
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Tel: +61 7 3378 4711
Fax: +61 7 3378 8234
Email: stirk@uq.net.au

Australian Jewish Genealogy Discussion Group Formed		Vol 7 Nos. 3 & 4		
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Gary Luke has formed a discussion group for Australian Jewish Genealogy. It is a meeting place for Australian researchers to help with access to records in other states, allow exchange of hints about overseas archives, and assist overseas researchers with Australian connections.

Information & subscription via: <http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy/>

[It's the first link on the contents page]

Or send a blank email to AJGen-subscribe@listbot.com
Any enquiries please email AJGen-owner@listbot.com

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 8 No. 1		
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Purim is past and Pesach is looming on the horizon. So is our Ninth Annual General Meeting on Sunday 25th March at 7.30 pm at the Wilson Hall of the North Shore Synagogue in Lindfield. Our guest speaker will be Helen Bersten, honorary archivist of the Australian Jewish historical Society, who will speak on the genealogical holdings of the Historical Society and about some of the unusual genealogical problems on which she has been asked to help.


This AGM will see the retirement of two excellent and long-time committee members of this Society, Terry Newman and Philip Baynash. Terry joined the Society at its

inception in November 1991 and became our first Minute Secretary before becoming Treasurer when Stuart Shaw retired. Philip has been Membership Chairman for several years and has done an excellent job of keeping our membership lists up to date and banking the cheques. Both signalled over a year ago that they would retire from our committee this year and we appreciate the great work that they have done up to now. And we will miss them both. Gary Luke who has been on our committee as Webmaster, is now standing as Treasurer and we feel sure that he will do a good job. Greta James neé Davis is standing for the committee and is prepared to take on the portfolio of Membership Chairman. But this means that we will be one person less on the committee than last year, unless someone comes forward as a candidate in the next week.

We also do not yet have a candidate as Honorary Secretary of the Society. This post has been vacant since March last year despite our earnest attempts to find a candidate. The qualifications for this post are the ability to type a letter or write a circular, a good knowledge of the Sydney Jewish Community, a home telephone, access to a fax machine, and the ability to come to eleven committee meetings per year. Unfortunately it is very hard to find anyone to volunteer for the committee, which means that we have to give reduced services to our members. If we had a few more members to take on some of the lesser tasks it would be easier for everyone. When more of us feel ready to take a break from our committee jobs will there be anyone out there to take our place? If not, perhaps the Society will collapse. A voluntary society cannot run without volunteers.

In July the 2001 International Genealogy Conference will take place in London. Several Sydney members are planning to attend. Let us know if you are also planning to attend. There is an excellent programme, including visits to archives and cemeteries, and the conference is co-ordinated with visits to European places of Jewish interest.

Next year's Jewish Genealogical Conference will now most possibly be held in Toronto, Canada, and not in Detroit, Michigan USA, as previously announced.

Researching with the Lodz Group	Diana Terry	Vol 8 No. 1	
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Dear Fellow Researchers,

My name is Diana Terry and I live in Adelaide, South Australia. I have been researching my family for the past three years and last June joined many Jewishgen discussion groups, one of which was the Lodz Group. I must make mention at this moment, how very kind the co-ordinator, Shirley Flaum has always been to me. Her help at times has been very encouraging and I have to say, I have needed that support often. I want to encourage more researchers to join one of these groups so we may continue to help each other, in our genealogical work.

I have somewhat struggled over the years to make any progress with my family research. My family who live in England have been less than helpful and I have questioned my ability, to alone, construct a Family Tree.

Just as I was feeling at my lowest, partly due to a second broken leg in six years, out of the blue, a 'newly found' cousin found me, through Ancestry.com and between us, we have covered many generations and I am now in the most wonderful position of going back to my great great grandparents, two sets no less. They all originated in Czystochowa, Poland. This cousin teaches Internet Genealogy in England but wasn't known to my main family. Now, however I have a name for a great uncle, who left Czystochowa to travel to the USA in 1890, and I am working hard, trying to locate any descendants of this SAM ISAACS (previously known as SZMUL JEZIOROWSKI).

All so exciting. I should like to thank Michael Chen for all his help with the family from Czystochowa. He has been very generous with his time. Just before Christmas, with the help of Laurence Harris of London, I managed to locate a second cousin who was also struggling to research her branch of the family. We have chatted via e-mail and also the telephone. Didn't know that she existed until December. And only last week, I located another second Cousin with the help of a lady in Melbourne, Mary Blumenstein, whose e-mail to the Jewishgen Discussion Group, made me look-up and take notice, as I recognised a family surname of HELLINGER and I now have another branch to my Family Tree. I think the Internet is absolutely wonderful but not so wonderful as all the amazing people, who daily spend time helping each other to find their roots. To all these people, I shall be forever in their debt.

I apologise for 'going on' a bit about my personal research but I did want to emphasize that it's important, NEVER TO GIVE-UP. The answer to all your questions could just be in the next e-mail, as it was for me and I am sure, many others.

Now it is my dream to save for a trip to Warsaw and Lodz and to re-trace those steps, taken by my ancestors, all those years ago before they were engulfed with cruelty and chaos.

The very best of GOOD LUCK to everyone of you. Keep positive. Keep working towards your goals. Have fun, it really is a wonderful hobby.

Diana Terry is one of our members from Adelaide South Australia and can be contacted:
jterry@picknowl.com.au

Diana is researching these names from WARSAW Poland: BERLINER, FRYDMAN, WECHSLER. From LODZ, Poland: BERLINER, FRYDMAN. From CZESTOCHOWA, Poland: JEZIOROWSKI/Isaacs, PELTZ/PELC, ZAK. In BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA: BERLINER, WEXLER/WECHSLER.

Discussion Groups	Miriam Shifreen	Vol 8 No. 1	
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These groups are based on the area from where our ancestors came. There are many discussion groups to be found through: www.jewishgen.org

Scroll down to Special Interest Groups (SIGs). You will have a choice from Belarus to Bohemia to Ukraine. Scroll down further and you have choices from Bobruisk to Ekaterinoslav to Lviv to Warszawa. And of course you can join more than one group.

Go back to Discussion Groups and follow the rules for joining the group of your choice. There is help too, under the heading Special Interest Group Mailing Lists.

British Society of Genealogists		Vol 8 No. 1		
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There will be a major conference hosted by the British Society of Genealogists at Imperial College, London, from the 31st August to 2nd September 2001 "FORWARD TO THE PAST, TWENTIETH-CENTURY RECORDS". For information write to:

Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd.,
London EC1M 7BA

Tel: 44 20 7253 5235

Email: director@sag.org.uk

Website: www.sag.org.uk

Jewish Families in Perth, Demographic Study	Dr. Oswald B. Tofler	Vol 8 No. 1		
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In order to obtain an accurate picture of what is happening to the Jewish community in Perth, rather than relying on hearsay, in 1968 I decided to construct family trees of all people who had lived in Perth, so that I would not rely on samples of various families. The information was obtained from graves, old Jewish papers, hearsay, interviews etc. This enabled me to tell where all the families had come from. Each family tree was recorded on graph paper.

In 1972 I presented the first Godel Korsunski Memorial Lecture which was documented in seventeen issues of The Maccabean. I was able to break the population down into age groups, countries of origin, members who left Western Australia, etc.

The next lecture was the 13th G. Korsunski Memorial Lecture, when I compared 100 Carmel Primary School students with 160 non-Carmel students, in which the outcome, in terms of marriage patterns, slightly favoured Carmel students.

I made comparisons between my population surveys and the censor's figures. A comparison was made between the Perth data and the Melbourne and Sydney data in my talk last year to the W.A. Genealogical Society. There is no doubt in my mind that family tree data is the gold standard for studying intermarriage. It is much better than samples, which are distorted. The raw census data probably only accounts for 80% of the population. The individual family data enables one to determine trends over generations. You don't miss people. You have figures on divorce and people who leave the state.

The disadvantages are that one can never be complete, but with community cooperation you get close to 100% and it is much easier with small communities. It is

not too hard for a larger community if an organisation is prepared to fund it. The data is on graph paper and cards for each individual.

It is all very well for people to say to me "Put it on the computer," but this involves a colossal effort, which has been started already. Then everyone wants to take your data. There is a certain element of privacy which is important.

Such data serves to identify marriage patterns and enables schools to plan numbers. It enables some figures to be taken with regard to care of the aged. It gives an idea of the types of education and employment. It identifies the people who are on the fringe of the community. It gives one an idea of youth group potential. It does enable you to detect change, but is difficult to predict change. It is slow motion dynamics.

What is needed in Perth in the future is a private person to whom the community can provide information, who reports via The Maccabean at regular intervals. The person can be paid, or be in an honorary capacity. It probably needs to be done as a hobby. It is a special type of information which the United Israel Appeal and the J.N.F. do not collect.

The accompanying graph compares the people presently living in Perth who lived here before 1972 and those who came to Perth after 1972.


Married Couples	Members of families living in Perth before 1973	Members of new families living in Perth since 1973	Totals
Both partners born Jewish	346	543	889
One partner not born Jewish but converted to Judaism	58	34	92
One partner not born Jewish	245	142	387

Gary Eckstein -Demographer Sydney
1966 CENSUS

Married Couples	Non-Jewish Partner
20-29	50% almost
(7092)	36%
20-59	30%
45-? 80	

Dr. Ossie Tofler is active in the Perth Jewish Com-munity and in March 2000 gave a lecture based on the above research to the AJGS in Perth. (Ed.)

A new book is available for those with interest in Belarus, formerly Bielorussia or White Russia. Shalom Cholawsky, an Israeli academic, himself a former partisan, has written the *Jews of Bielorussia During World War II*, Harwood Academic publishers, Amsterdam, 1998, pp 333, with footnotes and a good index. It is mainly about Western Bielorussia, has information about many small towns and shtetlekh and quite a few individual partisans, rabbis and leaders. Quite expensive \$AU100 in the year 2000.

Holocaust Victim was a Quiet Hero	Horst A Reschke	Vol 8 No. 1	
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I opened the package almost reverently when it arrived last week, because I was familiar with its content: Numbers 1 - 17 and 35 - 50 of Jüdische Familien-Forschung, bound volumes of a unique publication whose title translates to "Jewish Genealogy." My treasure includes the very first and the very last issue of the magazine, the beginning and the end. I had seen the entire set before, at the LDS Family History Library, one of the few fortunate libraries which counts the rare set among its holdings. I am going to suggest that it be microfilmed and placed with the rare books. That I found the 38 numbers through the Internet, at an antique book dealer's place in Germany is nothing short of undeserved good luck.

By now you are wondering what makes this magazine so special. The answer is: several aspects. For one, it is the first and for many years was the only, German-Jewish genealogical publication in existence. It, and the organisation which published it, the Gesellschaft für Jüdische Familien-Forschung, the "Society for Jewish Genealogy," were the brainchildren of Dr. Arthur Czellitzer, gifted ophthalmologist, in Berlin, Germany. He created them in 1924, when he was 55 years old, thereby fulfilling a "sehr alten Herzenswunsch," a very old heart's desire. Thirty-seven years earlier, while still in high school, he had begun collecting data and tales of family traditions pertaining to his own kin. He had high hopes for the project and somehow managed to maintain a high level of opti-mism throughout the 14 years of activity with the society and its publication. Despite difficult times, during which he was compelled to cope with the necessity of forever needing to find yet new print-ers for the magazine, he kept his calm. Not only did he cope with a technical imperatives of producing a magazine, but also in that publication he succeeded in writing and compiling quality material pertaining to Jewish genealogical research and in stimulating other scholars and writers to do the same.

When, in 1938, the Nazis finally shut him down permanently, Dr. Czellitzer took his family and settled in Breda, the Netherlands. On May 12, 1940, ahead of the German invasion, the town was evacuated and Dr. Czellitzer and family joined the trek to France. I was privileged to translate his 39-page, typed, account of this hair-raising experience, which ended in disaster. In its effort to escape to England, the family became separated in Belgium, when two Belgian gendarmes arrested Dr. Czellitzer. It was one of the great ironies that, because of his German passport, he was interned as a "suspicious German." His wife and daughters were compelled to continue their effort to reach the coast without their husband and father. They managed to make it to England, where their Ger-man passport also became a detriment. They, too, were placed in an internment camp. Mrs Czellitzer, again, irony


of ironies, was detained for 15 dreadful weeks - four of them in solitary confinement - at Holloway, the notorious English prison for women.

Dr. Czellitzer never saw his family again in this life. The Belgians released him after six days. He made his way back to Holland and his home. There he lived in solitude for three years until, on April 9, 1943, Nazi authorities arrested him and transported him to the Dutch camp Westerbork, a huge collection hub for Jews selected to be transported to the death camps in Germany and Poland. On July 13, 1943 he was taken to Sobibor concentration camp, in Poland. Three days later, on July 16, 1943, the Nazis murdered him.

His published and unpublished works are his legacy. The valuable bound volumes of Jüdische Familien-Forschung contain not only many important facts and data pertinent to Jewish genealogical research, but also the precious thoughts and sentiments of this great scholar and idealist. Could he see the extent to which Jewish genealogy has blossomed and flourished worldwide today, he would be proud. I encourage the Jewish genealogical community to hold Dr. Czellitzer in fond remembrance, even to name an effort or project after him and then fund it and carry it out. In times past, although not in recent years, I have been in touch with Dr. Czellitzer's daughter, Dr. Rosemary Stevens and his grandson Dr. Thomas Stevens, both physicians.

In a separate article I intend to review Dr. Arthur Czellitzer's 121-page unpublished manuscript "Geschichte meiner Familie" which he wrote after being separated from his family. It contained a wealth of genealogical and historical information pertaining to many prominent Jewish families. I have permission to translate it and several other writings by Dr. Czellitzer but must postpone those projects until the work in connection with my column in "*Heritage Quest Magazine*" <http://www.heritagequest.com/> eases up a bit Right now I simply wanted to highlight the heartache, tragedy and sorrow, yet calm assurance and quiet triumph of this uncommon man. Let us honour his memory!

Reprinted from "Missing Links", a weekly genealogical E-magazine, now with a circulation of 638,500
Horst A Reschke: hreschke@hotmail.com

Money Matters	Sophie Caplan	Vol 8 No. 1	
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The income of this Society is derived from our yearly membership fee which is \$30 per person, \$35 per couple and \$15 for pensioners. Pensioners means a person receiving a government pension NOT someone of pensionable age, as a large percentage of our members have reached that stage in life, and we could not afford to exist if everyone over 60 or over 65 claimed the privilege of a pension rate of membership. We also have evolved the custom of giving members who join in October, November or December, the privilege of not paying again in their first full year.

Most of our funds are directed at printing this newsletter, posting and disseminating it, acquiring books, CDs and tape-recordings connected with Jewish genealogy.

Some of our members also regularly donate books or other material for the benefit of other members. We also expend some of our funds on membership of the N.S.W. Jewish Board of Deputies, our local Jewish organisational roof body, and on membership of IAJGS.

One of the worthwhile customs of world wide Jewish genealogical Societies has been that, when a new Jewish Genealogical Society is founded and joins the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) then nearly all of the other societies immediately put it on their mailing list to receive their quarterly journal or newsletter. The only exception to this is the *Cercle de Généalogie Juive* in France, which only sends its journal to its members, of which I am actually one, so that any member of our Society who wishes to peruse the CGJ journals only has to ask me and may read them, or any of the CGJ publications I have acquired.

We became a beneficiary of this sharing policy as soon as our foundation became known, and we in turn contribute to it by posting this newsletter to all the members societies of the IAJGS. We are now changing this policy somewhat.

On 1st July 2000 the General Services Tax (GST), known as VAT in other countries, was introduced in Australia and airmail postal rates were markedly increased. It used to cost \$AU 1.50 to post abroad one copy of an issue of *Kosher Koala*, it now costs \$AU 3.00, or more, per copy.

At the same time the number of JGSa in USA proliferated, which is a wonderful development, but which makes it even more expensive for us to disseminate our newsletter to all the JGSs in the world. It was found that each year we spend one fifth to one quarter of our total annual income on overseas airmail postage to send our newsletter by airmail to every other society. At the same time on 1st July 2000 seamail postage overseas from Australia was abolished. We found ourselves in a bind. While desirous of sharing what we think is an excellent publication (of course I am biased) with our fellow-JGSs, we did not wish to ruin ourselves doing it. At the same time the Australian dollar has been steadily decreasing in value against most other currencies except New Zealand dollar, and it costs us a lot more to pay for any book, tapes, and CDs we want to acquire from USA, UK or elsewhere.

After a lot of heart searching a decision was taken that, while we would continue to send hard copies of the *Kosher Koala* to some of the larger societies overseas who send us their journals, we would experiment and send e-mail copies to small JGSs and particularly to those JGSs which do not yet print a newsletter or which do not send one to us. All our copies go abroad and went at the expensive airmail rate. We tried this experiment with the September-December 2000 issue and have received some positive feedback. Those JGSs which received an e-mail copy are free to send an e-mail copy to each of the members who are on the internet.

While I personally still like to receive and read hard copies of all the newsletters, I felt compelled to accept the hard financial facts collected by our financial experts.

We would like to get your response to our new policy for disseminating the *Kosher Koala* abroad. Our paid up members will continue to receive hard copies (printed copies).

Our society has acquired a wonderful variety of resources: books, magazines, CD-ROMs and tapes which are held in our genealogical resources cupboards at the Reverend Katz Library of the North Shore Synagogue in Lindfield, Sydney. Our branches in Adelaide, Perth, Canberra and Brisbane have small but still worthwhile collections.

Yet some of our members rely purely on this newsletter and on the internet and never come to use our Society's resources which might give them so much additional information. Everyone of our newsletters and journals from overseas has some information which could be of use to many of you.

Apart from the JGS newsletters our Society subscribes to the Special Interest Group journals

**Landsmen* - Suwalki and Lomza area.

**Gesher Galicia* and the *Galizianer* about the Galician areas of southern Poland, of which the eastern part is now Ukraine.

**Stammbaum* - the English language journal of German Jewish genealogy.

**Avotaynu*, the International Quarterly of Jewish genealogy which has an amazing amount of information.

Come to one or to all of our workshops which are held in the Reverend Katz Library of the North Shore Synagogue, generally on the first Sunday of the month from 9.30 am. to 12.30 pm.

At the September 2001 meeting we are planning a special workshop on German Jewish genealogy with resources of the Society and of individual members' own books available for perusal and the attendance of an expert to read Gothic alphabet printed and handwritten documents.

Do come and use more fully the resources available in our Society. Workshops are free for members while non-members pay \$5 per workshop.

From which Shtetl did your Great grandparents come?

The UIA invites you to discover your roots, Jewish heritage and history on its:

Vilna to Jerusalem Mission

In September 2001 a UIA Mission will depart Sydney and travel via Lithuania and Auschwitz to Israel.

If you are interested in hearing more about this once in a lifetime experience, contact us on: Phone 9499-5700,
Fax 9499-5718 or email uianorthshore@uiansw.org.au

IAJGS New Family Tree CD-Rom		Vol 8 No. 1		
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The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is proud to announce the availability of its new Family Tree of the Jewish People CD-ROM (Version 2.0), featuring:

- Almost 2 million records (the previous version had 800,000)
- Advanced search capabilities
- Name and contact information of data submitters

Data available only on this CD-ROM.

We are offering your Society the opportunity to purchase quantities of this exciting new CD-ROM at a substantial discount. The regular price of this CD-ROM is \$US 25.00, You may order copies at a price of \$US 15.00 each. Plus \$US 5 dollars for postage and packing.

Member Societies have purchased CD-ROMs for resale to its members. as gifts, incentives, and for sale to other local genealogical societies.

Please make cheque or money order (in U.S. funds) payable to IAJGS, P.O. Box 251681

West Bloomfield, MI 48325-1683 MRNatchcz@aol.com

Family Finder		Vol 8 No. 1		
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00084 CECILIA MORDECHAI, 15 RUE LAPEYRERE, 75018, PARIS, FRANCE, email:Cecilia.Mordechai@warnermusic.com Seeking relatives named **ALTER/HALTER** who emigrated from SAFED to Australia circa 1910, or any information about them

00085 LEWIS STEVENS, THE LINNS, SHERIFFMUIR, DUNBLANE FK15 0LP SCOTLAND, UK Tel/fax 44 01786 822 295 email; ls2@shirling.as.uk
Has been trying to find burial place of uncle **Isaac Isaacs** (1903-1963) (not the first Australian born Governor-General) who emigrated from Birmingham, U.K. to Australia in 1950s with wife to be close to her relatives of unknown name or place. Would like to obtain Death Certificate. Prepared to pay for this.

Australian Jewish Genealogy Discussion Group	Gary Luke	Vol 8 No. 1		
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Join the discussion group for Australian Jewish Genealogy:

- a meeting place for Australian researchers,
- provides help with access to records in other states
- allows exchange of hints about over-seas archives,
- and assists overseas researchers with Australian connections.

Information & subscription via:

<http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy/>

[It's the first link on the contents page]

Or send a blank email to
AJGensubscribe@listbot.com

Any enquiries please email
AJGenowner@listbot.com

Gary Luke
feraltek@zeta.org.au
Sydney, Australia

Sephardi Newsletter

**Vol 8 No.
1**



For those who are interested in receiving "*La Lettre Sèpharade*" (The Sephardi Newsletter) in English, which includes book reviews, musical offerings, and always at least a page in Ladino, the address:

LA LETTRE SÈPHARADE
P.O.Box 2450, Kensington MD 20891 USA
Fax (1) 301 530 1481
email:lettresepharade@earthlink.net

News From South Australia

**Jeannie
Susman**

**Vol 8 No.
1**



Our Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 14th 2001. The following members were elected to the Committee :

President Marjorie Luno
Vice-President Hilde Hines
Hon. Secretary Jeanie Susman
Treasurer Ben Carr
Hon. Archivist Dr Klee Benveniste

On behalf of the Branch, the President-Elect, Marjorie Luno paid tribute to the work of the retiring President, Hilde Hines who founded the S.A. Branch in 1996 and has been in office since then. Dr Klee Benveniste was acknowledged for her work as Secretary for the same period. In addition, she later undertook the responsibilities of Treasurer. She has agreed to oversee the archival and resource material of the Branch, which by agreement, is to be housed in one collection at the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation.

Hilde Hines up-dated members by presenting miscellaneous letters and notifications she had received. It is intended to make plans for interesting activities this year such as inviting speakers for future meetings.

Enquiries should be addressed to :
Dr Klee Benveniste ,
A.JGS (SA Branch), c/- Adelaide Hebrew Cong.
P.O. Box 320, Glenside. S.A. 5065

The South Australian Branch contact is :
Marjorie Luno, President ,
AJGS (S.A. Branch), c/- Beit Shalom Synagogue,
P.O. Box 47, Stepney. SA 5069

Jewish Research in Bulgaria		Vol 8 No. 1		
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The Bulgarian Research Guide is a handbook for searching the civil registrations of Bulgaria. These records contain births, marriages and deaths of the Jewish population during the World War 11 years (when Bulgaria became a safe-haven for European Jews), as well as, prior and subsequent years.

The Research Guide has complete language aids and detailed instructions for using records in the Family History Library of the Genealogical Society of Utah. It contains forms for writing to the Regional Archives in Bulgaria to obtain records.

To order the Bulgarian Research Guide: Send your prepayment of \$39.50 (includes shipping and handling) to: Ivanova Publishing 134 East First Avenue #4, Salt Lake City, Utah 84103 USA

Introducing Viewmate	Susan King	Vol 8 No. 1		
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Advance your research with ViewMate!

A Jewishgen tool to help with analysis or translations of your graphic files, photos, letters, documents, book pages, maps, etc.

Do you have a need for analysis or translations of book titles, letters or gravestone photos? Do you have questions about old family photos, maps or book pages? ViewMate is JewishGen's newest tool, designed to supplement the written query, and help you to solve graphic riddles.

Here is an example of how it works. Follow along now with Jack, our demonstrator:

Jack finds an unidentified family photo with an inscription on the back, written in what appears to be Hebrew script.

He scans it on his home computer system, creating a graphic file.

Then he goes to the ViewMate (VM) website.

Using the easy upload feature, he uploads his graphic file to VM. Jack soon receives an e-mail.

He then posts a notice to the JewishGen Discussion Group (or SIG of his choice) stating that he has uploaded a photo to VM.

He requests someone knowledgeable in Hebrew to visit the VM website, view his graphic (File No. X) and translate it for him.

An eager reader will be quick to provide feedback. Eager reader responds with translation. Riddle solved. Jack adds new info to his tree.

Its as easy as 1-2-3.

- 1- Scan on your home computer system.
- 2- Upload to ViewMate.
- 3- Request feedback.

You are invited to visit us today to make use of this newest JewishGen tool. The site has FAQ and full

ViewMate website: <http://www.jewishgen.org/viewmate>

Original concept: Bernard I. Kouchel

Programmer: Josef A. Herz

Webmaster: Josef A. Herz

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www.jewishgen.org

Lithuanian Archive Addresses	Howard Margol	Vol 8 No. 1	
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Thanks, Howard Margol <HOMARGOL@aol.com> for providing this archive list in *YICHUS Y'ALL*.

1) Lietuvos Valstybes Istorijos Archyvas, (Lithuanian State Historical Archives)

Gerosios Vilties 10, 2009

Vilnius, Lithuania

Contains Pre-1915 vital records and some Revision Lists (census)

2) Lietuvos Centrinis Metriku Archyvas

(Lithuanian Central Civil Register Archives)

Kalinausko 2, 2600

Vilnius, Lithuania

Contains Post- 1915 vital records. (Also newly discovered Jewish vital records for a limited number of shtetlekh dating back to 1881)

3) Kauno Apygardos Archyvas

Maironio 28A, 3000

Kaunas, Lithuania

Contains Pre-1915 records - Revision Lists, Various types of tax Records, Guild Records, Court Records, and other types of records. All of the records were for the cities and towns formerly located in Kovno Gubernia (region) which, at one time, covered the largest part of Lithuania,

4) Panevezio Apygardos Archyvas

M. Valanciaus 3, 5319

Panevezys, Lithuania

Contains Post World War 11 records, ie, property records, tax records etc. for Panevezys and surrounding area. (Write to them in Lithuanian or Russian, They are unable to translate English)

5) Panevezio Skyrius Civilines Metrikacijos Archyvas

(Civil Register Archive)

Respublikos 25

Panevezys, Lithuania

Contains Post World War 1 vital records for Panevezys and surrounding area. Also, newly discovered vital records for the area surrounding Panevezys dating back to 1881.

(Write to them in Lithuanian or Russian. They are unable to translate English.)

Former Detainees in Manly Quarantine Station

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Natalie Hartog is researching for a project on the Manly Quarantine Station in Sydney and is looking for former detainees, even if only very short term, of the quarantine station.

Write to: Natalie Hartog,
PO Box 551, Newport, NSW 2106

Partial Lists of Internees at Vichy French Internment Camp of La Meyze, Haute Vienne, 1943-1945

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This small internment camp for Jewish refugees and Spanish Republican Civil War refugees was in the centre of France, in the area of Limoges. It was one of the few Vichy era internment camps from which few Jews were deported, because the camp Commandant, a French officer, opposed it. This list has never been published before. It reflects the variety of national backgrounds of Jewish refugees in France during World War II. The inmates were mostly women. The male names are mostly children. No birth dates or birth places are available.(Ed.)

GORKINE Chana	Polish
GOETZ Erica	German
GELLIN Eleonore	German
GLASBERG Rachel	Polish
GUMBINSKI Ruth	German

HOLZER Moritz	German
HOLZER Hermine	German
HEVIA Candido	Spanish
HEVIA Ines	Spanish
HEVIA José	Spanish
HEVIA Maria-Louise	Spanish
HEVIA Libertad	Spanish
HEVIA Palmira	Spanish
HIRSCH Laura	German
HIRSCHEL Erna	German
HERCBAUM Matla	Polish
HECHT Cela	Belgian
IZQUIERDO Ubaldo	Spanish
IZQUIERDO Milegros	Spanish
IZQUIERDO Ubaldo	Spanish
JAKUBOWICZ Hava	Polish
JAKUBOWICZ Lazare	French
JUDENBERG Sarah	Roumanian
KUHDORF Pierre	French
KUHDORF Gisele	French
KONCZATY Pinches	Polish
KLEIN Bernard	Hungarian
KLEIN Rose	Hungarian
KANTYN Sarah	indeterminate
KEMPINSKI Bertha	Polish
KOTKOWSKI Elsa	Polish
KNOPF Hansi	Polish
KLISSMANN Gita	Polish
KANNER Amelia	German
KOPELMAN Israel	Polish
LEW Rachel	Polish
LUCIO-LOPEZ Maria	Spanish
LUCIO-CORADA Louis	Spanish
LUCIO-CORADA Sinaita	Spanish
LIPSZYZ Henoch	Polish
LOPEZ André	Spanish
LOPEZ Helène	Spanish
LOEB Max	German
LOEB Bertha	German
LAX Renalka	Hungarian
LEVIE Anna	German
LAZAR Gisele	Roumanian
LANZ Sarah	Polish
LION Betty	German
LEWIN Chaw	Russian
MESPEROSA Petra	Spanish

MARX Maurice	German
MARX Jeannine	German
MILLERA Joaquin	Spanish
MILLERA Puyal Josephine	Spanish
MESPEROSA Josi	Spanish
MERMELSTEIN Erna	Czech
ORTIZ-BARBERO Alesandre	Spanish
ORTIZ-LOPEZ Juan	Spanish
POU-COMAS Andre	Spanish
POU-GAVALDA Conchita	Spanish
PARC Charles	Russian
PERELMANN Louis	Polish
PERELMANN Golda	Polish
PISA Maurice	Turkish
PISA Emilie	Turkish
PONSE Joseialia	Spanish
PONS-TRALLERO Louis	Spanish
PEREZ-GARCIA Narcisse	Spanish
PEREZ-PRADA Anna	Spanish
PEREZ-PRADA Narcisse	Spanish
PRESSNITZER Fanny	Polish
PRESSNITZER René	Polish
RABEY Maica	Russian
RABEY Pinchas	Russian
ROZANSKI Ida	French
REFUL Hudes	Russian
REFUL Jacqueline	French
RAMIREZ-DIAZ Francisco	Spanish
RAMIREZ-DIAZ Feliciana	Spanish
RAMIREZ-DIAZ Micaela	Spanish
RAMIREZ-DIAZ Diego	Spanish
RAMIREZ-DIAZ Isabel	Spanish
REICH Albert	Hungarian
REICH Louise	Hungarian
ROSENTHAL Amelie	Czech
ROSENTHAL Claud-Michel	Polish
ROSENTHAL Joseph	Polish
RYBS Szlanda	Polish
RUSS Tilli	Polish
SALOMON Maximilian	German
SADBA Jose	Spanish
SANCHEZ-MARTIN Miguel	Spanish
SANCHEZ-GOMEZ Angelis	Spanish
SANCHEZ Leonore	Spanish
SANCHEZ Manuel	Spanish
SANCHEZ Miguel	Spanish

SANCHEZ Carmen	Spanish
SANCHEZ Angelis	Spanish
SANCHEZ Maaria	Spanish
SANCHEZ Antonio	Spanish
SKORECKA Czarna	Polish
SKORECKI Louis	young child Polish
STEINMETZ Bertha	Austrian
SCHAPIRA Bella	Romanian
SWICZARCIK Enia	Polish
SWICZARCIK Sarah	French
SWICZARCIK Madeleine	French
SCHARTENBERG Herman	Austrian
SCHARTENBERG Marianne	Austrian
SCHICK Karl	Austrian
SCHICK Grete	Austrian
SCHICK Herbert	Austrian
SALMON Emma	German
SOMMER Helène	German
SOMMER Ilse	German
SCHREIBER Moses	Polish
TROUBIZINE Wladimir	Russian
TUDELA-SANCHEZ Mariano	Spanish
TRAUBE David	Polish
WEINBERGER Otto	Czech
WISCHNIAK Bandla	Polish
WOHLMANN Martin	Hungarian
WOHLMANN Henny	Rumanian
WASSERMANN Perla	Polish
WASSERMANN Bella	Polish
WANNE Mendel	Polish
ZILBERBERG Aranka	Polish
ZILBERBERG Maurice	Polish
ZILBERBERG David	Polish
ZLOCZOWER Marcel	Rumanian
ZLOCZOWER Sophie	Rumanian

The Hobart Jewish Community will celebrate the bicentenary of the founding of Tasmania together with the rest of Tasmania from January 2003 to December 2004.

As part of their effort they are planning a public-ation on the Jews of Tasmania and they have in-vided members of our Society to contribute articles, even those they

have previously had published elsewhere. These articles should be of historical or genealogical interest and include reference notes.

For further information and to send completed articles, please contact:

Peter Elias,
96 Nelson Rd, Mount Nelson, Tasmania, 7007,
tel: (03) 6225 2671
E-mail: peterelias@trump.net.au

There are now two congregations in Hobart, luckily both able to share the synagogue:

The contacts for Orthodox Services are David and Pnina Clark on (03) 6223 7116

The contact for Progressive Services is Ruth Riesebeck on (03) 6228 2871

For those who want to visit the historic Hobart Synagogue, built in 1845 and still in use, at times other than when services are held - and even at relatively short notice - the contact phone numbers are:

(03) 6225 2671
6248 7442
6228 4097
6228 2871
6243 0050

As they are very small community and have to bear the ongoing upkeep costs of the synagogue, they have decided to ask for a minimum donation of at least \$25 (for up to 4 people) for opening the synagogue.

**News From Western
Australia**

**Michelle
Urban**

**Vol 8 No.
1**



Season's greetings and I wish all members and friends a Happy Year of 2001.

Our last meeting on Sunday 25th February at 2.00 pm was held in the Perth Hebrew Synagogue foyer, Cnr Plantation & Freedman Sts, Menora. Two very dynamic and vibrant people, Carole (nee Abadee) and Marvin Feldman, shared with us their ancestry and experiences of life here in Australia and the good ole' U.S.A.

Last August 2000, we had our very own brilliant Genealogist Gillian O'Mara as our guest speaker sharing with us how to use available genealogical records in which to find our ancestors and learn how to research vital records (birth, death and marriage), shipping lists, naturalisation applications, overseas data bases, the JewishGen Family Finder, surname dictionaries, old maps and so on. Another workshop is lined up for Sunday 26th August 2001.

On 26th November 2000 our guest speaker was our very own talented Mike Ross who showed us what information is on the Computer and Internet. He showed us how to research our ancestry and brought to our attention items that appear in

various Jewish Discussion Groups including sharing some of his own experiences of receiving and researching and providing useful contacts for those wishing to find out about their own families.

With so much information available we had to stop the 3 hour workshop and will carry on at our next workshop

On Sunday, 20th May 2001 we shall be given an in-depth talk by a member of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, more commonly known as the Mormons. She will be speaking on what is available and where to go for information from their enormous selection of data. This will be held at PHC foyer at 2.00pm.

Most exciting news! We shall have a visit from a Canadian David Jacobs, who is visiting Australia, first Sydney and then Perth near the end of October, before flying on to Johannesburg. He is a descendant of Isadore Theodore KRAKOUER, who was one of the first Jewish convicts in Western Australia. Isadore arrived on the Mermaid in 1851 and a year later his 'wife' Brina ISRAEL arrived. David is a descendant of one of their nine children. When I get an actual date I will notify you with this information.

Enquiries can be directed to:

Michelle Urban

Tel:08-9375-3874 Fax:08-9375-3574

Email:urban@wantree.com.au

News from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 8 No.		
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The summer holiday season has interrupted our activities for 2001. Our first meeting for the new year was a 'EUREKA!' Evening held on Wednesday, 14th February 7.30 pm at Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre. This provided an opportunity for members to share their recent family history discoveries, new internet sites for research and any other genealogical matters of interest.

Our regular Beginner's Workshop was held on Sunday, March 4th, 2.00 pm- 4.00 pm. There was a demonstration on using the Internet for research as well as individual assistance to those starting out or having specific research problems.

The Australian Association of Jewish Studies held its annual conference in Sydney on the 11th and 12th February at Shalom College. Lionel Sharpe and Krystyna Duszniak from Melbourne participated in a genealogical discussion group with Sydney AJGS colleagues as part of the program.

Forthcoming Meeting Dates for meetings are: Wednesday, 28 March, Wednesday, 18 April at 7.30 pm and a Beginner's Workshop, Sunday, 6 May at 2.00 pm.

One of our members Dr. Michael Abramson has just published a small monograph entitled: "*The Golden Rod: Operations by Revd S. Greenbaum*". It gives a detailed listing of Brit Milah performed between 1882 and 1891 in Melbourne. Also listed are circumcision names and dates for 1893 - 1915.

Enquiries:

Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738
sharpe@labyrinth.net.au
Les Oberman (03)9571 8251
oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au
See our home page on: www.melbourne.net/csaky/AJGSmainpage.htm

Canberra Corner**Sylvia
Deutsch****Vol 8 No.
1**

Planning is presently under way re genealogy activities during 2001. Local members will be notified individually once details are confirmed. Please direct enquiries to Sylvia Deutsch on 6248-6196.

Occasionally interesting genealogical information and requests are received by email. If you would like these forwarded please advise your email address to:

Sylvia Deutsch - tel/fax: 02-6248-6196
or email: deutand@ozemail.com.au.

Editorial**Sophie
Caplan****Vol 8 No.
2**

It is raining and it's cold and it's Shavuot, the Festival of the Giving of the Law to Moses and of the First Fruits and early harvest. The only disadvantage of living in our southern hemi-sphere is that the symbolism associated with our religious festivals is topsy-turvy: dairy products when it's cold, and latkes (potato pancakes) in summer.

Our Annual General Meeting was in March and we now have a new treasurer, Gary Luke, and a new membership chairman, Greta James, while Terry Newman and Philip Baynash have retired. We still have no honorary Secretary, but would welcome a new one even now.

Helen Bersten spoke to us of some unusual genealogical problems brought to her, and it is always pleasing to see a sizeable crowd of members at the AGM.

Your committee has been unable to think of any suitable speakers for more frequent talks and would be very glad if our members knew of an interesting genealogical topic or speaker, or if they themselves were prepared to give us a talk about their research or their successes. Indeed we would welcome some interesting articles for this newsletter in September.

We have an interesting speaker from Canada lined up for Sunday 14th October, but the exact time and venue are still to be announced. The speaker is David Montefiore Jacobs of Vancouver, whose whole ancestry is Jewish Australian and goes back to convicts from England to Western Australia: Theodore Krakouer and his wife, Betty Israel.

Speaking of Jewish convicts there is a new and interesting exhibition at the A.M. Rosenblum Museum which is part of Great Synagogue at 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. This is "Waves of Immigration," depicting the story of Jewish immigration to

Australia via five families which arrived in different eras and which are still part of the Australian scene and of the Jewish community. The first family is that of convict Abraham Reuben which still has descendants in Sydney and in Brisbane, including Ron Reuben and his children, and the Golovskys and the Silvertons. Then there are the descendants of Charles Aaron of India, which include the first Jews in Sydney's North Shore, the late beloved Aaron Aaron who fought the cause for Sephardi immigrants in the 1950's White Australia policy, and his brother Reuben Aaron who founded Sydney's Sephardi Synagogue. There is also the family of Elias Green, formerly Gruenbaum, whose descendants include Israel Green of the Great synagogue and the Founder of Central Synagogue, all cousins to David Ben Gurion, first Prime Minister of modern Israel.


The first copies of the CD-ROM "Family Tree of the Jewish People" have been received by those members who ordered them at \$42 each. We hope to publish next time an account of its usefulness.

On 2nd September our usual workshop will be replaced by a special morning focusing on German Jewish genealogical research with books on Germany from our library and from the personal libraries of several members available for perusal. Professor Konrad Kwiet will give a talk on the history of Jews in Germany and Sophie Caplan will speak on the usefulness of books published by Christian-Jewish Friendship Societies in Germany in the last three decades.

Several members from Sydney and Melbourne will be attending the International Jewish Genealogical Conference in London from 8 - 13 July, with some members already in England. In our September issue we will bring you a report on the Conferences.

It is now definite that the 2002 Conference will take place in Toronto, Canada.

All the Best
Sophie Caplan, Editor

How to Choose Genealogical Software	Phillip Baynash	Vol 8 No. 2		
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This article discusses how to select a Genealogical Software package. It is **not** a review of various packages. The best way to review and compare packages is to see them demonstrated on a computer and a workshop devoted to Genealogical Software packages will be arranged in Sydney in the near future.

Genealogical software is such a boon and such an essential aid to recording, managing and presenting your family history information that it is difficult to understand why anyone would choose to do it all manually. Benefits include that it:

- imposes a recording standardisation and discipline because the availability of information boxes on the data entry screen encourages the collection and entry of information.

- enables the creation and recreation of lists and charts at the press of a button after a new item of information has been included.
- makes communication of your information with others so much easier.

There is no one perfect system and many genealogists find they have to use several systems to get all the facilities they want. Each has its strengths and weaknesses and in the end it depends on your requirements and what features appeal to you.

Basic Purposes

You must first decide what you want of your system. This could be to:

- record basic information and family relationships.
- review and refer to information on the screen.
- print out listings and charts.
- exchange information with family etc.
- generate "books" and other reports.

Is the system to be the sole repository of all genealogical information? Is its main purpose to display information or to produce reports and charts.

What issues should you consider?

- What items can you record - standard and optional? Is burial information one of the standard items? Is there scope to record bar/bat mitzvah information?
- How large are the fields? Is there enough room for a complex name or place description or will you be forced to use drastic abbreviations?
- Can you change the field names? It is all very well to be able to record date and place information about a bar mitzvah, but are you saddled with a field name that says "Christening"?
- Can you add fields? You might want to record causes of death or hereditary diseases. Will the package let you do this?
- Can you have multiple occurrences of an event? Can you record multiple occurrences of residence, occupation or education identified by date or are you limited to entering the latest one or having to select the most important one?
- Can you record/attach photos, video images and audio records?
- Does the package offer facilities for recording research projects? Does it handle correspondence?
- What is the quality of the display? Is there enough information on the main display? Can you see details of the current couple and parents and children without moving to another screen layout?
- What reports and charts are available?
- Can reports and charts be tailored?
- Does it offer GEDCOM data exchange facilities? GEDCOM is a standardised system for moving data between different packages. It is important because you may need to use more than one package to get the results you want and also because it is quite likely that you may outgrow your first package and want to move on to something more sophisticated.

- What flavour do you want? There are two Jewish packages - *DoroTree* and *Ilanot*. There are several Australian-oriented systems - *Relatively Yours*, *Ezitree* and *My Family History*.

There are a number of books on selecting Genealogical Software. SAG publishes "Computers for Genealogy" which is worthwhile and inexpensive.

The following web sites deal with selection of packages.

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

<http://www.mumford.ab.ca/reportcard/index.htm>

Software sources

These include:

- Mail order firms both in Australia and overseas. Gould Books in Adelaide publish a particularly good catalogue. They can be contacted at:

P O Box 126, Gumeracha, SA 5233

(08) 8389-1611

orders@gould.com.au

www.gould.com.au

- Computer shops such as Harvey Norman (preferably the larger shops) and Electronics Boutique. They tend to stock a limited range which includes both high quality titles and very basic packages not really worth considering. I doubt whether the average computer shop would have the knowledge and ability to offer good advice. Their prices are often quite competitive and they are worthwhile considering after you have reviewed your choices.
- Small dealers such as Phil Young at Ancestral Computer Co in Glebe (9692-9322) and the SAG shop in Kent Street in the city (9247-3953). They often able to offer informed and meaningful advice.
- The Internet and particularly Cyndi's List (at www.cyndislist.com/) is the best source of both information and systems. Cyndi's List is an unbelievable structured site containing over 90,000 links arranged under titles such as:
 - o Census Tools & Information
 - o Citing Sources
 - o Jewish
 - o Immigration & Naturalisation.

(Phillip Baynash recently retired as our member-ship chairman after several years. His knowledge of computers and the internet is profound. Ed.)

Sephardic SIG

Joyce Field

**Vol 8 No.
2**



JewishGen is more than pleased, it is overjoyed to announce its newest web site. This new site is SephardicSIG: Sephardic Genealogy at JewishGen, <http://www.jewishgen.org/sephardicsig>.

It is hosted by Jeffrey S. Malka. Sefard Forum: E-mail Discussion Group For Researchers Of SephardicGenealogy, the SIG's companion mail list, will continue to be coordinated by Bernard Kouchel. If you are not already a subscriber, see details at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/SefardForum.htm>.

JewishGen has long wanted an important Sephardic web site like Jeff's "Resources for Sephardic genealogy," so when he agreed to move his award-winning site (Jewish Agency Top 10 and Britannica 2 Stars) to JewishGen, you can imagine our elation.

Recently retired, Jeff has been busy redesigning his site for weeks in preparation for the JewishGen launch. His goal of expanding Sephardic research opportunities meshes with JewishGen's objectives. JewishGen recognizes that there are no boundaries in the Jewish family and that developing new sites enhance everyone's understanding and appreciation of Jewish history and its magnificent diversity. Jeff's belief that the Sephardic definition should include both Ladino- and non-Ladino-speaking Jews, as well as Mizrahim and other non-Ashkenazi Jews the world over, will bring to JewishGen a wealth of new material from which we will all benefit. If we grasp that Sephardic Jews were 90% of all Jewry through the 12th Century, we can see how Sephardic research can expand our horizons.

Susan King said in a welcoming message to Jeff: "Many of us have Sephardic roots that we were not aware of it until we began our research. Please know that we welcome you and look forward to a long-standing relationship that will benefit the JewishGen community and allow us to expand and broaden our knowledge and understanding of our Sephardic heritage!!!"

I am sure that all of you are as excited as we are. We extend a hearty welcome to Jeff Malka and look forward to new horizons for Sephardic research.

Joyce Field
JewishGen V.P. Research
jfield@nlci.com

President's Report, from 9th AGM	Sophie Caplan	Vol 8 No. 2		
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I would like to welcome all present: members and spouses, present and past committee members, and our guest speaker for tonight, Helen Bersten, my colleague from the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

Our total paid membership at present stands at 143, down from last December. At least two of our members have died during the year 2000, Barbara Curthoys of Sydney and Ralph Kaiser of Adelaide. Some Members pay later in the year, and unfortunately not everyone who has joined us for a year or two renews their membership. Also some members omit to inform us of their change of address and, despite our best efforts to find them again through Telstra, or our local contacts, they stay lost.

Most of our members reside in NSW, but we have small groups in Perth, where the group is also affiliated with the W.A. branch of the Australian Jewish Historical Society; or in Adelaide, where the group is now 12-13 strong and where the leadership has recently changed and been reinvigorated. Majorie Luno, a descendant of the famous Rabbi Boaz, has now assumed the chairmanship of the group, succeeding Hilde Hines, and Jeanie Susman has become the honorary secretary and Resources Chairman, and there is also a new treasurer following on the death of Ralph Kaiser. Michelle Urban, the chairman of the Perth group, had brief stays in Sydney in mid-December and last week, when each time Miriam Shifreen and I entertained her at a meal, and answered her queries.

The Canberra group is chaired by Sylvia Deutsch, and the Brisbane group by Morris Ochert, in each case, as with Hilde Hines, people who are deeply involved in their local Jewish community, with many communal responsibilities apart from our Society, which makes them very knowledgeable and valuable to us, but also greatly overworked, and thus sometimes unable to do a great deal for our Society.

In Victoria the Society has now been independent for several years, and thriving. The President is Leslie Oberman, and Lionel Sharpe is the Honorary Secretary and Research Officer. In Melbourne they have the advantage of a larger base of Jewish population and of committee members who live within a radius of five to ten minutes' travel from each other's homes. They continue to subscribe to the "Kosher Koala" which is sent to them in bulk and distributed by them, and we co-operate in that I inform them of prospective speakers who can also come to Melbourne. They also produce their own quarterly "Jewish Genealogy Down Under", which is excellent, though different in format and in emphasis.

We suffer from the fact that our membership is geographically widely spread, and that therefore our members have much greater distances to travel for any lecture, workshop, or committee meeting.

This year we held twelve workshops, one every month including January, when we had never held one before. It was a success in numbers, though we did not attract the teachers and others who usually find it hard to attend in term time. Our workshops this past year have been opened by David Landor, with many other committees members attending to help.

In May 2000 we were not invited to participate in SAG's SHOWCASE, as they rotated their invitation to other genealogical groups, and "Chanukah in the Park" did not take place in view of community security concerns. As we generally pick up some new members at these occasions, this was a matter for regret.

We did participate at the Australian Association for Jewish Studies conference held at Shalom College on 11th and 12th February, with Gary Luke, Rieke and Peter Nash, Lionel Sharp, and an expert in Polish Archives from Melbourne, all presenting a joint session. Unfortunately, apart from the session with the keynote speaker, Professor Yehuda Bauer, the conference was not well attended, though many sessions were excellent.

In this past year we held a number of lectures by suitable guest speakers. Two were held in conjunction with the Sydney Jewish Museum in its theatrette. One was our own Peter Nash on "Escape To and From Shanghai", a talk enriched by his own childhood experiences and in July 2000 Professor Yomtov Assis of the Hebrew University who was visiting Sydney spoke on "Sephardi Culture After the Expulsion from Spain and from Portugal". Our third speaker spoke in this hall in late November. He was Robert Heyman, of the USA embassy in Canberra, who is presently one of our members, on "How To Use the USA Census and other US Government Archives in Jewish Genealogy".

I can already announce our speaker for Sunday 14th October 2001, David Montefiore Jacobs, a witty and knowledgeable man with Australian Jewish convict roots, from Vancouver, Canada, on "Aaron Hart's Children, Jewish Genealogical Research in Canada". We had arranged this lecture at the Sydney Jewish Museum, but with the recent sudden change of Museum Director this is being renegotiated and may take place in this hall. Please note the date and watch the "Kosher Koala" for the time and place.

Recently I gave a talk on "The Importance of Family History and Genealogy" to the Jewish Council on the Ageing, and this triggered such interest that I suggested a follow-up invitation to Gary Luke on the topic of genealogical websites, which they immediately followed up. I doubt whether this will result in many new older members, but it awoke their interest. I have also recently given a well-received talk to a Sephardi group at the Sephardi Synagogue on "The Origins of the Sephardim of France and of England".

The major book on how to do Jewish Genealogy around the world, to which Peter Nash contributed a chapter on Shanghai, and I, one on Jewish immigration waves to Australia, developments of Jewish communities, books and archives touching Jews in Australia, and which was due to come out early in 2000, has been held up by the lateness of some leading contributors.

We have continued to purchase major books on diverse topics connected with Jewish genealogy, which are listed in the *Kosher Koala* shortly after acquisition, and we continue to receive the journals of the Victorian Society and overseas Jewish genealogical societies. One major concern is how few of our members avail themselves of the regular monthly workshops which are free to members and therefore miss out on using the wealth of resources which we hold.

Another major concern is the rising cost of mailing overseas copies of the *Kosher Koala* to all overseas Jewish genealogical societies. I have explained the problem and how we are endeavouring to solve it in a major article in the last edition of the *Kosher Koala*.

Last year we only produced three issues of the *Kosher Koala*, in lieu of the usual four per annum, due to my participation as a volunteer in the Olympic Games, and a major illness of a close family member immediately afterwards.

The major problem we are now facing is the loss of two of our hardworking committee members after our election to-night. They gave us ample notice of this

over one year ago and we do have two people ready and able to step into their committee roles. But only one of them is a new committee member, the other having held a minor portfolio for several years. So unless there is a new nomination of which I have not heard, or a nomination by a volunteer from the floor tonight, there is one person less on the committee as from to-night. We have lacked an honorary secretary since last year's retirement of Reike Nash, so we do urgently need a few extra committee workers. Not all the jobs on the committee are arduous, but work shared by a greater number is lesser, and we need to keep up the numbers in order to service our members. We cannot continue to be a voluntary service organisation without more volunteer workers. All of us who have worked for several years will need replacements in the not too distant future. If we do not get proper replacements it is possible that this organisation will have to fold.


In the last year David Laufer has been Vice-president; Jeanette Tsoulos was Resources Librarian; Terry Newman was Treasurer, Philip Baynash was Membership Chairman; David Laufer was Minutes Secretary, and other committee members were Bernard Freedman, Gary Luke, and Kim Philips. And I was President and editor of the *Kosher Koala*.

Tonight David Laufer is stepping down as vice-president, though keeping his other responsibilities as Minutes Secretary at which he has excelled. Terry Newman is stepping down as Treasurer and Philip Baynash as Membership Chairman. We shall miss them both, as they have done excellent jobs on the committee and in their particular areas of responsibility and we have become good friends, Philip also making his home available for committee meetings in alternate months, Terry joined the committee at its inception in November 1991 and has been a stalwart in several roles. Philip has done a wonderful job of his duties. All the committee members have been of great help to me in my role as president.

Other members who for various reasons did not join the committee, have nevertheless filled important roles in the Society. Stuart Shaw, a previous Treasurer and Membership Chairman, has received our Society e-mail and faithfully faxed it to me once a week. Sometimes as much as forty pages! Miriam Shifreen has been a tower of strength as editorial committee member and publisher of the *Kosher Koala* and deserves my warm thanks and the appreciation of the whole Society. She was taught by Reike Nash and well taught, and she has been a most gifted pupil. I would also like to thank Glenda Goldberg and her mother, Sybil Goldberg who all the past year have helped with wrapping and preparing the *Kosher Koala* for postage.

Officially Rieke Nash, who stepped down from this committee last year, has not had a job with us. Unofficially Rieke in her usual unassuming and hard-working manner has supported Miriam in composing the pages of the *Kosher Koala*, in printing the postage labels, in preparing and posting the AGM notices and nomination forms. Rieke is an organiser par excellence, and she has continued to monitor everything. Rieke, we appreciate everything you have done and continue to do, and we wish you and Peter 'Nisia Tova' for your planned extended overseas trip. May all your plans and dreams for this trip work out and may you both make more startling and rewarding genealogical discoveries. And may you come back reinvigorated to join us again officially at the AGM in 2002.

Sophie Caplan, President

Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutsch	Vol 8 No. 2		
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Three genealogical workshops have been scheduled this year, as follows:

- Sunday 3 June
- Sunday 9 September
- Sunday 11 November

All sessions will be from 1.30-3.00 pm in the library at the National Jewish Memorial Centre, National Circuit, Forrest (corner of Canberra Ave.). These provide an opportunity for accessing the growing holdings and networking with other researchers. Future arrangements will be reviewed on the basis of demand this year.

A lecture on Jewish genealogy will be delivered to the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra by Sylvia Deutsch with Dr. Vernon Kronenberg also speaking on Jewish genealogy on the Internet, on Tuesday 7 August at 8.00pm. Thank you to AGJS president Sophie Caplan for help with preparation of this presentation.

Sylvia Deutsch - tel/fax: 02-6248-6196
or email: deutand@ozemail.com.au.

News from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 8 No. 2		
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Our usual monthly meeting at Beth Weizmann held on March 28th, featured Sue Macbeth of Macbeth Genealogical Services, Hampton, Victoria. 'MACBETHs' is a very well known genealogical service in Australia which provides a large range of products including software, books and other services such as searches relating to unclaimed estates, compensation claims and the like. It initiated the very first genealogical newsletter in Australia. Sue gave an overview of their products and outlined the approaches used for tracing beneficiaries of estates and restitution monies.

Popular and well known Melbourne identity Ephraim Finch was the guest speaker at the 3rd Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, May 16. Ephraim is the Executive Director of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha and was the first speaker to address the Society when it formed as a Branch of the AJGS in 1995.

He is amassing detailed genealogical records from families burying their loved ones and made a special plea to collect data from the living so that families will know the Hebrew names and other important information long before a funeral takes place. His topic was: "The Chevra Kadisha - An invaluable resource for genealogical research".

Elections were held and the following positions were filled on the committee of management.

President: Les Oberman

Vice-President: Enid Yoffa-Elton

Secretary: Lionel Sharpe
Treasurer: Kurt Friedlaender
Members: Dr David Cohen
Lewis Coleman
Ester Csaky
Leonie Fleiszig (Makor Liaison)
Bettye Susskind

Special thanks was extended to Lionel Sharpe who continues to edit the newsletter - 'Jewish Genealogy Downunder' and to the staff at Makor Jewish Community Library, for their work in looking after the resource collection. Thanks were also extended to retiring committee members, Penny Blankfield, Rodney Eisfelder and Gerald Shapiro.

Further meetings are planned for Wednesday, June 27 and July 25 and a Workshop on July 8.

Enquiries:


Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738

sharpe@labyrinth.net.au

Les Oberman (03)9571 8251

oberman@tmxmclb.mhs.oz.au

See our home page on: www.melbourne.net/csaky/AJGSmainpage.htm

Queensland Report	Morris S. Ochert	Vol 8 No. 2		
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In the period under review, I have been occupied with further research on three Queensland Jewish families of a century ago. They are:

- **The Dinte family.** H.B.Dinte donated to the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation, the famous silver and gold Yad with the diamonds set in it - the famous LEFT-HANDED YAD.
- **The Karnofsky family.** Myer Karnofsky brought with him a Sefer Torah from England to Australia. He settled in the Kangaroo Valley and used the Torah when he held services there. After his death, his niece kept it safely. When the Gold Coast Hebrew Congregation, was founded, her children donated it to the Synagogue.
- **The Heiser family.** The central figure was the lady with the exciting name of Dorothy Ivy Struckoil Heiser. The reason for that name has to do with the discovery of GOLD, not OIL

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Email: stirk@uq.net.au

The Great Galician Indexing Race Is On	Stanley Diamond	Vol 8 No. 2		
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It's what Galician researchers have been waiting for -- news of the next phase of the Jewish Records Indexing - Poland / AGAD Archives project. We are pleased to make that announcement now but it may not be what you were expecting!

With the enthusiastic support of the AGAD Archives branch of the Polish State Archives, JRI-Poland is launching a unique competition, the 'Great Galician Indexing Race.'

First, some background:

There are 2010 Jewish vital record registers for 90 towns in the AGAD Archives. The indexing of the records for the thirteen towns in Phase 1 (Tarnopol Area) is expected to be complete by the end of April 2001.

Initially, the plan was to index the records on an area by area basis. However, many researchers have approached JRI-Poland with a specific interest in one or more towns and some have volunteered to become Town Leaders for the fundraising needed.

In addition, past experience indicates that there will be towns for which there will be fewer researchers to support the indexing efforts, and therefore, raising funds to index the records for these towns will take much longer. Under 'area by area' indexing, these records would be left hanging, perhaps for an extended time.

Then, early in January it was learned that AGAD had taken possession of 65 additional registers (from the Warsaw Civil Records Office.) Not only are there later records for 39 towns (see updated table of available records), but for the first time, there are records for the towns of Zavalov (Zawalow) and Ivano Frankovo (Janow). Under the area by area plan, indexing of new registers for completed areas could be indefinitely delayed.

As a result, JRI-Poland sought to develop a system to simplify and expedite the entire AGAD archives project - the Great Galician Indexing Race.

The goal of the Great Galician Indexing Race is to challenge researchers to ensure that their town's records are indexed as soon as possible.

It's simple... indexing of a town's records will start as soon as 75% of the specific fundraising target for that town has been reached. When a town reaches the 50% mark, it will be added to the list of the NEXT towns to be indexed. (See details below as to how this works.)

The fundraising target is an estimate of the cost to index the town's records, based on a detailed inventory of the available records for the town. The AGAD Archives is participating by preparing these inventories as quickly as possible.

As of March 5th, inventories have been completed for 32 of the 90 towns (includes the 11 towns in Area 1 - Tarnopol) and the years and the number of records available for indexing is detailed in the table below.

JRI-Poland is pleased to announce that Mark Halpern, Archive Coordinator for the initial AGAD project (Tarnopol area #1) has agreed to take on the major task of coordinating the phase 2 "Great Galician Indexing Competition."

If you want to help JRI-Poland get the records for your town indexed, read all about the role of Town Leader and then contact Mark Halpern at Willie46@aol.com. Your name and email address will be inserted beside the Town Name in the table on the AGAD Archives page on the JRI-Poland web site: www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/agad

Town Leaders who successfully lead the fund-raising for their town's records will be eligible to receive an Excel file with all the indices to all the records for their town.

Researchers contributing the qualifying donation - or more - will also be eligible to receive the full Excel file for that town. Qualifying donations will be determined (by JRI-Poland and the Archive Coordinator) as a percentage of the fundraising target for each town.

The 'rules' of the competition:

1. A town name will be added to the indexing list after 50% of the funds have been received.
2. Indexing will NOT start on the town until 75% of the funds have been received. If the 75% mark has not been reached and it is that town's turn for index-ing, it will be jumped by the next town on the list! It will maintain its second place position but can be jumped each time the town behind it reaches 75%.
3. Large towns for which the fundraising target exceeds \$3000 may be divided into two or more 'indexing units' based on type of record and/or group of years. Each unit will be considered a 'separate town' for the purpose of this competition. The indexing unit will be determined by the Town Leader in consultation with qualifying contributors but indexing will typically start with marriage records - if available.
4. If no town has reached the 75% fundraising mark, JRI-Poland will decide which, if any town, will be next to be indexed.
5. The town's indices will be added to the database once 100% of the funds have been received.

However, the Town Leader and qualifying contributors will have access to Excel file for that town for their own personal research.

So, if you want to see the indices to your town's records, now is the time to volunteer to be Town Leader or, if you wish, just send in your donation.

Send your contributions or address your questions concerning donations to:
Jewish Records Indexing, Inc.
c/o Sheila Salo, Treasurer
5607 Greenleaf Road
Cheverly, MD 20785 USA

Telephone / Fax: (301) 341-1261
E-Mail: ssalo@capaccess.org

Your cheques should indicate the town name for which the money is being donated. If your contribution is not for a specific town, please indicate "general indexing."

Visa contributions may also be telephoned to Sheila Salo. (Only between the hours of 8:00 am - 8:00 pm EDT/EST, please).

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to Jewish Records Indexing - Poland are tax-deduct-ible in the U.S. to the extent permitted by law.

Stanley Diamond
Project Coordinator, Jewish Records Indexing - Poland
SMSDIAMOND@aol.com

**Preparing Your Family
Records for the London
Conference**

**Roberta
Wagner
Berman**

**Vol 8 No.
2**



Bring your family information up-to-date. Go through your stacks of papers, notes and backs of envelopes that have family information written on them that you haven't yet recorded on your family group charts, pedigree charts and/or genealogy software program and record that information.

Once you've done bringing your charts up-to-date study them and decide what information you still need. Keeping in mind the libraries and archives of London, and the books and records that are available, go through your records carefully and decide what you will look for at each research site.

Set a research goal. This can as simple as "I'm going to find grandpa's birth record." You may have more than one goal. Make a to-do list based on your goal or goals and list them in order.

What should you take with you?

1. To-do list.
2. Family information-enough information to recognize your family. Have this in some sort of order - index cards, fact sheets, pedigree charts, descendant charts, family group sheets - what works best for you.
3. Alphabetical list of surnames and places (with spelling variations) for use in checking indexes. Also code names and places by the Daitch/Mokotov Soundex system.
4. Map of your ancestral town and the surroundings
5. Spiral notebook or legal pad in folder - no loose papers! Keep your research notes separate from the notes you take at lectures. A spiral notebook with two sections is good for this. If you get a notebook that has an envelope or pocket you can use it for the papers that you will be collecting.

6. Magnifying glass, pens, pencils - some archives and libraries don't allow pens be used so always have pencils with you. And erasers.
7. Tape recorders (?) - At most of the conference I have attended, the lectures were taped professionally and the quality was superior to the portable recorder I had with me. At some of the conferences taping by participants was not allowed. However, you may want to bring one anyway. Even professional tape recorders sometimes have problems, and more importantly you may discover a long-lost cousin living in London or attending the conference and you will want to record your conversation.
8. Camera and film. You will want to have a pictorial record of the new friends you make at the conference. And don't forget that long-lost cousin you will find.

Recording your information at a research site.- The first entry (on your legal pad or in your notebook) is the date. Then the name of the research site, followed by the name of the record or book, and the film number, catalogue number, call number, page number, etc. Your notation must include enough information so that anyone else looking at your notes will be able to go directly to your source and find exactly what you found. If you keep your research notes in an orderly fashion, they can go directly into your research log when you get home. Some people bring the last two or three pages of their research log with them and record their notes directly onto the research log.

Be prepared to put faces to names you have seen in articles, on Jewishgen or have been corresponding with and to meet hundreds of kindred souls and genealogy addicts who want nothing more than to be able to talk genealogy at meals, over a cup of tea, in the lobby, on a bus, and at research sites non-stop from Sunday to Friday.

**Saving Memories, History,
Home Video and Movies for
ScreenSound Australia**

**Vol 8 No.
2**



ScreenSound Australia, the National Screen and Sound Archive, is collecting Australian home movies. And not just the funny ones!

ScreenSound aims to document the lifestyles, cultures and traditions of all Australians by collecting a representative sample of domestic and amateur film and video. We collect amateur films of events that are important, either to Australia's history, or, the people who shot the film. This can mean anything from Olympic runners to school races, parades, rallies, natural disasters, holidays, ceremonies and celebrations of all kinds.

The scope of home movie making is as limitless as the people who make them. Some are shot on film, some on video. Some are records of special events like weddings, some are scripted like mini-movies, some are made for time-capsules. The wonderful thing about home movies is their ability to show everyday life, just the way it is.

Many people don't realise that ScreenSound also collects contemporary material - we're not just interested in the 'old' films. This is because ScreenSound is itself like a

big time-capsule - we need to collect the film and video today, so that it will be preserved for tomorrow.

Please help the National Collection of Screen and Sound to be a truly representative one - a collection that will represent the Jewish - Australian community as strongly as any other, and preserve the customs, lifestyles and memories of multicultural Australians for generations to come.

How can you help?

You can donate home movies or videos to the National Collection at ScreenSound Australia, or you can lend us a video to make a copy, if you don't want to part with precious memories.

To make a donation or query, please contact:

Stephanie Boyle,
ScreenSound Australia
McCoy Circuit, Acton ACT 2601
(GPO Box 2002, Canberra 2601)
Tel: 02 6248 2178,
Fax: 02 6248 2167,
Email: stephanie.boyle@screensound.gov.au


We will accept reverse charge calls, and can cover postage or freight charges.

If you are dropping us a line, please include your name and contact details, and

- What is the format of your donation (e.g. 8mm film? VHS?) How many reels/cassettes?
- When and where was it shot? Who is in it?
- What is the condition of the material (Have you viewed it lately?)

For more information on-ScreenSound Australia, check our website:

<http://www.screensound.gov.au>


JewishGen Mall	Sandy and Don Hirshhorn	Vol 8 No. 2	
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The latest word from JewishGen, Inc. is that their new on-line shopping mall found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jewishgenmall> now contains over 600 books. Titles are found in such diverse categories as Genealogy How-To, Dictionaries and Language Study, Holocaust, Passengers, Ports and Ships, as well as Biography/ Memoir and Travel. Under History (including countries and regions) material can be found on almost every country and the mall managers are always searching for more.


To give you an idea of the scope of the mall, when you take a look at Passengers, Ports and Ships you'll find 84 titles. Under Sephardic, there are currently 37 books. Travel, which contains books seldom found on the average bookshelf, presently contains 18 books, including everything from A Travel Guide to Jewish Russia and Ukraine to United States Jewish Travel Guide.

Thinking about brushing up on your Hebrew or even learning Yiddish? Take a look at Dictionaries and Language Study. You'll find lots of options. If you prefer, you can learn via a CD-Rom. Just click on Software. While you're there, consider using Doro-Tree as your genealogical program. It permits the use of Hebrew and Yiddish unlike any other family tree program. Your purchases support JewishGen so they can continue to support your research efforts.

*Sandy and Don Hirschhorn
Managers, JewishGen Mall*

New Book in Our Library	Sophie Caplan	Vol 8 No. 2		
<p><i>THE BOOK OF DESTINY, TOLEDOT CHARLAP</i> by Arthur F. Menton, published in Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. in 1996, and its companion <i>ANCILLA TO TOLEDOT CHARLAP</i> also by Arthur Menton, published in 1999 in the same place, are large books of genealogical information with Family trees, photos, charts, and Family stories about a large group of connected families with a claim of descending from King David. These families are mainly from the Pale of Settlement, Lithuania, Byelorussia, and Ukraine, and many emigrated to USA, Canada or Israel, but also some like Talia Goldberg and Nate Zusman live in Sydney. Originally descended from Charlap there are also other large clans represented -Adler, Atlas, Beinisch, Bekier, Berko-vitz, Blumberg, Braun/Brown, Budovitch, Cohen, Danovitz, Fefferkrantz, Sier, the Rudzkis in South Caulfield, Pasternak, Smolarczyk, Weinstein, and many many others. A treasure trove if your family is connected.</p>				

Donated to the Society Library in Sydney by Sophie Caplan

News From South Australia	Helen Twersky-Steiner	Vol 8 No. 2		
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On Tuesday May 1st, members met at the home of our President, Marjorie Luno.

The Guest Speaker was Catherine Freriks, the Tracing Officer for the Australian Red Cross (S.A.). She is the sole officer in South Australia and has been involved with the Red Cross for thirty years.

In discussing the Red Cross Tracing Service, she explained their brief is to re-establish contact between relatives separated as a result of war, internal conflict or natural disaster. It does not however, include genealogical research. In South Australia there are some 400 open files. Their legal base is Geneva. They have no real government authority but are under the governance of International Humanitarian Law.

Catherine then continued with an outline of the history of the Red Cross, pointing out it came into being in 1859 at the Battle of Solferino when Jean Henri Durant a Swiss humanitarian, witnessed nearly 40,000 casualties. The International Red Cross was officially formed in 1863.

In 1870 at the time of the Franco/Prussian War, one thousand letters per day were transferred. During World War I, the Red Cross Tracing Service, formerly only military, became military and civilian and held over 7 million files. The emphasis is now on Afghanistan.

There are about 175 nations affiliated with the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Magen David Adom is not affiliated because of its refusal to change its logo to the Red Cross. Although the Red Crescent of the Moslem Countries and the Red Lion of Iran are acceptable in lieu of the Red Cross logo.

The Red Cross operates by transmitting messages between countries. It had databases formed in World War II, - Ruanda, Occupied Territories/West Bank and Yugoslavia are now included. There are certain difficulties - sometimes the method of identification is a 'Book of bodies' or people may have changed their name.

The International Tracing Service started in 1946. The cost of transfer to West Germany was met by the West German Government. There are times when compromise has to be made to be able to stay in a country, e.g. Iraq.

Access to prisoners of war is different from other individuals, and the Red Cross ensures that they do not influenced refugee status of individuals.

Enquiries should be addressed to :
The South Australian Branch contact is :
Marjorie Luno, President ,
AJGS (S.A. Branch), c/- Beit Shalom Synagogue,
P.O. Box 47, Stepney. SA 5069

**Using the Ellis Island
Database from Australia**

**Stephen
Mednick**

**Vol 8 No.
2**



I thought I'd post details of my experiences using the new Ellis Island Database.

First of all, one needs to be very, very patient in trying to get into the system. Be prepared to see a screen that says:

*Thank you for your interest in the American Family Immigration History Center at ellislandrecords.org
Due to an extraordinary number of visitors, we must limit access to the site.
Please keep trying, or check back later.*

Don't despair, simply click the "Back" button on your browser and retry. The experience is not unlike trying to speed-dial into a radio station to try and win a prize. However, I think I'm a bit more fortunate than most, given that I'm here in Australia and 14 hours ahead of NY. My attempts to access the database were more successful around 7.00-8.00pm Sydney time which is around 5.00-6.00 am NY time.

I was interested in finding any MEDNICKs that might have gone from Kamenets-Podolski (or surrounds) in Ukraine to the USA. For my first attempt I entered the name MEDNICK and when I finally did a get response back I was a bit despon-dent

in that I only got 8 "hits"! I figured there had to be something wrong here as there are far more MEDNICKs in the US than I could ever imagine. By the way, when you do eventually get a response, the system brings up "Exact Matches", "Close Matches" and "Alternate spellings" for the name you entered. When I entered "MEDNICK" I got no "alternate spellings" and 4 "close matches".

I then tried an alternate spelling of the name and entered "MIEDN". This was a bit more successful, I got no "exact matches" but I did get 33 "close matches" and 4 "alternate spellings". For all the names that came back I did a screen print to print out the page.

My next attempt was to use the spelling of "MEDNIK". This one really did the trick and I got 173 "exact matches" and 31 "close matches". Painfully I did a screen print of the names that appeared on each of the pages that I scrolled through.

One entry caught my eye and that was for a "Schaje MEDNIK" which gave a residence of "Kam Podol-ski , Russia". The entry said he arrived in 1904 aged 28. Clicking on the passenger record for this person gave me all his details including the fact that he was married and the name of the ship he arrived on and the port from where the ship departed. At this point you can also click on the "ship" entry and you'll get the full history of the ship your ancestor arrived on along with a photo if one is available.

So, after much frustration, I did manage to navigate the system. The only mystery remaining for me now is where are the details of the Schaje MEDNIK's family? Did he arrive on his own and his family follow on later? If so, how come I didn't see any entries that seemed to match his family.

Anyway, I wish everyone good luck with their research using the database and my advice is be patient and persevere!

Stephen Mednick
smednick@css.au.com
Researching:
MEDNICK (Kalius,UKR & London,ENG)
SACHS/SACKS (Kalius,UKR & London,ENG)

(N.B. The digitized records will only cover the period from January 1892 to December 1924 and will include only about 71% of the passenger arrivals during that period. Plans call for a future expansion of the project to include additional passenger years and records. Gary Luke)

Family Finder

**Vol 8 No.
2**




00086 RODERICK CORRIE, L.M.B. 24, MATRAVILLE,2036 N.S.W., seeking information on children of **Louis** or **Lewis** and **Mary COHEN** of Tasmania, **Albert Henry COHEN** (1832-1934), **William L. COHEN** of Bellevue Hill Sydney, **Mrs Lewis JACOBS** (Melb.), **Mrs Meyer RINTEL** (Melb.), **Mrs Lionel J. RODD** (Sydney?), **Mrs**

Phillip FRANKEL (Brisbane), and possibly another son, **E.G. MADDOX COHEN**, and their descendants.

00087 RUDY PHILLIP <PHILLIPP@YORKU.CA> seeking childhood friend of wife **EVA**, from provincial Hungary, later Neufchatel, Switzerland, born **KLARI KELEDI**, now 69 years old, who speaks Hungarian, English, French and German. She came to Australia circa 1950 and had an older sister.

00088 SALLY S. MANN, Editor Morashah, JGS Illinois, P.O.Box 515, Northbrook, IL 60065 - 0515, USA seeks relatives named **CUKIERBRAUN** or **ZUKIERBRAUN** (= brown sugar) who came to Australia from Poland, or their descendants.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 8 No. 3	
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לשנה טובה

Happy New Year 5762 to all our readers!

Recently back from a great conference for the second time in London, there was no rest for the wicked because preparations for a special work-shop on genealogical research on German Jewry on 2nd September had to be put in train. We attracted a total of 18 members to hear Professor Konrad Kwiet condense the history of German Jewry, from the time of the Romans, the Crusades, the Enlightenment to the present in a masterly seventy minutes survey. Your editor did a short presentation on the books and journals the Society has available on the topic, including books owned by members, and there was a short time to sample these books. For the first time we had a contingent of visitors from the North Shore Temple membership, thanks to publicity in their newsletter.

I brought back a variety of newly published manuals on Jewish genealogy, copies of which were also sent to our branches in Brisbane, Canberra, Adelaide and Perth. Their description is elsewhere.

We are now planning two big lectures.

On Sunday 14th October at 3 p.m. David Montefiore Jacobs of Vancouver, Canada, will speak to us at the Sydney Jewish Museum, 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst on Aaron *Hart's Children - Jewish Genealogy in Canada*.

Aaron Hart was the first known Jew in Canada. David Jacobs is a vigorous and entertaining speaker, and our function is jointly with the Sydney Jewish Museum. Entrance \$5.

The second lecturer will be Rabbi John Levi, the joint author with the late Dr George Bergman of *Australian Genesis, Jewish Convicts and Settlers 1788 -1850* and by himself of *The Forefathers, the Dictionary of Biography of Australian Jewry 1788 - 1830*. Both books were published in the 1970's and Rabbi Levi is preparing revised and enlarged edit-ions of each to be published in the next few months. Much new information has come to light since 1974, including the fact that eight hundred

children with at least one Jewish parent were born in Australia between 1788 and 1850. The talk will be titled Jews In Colonial Australia and although we initiated this evening we invited the Australian Jewish Historical Society to jointly sponsor the function at the Great Synagogue, Israel Green Hall, 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, on Monday 5 November 2001, at 7:45 p.m. Entrance \$5.

We are also planning two other lectures in early 2002. The first will be Mara Moustafine on *The Jews of Harbin* and the other by one of our members who is a well known author.

We welcome back Rieke and Peter Nash from their long odyssey in Europe and wish them Mazeltov on the birth of a fourth grandson while they were away. Mazeltov also to David Landor on the birth of a granddaughter, also a fourth grandchild.

In London I was asked by many people when there would be an international Jewish genealogy conference held in Sydney. There is evidently some interest for such an event to take place in Australia. Alas, I had to reply that we simply do not have an adequate number of volunteer workers to stage such an event. Watching the number of dedicated English members who manned the registration and information desks in London, I wonder whether we will ever have the capacity to stage an important conference. What do you think?

**The Jewish Chronicle
Project**

Miriam Pollak

**Vol 8 No.
3**



Background

The Jewish Chronicle Project came into being at the behest of Beverley Davis, then Secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, Vic. Inc. She would probably say this wasn't so, but if it had not been for her input, the project would have just remained an idea, rather than becoming a reality.

In the early 1990s my husband and I moved to Melbourne from the Sydney region. At the time I was heavily engrossed in my own family history. As my father's family came from England, I spent a lot of time at the State Library of Victoria craning my neck while trying to make sense of the microfilms of the Jewish Chronicle. The Jewish Chronicle used to print personal notices on the front page each week. From these notices it is possible to see births, barmitzvahs, engagements, marriages, deaths and in memoriam notices for the whole of England (and sometimes the continent).

The State Library of Victoria has from 1841 to 1919 inclusive on microfilm in their newspaper library. They also have from 1920 in hard copy, but these are only available for serious research. Then I discovered that the library had copy machines that were capable of copying microfilm - it was a revelation. This meant that I could take a photocopy of the issue I wanted, but how would I know which issue to photocopy. At this stage I suggested to Beverley Davis that an index would be a very useful idea. She said, "go for it", and it has gone from there.

After some research it became clear that various people in England were already involved in creating indexes of the Jewish Chronicle (mainly death notices).

However, they were all working before the turn of the century (1900). Therefore I decided to work on the first decade of the twentieth century (1900-1909 inclusive).

I have to admit that I didn't have a clue of the size of the task I was attempting. Input of the first year's data took me a year. I used to come home from work and sit at the computer every day. There were days when the amount of data entered was quite small, but I kept on plugging away at the task.

Data Input

The data for 1900 was entered into an early version of Microsoft Access (v. 1). The data for 1901 also went into Access, but by then I was beginning to be aware that Access was not the right sort of database for the work I was doing. Around this time I decided to go to University and the work on the project ground to a halt as I spent more time working on my course than on my hobby.

During my course I learned about various forms of databases and indeed I was using the incorrect form of database. Access is a relational database and what I needed was called a flat-file or historical database. This kind of database does not rely on a relationship between the fields. This means that whatever is in the database is searchable because it doesn't change - the information is historical.

Towards the end of my course I included the JC Project as part of my Industrial Experience component. I enrolled the help of twelve students to create electronic files of Jewish Chronicle information that could be downloaded into a large flat-file database. The students helped me to create enough files to complete 1902.

Then I returned to the 1900 and 1901 files and re-designed the information so that it could also be downloaded into the flat-file database. To date there are over 8,000 entries in the database. At this stage I have to acknowledge the Jewish Museum of Melbourne which kindly lent me have a copy of a wonderful database program. This has made the progress of inputting of data much easier.

Searchability

The most important facet of the project was the need to make the information searchable and accessible. The use of a flat-file database meant that every field can be searched. This means that the researcher is not limited to search by name only. Searches can be conducted by name and city, or by year or month, or by address, or even by Rabbis conducting wedding ceremonies.

For example, I knew that my father's uncle, Lionel, had been born around 1900, but I didn't know the date or place where he had been born. I could spend a long time searching for the information, but by using the database I found that he had been born in Cardiff at 83 Hamilton Street, and that his date of birth was 16 April. The entry also gave his father's full name.

The Future

The project is not yet half way through. The idea is to make a database of the first decade of the last century. So far, only three of the ten years are complete. Finding the time and the energy to undertake such a lot of work is getting harder with age.

What I need are some volunteers who are prepared to give a bit of their time and energy. They need to have a computer and be a bit computer literate.

Also they need to be good typists - I haven't the time to do heaps of proof reading. If you have some spare time and would be willing to help I would be delighted.

I believe that if I can get some help with the project, it could be completed within the next couple of years.

In the meantime, if you have family from England and you believe that they may have used the Jewish Chronicle for some family event, please contact me either by letter, email or by phone, and I will try to locate the records of the event for you.

Miriam Pollak
3 Walkers Drive
LANE COVE NSW 2066
Phone: 02-9427 9134
Email:miriam_pollak@hotmail.com

**The London Conference,
2001**

**Sophie
Caplan**

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The 21st Conference of the International Association Of Jewish Genealogical Societies was a great conference. There were over 160 speakers, close to one thousand registrants and a huge menu of lectures, meetings and sightseeing trips to choose from. Each hour from 8:30 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m. there were six different lectures from which to choose over five days. Lectures were so arranged that someone interested in a certain group of topics, e.g. British Jewish Communities, could stay in the same lecture room to hear a whole set of talks without moving. The main conference room had one day a whole set of talks on Jewish migration, the next day being wholly devoted to Genes and Genealogy, in particular the latest findings of DNA testing in regard to Jewish ancestry of various groups. Thus it emerged that Ethiopian Jews are apparently not originally Jewish, but that the Lemba tribe in the north of South Africa are. Distinguished English Jewish professors such as Aubrey Newman and Vivian Moses chaired these sessions.

Many authors of talks on British Jewish subjects lectured on the topics of their books and a few copies of the books were usually available for sale, e.g. Bertha Leverton on the *Kindertransports*, Paul Silverstone on *Aliyah Bet, Clandestine Jewish Immigration to Palestine*, Mervyn Goodman on the *Jews of Liverpool*, Gary Black on the *Jews' Free School, London since 1732*. Topics ranged from the time of Abraham and Babylonia to Jews of Kaifeng, to *A Non-Jew Researches His Jewish Ancestry*. Peter Nash spoke about *China - Tracing Former European Russian and Sephardic Communities*, and I spoke on *Waves of Jewish Immigration to Australia from England, Russia, Germany and elsewhere*.

As well, there were many well-known professional and quasi-professional, Jewish genealogists talking about the latest on their main subjects - Warren Blatt, (Jewishgen databases and Polish Jewish Genealogical Research), Stanley Diamond (Jewish Records Indexing - Poland), Micheline Gutman (Research in Paris), Karen


Franklin (Genealogical Holdings of the Leo Baeck Institute, New York), Batya Unterchatz (Jewish Agency Search Bureau for Missing Relatives), Peter Landé (Sources of Information on Holocaust Victims and Survivors), Hadassah Assouline (Unexpected Genealogical Sources in the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People), Lawrence and Phillip Arbensur (Sephardi Families in the Alliance Israelite Universelle), Diana Rau (The Census of Spitalfields, Whitechapel, London 1891), Judith Frazer (How to Find 19th-Century Polish Language Records and Unlock their Secrets), Miriam Rodriguez-Pereira (Bevis Marks synagogue Records - London) Michael Honey (The Horowitz Dynasty).

There was much for everyone, including two film nights, and meetings of various Special Interest Groups (SIGs), of editors of journals, of contributors to *Avotaynu*. And after nearly a week at the Conference, we were all exhausted.

The Australian attendance was outstanding. Hilde Hines from Adelaide, Lionel Sharpe, Lewis Coleman, Suzie and Rodney Eisfelder, Diane Gabb, Anthony Helm, Chana Ruschinek, and Ros Tatarka, from Melbourne, and from Sydney Peter and Rieke Nash, Jeanette Tsoulos, Glenda Goldberg, Sarah and Nigel Meinrath, Louise Rosenberg, Leslie and Sophie Caplan. There was also a couple named Stern who had lived in Japan and in England for over a decade. Breakfast and afternoon tea were usually the times when we touched base with one another.

Meeting old friends from earlier conferences and from other countries was one of the great joys for me, some not seen since Paris in 1997, or the first London conference of 1987, with about 120 people registered by Judith and Dr Anthony Joseph. Samuel Johnson once famously said, *Anyone who is tired of London (conferences) is tired of life*.

The **2002** Conference will be in TORONTO, OTTOWA, CANADA, **2003** will be in WASHINGTON D.C., U.S.A. and the **2004** in JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

The Cohen Project	Sophie Caplan	Vol 8 No. 3		
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The Jewish people is for religious purposes divided into three clans - Israel, common people; Levi, the Levites who were the servants of Temple; and the Cohanim, plural of Cohen or priest, who were the priests at the Temple. Since the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E. knowledge of which clan one belongs to has been purely on the oral tradition basis within each family, and the tradition is passed on in the male line from father to son. There are no written texts giving any lists, but within the services of the synagogues which has replaced services at the Temple, the Cohanim have certain privileges and certain duties, and the Levites do small services for the Cohanim before they bless the congregation Although belonging to the Jewish people is handed down from mother to child, belonging to Israel, Levi or being a Cohen is strictly a male affair.

So about five years ago, when some molecular biologists decided to test the DNA of men who claimed to be Cohanim by analyzing a sample taken from the inside of the mouth of about 600 Jewish men, both Sephardi and Ashkenazi, half of whom claimed to be Cohanim and half of whom were a control group, who said they were

not a Cohen. They chose to target a part of the individual's DNA attached to the Y chromosome i.e. to the male gender determinant which is passed on from natural father to son. Women have two X chromosomes and no Y chromosome and men have one X chromosome and one Y. The amazing result was that 97% of the men who claimed descent as a Cohen had one certain identical part to all the others who claimed to be Cohanim, while those who said that they were not a Cohen did not have this DNA marker on their Y chromosome. This seems to indicate that this chromosomal marker was an indicator of common descent among those who claimed to be: Cohanim whether they had Ashkenazic or Sephardic descent.

Thanks to developments in DNA research the biologists were able to determine that the Y factor for Kahanut (being a Cohen) had evolved genetically around 3,500 years ago, about the time when Moses and Aaron lived. This means that the putative descent of all Cohens from Aaron, the brother of Moses in the male line, may be absolute fact, making the tradition of being a Cohen and descending from Aaron an incontrovertible fact. Isn't it amazing that such a verbally transmitted genetic tradition can prove to be true.? It gives hope that somehow other genealogical traditions, perhaps descent from King David, may be proven through DNA technology one day.

**Bringing Science to the
Search for Family Roots:
Using DNA**

Julia Fuma

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Josef Meshorer, a 69-year-old Holocaust survivor who lost most of his family in Poland, spent more than 30 years on a quest to find his roots. For years, his search was an arduous, low-tech endeavour: He looked for people with similar last names, found 30 in Israel and 10 in the United States, and sent letters to all of them. Only one response, from a David Meshorer of Virginia, was fruitful.

"Over the years, David and I found a common interest in searching for our roots and became very good friends," said Mr. Meshorer, a retired engineer who lives in Toronto, Canada. The two men could not prove that they were related, however.

Then, this past June, Joseph and David Meshorer heard of Family Tree DNA, a company that does DNA testing for genealogical purposes.

"David and I jumped into it right away and ordered DNA tests," Mr. Meshorer said. "Only a few weeks ago the results came! We both tested identically for the 12 tested Y chromosome markers, so, most likely, we have a common ancestor within 14 generations," Mr. Meshorer said.

Mr. Meshorer now feels like he has new family members. When he had bypass surgery, his newfound "cousin" David called and sent flowers. Mr. Meshorer sent a gift to David's daughter for her wedding. Josef Meshorer also changed his name from the original Polish spelling, Mezsorer, to the more English spelling Meshorer. He said his children and grandchildren feel more comfortable with the new, easier to pronounce spelling of the name.

Mr. Meshorer is one of more than 1,000 people who have used the services of Family Tree DNA, a Houston company founded last year by businessman Bennet

Greenspan that specializes in genealogical testing for Jews. The company capitalises on the growing Jewish interest in genealogy, which has seen thousands flocking to genealogical web sites such as jewishgen.org, joining one of the 60 local affiliates of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and attending annual genealogical conferences.

For Sam Zaidins, 40, a Florida real estate broker who recently used Family Tree's services, Jewish interest in genealogy grows out of the psychic losses of 2,000 years of dispersion and persecution. Because of that dispersion, Jews "have never been able to put down a stake" in their countries and have seen much family separation, he said. With genetic testing, Mr. Zaidins said, connections can be made with family members virtually overnight. While Mr. Zaidins and his brother thought they were the last of the Zaidins, testing helped them discover they were not alone in the world, he said. "Although socio-political causes pushed us apart, science brought us back together."

Mr. Greenspan does most of the firm's advertising on the Internet and its testing through the mail. According to the company, two or more individuals can find out if they have a common ancestor by testing either their Y chromosome (from the father) if they are men; mitochondrial DNA (from the mother), or both. A single test costs \$219, both tests, \$299. Family Tree DNA sends out kits, which customers use to swipe a DNA sample from their cheek. The company tests the sample and returns the results in about seven weeks. The company also tests for the form of the Y-chromosome that is unique to the Jewish priestly class, the so-called Cohen gene that was discovered, to much fanfare, a few years back.

The tests rely on the special properties of the Y-chromosome in males and the mitochondrial DNA in females, according to Peter Underhill, a senior research scientist at the Stanford University genetics department. Although most chromosomes recombine during reproduction, so that in any child half the DNA comes from the mother and half from the father, the Y-chromosome is passed entirely, unchanged like a photocopy, from father to son. The same happens with mitochondrial DNA from mother to daughter. Mutations rarely occur. This means that a man is likely to have the same Y-chromosome as a male ancestor, and a woman is likely to have the same mitochondrial DNA as a female ancestor.

Because mutations occur so rarely, when they do happen it is relatively easy to spot where on a chromosome such mutations, called markers, have occurred. A fingerprint of a person's DNA can be produced by studying each marker. Men who have many similar markers are closely related. The fewer markers two people have in common, the less they are related.

Mr. Underhill said that the study of the Y-chromosome is meaningful mostly for studying the migration of populations. All Asians, for example, have certain markers in common, he said, so science and common sense dictate that they have one common ancestor, that is, they come from a single, grand "lineage". Japanese men have markers that other Asian men do not, meaning that they have a discrete ancestor, or lineage, in the larger Asian family. In Europe, 95% of all men fall into one of 10 "lineages."

Mr. Underhill thinks that while genealogy tests such as those offered by Family Tree DNA are "valid," the companies "should give explanations of what the results mean. You have the same lineage as 10 million other people." In other words, the tests are not that meaningful by themselves. For example, all persons of Eastern European Jewish descent share many markers because they are descended from a rather small number of individuals, perhaps 50,000, who were alive in the year 1500.

Family Tree DNA explains on its web site that it tests for 12 different markers. If individuals share those markers, there is a 99.9% chance that they have a common ancestor, but only a 50% chance that that ancestor lived in the past 300 years and a 90% chance that ancestor lived in the past 1,200 years.

Despite what Mr. Underhill called the "coarse resolution of relatedness," Mr. Greenspan said many people are interested in the test. He said he started the company to satisfy his curiosity about whether he was related to another man. "I needed the service and it didn't exist," Mr. Greenspan said.

Every couple of months, Mr. Greenspan put the name of his grandfather and the town in which he was born into a database on a web site called jewishgen.org. One day, he found a man living in Argentina whose grandfather had the same name and grew up about 10 miles away from that town. Mr. Greenspan began to exchange information with the Argentine and discovered that both families had been in the same business. He was convinced he was related to the man, but could not prove it. So he went to Dr. Michael Hammer, a geneticist at the University of Arizona who was working on the Cohen gene. After some pestering, Dr. Hammer finally agreed to test them, discovering that they were related.

Mr. Greenspan then approached Dr. Hammer and suggested he start a business testing people for genetic relatedness. But Dr. Hammer declined, so Mr. Greenspan made a deal with him: Dr. Hammer would provide the science and technology for the test, and Mr. Greenspan would handle the business of marketing it. Dr. Hammer agreed.


Like Mr. Greenspan, many individuals who opt to use Family Tree DNA services have done some prior genealogical research. Mr. Zaidins, who started his search for family by scanning directories for people with the same last name, used Family Tree DNA to discern whether two East Coast families named Zaidins, who had recently arrived from the former Soviet Union, were his relatives. Now, Mr. Zaidins said, he knows that those families must be descendants of his great-great grandfather. To the great shock to all three Zaidins families, the test showed that they were all Cohanim. None of them had known.

After they discovered they were cousins, the three Zaidins families held a family reunion. To their delight, several of them actually looked alike, Mr. Zaidins said, adding that during the reunion he felt an "instant connection" to his new relatives.

The new Russian relatives were excited because they thought that all their family had died in World War II. The best part was that before meeting their new relatives, the Russians "felt like immigrants the whole time, now they feel like Americans," Mr. Zaidins said.

Even for Mr. Meshorer, the DNA test is just one part of an ongoing search for his family history. On a trip to Israel, Mr. Meshorer discovered that the name Meshorer is associated with the singers who sang psalms in the first and second Temples. By tradition, such meshorerim are descendants of Asaph, the first official singer and poet in King David's court. According to Mr. Meshorer, "our Cohanin markers indicate that we might be descendants of these Meshorerim, which is quite exciting"

From FORWARD, August 17, 2001

Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutsch	Vol 8 No. 3		
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During his recent visit to Canberra Rabbi John Levi of Melbourne addressed a meeting of the local branch of the Australian Jewish Historical Society to which local AJGS members were also invited. He spoke on the Jews of the First Fleet, based on his book *Australian Genesis: Jewish Convict and Settlers 1788 - 1850*, co-authored with the late Dr G.F.J. Bergman. He is preparing to re-issue an updated version of the book, as well as an expanded version of a biographical dictionary of Australian Jews from 1788 - 1850.

Remaining genealogical workshops for 2001 are on Sunday 9 September and Sunday 4 November from 130 t- 3 p.m. in the library of the National Jewish Memorial Centre, corner of Canberra Avenue and the National Circuit in Forrest.

Profound thanks to AJGS founding president Sophie Caplan for the generosity in donating several valuable reference books for use by Canberra AJGS member, and for other interesting material acquired on her recent trip to the International Jewish Genealogy Conference in London.

Local AJGS members Sylvia Deutsch and Dr Vernon Kronenberg were special guest speakers at a meeting of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra on 7 August 2001. Sylvia spoke on the historical and cultural background to Jewish genealogy and Bernard spoke on Jewish genealogy on the Internet.

AJGS members in Canberra are on the mailing list for the ACT Branch of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, so that they are apprised of functions that maybe of interest. Please advise if you are not receiving AJGS notices.

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News From Western Australia	Michelle Urban	Vol 8 No. 3		
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An enlightening talk was given by husband and wife team Carole and Marvin Feldman on 25th February 2001.

Speaking first, Marvin, an electronic engineer, who has travelled the world, informed us he was a descendant of Lithuanian Jews who settled in America.

Amongst his travels abroad Marvin visited Porto Judeo, the Azores, where an old man told him that 500 years ago a shipload of Jews evicted from Portugal had been given refuge there. Hebrew inscriptions were to be seen on graves and Marvin was presented with a coffin-like box which, when opened, was found to contain a Torah on goat's skin dating from the time of the Inquisition.

Reminiscing about his childhood, Marvin recalled Reverend Lieb Merenstein, a Polish Holocaust survivor who had been recruited to teach Hebrew to prepare the boys in his community for their Barmitzvahs. This impressive man knew the whole Torah by heart!

While Marvin grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, USA, Carole was raised in Rose Bay, Sydney NSW Australia. Her grandfather, Albert Abadee, and grandmother, Fanny Asher, who were the first couple to be married in Kalgoorlie Shule, had arrived in Sydney in 1919, where they established a box factory (to make wooden boxes for fruits and vegetables) in what became the Chinatown District of Sydney."

Stricken with polio at 8, Carole spent time in an iron lung. A further traumatic event occurred when her mother died 3 years later."

After obtaining a BA in French and Education at the University of Sydney, Carole went abroad on the Oronsay and travelled throughout Europe, teaching in London in the 1960s. She has held many interesting positions, including working as a translator and interpreter for the 9th International Congress of Accountants in Paris and being Chief of Protocol to the American Ambassador in Jakarta in 1981.

During her sojourn in Indonesia, Carole discovered and wrote about a small Jewish community and Synagogue in Surabaya. She has also lived in various parts of USA and had a stint in Canberra, where Marvin was working in 1995.


Of great inspiration to the women in the audience is the fact that Carole has overcome two bouts of cancer and now works as a volunteer for the Breast Cancer Support Service.

Carol and Marvin Feldman settled in Perth two years ago.
by Carolyn Milton-Smith

Our last meeting was held in May and our speaker Gillian O'Mara spoke on the Family History Records held by the Mormons.

Our next meeting will be held in August and will be a Beginners' Workshop - How to research your Jewish ancestry.

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Queensland Report	Morris S. Ochert	Vol 8 No. 3		
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A report, covering the period now under review, cannot be extensive as little has occurred out of the ordinary.

Enquirers, both Jewish and non-Jewish, are given whatever information we have, while, in many cases, we have to refer them to Sophie Caplan, our President.

At the time of writing, we are hearing interesting reports of the London Conference, including an ex-tensive letter from Dr Anthony Joseph, President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.

We have just received, but have had no time to examine the contents of, a parcel of books, which Sophie bought in London for our Queensland library.

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News from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 8 No. 3		
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A number of events took place from June to August. Uri Palti gave a fascinating account of his own personal research and the impact of a very unexpected genealogical discovery in a lecture entitled - "What genealogy DID for me !" on Wednesday, 27th June 2001 at 7.30 pm. Uri Palti is a well known broadcaster who was head of Hebrew /English programs on SBS Radio between 1976 - 1998 in Melbourne. In 1983 he was appointed 'Voice of Israel' broadcasting correspondent in Australia and has won a number of Australia Day Media Awards for his contribution to radio broadcasting.

A well attended hands-on workshop for beginners and others was held on Sunday, 8th July 2001, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm at Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre.

On Wednesday, 25th July 2001, Danny Barr spoke to the society on "Genealogical Research from an Israeli Perspective". Danny was visiting Australia and shared his experiences in genealogical research from an Israeli perspective. He has researched his family at the Central Archives, the Jerusalem Municipal Archives, etc and his ancestors include the Horowitz rabbinical line. Danny went on aliyah in 1981 and currently works as a dentist in Kiryat Shmona. His mother's roots go back to Jerusalem in 1862 and his father's, to Poland (Makow-Mazowiecki).

Returning from the 21st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in London in July provided an opportunity for Melbourne delegates to give an overview of the

conference and their subsequent travels in Europe. At the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd August, Rodney Eisfelder showed a video of his visits to cemeteries in Germany, where he uncovered ancestral tombstones. Lionel Sharpe spoke about and showed photos of his visit to synagogues in the East End of London, Prague and Budapest. Diane Gabb presented a written report on her experiences of personal research in London.

The Victorian participants in London were Lewis Coleman, Suzie and Rodney Eisfelder, Diane Gabb, Anthony Helm, Chana Ruschinek, Lionel Sharpe and Ros Tatarka.

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, October 17th.

The President, Les Oberman and the committee wish all our interstate colleagues a happy and healthy New Year.

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See our home page on: www.melbourne.net/csaky/AJGSmainpage.htm

News From South Australia

**Jeanie
Susman**

**Vol 8 No.
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On Tuesday July 3rd members met at the home of our President, Marjorie Luno where a very successful study evening took place. Because we have no headquarters as such, we gather in private homes. It has been decided that alternate meetings will be devoted to study and research, when members may have access to our library material.

At the next meeting to be held in October, we look forward to hearing Hilde Hines talking about her time at the IAJGS London Conference.

Our special thanks go to Leslie and Sophie Caplan for their generosity in presenting to our Branch a number of very interesting publications they brought back with them from the London Conference.

We are delighted also to receive a gift from the AJGS in Sydney of a special book entitled Portraits of our Past.

These will all be very valuable additions to our reference collection.

The South Australian Branch contact is :

Marjorie Luno, President ,

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AGM of I.A.J.G.S. 2001

**Sophie
Caplan**

**Vol 8 No.
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The annual general meeting of the I.A.G.J.S. took place in London during the Conference. This year the executive was due to change, and despite some unpleasantness regarding one nomination, eventually everything was resolved. The new president is Hal Bookbinder of Agoura Hills, California, who served a long apprenticeship on the executive with two years as treasurer and another two as vice-president. Hal has also edited the excellent Jewish Genealogy Yearbook for the Salt Lake City Conference which contained all the conference information and the smaller Yearbook for the 2001 AGM, with other Conference information yearbooks being edited in London.

The immediate past president is Howard Margol of Atlanta, Georgia, and the new vice president is Anne Feder Lee of Hawaii. The new honorary Secretary is Joel Spector of Philadelphia, the honorary treasurer is Michael Posnick of Minneapolis.

A new member of the committee, Arnold Tolkin of Palm Beach, Florida, was also formally elected in London after serving nearly a year as a co-opted director to replace Arline Sachs who resigned in August 2000 after the Salt Lake City Conference.

There is a tendency for members of the executive of the I.A.J.G.S. and so-called directors (committee members) to be recruited from the US societies because the three or four directors' meetings which take place annually, do take place in the home location of the president and it is too expensive for members of European or other JG. societies to pay for fares to and from the USA several times yearly, though accommodation seems to be provided.

I.A.J.G.S. Awards For Excellence		Vol 8 No. 3		
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Each year, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies presents achievement awards to recognise excellence for Jewish genealogy. Award plaques were presented at the conclusion of the conference banquet in London on 12 July 2001.

Dan and Rosanne Leeson

Outstanding Contribution via Print Award for their indexes of the 1784 Alsatian Jewish Census and of 18th century Alsatian marriages. The 1784 Alsatian census was organised by villages, making its use difficult. Their published index, originally in book form, continues to be available through microfiche. Their more recent publication of an index to 18th Century marriage contracts allows researchers to reach back beyond 1784.

Nancy Goodstein

Outstanding Contribution via Electronic Media Award for the index of Jewish records in Family History Library. In addition to all of the generally known records, Nancy located and made more accessible, many Jewish records not previously known, including obscure records not otherwise easily found. The resultant index has been made available through both CD-ROM and on the Internet.

Michael Tobias

Outstanding Contribution via the Internet Award for Jewish genealogical database development. Michael has rapidly developed the technology behind numerous databases including, among others, the Jewish Records Indexing - Poland Database and the JewishGen Family Finder, ShtetlSeeker, Family Tree of the Jewish People, and the Discussion Group Archives. His efforts have made vast amounts of material readily available to the Jewish genealogical community.

Asociacion de Geneologia Judia de Argentina

Outstanding Publication Award.

In recognition of TOLDOT for the scope and quality of its articles. Each issue is filled with original material impressive both in its scholarly content and in its readability.

JGS, Palm Beach County, Inc. Florida

Outstanding Programming Award.

Recognising its efforts to .spread awareness of Jewish genealogy through its extensive local publicising of Jewish Genealogy Month. 25 March to 23 April 2001.

Jewish Genealogy Society, Inc. (New York)


Outstanding Project(s) Award.

Recognising several of the Society's projects aimed at making historical records in the New York area more available to researchers everywhere; including projects to index Brooklyn naturalisation records, burial societies in the New York Metropolitan area, and New York landsmanshaftn and other Jewish organisations.

Peter Landé

Lifetime Achievement Award. In deep appreciation of Peter's contributions to the world of Jewish genealogy, both in his selfless assistance to others in pursuing their own research and in his efforts in gathering and indexing genealogical materials for the benefit of all. Among these are his outstanding work on identifying resources and creating finding aids at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, his extensive support for the Yizkor Book Project, and his ongoing contributions to Stammbaum.

From *Jewish Genealogy Downunder*, Melbourne

New Books in our Library	Sophie Caplan	Vol 8 No. 3	
JEWS IN LIEPAJA, LATVIA, 1941-45, A MEMORIAL BOOK by Edward Anders and Jures Dubrovskis , Anders Press, Burlingame, California, USA,2001, pp199, was given to us by the Australian Jewish Historical Society who themselves received it from the authors, one of whom was himself a survivor, originally named Alperovitch.			

A chapter on *The killings in the Cities, Liepaja* details the course of the Shoah in that town, including dates and numbers of victims. Other chapters give more details. There is also an introduction to the alphabetically indexed list of names of victims in both English and Russian. The list is 164 pages long and contains 7066 names and gives first name and surname, and frequently also women's maiden name,, date and place of birth, date and place of death, address in 1941 and previous address, and often some information on how they died. Places of birth include many East and

West European countries. Copies of this book can be ordered from Edward Anders, 525 Almer Road, Suite 105, Burlingame, CA94010-3945, USA. Tel/Fax: (1)-(650) 343-6910. Among the many surnames are such names familiar in Australia as Balkind, Bashan, Baskin, Elinson, Elterman, Esterman, Epstein, Lipschitz, Feitelberg, Lurie, Sacks, Prager, and many others.

THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE, THE JEWISH AMERICANS, Howard Muggamin, Sandra Stoksky, General Editor, 1996, Chelsea House Publishers, New York, pp128 is one of a series of books on immigrants to the USA which includes African Americans, Americans Indians, the Amish, Arab Americans, Chinese Americans, Greek Americans, Russian Americans and indeed every possible group of hyphenated Americans except the original English. It discusses general facts of Jewish history, culture and religion and those factors which encouraged Jewish emigration from various European countries to North America.

There are brief surveys of the various waves of Jewish immigration and photographs of famous Jewish landmarks with biographical notes and photos of some well-known contemporary American Jews. There is an index.

This book was donated by our member Selma Jackson.

WEBSITES FOR GENEALOGISTS, 2001 Edition, Fully revised by Cora Nunn of Cumberland Park, South Australia, has several hundred websites listed including a page of Jewish websites, both Australian and international.

BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES, ENGLAND AND WALES 1837 TO 1969 by Barbara Dixon published in 1999 in Berkshire, U.K., a thorough description of what to find on these certificates.

MARRIAGES AND CERTIFICATES IN ENGLAND AND WALES by Barbara Dixon, 2000 published in Berkshire UK. This booklet gives the history of marriage registration and everything about the information to be found on marriage certificates from England and Wales.

These books have been donated to the Society Library in Sydney by Sophie Caplan.

Three booklets published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain were purchased for each of the branches in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Perth and Sydney as a gift from Leslie and Sophie Caplan.

One is a manual on how to do Jewish genealogical research in England, the second one is on Jewish genealogical research in Latvia and Estonia, and the third on German and Austrian Jewish genealogical research.

A fourth booklet on how to do Jewish genealogical research in Scotland written and published by Harvey Kaplan of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre at Garnethill Synagogue, 129 Hill Street Glasgow, G6 3UB, was also donated to all the branches.

We also purchased **THE JEWS OF DEVON AND CORNWALL, Essays and Exhibition Catalogue**, published in 2000 by a group of authors including Evelyn and Albert Friedlander, Helen Fry, Frank Gent, the late Rabbi Bernard Susser, and Julia

Weiner. The essays include biographies of various former prominent Jews of south-west England, artists, merchants and rabbis as well as descriptions of rabbis and ministers, including Isaac and Marcus Bishofswerder who may have been related to the Australian Felix Werder née Bishofswerder.

**News About Hungarian
Jewry in 2001**

Simon Sekel

**Vol 8 No.
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*Translated From MIDRASH Monthly From The Polish Language
By Simon Sekel*

The Yavne School established by the Ronald Lauder Foundation in Budapest has very soon become the largest and most important Jewish education institution in Hungary. The name of Yavne is, of course, to commemorate the town where Jochanan Ben Zakai established the Rabbinical Academy, after the destruction of Jerusalem. The modern complex of buildings, opened by the Hungarian President Arpad Goncza, is an extensive campus including multiple lecture halls, its own synagogue, gymnasium for physical education, scientific laboratories, computer rooms and cafeteria. The library has already accumulated close to 20,000 books in many languages as well as religious ones.

The land on the hill above the Danube was given to the school by the Budapest municipality on a 99 year lease. There are now 700 students in the six primary and six high school classes. There are many extra-curricular subjects like art, acting, cooking and Hebrew, Jewish History and Judaism. These are in addition to the normal local education requirements. Under the leadership of well-known actress, Margit Balla, the students performed several successful plays. The headmistress is Anne Szeszler. The student band often performs klezmer and other Jewish traditional music. All Jewish festivals are observed. The elite group of teachers were selected locally, as well as from Israel and the USA. This contributes to a very high standard of education and results. Close to the Yavne complex is a Jewish kindergarten with 80 children. The school tries to encourage parent involvement which is very essential, as the parents, educated under Communist regime, are often far removed from Judaism. Friday night services have been one successful way to encourage parents and children to join.

In November 2000 the Yavne School hosted a conference called Arachim, dedicated to Jewish education and scholarship. About 200 educationalists from 29 countries participated and represented the full range of religious trends from Ultra-orthodox to reform or Neolog as the Hungarians call it. There was a large delegation from Ukraine, as well as other ex-Soviet countries. The Lauder Foundation organises summer camps in Szarvas, where in the past 8 years, thousands of youngsters from all of Middle Europe participated. Rabbis and teachers from USA and Israel look after the Jewish education during these camps.

I must add that without the Lauder Foundation, Polish, Belarusian, Ukrainian and some other Jewish communities could not function or exist.

By the way, the number of Jews in Hungary, mostly Budapest, is variously quoted between 60,000 - 100,000. This is due to assimilation and the heavy rate of

intermarriage. There are about ten synagogues in Budapest, the Dohan Utca being the largest in Europe.

Attendance during the weekly Shabbat services is mainly by the very old and young, with the middle aged missing. The Cantor Laslo Fekete is a very well-known singer and is the vocalist for a Klezmer band, performing for the past few months in one of the largest clubs. Most musicians are not Jewish. During the performance, the Cantor wears Chassidic clothes with tsitsis hanging out. In reality he is a Neolog, not a Reform Jew just not extreme Orthodox. This paradox exemplifies the mixture of identities and cultural life of Hungarian Jewry.

Simon Sekel is president of COA, the Sydney Jewish Council for the Ageing, and father of our Treasurer, Gary Luke.

Australian Family Finder		Vol 8 No.		
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00089 INGOLF STRASSMANN, Geiseltasteigs Strasse 12, D-81545, MUNICH, GERMANY, Tel (49-89)-640 671 Fax (49-89) 643 975. Seeks **GENIA LIPSCHITZ**, born 1923, daughter of **HEINRICH** and **JOSEPHINE LIPSCHITZ**. Father tailor, born 1883, lived in ALTENBURG, SAXONY 1931-1938, then immigrated to AUSTRALIA via BELGIUM. Any details about her or her descendants. Can also contact Sophie Caplan Tel: 61-2-9958 6317 with information, or through AJGS address.

00090 LAWRENCE GOLD email: Lawrence.Gold@guycarp.com seeking any information on **DAVID KOZOVVOY** who immigrated to Australia by ship in 1923 from Russia. Place of settlement unknown. If still alive would be in his 90's. Descendants also sought.

00091 HARVEY L. KAPLAN, 1/L 11 Milwood Street, GLASGOW G41 3JY, SCOTLAND. Email: harvey@hkaplan.freemove.co.uk Seeks information on **JOHN LAZAR**, born in Edinburgh in 1801, fourth Mayor of Adelaide as mentioned in Cecil Roth, The Rise of Provincial Jewry (p59). Any information welcome.

00092 EVELINE BLUM, 20 CHEMIN DU GRAND BUISSON, BESANCON, 25000, FRANCE, email: eve.line.blum@libertysurf.fr is looking for **KASSEL KAPLAN**, Shoah survivor, whose daughter is an accountant. His mother was **DORA CHALFIN KAPLAN**.

00093 GERT ROGERS, 237 MELITA AVENUE, TORONTO, ON. M6G 2A1, CANADA, seeks uncle **AVRAM** or **NUSSAN GOLDMAN**, originally from MIEDZYREZEC, PODLASKA, who is said to have survived WW2 in Russia, returned to Poland, lived in France, and emigrated to Australia. He would now be in his nineties, so descendants are sought. Avram's parents were **ZELIG GOLDMAN** and **ESTER GITEL WODA**. Siblings were **CHANA, HENIA, GOLDA, SURA, NUSKE** and **HERSCHEL**.

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 8 No.		
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On 11th September 2001 at noon, Sydney time, Miriam Shifreen and I finished the back and forth faxing, writing and proof-reading entailed in compiling an issue of The Kosher Koala and sent it to the printer. Eleven hours later took place the infamous terrorist attack on New York and Washington, and we all became glued to our television sets watching the planes smashing deliberately into the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. We also tried to call the friends made over many years among the downtown New York Jewish genealogists and those in the Washington area, and they seemed pleased that we were thinking of them at such a bleak time. We were the first national Jewish genealogical society to contact the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies with a message of condolence and support for the American members, as revealed in the Presidents' Forum e-mail messages.

I was so glad to have finished issue No.3 Vol.8, before the attack. After it, I could not concentrate on anything major for several days and our New Year Cards were neither written, nor sent.

Since then we've had our usual workshops, generally on the first Sunday of each month as listed on the inside front page of the Kosher Koala. Those who attend are always first to catch our crop of newly acquired books and overseas journals and newsletters.

In early November we took advantage of a visit to Sydney by Rabbi John Simon Levi to have him speak to us on the subject of *The First Jews in Colonial Australia*, an endlessly fascinating topic as evidenced by the hour-long series of questions which followed his talk. The second and enlarged edition of *Australian Genesis, Jewish Convicts and Settlers, 1788-1860* by John S. Levi and G.F.J. Bergman, (covering ten more years than the first edition) will not have any formal book-launchings, but can be ordered at a special discount price of \$71.95 plus postage of \$5.50 in advance from: Melbourne University Press.

P.O. Box 278, Carlton South, Vic. 3053,
tel 03 9342 0360; fax 03 9342 0399
email: mup-customerservice@unimelb.edu.au.

As always, Rabbi Levi spoke illuminatingly and beautifully. We had asked the Australian Jewish Historical Society to join us in sponsoring the talk, set centrally at the Great Synagogue Israel Green Hall, so we were disappointed with the attendance of only forty-two people.

This month we will participate again, also jointly with the Australian Jewish Historical Society, in a stall at Chanukah in the Park in Hyde Park, Sydney to raise our profile in the community. It is a pity that the same few workers will be manning the stall. We could do with more helpers on occasions like these.

On 3rd November 2001 our society passed the tenth anniversary of its foundation in Sydney, the other branches having started later, though many inter-state members like the late Kurt Lippman joined us early. I founded the society and became its first president and have remained in that role and in that of editor of this journal ever since. A few months ago I came to the decision that I should step down at the next

Annual General Meeting in late March if I could find a willing and capable successor. I believe that an organisation benefits by having occasional changes in governance, as every individual brings different gifts and varied strengths, and this is healthy.

I have found a willing and worthy successor as president of this Society in the person of Rieke Nash who has previously served as vice president, honorary secretary and resources chairman. In March 2000 Rieke took a year's leave of absence from the committee, a year which stretched into two years, with several months spent in Europe and Israel earlier this year. Rieke is now reinvigorated and will serve you well. She is an organiser *par excellence*, highly skilled in many areas in which I am not, and will assemble around her an excellent team.

The next issue of the Kosher Koala will be my last as editor. The recent acute illness of my husband Leslie, still continuing, makes it imperative that I take a break. I have enjoyed starting this journal, naming it with a tongue-in-cheek but memorable name, writing for it and selecting articles written by others. I hope that you have enjoyed reading it and will miss me a little.

Happy Chanukah!
Sophie Caplan, Editor.

**Some News From
JewishGen**

**Vol 8 No.
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Are you eligible to receive a special gift from JewishGen? The JGFFAlert System will soon be available to all those who make a \$US100 gift to the JewishGen General Fund for a calendar year. It is our way of saying thank you by alerting you immediately if new information could be a link to your family.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/alerts.htm>

The JGFFAlert System is designed to be your "watch hawk", which will constantly watch the JGFF for any new entries which match your current JGFF entries, and will send you an email alerting you about the matching entries.

Here's how it works:

Whenever a new town/surname record is added (or an existing town/surname record is edited) by
any JGFF Researcher:

1. The JGFF is searched for matching records. A "match" is defined as a record where the Surname matches using Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex, and the Town and Country matches by exact spelling. (Note that records where the Town or Country name is blank or "Any" are never matched).
2. If a match is found, the JGFFAlert System will check all researchers with those matching entries, to see if They are JGFFAlert subscribers.
3. If the JGFF Researcher is a JGFFAlert subscriber, they are sent an email with the details about the newly added/edited JGFF record.

The JGFFAlert System will only check for matches where both a surname and town are given on a data record. JGFF records which don't specify a town or country, i.e. those for "Any" town, are ignored. You may want to adjust your JGFF entries accordingly, to take advantage of the JGFFAlert System.

Sudilkov: 103 Years Later

**Paul Wilcher
Ginsburg**

**Vol 8 No.
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Few people can point to the shtetl of Sudilkov on a map of Ukraine. Most maps, in fact, do not even show Sudilkov. Historically, it was known throughout the Jewish world as a centre of the Hasidic movement, for manufacturing talleisim (prayer shawls) and printing Jewish books. Sudilkov was the home of the famous rebbe and author of *Degel Machaneh Ephraim*, Rabbi Moshe Chaim Ephraim, grandson of the Baal Shem Tov.

We can trace a Jewish presence in Sudilkov back to the 17th Century. Sudilkov's Jews endured the pogroms of Khmelnitzky in 1648-1649 and later the pogroms of the Ukrainian nationalists in 1919. Despite many hardships, the Jews of Sudilkov survived and continued to create a thriving community. However, during the Holocaust, Germans and their Ukrainian neighbours murdered Sudilkov's Jewish community.

Today Jewish Sudilkov is no more. Evidence of its past history has been erased. Villagers have used tombstones from the Jewish cemetery to construct new homes. Like other shtetls in Ukraine, Jewish Sudilkov was reduced to a memory.

This shtetl was the birthplace of my great-grandfather Nuchem Wilcher. Nuchem, son of Yitzchok and Gissie, was born in 1874 into a family of two brothers and one sister. As a teenager he was drafted into the Czarist army. Following the lead of his older brother Aaron, Nuchem left Sudilkov and immigrated to America. On February 23, 1898 Nuchem arrived in New York aboard the S.S. Furnessia. Shortly thereafter, he was reunited with his brother Aaron in Philadelphia. In America, Nuchem Wilcher became Nathan Ginsburg.

It has been a family tradition among male Ginsburgs to keep Wilcher as a middle name in memory of our family's roots. However, as time passed and Nuchem's descendants assimilated into American culture, memory of the significance of the name Wilcher was forgotten.

As a teenager I became interested in family history. I loved visiting my great-aunt Isabelle in Chester, Pennsylvania and asking her about our family and its origin in Russia. As the family historian of her time, Isabelle kept records of the family and often visited the cemeteries in which our family is buried. Aunt Isabelle sparked my interest to learn more about our family and perhaps one day visit her father's shtetl in the Ukraine.

With the death of my last grandparent in 1999, I suddenly realized that my connection to the past was quickly fading. I felt that unless I did something, unless I picked up the torch Isabelle carried, these people would vanish from history without a trace. How would I be able to answer the questions that my children would

one day ask about their ancestors? What am I to tell them when they ask where they come from?

Aunt Isabelle told me about Sudilkov when I was a teenager. It was not until February 2000 that I discovered records in the National Archives in Washington, DC that confirmed my Sudilkov roots. Shortly thereafter, I found evidence of my Sudilkov family documented in Russian records. Armed with this knowledge, I set out to learn all there was about this shtetl of my ancestors. I quickly discovered just how difficult it was to locate information.

In March 2000, I developed a website to commemorate the Jewish community of Sudilkov and made public all the information I collected. The next step was obvious. After 103 years and three generations in America, Nuchem's great-grandson planned to return to Sudilkov. Visiting Sudilkov in cyberspace could not substitute for actually seeing Sudilkov with my own eyes. I did not know what I was supposed to find in this rural Ukrainian village. I knew that if nothing else, the trip would make me appreciate America and thank G-d that my great-grandfather was brave enough to cross the Atlantic in an era before the aeroplane. However, I knew there was something more. I felt that there was a missing piece of my family's history left to discover in Sudilkov.

Before leaving Rockville, Maryland in July 2001, I did not realise that this would not only be a trip of thousands of miles, it would also be a journey inward. A journey to a place I felt was the root of my soul.

My wife and I spent the first two days of our journey touring Kiev and the surrounding area. On July 16th, accompanied by a driver and guide, we drove 150 miles west to the shtetl of Sudilkov. It did not take a lot of imagination to picture what Sudilkov looked like when my great-grandfather left in 1898. Sudilkov was frozen in time. Ukrainian peasants rode horse-pulled wagons transporting bales of wheat. Cows, goats, horses, chickens, ducks, geese, and packs of dogs were all in abundance, making the trip a safari of farm animals. With no running water in their homes, the people of the village drew their water from wells and washed their clothes along the banks of the lakes and streams.

Despite its primitiveness, Sudilkov was beautiful. Walking its back alleys and dirt paths I felt that I had walked them before.

I learned that Jewish Sudilkov was situated along the main street and square, known as the "Misto". The centre of Jewish life in Sudilkov was built around the synagogue. Sudilkov's synagogue was destroyed by the Germans in 1941. Today a small kiosk stands atop the former foundation.

Across the road from the synagogue was the Jewish market. In this place Jewish farmers and merchants gathered to sell their wares and produce. Today it is an empty gravel lot, its former use long forgotten.

The only remaining evidence of Jewish life in Sudilkov is the Jewish cemetery located next to the "Stav" lake. The Jewish cemetery today is in total ruins. Before 1941, a wall surrounded the cemetery and protected the graves. Today there is no

wall, and cows and people walk through the cemetery and over the gravestones. Almost all of the gravestones are unreadable, since they are either broken or eroded. Nevertheless, parts of the Hebrew inscriptions on these stones are still legible. Standing in the Sudilkov cemetery, it occurred to me that with the passage of time, the rain would slowly erase the Hebrew letters and any trace of its Jewish inhabitants would be forgotten forever.

We continued to walk around Sudilkov for the rest of the day. We met some non-Jewish residents of the village, and they invited us into their home. They were amazed that an American who had roots in Sudilkov had travelled so far just to visit this tiny village. They recalled Jewish Sudilkov prior to the war only in positive terms.

Walking along the dirt paths and back alleys, I tried to absorb this once in a lifetime experience. Sudilkov for me was an oddly beautiful and tranquil place. I tried to understand the lesson I was supposed to learn. Yet, any meaning or lesson eluded me when I left Sudilkov on the first day.

We spent the next two days visiting Jewish sites in nearby Shepetovka, Slavuta, and Anapol. During this time, I learned of the rich Hasidic history of the area. This area was the birthplace of the Hasidic movement. Every cemetery we visited had the gravesite of a tzaddik or rebbe. It was amazing that in rural Ukraine, in what seemed like a million miles from civilisation, Hasidism was born and spread to the rest of the world.

Along with the Hasidic sites of the area we visited many sites where Jews had been murdered during the Holocaust. Mass graves containing thousands of people and a well into which 300 Jewish babies were thrown and then murdered when grenades were dropped onto them were just two of the sites that we visited. These Jews of the nearby shtetls had memorials. Where was the memorial to Sudilkov's Jews? A population could not simply disappear into thin air.

On the day before returning to Sudilkov, we travelled south to Medzhiborz to visit the gravesite of the founder of the Hasidic movement, the Baal Shem Tov. The Baal Shem Tov was known for teaching that nothing in life is an accident and there is a deeper meaning to everything. Maybe it was in the merit of visiting his grave that I would learn the meaning of why I came to Sudilkov. When I returned to Sudilkov for the last time, I was not ready for what I would see and the lesson I would learn.

Jewish Sudilkov had not vanished. I learned during my last visit that there are three mass graves in Sudilkov. Only one site has a memorial. This memorial was in someone's backyard, hidden from the world. To get to this memorial we walked across the main square and across the vacant lot that once was the Jewish market. We continued to walk straight down a dirt alley to homes that once belonged to Sudilkov's Jews. An elderly Ukrainian woman, who had witnessed the killings, showed us to the memorial. We entered through the gate and went around the corner to the backyard. The backyard was full of loose limbs, rotten wooden beams, and other debris. All this needed to be cleared out in order to access another wooden gate on the other side of the yard.

We entered into a small courtyard where we could see a small memorial with a Yiddish plaque. The memorial and courtyard appeared as though no one had visited in over a decade. The Ukrainian woman provided us with a wet cloth so we could read the inscription that was covered under a layer of dirt.

Then, she explained what had happened in this place.

Germans and Ukrainians took the Jews of Sudilkov - all of whom were too old or unable to walk to the ghetto in nearby Shepetovka - to this courtyard. There they dug a pit into the earth and buried Sudilkov's Jews alive.

The Ukrainian woman told us that when the pit was covered, the earth continued to move for days because beneath the ground people still struggled for life.

Jews who knew of the atrocity erected this tiny memorial after the war, and the Ukrainian family who took the Jewish house dutifully maintained it. The family continued to maintain it despite persecution by the Communist authorities for tending to the "Jewish" memorial. Today the son of the Ukrainians who cared for the memorial is too sick to properly care for it.

At this memorial, I discovered why I came to Sudilkov. If my great-grandfather had not left Sudilkov before World War 2 to begin a new life in America, he may have perished there during the Holocaust. My father would have never been born, and I would not be alive. It was too much for me and both my wife and I broke down.

The Jews of Sudilkov did not disappear into thin air. They were here in front of me, buried alive by their neighbours and German murderers. The horror of this place has never before been told. The story of what happened here remains trapped in a Ukrainian backyard blocked by debris.

Sixty years later, it is too late to avenge these people. I can only tell the world their story, internalise it, and pass it on to the next generation. I now understood the purpose of my visit to Sudilkov. My journey came full circle. To walk away from this place unchanged was impossible.

The Rabbis of the Talmud said, "Every person in Israel is required to ask: When will my deeds reach the deeds of my forefathers?" By leaving Sudilkov, my great-grandfather had given me life. To me there could not be a greater hero. I can only pray that I will live up to his legacy.

Paul Wilcher Ginsburg
GinsburgP@state.gov

The fate of the Jews of Sudlikov was very similar to the fate of the Jews of small towns all over Nazi occupied Eastern Europe. The people were killed, the cemetery was desecrated and destroyed, leaving no real trace of the former Jewish inhabitants.

The Purpose and scope of the project is to gather and correlate Luria genealogical information (all variants of the name Luria/Lurie/Lourie etc.) from three major periods:

Rabbinical 1350-1750,
Middle 1750-1939,
Recent 1940-Present.

The major aspects of the project are the current effort to survey and document all living Luria families who can trace their roots to Europe and to correlate this information with Vital Records of Eastern and Western Europe. I need as many "family tree" donors as possible and volunteers in the US, South Africa and Australia to help find potential donors.

The Rabbinical phase information has been collected by many famous genealogists and only has to be correlated with the latter phases when they are completed. Collecting the Luria genea-ogical information from JewishGen and other sources is well underway. Collecting "family tree" information from living Luria families has just started with a survey project in Israel and requests for information in the various JewishGen forums. Over 40 Luria family trees have already been collected.

If you would like to send me your Luria/Lurie "family trees" either in gedcom or another format I would be happy to include your information in the project and send updates via e-mail. Please include dates and places, not only the names of the Lurias involved. Information may also be sent to:

Chaim Luria
E-mail: chaim@selajerusalem.co.il
P.O.B. 23442,
Jerusalem 91233 ISRAEL
FAX: 972-2-5714981

Jewish Genealogy Month		Vol 8 No. 4		
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For the fourth consecutive year, Avotaynu is sponsoring Jewish Genealogy Month which this year is March 14-April 12, 2002. It corresponds to the Hebrew month of Nissan 5762 - the Passover season. In association with this event, Avotaynu will create a poster, copies of which will be distributed free of charge to each of the approximately 80 Jewish Genealogical Societies throughout the world. This year's theme is "From Generation to Generation." Particulars about the design of the poster will be made available at a later date.

Queensland Report	Morris S. Ochert	Vol 8 No. 4		
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During the period under review the Queensland branch of the AJGS received some further books from our President, Sophie Caplan OAM. These are for local reference purposes.

As a result of a reference to the Karnofsky family in the June 2001 *Kosher Koala* (Vol. 8 No. 2), I had an enquiry from a United States member of that family. He was seeking data for his own research. The first of the family to migrate to Australia from Lithuania, about 150 years ago, brought a Sefer Torah to Kangaroo Valley in New South Wales where he conducted services. When the Gold Coast Hebrew Congregation was established, his descendants donated the Torah to the Congregation. This enquirer gave me further data for my Karnofsky research.

Enquiries: Morris S. Ochert OAM
3/23 Lucinda Street, Taringa Qld 4068
Tel: 07 3870 3860 Email: stirk@uq.net.au

Carol & Ken Stirk
PO Box 7192 East Brisbane Qld 4169
Tel: +61 7 3378 4711 Mobile: 0409 784 711
Email: stirk@uq.net.au

Polish Records On The Internet

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From the JewishGen Website

The archives of Poland contain a remarkable collection of Jewish Vital Record Registers that have survived the ravages of time and upheavals of history. JRI-Poland is dedicated to the indexing of these records. The award-winning database has become a vital finding aid for family historians and has revolutionized the research into Jewish records from both current and former areas of Poland. The database depends on the following prime resources:

- LDS Microfilms of Records in the Polish State Archives
- Polish State Archives- Records Direct
- Polish State Archives- AGAD Branch Direct -The central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw
- Other Sources, such as the Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw, the Lodz and Warsaw Cemeteries, and birth, marriage and death notices in Polish newspapers

Go to: www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl.

Click on the search the database button

Shanghai and the Jews of China

Peter Nash

Vol 8 No.
4



Inspired by ex-Shanghailanders, Dita Beran and Paul Engel (and wife Eva), three years of planning culminated in the public launch of an Exhibition (as titled) at the Sydney Jewish Museum on October 17. Alan Jacobs - not an ex-Shanghaileander - but a former director of the Sydney Jewish Museum together with the Museum were able to raise the desired funds and bring together a team of professionals and volunteers (former China residents or those with direct connections to China) resulting in a superbly curated and artifact mounted Exhibition. The Exhibition was opened by the Premier of New South Wales, Bob Carr, and was also attended by the

Consuls from China and Germany together with about two hundred invited guests. It has already enthralled many visitors.

The history of the Jewish experience in China is woven from the threads of families of the four main streams of the Jewish communities - the Sephardic Moalem family, the Russian Ashkenazi Krouk family, the European Refugee Gunsberger family and the Sugihara Transit Visa Polish Weyland/Jakubowicz family. In addition many other families loaned memorabilia and artifacts from their years in China. Videoed life experiences, hard copy stories and interactive CD presentations are also featured.

"**Crossroads**" will run till March 17, 2002 and is augmented by several Exhibitions in Sydney featuring other aspects of the colourful history of the Jews in China with openings at various dates over the next few months. These will include the Australian National Maritime Museum featuring the stories of ex-China citizens who have contributed prominently since 1945 to different aspects of Australian society (to open in January 2002), the Herta Imhof (nee Rosenzweig) Refugee Story at the Powerhouse Museum (opened October 26), and a Horst Eisfelder Photo Exhibition (to be held in February, 2002) at the Asia-Australian Arts Centre.

The Sydney Jewish Museum is at 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst and its Hours of Opening are Sunday 11 - 5 pm, Monday to Thursday 10 - 4 pm, Friday 10 - 2 pm.

Peter Nash, (formerly Nachemstein) was born in Berlin and with his parents found refuge in Shanghai over the years 1939-1949.

Help solve a Genetic Mystery

Stanley Diamond

Vol 8 No. 4



You may hold the key to the next breakthrough!

- Are you a carrier of the Beta-Thalassemia genetic trait?
- Do you know a carrier?
- Are you anaemic?
- Does anyone you know have unusual anaemia?

The Beta-Thalassemia genetic trait is rare in Ashkenazic families. Only about thirteen have been identified, world-wide, to date.

My family (originally from Ostrów Mazowiecka in northeast Poland) carries a novel mutation of the gene, unique to us and to one other family (with roots in Bobruysk, Belarus). I am searching for the pre-19th century link between the families. Is your family or someone you know the key?

Professor Ariella Oppenheim of Hebrew University - Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem, and Professor Charles Scriver of McGill University - Montreal Children's Hospital Genetic Research Institute are the scientists with whom I am co-operating on this intriguing effort to tie the two families together.

We are co-authors of a scientific paper related to the project, published in Human Mutation in January 1997.

A second objective is to alert unsuspecting Ashkenazic carriers - both in and outside my family. This is urgent because offspring of two carriers have a one in four chance of inheriting Thalassemia Major, a fatal disease. The Beta-Thalassemia genetic trait is not usually found unless physicians are looking for it! Ashkenazic carriers are often misdiagnosed as being anaemic and may incorrectly be prescribed doses of iron.

Please contact: Stanley M. Diamond,
Beta-Thalassemia Genetic Research Project
5599 Edgemore Ave., Montreal Canada H4W 1V4
Telephone. (514) 484-0100, Fax: (514) 484-7306
SMSDiamond@aol.com

<www.geocities.org/heartland/pointe/1439>

"Genealogy with an extra reason" (Beta-Thalassemia research project)

**Jewish Genealogical
Bookshelf**

**Sophie
Caplan**

**Vol 8 No.
4**



BOOKS ON GERMANY

Those books which have been acquired by the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society and are in its library and available for perusal by our members and others at our workshops will be marked by an asterisk (*) in front. They are not available for borrowing as most of them are rare books and are only available to read at our workshops.

Other books are not owned by the Society, but are part of the personal library of some of our members and may be made available for perusal at one of our workshops by prior arrangement with our President by phoning 02-9958-6317 or faxing 02-9967-2834 several days before a workshop, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. These books are marked with two asterisks (**) in front.

The Reverend Katz Library of the North Shore Synagogue has a number of books on the history and sociology of Jews in Germany and these may be borrowed by our members. They are too numerous to list here, but if listed are marked with a (☆) Magen David.

HISTORY OF JEWS IN GERMANY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

☆ **THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA JUDAICA**, 1972, Keter, Jerusalem, and Macmillan, London, with later supplementary volumes, has many entries on German towns and some family tree information and short histories of certain notable families, and many entries for famous individuals. It is worthwhile to spend some time perusing the **Encyclopaedia Judaica** for the towns and family names you are interested in. It is available in many Jewish and general libraries. Many people have shown me with pride, print-outs about a town they are researching, acquired at Beth Hatefutsot, the

Museum of the Jewish Diaspora in North Tel Aviv. These print-outs are the exact text available locally in the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*.

* Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack, **WHERE ONCE WE WALKED, A GUIDE TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES DESTROYED IN THE HOLOCAUST**, Avotaynu. Inc. Teaneck N.J. U.S.A., 1991, has entries for most German towns in which Jews lived before the Shoah and mentions in abbreviation a number of major works and archives in which each place is mentioned.

** Nachum T. Gidal, **JEWS IN GERMANY, FROM ROMAN TIMES TO THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC**, Konemann, Cologne, 1998, pp440, is a lavishly illustrated history which includes modern writers and artists.

* Monika Richarz, *editor*, **JEWISH LIFE IN GERMANY, MEMOIRS FROM THREE CENTURIES**, translated by Stella P Rosenfeld and Sidney Rosenfeld, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, USA, 1991 in English, sponsored by Leo Baeck Institute, New York. This is a marvelous compendium of extracts of diaries and personal memoirs of Jews in Germany from 1780 to 1945 which gives an overview of life for Jews in Germany over three centuries.

*Thomas Kent Edlund, **THE GERMAN MINORITY CENSUS OF 1939, An Introduction and Register**, Avotaynu, Inc., Teaneck, N.J. U.S.A., 1996, gives details of Census districts, the records of this census as found in the catalogue of the main Mormon Family History library, and the film numbers. These films can be ordered from Salt Lake City, USA, by Family History Libraries everywhere for a small fee.

* Gary J. Zimmerman and Marion Wolfert, **GERMAN IMMIGRANTS, List Of Passengers Bound From Bremen To New York, Vol. 1, 1847 - 1854**, 1987, Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc. This is an alphabetically indexed list of passengers from the port of Bremen to New York. Some of the passengers are probably Jewish, most are probably not. Family name, first name, age, and place of former residence are listed.

Also **Vol. 2, 1855 - 1862**, identical authors and information.

SEPARATE TOWNS

Alexander Dietz, **THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF FRANKFURT, A GENEALOGICAL STUDY 1349 - 1849**, edited by Isabel Mordy, Vanderher Publications, Limited Edition, 1988, Cornwall, UK pp655. This is a compilation of histories of families which lived in Frankfurt-am-Main before the mid-Nineteenth century, alphabetically indexed and giving inter-family connections. Very useful for anyone with roots in that town.

** Klaus H. S. Schulte, **DOKUMENTATION ZUR GESCHICHTE DER JUDEN AM LINKEN NIEDERRHEIN SEIT DEM 17 TEN JAHRHUNDERT (*Documentation For The History of Jews on the left Bank of the Lower Rhine Since the 17th Century*)**, 1972, Verlag L. Schwann, Dusseldorf, Germany, pp377. This is a gold mine of information on Jews in three dozen small communities in the lower

Rhineland. Indexed, also lists of the deportees from each town or village, many with birthplace and year, illustrated.

* Emily C. Rose **PORTRAITS OF OUR PAST, JEWS OF THE GERMAN COUNTRYSIDE**, 2001, The Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia Pennsylvania, USA. Through her ancestral families Kaz, Berlzheimer and Gundelfinger, the author reconstructs the life of country Jews in the Black Forest district and southern Germany during the nineteenth century.

* Nicolai, **WEGWEISER DURCH DAS JUDISCHE BERLIN, GESCHICHTE UND GEGENWART** (*Signposts through Jewish Berlin, History and Present Day*), 1987 Berlin, is a German language, descriptive book about Jews in Berlin, richly illustrated with numerous photographs, including many gravestones in Berlin Jewish Cemeteries.

** Erich Luth, **HAMBURGS JUDEN IN DER HEINE-ZEIT**, (*The Jews of Hamburg in the time of Heine*), 1962 Hoffmann und Campe Verlag.

CEMETERY BOOKS

The late Naftali Bar-Giora Bamberger wrote a number of books on various large German Jewish cemeteries giving plans and detailing each grave together with exact inscriptions in Hebrew and in English, and a photograph of the memorial stone. Some inscriptions are complete, others fragmentary. Additional research by the author gives the family surname and sometimes the parents' and spouse's name and civil date of death.

* Naftali Bar-Giora Bamberger, **MEMOR-BUCH, DER JUDISCHE FRIEDHOF IN GAILINGEN, VOLS. 1 AND 2**, (*Memorial Book, the Jewish Cemetery in Gailingen, Vols. 1 and 2*), 1994 published by Bamberger Family Archive, Jerusalem, printed in Germany. Very valuable for those with family links to Gailingen. Vol. 1 burials start in 1730 and end in 1869, Vol. 2 burials start in 1870 and go to 1981. Each volume is indexed alphabetically and also row by row. Many families have large numbers of burials e.g., Bloch, Guggenheim, Schneidiger, Neuburg, Bernheim, Erlanger, Jung, etc.

** Naftali Bar-Giora Bamberger, **DER JUDISCHE FRIEDHOF IN HOCHBERG, MEMOR-BUCH**, (*The Jewish Cemetery in Höchberg, Memorial Book*), writings in the town archives of Wárzburg.

** Naftali Bar-Giora Bamberger, **DER JUDISCHE FRIEDHOF IN CELLE, MEMOR-BUCH**, (*The Jewish Cemetery in Celle Memorial Book*), Similar contents and treatment as above, published in 1992.

HOLOCAUST RELATED BOOKS

** **GEDENKBUCH, OPFER DER VERFOLGUNG DER JUDEN UNTER DER NATIONAL SOZIALISTISCHEN GEWALT HERRSCHAFT IN DEUTSCHLAND, 1933 - 1945**, (*Memorial Book, Victims of the Persecution of the Jews Under the National Socialist Domination of Violence in Germany, from 1933 to 1945*). 2

volumes. An alphabetically indexed list of Jewish victims who had lived in Germany, giving surnames, first and maiden names, place of last residence in Germany, date of birth, place of death, for most victims, and occasional date of death, published 1986, 128,538 names recorded, an incomplete list. A new more complete edition is in process of preparation.

*** HAMBURGER JÜDISCHE OPFER DES NATIONAL SOZIALISMUS GEDENKBUCH, (*Jewish Victims of National Socialism in Hamburg, Memorial Book*)** edited by Jurgen Sielemann with help from Paul Flamme, published by Hamburg State Archive in 1995. Gives surname, first name, date of birth, place and sometimes date of death.

A number of German historians and Christian-Jewish friendship societies have researched and written books and booklets commemorating the Jewish communities which once dwelt in their town. Some are extremely well researched and all give lists of Jews who lived there at various periods from the early nineteenth century, giving names and dates, and also deportation lists. Sophie Caplan owns a number of these on the following towns and is prepared to make them available for perusal by appointment. (C/- P.O. Box 154, Northbridge, 2063, NSW) to anyone with a family interest in these towns:

Aachen, Rhineland

Duisburg Rhineland, particularly informative on Jews who there for any period from 1850 - 1942

Cologne/Köln, Rhineland

Lüdenscheid, Westphalia

Siegen, Westphalia

Oerlinghausen (1803 - 1988)

FAMILY HISTORIES

**** Walter Strauss, editor SIGNS OF LIFE, JEWS FROM WUERTTEMBERG. REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD AFTER 1933 IN LETTERS AND DESCRIPTIONS.** Ktav Publishing House, New York, 1982.

***** Bamberger Family Jerusalem THE BAMBERGER FAMILY, THE DESCENDANTS OF RABBI SELIGMANN BAER BAMBERGER, THE WÜRZBURGER RAV (1807 - 1878),** Jerusalem 1979, is a family tree book of the Bamberger and allied families, including Wormser, Strauss, Fromm, Eschwege, Shamir, Friedman, Esh, Joffe, Lande, Straussberg, Wolff, Gutmann, Braunfeld, Hirshburg, Schott, Schwarzschild, Sipper and many others.

**** ELIZABETH S. PLAUT, THE GUGGENHEIM/ WORMSER FAMILY, A GENEALOGICAL 300 YEARS MEMOIR,** Ktav Publishing House, New York, 1996, also includes the families Plaut, Kline, Nathan, Risehall, Oppenheimer, Frank, Harris, Wertheimer, Hays Aarons, Schwab, Dreyfoos, Seelman and many others.

**** Esther Ramon, THE HOMBURGER FAMILY FROM KARLSRUHE, A FAMILY STUDY, 1674 - 1990,** Posner and Sons Ltd., Jerusalem, 1992, also tells of families which intermarried with the Homburgers, such as families David, Wachenheimer, Gutman, Kraemer, etc. Some Homburgers changed their name to Hamburger. Like

the above family tree books, there are good indices, and chapters by other family members, Esther Ramon was the founding president of the Israel Genealogical Society. An adopted stepson in one branch of the family was the famous psychoanalyst Erik Homburger Erikson.

STAMMBAUM, *Newsletter of German Jewish Genealogical descent* now published two to three times annually by the Leo Baeck Institute, New York, under the aegis of Karen Franklin.

**Call for Speakers for the
22nd ICJG**

Peter Jassem

**Vol 8 No.
4**



The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) has completed arrangements to hold the 22nd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in downtown Toronto on August 4-9, 2002. On behalf of the Programme Committee, I would now like to announce a Call For Speakers.

Many of you have addressed previous conferences, some are professional speakers who offer interesting presentations at most conferences, but there are also those who have gained expertise in certain areas of Jewish genealogy and would like to share their knowledge with others. Some of you may know of distinguished speakers, researchers and scholars whom this release will not reach. Please feel free to forward it to them. I would like to invite you all to submit your proposals for presentations.

We are planning a conference that we hope will be challenging and memorable, with topics covering genealogy, history, cultural heritage, genetics, geography, database management, publishing - a wide spectrum to advance the pursuits of the hundreds of Jewish genealogists who will be attending the conference.

Please do not limit your imagination. All sub-missions will be carefully evaluated and innovative subject matter will be very welcome. Those of you who wish to repeat past presentations are asked to provide updates and new visual material. We are also open to suggestions for speakers on subjects that may not have been sufficiently explored in previous conferences.

Submissions are to be sent to: 2002program@jgstoronto.ca

Our postal address is available upon request.

Your proposal should include the following:

1. complete name, address, telephone and email information;
2. title of proposed presentation(s);
3. a preliminary summary not to exceed 150 words.
4. a brief biographical sketch of approximately 150 words, highlighting your expertise on the subject of your proposed talk, and listing any publications and past presentations, including subject and year of delivery;
5. preferred method of presentation (for example, slide show) and special needs.


Should you be selected after review of all submissions, you will be asked to provide a formal summary and biographical information for the conference syllabus, to confirm the title of your talk, and to indicate any technical requirements and time restrictions in the event you are not available for the entire conference.

The official website for the conference is still in preparation.

Registration will start in about two months. In the meantime, updates on the conference are available at the website of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto): <http://www.jgstoronto.ca> (click on Conferences).

Please do not contact me with registration or general inquiries, as I will not be in a position to respond. I shall count on your support and participation so that together we will make the conference an exceptional and memorable event.

Peter Jassem
Programme Chair
22nd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy
Toronto, August 4-9, 2002
Programme submissions only: 2002program@jgstoronto.ca
All other inquiries: info@jgstoronto.ca


Genealogy By Genetics	Carol Skydell	Vol 8 No. 4		
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JewishGen leads the way and takes genealogy into the new millennium with DNA matching at an affordable price!

When there are no records and the paper trail dead ends, we are offering an opportunity to utilize a revolutionary strategy. This tool places you on the cutting edge of scientific technology and can be your only means of establishing familial connectivity. Using a 12-marker test, relationships can be determined over a period in excess of a few thousand years. If someone has the exact DNA markers as you, you have an extremely high likelihood of sharing a common ancestor with that person, from a time period ranging from a few generations back to about 900 years.

With our partner, Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) we offer an affordable solution to achieving that long hoped for breakthrough. In addition we will be integrating the FTDNA database library with existing JewishGen databases providing untold numbers with the ability to connect with lost branches of their families.

Reported by Carol Skydell
www.jewishgen.org/dna

Exploring the Jewish Internet	Carol Skydell	Vol 8 No. 4		
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New Email And Homepage For AJGS (Victoria)

<http://www.ajgs.exist.com.au>

Email: ajgs@exist.com.au

Western Australian Burials

<http://www.mcb.wa.gov.au>

From 1899 on. Click on Names and Locations Search and then Search by Names and scroll down.

One-Step Ellis Island Search For Jewish Passengers

<http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/ellis/ellis.html>

<http://sites.netscape.net/stephenpmorse/ellis/ellis.html>

Further to the article on the Ellis Island Database in the June issue of Kasher Koala by Stephen Mednick, it is now possible to access this data in a different way. Steve Morse and Michael Tobias have produced a site where Jewish records (i.e. with Hebrew named as the "race" of the passenger) can be researched on a town basis. The spelling of the town name may cause difficulties but it is a worthwhile exercise.

Index To New LDS Microfilms For Lithuanian Jewish Records

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/FHLC/VilnaMicrofilmsIndex.htm>

This Locality Index is an alphabetical listing of Lithuanian towns with the microfilm ordering numbers for the specific place, date, and event type. The relevant microfilms can be ordered at any LDS Family History Centre.

Berlin Directories For The Years 1799 To 1943

Names and street addresses for the residents and businesses of Berlin for the years 1799 to 1943 can be found on-line.

The web site is <http://62.104.137.106/adressbuch/de>

Family names and business associates can be tracked through the years. In German but can be searched without a knowledge of the language. Start with "Ebene"

The Dutch In Memoriam Book On-Line

<http://dutchjewry.huji.ac.il/search.html>

From the Center for Research on Dutch Jewry at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Holocaust Survivor Lists Published In *Aufbau*

From September, 1944 to early 1947 lists of Holocaust survivors in Europe were published in the New York based German-language newspaper "Aufbau". The 33,557 names have been indexed by volunteers at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/Aufbau.htm>

Austrian-Jewish Victims Of The Holocaust

<http://www.doew.at>

This web site lists 61,000 Austrian-Jewish victims of the Holocaust. It includes name, date of birth and deportation details. Click above Datenbank and enter surname in NACHNAME and scroll down to LIST.

Identifying Someone You Know Make contact with dispersed family, change people's lives! View listings at:
<http://www.jewishpeoplefinder.com>

Association of Jewish Refugees, (AJR) England
<http://www.ajr.org.uk>

There are some very interesting LINKS that you can connect with from this page, including The London Jewish Museum, The London Jewish Chronicle, Beit Hatefutsot, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, which you can also find at:
<http://www.jqsgb.ort.org>

MYFAMILY.com

A free site that lets you and your family have one easy central place to share information on line, even build a family tree online that allows others to help fill out the branches.

<http://www.myfamily.com/banner.asp?ID=TellAFriend>

Searching For People with Surnames like Levy, Moses, Alexander and so on.

Add your name to the genforum site as in:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/Moses>

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/Levy>

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/Alexender>

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/Jewish>

And for LINKS to all things Australian

<http://www.jewishaustralia.com>

Ancestry.com World Family Tree

<http://aft.ancestry.com>

AND COMING UP SOON

From 2 January, 2002 the United Kingdom Census for 1901 will be available. Searches will be possible on-line. For details of the latest news and charges see:
<http://www.census.pro.gov.uk>

New Books in Our Library

**Sophie
Caplan**

**Vol 8 No.
4**



Bernard Orenstein, one of our members, went to Berlin on business and brought back a swag of books as a gift. Many of them were more suitable for a Holocaust library and, with his approval, were given to the library of The Sydney Jewish Museum. Two were retained for our society: **DER JÜDISCHE FRIEDHOF IN**

BERLIN-WEISSENSEE, EIN WEGWEISER DURCH SEINE GESCHICHTE (no author cited) which means *The Jewish Cemetery of Berlin Weissensee, a Guide Through Its History*. It is a computer printed booklet of 29 pages, recently put together with computer generated photographs of a number of graves, illustrating different styles of stonework and symbols, and maps of the different sections of the cemetery. The address for information about graves is:

Jüdische Gemeinde zu Berlin, Jüdischer Friedhof,
Herbert Baum Strasse 45 (Markus Reich Platz 1)
13088 Berlin Weissensee, Germany
Tel (49) 925 3330/925 08 33
Fax: (49) 923 76 296

Weissensee is the largest still extant Jewish Cemetery in Europe, although Lodz and Warsaw probably come close.

The second book is also in German and has a list of eleven contributing authors, including Professor Dr Heinrich Simon and four contributing photographers. It is **ZEUGNISSE JUDISCHE KULTUR (*Witnesses to Jewish Culture*)** Memorial places in Mecklenburg, Pomerania, Brandenburg, Berlin, Saxony Anhalt, Saxony and Thuringia.


Published in 1992, lavishly illustrated, mostly in colour, it has pictures of synagogues destroyed in November 1938, it has alphabetical lists of towns in each of the provinces covered and their present and former Jewish communal buildings which are described. There are also descriptions of past important Jewish personalities in each town and an index of names cited at the end. As well there is a list of present addressees of important Jewish organisations in each province, pp315.

We have acquired the new and expanded **GREAT SYNAGOGUE MARRIAGE REGISTERS 1791- 1850** by Angela Shire, published by Frank J. Gent of Crediton in 2001, pp 226. Inside the title is Great Synagogue Marriage Records 1791 - 1850 and they are the records of the Great Synagogue of London, as our Sydney Great Synagogue was not built yet. This expanded version also has four indexes, one of bridegrooms' names, one of brides' names, of occupations and of places of birth. Places of birth include other towns than London in England, as well as Canada, Amsterdam, Berlin Cassel, Danzig, Groningen, Frankfurt, Pressburg, Lissa, etc As well as the usual numerous Anglo-Jewish surnames Abraham, Abrahams, Hart, Harris, Joseph, Jacobs, Hyams, Isaacs, Levy, there are some "foreign" surnames also e.g. Kalisher, Leonino, Lippschutz, Metz, Mendovsky, and one Mayer Amschell Rothschild.

A second book we purchased is **COLLECTANAEA JUDAICA PLYMOUTHENSIS** (collected Essays on Plymouth Jewry) by Rabbi Bernard Susser, Bertram Harris Emden, Wilfred, S. Jessop And Reverend Dr. M.Berlin published in 2001 by Frank J. Gent and Crediton Press, 80 pages name indexed. This book tells the history of the Plymouth Synagogue, its Jewish cemetery and the histories of three of its leading families. It also has a complete list of tombstone inscriptions in the Jewish cemetery, and a circumcision register from 1784 - 1834. Altogether an excellent book for genealogists with Jewish roots in Plymouth, England.

Can be purchased by mail from Frank J. Gent, Culver House Exeter Road,, Crediton.
EX17 3BH, Devon U.K. Tel (44)-0-1363-772-338
Fax (44)-0-1363 776-927
Email: ffg@susserarchive.org.uk

Father Terry Lyons has sent us a new and enlarged edition of his family history, **THE LYONS FAMILY** of Hobart, Melbourne, and Launceston etc., which includes the Sutton and other families.

Over 600 Books Available for Genealogists	Sandy and Don Hirschhorn	Vol 8 No. 4		
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Visit JewishGenMALL:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jewishgenmall>,

Or, just go to:

<http://www.jewishgen.org>

Scroll down a little bit on the home page till you see the purple banner for the Mall. Click on this and you're in. Click on "Browse Mall" and scroll down to books, and select Genealogy How-To. Scroll down for example to Barbara Khait's new book, Discovering your Jewish Roots, published by Heritage Quest, with back cover comments by JewishGen's V.P. for Operations, Carol Skydell, is a step by step guide leading the newcomer to the resources providing the greatest help in a successful search for personal ancestry. Or, scroll to Software or CD-Roms. You will find all the indexes listed alphabetically.

Thank you. We welcome your visit.

Sandy and Don Hirschhorn
Managers, JewishGen Mall
Boca Raton, FL

News from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 8 No. 4		
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A crowded and attentive audience listened to Sydney-sider Diane Armstrong, the well known Australian author of 'Mosaic', speak about her new book "*The Voyage of Their Life: The Story of the SS Derna and its Passengers*" on 11th October 2001.

The meeting was held at the Jewish Museum of Australia in St. Kilda away from our usual location and was held in association with the Sunflower Bookshop in Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick. Sunflower has a large collection of Jewish books and had arranged Diane's visit to Melbourne.

This 475 page book tells the story of the voyage to Australia of a ship carrying 548 passengers to Australia in 1948. Many of them were Jewish refugees including nine-year old Diane and her parents.

The second part of the book relates to their settlement in Australia. A number of SS Derna passengers who had settled in Melbourne were present in the packed lecture room and interesting interchanges occurred in recalling the events of 53 years ago.

Another Beginners' Workshop was held on Sunday, November 4th and further workshops are planned into the New Year.

Peter Nash, an active member of the AJGS in Sydney, will give an illustrated talk on his current research entitled - '*China: Tracing former European, Russian and Sephardic Communities*' - on Wednesday, 28th November 2001 at 7.30 pm at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre.

Peter Nash (formerly Nachemstein) and his family escaped the Holocaust leaving Berlin in 1939 and finding refuge in Shanghai until 1949, finally emigrating to Australia. He presented a paper at the International Conference of the IAJGS in London in July and has recently discovered significant archives in Israel pertaining to Jewish refugees from China.

The Australian Association for Jewish Studies has again invited us to be associated with the 14th Annual Conference to be held in Melbourne on Sunday 16th and Monday 17th February, 2002. It will be held at the Quest Kimberley Caulfield and its theme relates to migration in Jewish history and literature. The AJGS (Vic) is planning a workshop on "*Information Technology and Jewish Genealogy*". Enquiries should be directed to 03 95236738

The Victorian Society recently launched a new homepage on the Internet. This replaces our former homepage.

See: <http://www.ajgs.exist.com.au>

We thank Joel Friedlaender for his efforts in creating this for us.

Enquiries: Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738

sharpe@labyrinth.net.au

or ajgs@exist.com.au

Les Oberman (03)9571 8251

oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

Report from South Australia	Jeanie Sussman	Vol 8 No. 4	
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At our meeting held on Tuesday, October 30, our guest speaker, Hilde Hines, gave us some information on the 21st Conference of the IAJGS which she had attended in London this year.

She tabled a copy of the Daily Planner, which listed all the scheduled speakers and their subjects. Because of the great number of simultaneous events it was obvious that one could attend only a minority of lectures.

In addition, she told of the programme of the many tours arranged, both general and those specifically of Jewish interest. It was informative also to learn about some of the important well-established museums in London.

Hilde brought from the Conference a number of book catalogues and sundry publishers' notices. These were examined with great interest by our members, and it is hoped to follow up some of the items in due course with the possibility of adding to our reference collection.

The South Australian Branch contact is :
Marjorie Luno, President ,
AJGS (S.A. Branch), c/- Beit Shalom Synagogue,
P.O. Box 47, Stepney. SA 5069
E-mail: chatsworth@picknowl.com.au

Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutsch	Vol 8 No. 4	
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We held our last genealogy workshop at the National Jewish Centre in Canberra on 11 November, and we shall advise in due course re activities for 2002.

Enquiries:Sylvia Deutsch:
tel: 02-6248-6196,
fax: 02-6257-3631
or email: deutand@ozemail.com.au.

English-Speaking Polish Guide		Vol 8 No. 4	
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The excellent English speaking, Polish guide specialising in Jewish Tours, Holocaust sites and former Jewish towns has a new address. It is:

Waclaw Wojciechowski
7 Ulica Jalowcowa
05-807 Podkowa Lesna
Poland
Telephone and Fax 48 - 22 - 758 - 5850
Mobile Phone 48 - 601 - 815 - 735
Email: (1) waclawwojciechowski@coolnet.pl
Or (2) waclaww@poczta.onet.pl

Major Database Initiatives: 1. The Slovak Database	Debbi Korman	Vol 8 No. 4	
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This is your chance to help with these historic and momentous projects sponsored by JewishGen

Participation in the project requires only basic typing skills. The lists are typewritten, so there are no problems with illegible handwriting. You are provided with an Excel database, all set up with the proper columns. Detailed instructions are provided regarding what information goes into what column. All you have to do is enter the data and send it to the project coordinator. Or if you don't like typing but you don't

mind proofreading, you can act as a validator and check for typographical errors in the data input.

The Slovak Database

By Debbi Korman

Volunteers interested in Hungary and Slovakia are about to start a major database initiative. Yad Vashem is providing deportation lists from Slovakia's four major assembly labour camps - Zilina (the largest) Novaky, Vyhne and Sered. Zilina was used during 1942 mass deportations because it was the closest to Auschwitz. However, Yad Vashem has more hidden treasures totalling one hundred different lists, including Supis Zidov (Jewish conscription) lists of several major towns, regional lists of Jews compiled by local Judenrats, lists of Jews who received special permits to work, military listings, Hlinka Guard lists and several others, plus many more deportation and transports lists. The thousands of pages of data at present are only available in two places, Yad Vashem and the archives in Bratislava.

Nearly all the towns which belonged to the Slovak fascist state between 1939 and 1945 are represented. It should be noted that for towns that were centralised gathering places for Jews of the region, the information in the lists virtually always includes towns of origin of the deportees. The major towns are: Banska Bystrica, Bardejov, Bratislava, Cadca, Giraltovce, Humenne, Kezmarok, Levoca, Lipiany, Liptovsky Svaty Mikulas, Medzilaborce, Michalovce, Myjava, Nitra, Novaky labour camp, Nove Mesto nad Vahom, Piestany, Pohradie, Poprad, Presov, Ruzomberok, Sabinov, Sered labour camp, Spiska Nova Ves, Stropkov, Topolcany, Trebisov, Trenčin Trnava, Turciansky Svaty Martin, Vranov nad Toplou, Vyhne labour camp, Zilina, Zilina labour camp, Zlate Moravce, and Zvolen.

After the Munich pact the Czechoslovak Republic was divided into a German protectorate and the Slovak independent fascist state. The Slovaks had to surrender to the Hungarians a large portion of territory which previously belonged to Czechoslovakia, principally, that territory which was south of Presov and east of Michalovce, mainly Subcarpathian Ruthenia (now Ukraine), and Romania (Transylvania). Transports began in Slovakia in 1942. They only included those people from the territories which then belonged to the Slovak state. The transports from Subcarpathian Ruthenia and Transylvania took place in spring and summer of 1944. I worked on the Debrecen deportation lists database which is now in the validation stage. I input two, or sometimes three, pages a day, which took less and less time as I got into the rhythm of the project. And, as a bonus, on the last page I found a family member whom I never would have dreamed ended up in Debrecen since the rest of the family lived considerably farther north.

Sponsored also by the Hungarian SIG, our thanks must be given to the many people who have supported and already worked hard on this project - mainly Rachel Reisman, Joyce Field and Louis Schonfeld. The project coordinator is Tom Venetianer who lives in Brazil. I encourage all researchers of Hungary and Slovakian Jewry to participate in this golden opportunity to make some valuable information really available on the Web. Tom's email address is: tom.vene@uol.com.br

Major Database Initiatives: 2. Dachau Indexing Project	Joyce Field	Vol 8 No. 4		
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This is your chance to help with these historic and momentous projects sponsored by JewishGen

Participation in the project requires only basic typing skills. The lists are typewritten, so there are no problems with illegible handwriting. You are provided with an Excel database, all set up with the proper columns. Detailed instructions are provided regarding what information goes into what column. All you have to do is enter the data and send it to the project coordinator. Or if you don't like typing but you don't mind proofreading, you can act as a validator and check for typographical errors in the data input.

Dachau Indexing Project

By Joyce Field

This is a very ambitious and important project: the computerization of 122,000 records from Dachau, which are part of the 189 reels of Captured German Documents, discussed by Peter Lande at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/CapturedGermanRecords.html>

Peter Landé and I resolved that the microfilms be converted to jpeg images on CD-ROMs. Each page of the records is a separate jpeg image. Legibility varies, but the jpegs are much clearer than paper copies of the microfilms.

Additional details will be provided when you say "Yes" to this important project. We are really looking forward to hearing from you soon. Please write to Harriet Brown at: hnbrown@gdinet.com if you can volunteer.

Joyce Field
JewishGen Vice President, Research
jfield@jewishgen.org

Updating Your JGFF Researcher Information		Vol 8 No. 4		
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Since the early days of our Society all members have had their research interests entered on JewishGen's Family Finder.

The following is a request to check that your contact information is in the correct format. You only need to follow these instructions if your JGFF researcher code is between 1001 and 62932.


1. In order to update your JGFF record, you must know your numeric JGFF Researcher Code and your Password. If you have forgotten it, email the Society for the information.
2. Go to the JGFF Modify Entry screen at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/jgffview.htm>.

3. Enter your JGFF Researcher Code and Password, select the first of the three options ("Modify Researcher Information"), and press the "Send Request" button.
4. On the following page, update your address information. In order to move forward with future development of JGFF enhancements, JewishGen has made some modifications to the existing structure of the JGFF database.

Below is a list of those items we need you to change:

- a. Insure that your first name and last name are in the correct fields. If they are not, please make the correction. If you have a Middle Name or Maiden Name entered, place these names in the First Name field.
- b. Make sure that your street address is correct. If it does not fit in the Street Address field, please feel free to use the Additional Address field. Do not use these fields for your Suburb/State information.
- c. Your Suburb/State information belongs in the City field. If you live outside of the US or Canada, leave the State/Province field alone.
- d. Make sure your Postal Code is correct.
- e. Select your Country of residence from the drop-down menu.
- f. Enter or modify your Telephone Number, if necessary.
- g. Enter or Modify your Email Address.
- h. Click on the SUBMIT button at the bottom of the page.

This information can be found in more detail on
www.jewishgen.org/jgff/jgffupdate.html

Editorial	Sophie Caplan	Vol 9 No. 1	
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This is my thirty-third and last editorial and I shall miss writing to you four times a year. Unfortunately my husband's health has had many downs lately and it is necessary for me to shed some obligations. Miriam Shifreen, my long-time friend and editorial assistant, will probably take over as editor and she has all the talents to do an excellent job.

Since the December edition we have held three workshops, all only moderately attended. The workshops are the times when members or guests can use our many excellent books on Jewish genealogy and the numerous overseas journals of other Jewish genealogical societies as well as the extremely informative special interest group publications from groups specialising in German Jewish descent (Stammbaum), on Galician descent (The Galizianer), on Suwalki and Lomza background (Landsmen), or Kielce and Radom provinces genealogy in Poland. And it is surprisingly how few choose to avail themselves of these opportunities. It is perhaps unfortunate that we have so many resources that it is impossible for us to trundle them in boxes from the Rev. Katz Library in Lindfield, so you have to come to us.

Recently our richly illustrated lecture by Mara Moustafine on the *Jews of Harbin* at the Sydney Jewish Museum, and held jointly with the Museum, attracted an audience of fifty, many of them born in Harbin or whose parents had lived there. Mara Moustafine knows her subject well and later this year her book on the same topic is to be published by Allen and Unwin, and will be eagerly awaited.

At our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 24th March, our member Diane Armstrong will speak on her book *The Voyage of their Life, the passengers of the SS Derna* in 1948, which was recently launched at the Sydney Jewish Museum.

On the occasion of the AGM I will step down after ten years and five months as president of this Society. I became interested in genealogy in my early twenties after visiting the Aachen Jewish Cemetery where my father and several of my mother's relatives lie buried. In July 1987 I attended the second International Jewish Genealogy Conference in London where I made several long-lasting friendships. In January 1987 on a visit to New York I arranged to have lunch with Gary Mokotoff. He brought with him Rabbi Malcolm Stern and Miriam Weiner. Rabbi Stern quizzed me on my interest in genealogy and then urged me to start a Society in Australia. This took nearly four years, but eventually I did.

In the meantime Rabbi Dr Israel Porush nominated me as his successor as Australian correspondent or "contributing editor" to *Avotaynu*. Thus my "career" was pushed by two revered rabbis.

I was able to get pre-launch publicity for our Society because in the 1980s and early 1990s my husband Leslie was a leader of the Australian Jewish community and we travelled to many inter-state conferences where I was able to announce the imminent establishment of our Society. Then I called a meeting for 3rd November, 1991 at my home and that is when we started. We are fortunate that we attracted many members in Sydney and in other states and that many of the early adherents are still with us. After some time we were able to bring our inter-state members together in each city and to form separate groups in Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide, Canberra and Brisbane which have been able to function separately, although still helped along by us. I was able to negotiate for the book collection of the Melbourne branch to become part of the Makor Library, but yet continue to belong to the Genealogical Society there, and this has worked very well under successive chairmen Aubrey Schwarz, Lionel Sharp, and now Leslie Oberman. At the beginning of 1998 we severed the apron strings and the Victorian branch became completely independent. They produce their own newsletter though most members still elect to also receive this journal. It has been my endeavour to try and provide each state branch still under our aegis with a basic Jewish genealogy book collection and I was fortunate to have the private means to do so. It would have been absurd for members in Perth, for instance to have to consult many books in Sydney. Of course, the Sydney library is best furnished, although the Melbourne collection may be even better by now as Makor library has many private donors.

We have also tried to keep the Kosher Koala as an organ of all the branches under our umbrella. We have been fortunate in devoted chairpersons of branches who have become my personal friends over the years. In Perth first Ross Trobe, and now

Michelle Urban; in Adelaide first Hilde Hines who is almost *Mrs Adelaide Jewry*, and now Marjorie Luno now helped by Jeannie Susman, with Klee Benveniste holding the fort for many years; in Canberra Sylvia Deutsch, with Alan Shroot, Earl Hoffman and Vernon Kronenberg backing her; and in Brisbane Morris Ochert Brisbane Jewry's cultural chairman, now aided by Carol Stirk. And the friendship with Lionel Sharp and Leslie Oberman in Melbourne, and many others, has also lasted.

In Sydney I was ably assisted for eight and a half years by Rieke Nash who is taking over as president, and by Terry Newman, Stuart Shaw who has continued to receive our official Society e-mails and fax them to me, by Gary Luke, David Laufer, Jeanette Tsoulos, Phillip Baynash, Bernard Friedman, Kim Phillips, Miriam Shifreen and no doubt many others whose names I have omitted. Others have expressed friendship and support without taking a very active part in our Society. A Society like ours needs many active hands to push it along, but I wish there had sometimes been some more hands to the wheel.

I shall continue to cherish all the friendships that I have made in the Jewish genealogical world, both in Australia and throughout the world, and also the help encountered from people like Heather Garnsey and Angela Phippen from the Society of Australian Genealogists, Nick Vine Hall, Kingsley Ireland, and other non-Jewish genealogists who have given me guidance and friendship.

We took pride recently in seeing talks on Jewish genealogy printed integrally from lectures given by Sylvia Deutsch and Vernon Kronenberg in the publication of Canberra HAGSOC (Heraldry and Genealogy Society) and David Wallace's moving personal story in the Winter issue of *Avotaynu* of how he found who his birthmother was and then found his two half-brothers. Peter Nash also had an article in *Avotaynu*, and one of my Kosher Koala articles was reprinted in *Scattered Seeds*, organ of the JGS of Palm Beach County in Florida, USA.

We have been fortunate enough in having Dr Chanan Rapaport of the Centre for the Study of the Rapaport Family in Jerusalem, who spoke to us on the ramifications of this family in November 1993, visit Sydney again. He will speak to us on *Messianism, Chassidism, and the Rabbinical world as related to the historical, anthropological and sociological aspects of genealogy*, at the regular workshop at the Rev Katz Library in Lindfield on Sunday 7th April, 2002 at 10.00 am. Dr Rapaport is an experienced practicing psychologist and academic and a member of the Israel Genealogical Society in Jerusalem.

We will also shortly schedule a lecture by Nancy Goodstein Hilton, who is now a Mormon, but also an expert on Jewish genealogy and compiler of the Index of Jewish Records in the Family History Library. She and her husband Lynn Hilton will be stationed in Australia for the next three years. Lynn Hilton is a university professor with a special interest in biblical archaeology, in particular evidence of the Red Sea Crossing of Exodus, and Mount Sinai and the beginnings of the Jewish religion.

Finally on behalf of all of us I would like to wish Mazeltov to our foundation member and former treasurer, Terry Newman and his fiancée Anita Engel who plan to be married in Sydney in August.

Lehitraot, till we meet again.

Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutsch	Vol 9 No. 1	
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On Sunday 24 February Dr. Vernon Kronenberg led a workshop on Jewish genealogy through the Internet, from 1.30-3.00 pm at the National Jewish Memorial Centre. AJGS members are invited to the Australian Jewish Historical Society annual picnic, this time to Braidwood, on Monday 18 March (Canberra Day). They are also welcome at the AJHS AGM on Thursday 21 March at 7.45am, when Robert Heyman will speak on genealogy, with the topic "In New York, the streets are paved with gold": the use of census data and ships records on Jewish immigration into the USA".

Grateful thanks to Sophie Caplan for her generosity in donating several valuable reference works for use of Canberra AJGS members, and for other interesting material acquired on her trip in 2001 to Jewish Genealogy conference in London.

Please call Sylvia Deutsch on 6248-6196 if you need further information.

fax: 02-6257-3631

or email: deutand@ozemail.com.au.

Queensland Report	Morris S. Ochert	Vol 9 No. 1	
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The period under review has been quiet and I do not have anything interesting to report. Some routine enquiries have reached me including one from a lady in Boulder, Colorado, USA. She is a descendant of "Sali" Mendelsohn, about whom I wrote a story titled "Sali Mendelsohn, Balladeer". This was printed in the journal of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) about four years ago. I was able to give the lady a great amount of detail about her ancestors and she has provided a quantity of early photographs which I have passed on to the AJHS.

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Tel: 07 3870 3860 Email: stirk@uq.net.au

News From Western Australia	Michelle Urban	Vol 9 No. 1	
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Enquirers, both Jewish and non-Jewish, are given whatever information we have, while in many cases, we refer them to Sophie Caplan, our President.

On Sunday 25th November 2001, members met at the home of Michelle Urban where a very successful study afternoon took place. Some of us are just beginning the journey of researching our ancestry and using records to find out about our relatives both past and present. A hands-on workshop for beginners and others on the Net was held and was enthusiastically received. Another hands-on will take place in May 2002.

At the meeting held on Sunday 24th February 2002, at 2.00 pm, in the foyer at Perth Hebrew Synagogue, Dr Harry Cohen, Head of Gynaecology at King Edward Memorial Hospital, spoke about his "One Man's Medical Odyssey".

Our special thanks go to Leslie and Sophie Caplan for their generosity in presenting to our Branch a number of very interesting publications they brought back with them from the London Conference. These will all be very valuable additions to our reference collection.

Enquiries

Michelle Urban, Co-ordinator

21 Broomhall Way, Noranda WA 6062

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The Great Migration, 1880-1914: Significant Factors

Aubrey Newman

Vol 9 No. 1



Fundamental to what I want to say is the basic proposition that very few Jews at the end of the twentieth century lived in the same city or even geographical region where their great- grandparents had been born.

This is the basic feature of modern Jewish life, and it has been this dispersion over the generations, and more especially in the period of the Great Migration - the years between 1880 and 1914 - which has resulted in the enormous gaps in our knowledge of our own family backgrounds. In consequence a study of migration, a study of the routes by which our families travelled from their former homes to their new homes, is very relevant to our studies of our ancestors. As a result of thorough analysis of all the factors influencing the decision to migrate and the decision where to go it becomes possible to examine where it might be profitable and possible to find traces of our families' transit through Europe and out into the wider world.

But in searching these records for such traces there are certain fundamental factors which must be kept continuously in mind in searching for information, some of them so basic as to seem almost insulting to mention. Records come into existence for certain specific and specified purposes they are for the convenience of those who originally created them and they contain only that information which the officials felt that they might need in the immediate future. In many cases these records were not even necessarily intended to have any real length of life, so that their continued existence might well represent an unintended accident.

The Great Migration which affected us all was one part of a process of migration which affected large numbers of Europeans throughout the nineteenth century. During that period of time virtually every country in Europe disgorged large numbers of migrants into the New World. But what is of particular significance for all of us was the movement out of central and eastern Europe of nearly four million Jews. For them it was the combination of overwhelming poverty, a population explosion, and political repression and persecution, all allied to a vast expansion of passenger capacity on the North American shipping routes which made it possible for millions to

be transported all over the world. We normally assume that these movements were the result of pogroms under the Russian Government. The facts are however that extreme poverty was more significant than direct persecution; the fact is that the peaks and troughs of migration from Galicia - where political considerations were more bearable than in Russia - normally coincide with those from Russia and these suggest that pogroms were less significant than might have been expected as the factors behind migration.

Such pressures have been designated as "push" factors, pressures which tended to force or persuade migrants to leave their erstwhile homes. In addition there were very significant factors which served to pull migrants into the new worlds. Sometimes it was the desire for - freedom of religion or freedom from religion, freedom of personal status or freedom from personal ties which had become unbearable. Sometimes it was the lure of the Goldene Medinah, either because there was gold on the streets or because there was open land available for the taking.

In discussing patterns of migration certain basic factors must be considered. How far was there a considered decision to go? What routes were available for the would-be traveller? How far were the decisions based upon the availability of transport? Upon the preferences of various travel agents and sub-agents? How far indeed did the various would-be travellers have any knowledge of their possible destinations? I have for example been doing a lot of work on the migration to southern Africa from the Kovno region, but I still have no clear idea of what "knowledge" there was in Kovno of life and conditions in Cape Town or Johannesburg. But the factor which must be predominant is the importance of the individual decision to migrate. There may have been tens of thousands on the move at any time, but there were tens of thousands of individual decisions, and even if there were agents available to give assistance and advice all they could do was to persuade. Even where there were societies and associations set up to encourage colonisation - such as the Jewish Colonisation Association (JCA) it is clear that they too were highly reactive to populist movements.

The basic structure of transport between the Russian interior and the West channelled movement into a number of basic corridors. For most, the basic decision involved a rail journey to the western coast of Europe even if it began with an illegal crossing over the border. There were some others who chose or who were able to leave by sea through Libau, Riga, or one or other of the various ports in the Baltic that were in use at some time or other. Such departures at times presented problems, but a substantial number of migrants from the northern part of the Pale did pass along the various shipping routes either to the German Atlantic ports or directly to the east coast of the United Kingdom. For those living in the central section of the Pale of Settlement the obvious path was through either Warsaw or Austria-Hungary so that one path would lie through Budapest and Vienna. From the area of the southern Pale or of Romania the most common routes would appear to have been out through the Black Sea or the Eastern Mediterranean, and it would seem to be no mere accident that the overwhelming majority of those who went to the Holy Land in the first three waves of Aliyah came from those areas that found it easier to go there than to America.

A great deal of light upon this whole movement of migration can be thrown by an examination of the ways in which there were developments in the Jewish communities in the various lands through which migrants travelled. We have available information about such communities in Germany, Scandinavia, France, or the United Kingdom. In most of the countries of the transmigration - most especially is this true for Germany -- very few of the migrants stopped off to swell the numbers of Jews already in the country. But in the United Kingdom the numbers of Jews between 1870 and 1914 rose from about 60,000 to well over 250,000 - an increase which cannot be accounted for by natural population growth.

Once those who had arrived at the western Euro-pean seaboard had determined on their destination much more remained to be decided. There were a number of continental ports which had shipping routes direct to North America. And indeed it was always possible to purchase in advance a through ticket covering all aspects of the journey. It was also possible to purchase such tickets at any point of the journey. But it follows that those who travelled direct from a continental port to North America would never appear in records created in the United Kingdom, and certainly never in the records of the institution which I and my students have been studying, The Poor Jews' Temporary Shelter. Others would come into England, not in Liverpool but along the East coast - into such ports as Hull, Grimsby, London, or some of the more minor ports along the coast. It is amazing to find how many seeking genealogical information vol-unteer the statement that their ancestors sailed from Europe and landed at Liverpool: they have very clearly never looked at a map and considered the economics of mass transportation through Europe.

The majority of the migrants passing through Britain proceeded directly from landing stages in the east of the country to boarding stages in the west. It cannot be too often repeated that there were in this period no registers of names of incoming aliens or any sort of passengers coming into the United Kingdom from European ports. What we do have are of course the manifests drawn up for each ship leaving for a non-European port. But these are probably the most important areas of research in United Kingdom records which remain to be studied. Again it must be emphasised that these manifests contain little information beyond the names and occupations of the individual and their nationality. There is no way in which they can be compared with the information available through the manifests still preserved for entry into the United States.

There is however one stream of research which has been studied in detail, and that is the stream which passed through London and which appears in some form or other in the records of the Shelter. While there were clearly "Shelter" institutions in other cities in the United Kingdom - such as Leeds or Liverpool - and in other countries in Europe - such as the Montefiore Vereeningung in Rotterdam or the Asile in Paris - the Shelter in London developed along lines of its own. Two distinct aspects can be distinguished. It is still not clear precisely how far the Shelter was part of a wider system of migrant management operating on behalf of the Port of London Health Authority but some interim con-clusions have become clear. At times the Shelter authorities ensured that new migrants coming into the Port of London went to addresses where they could be checked by the Medical officers, and at times its work was to deal with large numbers of individuals who might otherwise have become a threat to themselves or to the status of the establish-ed community. The

way in which the Shelter reacted to the thousands who poured into London in order to escape from the Russo-Japanese War illustrates this rescue aspect very clearly indeed. But on top of this, and in some sense more importantly, the Shelter developed as part of an organised stream of migration between Lithuania and South Africa, largely in close association with the shipping companies involved. Whether the Castle and Union lines created or merely exploited a desire to move out from Kovno to the Cape of Good Hope, it remains true that by 1896 there existed a close link between that movement and the Shelter. The still extant Registers of the Shelter have illustrated the details of this movement, and a comparison of the numbers passing each year through the Shelter en route to South Africa with the totals provided by the Board of Trade returns shows that the Shelter directly provided facilities for anything between 17% and 30% of the total numbers of aliens who left the UK for Africa.

And once they had landed they were liable to be left on their own in their new destination. In America there was HIAS to help them; in London there was the Shelter. In Cape Town there were Benevolent Societies which tried to be of assistance. But all too often there was pressure on the new arrivals, pressure to move on elsewhere in the country and pressure to cease to be a burden on the over-stretched facilities at the point of debarkation. One aspect of the work of the Shelter is the parallel which exists between it and similar institutions in the other countries of reception. Work for example on the Asile in Paris gives some parallel insofar as it too acted as a receiving institution. But analysis of the activities of HIAS in America would throw a great deal more light upon the importance of such institutions in assisting the passage of individual migrants.

The whole pattern of migration upon which we have been working is unique to the period between 1880 and 1914. The concept of "open frontiers" ended with the outbreak of the first World War. After 1918 "push" factors ceased to operate as they had done previously when "pull" factors equally became much less significant.

Aubrey Newman is Joint Honorary Director of the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust Studies at the University of Leicester and Professor Emeritus of History at that University. He has served three years as President of the Jewish Historical Society of England, and was responsible for organising a number of conferences on behalf of the JHSE: the joint conference of the American and English Historical Societies in 1970, which resulted in the publication of Migration and Settlement; in 1975 on Provincial Jewry in Victorian Britain (the papers presented to that conference were made available in a limited run as Provincial Jewry in Victorian Britain; in 1980 on the Jewish East End (The Jewish East End, 1840-1939); and in 1993 the centenary conference of the Jewish Historical Society of England (Patterns of Migration, 1850-1914). He has also published studies of the United Synagogue and the Board of Deputies. Currently his main interests are in migration studies and the history of provincial Britain.

News From South Australia

**Jeanie
Susman**

**Vol 9 No.
1**



Our first meeting for 2002 was held on Tuesday, January 22nd at the home of Hilde Hines. There was much to discuss about our plans for the future, our wish to

broaden the scope of our activities and of course, as with all South Australian societies, our need for new members.

Our ranks have been sadly depleted with the loss of Joe Bolaffi and Ralph Kaiser and the resignation of several members because of conflicting or family reasons.

Although small in number our members are enthusiastic and committed. We have a modest but veritable collection of resource material., much of it donated through the generosity of Sophie Caplan, the founder of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society and its president since its inception just over ten years ago.

We receive the quarterly journals The Kosher Koala from Sydney and Jewish Genealogy Downunder, the newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc. We are also in the process of arranging a subscription to the very informative journal Avotaynu. From time to time we are able to help people seeking information about relatives past or present, who submit their queries in these journals, and we ourselves are able to access these facilities.

Until now we have been meeting about every two months, and have attempted to alternate an evening of research with an interesting speaker. Our recent Research Session for members was held on Thursday, March 21st from 9.30 a.m. to 12, at the Archives Room at the Beit Shalom Synagogue.

Our next interesting speaker will be Myer Solomon who will talk about his father Nathan Solomon, a prominent Jewish businessman in Adelaide in the early part of last century, on Tuesday, April 30th, 2002 at 8 p.m at the home of Marjorie and Manolo Luno, 2 Blyth Street, Glen Osmond.

Non-members are asked to donate a \$2 coin.

The South Australian Branch contact is :
Marjorie Luno, President ,
AJGS (S.A. Branch), c/- Beit Shalom Synagogue,
P.O. Box 47, Stepney. SA 5069
Jeanie Susman
E-mail: chatsworth@picknowl.com.au

News from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 9 No.		
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Tess Schwarz, who recently published her autobiography, "The First Forty Families: Bringing My Family Tree And Forest To Life", addressed the Society at our first meeting for the year on Wednesday, 6th February at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre.

Tess spoke about the escape of her family from the pogroms in Russia in the early 1900s and how her great aunt and uncle, Chaya and Myer Pahoff, eventually arrived in Melbourne and settled in North Carlton. Between the years 1925 and 1929, they were responsible for bringing forty related families to Melbourne. Among them were

Tess's parents, David and Chaya Hain (nee Jacobson). Detailed family trees were available for inspection.

The Society held a workshop on Sunday 17th February in association with the Australian Association of Jewish Studies 14th Annual Conference on the theme: 'Information Technology and Jewish Genealogy'. Using overhead projection we were able to give an on-line demonstration of the Internet and available databases on CD.


The 'Re-launch' of "Australian Genesis - Jewish Convicts and Settlers 1788-1860" by John S. Levi and G.F.J. Bergman, will be held at Slome Hall, Temple Beth Israel, 82 Alma Rd, St Kilda on 3 March 5.00 pm to 6:30 pm. Rabbi John Levi spoke on "The First Jews of Australia". This magnificently illustrated book was first published in 1974 covering the period 1788-1850 and has been out of print for over two decades. This new edition brings the history up to 1860 and will fill a gap for those interested in the early settlement of Jews in Australia.

The Society agreed to participate in the In One Voice - "Celebration in the Park" event which was held in Caulfield Park on Sunday 17th March. This event, which has for many years attracted thousands of visitors, was cancelled last year and a new committee was formed re-launch a concert, art shows and the promotion of organisational life this year.

The following weekend the Society hosted a table at the Bendigo Family History Expo. Bendigo is a city about two hours drive from Melbourne. A Jewish community flourished there during the goldrush in the 1850s.

The Annual General Meeting of AJGS (Vic) will be held on Wednesday, 22 May at 7.30 at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre.

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Home page: <http://www.ajgs.exist.com.au>

Bankstown Synagogue Memorial Service and Exhibition	Terry Newman	Vol 9 No. 1		
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The Southern Sydney Synagogue (SSS) at Allawah is planning to hold a special Shabbat service on 1st June, 2002 as a memorial to the now no longer extant Bankstown Synagogue. It is inviting former members of the Bankstown Synagogue, and others with connections to the shule (such as descendants of early members), to attend.

Situated in Sydney's south-west, Bankstown Synagogue was not rebuild following a disastrous fire attack in March 1991 which gutted the main building. The dwindling congregation subsequently disbanded, with members moving into other parts of Sydney, where the Jewish communities were stronger.

The SSS now incorporates the defunct synagogues of both Wollongong and Bankstown, and extensive memorial boards are proudly displayed in the shule vestibule.

In June 2001 there will be an exhibition in the synagogue hall of Bankstown memorabilia together with a photographic display depicting some of personalities and events in the life of the congregation, which covered a period of over 80 years.

Terry Newman, son of a former headmaster of Bankstown Hebrew School (the late Edgar Newman), is currently searching for material on Bankstown, and has been putting together lists of marriages, barmitzvahs, yahtzeits, etc. He would be especially happy to receive photos connected with Bankstown, and any interesting reminiscences that are still available.

Further information may be obtained from Terry Newman (phone: 9588 5453, or by email: tnewman@acay.com.au)

and from David Samuels (phone: 9543 9014), the current President of the SSS, and who served as President of Bankstown during the 1980's.

Those intending to attend the Shabbat service, please contact either Terry Newman or David Samuels. The postal address of the SSS is:

PO Box 119, Allawah, 2218.

Terry Newman is a foundation member of this society and a former treasurer. Ed

Burial Registry Records - U.K.	John Berman	Vol 9 No. 1		
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Do you have any spare time? Are you interested in any particular area of the UK?

A very generous donor made a gift of Burial records to the JOWBR and JGSGB at the London2001 Conference. These records now need transferring from paper to electronic format prior to being imported into the JOWBR database and then being available on-line via the JOWBR <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/> and the soon to be announced Jewish Communities and Records - United Kingdom (JCR-UK) web site.

Hull Old Hebrew Congregation Burial Ground Church Lane, Marfleet
486 Graves covered - 1900 to Current (Type Written)

Hull Old Hebrew Congregation Burial Ground Delhi Street
1080 Graves covered - 1855 to Current (Type Written)

Hull Old Hebrew Congregation Burial Ground Ella Street
BishopsWear Cemetery, Sunderland

Register of the Burials in the Hebrew Burial Ground

69 Graves Covered - 1881-1887 (Hand Written) (Note - Some of these are written in Hebrew)

Register of Burials in Plot 1

102 Graves Covered - 1856-1899 (Type Written)

Register of Burials in Plot 3

1000 Graves Covered - 1926 - 1991 (Type Written)

South Shields, Newcastle

200 Graves Covered

Elswick Road Cemetery, Newcastle

900 Graves Covered - 1860 to 1970 (Type Written)

West HartlePool Hebrew Congregation

111 Records Covering 1887-1971 (hand written)

Spion Kop Cemetery

73 Records covering 1887 to 1967

Middlesbrough Hebrew Congregation

690 Records covering 1880 to Current (hand written)

Grimsby Hebrew Congregation

539 Records covering 1896 to 1996 (hand written)

Theses records are currently being worked on:

Hull Western Synagogue Burial Ground Delhi Street, Hendon Road from 1903

1103 Graves covered

BishopsWear Cemetery, Sunderland Register of Burials in Plot 2

254 Graves Covered - 1899 -1926

Sunderland Funeral Directors Records

If you can help, then please respond privately.

John Berman

London

JBerman@jewishgen.org

**Family Tree Of The Jewish
People now 2 Million**

**Vol 9 No.
1**



The JewishGen year-end 2001 report shows that the Family Tree of the Jewish People has reached more than 2 million entries. FTJP is a database of family trees submitted by Jewish genealogists throughout the world. It is a valuable tool in genealogical research because it helps to link researchers with common ancestral

lines. If you have not yet submitted your family tree in GEDCOM format to FTJP, you can do so at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/gedcom>.

A very important part of genealogical research is networking with other genealogists. Adding your family tree to FTJP adds to this networking ability.

JewishGen now has nearly 6 million records in its many databases. Other large databases are JRI-Poland (1.5 million) which contains an index to Jewish vital records of Poland; All-Lithuania Database (282,000); All-Belarus Database (180,000); Yizkor Book Necrology Database (116,000); and JewishGen Family Finder (268,000).

The entire JewishGen umbrella received 4 million hits per month in 2001 with more than 10,000 user session per day. Just five years ago there were less than a half million hits per month and less than 1,000 user sessions per day. Such has been the growth of the Internet and Jewish genealogy.

Jewish Records Indexing (JRI) Project - Poland		Vol 9 No. 1		
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Phase 1, a database of some 750,000 people identified in the 1929 Polish Business Directory. Is completed with the indexing of some 34,000 towns and placing on the Web images of all 3,000 pages of the directory in PDF format. The data is located at

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/bizdir/start.htm>.

The town index was an international effort, using volunteers from many countries: Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, Poland, Sweden and the United States.

Jewish Genealogical Research in The Imperial Russian Empire	Vladislav Sosnikov	Vol 9 No. 1		
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The Imperial Russian Empire occupied a vast territory covering an area in both Europe and Asia. The European portion traditionally was composed of territories initially acquired more than 1,000 years ago from the medieval principalities of Kievan Rus. In the 18th century, Russia acquired much of Poland and territories along the Baltic Sea at the same time that it expanded southward into lands conquered from Ottoman Turkey. In the 19th century, the Russian Empire added Finland and many territories in Asia, becoming the largest country in the world. In the 20th century, the Soviet Union included most of the territories of the former Russian Empire with the exception of Finland and Poland.

National boundaries have changed dramatically over the past two centuries; so also have administrative districts within countries. The Russian Empire was divided into *guberniyas* (provinces), *uezd* (districts) and *volosts* (subdivisions of uyezds). After the demise of the Empire, the former capital cities of most guberniyas became centers of *oblasts* (regions) in the successor Soviet Union. Many exceptions exist; however, and many oblasts are different in size and name from the former guberniyas. Pre-

revolutionary uyezds are comparable to *raions* (subdivisions of oblasts in contemporary Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine).

Jewish History in the Russian Empire

Jews first appeared on European Russian territory more than 1,000 years ago, but they did not inhabit Russia in great numbers until after the partitions of Poland in the years 1772-95. The three partitions brought almost one million unwelcome Yiddish-speaking, Ashkenazic Jews into the Empire. There they faced hostility from the Christian clergy and routinely experienced anti-Semitism from the majority of Russian citizens.

In 1791, the Russian Empress, Catherine the Great, established the Pale of Settlement, an area along Russia's western border, and decreed that all Jewish inhabitants of her realm (with minor exceptions) must live within its borders. The Pale had four major regions: ten Polish guberniyas; six guberniyas in northwestern Russia (Grodno, Kovno, Minsk, Mogilev, Vilno, and Vitebsk); five guberniyas in southwestern Russia (Chernigov, Kiev, Podolia, Poltava, and Volhynia); and four guberniyas in southern Russia (Bessarabia, Ekaterinoslav, Kherson, and Tauria). With some adjustments, this residency restriction remained in force until 1917. At the time of the first All-Empire Census in 1897, 93.9 percent of the Empire's Jews still lived in the Pale, and only 208,000 of the 5.2 million Jews lived in the interior of Russia or in Finland.

The major areas where Jews lived, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova (formerly Bessarabia), and Ukraine (with the exception of Bukovina and Galicia), were part of the Russian Empire from the late 18th century until the czar was overthrown during the 1917 Russian Revolution.

Social Status of Jews in Russian Empire

Imperial Russia created a variety of laws that generated records about its Jewish subjects; many of these records survive in archives and are valuable sources of genealogical information today. In order to understand the types of records created and to know where to seek them, the researcher needs to know the class structure formulated by medieval Russian law. The Russian Empire was a Christian state ruled by an autocratic czar with the help of an extensive bureaucracy. Every inhabitant was seen as belonging to one or another class, each of which served a specific function within the society and had different, specific duties and obligations toward the crown. These classes were nobility, clergy, military, peasants, town dwellers and artisans. Jews, officially classified as *inorodtsy* (non-Christian *strangers* of foreign origin), were required to be good citizens and to take an oath of loyalty to the czar.

Initially, when the Jews of the western provinces became subjects of the Russian crown in 1772, they were allowed to keep the long-standing community organisations and privileges that they had enjoyed in the Polish-Lithuanian state. The situation changed in the 1790s, however, when the Pale of Settlement was established along with special laws and regulations that limited their social status and established particular obligations and duties. Jewish merchants, for example, were forced to pay taxes twice as high as those paid by non-Jews. Although the *kahals* (Jewish communal governments) were allowed to exist for the first 50 years

after creation of the Pale, they were forced to carry out the discriminatory policies of the State.

An urban population, Jews engaged primarily in banking, industry, and trade, operating small shops and businesses. They resided in small Jewish market towns (*shtetls*) (*evreiskie obschestva mestechka*) and in separate communities within larger towns (*gorodskie meschanskie evreiskie obschestva*) and were registered separately in revisions of government tax census records (*reviskie skazki*) conducted in the corresponding districts (*uezd*). The Crown Treasury Chambers (*Kazennaya Palata*) in each guberniya compiled lists of taxpayers during periodic revisions during the years 1795-1858. Also, Jews paid a number of special taxes including the *korobochny sbor* (the main community tax used to support community institutions and mutual aid) and *svechnoi sbor* (tax on Sabbath candles used to support Jewish schools).

Among others, additional individual taxes were levied on inheritances, the lease of buildings, distillery and liquor trade, industry, ownership of cattle, and the right to wear Jewish clothing. The taxes were established by local governments and approved by the czar's Interior and Financial Ministries. All the specific Jewish community taxes were paid and registered at the corresponding city governmental bodies. From 1836 to 1875, this was the *Duma, Ratusha, Magistrat*; after 1875, it was *Gorodskaya Uprava*.

Significant changes occurred in the organization of Jewish life during the 19th century. The *kahals* were abolished in 1844, and Jews of the Pale came under the governance of the general police administrations in the districts; city governments were responsible for economic and tax matters. Government-appointed rabbis were added to the list of Jewish community officials who, by that time, already had diminished control over economic aspects of their lives. Jewish courts continued in existence and even Christian courts deferred to them. *Chevrot* (brotherhoods of the Jewish community) increased in importance and number, many assuming the role of trade unions, while synagogues became meeting places for various new political parties.

For taxation and military conscription purposes, the Russian government devised a special system of registration to track Jewish movement within the country. No one was permitted to move from his place of residence without special written consent issued from a specific governmental office. Despite the law, however, Jews moved frequently both within the Pale and even to the interior of the country, citing such reasons as travel for business, attendance at one or another educational institution, to visit relatives, or even to resettle in newly allowed areas. Much migration was done without official approval, especially when the need arose to evade military service.

In the early 1800s, Czar Alexander 1 devised a plan to resettle some Jews from the Pale of Settlement to agricultural colonies in Novorossia (New Russia), the vast southern territories seized from the Ottoman Empire. Although thousands of Jews moved to agricultural colonies in the southern guberniyas of Bessarabia, Ekaterinoslav, Kherson, and Tauria throughout the 19th century, few succeeded as farmers, despite certain privileges granted to colonists. At the same time, however,

many Jews settled in south Russian towns and established prominent communities in Ekaterinoslav (today, Dnepropetrovsk), Elisavetgrad (today, Kirovograd) and Odessa. Nonetheless, Jewish agricultural colonies formally existed until the beginning of the 20th century.

Military Duty

In 1827, Czar Nicholas 1 decreed that Jews, who had heretofore been exempt from military service, were now liable for up to 25 years of army service as common soldiers - and the kahals were made responsible for delivering the required number of recruits. Jews employed many methods to avoid induction including the use of false documents and officially permitted ransom. Many young men simply ran away from their communities when their draft date approached. In every community, however, some men fulfilled the military obligations and had the rank of reserve soldiers. In every guberniya and district, draft offices (*rekrutskie prisutstviya* before 1874 and *po voinskoi povinnosti prisutstvie* in the years 1874-1917) kept registers of all males eligible for conscription; in addition, appropriate family lists were compiled periodically.

Vital Record Registration

As noted above, all Jews were registered or assigned to a specific geographic location even if they actually resided elsewhere. Beginning in 1826, Jews were required to register all births, marriages, divorces, and deaths in the synagogue to which they were assigned. In 1835, new regulations ordered the rabbis to keep registers (*metricheskie knigi*) of all Jewish vital events; after 1857, they were kept by government-appointed *crown rabbis* who were usually not the spiritual leaders of the respective communities.

For the years 1835-1917, Jewish vital records were collected annually by municipal institutions - initially by *Gorodskaya Duma* or *Ratusha Magistrate*, after 1870 by *Gorodskaya Uprava*. Beginning in 1844, these institutions compiled family lists of all resident Jewish families every two years; periodically, they also created alphabetical lists of the heads of local Jewish families. In addition, many other documents about Jews were created: registers of recruitment turn, local tax records, copies of revision lists, registers of specific taxes for Jewish communities, registers of community members, and registers of permission to leave.

According to the class structure of the 19th century Russian Empire, different administrative institutions were responsible for different classes in each city. For the years 1870-1917, the *Meschanskaya Uprava* was responsible for town dwellers; *Remeslennaya Uprava* handled matters for craftsmen; and *Kupecheskaya Uprava* dealt with the merchants. These institutions were responsible for the taxes and military recruitment for their class of the population, and their records are each kept separately in archives today. Jewish shtetls were administered by the local government of the volost, a smaller administrative subdivision of the uезд.

Police Records

For administrative control purposes, district and city police kept their own files on Jews. Among their records after 1844 were lists of residents, petitions to establish a business, registers of internal travel passports, and other miscellaneous documents. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when liberal and revolutionary political

parties appeared, e.g., Bund, Social-Democratic and Zionist parties, Jewish activists became a special focus of attention for the police departments of each guberniya. An alphabetical card catalogue of names was created at the headquarters of the czar's police department in Moscow. Today this unique catalogue, which alphabetically lists hundreds of thousands of individuals, is in the custody of the Russian State Archive in Moscow.

Temporary Amelioration of Burdens Under Czar Alexander 11

During the reign of Czar Alexander 11 (1855-81), conditions for Russia's Jews ameliorated somewhat. After 1859, Jewish merchants of the First Guild (i.e., the richest) and foreign Jews "noted for their social position" could reside permanently in St. Petersburg and Moscow. After 1861, Jews who had academic degrees and worked for the government could reside anywhere in the empire; after 1879, any Jews with an academic degree, regardless of his employment, might do likewise. Merchants of the first and second guild were allowed to live in Kiev; after 1865, Jewish artisans, mechanics, and distillers could reside outside the Pale.

Even before the end of Alexander II's reign, however, the trend had begun to reverse and deteriorated even further under the last two Romanovs, Alexander 111 (1881-94) and Nicholas 11 (1894-1917). In 1887, the government introduced strict limits on Jewish educational access and began to enforce residency requirements more rigidly. In 1891, 20,000 of the 30,000 Jews who lived in Moscow were expelled to the Pale, many of them in chains. The list of restrictions on Jews became enormous. The Pahlen Commission, created in 1883 to study "the Jewish question," reported that: *no fewer than 650 restrictive laws directed against the Jews may be enumerated in the Russian code, and the discriminations and disabilities implied in these laws are such that they have naturally resulted in making, until now, the life of an enormous majority of the Jews in Russia exceedingly onerous.*

Previously, local judicial and municipal reform had permitted Jews equal representation, but a law of 1879 restricted Jewish representation on local governmental bodies to no more than one-third - even in areas Jews were a much larger percentage of the population.

Emigration, Assimilation and the Tragedy of Russian Jewry

Jewish life in the Pale did not see much social change before the Russian Revolution. Poverty was widespread and the separation of the Jews existed until the fall of the Czarist Empire in 1917. Approximately 1.5 million Jews from the Russian Empire (excluding Russian Poland) emigrated to the United States between 1880 and 1914; at the same time half a million went to Canada, South Africa, South America, western Europe, Palestine and Australia.

Emigration was not legally regulated in Russia until 1892, but everyone who wished to travel abroad was required to obtain permission from his hometown government and to obtain a travel passport from the local governor's office. Jews, most leaving illegally, migrated from the western provinces of the Russian Empire chiefly by railway to the German seaports of Bremen and Hamburg to board ships for America. Beginning in 1888, the Baltic port of Libau (today Liepava) also offered service.

Emigration ceased during the Russian Revolution (1917) and subsequent civil war (1918-21) and almost no one emigrated from the successor Soviet Union. In the great social changes after the Revolution, Jewish religious communities and the traditional way of life were assimilated and dispersed in the growing industrial country. Many Jews left their shtetls for large cities like Moscow and Leningrad. During Stalin's Great Terror in the 1930s, millions of Soviet citizens, including many Jews, died in prisons and labor camps. Only in the western parts of Ukraine and Belarus, which were under Polish rule during the years 1921-39, was traditional Jewish life preserved longer.

The USSR annexed the western Belarussian and Ukrainian regions in 1939, as well as Bessarabia in 1940 and brought dreadful political repression and a socialist economy on these territories. Nazi Germany's invasion during World War II completed the destruction of the remaining Jewish communities and millions died in the Holocaust. After World II, the Jews who remained alive in the USSR lived under the strict totalitarian regime of the Cold War until the 1970s when the Soviet regime yielded to political pressure from the West and allowed limited Jewish emigration. A total of 700,000 Soviet Jews had emigrated by the end of the 1980s, some to Israel, the majority to the United States. Some also to Australia.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Jewish religious, community, and cultural life could once more be re-established under the democratic laws of the newly independent states. More than one million Jews live in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and other republics, but Jewish emigration continues.

Adoption of Jewish Surnames

With the exception of some rabbinic and other notable lines, most Polish Jews who came under Russian sovereignty at the end of the 18th century did not have true surnames but identified themselves for religious purposes by their traditional Hebrew names, e.g., so and so, the son of so and so. In December 1809, the Russian government ordered all Jews to adopt fixed, inheritable family names so that they might be more easily identified for taxation and conscription.

No name adoption registers are known to have survived, but each individual Jewish community apparently was responsible for administering the process. Given the increasingly harsh laws under which Russian Jews were forced to live, it is not surprising that many evaded the law in a variety of ways and to the best of their abilities. As late as the middle of the 19th century, government officials complained about the frequent change of family names among Russian Jews who lived in different communities under different names. The Jews of 19th century Russia were extremely mobile; they moved often in search of a better life and to avoid military conscription and extremely harsh taxes. Often they lived in different communities under different surnames, frequently adopting the name of their previous community as a surname. Thus, even close relatives might have different last names and many Jews probably lived in (and created a paper trail in) many shtetls, not just the single one cited by an immigrant ancestor. Until the Russian Revolution, Jews were forbidden to change the names with which they were recorded in their official birth register. For many reasons, this was a law more honoured in the breach than in the observance.

As is true in most places, archival collections are the major source of Jewish genealogical information, but the complete holdings of Jewish genealogical records are still being uncovered after years of official indifference, neglect, and secrecy. In general, archival sources document Jews in Russian controlled territory since the 1790s, but in many cases, only limited information is available for a given historical period. Wars, revolution, and divisions between neighbouring countries caused the destruction of many archival records from the Imperial Czarist Empire.

Provenance determines where records are to be kept. That is, records are held in the archives where they were created, despite changes in sovereignty. In the case of the Russian Empire, however, not only did boundaries between countries change, but so also did the administrative divisions within the Empire. Especially after World War 11, archival holdings were exchanged and moved between neighbouring regions and/or countries. In order to know which archives to search for possible records of interest, genealogists need to study comprehensively the administrative divisions within the 19th and early 20th century Pale of Settlement.

Central historical archives hold the bulk of the most ancient and historically important records of the country. For example, the Central Historical Archives of Russia in Moscow and in St. Petersburg hold the archival collections of the central government of the Russian Empire. In addition, regional archives exist in each oblast centre today in Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine. They usually hold both pre-Revolutionary and Soviet records, including most of the genealogically relevant documents for the corresponding guberniyas and uezds. The situation is different in Belarus and the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania) where nearly all genealogically useful records have been concentrated in central state historical archives. In these countries, regional archives do not hold any pre-World War 11 records.

Fond, opis, and delo are archival designations of the record storage system that enables an archivist in the former Soviet Union to retrieve records. A fond corresponds to a record group, an opis to an inventory of a subject or records within a specific fond, and a delo is a file within an opis. As a result of Russian archival descriptive practice, each item in an archive is defined by three numbers: fond, opis, and delo.

The records in a fond are the records of a single specific organisation or individual. The organisation might be a unit of a government institution; in the case of the Russian Empire, the individual was usually a rich landlord, merchant, prominent artist, scientist, cultural activist, or industrial capitalist. Archivists and researchers can find an archival record by the institution or individual that created it. Therefore, when seeking genealogical information for a certain town resident, one must locate record groups (fonds) of the corresponding guberniya, district and town administrative institutions, religious and public organisations and then look through inventories and indexes in search of interesting items. An individual file (delo) usually is a bound volume of old papers that varies in size from a single sheet to a thousand pages.

The handwriting is in Old Russian script and requires specific language expertise in order to understand the contents.

Basic reference aids in the archives are standardised archival guides (*putevoditeli*) and traditional archival inventories (*opisi fondov*). Officially published archival guides in Russian, Ukrainian, or other national languages are in almost every archive of the former Soviet Union and include general summaries of the records in each fond and collection. They may be found in many libraries, as well.

Archival inventories (*opisi fondov*) show the ordinal numbers and brief titles of every item (delo) within the record group (fond). Each fond may have several opisi. They usually have been compiled in the 20th century and are typewritten in Russian, Ukrainian, or other national languages. Indexes (*ukazateli*) and card catalogues (*katalogi*) sometimes are created for particular record groups. They may be a geographical index to a collection of vital records or a subject index listing names of government and public institutions mentioned in a collection of governor's office records. If these reference aids exist, they are generally fragmentary and not genealogically oriented; genealogy was not a priority in the Soviet archives.

In recent years, some central historical archives in Russia and in Belarus started compilations of computerised databases of genealogical archival sources; unfortunately, these files are for the internal use of archivists only and are not available to outside researchers. On the other hand, the most advanced archives have started to build web sites and to provide information about their holdings and services on the Internet. A comprehensive list of Russian archival addresses and a standardised description of their holdings and conditions for researchers has been compiled by Patricia Kennedy Grimsted and is available on line at <http://www.lisg.nl/~abb>.

Types of Records for Genealogical Research

The primary source for genealogical research during the Russian Empire are:

- Revision lists for the years 1794-1808, 1811-12, 1815-25, 1833- 35, 1850-52, 1857-59
- Supplemental revision lists from 1860 to end of 19th century
- Local censuses of householders for the years 1862 to 1916
- Surviving portions of the All-Empire 1897 universal census
- Family and local residential lists (*posemeinye spiski* and *obyvatel skie knigi*)
- Class lists for merchants (*spiski kuptsov*) and members of town communities (*spiski meschan* and *spiski evreiskih obschestv*)
- Lists of voters eligible to vote for the city council
- Jewish vital records (*metricheskie knigi*) for years from 1835 - 1918
- Military conscription records (*posemeinye spiski* and *svidetelstva o voinskoi povinnosti*)
- Land and property records in corresponding town administrations
- Records of educational and cultural institutions

Because Jews were active in the economic life of the areas where they lived, such documents as commercial contracts, debt documents, protests, lending contracts,

purchase orders - all stored in the collections of city governments - may be valuable to the family historian.

After 1905, when Russian law allowed elections of the people's representatives to the Duma (parliament), lists of voters - men over the age of 25 - were published in the official government regional newspapers (the *Gubernskie Vedomosti*) in 1906, 1907 and 1912.

After the Russian Revolution in 1917, the old governmental institutions ceased to function and new state structures were created in the Soviet Union. In 1918, religious institutions were separated from the State, and the registration of Jewish births, marriages, divorces, and deaths transferred to civil institutions. In the 1920s, a system of local registry offices (ZAGS) of the Ministry of Justice was established. The ZAGS offices continue to function in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine and keep registers for the last 75 years.

Records created prior to 1920-25 normally have been transferred to the state archives of the appropriate oblast centre. ZAGS archives do not provide service for genealogists and issue legal copies of vital records only to relatives of the person for whom information is required. Requests with notarised copies of proof of relationship should be sent through one's embassy or directly to the Ministry of Justice of the country involved.

Business, Provincial and City Directories

Business directories, such as the all-Russia *Vsya Rossia*; regional directories (*Ves Severo-Zapad*); and city directories, such as *Ves Kiev* were published in Russia during the 1890s and the first decade of the 20th century. Listed in them are many people who engaged in crafts, trade, and small .

Provincial directories (*gubernskie pamyatnye knishki*) were published periodically in each guberniya from 1850 to 1916 and cover all public institutions and offices, including Jewish institutions. Included are rabbis, other religious functionaries, doctors, hospital staff members, pharmacists and teachers; many of the latter were Jewish. Many directories are held in major libraries around the world, including the U.S. Library of Congress and the library of Columbia University in New York.

Yiddish and Russian-Lang. Newspapers

Prior to World War 1, many Yiddish and Russian-language Jewish newspapers existed in the Russian Empire. They often included marriage and death notices, as well as articles of interest to family historians. Large collections of such newspapers may be found at U.S. Library of Congress; the YVIO Institute for Jewish Research; the New York Public Library, Jewish Division; and the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem.

Languages Used in Records

Throughout this article, country and town names are rendered in transliterated Russian spelling because Russian was the official language of the Czarist Empire and most archival documents, inventories, and reference aids created in that period are written in Russian. Some records in Belarus and western Ukraine are in Polish for the period when portions of these countries were under Polish administration; in

the western part of Ukraine that belonged to Hungary until World War 1 and to Czechoslovakia in the interwar years, records are in those languages.

Yiddish (written in Hebrew script) records usually are parallel to Russian text in Jewish vital statistics registers. The Ukrainian and Belarussian languages appear in some records after 1918; the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian languages became official in those countries after 1918.

Calendar Considerations

Prior to 1918, Russia used the Julian calendar, after which the Soviet government adopted the Gregorian calendar used in the West. This means that dates in records from the 19th century Russian Empire are actually 12 days earlier than the corresponding date in the Gregorian calendar. In addition, the Jewish calendar - months and days - appears in Jewish registry books that are written in Russian and Yiddish alongside the Christian calendar dates. A lack of correspondence between dates may occur, also, because the Jewish day begins at sundown.

Archival Conditions for Researchers

During the Soviet period, archives traditionally were not open to the public. Since 1991, in the newly independent countries, archives have been officially open to domestic or foreign researchers, including genealogists. Specifically, the Baltic States have established good conditions for researchers. Unfortunately, in Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine, a difference still exists between official national policy and local practices.

Genealogists desiring to do their own on-site research should apply in writing to the archival director for formal approval of the proposed research; even if granted, the researcher's work in the reading room may be supervised by archivists. In all too many archives, because of a poor economic situation and slack bureaucratic discipline, procedures remain complicated and unfavourable to individual genealogists. Many genealogists report difficulty gaining access to records and favouritism by the directors of various archives. As a result, genealogists must often depend upon good luck and the mercy of an archivist.

Frustrating limits on the delivery of archival files to the reading room and problems obtaining photocopies often are encountered. Although most archives have obtained photocopy machines in recent years, the number of copies are sometime limited. Users are not allowed to make copies themselves but must fill out a special application for copying permission that then must be considered by the archives director. Every photocopy made must be checked by an authorised archivist and imprinted with an archival copyright stamp. Photocopying an entire file is not permitted. Charges for copies vary from one to ten U.S. dollars per page of European letter size paper. Sometimes archivists mask part of the document, allowing users only to obtain the record pertaining to the approved subject of research.

Genealogical Services

In recent years, many archives, especially central historical archives in major cities, have begun to offer genealogical services for a fee. Unfortunately, most have received more inquires than they can handle and lack adequate resources for

speedy service. In addition, mail correspondence and money transfers tend to be very complicated in Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. It typically takes many months - even years - for a foreigner to obtain an answer and then the results often are unreasonably expensive and incomplete, primarily because of inexperience and lack of finding aids.

Anyone who requests research by mail initially will be charged from \$US.50 - 80 simply for the archives to accept the request. Basic fees for genealogical research vary from \$US.4-8 per hour of searching. Every photocopied page of a document costs from \$US.1-10 - and even higher. Photocopies are sent from the archives only after receipt of the full payment. An average search costs approximately \$US.300. A final archival report, typewritten in the language of the particular country, usually consists of a list of all archival records inspected during the search and a line-by-line transliteration of records found that are relevant to the search. Photocopies of original records usually must be ordered separately.

A competent local genealogist or professional genealogical service usually can provide better and quicker service, and is available in genealogical reference books, magazines, and on the Internet.

Adapted from a presentation at the 20th Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Salt Lake City, Utah, 11th July, 2000, and published with permission from Avotaynu, Vol XV1, No. 2, (Summer 2000), 32.

Jewishgen Holocaust Database	Joyce Field	Vol 9 No. 1	
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<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust>

This database is the result of a coordinated effort by many people and organizations and contains numerous and varied data sets, all searchable from one location. The current database contains 37 data sets with approximately 140,000 records. Included are concentration camp data; databases on Norway, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, and Poland; ghetto registers from various cities, such as Lvov, Krakow, Brest, and Pinsk. New material will be added in forthcoming quarterly updates.

To ensure that the results are as accurate as possible, many steps are needed: obtaining the data; establishing transcription standards; forming a data entry group under a project coordinator; developing an Excel template; getting the completed data entry to a team of proofreaders; and then going through a second level of validation if the data set has been provided by Yad Vashem or USHMM. For example, the Dachau Indexing Project (over 120,000 records) now has approximately 60 volunteers all over the world doing data entry, four volunteers doing validation, and three co-ordinators to supervise this massive project. This project, like all the others, would not have been possible without the vision of our leadership and our partners, the dedication of so many volunteers, the commitment of valuable resource material provided by our donors, and the support of those who continue to make a financial investment in this.

We have an immediate need for more volunteers for data entry and project management and with your ongoing assistance and support, the JewishGen Holocaust Database will one day serve as a major tool for connecting our past - to the present - for the future.

Joyce Field
JewishGen Vice President Research

**Help Us To Register
Holocaust Survivors!**

**Laura M.
Green**

**Vol 9 No.
1**



The Survivors Registry of the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington DC maintains the single most comprehensive listing of Holocaust survivors in the world.

The Registry has existed for over a decade, and currently contains approximately 172,000 names of Jewish survivors and their descendants, anyone displaced, persecuted, and/or discriminated against by the racial, political or ethnic policies of the Nazis or their allies from 1933 to 1945 and who survived the end of World War II. A Holocaust survivor can be registered even if he or she is no longer living today.

It is important to make certain that each survivor's unique experience is recognised and preserved for future generations. Forms can be downloaded from our web page at

<http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry>

We also welcome research requests relating to Holocaust survivors. Persons searching for survivors can complete a research request form, also located on our web page.

If you have any questions, please contact me at:
lgreen@ushmm.org
Laura M. Green
Collections Manager, Survivors Registry

President's Report

Rieke Nash

**Vol 9 No.
2**




Over the last ten years one of the most satisfying aspects of the Society has been the loyalty of many of the members. It has been wonderful to receive your messages of support.

Your generosity for the tribute to Sophie Caplan on her retirement is much appreciated and it is evident that many of you have been helped by her. As one member says "I have greatly admired her for her dedication to the Society and for all she has achieved since its foundation". Sophie had developed the art of networking well before the Society existed and even before the Internet was invented and her efforts have helped to establish Jewish genealogy in Australia. All our good wishes go to her and Leslie for the future.

Recently I was intrigued by the story of the making of the Oxford Dictionary. The task to document the English language in a systematic way was begun in the 1850's. It took seventy years to complete and was mainly achieved by the work of hundreds and hundreds of unpaid volunteers. It sounded a little like what is happening in the world of Jewish genealogy. For example, the JRI-Poland project aims to have indexed every existing vital record for Polish Jewry up to 1939 and will achieve it with the help of a world-wide volunteer force. As the Polish archives only release 100 year old information maybe it will be 2039 before everything is indexed!

It is always a thrill to see that members of our Society living in Australia have participated in this project. Some are actually transcribing the LDS microfilm indices for their own town even though the records are in Polish. Others have helped finance the transcribing of the Russian-era records, many of which are still in the Polish Archives. The result is that those who participate as volunteers are able to capitalize on the experience with some unexpected outcomes. I was a 'witness' to the tragedies experienced in a small shtetl in 1848 when I indexed the 166 deaths from a cholera epidemic with whole families being wiped out. I also recorded the subsequent increased births and marriages the following year.

If you have anything to contribute to the huge effort to document Jewish genealogical resources, don't hesitate. You never know what your reward will be.

Editorial	Miriam Shifreen	Vol 9 No. 2		
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Welcome to the June 2000 issue of the Koshers Koala, and, my first as editor.

It is going to be a hard act to follow on from the Editorship of Sophie Caplan who inaugurated this Newsletter and was its Editor for so many years. Sophie had a wide-ranging knowledge of Jewish genealogy and an extensive network of overseas genealogists and connections.

So I am going to need all help I can get from all of you, our readers. Should you have any ideas or suggestions or better still would like to submit an article on your research, your most recent genealogical adventure, family tree gathering, amazing success, or dare I even say it, a lost lead, why not share it with all of us?

Meanwhile, I hope you will enjoy this June Koshers Koala. In it you will find Lionel Sharpe's tribute to Sophie Caplan, our retiring President after ten years of dedicated service to our Society and seconded by Morris Ochert; Peter Nash's first instalment *Navigating Berlin Resources to Solve a Family Puzzle* when he tossed a pebble into the pond and the ripples led to his rewarding and amazing discovery; perhaps you can help solve a riddle for newly rejoined member of our Society, Max Croot when he asks, *What's in a Name?* the first in a new series of articles that will be called *Hitting A Brick Wall*, for those with a lost lead and whose research needs a little help from one of our readers.

If you are thinking of a family gathering, then you'll be interested in reading about Stuart Shaw's highly successful *Shaw Family Reunion* when 116 Shaw family

members gathered on the Sydney Harbour foreshores; and for those who are thinking of volunteering for projects run by the Society you will want to know *Who's Running Our New Committee*.

We are going to start a new series on the members of our Society, beginning with the two longest-standing members Stuart Shaw and Terry Newman, and over time I hope you'll all be introduced to the membership through these columns so that we can promote Australian interests and research.

Finally, I hope you like our new look cover.

My best wishes to you all.

**Navigating Berlin
Resources to Solve a
Family Puzzle (Part 1)**

Peter Nash

**Vol 9 No.
2**



In 1991 I visited the Jewish Community Centre in Fasanenstrasse, the site of a former well-known and large synagogue in Berlin. I was there with an older cousin from London who remembered standing on an adjacent higher railway bridge on November 10, 1938, the morning after the infamous *Kristallnacht* and watching the smouldering remains of the destroyed synagogue. I was there to research the Centre's resources and I was able to scan the *Gedenkbuch* [1] (Memorial Book) for Holocaust victims who were former German residents. This book contains 125,000 names and I immediately searched for my birth name NACHEMSTEIN - which is so unique that any Nachemstein is part of my ancestral lineage. I did not recognise any of the seven names I found but went away with a copy of their names.

After my return to Sydney I showed my father Herbert Nachemstein the names but he only recognised two of them, one being his father's brother and the other Max Nachemstein whom he described as "a cousin", had also lived in Berlin as we did, but without any knowledge of our true connection. I was quite disappointed but at the same time challenged to solve the genealogical connection. I also noted that Max was murdered in Minsk in 1941 and that Klara Nachemstein neé Rosenthal also died there at the same time, so together with the closeness of their birth years I assumed that they were husband and wife.

With the help of the *Freie Universität Berlin* [2], my London cousin confirmed that Max was born in Lessen, in the district of Graudenz of the former West Prussia, now Lasin, Poland. This was very significant as other Nachemstein's also came from Lessen. I tried various ways and resources to establish a connection with Max but nothing clicked. This was frustrating as I had been very successful in finding other Nachemstein branches [3].

I had also decided that when appropriate I would reveal as much of my interest in genealogy and background as possible including my name at birth - something that I consciously avoided for many years. I had learned already that in genealogy research your lucky find comes when you put yourself in a position to be lucky.

Then in 1994 (after my father had died) I went to my London cousin's daughter's wedding. I was chatting to another guest and slipped in that my birth name was Nachemstein not Nash. Immediately I was told that the birth name of a female friend was also Nachemstein! This amazing information gave me a sleepless night wondering who this could be. I scanned through my family records which I had with me as I planned to do research elsewhere. The fact of a Nachemstein existing in London totally mystified me as my parents had been to London several times and had never met or mentioned another Nachemstein. I somehow got the feeling that this person was the granddaughter of Max and Klara Nachemstein.

With a given contact number and unable to contain myself any longer, I phoned very early next morning, quickly explained the reason for calling, first to a sleepy male voice and again to an equally sleepy female voice. There was initial hesitation and doubt about my bona fides, even after spelling out 'Nachemstein' correctly. I then asked Marion FISHER neé Nachemstein if Max and Klara were her grandparents and murdered in Minsk - she replied: "No - they were my parents." We were both stunned and quite speechless.

Marion asked if we could meet the next day and apologised again for their slow response when I called as they had only returned from a holiday late the night before - in fact a day earlier than planned, which is the "making your luck" part of genealogy, as I was flying out of London early the next day.

Within an hour, I met Marion and husband Richard, and we had a very exciting and emotional meeting which we savoured together for several hours. It was interrupted briefly as I called my wife Rieke in Sydney with the story of my incredulous find.

Marion confirmed she was born thirteen years before me in Berlin where Max had a scrap metal business which was the family "birth mark" as nearly all the known Nachemstein's worked in the scrap metal industry. She had fled to London in April 1939 shortly after her older brother Hans, but their parents remained in Berlin. Until the day we met Marion thought that no other Nachemstein had survived as the previous year her older brother Hans had passed away. The other amazing coincidence was that Hans had also changed his name to Harold NASH, making three separate branches independently adopting the name NASH - in Los Angeles, London and Sydney!

However we could not work out how we were exactly connected. Marion confirmed her grandmother's name was Rosalie neé Saliski which was one of the seven names in the Gedenkbuch - so now I also solved that little puzzle. She did not know her grandfather's given name at all, possibly because he died before she was born.

We began communicating regularly with each other and both Marion and I enjoyed telling immediate family and friends how we had discovered each other. Meanwhile, I was faced with the challenge of finding the name of her grandfather and our true connection in order to fit together the pieces in the family jigsaw puzzle - the basis of genealogical research.

Endnotes :

[1] *Gedenkbuch* (Memorial Book) - lists German Residents who were victims in the Holocaust, published 1986. A Memorial Book for Berlin Residents only was also published. Referral to the books can be made at the Sydney Jewish Museum. Another edition is in the planning stages with corrections and omissions.

[2] *Freie Universität Berlin* - not a current resource

[3] See e.g. author's article "Finding Family with Phone Directory Assistance", *Kosher Koala* Vol 1 No.3, Aug 1994, page 5

Peter Nash (formerly Nachemstein), is a child Holocaust survivor from Berlin whose family found refuge in Shanghai from 1939 to 1949. He is a founding member of the Society and has researched widely the available resources for tracing the former Jewish communities of China.

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Part 2 will appear in September.

Hitting a Brick Wall. What's in a Name	Max Croot	Vol 9 No. 2	
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My father Harry Croot was a leading tenor in the Synagogue Choir for 18 years, until the 1960's when he became ill. He was for many years an employee of A.B.C. radio, both as a singer, radio announcer, and then in administration. He had commenced working in radio in 1926 for 2FC which was then Farmers and Co. He died in 1971 aged 68. His brother, Michael who died in 1997, aged 96, was very much involved in politics, and local government, and was on the Hurstville Council for over 40 years, serving several terms as mayor.

Both Harry and Michael refused to reveal any information about the family despite all our efforts. My niece studied at Cambridge University and when she applied to work in England, was refused a work permit because we could not prove British ancestry. Even though my father had been born in London there was no legal documentation of a name change.

According to the naturalization records, my grandfather, Hyman Cohen was born in Dvinsk,(now Daugavpils) Russia on 14th August 1879. His death certificate lists his father as unknown Cohen, glazier, and mother unknown. This information was given by my father's oldest brother Alex.

My grandfather, Hyman left Dvinsk in 1896 aged 17, apparently to evade military service and/or the pogroms and went to England. He could not speak English and called himself Cohen because it was a common Jewish name. He worked in his profession as a tailor. After living in England for one year, he returned to Dvinsk, for two years. Whilst there he married Rachel Seperri, and had one son, Alex. In order to leave Russia again he bought a forged passport for about £3, which was apparently the usual practice in those days. He returned to England with his wife and son. His next two sons were born in London. Michael was born on 10th June 1901 at 137 Lawrence Avenue, Manor Park. His birth certificate states: Father Hyman Cohen, occ. Tailor, mother, Rachel Seperri, details supplied by Mother.

Harry, my father, was born on 2nd May 1903 at 130 Third Avenue, Manor Park. His birth certificate states: Father, Hyman Cohen, Master Tailor, Mother Rose Cohen, formerly Semperia, details supplied by father. As they could not speak much English and couldn't write or spell neither would have known if the details were correct. When my father was eight months old Rachel was supposed to have died. I can find no details of her death records, not even at St Catherine's House. According to uncle Mick she was supposed to be French. On 31st July Hyman married Sarah Bergman at the East London Synagogue. The family then decided to migrate to Australia. It is believed that Hyman had a sister who went to the U.S.

On his application for naturalization Hyman stated that he arrived on the ship *Beltana* on 5th April 1912. Enquiries and shipping records reveal that the *Beltana* did not arrive on that day. He probably travelled in the name of Cohen and because of his lack of English skills, he gave the wrong name of the ship his family had travelled on.

According to one of Uncle Mick's stories, Hyman was a very sick man and the ship's doctor would not give him a clearance to land. Hyman demanded a second opinion and he was sent ashore in the company of a steward to see another doctor. He gave the steward the slip and disappeared and the P&O line were fined £100 for losing a passenger.

His new wife Sarah arrived in Sydney on 9th May 1914, travelling in the name of Croot. Hyman went through all the interviews prior to being naturalized. Inspector Kelly of Regent Street Police Station states that "Hyman has no passport from the Russian Authorities enabling him to travel abroad. Enquiries in the neighbourhood elicits very little information as to character, generally opinion is that they are to all appearances a respectable family and work hard for a livelihood. It is a difficult matter to obtain from the applicant the names of persons who could vouch for his good character. He says that he knows many people but not their names, however on this he is clear that two of his countrymen, Mr Silverman and Mr Carpin, naturalized Russians residing in Banks-town, have known him since his arrival in Sydney, and were acquainted with his people in Russia, and can recommend him as fit for naturalization."

Hyman was naturalized in the name of Croot on 23rd December 1914. The ship's doctor had been right. Hyman was a very sick man, and he died on 28th September 1916 aged 37 years. He is buried in the name of Cohen in the Jewish Cemetery at Rookwood.

When Michael and Harry were adult men and needed their birth certificates, they supplied their details and received certificates in the name of Cohen. It came as a shock for them to find out that Sarah was their step-mother and that Rachel was their real mother, as they had not been told. Neither my father nor his brothers would talk about, or give any details of their early life. How did Hyman acquire the name of Croot? Could it have been when he absconded from the ship, and why did he choose the name Croot? All we know is that there is no legal documentation of a name change, so we can't prove British ancestry.

P.S. The Latvian Archives informed me that most records from 1879 up to 1900 have not survived.

It came as no surprise to those of us who are close to Sophie to learn of her decision to retire as President of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society at the AGM in March. She has been struggling with this decision ever since her husband Leslie's health began to deteriorate in recent years.

She phoned me last year and confided that she felt it was time to give up some of her commitments but she really wanted to wait until she felt confident that the AJGS was in a sound position to carry on the impetus she had provided for more than a decade. The acceptance by long time colleague Rieke Nash to step into the presidency finally assisted her in taking that final step. She felt assured that the AJGS was in safe hands.

In the editorial of the March Issue of *The Kosher Koala* Sophie reflects on the passion that has driven her to inaugurate Jewish genealogy in Australia and represent us in international forums. She was responsible for establishing branches in all States and the ACT, she edited thirty three issues of *The Kosher Koala* and was a contributing editor to the prestigious international journal, *Avotaynu*.

But can one really imagine Sophie in retirement? When I spoke to her recently about her retirement, before hanging up, she commented - "Please call on me anytime if you need any assistance".

Sophie once reminded me that we first met in 1951 at the *Hachshara* in country Victoria, a training farm for young people preparing to go on aliyah to Israel. I had been invited to produce a photo essay about life on the *Hachshara* for *The Zionist*, the official journal of the ZFANZ. Sophie had come up for one month as a visitor to inspect this unique experiment in communal living. I actually took a photo of her.

Many years later I met Sophie at a conference in Melbourne and she handed me three pages of hand written notes giving a short biography on each of the young people featured in that 1951 issue of *The Zionist*. I still retain these detailed notes which reveal her intense interest in committing to paper the names, dates and events of those who came in contact with her. These were the initial symptoms of a genealogist in the making.

Many years were to pass when I read in the Jewish press that Sophie Caplan was coming to Melbourne from Sydney to address the recently formed branch of the AJGS in Victoria. I had a marginal interest in collecting names and dates of my own maternal ancestry. which dates back to 1855 in Melbourne. and thought it might be interesting to attend the meeting.

I came home spellbound. I had taken pages of notes during the talk. I had scribbled down the names of every book she had mentioned, recorded the details of

international personalities and noted resources for local research. I was hooked! Within months I took over from Audrey Schwartz.

Immediately I was impressed with Sophie's generosity. Many of the books on genealogy located in Melbourne's major Jewish Community Library were donated by Sophie out of her own pocket. She was aware that if the branches were to succeed, they required basic books for research. Sophie had arranged with her good friend Ros Collins, the Director of the Makor Library, to house the Victorian genealogy collection. Other branches also benefited from her generosity.

Sophie's memory for detail, her ability to go off into tangents - 'before I forget I must tell you that.....', thus opening up a whole new subject area for discussion, her contacts both local and world-wide and her detective skills, are without equal in Australia. Before the computer became the popular key resource for research it was people like Sophie who reunited lost families and discovered ancestral links utilising little more than word of mouth and telephone books. Her interstate and international phone bills must have been, and possibly still are, a major item of the monthly household budget.


Sophie is also the face of Australian Jewish genealogy for our colleagues across the globe. I have attended a number of international conferences of the IAJGS and the moment one mentions Australia to the delegate, whether from Romania, Argentina or South Africa, the response is - 'Oh, I know Sophie Caplan!'. Sophie's facility in reading and speaking foreign languages including German and French, has opened many doors and greatly enhanced her ability as a researcher. Jewish genealogy requires language skills and these linguistic skills have opened the doors to non-English language publications and interpersonal relationships bridging the language barrier.

Her interests extend beyond the work of our society. She completed a Master of Education thesis on "The Jewish Day School in N.S.W., 1940 -1974. As a child survivor of the Holocaust she has been drawn to research that tragic event in Jewish history. Utilising the skills of an oral historian she has interviewed survivors of the Holocaust and prewar refugees and has lectured on the Shoah at the University of NSW. She instituted, assesses and donates the awards for the Hans Kimmel Prize which encourages Sydney Moriah College students to undertake family genealogical research. She has been active with numerous organisations, especially the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Among her publications is a history of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, *With One Voice* which was written with Dr. Suzanne Rutland of the University of Sydney.

Her life time dedication to Jewish history and genealogy was recognised when she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Honours List in January 2000. All of us shared pride in this public recognition of her work. We wish Leslie a return to good health and trust Sophie maintains her limitless energy to continue her contribution to Jewish communal life in Sydney.

Lionel Sharpe is a member of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. Inc and Editor of its newsletter, 'Australia Downunder'.


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Sophie Caplan	Morris Ochert	Vol 9 No. 2	
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Sophie Caplan stamped her personality and her imprimatur upon Australian Jewish Genealogy. All this was done while - ever generous with her time and skill - she served Australian Jewry in various capacities. Generous in every way to various deserving causes, I was proud to nominate her for recognition at a National level and we were all overjoyed when she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia.

Morris S. Ochert is our contributor from Queensland.

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Aliyah Passport Project		Vol 9 No. 2	
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In the 1930s as the shadow of history was lengthening over the Jews of Europe, several thousand Polish Jews managed to emigrate to what was then British Mandate, Palestine. An index has been created from nearly 4,000 passports now in the holdings of the Jewish Historical Institute (JHI) in Warsaw. (Inter-war Poland included towns now in Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania).

The list has all the SURNAMES in the file, and all the TOWNS mentioned as birthplaces of the passport-holders, and correlates each surname in the Polish Passports file to the towns of birth and residence associated with that surname in the file.

You can find this new Surname/Town list at http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/jhi/aliyah-passport_surn.htm>

Contact - Judy Baston, Coordinator JRI-Poland Aliyah Passport Project

Queensland Family History Society Award 2002		Vol 9 No. 2	
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The Society invites entries for the 2002 QFHS Family History Award. This will be presented to the person or persons producing the best history of a Queensland family, published within the last five years. It must be the story of a family, not an individual.

The award is open to the general public, as well as to members of the Society. The competition will be judged by a panel of three independent judges.

Entries close on 30 November 2002.

Further details and entry forms from the Secretary, QFHS Inc., PO Box 171, Indooroopilly, Q, 4068, or from Robert Adamson 17 Kywong Street Wavell Heights, Q 4012.

Stuart Shaw



I joined the society at its inception and was the first treasurer, serving in that capacity for five years. At present I'm responsible for receiving and redirecting the society's e-mails.

I first became interested in genealogy and family history in about late 1986 when a cousin who was born in Russia started to tell me stories about the family's life in Russia.

In 1987 I did a course in *Researching Your Family History*, run by Sydney University's Centre for continuing education, which covered the basics of genealogical research.

In 1988 I attended some workshops on researching your Jewish family history, run by Gael Hammer from the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

Over the next three years after doing research in the Australian Archives (in Sydney and Canberra), the NSW state archives, the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, as well as talking and corresponding with older relatives, I had enough information to draw up a family tree.

At present I have been able to research our family back to the middle of the 19th century in Belarus. The family originally came from Gori-Gorki, a small town in the Mogilev province of Belarus.

Our family name was originally Shroog, a biblical name derived from the name of Abraham's great grandfather Serug.

Other family names I'm researching are Manevitch, Slutzky, Bogen, and Zacks.

Late last year, the Shaw Family held a successful family re-union which is in this issue.

Terry Newman



A founding member of this society, Terry served on the committee for 10 years, the last five as treasurer.

Terry had already served on the committee of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) throughout the 1970s and was particularly interested in the history of 19th century NSW Jewish communities, and the early pioneers, going as far back as the convicts and early free settlers. He read the books and articles that had been published, examined the old synagogue records, in the care of the Great

Synagogue, and inspected relevant material in the State Archives and the Mitchell Library.

He says: "I worked with the late Dr George Bergman and Louise Rosenberg of the AJHS, in a number of important projects, especially involving some little known Jewish cemeteries in Sydney that were under threat. Many tombstones from the former Devonshire Street and Raphael's Ground cemeteries, some dating from the 1830s, now no longer exist. However, fortunately, starting in 1969, these historic tombstones were photographed and transcribed. Had this not been done, part of our early history would have been lost."


He began extracting Jewish births, marriages and deaths from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, for several decades during the 19th century, as there was no Jewish newspaper in Sydney during that time. They are currently being indexed.

He came to family history in 1966 whilst still a teenager, following the death of his father, Edgar Newman, who had been President of the Bankstown Board of Jewish Education during the 1950s. He was looking through his father's library and became fascinated by some of the articles published by the AJHS. He discovered, he says, the Dr Anthony Joseph article (vol V, May 1964): *On Tracing Australian Jewish Genealogy*, and having read it, "the rest is history...".

Terry's family extends several generations back in Australia, including two sets of great- great grandparents (Morris and Sophia Phillips, Samuel and Rachel Lewis), who began married life in Bendigo in the 1850s. Ten of his direct ancestors were married in the Great Synagogue, Sydney, or its predecessor, the York Street Synagogue.

Although no longer on our committee, Terry assures us he will try to assist the society whenever possible. He said it is good to see others becoming involved in the important work that needs to be done.

Terry is grateful for the friendships made, and the networks developed, in addition to the knowledge gleaned from the society's valuable resources.

Who's Running Our New Committee?		Vol 9 No. 2		
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Rieke Nash, President

Genealogy has fascinated me for over 20 years and even though I was a founding member of the Society, I have had limited success with my own family research in the Wloclawek area of Poland and in London. The rewards have come from the new friends made around the world, the conferences that stimulated ideas and the thrill from helping someone succeed with a worthwhile goal. My working life involved computers, books and education which seems to have prepared me well for this latest hobby.



*Miriam Shifreen,
Sophie Caplan and
Rieke Nash at the
AGM in March.*

David Laufer - Vice-President and Membership Chairman

David is married to Diana née Wantoch and they have two children Julian and Rebecca.

David became interested in genealogy in 1983 when he discovered that Diana's grandmother's maiden surname was also *Laufer*. The search for ancestral links with his wife has been a major factor in his interest in genealogy. The other major factor has been to find relatives, as he has no siblings and only knows of one first cousin, who lives in the USA.

After reading Arthur Kurzweil's book *From Generation to Generation* in 1984, David wrote to the Polish state archives for the birth records of his father who was born in Opatow, Poland. Unfortunately no record was found. He then started correspondence with the Israelische Kultusgemeinde in Vienna (IKG Wien) regarding the maternal side of his family, as well as his wife's family and was pleased with some of the information received. However, even this line of enquiry reached an end.

In the late 1980's David attended some workshops on Jewish Genealogy run by Gail Hammer at the Great Synagogue in Sydney. These renewed his interest, so that when the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society was being formed he became a foundation member. Being keen to further his genealogical research he attended the first few meetings of the AJGS on the assumption that they were workshops, but instead they evolved into committee meetings. David has been on the committee of the AJGS ever since, primarily in the role of Minutes Secretary. He also attends most of the AJGS workshops held at the North Shore Synagogue in Sydney and is a mentor at these workshops.

Since the AJGS was formed ten years ago, David has learnt a lot about the history of the Jews in Europe through his activity in the Society and in reading the various magazines which are available at the workshops. He has long been a subscriber to Avotaynu, the Kielce-Radom SIG, and to the Bohemia-Moravia SIG (the latter also being a de facto SIG for Austria). Since his retirement from the workforce a few months ago, David has more actively pursued his genealogical research by searching through LDS microfilms of Vienna, Gliwice and Glogow (the latter two in Silesia), and has joined the Sephardi (his maternal great grandmother) and Hungarian (some of Diana's relatives) SIGs.

Gary Luke - Treasurer

My personal research interests stem from a "mixed" marriage, as my mother's family has been resident in Australia since the 1850s, but my father only arrived in 1938. Almost all my immigrant ancestors came from Poland, the Prussian sector (1850s), the Russian sector (1870s), and from the previously Hungarian sector (1938). The single non-Polish thread leads back through London (1820-50) to Rotterdam. My other research interests include 19th century NSW Jewry, paper trails of non-British immigration to Australia, and local history of the Erskineville/Alexandria area. I am happy to assist members and others through the society's internet facilities, and sometimes take on contract research.

I have been a member of AJGS since 1993, a committee member since 1995, and treasurer since 2001.

Peter Nash - Program Coordinator



My "other life" began about 15 years ago after steady prodding from Rieke. I became a founding member of the Society, came to the Beginners' Seminars, used the then available resources and was soon rewarded with some successful finds, thereby "hooked". My professional background was as a textile technologist and I also became involved in the lecture programming of International Textile Conferences. I was still working in the textile industry in the 90's and often travelling overseas on business which enabled me to do some on-site research. The fun part of the genealogy world is that it is full of interesting people with some becoming firm friends. Apart from my own research interest areas, I have developed a lot of knowledge of available resources for tracing former Jewish residents of China, given talks on this topic as well as my personal survival story in Shanghai both locally and overseas.

Steven Traurig - Internet Coordinator

Steven comes to the committee as the Director of an internet company, Globalise. He has been working in computing since 1987, during which he completed his degree in Applied Science (Computing). Steven's family comes predominantly from Eastern Europe (Czechoslovakia, Poland, Germany) and Israel.

He has a strong interest in genealogy, and faces the challenges that we all face at times with too little time, and in terms of older generations who hold important family information, too little time left.

Steven is looking to assist the Association and its Members through his knowledge and experience of how the application of technology can bring benefits to all people, both "techno-literate" and not. The internet is a wonderful reference and meeting place for genealogists - probably having revolutionised it in many ways - and the AJGS has an important role to play as a central resource for its Members.

Kim Phillips



I first became interested in genealogy in 1989. This interest led me, firstly to the AJHS and then to the AJGS. As a committee member, I assist where I can, being involved in special interest, including capturing cemetery records and making them available by CD to others. Currently we are looking at Maitland Cemetery, and will continue with Raphael's Burial Ground, and Rookwood.

My family arrived in Australia in the early 1800s from England. Using the resources of AJGS, I've traced them back to the late 1600s in Amsterdam. Although I know they originated in Spain and were expelled in 1492, I'm still trying to confirm that line. The Family names I am researching are Phillips, Tolano and Crabbe.

Bernie Freedman



I was born in Sydney into a thoroughly Australian Jewish family. My mother was born in Bulli, on the coast just south of Sydney, one of 10 siblings, all of whom married locally and provided me with 24 first cousins. My up-bringing was insular Australian, there were no foreign languages, customs, or attitudes but I did receive a good Jewish education, Eastern Suburbs Central Synagogue style.

My life-long immersion in family produced a need to know more and so 10 years ago I started to produce a family tree for the Czerniaks of Przedecz Poland and the Glassers of Krakow Austria. I have enjoyed almost every moment of the search except that I now know that I had as many relatives in 1860 when my grandparents left Poland as I had at the Family Reunion in Centennial Park, Sydney in 1990 but I only know my direct grandparents' descendants and no-one from their many aunties, uncles, cousins. No-one can do family history in Sydney without contacting and receiving help from Sophie Caplan. So began my involvement in AJGS.

I am presently drowning in a project to produce a computer data bank of all names in family trees presented and held in the libraries of the AJHS and AJGS. And I will be writing an article on this project in the near future.

Jeannette Tsoulos - Secretary and Resources

I put my interest in genealogy down to my enjoyment of being part of a large and close extended family - my mother alone, had 52 first cousins, so the family tree was very much a living entity for me. I joined AJGS in 1995, and, thanks to Rieke's eagle eye, struck gold right away, finding common ancestry with Dan Rottenberg, author of the seminal book on Jewish genealogy, *Finding our Fathers*. Was that ever a boost!

All my ancestors were out of Europe by 1875, and the last to arrive in Australia were here by 1909.

Many had been in England in the 18th Century, so naturally I am interested in early English and Australian Jewish families and their connections, as well as the areas in

Poland, Lithuania and Germany my European forebears came from. I am secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society and answer their genealogical queries, which tallies well with my genealogical interests.

I am also interested in languages, and am learning Russian, which will come in handy when deciphering Polish documents written in Russian. I am Secretary and Resources Person for AJGS, looking after the books and journals.

Miriam Shifreen, Editor of the Kosher Koala

My interest in genealogy was sparked by the grandmother of my husband, Joe, although I did not actively start any research until about 14 years ago, some years after her death.

I am a first generation Australian, like many of us, so it was a surprise not only to me but also to Joe to discover he is a fourth generation Australian. My interest grew from there, so when in 1995 Sophie Caplan asked me to join the Society I was very pleased. When I volunteered to do some typing for the Kosher Koala, I didn't realise what the job would lead to. Of course without the intensive training given by Rieke I wouldn't be writing this now. When Sophie decided to step down from many of her tasks in the Society, I was elected Editor.

In my previous life I was an English/History teacher, with over 25 years at the NSW Correspondence School where amongst my many roles, I was school archivist, a job I loved because my hoarding and collecting habits could then be regarded as a virtue.

I am researching Levy, Alexander, Moss, & Moses from England, Berlin, Benjamin, & Shifrin from Poland, Chalezky & Yalowitz from the Ukraine

Victorian Newspapers from the 1840s Onwards		Vol 9 No. 2		
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www.oldnewscopy.com

NSW IMMIGRATION INDEXES 1839-1896 are now on-line

www.records.nsw.gov.au

WORLD WAR 2 DEFENCE SERVICE RECORDS, are available from the national Archives of Australia, POB 7425, Canberra Business Centre AACT 2610. Photocopies of Army and RAAF service records are \$16.20. Single orders for photocopies of Navy records will be supplied free. Do not send payment with your request, you will be invoiced with your request.

The Shaw Family Reunion	Stuart Shaw	Vol 9 No. 2		
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A very successful family reunion was held on 4 November last year by the Shaw family attended by about 116 people.

Our reunion was the result of six months of planning by the coordinating committee consisting of seven coordinators, one from each branch of the family. We had a total of four planning meetings over the previous six months and each coordinator was given a certain number of tasks e.g. compiling a family database, organising the sound system etc.

Invitations were sent out about three months in advance, to give plenty of notice to everyone, as some family members lived interstate and some were overseas.

The venue we decided on was The Gap Bluff (The Old Armory), a function centre at Watsons Bay. The venue was ideal, as it had plenty of parking, space outside for the kids to play and a spectacular view of Sydney Harbour.

Everyone brought their own food, crockery and cutlery etc. The function ran from 11.30 am to about 5 pm.

After lunch, the coordinators from each branch of the family gave a speech about their side of the family and how they came to Australia. The speeches were accompanied by overhead transparencies made from old family photographs. Prior to giving their speeches, each coordinator introduced each member of their family who was present on the day.

On the wall we put up photographs and memorabilia about each branch of the family as well as the current family tree and photographs of previous family reunions and we recorded all the speeches on cassette and video tapes.

Finally, we all went outside on the grass to have a photographer take a group photo.

All in all, a great success!

Stuart Shaw is one of our longest standing members. His genealogical interest and research and work for the Society is seen earlier in this issue.

Looking for the Australian Connection		Vol 9 No. 2		
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of Meyer Haim Herbert, son of the Hon. Reuven Dov Sterren Herbert of Lithuania (died 1880).

Seeking a link with Yaldotchnik of Ukmerge (Wilkomir), Lithuania.

Gilbert and Valerie Herbert Herbert@tx.technion.ac.il

Past President's Report Given at 10th AGM of AJGS	Sophie Caplan	Vol 9 No. 2		
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Apologies from Bernard Freedman, in hospital after five arterial bypasses last Wednesday.

This is my tenth and last Annual General Meeting as President and I want to welcome all those present, particularly our member and guest speaker Diane

Armstrong who will talk about her latest book, *The Voyage of their Life, the Passengers of The Derna*.

Our membership this year is not yet known to me, but as the end of last year it stood at 180 members. Many members are of long standing, some for the whole ten and a half years of our existence, others leave us after a year or two. Sometimes members moved to a new address without informing us. We do try our utmost to find the new address and phone number, but sometimes it is impossible. So if you value your membership, please keep us informed.

There have been no changes in leadership of the interstate societies still under our aegis: Michelle Urban is chairperson of the Perth group, Marjorie Luno of the Adelaide group, Sylvia Deutsch of the Canberra group and Morris Ochert of the Brisbane group. Leslie Oberman leads the Melbourne society which continues to publish *Jewish Genealogy Down Under*, but still receives the *Kosher Koala* by bulk postage and then distribute it to their members.

In the last year we again held 12 Sunday morning workshops at this synagogue's Reverend Katz Library and a few lectures mostly at other venues. David Landor opened all the workshops and we are grateful to him for this help.

At our last AGM Helen Bersten of the Australian Jewish Historical Society spoke of some unusual genealogical problems brought to her, and in early September Professor Konrad Kwiet gave us a long talk on the history of German Jewry from the time of the Romans, the Crusades, and the Enlightenment to the present on the occasion of a special workshop on German Jewry. Unfortunately our long-awaited October speaker David Montefiore Jacob cancelled at fairly short notice.

In November we had the pleasure of a talk by Rabbi John Simon Levi of Melbourne on the occasion of the publication of the long awaited second edition of his book with the late Dr George Bergman *Australian Genesis, Jewish Convicts and Settlers, 1788 to 1860*. The first edition, published in 1974, only went to 1850. This lecture was in conjunction with the AJHS, although we initiated the evening.

We also initiated a recent talk in conjunction with the Sydney Jewish Museum by Mara Moustafine on *The Jews of Harbin* which was also a great success.

Three weeks ago at a committee meeting I was plaintively asked why we no longer had any over-seas speakers coming to enrich us with their knowledge. The very next day the prayers of our committee were answered when I received a letter from Dr Chanan Rapoport of Jerusalem, practising psychologist, academic and genealogist who will be in Sydney in two week's time. He will give a talk at the April Sunday morning workshop on the relationship of Messianism Chassidism and Rabbinic Judaism with Jewish history and genealogy. Dr Chanan Rapoport has worked closely with the late Dr Paul Jacobi and is archivist of the latter's papers, so this should be most interesting.

We took part again this year in *Chanukah in the Park* and distributed many membership pamphlets and also flyers for the Levi and Bergman book. We had many visitors to our stall but so far no new members resulted from this.

Both Peter Nash and David Wallace had articles printed in *Avotaynu* this year and one of my articles was reproduced with attribution in *Scattered Seeds*, journal of Palm Beach County JGS. We produced four *Kosher Koala* issues this year, two of twelve pages and two of sixteen pages, and we obtained permission from *Avotaynu* to reproduce a major article on Jewish genealogy in the Russian Empire in the March issue which will be distributed tonight.

We now distribute the *Kosher Koala* to most overseas societies by electronic means, the brainchild of Kim Phillips.

Miriam Shifreen has been a tower of strength to me these last two years in the production of the *Kosher Koala* and I would like to thank her for this help publicly. I understand that the new president and committee may now nominate her as the next editor and she should be an excellent choice.

We bought some books in England in July, and I purchased some as a gift to the society libraries in all the states under our aegis. I may continue with such gifts from time to time, but as you will hear in the Treasurer's report the Society can now afford to buy a few more books itself.

The reasons why I am stepping down tonight are several. Firstly, I believe that leadership changes occasionally are good for an organisation, bringing new blood, new ideas, new energy. I have been there since we started on 3rd November 1991 and I have been getting tired, even though I enjoyed it as a whole. But since 9th November 2001 my husband Leslie, whose health was not brilliant heretofore, has been acutely ill, and in and out of hospital. When he is home I am a full time nurse and carer. I cannot continuously carry out my duties as president of the Society and editor of this journal as well. I hope you will all understand and give your support now to Rieke and her team.

I would like to commend all those who have served with me this past year: our vice-president and resources chairman Jeanette Tsoulos, our treasurer Gary Luke, our membership chairman Greta James, who is also stepping down tonight due to pressure of professional work, David Laufer our minutes secretary, our at-large committee members Kim Phillips and Bernard Freedman. Unfortunately we still lacked an honorary Secretary this year. I would also like to commend Stuart Shaw who has received our Society's emails and faxed them on to me, David Landor our workshop opener and closer, Rieke Nash who still did our labelling and some circulars while officially resting, Glenda and Sybil Goldberg who both assisted with the posting of the *Kosher Koala*

I would also like to thank the North Shore Synagogue and its president, Calvin Stein and its general secretary, Dafna Orbach for their generous hospitality to us and to the synagogue library committee for their hospitality to us in the Reverend Katz Library.

May the Society continue to prosper and grow.
Sophie Caplan.

Recent Events

At the Annual General Meeting on 24 March, 2002 Diane Armstrong delighted us with her account of her experiences in writing her latest book, *The Voyage of Their Life: The Story of the SS Derna and its Passengers*. Diane's talk is on tape and can be borrowed from our Library.

At our usual monthly workshop on 7 April, 2002 we were fortunate to hear Dr Chanan Rapoport's analysis of the interaction of the major movements and how they influenced the lives of our ancestors in the early Modern European period.

We also welcomed to our Society Dr Lynn Hilton and Nancy Goodstein-Hilton from the United States. Nancy was particularly impressed with our resources and they both enjoyed Chanan's.

On 21 April, 2002 we held an informal research afternoon in the Eastern Suburbs. All those who attended, including the "experts" had a informative, enjoyable and delicious afternoon. Thank you, Sara! We will continue to schedule this type of event. Let us know why you couldn't come!

Congratulations to Helen Bersten

Helen Bersten, the Archivist to the Australian Jewish Historical Society was recently recognized by the Royal Australian Historic Society. A Certificate of Achievement was presented to her by Hazel Hawke. Many researchers into their Australian Jewish heritage are indebted to her for the years of dedicated help.

A Tribute to Simon Sekel

Members of the Society were saddened this month to hear of the death of one of our supporters, Simon Sekel. Simon, who died suddenly, contributed to *Kosher Koala* (Sept, 2001) and helped many of our members with translations of their precious items, and if he couldn't do the job, he usually found someone who would. His life story is an amazing one, highlighted by jumping ship in Sydney in 1938. Our condolences go to his wife, Rae and to his son Gary Luke and the rest of the family.

Enquiries: Australian Jewish Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 42, Lane Cove 1595 Sydney, NSW.
E-mail: ajgsnsw@idx.com.au

Rabbi Philip Heilbrunn, Chief Rabbi of the St Kilda Synagogue, spoke on "Rabbinical Genealogies: A Port in a Storm" on 24th April 2002 at 7.30 pm at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre. Rabbi Heilbrunn is descended from Rabbi Aharon Shmuel Kaidanover and Rabbi Samuel Gershon Steg of Warburg and is on the Steering Committee of the Rabbinic SIG (Special Interest Group) which was established only last year.

The 4th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, 22nd May 2002 at 7.30 pm at Beth Weizmann Community Centre, to be followed by guest speaker, Judy Hopkins, *Researching Jewish Genealogy from English Records*. Judy is an active member of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies. Nominations are being sought for the annual election of office bearers.

Dr David Cohen, AJGS (Vic) committee member, will discuss aspects of his family research work at the meeting on Wednesday, 12th June at 7.30 pm and a Beginners' Workshop will be held on Sunday 23rd June at 2.00 pm. at Beth Weizmann. AJGS (Vic) will participate in the LDS Open Day *Footprints Through the Past* in May and Lionel Sharpe has been invited to make a presentation on Jewish Genealogy at Yom Limmud (Day of Learning) on 8th-9th June at the Caulfield Campus of Monash University.

Michelle Urban (W.A. Branch of the AJGS) and Marjorie Luno (S.A. Branch of the AJGS) visited Melbourne in April and had productive discussions about resources and future co-operation with Lionel Sharpe.

At the recent meeting of the Committee of Management, appreciation was expressed to retiring AJGS President, Sophie Caplan OAM, for dedicated and untiring work over the years. Sophie initiated the Victorian Branch in 1995 and thanks to her efforts the Branch grew rapidly and later became incorporated as a separate group. We wish Sophie all the best in the coming years. We also welcome Rieke Nash as the incoming AJGS President and look forward to close co-operation in the coming year.

Home page: <http://www.ajgs.exist.com.au>

Enquiries: Lionel Sharpe (03) 9523 6738

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Report from South Australia	Jeanie Susman	Vol 9 No. 2	
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On April 30th a group of members and friends met at the home of our President, Marjorie Luno, to hear a talk presented by David Ninio entitled *To Australia, via Spain, Turkey & Egypt*. We learned of the background of his family's migration, from the origin of the Sephardi Jews in Spain and the subsequent spread of Jews after their expulsion.

He detailed the lives of a number of his family members during their times in Turkey and Egypt. David himself was born in Egypt in 1940, but as conditions were becoming rather unsettled there and in parts of the Middle East, the family decided in 1957 to leave the country. After a short stay in Italy, they migrated to Australia, arriving in 1960.

Because of his meaningful Spanish background and appreciation of its traditions, culture and religious expressions, David regards himself as a dedicated Spanish Jew.

For your interest, David Ninio's complete talk, as given at our recent meeting, may be found on the Adelaide Jewish Museum website at www.adelaidejewishmuseum.org

Prior to the talk by our guest, a short business meeting of members was held. Among the items discussed were the contents of a letter from Rieke Nash to our President. A number of these matters will be given further attention at a forthcoming business meeting and resolutions made known in due course. However, there was general agreement that the Society should be well-publicised, and its reference collection, when suitably housed, be made available to everyone in the community, not just restricted to members of AJGS.

The South Australian Branch contact is :
Marjorie Luno, President,
AJGS (SA), c/- Beit Shalom Synagogue,
P.O. Box 47, Stepney. S.A. 5069
Email to
Hon. Secretary : Jeanie Susman
E-mail: chatsworth@picknowl.com.au

Western Australian Report	Michelle Urban	Vol 9 No. 2		
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At the meeting held on Sunday 24th February 2002, in the foyer at PHC, celebrated Perth writer Ruth Marchant James spoke about Western Australia's beginnings. She ably filled in as Guest Speaker for Dr Harry Cohen AM, who had to go into hospital at the last minute.

Our interesting speaker on Sunday 26th May 2002, was Vivienne Levin who spoke about her father Jules Lewin, a prominent Jewish businessman in Perth who helped set up the Temple David. Her topic was "A Step Back in Time to My Roots" Vivienne has been very involved with the Perth community and in particular WIZO.

After our very successful afternoon workshop on Jewish genealogy through the Internet last November, another hands-on workshop for beginners and others, will be held on 25th August 2002 and on 24th November 2002, we shall hold a beginners workshop on family history, oral history and genealogy. This will be a journey of researching our ancestry and how to use records to find out about our relatives both past and present.

Enquiries: Michelle Urban, Co-ordinator
21 Broomhall Way, Noranda WA 6062
E-mail : urban1@iinet.net.au

Some New Interesting Websites	Michelle Urban	Vol 9 No. 2		
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A new Eastern European Archival Database

Miriam Weiner's Routes to Routes Foundation has released the complete Jewish holdings of the State Archives of Belarus, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine. This database is the result of years of effort on the part of Ms. Weiner who worked closely with the head archivists of the five countries to create this project.

For beginners or the experienced, everyone with ancestry from this area (which is most of us) will find new and useful information. As well, those members who cannot attend workshops to consult our resources but have access to the web have now another avenue for research.

<http://www.rtrfoundation.org/>

See the site map page

<http://www.rtrfoundation.org/sitemap.html> to gain an understanding of the comprehensiveness of the presentation.

Miriam Weiner can be found at mweiner@routestoroots.com

Warszawa Gubernia Duma Voters Lists 1907

This is an on-line list of voters from some of the towns in the Warsaw province. These lists were used by Alexander Beider in A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland but now have the additional information of the Voter's name and father's name.

www.jewishgen.org/databases/WarszawaDuma.htm

The Catalogue of Jewish holdings in the Family History Library (LDS)

This collection of references for Jewish research in the Family History Centre is available on-line. Our Society has a searchable CD of this file. We are fortunate to have visiting Sydney for the next year or so, Nancy Goodstein-Hilton who created this resource and her husband, Dr Lynn Hilton. Nancy has graciously agreed to conduct some seminars for our members to help them access the resources of the Family History Library. You will be notified in the next Kosher Koala of the dates.

www.jewishgen.org/databases/fhlc/

Owners of East European estates where Jews were tenants

www.avotaynu.com/magnates.htm

Sephardic Special Interest Group

A place where all researchers of Sephardic Genealogy and History are welcome.

www.jewishgen.org/SefardSIG

and see also:

<http://www.ferdinando.org.uk/sephardi.htm>

www.sephardim.com

www.ajoe.org (In French)

The link below details the personal holding of David Ferdinando at the Jewish

Historical Society of England books/articles and so on.
david.ferdinando@ntlworld.com

An informal email group of families coming from Chernowitz.

To join, email Bruce Reisch at
bir1@nysaes.cornell.edu

The Rabbinic Genealogy Special Interest Group (Rav-SIG) has announced the launch of a major project, the comprehensive Rabbinic Genealogy Bibliography. More than 300 resources for rabbinic genealogical research are listed in categories such as bio-bibliographical dictionaries, Chassidic rabbis, biographies, family genealogies, Sephardi and Mizrahi resources, regions and countries, periodicals, audiotapes, and CD-ROMs. Indexes by author and by names of rabbis found in the bibliography are also provided.

A link to Lithuanian resources may be accessed from the Table of Contents.
The bibliography is located at

Beider Dictionary On-Line

Ancestry has placed Alexander Beider's, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire*, published by Avotaynu in 1993, on-line, in the form of a free searchable database.

www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/3173.htm

Israeli Names - Who's First

**Vol 9 No.
2**



From the Book of Names By Dr Avraham Ariel, published by the Israeli Ministry of Defence, the most frequent Israeli surnames are:

1. Cohen
2. Levi
3. Mizrahi
4. Peretz
5. Bitton
6. Dahan
7. Avraham
8. Friedman
9. Azoulai
10. Katz

The most frequent first names are **Moshe** and **David**.

From "Family Finding" Vol 10 No. 1, 1999 the quarterly newsletter of the Wisconsin Jewish Genealogical Society.

President's Report

Rieke Nash

**Vol 9 No.
3**



The latest 2001 Australian Census figures indicate that 42% of Australians "use a computer at home". Since the proportion using email must be less than this, it is very impressive that out of our membership of 155, 79% have email. We have all experienced the value of the Internet for our research and this statistic is not unusual in genealogical circles. The added benefit for the Society is that we are now able to contact most of our members economically by email. Please let us know when you are on-line.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics also announced that about half the population agreed that their Census information could be microfilmed and available in one hundred years' time for researchers and descendants. In the past all forms were destroyed. This is a victory for the genealogists, including Nick Vine Hall, who worked hard to have the census information retained.

Census data published in the Australian Jewish News indicated that 0.44% (83,993) of the population stated their religion as "Judaism", a statistic that is usually an under-estimate of the Jewish community for various reasons. The actual figure is probably over 100,000. For example the figure for Perth gives the Jewish population as 4871 whereas local sources believe it is closer to 6000.

For those with an interest in genealogy it is not surprising to see the range of birthplaces given for the Jewish community. (See the Table on later) For our members to research their ancestral roots, our library has a wide geographical range of resources.

The Jewish News article shows that the numbers born in England, Austria, Poland, Germany, Hungary and Russia have decreased since the 1996 census (as would be expected with the ageing of the post-war migrants) while the increase in the migrants of South African origin indicates that the Society should be stocking up on resources for Lithuania.

On a personal note, Peter and I were in the UK for their 2001 Census but, sadly our B&B in Kew didn't list us on their form!

A Happy and Prosperous New Year from us all.

לשנה טובה


AUSTRALIAN 2001 CENSUS RESULTS

Birthplace of the Jewish Population

	No.	%
Australia	38,941	46
South Africa	10,472	13
Israel	3,886	5
England	3,885	5
Poland	3,843	4
Russian Federation	2,928	3
Hungary	1,732	2
USA	1,590	2

Germany	1,571	2
New Zealand	786	1
Austria	721	1
Other	13,636	16

(Source: Australian Jewish News)

Editorial	Miriam Shifreen	Vol 9 No. 3	
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Great news for our Newsletter! Sallyann Sack, Editor of the prestigious magazine *Avotaynu* saw the first episode of Peter Nash's article in the June KK and has requested permission to print Peter's three articles in the summer edition. Congratulations Peter, and thank you for offering this series to us first, so that the *Kosher Koala* can share your triumph.

Peter's second instalment *Who was Marion's Elusive Grandfather?* appears in this issue and all will be finally revealed in December proving Peter's statement, *When you throw a pebble into a pond, you can never know where the ripples will flow.*

In a recent edition of the Australian Jewish News, Ms Tracey Segel, writer of family histories, is quoted as saying: *Everyone has a story, no matter how ordinary or extraordinary a person may feel their life to be. These stories are what makes you who you are and where you come from. They are valuable both to you and your family.*


So how do you start? Perhaps you want to write about the famous or infamous ne'er-do-well in your family, or your favourite aunt, but don't know how to get started, then see Noeline Kyle's *Writing Your Family History*, and I know you'll soon be sending me more fascinating stories than I've room to print.

For those of you with Australian ancestry, Gary Luke has information on the *Great Synagogue Records At The Mitchell Library*. For those whose forebears came from England, Laurence Harris, tells us about a project to electronically record information about the UK Jewish communities from the mid-17th Century. Petra Laidlaw is gathering information about Jewish people whose names appear in the 1851 United Kingdom Census and Kathryn Michael is looking for Levys in the 1881 U.K. Census. Here's your chance to become involved in one of these projects.

This month in *Who's Who Around Australia* we are starting with the President and Vice President of the Victorian Society and our stalwart and hardworking State and group representatives.

לשנה טובה

May this New Year bring success in your research.

Navigating Berlin Resources to Solve a Family Puzzle (Part 2)	Peter Nash	Vol 9 No. 3	
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With the discovery of my cousin Marion FISHER née Nachemstein in London in 1994 [1] I began to create a tree for that particular Nachemstein branch based on

the known facts that Marion gave me initially - which was very little. She knew the names of her paternal grandmother (but not her grandfather), her parents and two brothers, all of whom were already deceased, one being an infant and buried in the Weissensee Cemetery in Berlin. The feeling of "where do I start" was with me as I could not just go to a Public Registry Office and request BMD records.

I started by looking more critically at other data already collected for "Nachemstein", for example, my daughter and son-in-law visited the Weissensee Cemetery in 1992 and found the names of five Nachemsteins buried there, only two of whom I felt I knew exactly who they were.

Fortunately I went to Berlin in 1995 and also to the Weissensee Cemetery which in itself is a remarkable site. It was consecrated in 1880 and has records for 100,000 burials, with a high percentage of tombstones still standing and decipherable - despite the heavy destruction of Berlin by the end of World War 2 in 1945. However, most of the tombstones are only inscribed in German and not additionally in Hebrew depriving an opportunity to confirm the often all-important Hebrew name of the deceased and his or her father.

On the positive side is the availability of the *Beerdigungs-Anmeldung* (Request for Burial) which may contain key information, such as the name of the informant and the relationship to the deceased, also the deceased's date and place of birth, occupation and last known address. Many who make a special visit to the Weissensee are unaware of this additional piece of potential information. Thus I was able to establish that Marion's father Max Nachemstein was the informant for the burial request for three Nachemsteins (out of the five) for whom I did not know the connection.

Two of these were Max's siblings, one being Joseph (older, who died in 1917) and the other I read as Milli (a younger female sibling who also died in 1917). It was much later that I looked again more carefully at Milli's Registration of Death and Request for Burial and realised I had mis-read the first letter of the name, written in the old Gothic script which meant the name was actually Willi - a male. I detected this from the given occupation which was "Schneider" (male tailor) and not "Schneiderin" (female tailor). So the Request for Burial helped to correct my initial error.

The third Nachemstein was Werner Joseph who was Max's infant son and who died in 1920, that is a brother that Marion never knew as he died before she was born.

It is interesting too that the traditional naming pattern following the death of a family member was used, as Werner's middle name was Joseph after his uncle Joseph who died in 1917 just prior to Werner's birth. Max obviously went through a sad period losing two brothers in their 20's and 30's and an infant son.

I also learned from Marion that her father Max had three sisters, Else, Malli and Nanny. So within a relatively short time I built up Marion's family tree - and without even looking at vital records, which in any case is extremely difficult, if not impossible in Germany for records less than 120 years old as they are covered by their Datenschutz (privacy law).

But all the time I was trying to find the answer to: who was Marion's grandfather?

In 1996 we began subscribing to the JewishGen Discussion Group and I picked up on a message that highlighted a Berlin based professional research firm, named PROGENEA (email: progenea@aol.com). I always considered only ever using to-pay-for genealogy services as an absolute last resort. So I filed the contact details for PROGENEA.

Then in 1997, prompted by an article on the German-Jewish records held by the Mormons, I requested and scanned a micro-film at a local LDS Centre for my ancestral town of Lessen, formerly in West Prussia but now called Lasin in Poland. This film was difficult to interpret: there was no index, some writing (German) was illegible and the left and right hand sides of the original register were not on one frame nor were they consecutively filmed together. But to my surprised delight I found the birth of my great-grandfather Leiser Nachemstein together with the names of five siblings: Wolf Levin, Nathan, Rahel, Salomon and Hana - so three brothers and two sisters. I also now had the names of their parents - my great-great grandparents Isaak and Marie née SCHIER. It was a great thrill for me taking my lineage back to about 1810. I knew all about Nathan's family but nothing about the others [2]. But I also knew there was a sixth sibling Joseph because his tombstone at the Weissensee luckily did have his father's Hebrew name, namely Izhak [3].

So I narrowed the name of Marion's grandfather down to a choice between Wolf Levin and Salomon.

After going down several blind alleys I decided in 2000 to put my search dilemma to PROGENEA adding that I would like to know what costs would be incurred. Very soon I got a reply with a counter query. Next I was fed twelve names of Nachemsteins who had at some time lived in Berlin together with a date and place of birth. This unexpected response both delighted me - especially as two names were 'new' - and puzzled me, as my name and those of my parents were not among the twelve names. Marion's name was on the list but not her brother. I also did not get any clue as to Marion's grandfather's name, which was my objective. No mention was made of any costs to be incurred.

Later I learned that a lot of PROGENEA's information came from the files of the Offices of the *Oberfinanz Präsident* (OFP) which recorded the Nazi victim's assets prior to deportation to the camps. I queried PROGENEA on the two unfamiliar names and after further email exchanges soon worked out the connection with one of them from other documentation that I had not looked at for a long time. The other name was Marie GABRIEL née Nachemstein born 1883 in Lessen! I wondered if this could be Max's sister Malli, the name given to me by Marion - after all, errors are common or perhaps Malli was a nickname.

I decided to ask PROGENEA further about Marie Gabriel (hoping for a clue to her father's name) and was told she died in December 1928 and that her husband's name was Abraham. Brief answers - but to the point! I thought she was probably buried in the Weissensee and so I faxed the *Centrum Judaicum* in Berlin knowing they have a film of all the burials at Weissensee. They in turn sent me a copy of the

Request for Burial which confirmed that the informant was her husband Abraham (not her father) and an address which I confirmed as current in the reproduced 1931 Edition of the Berlin Jewish Addressbook [4]. I also found from the Berlin *Gedenkbuch* (Memorial Book of Holocaust Victims) [1] that Abraham was deported to Minsk where he died in 1942.

I put to PROGENEA the thought "I wonder if Abraham and Marie Gabriel had children". I quickly got a response suggesting I should write to a Probate Office in Berlin as there was a 1928 Will for Marie and Abraham Gabriel with a given File Number. I really marvelled at the access to information from PROGENEA - and all without cost. I used a solicitor friend in Berlin to get a copy of the Will. I thought surely this would ensure my getting a copy of the Will - but to no avail as Germany's Datenschutz (privacy laws) only allow access if there is a possible direct descendant's claim to an Estate or for Restitution on the grounds of Nazi War Crimes.

I also wrote to the *Landesverwaltungsamt Berlin* (United Restitution Office) asking them if they would forward a letter from me to any of Abraham's heirs in case a claim for restitution against the Nazi actions was made by any of their children. I had been successful earlier in tracing another descendant of a relative with the help of this Restitution Office. The response suggested I write a letter - in English, so 'reading between the lines' it was 'positive' that a descendant existed and apparently in an English speaking country. But I never got a response from any descendants, leaving me wondering if the descendant emigrated to England - or of course to the United States, Australia, etc.

And the name of Marion's grandfather that would confirm our true connection ...that still eluded me.

Endnotes:

- [1] see author's article in *Kosher Koala* Vol 9 No. 2, June 2002
- [2] *ibid* Vol 4 No.2, June 1997 - how I found Nathan's family
- [3] *ibid* Vol 1 No.3 August 1994 - finding Joseph and his family
- [4] *Jüdisches Adressbuch für Gross-Berlin*, Ausgabe 1931, Publisher: arani-Verlag GmbH, Berlin 1994: ISBN 3-7605-8653-8

Contact Addresses:

Weissensee Cemetery: Friedhofsverwaltung, Jüdische Gemeinde zu Berlin, Herbert-Baum-Strasse 45, 13088 Berlin, Germany.

Centrum Judaicum: Oranienburger Strasse 28/30, 10117 Berlin, Germany.

Probate Office Berlin: Amtsgericht Berlin-Mitte, Nachlassabteilung, Littenstr. 11-17, 10179 Berlin, Germany.

General Restitution Office: Landesverwaltungsamt Berlin, Abteilung III, Entschädigungsbehörde, Potsdamer Strasse 186, 10783 Berlin, Germany.

Peter Nash (formerly Nachemstein), is a child Holocaust survivor from Berlin and found refuge in Shanghai from 1939 to 1949. He is a founding member of the Society and has researched widely the available resources for tracing the former Jewish communities of China.

Email : rieken@zeta.org.au

Writing Your Family History

Noeline Kyle

**Vol 9 No.
3**



We all - well, most of us - dream of writing our family history and having it published one day. For some of us, the second part of the dream will remain just that - a dream. But that doesn't mean that we don't write our family history. It does not have to be in book form. After all, in fiction we have novels and we have short stories. So here are a few tips to get you started.

Beginning writing.

How do we start? Good question! Sometimes we just have to put pen to paper or hands to the keyboard. We can join a creative writing group, go to workshops/seminars, and share writing with colleagues. But in the end we have to write. And rewrite, and rewrite. Writing is hard work.

Writing Your Life Story:

Have you started to write your life story yet? Look at some of the family histories in your local library. Look at the covers, paper, size, illustrations etc. and the printing quality. Look at books on self-publishing which are usually in your local libraries e.g. - *Publish it Yourself*, by John Stacpoole, and *Self Publishing Made Simple - the Ultimate Australian* guide by Euan Mitchell are the recommended ones.

You still can't work out how to or where to start your book? Forget the book. Write some short stories about various members of the family. These can later be amalgamated into your book. Here are some exercises my group recently tackled.

* Write a page or two about a favourite ancestor in your family. Answering these questions might help you arrange your ideas.

Where did you meet your character? Did you always know about this person through family memory or did you find him/her through family research?

Why is this person important to you? Is it a grandparent you remember with fondness, a woman who battled specific odds, man/woman who was famous or someone who simply captures your imagination in some other way from the long past?

We almost always know something about what a personality in our family history looked like, even if only through our imagination. But try to imagine what they thought about, what their attitudes to life / work / relationships / hopes / dreams were and include these also.

* Write about a problem ancestor. We all have these - we can't find their birth/marriage/death record, they changed their name, they 'swam' to Australia.

* Try to imagine the *childhood* of one or more of your ancestors. There are books on childhood in Australia and Europe and even medieval times - consult your local library and research their times. If this is too daunting, write about your own childhood from your child's eye. Very few books have been written about children, by children, who often have a very different view of the world to that of adults. What did you think of the world around when you were small?

* If you have a convict ancestor, write his/her story - what was the crime, what was the punishment, what was their life like once they arrived in Australia and if they became free, after their release? What do you think contemporary society thought of their history? What do you think of it?

Updating Our Writing:

How do we do this as we find new information? Well, there is no easy answer to that one. However, if we plan beforehand what it is we are writing, if we have a deadline or a cut off point ... then the updates might become more manageable. Another point here - we can never write everything there is to know about our family or the people in it. You are the writer. You set the limits (either through dates, time, geography, themes) and the task becomes more manageable.

Editing:

What is it and how do we go about it? We can pay an editor to look at our work, ask a valued colleague/friend to read it, and/or we can re-read or re-write our work. One good preliminary way to check if it sounds interesting/sensible is to read it out loud - not just silently to yourself but aloud, to yourself or to an audience of family/friends. This way you can pick up on things you may have left out which are maybe better put in, and repetitions become obvious.

If you negotiate for someone to read your work, you should be careful to ask them what they can do and also ensure you tell them what you want them to do. Do you want proof reading for grammar, punctuation, consistency? Do you want them to look further at style, storyline, characters, historical accuracy, tense/form, referencing, bibliography, indexing, only parts of the book, paragraphs/ sentence structure, etc ... ? Do you want them to judge your writing and your history? Do you want an editor or a manuscript assessor?

If you have access to the Internet, there are various sites you can browse to give you tips on writing My web page is <http://www.writingfamilyhistory.com>

Check also -

The Australian Society of Authors <http://www.asauthors.org>

The Qld. Writers Centre

<http://www.gwc.asn.au>

The NSW Writers Centre <http://www.nswwriterscentre.org.au>
as they list manuscript editors and assessors.

Noeline Kyle is the convenor of the Queensland Family History Society's Writing Group. This article is published with the permission of the writer and editors of the QFHS's Magazine.

Great Synagogue Records at the Mitchell Library	Gary Luke	Vol 9 No. 3	
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The Mitchell Library holds a large collection of records of the early Synagogues of central Sydney. The registers of births, deaths and marriages have been microfilmed, and are available at the Austral-ian Jewish Historical Society. Most of the registers of vital events up to about the early 1870s were used as the source for the official NSW Registry Office certificates, and are indexed on fiche and the "Pioneers" CD. A large number of entries in the indexes are incorrect, so it is worthwhile checking the films of the original registers.

A number of other records and registers among the collection have information which can give clues about an ancestor's involvement with the Synagogue. Among these are seat applications, building fund subscriptions, Pesach matzoh orders, and copy letter books. The following listing and description of a few of the items was compiled while looking for traces of my Steenbhom ancestors and mishpocha, who arrived here in the 1850s.

A complete list of the collection is available at the Mitchell Library, but their descriptions are a bit brief, and do not always include all the separate record types within a single register.

These records can only be viewed with written permission from the Great Synagogue. The general catalogue number is MSS 3740, followed by a box number. For many of the records which have been microfilmed, the library has a card index to look up the film number for a particular box. In the following descriptions film numbers have been included in the reference where they exist.

York Street Synagogue

Building Fund Subscriptions ~ 1841 [Box 97]

Notes: Names and amounts, both pledged and paid. A few pages are groups from Hobart Town, Launceston & Goulburn. At the end of the book are four lists of recipients of notices to pay, with date.

Seat Applications ~

1846, 1854-56 [Box 87; Film CY4145, Items 1&3]

1863-66 [Box 88x; Film CY4145, Items 1-3]

Notes: Both books have indexes. First book has hand ruled pages with date of application, cost, seat location, and special notes (eg. "Mrs Tolano wants seat next to Mrs Phillips".) Second book has (1) committee decision about a fixed application form and prices, (2) index, & (3) application forms.

Cash Book ~ 1844-46, 1858-60 [Box 97]
Expenses ~ 21 Oct 1844 to 10 Sep 1846
Notes: Name, purpose, & amount paid out.

Offerings in Memory of Victims of the Dunbar
Notes: Two pages, names without amounts.

Revenue ~ 1 Oct 1858 to Jan 1860

Notes: Name, purpose, & amount paid - offerings, fines, seat rental, charges for ceremonies and registration of births, burials, & marriages. (Continued to 1864 in next item.)

Cash Receipts Book, 1858-64 [Box 98]

Contributions for Repose of Souls ~ 1860-61

Notes: Two pages, memorial offerings.

Refusal of Mitzvot and Fines ~ 1857-58

Notes: Two pages, list of non-attendance when called up for reading on Shabbat, etc, dates & amount of fine.

Revenue ~ 4 Feb 1860 to Dec 1864

Notes: Continued from *Revenue 1858-60*.

Offerings Book ~ 1850s [Box 82]

Notes: "Book" of light card pages, about 6"x 6"x ½" thick. Pages have punched holes in a grid. Names are written down the left side of the grid, (alphabetical index tabs). Amounts and organisations are marked at the top of the grid.

Writing is not allowed on Shabbat, so when a donation was offered, a piece of string was tied through the holes to mark the amount offered, and sometimes the purpose. Amounts range in steps from a half crown to five guineas.

Organisations were the Orphan Society, Philanthropic Society, Hebrew School, Sabbath School, & Dorcas Society.

Correspondence ~

1846-1859 [Box 102, Film CY4090, Item 1]

1859-1860 [Box 104, Film CY4090, Item 3]

1860-1865 [Box 105, Film CY4091, Item 2]

1865-1871 [Box 108, Film CY4097, Item 1]

Notes: Copy book of outwards letters. All have indexes at the front.

Macquarie Street Synagogue

The first two items are both in one book *[Box 97]*

Offerings Book ~ 17 Sep 1860 to 3 Jun 1865

Notes: Names and amounts offered during services, with date & Pasha.

Barmitzvah ~ 11 Aug 1860 to 14 Jun 1870

Notes: At end of book. Name, date, Pasha, & comment about reading ability, for 36 boys.

Subscribers ~ March 1865 [Box 97]

Notes: Small forms stuck in a book, showing name, address & subscription amount.

Great Synagogue

Pesach Orders, Country & Intercolonial ~ 1892-95

Pesach Orders, Sydney and Country ~ 1897-1902

1892-95 [Box 97], 1897-1902 [Box 98] Notes: Names, addresses & quantities of goods ordered - matzoh, meal, cakes, almonds. The 1897-1902 book is mainly Sydney. A couple of years have a separate list of cash sales, with names & amounts.

Student Attendance ~ 1922-24 [Box 98]

Notes: Attendance of children at weekly classes, showing amount charged for each attendance. Includes annual trial balance.

After perusing all the above what did I discover about my family? Mainly trivia that helps to build a character portrait, along with a couple of minor informative items.

Aaron Steenbhom paid for seat rental for a year in advance on 17th April 1859. This has now become the earliest documented event of his life in Australia. He applied on the 18th October 1859 to be married to Miss Rachel Symons, and was sent a reply the next day that the necessary arrangements will be made. He donated £1/10/- on the 12th November, and on the next day paid fees for his marriage ceremony (£2/2/-), the Ketuba (£1/1/-), and registration (5/-). He was married on the 16th. His name appears last in the "S" section in the offerings book with the punched holes, but from other records I don't think he was a regular Synagogue goer.

In mid March 1862 he complained about the quality of manufacture of matzohs. The board of management asked other members, and replied in April that no-one else found them unsatisfactory.

In July he was advised that he should pay for his seats or use the free seats at the western end of the Synagogue. In September 1866 he was further advised that, due to the irregularity of his payments, his seat is considered vacant. A new seat will not be allocated unless 50% in advance is received, as well as a portion of the £8/6/- still owing. In 1897 he purchased 5/10d worth of Pesach goods for cash.

In later letters of the Great Synagogue, Solomon, Aaron's eldest son, resigned from being the paid auditor of the Great Synagogue in 1912, and owed £18/3/6 for seats in September 1914. Aaron and Miriam Steenbhom attended classes irregularly between July and November 1923. They were daughters of Jacob, Aaron's second youngest son.

Gary Luke is hoping to discover why his great-great-grandmother received 5/- a week from the Jewish Philanthropic Society before mid-1860, when she had £200.

feraltek@zeta.org.au

Communities (JCR-UK) Project				
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The aim of the Jewish Communities and Records UK (JCR-UK) project is to record, in electronic format, genealogical and other historical information about the UK Jewish Communities from the mid 17th-Century to the present day, and to make this information freely available via the Internet. The project will develop an integrated searchable database using records from a variety of sources including:

- Birth, circumcision, marriage and burial records
- Synagogue membership lists
- School pupil lists
- Trade directories
- Immigration records
- Jewish Charity records (including donation lists)
- Newspaper records.

The database is expected to cover about 500 Jewish communities, many of which, unfortunately, do not exist any more.


We shall be working closely with a number of UK archives and Jewish Communal organisations to identify relevant sources of data. The records will be indexed, and where appropriate transcribed or captured as digital images.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain will be responsible for co-ordinating the data gathering, indexing and transcription of the records. JewishGen will provide the technical infrastructure and know-how for the project.

The first phase of this project will be the launch of JCR-UK Discussion Group, a free e-mail based discussion forum for those researching their Jewish ancestors who lived in the UK, and for those interested in a particular UK Jewish community or congregation. We shall be discussing records available in the UK and research techniques, sharing information and answering questions. To join this discussion group use the Special Interest Group sign-up page at <http://www.jewishgen.org/listserv/sigs.htm> and look for United Kingdom: Jewish Communities and Records.

The second phase will be a website and the release of the first batch of records into the searchable database, which is expected to occur in Autumn/ Winter 2002. John Berman, formulated the idea and is the JCR-UK project manager.

enquiries@jgsgb.org.uk and www.jgsgb.org.uk
Laurence Harris,
JCR-UK Project Co-ordinator, JGSGB
computers@jgsgb.org.uk

Jews in Great Britain in 1851	Petra Laidlaw	Vol 9 No. 3		
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Have you researched anyone who was living in Great Britain in 1851? If so, they

would qualify for inclusion in a major database project, and I would like to hear from you.

The project seeks to record as much as possible about the lives of as many as possible of the Jews living in England, Wales and Scotland in 1851. It has been estimated that there were 30-35,000 living there at the time, and the database has already captured details on some 10 per cent of that number. Although complete coverage must be unattainable, the higher the numbers the more representative the sample is likely to be - and the more worthwhile for others to search.

Purposes of the database

As this implies, the database has two main purposes and two main audiences, and it is structured accordingly. The first is demographic and social-historical. In time the database ought to be able to tell us a great deal about the living patterns of mid-19th century Anglo-Jewry - migration patterns, occupational advancement, family size, mortality, adherence to or attrition from the Jewish faith, and much more.

The second purpose is genealogical. As it grows, the database will become more and more useful for anyone researching Jews who were living in mid-19th century Britain. They should be able to find out who each person's parents were, their spouse(s) and children, their occupations, addresses, where they were buried, and more.

The one qualification for inclusion in the database is that the subject must have been living in Great Britain in 1851. They might already then be 90 years old, or only nine days. The details collected on them may therefore stretch right back into the 18th century, or well forward into the 20th.

Why then the insistence on 1851? It is partly a question of manageability. The total number of Jews in Britain in the mid-19th century - the 30-35,000 figure quoted above - is much easier to handle than the number at the end of the century, which was of the order of 250,000. Given that so many, in either generation, had identical names, similar occupations and similar addresses, it is important to use a clear reference point like a census to avoid double-counting; and the 1851 census was the first to be reasonably reliable and detailed.

Manageability apart, the mid-century population is historically interesting. Britain in 1851 had seen a slow trickle of mainly economic-migrant Jews (mainly from Prussia and Western Poland) over the past 150 years; and maybe a couple of hundred joined them each year. The new arrivals, especially in the 18th century, generally had to start at the bottom of the heap. Life was tough, and they had to operate at the margins of society, not infrequently resorting to petty crime. Thus was born the stereotype that Dickens immortalised long after its sell-by date in the character of Fagin.

By the mid-19th century, much of the Jewish population in Britain was second- or even third-generation. They were settled and upwardly mobile, and strongly committed to assimilation. The influx of refugees from persecutions and pogroms in Eastern Europe in the late 19th century stamped a quite different character on Anglo-Jewry, with much more of a mission to preserve their Jewish identity. In time

they over-shadowed the earlier migrant communities, but the earlier communities remain of interest in their own right as a study in the rise of migrant fortunes.

1851, moreover, is an interesting date in itself. It was the date of the Great Exhibition, trumpeting the glories of the British Empire. It was also the year in which Henry Mayhew's *London Labour and the London Poor* was first published, waking the conscience of the Victorian middle classes to the shocking conditions in which the majority of the population had to live. It was the year, also, of the unique religious census, which counted churchgoing throughout the country, and synagogue-attendance, on the chosen "census Sabbath". And it was near the high-point of the campaign for Jewish emancipation in Parliament. In short, it offers a very rich context for the study.

What data are required?

The minimum requirement for anyone to be included is their name and address at the time of the 1851 census. This however is only the beginning. The aim of the database is to build up a picture of each such person throughout their lifetimes: where they were born, who their parents were, when they were married, who their children were, where they lived in each decade of their lives, what their occupations were decade by decade, where they worshipped, when they died, how they died and how they were buried.

This sort of picture would be very hard to build up if it were not for the community of family historians who, between them, already have such data to hand on many of the people who qualify for inclusion. So far, nearly 50 genealogists have contributed data on an average of 70 people each. In practice, some of these have given a great wealth of detail on just a few individuals, and others have given just outline data on many. Some others, wonderfully, have been able to contribute rich data on great numbers of people! Whatever it is that anyone can offer, though, it all builds up.

What will be done with the data?

Once a contributor's data have been entered in the database, and any queries arising out of that stage resolved, the contributor will receive a print-out to check: accuracy is very important. This is being done in batches, and the first set of contributors' print-outs will be going to them shortly. Once all the necessary amendments have been made - probably about April/May 2003 - summary details on each individual in the database will be posted on the Web, probably on the website of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.

www.jgsgb.org.uk

The intention is to make the full database available, for a very modest price, on CD-ROM (or if more appropriate DVD), though that will be rather further down the track. Much more work remains to be done to fill out details on individuals about whom only skeletal data are currently to hand; and if the database is to have demographic validity, it also needs to have a larger sample. The work will concentrate on both of these aims over the next year or so.

Once the sample is large enough - and the underlying data reliable enough - to start drawing broad statistical conclusions, I expect to publish that analysis in hard copy;

and, if it is feasible, to make a hard copy version also of the database itself, or certainly its main contents.

How can you contribute?

One of the things the database is already throwing up is the number of *1851 Jews* who later emigrated, be it to Australia, United States, Canada, South Africa or elsewhere. Some contributors based in the UK have been able to supply such data, but most of it has come from contributors in the countries concerned. The grapevine has already supplied some very valuable material from Australians!

The more emigrant data I can get, though, the better, and it is certainly not too late for readers of the *Kosher Koala* to contribute if they have not already done so. If you have data on anyone who was Jewish and living in Great Britain in 1851, please either email me at thompsonlaidlaw@aol.com,

or write by conventional mail
C/- The Editor, Kosher Koala,
P.O. Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595.

I will then send you the form to fill in on each individual, along with instructions.

If you are wondering how *Jewish* is to be defined for these purposes, the answer is, very broadly. It is impossible to know, from this distance, how any of the individuals concerned would have defined themselves, or how others might have seen them. Given, however, that one of the things the demographic analysis is intended to measure, is the rate of attrition from the Jewish faith, I am just as interested in people who were nominally born Jewish but married out or converted to another faith, as in people who clearly maintained their Jewish affiliation throughout their lives.

Access to the data

I am not in a position at the moment to answer queries from people hoping to look up forebears or other individuals in the database, though as set out above the intention is to publish outline data on the Web within the next year, and fuller details thereafter.

Strict confidentiality protocols will be observed. The identities of contributors will not be published on the database itself, though all contributors who consent to this will have their names prominent in a published acknowledgments page. Any contributors who have an interest in an individual about whom another contributor has also submitted data will be put in contact with them, *provided both parties agree*. The level of access that any contributor can agree to will be clarified with them at the time that they are sent a print-out proof to check. Please get in touch if you can contribute!

Petra Laidlaw is a member of the JGS of Great Britain.

More Anglo-Jewish Projects	Kathryn Michael	Vol 9 No. 3	
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Another member of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, Kathryn Michael, has been compiling some useful databases that should be of interest to members with an Anglo-Jewish background. If you find a relative in the recently published book *The Jewish Victorian*, then let Kathryn know about it.

1. An index to the discovery of relatives in the Jewish Victorian

The book, *The Jewish Victorian*, compiled by Doreen Berger is a valuable resource if your family was living in the UK between 1871 and 1880. The Jewish press of the time has been indexed and cross-referenced. If your family was in the newspapers for any reason, whether it was a birth, marriage, death announcement or because something happened to them to make them newsworthy, then they will be there. Not only have the names in the book been indexed but you can also, because of the cross-referencing, work out the connections to other families through inter marriage. My indexing is being produced so that we can link up people that are working on the same trees. It is working quite well so far. **Any researcher who finds a relative in this book should contact me.** I will put them in contact with others researching the same family. (AJGS has a copy of the book in the Sydney library).

2. LEVY in London 1881 and before

For fifteen years I have been putting off my own LEVY research but, when last year I found a friend of mine that I'd known for over twenty years was a cousin, I decided to start this project. We share the same LEVY ancestor born in 1808 in London. I was from the oldest son and she from the second. Only eight more to go! This is a project to try to sort out the LEVY families that were in London at the time of the 1881 census and before. I have been indexing and cross referencing LEVY births, marriages, Jewish Chronicle, *Jewish Victorian*, 1881 census, etc. I have so far built a collection of over 150 different LEVY trees. For about one hundred of these trees I am in contact with at least one person on the tree, who is, in most cases, the family researcher. There is still a lot of work to do. Obviously when I find information that the researcher doesn't have I update them. Also when I find two or more people researching the same family I put them in contact. As in the case of a lot of UK families, most of these trees now have branches worldwide.

3. Spanish & Portuguese Cemetery, Hoop Lane, London NW11

I am in the process of indexing this cemetery that opened in 1897. If somebody were to phone the offices to ask for plot details, they would be given just that. I am also including names, dates, the inscriptions and eventually the Hebrew details. It is a big project and a long way to go. If I know somebody is researching a particular name, when I find such a name I pass on the find. If I find two or more people researching the same name or people I put them in contact.

Kathryn Michael is a member of the JGS of Great Britain. Her email is kathryn@michaels99.freemove.co.uk

NOTE: Miriam Pollak, a Sydney member of AJGS has been indexing BMD from the Jewish Chronicle, London from the year 1900. She is currently up to 1906. See Kosher Koala article in September, 2001.

Kindertransport Children Rescued by the Late Rabbi Dr. Solomon Schonfield		Vol 9 No. 3		
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Retired, Jerusalem-based Rabbi Emanuel Fischer (an ex-kindertransport refugee) is planning to create a complete record of names and dates - including descendants - of the children who were rescued by the late Rabbi Dr. Solomon Schonfield in 1939 in London. It will then be placed in a database.

Emanuel Fischer's aim is to present it to the late Rabbi's children in London as an appreciation. If you were or have information on members of your families and friends who were part of the kindertransports and are willing to and can help out with Rabbi Fischer's quest, the address in Israel is P.O. Box 18279 Jerusalem 91182 Israel.

NSW News	Rieke Nash	Vol 9 No. 3		
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Sunday morning workshops are continuing to be useful for many members who usually solve at least one small research problem from either the Society's resources or through a suggestion from another member. If you can't make Sunday mornings let us know and we will arrange another convenient time.

On Sunday 18 August, Tinny Lenthén, the librarian at the Sydney Jewish Museum informed a large group of members about the holdings of this valuable Holocaust library. Most of our members would benefit from a visit to this reference library which is open during the week and on Sundays.

At this meeting the Society presented Sophie Caplan with an Illuminated Address, a specially created work of art, to commemorate her founding and presidency of this Society. See the photo of the event on the back page. We also gave Sophie a supply of cards with a copy of the work on the front for her personal correspondence. The Victorian group sent a message of appreciation.

In recognition of their contributions to the Society, Sophie and Leslie have received a Life Family Membership. We are also very happy to be able to congratulate Leslie on his 70th Birthday. May he enjoy many more years with his family.

Enquiries: Australian

Jewish Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595

Tel: 9427-6075

Email: society@ajgs.org.au

Website: www.ajgs.org.au

Report from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 9 No. 3		
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Les and Sonya Oberman, Enid Yoffa-Elton and Lauren Jaffe from Victoria attended the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Toronto in August. Lauren presented a paper.

At our meeting on Wednesday 10th July at 7.30 pm. Graham Fary, Manager of 'Family Tree Printing' of Maryborough, Victoria, discussed the use of computer programs for the generation of family trees, various formats for presenting data, photo restoration techniques, preparing of poster size photos for displays as well as printing banners almost thirty feet in length.

Itiel Bereson, well known Melbourne educator, historian and writer, will speak on the topic: The Changing Borders of Eastern Europe: Implications for Genealogists, on Wednesday, 28th August at 7.30 pm. He will give an overview of these changes illustrated with maps and interesting historical stories.

The next meeting after this will be held on Wednesday, 25th September at 7.30 pm where our delegates to the IAJGS conference in Toronto will share their experiences. The next Beginners' Workshop will be held on Sunday 6th October at 2.00 pm. All meetings are held at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre.

The President and Committee of Management of AJGS(Vic) wish our colleagues in other States and territories L'Shanah Tovah and Well over the Fast.

Enquiries: Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738
ajgs@exist.com.au
Les Oberman (03)9571 8251
oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

Report from South Australia	Jeanie Susman	Vol 9 No. 3	
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On June 25th a group of members and visitors met at the home of the President, Marjorie Luno, to hear our guest speaker, Myer Solomon, tell the fascinating story of his family, in particular his father, Nathan. Nathan arrived in Australia as a young man having been born in Russia. Myer explained that he never knew his date of birth because records were not kept in that part of the country at that time. He became a prominent and successful Jewish businessman in Adelaide in the early part of last century. The account of his life was told in a most interesting and informative way, and all enjoyed the humorous comments which frequently appeared. Obviously, it was a very happy and lively household with a family of five daughters and one son, Myer.

One of our members, Keith Bailey, now tapes the guest speakers, thus establishing a valuable record for the resource and reference collection.

Prior to the talk, as is our practice, a short business meeting was held. A number of issues, which will be addressed in the near future, were raised. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our AGM could not be held earlier in the year. However, it has been organised for August 25th, so will be reported in a future issue of the *Kosher Koala*.

The South Australian Branch contact is :
Marjorie Luno, President,
AJGS (SA), c/- Beit Shalom Synagogue,
P.O. Box 47, Stepney. S.A. 5069
Email to Hon. Secretary : Jeanie Susman
E-mail: chatsworth@picknowl.com.au

**Who's Who Around
Australia**

**Vol 9 No.
3**



Why Do I Study My Family History?

By Leslie Oberman, Victorian President

Kaddish: prayer recited in memory of a dead relative. It is not a prayer for the dead, but a promise of the living.

Genealogy: the study and tracing of family histories.

I am an amateur genealogist now in memory of my dead relatives! My grandfather Michael OBERMAN is buried in the cemetery in Rosh Pina in the Upper Galilee in Israel, but where was he, his sister Esther and his father Israel OBERMAN and his mother Batya born?

My great grand-father Israel OBERMAN was married to a Batya/Basha GOLDNER who also is buried in Rosh Pina. We understand she was born in Romania, but, we have no proof of this yet. Israel and Batya had two children Michael and Esther. Israel died and Batya married a Nahum KALISKER who already had three children from his late wife.

I am 75 years of age, my late wife Margaret passed away more than thirteen years ago. I have now been married to Sonya for some 12 years. I have three sons and six grandchildren. Sonya has four daughters and six grandchildren. I am making sure that my children and grandchildren know the history of their families.

In 1949 I was a member of Kibbutz Kfar Hanasi, a kilometre or two from Rosh Pina. Did I bother to research my family at that time? No! The generation who could have given me answers that I am asking today, are no longer living. My father David passed away in 1968. I didn't ask him questions about our family history when he was alive. Now its too late.

Lesson: Ask The Questions Now!

Leslie Oberman B.A., F.I.E.S.(Aust. & N.Z.), M.I.E.S.(N.A.), F.G.A.A, Amateur Genealogist.

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E-mail: <oberman@mira.net> <oberman@ozemail.com.au>

Web Page: <http://www.oberman.org>

Lionel Sharpe - Victorian Secretary



I first began to dabble in genealogy many years ago when my daughter asked for my help with a family tree project for school. She interviewed elderly relatives and we searched the local cemeteries. Over the years I kept adding pieces of information gathered from the personal announcements in the Jewish press and other sources. It became such an unholy mess that I asked Beverley Davis, then secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Melbourne, to assist. She kindly sorted it all out on her typewriter.

In March 1996 I attended a meeting of the newly formed Victorian Branch of the AJGS where Sophie Caplan had flown down from Sydney to speak about genealogy. I was immediately hooked and at the first AGM the following month, I was elected chairman of the Branch replacing Aubrey Schwarz, the founding chairman.

Little did I realise that over the next few years I would participate in an incorporation of the Branch, the launch of our own newsletter 'Jewish Genealogy Downunder' and attend three international conferences.

In 1999 I was invited to teach Australian Jewish history in the Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University. Thus I have been able to blend the search for ancestry in the context of the growth and development of our Jewish communities.

As Secretary of the AJGS (Vic) I now enjoy answering the many requests for help which I receive from all over the world especially, where families and individuals can be finally reunited.

Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738 ajgs@exist.com.au

Sylvia Deutsch - Our Canberra, (Australian Capital Territory) Representative



History - any history - has always fascinated me: family history is just one aspect. The child of Holocaust survivors from Czechoslovakia, I see 20th century European history encapsulated in my parents' experiences and memories, from the dying days of the Hapsburg era through to post-World War II immigration to Australia. My father was born in Banska Bystrica (but his father was born in Papa, Hungary) and my mother in Zilina. I am fortunate that my parents have always shared their stories and that they still possess many family photos and artefacts. My mother took my son and myself back to Slovakia four years ago - a moving experience, heavy with family memories.

Thankfully both my parents have recorded their histories, including the Shoah Foundation.

I am not actively doing genealogical research, but I believe it is important to have an AJGS presence in the national capital. My involvement began through supporting founding president Sophie Caplan in extending the Society's activities beyond Sydney in the mid-1990s, rather than any intense interest on my part, and I have been coordinating AJGS activities in Canberra ever since.

Beulah Gross**Our Representative on the Central Coast of NSW and a Ten Year Member**

My interest in family history began when I was a child in South Africa. My maternal grandmother would tell me, over and over again, stories about her family and her own life in Lithuania before she emigrated to South Africa. She embellished these stories with photos and postcards which she gave me before she died and which I brought with me when I emigrated to Australia with my husband, Rachi and our two children, Simon and Ruth, in 1975. Many years later, I embarked on researching and writing my maternal family history with my mother and her siblings' help, an activity which took seven years to complete. During this period I found many hitherto unknown family members most of whom I still correspond with and many of whom I have met. I have also updated this with a family newsletter and am planning another one in the near future.

Sophie Caplan and Rieke Nash introduced me to the AJGS in early 1992 and I have been a member ever since. I have been the Central Coast representative for many years but, to my shame, don't do very much as there are not many members up here. However, we have had a couple of interesting workshops at my home and I hope to have more in the future. I have written several articles concerning my genealogical research for Koshers Koala and will probably write more when I can. Due to time and distance constraints it is very difficult attending meetings and seminars but my interest in the organisation remains strong and I am always willing to help with anything where possible.

Last year I had published a Jewish Diabetic Cookbook which took about three years to complete.

I am very active in Rotary as Programme Officer and Youth Services Director and conduct and attend various classes in the local U3A (University of the Third Age). However, my interest in genealogy is very dear to my heart and I'm continually on the lookout for more family contacts and may well embark on my paternal family history one day. I certainly have a lot of material on hand.

rachi@ozemail.com.au

Marjorie Luno**President: South Australian Branch**

I have done little in the way of research, mainly because I inherited a great deal that had already been done by others. However on close inspection I began to find errors and things that didn't quite add up. Having been drawn into the Sth Australian branch of AJGS by the then president Hilde Hines (a most diligent researcher) through Koshers Koala I began to find family contacts who were able to fill in gaps and I was able to do the same for others. This opened up a whole new world of pen and Internet friends.

My maternal grandfather Abraham Tobias Boas was the first Rabbi in South Australia. Of Dutch origin his family is well documented in Dutch Records from 17th Century. He arrived in South Australia in 1870 and soon after married Elizabeth

Solomon, a descendant of Moss Solomon. Moss was the oldest brother of the notorious Emanuel and Vaiben brothers, transported in 1817 for stealing clothing from a farmer. Moss my great-great-great-grandfather arrived in Sydney from London in 1833. The Solomon family grew to enormous proportions within a couple of generations, often with cousin marrying cousin.

I possess a Solomon family tree prepared in 1976 by my cousin David Krantz of Perth that measures approximately three metres long by one metre wide starting with Solomon Solomon, born London circa 1700.

Morris S Ochert OAM

Our Queensland Representative



Morris has represented us in Queensland for many years. He has carried out considerable research in Jewish genealogy appertaining to Queensland. This is closely associated with the research and writing which he does for the Australian Jewish Historical Society, of which he is a Fellow. He feels that Jewish genealogy and history are completely intertwined. He is greatly assisted by Carol Stirk in an administrative role.

Apart from those activities, Morris is an Honorary Life Member of the Board of the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation, of which he is the Heritage Officer, and he has been active in the major rejuvenation of that 116-year-old precinct. He has served the Brisbane Chevra Kadisha, the JNF, the UIA, the State Zionist Council and the Friends of the Hebrew University for over a half century.

The Commonwealth Government recently published his book on his experiences at sea in World War II, as a part of their archive on that War.

Morris is a retired Professional Engineer. He and his wife, Miriam, have children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Carol Stirk (née Davis)

Volunteer, Brisbane Branch,



I was born in London, England and, in 1992, arrived in Brisbane via New Zealand, South Africa and Sydney.

Back in the 1980s, I remember interviewing an aunt and drawing up a rough draft of my mother's family tree. It wasn't until 1997 that I came across this long-forgotten family tree and, with the assistance of computer technology, Brother's Keeper, and my parents, compiled an electronic database. I then emailed a cousin in England and asked him (roped him in?) to speak to our relatives in the UK, who were able to fill in a lot of missing information on my father's side of the family.

I have gone on from there - albeit slowly - by joining the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (**AJGS**), the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain (**JGSGB**) and the Queensland Family History Society (**QFHS**), using the various resources held by these Societies, subscribing to various Jewish genealogical email lists, as well as hiring Charles Tucker (UK) to research the London Synagogue

Marriage and Burial records. I have also become a good friend of Morris S Ochert OAM (who lives not far from me), not only assisting him in his position as Brisbane representative of the AJGS, but also typing and editing the many manuscripts he has written, and being the "go-between" when electronic correspondence is required. As a volunteer in this way, I have learned a great deal.

I am unable, however, to obtain any positive documentation about my family's Russian/Polish background and origins and will eventually hire a professional genealogist to research those archives for me. Names and towns of interest are:

Forstein (name changed to Foster) Poland, London, England

Goldchi(C)K

Bialystok, Poland, London, England

Isaacs

Grodno, Belarus, London, England

Jacobowitz (name changed to Jacobs)

Grodno, Belarus, London, England

Melondovitch (name changed to Davis)

Vilnius, Lithuania, London, England

Shamerofski

Lithuania, London, England

Sribnik

Riga, Latvia, London, England

**Does Your Family Trace its
Roots Back to Safed?**

**Diane
Shteinman**

**Vol 9 No.
3**



If you are interested in reconnecting to your family roots in Safed, Israel now is the time! The Safed Foundation will assist you by searching the city's historical records, including censuses and cemetery records. The services provided by the Safed Foundation are free of charge. Contact by fax: 972-4-682-1221 or by email binny@safed.found.org.il for more information.

Safed (Tsfat, Zfat) - this ancient Galilee city was the most important and influential Centre for Jewish Law and Kabbala in the 16th century. Generations of tzaddikim, mystics, artists, and lovers of nature have found inspiration among the cobblestoned streets, ancient synagogues and mountain views of Safed, leaving an indelible mark on Jewish history and culture.

Diane Shteinman is a long-standing member of the Society.

A number of former Russian Jewish families had settled in Safed and later emigrated to Australia in the 1920s when economic conditions were hard in Eretz Israel. They settled in Melbourne, Sydney but mostly in Perth.

*Sophie Caplan.OAM
Previous President and Editor*

JRI-Poland Receives Cash from Australia....but Who Sent It?		Vol 9 No. 3		
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Our treasurer received an envelope from Australia with a generous contribution of US dollars in CASH!!! But, there is no return address on the envelope and there was no cover note included. And to make matters more intriguing, the post mark is illegible.

JRI-Poland would naturally like to assign the funds to the town project for which they are intended. So, if you are the generous contributor, please get in touch with me. Of course, you will have to indicate the amount sent as confirmation.

Stanley Diamond, Project Coordinator,
Jewish Records Indexing - Poland
smsdiamond@aol.com

Presentation to Sophie Caplan		Vol 9 No. 3		
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Presentation of Illuminated Address to Sophie Caplan by Rieke Nash

SOPHIE CAPLAN
Order of Australia Medal
..... a soft feminine centre

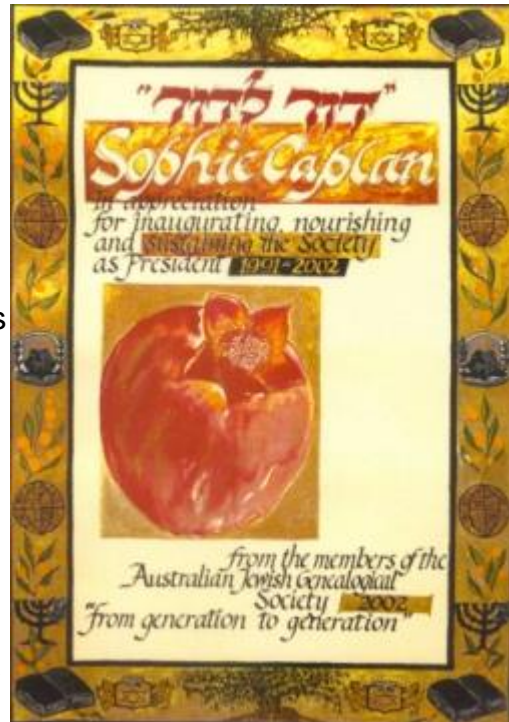
The Pomegranate

The pomegranate (rimmon) is a popular motif in Israel today but it was recorded in Biblical times. According to a recent Sydney Morning Herald item it was one of seven species of plants that sustained the Israelites in the Holy Land. The foods were figs, dates, olives, grapes, wheat, barley and pomegranates. The pomegranate was an adornment on the hem of the robe of the high priest, Aaron, and decorated the pillars of the Temple. Its significance lies in its numerous seeds and decorative fruit which are associated with good deeds, fertility and life.

"be fruitful and multiply"

What more could a genealogist want?

..... surrounded by a firm, strong border of significant achievements represented by



The Trees

For the love and devotion she has given to her immediate family, to her relatives all over the world and to the ancestors who inspired her love of genealogy

The Books

For the hundreds (thousands?) of books that she has read, given away and bought for others

The Menorah and Koala, the logo of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

For her creation and presidency of the Society

The Rock of Masada

For her dedication to education and in particular to the founding of Masada College

The Magen David, Lions and Menorah

For a long time member and historian of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies, and a supporter of Leslie in his time as a leader of the Jewish community

The Globe, the logo of Avotaynu

For services to the International Review of Jewish Genealogy as a contributing editor and to the International Jewish genealogy world

The Golden Wattle

A proud Australian

At the recent Toronto Conference, an appeal was made by Susan King, President of JewishGen, Inc., for help with funding so that the free services of JewishGen can continue. I believe that every reader of this newsletter with or without the Internet as well as every person who has only dipped a toe into Jewish Genealogy must have made some use of the JewishGen web site at some time. If you haven't then it is almost certain that you will have missed out on some worthwhile information and hints. So far around \$US130,000 has been raised towards the \$300,000 needed to support this unique repository and communication channel. The Society has made a modest donation to the fund but we are asking you to help with this worthwhile cause and even though the Australian dollar is weak any help will be appreciated.

Send to 2951 Marine Bay Dr., Suite 130-472, League City TX 77573, U.S.A. or look at the site www.jewishgen.org/jewishgen-erosity/contribute.ihtml for instructions.

The 23rd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is to be held in Washington, D.C. in July 20-25, 2003. For details look at www.jewishgen.org/DC2003. Even though it is hot then, it is no hotter than an Oz summer and will be a most useful and enjoyable event. Apart from hearing an international panel of speakers, the opportunities for research are outstanding including the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Library of Congress and the National Archives. Combine it with a stopover in New York at the Centre for Jewish History where the combined resources of YIVO, Leo Baeck, etc are now located and your research should make some significant advances.

If you are planning to go next year to Washington, try to attend the talk, *Researching Family in the U.S.A.*, on February 2, 2003 to be given by Nancy Goodstein-Hilton.

I recently met a lady who happily told me about her amazing reunion with a lost cousin and all because of an entry in "that Koala magazine"!

Happy Chanukah
Rieke Nash
President
president@ajgs.org.au



Editorial

**Miriam
Shifreen**

**Vol 9 No.
4**



Down in the dumps lately? No successful research results? If you have been discouraged or if your research interests have been waning, then the stories in this edition will soon get you going again!

Thank you to Dennis Bluth. He saw my request for success stories, and after you read *It's a Small World: The Alexander Family*, you will be filled with renewed expectations of finding your family. Is there anyone else out there with such an exciting experience to share? I look forward to hearing from you.

And the solution you have been waiting for! The final instalment of Peter Nash's story, shows that years of research are finally rewarded with *The Breakthrough*

!

Fay Nissen tells us about her attendance as a first-timer at an International Jewish Genealogy Conference when she relates her experiences at the Toronto Conference. Fay is already saving up to attend the Washington Conference in July 2003, from 20-25.

Sophie Caplan tells us about two new Jewish Museums, one in Paris and the other in Or Yehuda, Israel. There is contact information for two research institutes, one in New York and the other in Jerusalem. Read all about them on page 13.

Librarian, Tinny Lenthen, reveals the extensive range of holdings available to researchers in the library of the Sydney Jewish Museum on page 7.

Meet three of our long-standing members and read about their interesting research discoveries.

We have had two very successful afternoon meetings for members. Those who came discovered some very valuable sites for research. Our first meeting was with Nancy Goodstein-Hilton on the *Holdings of Jewish Records in the LDS*, see page 8.

At our second meeting, John Stanhope covered the *Overseas Resources at SAG* (the Society of Australian Genealogists), see page 9.

Bernie Freedman invites you to consider lodging your Family Tree with us and explains why this is important. See page 16.

Thank you to Ken Lipworth for organising the photography in this issue.

Chag Sameach
Miriam Shifreen
Editor
editor@ajgs.org.au

**Navigating Berlin
Resources to Solve a
Family Puzzle (Part 3)**

Peter Nash

**Vol 9 No.
4**



FINALLY - THE BREAKTHROUGH!

I had built up quite a bit of knowledge on the Nachemstein branch of my cousin Marion FISHER whom I only discovered in London in 1994 [1], [2]. But I still failed to exactly connect her branch to the overall NACHEMSTEIN Tree.

When I met Marion again in London in 2001 she told me that Malli (= Marie ?) GABRIEL had three daughters, Herta, Lotte and Frieda. At the Public Record Office (PRO) in Kew I searched through the Alien Registration records based on a hint that the United Restitution Office in Berlin had given me [2]. I now found a record for Charlotte Gabriel who was born in Berlin in 1898 and who had arrived in London in 1939. However, her year of birth did not fit well with Marie Gabriel's birth year of

1883. And Marion was sure that Charlotte (aka Lotte) had died childless. Another blank!

I went to Berlin and to the Weissensee Cemetery knowing that Marie Gabriel was buried there [2] and luckily found her tombstone - but the inscription and epitaph was in German only and without reference to her parents. So as far as finding out Marion's grandfather's name I was stymied - again. But now I had built up more data for Marion's branch of the Nachemstein Family Tree.

Back in Sydney, I focussed on Marion's parents: Max, born in Lessen in 1881 and Klara neé Rosenthal, born in 1879 in the former Schneidemühl now Pila, Poland. I knew that the previously examined Mormon film for Lessen only had Jewish marriages up to 1850, so I wondered if they were married in Schneidemühl, then part of Germany. In late 2001 I ordered two films from the Mormons specifically for marriages spanning the years 1878-1913 and 1914-1937, respectively. After waiting several months I was told that the film for the years 1878-1913 was now "restricted" by the LDS in Salt Lake City, Utah - without further explanation. The second film has so far not been "restricted" nor has it arrived six months on. I understand now that the Mormons have been asked by the German government not to release films from SLC that contain vital records within the last 120 years. However they can be viewed at SLC provided identification and direct descendancy can be shown as evidence.

Not long after my return and while waiting for the films, a website for on-line access to the Berlin Directories for the years 1799 to 1943 was announced[3]. So I logged on and tried to establish which Nachemstein's existed in Berlin and from when. This was fantastic especially as I found an entry for the firm R. Nachemstein GmbH with Max Nachemstein as its Geschäftsführer (business manager). Obviously the R stood for Rosalie, his mother. Entries spanned the years 1918 to 1921. So, if his mother was the owner or director of a business surely his father's name must have appeared somewhere! I wondered why the entries stopped in 1921 but noted that entries for Max in his own right existed in subsequent years.

When I was in Berlin I had also gone to the *Landesarchiv Berlin* (Berlin State Archives) to better familiarise myself with their archival holdings but found they were in the final stages of transferring their archives to a new location. Now I decided to write to the *Landesarchiv Berlin* giving them the directory data for the firm of R. Nachemstein GmbH and asked if the name of Rosalie Nachemstein's husband was noted anywhere in connection with Max's mother's business. It was a slim hope but after waiting patiently for three months I got a response stating that R. Nachemstein GmbH was liquidated in 1927 and that amongst the 182 page file that they still possessed was the fact that Salomon was the name of her husband, that is, the grandfather of Marion Fisher. Of course I did not indicate that (some years earlier) I had narrowed down the choice between Wolf Levin and Salomon. This was quite incredible! The existence of a 182 page file for a business that had been liquidated 75 years earlier was astonishing.

I expressed my thanks and great delight to the Landesarchiv and requested and offered to pay for some substantiated evidence that Salomon was who he was. In reply they offered to send me a copy of the whole file, even though it contained pages of no direct relevance to Salomon - and at no charge. I only requested some

relevant pages which I now have, including a Statutory Declaration made in Graudenz (a former West Prussian town) in 1910, clearly stating that Salomon was the husband of Rosalie and that Max was their son, and which also mentioning two unnamed daughters - making me wonder why not three daughters? To add a touch of family closeness it also contained signatures in their own handwriting. My cousin Marion in London now marvelled at my genealogical detective work.

A very large number of Jews moved from former Prussian towns to Berlin in the 1800's and early 1900's for better economic opportunities and yet I have no substantiated evidence that Salomon Nachemstein actually moved from Graudenz to Berlin, although his wife and son did. The answer to my puzzle evolved from different archives in Berlin!

I was very pleased that after eight years I had finally solved a family genealogy puzzle. In retrospect, I possibly could have reached this conclusion in another way, such as the Mormon's marriage records for Schneidemühl, which now can only be viewed at Salt Lake City, provided I fit their criteria and assuming that Salomon and Rosalie were married there (the Mormon's marriage records for Lessen did not go beyond 1850). Or perhaps I could have found their marriage record or their son Max's birth record in Torun, Poland where the archives for Lessen are now kept. Then again, I might not have succeeded any other way.

But other associated puzzles are still there to be solved who were the families of my great-grandfather Leiser Nachemstein's other siblings: Wolf Levin, Rahel, Hana and Abraham (a sibling that I have only just discovered)?

Worth reading also are the paths that Peter S. Cullman of Toronto took when researching his ancestors in Berlin and former Prussian centres and which he described in his AVOTAYNU contribution: "Twelve Steps from the Past to the Present"[4].

Endnotes:

[1] see author's article in *Kosher Koala* Vol 9 No. 2, June 2002

[2] *ibid* Vol 9 No. 3, September 2002

[3] Berlin Directories 1799-1943: <http://zlb.dilib.de/intern/de/frameset.asp?ApplicationID=7>

[4] Peter Simonstein Cullman, *AVOTAYNU* Vol XVI No. 4 Winter 2000, 33

Contact Address:

Landesarchiv Berlin
Eichborndamm 115-121
13403 Berlin, Germany
<http://www.landesarchiv-berlin.de>

Peter Nash (formerly Nachemstein), is a child Holocaust survivor from Berlin who found refuge in Shanghai from 1939 to 1949. He is a founding member of the Society and has researched widely the available resources for tracing the former Jewish communities of China.

**A Dictionary of Ashkenazic
Given Names - Their
Origins, Structures,
Pronunciations and
Migrations**

**Alexander
Beider**

**Vol 9 No.
4**



Our Society has acquired Alexander Beider's third book - a scholarly work on Jewish given names. Those of you who are interested in the origin of the names on your family tree will find this book fascinating, if a little daunting. There are 728 pages.

The book published by *Avotaynu* Inc Bergenfield, N.J. 2001 explores Traditional Names; The Development of Names; Pet Names; Phonetic Changes; The Origin of Ashkenazic Communities; Sources; and also provides Maps.

There is a detailed explanation on page 260 on *How To Use This Dictionary*, on page 271 you will find the explanations of *masculine names*, and on page 475 of *female names*, in all 7000 names derived from 740 root names.

On page 606, for example, my favourite aunt's name, Zlata, is treated to almost a page and a half of detailed analysis.

Zlata, came from the Czech adjective *zlatá* (golden), first used by Jews during the Middle Ages in Czech territories. Jews borrowed this name due to its attractive meaning, equivalent to the Yiddish name Golde. Jewish migrants from Czech lands brought it to neighbouring countries: Austria, Eastern Germany and Poland.

The name in Hebrew and Russian and its use at specific times and places is then explained in detail, e.g.: Slata [German] in the year 1293 - vykz [Hebrew] 1349 - Zlata [Polish] circa 1680 3naTa [Russian] 19th- century Zlate [Yiddish] 19th-century Lithuania, Belorussia, Finally. the name was used as a surname in a wide variety of forms: Zlatkes, Zlatkin and Ziatkis; Zlatke, Zlatetshe [Yiddish] 20th-century Poland.

Reviewed by Miriam Shifreen Editor

Congratulations

**Vol 9 No.
4**



We wish much joy and happiness to our long-term members:

Terry and Annita Newman
on their recent marriage,

and

Leslie and Sophie Caplan
on the birth of their newest grandson, David



Many years ago, I must have registered with a few genealogical sites, the name Alexander being my maternal grandfather's surname and also my maternal grandmother's surname (they had married in Berlin in 1919, but were not related). I was always interested in my mother's side of the family as she was the only child, her mother was an only child and she had few relatives. My mother had lost contact with her father's family when she and her parents left Germany in 1938. Her father, Harry Alexander, was born in Leipzig in 1886, came to Australia in 1938 and died in 1966. Her mother, Rita, was born in 1893 in Okollo-Bromberg, formerly East Prussia now Poland, and died shortly after my parents married in 1948 and before I was born.

Imagine my surprise in February when I received an e-mail from Lucy Singer, looking for ancestors of the Alexander-Katz family. She recalled that her grandfather came from Berlin and she wished to find other descendants and more about her grandfather who migrated to Israel in the late 1930's. She said that her grandfather came from a family of judges and she had noticed my entry of Alexander family from Berlin. I told her that I did not recall anyone of her ancestry in my family and only remembered that my grandfather Harry's father was named Friedmann Alexander. So, I surmised that we were not related.

Ms Singer immediately replied that in her Alexander Family research she had come across a Friedmann Alexander and she gave me the details of that site as:
<http://www.math.rutgers.edu/~zeilberg/family/gerson.html>.

I visited that site and was astounded at a number of things. The site is all about the family of one Doron Zeilberger who is a professor of mathematics at Rutgers University, New Jersey. When you click on the site you find that it is called Gerson Alexander (the father of the father of the father of the mother of Doron Zeilberger). He states that Gerson Alexander was naturalised as a German Citizen at Graetz, Posen (now Grodzisk, near Buk, Poland) on September 11, 1834. He was a teacher, (Lehrer) see page 2 of the *Naturalised Jews of the Grand Duchy of Posen in 1834 and 1835* compiled by E. D. Luft. Doron then lists the children of Gerson Alexander. The eldest son was Solomon Alexander (who is Doron's great grandfather). The second son Bernhard Alexander, had three children, the eldest being Friedmann Alexander, my great grandfather! Gerson had two other children. Doron then lists what he knows about the family tree of each of these children.

I contacted Doron Zeilberger who was delighted to hear from me and I was able to fill in quite a bit of background for his family tree. Friedmann Alexander, had three other children beside Harry. I could only fill in the details from what my mother remembered in Germany prior to leaving in 1938. The family had lost contact with the two brothers of Harry, Kurt Alexander and Bernhard Alexander who had migrated to New York. The sister, Selma died in a concentration camp. It turns out that the family of Gerson Alexander is an extensive extended family with a significant number of members in Israel.

Doron Zeilberger is indefatigable in relation to his extensive research into all aspects of his family. He has researched the ancestors of the Zeilberger family from Ermershausen going back to 1780, the Schoenemann family going back to 1781, the Forchheimer family to 1806, the Bach family to 1788 and the Pimmer family, descended from Rabbi Levin Aron Pimmer of Birnbaum, to 1789. Interestingly enough, somewhere amongst all of that family is a connection with Henry Kissinger!

Ironically, there was another connection with Lucy Singer and the Alexander-Katz family. I had suggested to Ms Singer that as she had no news of her grandfather, who had gone to Israel as she thought in late 1930, that I would ask my great aunt on the Bluth side of the family, whether she was aware of Dr Alexander-Katz. In Palestine all the German immigrants known as Jaecker stuck together. In fact my aunt Miryam Arielly (née Margot Bluth) was one of the last to leave Berlin in 1940 via Minsk in Russia when the border with Russia was still open prior to the attack by Nazi Germany on Russia. She travelled to Palestine via train through Russia down to the Black Sea, Turkey, Syria, crossing the border into the mandate of Palestine from Lebanon.

At 99 she has all her faculties and is in excellent health. My aunt responded by saying that although she did not know personally of Alexander-Katz, she recalled that her sister (my other great aunt) Edith was friendly with a person of that name. She thought he lived in Haifa, and had come to Cologne at the time that both my great aunts lived and worked there assisting with repatriation payments to the citizens of Israel by the West German Government. I passed this information onto Lucy Singer. So the adage "it is a small world" is true.

Dennis Bluth is a member of our Society and a former president of the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

Dbluth@abbotttut.com.au

22nd International Jewish Genealogy Conference Toronto Canada, 2002	Fay Nissen	Vol 9 No. 4		
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Deciding to attend the Toronto Conference is one of the best decisions I have made. As a novice to the field of genealogy, being among so many like-minded people was inspirational.

I arrived at the Sheraton Hotel on Sunday 4th August with plenty of time to spare before the conference started at 1 pm. When I first decided to attend, I looked for accommodation near the hotel but decided to pay the bit extra and stay in the conference hotel itself. I can highly recommend this, as it has many benefits. It was wonderful when I had a break of an hour or so, to be able to go up to my room.

I made my way down to the conference centre in the lower part of the hotel, and after registering received my conference bag with the lecture schedule and syllabus. As this was my first conference, I was a little confused as to what to do next. I decided to sit and look through the Daily Schedule and highlight the talks, that I wanted to attend. There was such a variety to choose from:

Talks on American and Canadian Records Searches, Polish research,
DNA,
Germany,
The Washington and Auschwitz Museums,
YIVO,
Unique Sources for Jewish Genealogy,
Overcoming Obstacles,
Publishing Your Family History,
The Jews of Iran,
plus dozens more.

At noon, when security opened the doors I went to look through the resource room which had a very good selection of CD ROMS, books, maps, etc., a photocopier and several computers for all the attendees to use.

In the room next door, booksellers were able to display and sell their books. It was good to be able to peruse books that I have only heard about via the internet, and of course I bought a few.

The first talk that I wanted to attend, was the *Beginners Workshop On Jewish Genealogy*. A very good lecture with lots of information for both the beginner and the experienced. I am told this is the first lecture at each conference.

On the first night there was the Opening Reception, where we heard from quite a few interesting people, about the importance of the conferences.

Apart from the lectures, another feature of the conference, which is very worthwhile, is the Breakfast With The Experts and the Luncheons. How wonderful it was to be able to sit in these relaxed and informal rooms to hear great speakers. The other benefit is that I was able to meet new people at the tables at which I sat.

One of the most enjoyable parts of attending a conference like this, is meeting face to face with people I have only corresponded with via the internet and on Jewishgen. I was also delighted to meet some relatives that I didn't know of before and for us to exchange information. I now have made some life-long friends.

On the last night there was a Gala Banquet, which makes for a lovely farewell.

For me, this conference gave me an insight and knowledge into my research. I found each day to be full and exciting. I was either meeting new people, learning information at the lectures or discussing with others.

Next year, the Conference will be in Washington DC. I am already saving up to attend, as the resources and archives available in Washington are invaluable.

Fay Nissen is a new member of our Society.

The 2002 International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Achievement Awards for outstanding individual and organisational contributions to Jewish genealogy were awarded at the Toronto Conference.

1. The IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award was made to Stanley Diamond in recognition of his distinguished service in the cause of Jewish genealogical research. His negotiating skills and unselfish approach to capturing and sharing the indexing of Jewish Records of Poland have made these widely accessible for the benefit of all. His creative moulding of genealogical and genetic research techniques has added dimension to the field of Jewish genealogy. As founder and president of the JGS-Montreal and as a prolific writer and lecturer, he has motivated countless people to research their Jewish Ancestry.

2. The IAJGS Outstanding Contribution Award was presented to Jewishgen and Joyce Field for the Yizkor Book Project.

3. The IAJGS Outstanding Programming or Project Award was made to the JGS-Ottawa, Canada for its Chernivsti Cemetery Project.

4. The IAJGS Outstanding Publications Award was presented to the JGS-Los Angeles for its quarterly journal *RootsKey*.

From a talk by Tinny Lenthen



Tinny Lenthen describing the holdings of the Library of the Sydney Jewish Museum to members of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, August, 2002

All members of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society should be aware of the extensive holdings in the library of the Sydney Jewish Museum. On August 18 this year a large group of members had the opportunity to hear the librarian, Tinny Lenthen, describe how the library could help with family research.

The library is a Research Library and Resource Centre with an emphasis on the Holocaust. It also has references on Australian Jewish History, a limited collection on Judaism as well as reference works, such as Encyclopedia Judaica. It is open to general users, students and researchers and is free.

The Holocaust resources include most of the published books of lists of deportations, survivors, concentration camps, labour (lagers) camps. There is a valuable collection of 75 Yizkor books as well as memoirs, testimonies and histories of European communities. Publications such as the Gedenkbuchs for Germany, Berlin and Hamburg, general and detailed works on Auschwitz, Bergen Belsen, Theresienstadt, etc. can provide either specific or background information to expand your knowledge of your family history.

Periodicals such as the journals of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, the Dunera Association and Holocaust and Genocide Studies are available and the library has video tapes and newspaper clippings.

Tinny has extensively key worded the catalogue so that any search for towns, camps, etc. has a chance of success. The catalogue is not on-line and, as the library is a reference library, books are not available on inter-library loan but Tinny is prepared to help with enquiries and check out specific requests. There is some assistance available for very brief translations.

Some of the funds raised at the recent Capital Appeal for the Museum will be used to expand the facilities of the Library and the Archives of the Museum, improve disabled access and provide a well equipped classroom.

Many of the volumes in the library have been donated by those with an interest in the topic of the book as a means of having the reference available in Sydney or as a memorial to their ancestral past.

The library has purchased the newly published four-volume edition of *The Holocaust in Lithuania 1941-1945*. Our Society has contributed towards the purchase of this expensive book rather than purchasing it ourselves and urges members who are likely to benefit from consulting it to make a donation towards this purchase to the Library.

The Museum is currently creating a Register of Holocaust Survivors so if you have any information please fill in the form included in this newsletter and send it to the Museum. If you know of others with survivor information make a copy of the form and encourage them to participate in this project.

The library is on the lower floor of the Museum at:

148 Darlinghurst Road,
Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Phone: 9360-7999 Fax: 9331-4245
Email: library@sjm.com.au

Hours of opening:
Sunday to Thursday 10 to 4
Friday 10 to 2

Web site: www.sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au/education/library



On Sunday, October 27 at Waverley Library, fifty visitors and members of the Society were treated to a most entertaining and professional presentation by Nancy Goodstein-Hilton.

Nancy and her husband Lynn are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and live in Salt Lake City. They are in Sydney for a year. The LDS or Mormons, as they are popularly known, are the repository of the world's largest collection of genealogical records including Jewish birth, marriage and death records.

Nancy has Jewish ancestry and has specialised in how to do Jewish genealogical research. She has authored a nine volume record index of specifically Jewish records in the Family History Library covering 90 countries and territories worldwide. It is the largest index of Jewish records on microfilm, on microfiche and in print ever compiled. From this collection Nancy worked two years to prepare the CD, Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalog. This index has been published by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) and can be viewed at the Jewishgen website at www.jewishgen.org/databases/FHLC.

The CD can be purchased directly from the IAJGS for \$US20 plus \$US5 postage to Australia. Follow the instructions on www.jewishgen.org/iajgs and email a request to mpoz@earthlink.net. Of course, the CD can be viewed at our regular workshops.

Two of these CDs were donated by her at the talk as "Lucky Door Prizes".

As Nancy demonstrated in her talk, scanning the indexes can produce some surprising results. It is well known that the Mormons have microfilmed many Jewish

vital records in towns all over Eastern Europe but they have also filmed British and Australian documents. For example the index to British naturalisations for the years 1844-1900 is available as well as the index to Jewish burials in New South Wales regional cemeteries such as Moree and Bombala.


In the latest *Avotaynu*, Vol 18 No 2, Sallyann Sack notes some of the "Exotic" holdings indexed on this CD. Ottoman and British mandate era Jewish records filmed in Israel, 18th century Caribbean documents and small communities of the Diaspora are discussed.

If you are researching Poland, it might be worthwhile to first search the JRI-Poland web-site to see if your particular town has already had its index transcribed by volunteers. You will find this site on www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl

For \$6 microfilms and microfiche can be ordered in at your local Family History Centre or at SAG (see John Stanhope article). Some Centres keep popular indices on site such as (St Catherine's House) Birth, Deaths and Marriages for UK from 1837.

The complete Family History Catalog from which the Jewish Records have been extracted can be searched on www.familysearch.org

Finding some relevant data is very exciting but, be warned, your language skills could then be sorely tested!

Overseas Resources at the Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney	John Stanhope	Vol 9 No. 4		
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A talk by John Stanhope



On Sunday November 10, long-time member of our Society, John Stanhope described to members the possibilities for research in the collection of the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) in Kent Street, Sydney. John is a volunteer for SAG, a society founded in 1932 which is the third largest genealogical society in the world with over 7,000 members.

He became interested in Jewish genealogy when a United Kingdom marriage certificate for an ancestor of his wife, Loreen, showed a synagogue wedding. He was able to trace the SHANNON family in both the Bevis Marks and the Great Synagogue (London) records, documenting the fact that marriages did take place between the Ashkenazi and Sephardi communities in London. One member of the family, Michael HYAM was Governor Darling's "perfect Jew".

The Overseas collection for SAG is housed at Rumsey Hall, 24 Kent Street, Sydney and, depending on the year acquired, has been catalogued in microform, card and

more recently computer formats. Our library has a copy of the 1990 Index to the Microform Collection at SAG.

As one would expect, the British and British Colonial records are extensive but there is also a German Special Interest Group whose resources and expertise can be very helpful.

Apart from substantial resources, SAG also provides valuable services. LDS (Mormon) films can be ordered here for \$7.95 per film per month which may be more convenient for some researchers who find it hard to attend Family History Centres at a convenient time and place.

The microfiche of the indexes to the United Kingdom civil records of Birth, Deaths and Marriages, also known as St. Catherine's (House) indexes are available here for the years 1837 to recent times. The Certificates from these records can be ordered at SAG. These microfiche are also available at the State Library and LDS Centres.

Other certificates for wills from 1750 and probate documents from 1837 can be researched in the indexes at SAG and ordered from there.

John has found that some pre-1837 Parish records included Jewish births. What seemed to be a baptism record was merely the "registration" of a child that might be needed for entrance to schools and universities in later life.

Other useful resources included excellent 1851 UK census data, property records of land owners, many regional UK directories as well as interesting professional and apprenticeship books. Early Business Directories for London and Middlesex range in years from 1805 to 1874.

The maps and Gazetteers available can assist in finding the location of that obsolete London street or provincial cemeteries.

The SAG library has many lists that could prove worthwhile, such as for schools, landed gentry, celebrities of the 19th Century, Poor Laws lists of paupers, the Dictionary of National Biography (which has some middle class entries) and citizens' allegiance lists.

There is an index to the Gentleman's Magazine and the bound volumes up till 1830 are available. The volumes after 1830 can be found in the NSW State Library. This magazine is especially useful for non-Anglican family events up to 1920 and some extracts have appeared in the Journal of the Jewish Historical Society of England.

The SAG resources also include the International Genealogical Index (IGI), books on geography, history and surnames, USA shipping, cemetery and monumental inscriptions for Scotland and the City of London.

The SAG bookshop has a good selection of publications. An admission fee is charged for use of the library by non-members.

John Stanhope OAM has been a member of our Society for nearly ten years. He attends SAG most Saturdays as a volunteer library assistant and is willing to undertake limited enquiries for members unable to attend in person.

**Meet Some of our Members
of Ten Years' Standing**

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ANTHONY JOSEPH - President JGSGB



I became *hooked* on looking into ancestry and the background of my family before I had reached my Barmitzvah. Since I am now sixty-five it is not a difficult calculation to note that I have been actively interested in this sort of researching for over fifty years. I joined the London Society of Genealogists as a life-member in 1955 and I was elected to their Fellowship in 1970. My late first wife was also my fourth cousin and although she never shared my interest, as such, in genealogy she was always very supportive and, of course, we had many mutual relatives, albeit somewhat distant to both of us.

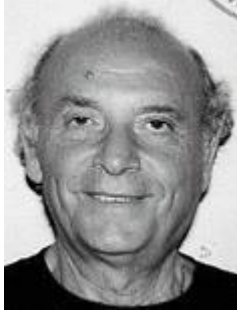
After I qualified as a doctor in 1961 and after I completed basic training in London, we came to Australia in early 1963 and I joined the Australian Jewish Historical Society within a week or two of arriving in Sydney. Since 1966, after the retirement of the late Cecil Roth, I have been their corresponding member for Great Britain and I enjoy still, holding this honorary position. For many years, while Louise Rosenberg was the secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, we exchanged a regular letter with each other, she writing mid-month and I writing at the beginning of each new month. This ensured that a flow of historical informative dialogue between us was disseminated in both countries. When the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society was formed, I was delighted to be amongst the early membership and I have always endeavoured to promote the dialogue of mutual interest between Australia and *The Old Country*. Of course, for Jewish researching, Britain (while very important in many respects) is by no means the only port of call and many European places share with English records as sources for useful information for latter-day Australian Jews.

I have been the President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain since 1998. My own personal family tree can be traced back within England for some three hundred years or more and my forebears on one side were amongst the earliest Ashkenazi settlers to come to London from Eastern Europe.

By now, with all the distant collateral branches I have traced out, there are something like twenty thousand names on my personal family tree records and all of this is contained in handwritten databases much to the dismay of the computer-literate modern generation, who like to see everything on Internet, websites and handled by similar technologies. Unfortunately, I am simply not able to cope with all these systems, so I am delighted to be involved in assisting anybody with researching their background but snail mail or fax will have to be the order of the day, if I am to give any assistance.

Anthony Joseph,
C/-25 Westbourne Rd., Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3TX, ENGLAND
Tel: 44-121 454 0408 Fax: 44-121 454 9758

ELLIS SETTON



I was born in Cairo, Egypt in 1933, of a long line of Sephardi Jews. I left Cairo in 1951 (before King Farouk was ousted) and came directly to Australia. I settled in Sydney, married, and have two daughters. Between early 1964 and the end of 1966 I worked overseas.

My interest in genealogy had been with me for as long as I can remember. I used to ask my maternal and paternal Nonnas and Nonnos (grandmothers and grandfathers) endless questions about my uncles, cousins grandfathers etc., (even though I was only five when my maternal Nonno died). I cannot recall if they were able to answer my questions - I don't think they did because my interest in genealogy lay deeply buried somewhere in me until the day I was able to indulge in my favourite pastime.

This occurred some years ago, when I saw an advertisement in the newsletter of the North Shore Synagogue (to which I have belonged since 1969) inviting anyone interested to attend a workshop on genealogy in the Rev Katz Library. My latent interest in the subject was immediately reawakened, and I attended.

I explained my interest to Sophie Caplan whom I have known since the days when my two daughters attended Masada College. She said to me, *In a recent issue of "Avotaynu", there was a short article by Lydia Collins of London, who fortuitously had researched 30 families originating from Syria/ Lebanon and who had migrated to England in the mid 1850's.* This was not the first time that I was amazed by Sophie's phenomenal memory.

I immediately consulted Lydia Collins. She sent me two skeleton family trees on the Setton and Savdie (my mother's maiden name) families. There was no stopping me from that moment on. I have kept in contact with Lydia since then and she has always been extremely helpful, never once asking for any fees.

I started writing to all the scattered members of my family around the world: USA, Brazil, France and Sydney. It has taken years, but finally, I now have two family trees, fairly complete (that is a silly statement as no family tree is ever complete). On the Setton side, I cannot go back beyond 1700, as my ancestors originate from Syria.

I knew that there were no records to be found in that country, particularly of Jews. But I decided to ring the Consul for Syria in Sydney. He asked me how far back I wanted to go. When I replied about 300 years, he laughed saying no country keeps records that long! *Would I be allowed to visit Syria?* I asked, confiding in him that I was Jewish. When he said of course I could go, anyone could go, I taunted him with a further question. But will they let me out, once I am in there? I am sure he smiled when he said that there was no question they would!!

tel/fax: 9713 1193
esetton@bigpond.com
website: <http://www.arielrecorders.com>

HILDE HINES



My interest in genealogy started when I found amongst my mother's papers a Family Tree of the Guckenheimers which was produced at the request of my father. He passed away in 1935. The papers are written in the old German script and go back to the 18th-century.

My first step was to write to all relatives all over the world and to find out the up-to-date version of the family and any information they had of earlier descendants. This also meant writing to various places in Germany until I found the actual place where it all started.

I had travelled once to Burghaslach, near Wurzburg, with my late husband and met with a professor in charge of the local archives and got a lot of interesting information through him. Some time later I found that there were very many people who were also interested in their roots, so we joined together and started the South Australian Jewish Genealogy Society.

Sophie Caplan's help and inspiration has been of tremendous importance to our society.

Tel: 8379 6063 / fax: 8338 2293 h_hines@bigpond.com

NSW News

Rieke Nash

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The monthly workshops continue to provide members with valuable new resources. We have two new CD's:

- The latest edition of the Family History Library (FHL) Catalogue (April, 2002). This CD contains the index to the holdings of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and can be ordered from local Family History Centres for as little as \$A9.10. It is also online at www.familysearch.org

- Jewish Records in the Family History Library (see article in this edition). This CD must be ordered through the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) on www.jewishgen.org/iajgs. The cost is \$US20 plus \$US5.00 postage. Its online version can be found at www.jewishgen.org/databases/FHLC

Recent talks have focussed on opportunities for local research not just for Australian research but also for European records. When planning an overseas research trip, a visit to these resources can save hours of work while overseas. Most researchers would benefit from a visit to the libraries of the Sydney Jewish Museum, the Society of Australian Genealogists and the services of the Family History Centres. In 2003 we will continue to highlight other Australian resources.

The Sydney Jewish Museum is creating a Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. We have included a copy of their questionnaire with this edition of *Kosher Koala* and invite your participation in this worthwhile project, if appropriate.

We have been sending reminders of coming events to members with email addresses and urge others to let us know when they have email. It has been a productive and cheap initiative as 80% of members are now on-line. However two members complained that they were not notified. One, without email, did not read the front page of *Kosher Koala* and diarise the coming events. The other had not specified society@ajgs.org.au in her spam filter so the message did not get through (even though it had not bounced). Please check your settings and note that all members with or without email are notified about scheduled events. Only those with email are sent reminders.

Enquiries: Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595

Tel: 9427-6075

Email: society@ajgs.org.au

Website: www.ajgs.org.au

Report from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 9 No. 4	
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A meeting devoted to a report-back on the 22nd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held in Toronto August 4th - 9th was held on 25th September. Les and Sonya Oberman, Enid Yoffa-Elton and Lauren Joffe (who presented a paper) attended the conference. While on their travels, Les and Sonya attended a large family re-union of the Obermans in Israel and both Enid and Lauren took off to New York.

Yochi Kretchmer, who was on a short visit to her daughter in Melbourne, spoke to us on 31st October about the history of and Jewish life in Zimbabwe. The Jewish community of Zimbabwe, where Yochi has lived for fifty years, numbered some 7,500 at its height in the mid-1960s. It is a small minority within the country's white minority. The Jewish community still maintains three synagogues, two in the capital city of Harare and one in Bulawayo. A more detailed report is published in the Victorian newsletter, *Jewish Genealogy Downunder*.

A beginner's workshop will be held on Sunday 1st December from 2. to 4.00 pm. Albert Braunstein, a former member of the committee, will be talking about his own family history on Wednesday 11 December at 7.30 pm. His father's ancestors who had been living in Egypt since the 1860s when the Suez Canal was being constructed, originally lived in Galicia. And his mother is descended from the Lurias, a famous rabbinic line descended from Rashi.

Les and Sonya Oberman and Lionel Sharpe manned an enquiry table at the Goulburn and Murray Association of Local and Family History Groups Family History Expo at Mulwala and District Services Club in November.

Enquiries: Lionel Sharpe (03) 9523 6738
ajgs@exist.com.au
Les Oberman (03) 9571 8251
oberman@mira.net

**Report from South
Australia**

**Jeanie
Susman**

**Vol 9 No.
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Our AGM was held on Tuesday August 27th. The newly elected members of the committee are:

President Marjorie Luno
Vice-president Margot Bailey
Secretary Jeanie Susman
Treasurer Ben Carr
Publicity Officer Keith Bailey

Klee Benveniste continues as the Honorary Archivist handling enquiries concerning early South Australian settlers and later residents.

The programme for 2003 was addressed and the President reported that several very interesting and most informative projects are being explored.

Further suggestions for likely speakers and appropriate meeting topics were put forward by members and will be followed up in due course.

A number of issues were raised for discussion, those not resolved are to be given further consideration and raised at a later date. The matter of subscription rates to AJGS is still to be settled.

The last meeting for the year took place on Tuesday October 29th when Hilde Hines was our speaker. Her well-presented and most informative address was entitled *Something Good Out of Darkest Tragedy*. Her talk, much appreciated by all present, covered her recent experiences in Germany at the launching of the book by Arnold Erlinger entitled *A Swabian Survives Auschwitz*. Hilda's talk will be available on-line in due course.

Roslyn Sugarman, the Curator of the Adelaide Jewish Museum, is now including all our branch talks on the official website at <http://www.adelaidejewishmuseum.org>

I strongly recommend that interested AJGS members examine the site which covers some fascinating stories and facts about South Australian Jewish life, present and past.

As is our practice, a business meeting took place before the members were joined by visitors to hear the speaker. Items on the agenda were satisfactorily dealt with, one of special interest being the President's update on further progress for plans for our meetings next year.

The South Australian Branch contact is
Marjorie Luno, President,
AJGS (SA), c/- Beit Shalom Synagogue,
P.O. Box 47, Stepney. S.A. 5069
Email to Hon. Secretary : Jeanie Susman chatsworth@picknowl.com.au

Two New Jewish Museums

**Sophie
Caplan**

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The Paris Museum of Jewish Art and History

There is a new museum to visit in Paris. It is the Museum of Jewish Art and History at the Hotel of Saint Aignon, 71 rue du Temple, 75003 Paris. *Hotel* in this context means mansion. The Hotel St Aignon is a historic mansion put at the disposal of the Museum by the City of Paris.

The Museum is based on two great collections of Jewish art previously kept in Paris, the Isaac Strauss collection donated in 1890 by the Baroness Nathaniel de Rothschild and formerly in the National Museum of the Middle Ages, and the post World War II collection of Jewish Art created in 1948 in response to the Shoah.

The Museum also is a showcase of Jewish patrimony and other objects as well as a history museum and a museum of Jewish communities throughout the world.

There is also available a series of documentary films of the lives of Jewish artists and thinkers, as well as films on contemporary Jewish history.

Tel: 01 5301 86 53 (France).

Babylonian and Iraqi Jewish Roots

An article by Harriet Kasow in *Sharsheret Hadorot*, Journal of the Israel Genealogical Society, reports on a new museum, The Babylonian Jewry Heritage Centre, situated at 83 Rechov Hagana, Or Yehuda, 60251, Israel, which reconstructs the history of Iraqi Jewry. This started with the exile and dispersion of the Jews to Babylon after the fall of the first Temple and continues right up until the return to Eretz Yisrael in 1948 - 51.

There are maps and models, including the Great Synagogue of Baghdad with its very special Torah Scroll cover, of the famed ancient learning centres of Pumbeditor and Nehardea where the Babylonian Talmud was written. Original documents and photographs complete the display but for genealogists with Iraqi roots there is documentation on Jewish families of Iraqi origin including a computerised programme based on 120,000 immigrants to Israel. Other families of Iraqi origin are asked to submit their family trees and other data to the centre by mail to:

Babylonian Jewry Heritage Centre
83 Rechov Hagana, Or Yehuda 60251, Israel,
or email: babylon@babylonjewry.org.il
website: www.babylonjewry.org.il

Sophie Caplan, OAM
Previous President and Previous Editor

The Genealogy Institute at the Centre for Jewish History in N.Y.		Vol 9 No. 4		
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The Genealogy Institute at the newly opened Centre for Jewish History in New York, helps new and experienced family history researchers access genealogical materials in the archival and library collections, and provides reference and educational services, and creates programming on family history and its connections to the broader sweep of Jewish history.

The combined holdings of the five major institutions found at The Centre for Jewish History (The American Jewish Historical Society; American Sephardi Federation; Leo Baeck Institute; Yeshiva University Museum and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research) comprise approximately 100 million archival documents, half a million books, and thousands of photographs, artifacts, paintings and textiles - the largest repository documenting the Jewish experience outside of Israel, and including copies of our *Kosher Koala*.

The Genealogical Institute

15 West 16th St. ,New York N.Y.10011

Tel:212 294 8324;

www.cjh.org/family

Email: gi@cjh.org

Contact for the Center for Jewish History

tel: 212 294 8301;

www.cjh.org

Email:cjh@cjh.org

Note: **The American Sephardi Federation** is now developing a database of all Sephardi archives to document the history of Sephardic Jewry.

Tel: 212 294 8350

www.amsephfed.org

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People		Vol 9 No. 4		
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The Central Archives re-opened on November 3, 2002.

The new address is:

46 Jabotinsky Street, Jerusalem

Tel: 972 2 563 5716;

fax: 972 2 566 7686

P.O.B. 1149, Jerusalem, 91010

archives@vms.huji.ac.il

Batya Unterschatz Retires		Vol 9 No. 4		
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The Jewish Agency's Search Bureau for missing Relatives, headed by Batya Unterschatz closed at the end of 2001.

Batya Unterschatz can still access information at the Search Bureau, so anyone needing her help and assistance can contact her by email at:
BATYAL@NETVISION.NET.IL

Announcements - 2003		Vol 9 No. 4		
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Sunday, January 19, 9.30 am - 12.30
Workshop, Lindfield

Sunday, February 2, 2-4 pm.
Rev Katz Library, Lindfield

Nancy Goodstein-Hilton Researching Family in the U.S.A.
Don't miss this presentation. The Library will be open for research from 1 pm.

Monday, February 24, at 7.30 pm.
Sydney Jewish Museum

Julie Meadows - Writing Your Memoirs

Julie established the "Write Your Story" program for the Makor Library in Melbourne which has now published over 30 biographies. She has been invited by the Sydney Jewish Museum to advise on a similar program for Sydney and will outline the requirements and techniques for writing one's memoirs. The Society will also participate in this session with help in researching family history. This promises to be a very informative meeting for those who would like to start writing their Memoirs or their Family Story. For information 9427-6075.

Sunday, March 2, 9.30 am.
Workshop, Lindfield

Sunday, March 9, 7 pm.
Wilson Hall, North Shore Synagogue, Lindfield.
11th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our guest speaker on the night will be Dr. Suzanne Rutland
"The Unwanted: Post-War Jewish Migration to Australia"

Suzanne is an educator and historian and chairs the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies (previously Semitic Studies) at the University of Sydney. She has authored a number of books, the best known being "Edge of the Diaspora" defining her keen interest in Australian Jewish history, and currently being the President of the Australian Jewish History Society. Her most recent project has been writing a history of Moriah College. Suzanne has also been a prominent researcher and historian of Australia's immigration policies and will speak on the discrimination experienced by post-1945 Jewish refugees and migrants because of anti-Jewish refugee hysteria immediately after the war.

DON'T FORGET YOUR DONATION TO JEWISHGEN!!

www.jewishgen.org/jewishgen-erosity/contribute.ihtml

(See President's report)

UK 1901 CENSUS

www.pro.gov.uk

The British 1901 Census is fully operational. Open up the site, click on *1901 Census* on the left side, Then fill in the details. Remember that for country of birth, someone born in Poland, was considered Russian or German or Austrian in 1901, depending on the year. You can search for names without payment, but to get the details there is a minimum charge of £5: £0.50 per person name, £0.50 for the rest of the household, and £0.75 for a copy of the original census detail. Payment is by credit card or voucher obtainable from the Society of Australian Genealogists (see page 9).

OTHER CENSUS DATA

www.familysearch.org

Search the British 1881 Census, the 1880 U.S. Census and the 1881 Canadian Census for free. Open up the site, in the left hand panel, you will see the Census Box, under the heading of Information. You can also download Pedigree Sheets, Family Group Record Sheets, Census Record Sheets to help organize your research from this site.

THE JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA

www.jewishencyclopedia.com

Although we have the original volumes in the Rev. Katz Library, Lindfield, you can now research these books online and discover some fascinating information.

STEPHEN MORSE'S NEW SITES

His sites provide a portal to search Ellis Island

www.jewishgen.org/databases/eidb

and U.S. Social Security Death Index

<http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/ellis/ssdi.html>

ANOTHER UK SITE

www.movinghere.org.uk

This site has a focus on the experiences of migrants to Britain and includes the Jewish Eastern Europe story. Contributors are invited to relate their stories:

What was it was like in the countries of origin and why did people chose to move ?

What was the journey like ?

What were people's experiences of arriving and settling in England ?

How do people reconnect with their (or their parents' or grandparents') country of origin ?

There are also some useful links to other sites.

Preparation of a Surname Index and an Invitation to Participate.

The preparation of a family tree is usually the initial goal for most genealogists and, once prepared, is often forwarded and stored in our library or the library of the Australian Jewish History Society (200 trees are stored at present). Initially the trees were indexed by a few family surnames so it was not always helpful for others trying to find additional family branches and especially maiden names, married names and changes of surname. It is hoped that connections will now be easier to make and the library catalogues will be more useful.

The writer is completing a consolidated surname index of all persons on these trees born before 1925. This cut-off date has been chosen for privacy reasons.

A CD of this initial data bank will become available to members soon and updated as further family trees are donated. For this reason this invitation is issued to all members to lodge their tree in the library. Family trees are never complete so submit your existing tree to the Society and help other researchers find new branches and family connections.

Bernard Freedman

Bernie is a Committee Member of our Society and you can read all about him in KK Vol 9 No 2 page 9

**President's Report at the
11th Annual General
Meeting**

Rieke Nash

**Vol 10
No. 1**



of the AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC. on 9 March, 2003 held in the Wilson Hall of the North Shore Synagogue, Lindfield.

I am happy to welcome you to the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Society and a special welcome to Dr Suzanne Rutland, our guest speaker.

The last year has been very busy, very productive and very satisfying. Our efforts have been directed towards achieving the aim of the Society, that is, *to encourage and assist those with Jewish ancestry to research their family histories.*

Many members have taken advantage of the talks and workshops that have been held as well as following up the leads described in Koshers Koala. This year we have developed a new web site and we have just completed the creation of a resource CD that all members will receive.

Many of you have contributed with new ideas, support and a great deal of enthusiastic effort and I would like to acknowledge that work.

I would like to thank on behalf of all our members

- the Board and Staff at the North Shore Synagogue for their continued support and publicity about our efforts. Being able to use these facilities has been important for our society. Thank you Rabbi Rogut, Dafna, Ruth and Calvin.

- the Members of the Society for their continued support, attendance at events and especially those who donate resources and funds to us. The membership on December, 2002 stood at 162.
- our hardworking Committee (in alphabetical order) who have each taken on special tasks.

Bernard Freedman has completed the huge task of indexing the family trees that have been deposited over the years in the archives of our Society and of the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Sydney. From the index of over 10,000 names, researchers will more easily be able to identify relevant trees in the collections. This database is available on the Resource CD.

David Laufer after eleven years of committee meetings, is stepping down. A foundation member of the committee, his knowledge and participation has in no small way contributed to the success of many of our activities. We thank David, the longest serving member, for his long and continuing commitment to the Society.

Gary Luke our energetic member who combines the tasks of treasurer, member of our Internet committee, AJGen convenor, technical creator of the Resource CD, research advisor and many more important roles.

Peter Nash who has taken on the Programme and Publicity roles with vigour, organising informative and entertaining events and increasing communication with members.

Kim Phillips for the most appreciated task of converting *Kosher Koala* to a format suitable for sending to overseas Jewish Genealogical Societies by email. This has saved the Society a significant amount in printing and postage. Kim also prints out copies of emailed overseas journals we receive.

Miriam Shifreen our valued editor of *Kosher Koala* whose hard work, enthusiasm, ideas and reliability have created a new look edition which has received many compliments.

Steve Taurig who has inspired our new web site design in order to attract potential researchers to our Society as well as alerting current members about our activities.

Jeannette Tsoulos our resource librarian and as researcher with the Australian Jewish Historical Society also handles the many queries on Australian family research.

- other volunteers for their help this year, in particular Stuart Shaw for time spent on computer and email tasks, Ken Lipworth for photography help, David Landor for workshop assistance and Philip Baynash for advice and email assistance.

Interstate activities

This year our thoughts were with members living in Canberra whose years of research may have been at risk during the recent fires. Every genealogist must have identified with such a dreaded possibility. Thankfully all were safe. Activities

continued in South Australia and Western Australia and together with Queensland and Victoria supplied reports for Kosher Koala.

Resources

The new AJGS Resource CD contains the catalogues of the libraries and archives of our Society and of the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Sydney. Local and distant researchers should now be able to identify resources previously unknown to them. As new resources become more expensive we are looking at ways we can continue to provide quality research facilities for our members, e.g. we still exchange newsletters with many overseas societies but now Kosher Koala is sent by email. Members who are researching particular areas of Jewish genealogy might like to help subsidise any of the four special interest journals that the Society has been buying till now. By co-operating with other organisations in Sydney, the duplication of expensive books can be reduced. e.g. the four volumes, The Holocaust in Lithuania 1941-1945 is available for reference at the Sydney Jewish Museum.

Research Interests

Over the past eleven years the research interests of members were collected, published in Kosher Koala and entered on JewishGen's Family Finder. This database has been included in the new AJGS Resource CD to give new and old members the chance to check if others are researching similar names and places.

Events

The monthly workshops are usually well attended. They are especially useful for beginners as the help given by the long-time members who attend is usually individualized and specific to the needs of the researcher. Almost always, everyone finds a new lead to chase up.

Our talks this year have addressed the opportunities for local research. Tinny Lenthem described the resources in the library of the Sydney Jewish Museum. At this session the Society presented an illuminated address to our retiring President, Sophie Caplan. A wonderful attendance at Waverley Library heard Nancy Goodstein-Hilton describe the research opportunities at the LDS Family History Centres through the use of the CD of Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalogue. John Stanhope highlighted the Overseas Collection at the Society of Australian Genealogists. Over eighty enthusiastic people attended the fascinating talk by Julie Meadows about the Makor Writing Project, Melbourne. The response has inspired the Sydney Jewish Museum to commence a similar project in Sydney.

Finances


Income has exceeded expenditure last year, with around 40% spent on the printing and posting of four editions of Kosher Koala. The increased membership dues will help defray the increases in postage, insurance and the distribution to members of the AJGS Resource CD.

Future activities

Further databases on CD are planned including local community projects and a searchable CD of all past editions of Kosher Koala. We plan to develop techniques for facilitating members' research strategies, look at the problem of our resources only being available on the North Shore and the implications for the Society of ethics

and privacy matters. I hope that this year will be as fascinating, productive and enjoyable as the last.

Rieke Nash
President

Editorial	Miriam Shifreen	Vol 10 No. 1	
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While Australia has been held in thrall by the long hot summer drought and raging bushfires, I have been held in thrall by my computer.

At first it was all joy and discovery. I discovered the place where my maternal grandmother was born with the help of Naomi Fatouris through the Ukraine SIG. (See www.jewishgen.org). Then I found my paternal grandparents and my husband's paternal grandparents on the 1901 British Census.

After reading in Dor L'Dor, Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogy Institute of British Columbia Nov 2002 volume 5, issue 1, that theoretically we all have more than one trillion ancestors, I checked this out at www.familyforest.com/resources.html. You can print off a chart and you can also print out Family Record sheets from www.ancestry.com. for setting out your Family Tree.

Then I searched www.ww2roll.gov.au the World War Two Nominal Roll created to honour and commemorate the men and women who served in Australia's defence forces and the Merchant Navy. You can search for service record details by specifying name, service number, honours, place (of birth, of enlistment, or residential locality at enlistment). Once you find an individual service record you can print a certificate of service.

But then came disaster. Firstly, my computer did not seem to be responding properly, and finally it crashed! AND I had not backed up my files! With the help and advice of many computer literate friends, and especially our Stuart Shaw, my computer is now back in good working order. I have been most fortunate! None of my files was lost. The 384 names in my family tree were still there! Here is the lesson for all of us. Back up all your files regularly.

All the Kosher Koala files were still intact in the computer! Serendipity: for this is an edition packed with stories that you will enjoy and find most informative. My thanks to those whose articles appear in this issue and to Rieke without whose strong support this issue would not have yet reached you.

The January 25 - 26, 2003 Icon Magazine in the Weekend Sydney Herald, contained an article by Nicole Manktelow, author of The Australian Guide to Online Genealogy, with simple rules for the beginner and interesting web sites to research.

For those not on the Internet, Beryl Bauld reveals some interesting Printed Resources for Research in Australia on page 7 of this issue.

Editor editor@ajgs.org.au

Almost three years ago, at the age of 56, I discovered I was adopted. Since then, I've taken on the roll of detective, uncovering the mystery of my birth family with amazing results.

Through the assistance of the Benevolent Society, I was able to contact my birth mother who ironically had been searching for me at the same time. It was a happy reunion with the added thrill of meeting my half-sister, the custodian of family photos and documents, of all of which have been invaluable in formulating my new family tree.

I was fascinated to learn that my mother's family was Jewish and had come to England from Poland and Austria around the mid 1850s. Here was a completely different cultural background from the one in which I'd been raised. My adoptive family was fifth generation Australian, coming from Irish stock with two English convicts thrown in for good measure. Now, I discover I'm first generation Australian and my mother's family migrated to Australia in 1930!

My family search began in earnest fifteen months ago when I visited the Latter-Day Saints Family History Centre at Carlingford, Sydney. Armed with a copy of my grandmother's birth certificate I looked through the Catherine House Records and found the marriage of my great-grandparents. Their union took place in Hull, Yorkshire, England.

Next, with the help of Jeannette Tsoulos from the Australian Jewish Historical Society, I located the local studies department in the Hull Library. Upon investigation into the 1901 Census, they found that my great-grandfather was registered in the 1904 Trades Directory as a carpenter/upholsterer. A letter from Richard Cooper at the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain revealed that my great-grandmother had been born in England in 1877 and my great-grandfather had been born in Egypt. Now, there's an interesting path of discovery waiting for me!

Meanwhile, back to my great-grandmother. Last week I received her birth certificate. My family tree now goes back to my great-great-grandparents: Davis Goldstein and Jane Lazarus. Rieke Nash, President of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, has given me contacts in New South Wales who are researching the Lazarus family name and I look forward to uncovering possible connections there.

The Latter-Day Saints in Hull have done research on my behalf, contacting the offices of the Chief Rabbi in London. They were kind enough to give me the London offices' direct number so on Friday morning around 6.30 a.m. I rang and left a message. I'm waiting with anticipation for a reply!

Yesterday, I plucked up courage and rang the daughter of a great-aunt whom I haven't yet met. When she learnt about my research, she told me there were relatives who were still in Leeds, England, and gave me their address. She assures me they would love to hear from me and could help with more information.

And so the story continues.....

I have been overwhelmed by the knowledge, advice and goodwill extended to me since my search for family began. And I owe much to both my families who continued to encourage and support me.

Dianne Johnstone is a new member of our Society
Email:marny@ozemail.com.au

The Jews' Free School, London		Vol 10 No. 1		
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If your family went to London in the 1800's there is a good chance that the children attended the Jews' Free School (JFS) in the East End. Some of the records on the microfilms of the JFS enrolments from the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) can now be found at:

<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/search/default.asp>

With luck you might find that elusive date of birth, a parent's name, address at the time of enrolment or the date and reason for leaving. If you know a parent's name you might find the child's name.

The online information stops at 1900 but there are records up to 1939 at the LMA.

On the *Moving There* site, on Community and Theme tick 'Jewish Community', in format select 'Text' and from Source tick 'London Metropolitan Archives'. Choose the reference to boys or girls and then one of the 118 pdf files. The searching is tedious and the indexing is marginally helpful but the results are worthwhile and much cheaper than a flight to London and a night in a B&B.

LMA/4046/C/01/001 Jews' Free School Admission and Discharge register: boys
1869 to 1893

LMA/4046/C/01/004 Jews' Free School Admission and Discharge register: girls 1868
to 1900

Our thanks to Laurence Harris and Mandy King from the JGS of Great Britain Discussion Group for alerting us to this latest opportunity for accessing records in London. Laurence estimates that there are approximately 20,000 pupil records on these downloadable pdf files.

Edinburgh to Australia - the Story of John Lazar	Harvey L Kaplan MA	Vol 10 No. 1		
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Few people today will be aware of the Edinburgh Jew who became Mayor of Adelaide in Australia. John Lazar (or Lazarus) was born in Edinburgh on 1 December 1801, at a time when there were only very few Jews in the city (the Jewish community was not established until 1816). His parents were Abraham Lazar, a stockbroker, and Rachel Lazarus. He married Julia Solomon in London on 2 November 1825.

In 1836, John and Julia left with their young family for Australia on the Lady McNaughton. John was listed as a tailor who could read and write. Julia, aged thirty, was also literate. The ship was struck by an outbreak of scarlet fever, and more than 120 passengers died, prompting an official enquiry. Amongst the fatalities were three of the Lazar children (Mary, Lazarus and Priscilla).



Soon after the family's arrival in Australia, Lazar wrote to the government to say that he had been paid only £2/3/- for clothes that had been destroyed at the quarantine station. Their value was £5/4/6d. His claim was rejected. In the late 1830s and the 1840s, John Lazar was an actor in, and manager of theatres in Sydney and Adelaide. He was highly regarded as a comedian and a competent manager, although he was sometimes criticised for the racy nature of the entertainment he provided. His daughter Rachel Lazar became a dancer, while his son, Abraham Lazar, was also a theatre manager.

The Lazars were active in the Jewish community. In 1839 Mr and Mrs John Lazar pledged £25 to the Sydney Synagogue Building Appeal - surely a vast sum in those days. Later John became a founder member of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation. He sang Kol Nidrei at the first Yom Kippur service there in 1848.

In the early 1850s, Lazar left the theatre for the jewellery business, and in 1853 was elected an Alderman of Adelaide City Council. From 1855-1858 he served as the fourth Mayor of Adelaide, and his portrait in oils hangs in the Freemason's Hall there. He retired from the City Council in 1859.

Not a man to stay put for long, Lazar and his family emigrated to New Zealand in 1863. He took up politics again, becoming Town Clerk in Dunedin and Hokitiki. He died on 8 June 1879 in New Zealand (Julia died in Sydney in 1889).

Sources:

Helen Bersten: Jewish Sydney - The First Hundred Years 1788-1888

Abram Levy: The Origins of Scottish Jewry (JHSE, 1958)

Philip Parsons (ed): Companion to Theatre in Australia

Douglas Pike (ed): Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol 2 1788-1850

The Official Civil Record of South Australia Centenary Year 1936


Johanna Parsons Nicholls, Sophie Caplan, Jeanie Susman and Marjorie Luno of the Australian JGS

Harvey I Kaplan MA is the Director of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, Glasgow
www.sjac.org.uk

harvey@hkaplan.freemove.co.uk

(Reprinted from the Newsletter of the Scottish Jewish Archive Centre, Vol. 14 No. 1 Spring, 2002)

Note: Their database of Scottish Jewry holds 20,000 names and welcomes new information.

New Synagogue Records, London	Compiled by Angela L. Shire	Vol 10 No. 1		
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Our Society has acquired a CD containing the following valuable London records:

New Synagogue Birth Records 1771-1838 - taken from LDS Film No. 0094668

New Synagogue Marriages 1791-1823 - taken from LDS Film No. 0094688

New Synagogue Ketubah 1819-1832 - abstracted from the late Dr. Susser's transcripts of NEW SYNAGOGUE DUPLICATE KETUBAH BOOK

<http://www.eclipse.co.uk/exeshul/susser/index.htm>

The material is presented in several formats: Text Tables (.rtf); Excel 2000 Datasheets (.xls); Portable Document Format (.pdf); Hypertext Markup Language (.htm) and SYLK (.slk).

Jewish Chronicle (UK) Project 1900 - 1906		Vol 10 No. 1		
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AJGS member, Miriam Pollak, has transcribed more than 22,000 entries covering those years. For full details about this important ongoing project see Kosher Koala Vol. 8 No. 3 September, 2001.

If you have family from England and you believe that they may have used the London Jewish Chronicle for some family event, please contact her and she will try to locate the records of the event for you. Contact her at:

3 Walkers Drive, Lane Cove NSW 2066.

Phone: 02) 9427-9134 or
miriampollak@hotmail.com

My Grandfather, Peter Solomon - A country tale - part 1	Dennis Leonard	Vol 10 No. 1		
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This is only part of the story of Peter Solomon, my maternal grandfather, as only some of the problems left unanswered by incomplete, non-existent and missing records could be solved. Frequently the answer is missing from our history because we can't ask the people involved and they haven't written the answers down. However some information is sometimes available and various libraries and institutions were used to try to solve some of the puzzles.

The beginning

Sometime in 1885 or 1886 Peter Solomon left Vilna (Wilna, Vilnius) in what is today Lithuania but at the time was controlled by Russia. Like most migrants from the east at the time, he may have travelled to Bremen where he caught a ship to Australia.

The ship

One of Peter's descendants noted that he travelled to Australia on a ship called the

Hohenstauffen in 1883 at the age of 15. Since Peter was born 14 July 1868 that estimate of his age could have been correct.

Problem

The State Archives of New South Wales had arrival dates for the Hohenstauffen sailing from Bremen. The records show that it did not start voyaging to Australia until 1886 so there is no way he could have travelled to Australia on it in 1883. Thus he would have been at least 18.

Problem

There is no record for a Peter Solomon travelling on the *Hohenstauffen*. Unfortunately the third class or steerage class passengers were not always recorded even though the *Hohenstauffen* carried up to 800 third class passengers. Details of the ship were found on the Internet sites: www.theshiplist.com, www.conell.de and www.fortunecity.com/littleitaly/amalfi/13/shipgh.htm and in the book *Ships of Our Ancestors* by Michael J. Anuta.

Fortunately a cousin had a suspicion that he had changed his name from Siegelnitsky to Solomon. Subsequently on Film 487 (X195) September - 25 October, 1888, I found the entry: Piekev Siegelnitsky, steerage, workman.

The Index of Naturalisation Certificates (COD204), a handwritten index at the NSW Colonial Secretaries Office, contained the entry "Solomon, Peter (Native of) Russia, 30 May 1894. This reference led to the microfilm with the Naturalisation Certificate which noted his birthplace as near Wilna, Russia. Correspondence in the microfilms of the Colonial Secretary's Letters listed his sponsor as one, Nathan Bassor of 15 York lane, Sydney, warehouseman and merchant.

Problem

What was Peter's occupation up to the time of his departure from Vilna? Was that where he acquired his business skills? After all he was described as a "workman" in the shipping lists.

Problem

At what date did Peter's surname in Vilna of Siegelnitsky change to Solomon in Australia and why Solomon?

Marriage

In 1889 in Sydney Peter married Fanny who also came from Vilna.

Problem

How and when did Fanny get to Australia?

Problem

According to her tombstone, she was born in 1867 but on one of her children's birth certificates she was aged 33 in 1902 making her birth date 1869. From a notebook of birthdays kept by her daughter, Ettie Leonard her birthday was 29 November.

To the bush

Peter and Fanny travelled to Bombala in southern New South Wales in 1891.

Problem

How did they get there? This has two possible answers: Steamer to Eden or Tathra and horse drawn wagon up the Mountain; or Steam Train to Cooma and coach to Bombala.

Problem

Why on earth did they choose to go to an obscure country town?

Bombala

Fortunately there were two newspapers being published in those years, The Bombala Herald and the Bombala Times. The information gleaned from the following extracts helps to provide a vivid picture of life in Bombala.

At the time of Peter's arrival in Bombala, south of Sydney on the coast of NSW there were a surprising number of Jews already in the town and surrounding areas. One, H.J. (Hyam Moses) Joseph, became the first mayor of the town in 1890 and a wealthy landowner. There were other Solomons (as far as I can tell not related) in the area as well as a Goodman, Emanuel, Cohen, another Joseph and an Alexander who were all shopkeepers as well as Jewish Commercial Travellers.

In an unpublished 1910 document¹ there is the note

It is a noteworthy fact that the Jews were so strong in Bombala in those early days that the town was called 'The modern Jerusalem'.



My Grandfather, Peter Solomon

A Maurice Solomon (no relation) died September 3, 1873 and is the earliest marked Jewish burial in Bombala.

There is a record of a Rabbi travelling from Sydney to perform a marriage in the 1860's between a Mr Alfred Moses, who managed a store for Henry Solomon, and a Miss Moses.

It may well be that Peter met co-religionists in Sydney who knew Bombala well. The wife of one prominent citizen of the town was the sister of the secretary of the Great Synagogue - Mr J. Frankel.

Bombala Herald (established 1872)

22/5/1891 on p.3 Advertisement "Sydney House...P. Solomon...next to Australian Arms Hotel" [seems to be first Advertisement not noted in Local & General News. The Australian Arms later became the Hotel Bombala. There is still a very old (empty) shop in about the right location].

25/9/1891 A. I. Joseph *The Arcade* closed for Jewish Holiday 3rd October and *Emanuel* also. 2/10/1891 p.1 Advertisement for M. Cohen "in Walker's old premises in Caveat Street just around the corner from Commercial Bank".

23/1/1907 p.2 Report of death of Mrs E. Jonas (nee Frankel): came out from England at an early age. Married 1860 (to manager of Maharatta Station) 7 sons, 2 daughters. Mr J. Frankel, the Secretary of the Great Synagogue is her brother. Was related to H. M. Joseph... Funeral conducted by M. S. Emanuel and P. Solomon" [H. M. Joseph was the owner of Maharatta Station].

29/1/1907 Local & General News: P. Solomon elected to Hospital Board and his tender accepted to supply groceries.

23/3/1909 Local & General News: paragraph about H. M. Joseph "Grand old man of Bombala..."

26/1/1912 N&N "Mr H. M. Joseph was the first Jew born in NSW" [not true] "The last token of respect to Mr H. M. Joseph...Rabbi Cohen of Sydney read the Jewish burial service..."

Bombala Times (established 1863)

13/9/1918 p.4 "Old Monaro...I must not omit to mention a function, to wit a Jewish marriage...Mr Alfred Moses who was at the time managing Mr Henry Solomon's store [an unrelated Solomon who had a store on the northern side of the river-there is no sign of such commercial premises there today] to a lady of the same name Miss Moses a sister of Mrs Joseph [H.M. Joseph's wife] conducted by a rabbi from Sydney."

(To be continued)

1. C. Schofield "Bombala - Hub of Southern Monaro" Bombala Shire Council 1990.

While Peter Solomon has many descendants, Dennis is the only member of the Leonard family of his generation.

1828 Hungarian Property Tax Census

**Vol 10
No. 1**



This Census contains the names of 8,000 Jews owning taxable property in Hungary in 1828: www.jewishgen.org/databases/hungary/census.1828.htm

Photos of the Russian Empire 1909 - 1915

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www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/gorskii.html

Seeking Owners of Sealed Envelopes in Belgium

**Vol 10
No. 1**



Marcel Apsel of the JGS of Belgium posted this message.

The Service of the Ministry of Finance of Belgium has published a list of over 100 names of people living or passing through Belgium before or during World War II

who left behind sealed envelopes. Don't expect lost treasures or the big lottery as the sealed envelopes probably only contain personal matters.

Relatives can contact
Andre De Bruecker during office hours at:
tel: 32-2-210-27-27
fax: 32-2-210-42-66
email andre.debruecker@minfin.fed.be

Jewish Genealogy Month		Vol 10 No. 1		
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April 3 - May 2, 2003

This year's theme is Where Once We Walked, the areas of the world where Jews once walked but few Jews walk today.

Writing Your Memoirs. A talk by Julie Meadows	Reported by Peter Nash	Vol 10 No. 1		
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In front of an enthralled audience of about 90, Julie Meadows described a program of writing and book publication that she initiated in Melbourne over five years ago in Melbourne and fostered by the Makor Jewish Community Library.

This event took place at the Sydney Jewish Museum on Monday February 24, 2003 and was jointly sponsored by the Museum and the Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants. AJGS President Rieke Nash also briefly outlined how the AJGS can assist in researching the available resources for family research.

Julie started the program on an ad hoc basis and now with five years experience and with more than thirty biographies published she was able to describe the steps that led to effective results. She emphasized that anyone, even someone whose English is not their first language, could achieve a successful outcome. Initially biographers join a writing session led by a facilitator, for which they pay, and gradually their story builds up. The next phase is editing and this is on a one-to-one basis, also on a user-pays basis. Julie stressed that at all times the story writer is the "owner" of the manuscript and that it must be "their" words.

The time taken to achieve a final manuscript can range from a handful of weeks up to two years or more. Once the story is considered completed and the author wishes to proceed to publish, at their own cost, then decisions on cover and other artwork, photo scanning, printing, binding and importantly the number of copies required are made. Book launches proceed at the rate of about ten a year in Melbourne usually led by prominent figures in the wider community.

While in Sydney Julie also met potential program organizers, facilitators and editors and also inspected a possible venue for writing sessions. With a list of those who expressed interest in joining a Writing Your Memoirs Program at the information night, the Sydney Jewish Museum will now set up a Working Group from which the program can be launched.

Anyone interested in this program should contact Rene Alexander at the Sydney Jewish Museum by email at : admin@sjm.com.au
or by phone : (02) 9360-7999

Some Printed Resources for Research in Australia	Beryl Bauld	Vol 10 No. 1	
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In the late 19th Century there were a number of books published which give short biographies of Australians. They range from the Governors down to local shopkeepers and businessmen, and many of them include photographs. Here are just a few.

Australian Men of Mark. There are several volumes from 1 to 7. These were indexed by the late Peter Doyle in 1992 (ISBN 0 9588028.5.8). Different copies are available at the State Library, Wollongong Library, and The Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney. Version 1 was printed in 1889, Version 6 in July 1890.

I noted an entry for Solomon Herbert Hyam who was born at Jamberoo. It included a photograph and three pages of biography.

Several States brought out Cyclopedia. I noted that the **Cyclopaedia of South Australia**, which was published in 1909, had an entry for Mr Lewis Cohen, this detailed his birth in Liverpool, England, his marriage and children and all the societies he belonged to, and a good photograph.

The Cyclopedia of Victoria was published in 1903 and 1904 and ran to three volumes. There is also a **Cyclopedia of Tasmania**.

Another good source of records are the Primary Records held by the Society of Australian Genealogists. These records have been donated by members of the society. They are indexed on computer and are available for perusal.

A quick check of the index for some Jewish surnames listed the following records.

Aarons 5, Abrahams 39, Cohen 143, Levy 99, Samuel 62, Samuels 23 and Solomons 26.

These records often include copies of birth certificates, marriage certificates, family trees and wills.

It is possible to visit the Society of Australian Genealogists, 120 Kent Street, Sydney as a day visitor for \$20.00. Check their web site for more information

www.sag.org.au

Beryl Bauld is very active and knowledgeable about genealogy in Sydney and has been a member of our Society since 1995.

(We share the distinction of being grand-daughters of English stick dressers. What are they? Umbrella makers, of course - Rieke Nash)

SELMA JACKSON

I really don't know when I joined the Society, but I do have all the Kosher Koalas from Vol.1 No 1 September 1993, (and you would be surprised how often I have referred to them when someone has asked me something!) I remember attending an early meeting with Gael Hammer in the chair, down stairs in the Great Synagogue Hall, when she explained her way of setting out one's information.



My interest in genealogy started in about 1967 when our oldest son Michael started school at the age of five at Weizman Primary School in Sea Point, Cape Town, South Africa. The children were told to ask their parents to give details of parents and grandparents, so that the class could make family trees! I still have **that** first family tree from Michael's exercise book.

My mother, Golda Horwitz, born Salamson, was very family oriented, and was in constant touch by letter (I still have some of them), with cousins in Chicago and Boston, as her father Hyman was the only member of his family to go to South Africa. In 1968 my mother went to America for two family simchas (celebrations), and I asked her to sit down with a cousin in each city, and write down names, dates of birth, marriage and death of everyone they could think of. I filed away all that information, and it wasn't until after 1989 when we were already living in Sydney, and all three sons were busy on the computer, that I came across a family tree shareware program for the computer, which I bought, and so my interest grew.

In 1991 my husband Harry and I went to America to meet as many cousins as I could - in Chicago there was a Sunday picnic for 74 cousins, and in Boston there was a huge Shabbat dinner for us all to get together.

I now realise that I still didn't ask enough relevant questions - knowing what the names of Dad's aunts and uncles were, would have helped today.

My dad, Nathan Horwitz (of the LEVI tribe, who didn't eat turkey!) born in 1896 in Chveidan (Kvedarna today) Lithuania, would never speak about *those days*, and when I used to say that I would like to go and see Chveidan one day, he begged me not to go. To escape being drafted into the Russian army, his mother put him - aged 17 on a boat in Memel (Klaipeda today), with some Russian gold coins in his pockets to go to London, to board the *Dunbar Castle* en route to South Africa where his two older brothers were already living in Wepener, South Africa. Dad then applied for two of his younger brothers to join him in the following years, but unfortunately two other brothers didn't get out in time, even though they had the necessary papers - unfortunately they didn't realise of what their Chveidan friends and neighbours were

capable. I am thankful that I was fortunate in June 1996, to have realised my dream, when I travelled to Lithuania, after a few days in Moscow, and *walked where 'they' walked before*, and now I understand why Dad had those feelings!

From Lithuania, I flew to Tel Aviv, where together with my brother and nephews, I attended the *International Gathering of the Horowitz/Horwitz /Hurwitz/Gurwitz Families* and in July 1998 I attended the 18th Genealogy Society Conference in Los Angeles.

Having originally registered my Family Trees at Beit Hatefutsoth in Tel Aviv in 1993, I have had many enquiries concerning my family names. Unfortunately I have not gleaned any useful information for myself, but have, on occasion, been of some help to others, which has been very fulfilling. Only recently, Francoise Richez of France contacted me about an aunt's maiden name, *JUDES* and I was able to put her in touch with South African and now Australian families. Another name that comes to light is *GAYLIS (GAILIS)*, when I was even able to give photographs of the family! Only last month I sent information from our Kosher Koala, about available books on Dutch Jewry to someone in Ohio.

I have enjoyed the friendship of members of the Jewish Genealogy Society, a few Sunday afternoon workshops, and sincerely thank Sophie, Rieke and others, for all their help and enthusiasm - Sophie's knowledge and memory is just something else.

JOHN M STANHOPE

My serious interest in family history started about 1980 when my wife and I returned to Sydney after 20 years overseas. Our parents passed along some sketchy details but knew little beyond the names of their parents. Two cousins had started research but had given up - they passed their material on to me. I set out with the goal of documenting our ancestors back to their arrival in Australia. When I started we knew the year and ship of arrival of one person only.



Now 22 immigrants have been identified, arriving between 1790 and 1888. Full arrival details are known for 17; a highly probable arrival has been ascertained for three, and the other two cannot be documented earlier than their marriage in Australia. Eight came as single young people, the rest as members of family groups.

My own family were storytellers, and three grandparents survived to age 88 to 92. Some stories were frankly implausible, and research has sifted out the untrue and suggested how misconceptions were generated. Facts when ascertained have proved more entertaining than the myths woven round them.

My wife's family lore was more impoverished, as she knew only one grandparent, and her parents were more reticent, or more ignorant of the facts. I will describe the ancestry of Olive, Loreen's mother; because researching it illustrates some pitfalls of genealogy, and involves the Jewish connection. She died in 1980, just before my interest in family history was awakened, so was not available

as a primary source. Her mother died in Melbourne in 1924 and was buried as Mary Rebecca Hughes *nee* Barr. Mr Hughes was already dead (now known to be never legally married), and the children were aged 14 to 31. She told them she had been born in Wagga Wagga NSW, but I could find no relevant birth index entry. Her death certificate named her parents as Robert Barr and Rebecca Shannon, the informant being her son Ernest Edgar Hughes aged 21. Rebecca Barr *nee* Shannon died in Melbourne in 1904, and her certificate named her parents as John Shannon and Amelia unknown.

I found that the Barr/Shannon marriage took place at Big Badja near Cooma NSW in 1860, by Anglican rites, and that her father was Samuel Shannon. Three births followed during 1861-65. These did not include Mary Rebecca. Several Robert Barrs died in NSW and Victoria in the later 19th century but who was the right one? On a visit to Cooma we strolled around the old cemetery and found his grave - he died in 1865! He couldn't be Mary Rebecca's father.

A search for a second marriage revealed Rebecca Barr *nee* Shannon married Daniel Boon in Cooma by Presbyterian rites in 1866. They moved to Wagga and had six children including Rebecca Maude (no Mary Rebecca) born in 1871. In 1876 Daniel shot a man over an unpaid debt, and was hanged. His widow remained in Wagga and acquired a third "husband" William Lancaster (no proven marriage). In 1883 she took her five remaining children and moved to Melbourne, resuming the name Barr for herself, one Barr child and four young Boons. In Daniel's ordeal of trial and waiting for execution, he was assisted by Catholic clergy, and the children thereafter attended Catholic schools. The boys acquired Joseph as a second name, and the girls acquired Mary, probably they were baptised as Catholics, but I cannot prove this. So Rebecca Maude Boon became Mary Rebecca Barr.

GLENDA GOLDBERG

My genealogical research is focussed on the Jewish community of Sunderland in northeast England. I am descended from the SAMUEL and JOSEPH families who settled in Sunderland in the second half of the 18th century.



There was a Jewish presence in Sunderland from about 1755. Abraham SAMUEL is said to have been the first Jewish resident. His brother, Hart SAMUEL, was responsible for securing the services of Jacob JOSEPH in 1790 to act as rabbi for the community. The smattering of Jewish families in Sunderland at that time are thought to have been either Dutch or Germans who had lived in Holland for some time.

Rabbi Jacob JOSEPH, who was born in Amsterdam, married a daughter of Hart SAMUEL. Members of Rabbi Jacob JOSEPH's family who also settled in Sunderland included his brother, Hyman JOSEPH, and two sons of his brother, Nissan JOSEPH. With SAMUEL women marrying JOSEPH men, cousins marrying cousins, and large families being the norm, I have spent many hours

in libraries, archives, on the internet and on the phone unravelling the relationships between the numerous family members.

More interestingly, I have discovered the significant role that the JOSEPH family played in the unusually devout nineteenth century Jewish community of Sunderland. Rabbi Jacob JOSEPH was the religious leader of the community for over 70 years. Various other JOSEPH men were founding members of the Israelite synagogue, mohels (ritual circumcisionists), shochets (kosher butchers) and readers in the synagogue. With this background, it's not surprising that my grandmother taught Hebrew in Sunderland before she immigrated to Australia in 1897.

The question that is currently directing my research is why did so many JOSEPH family members emigrate from Sunderland to Australia in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Was it a chain of migration that followed Morris JOSEPH, the convict who made good and founded the York Street Synagogue in Sydney? He is alleged to have had links to Sunderland but I've yet to confirm this. Or was it more to do with the fact that, when the British government discontinued its policy of convict transportation, the ship owners of Sunderland converted their convict ships into migrant ships and ran aggressive campaigns in the Sunderland press promoting emigration to Australia?

After many years of research on Sunderland, having visited the city and made friends with a number of its residents, I now feel an immense affection for my ancestors' hometown. I have become a Sunderland Football Club supporter, much to the amusement of anyone who knows anything about English soccer (3 own goals within 8 minutes - unbelievable!). I am also a member of the Sunderland Jewish community on-line (groups.msn.co.uk/SunderlandJewishCommunityOnline), the fastest growing Jewish community in the United Kingdom (94 members at 5 February 2003).

I have accumulated an extensive amount of information on the early Sunderland Jewish community and may be able to assist other genealogists with a similar interest. I can be contacted by email emigratefromsunderland@btinternet.com or by post to the address below. Was it a chain of migration that followed Morris JOSEPH, the convict who made good and founded the York Street Synagogue in Sydney? He is alleged to have had links to Sunderland but I've yet to confirm this. Or was it more to do with the fact that, when the British government discontinued its policy of convict transportation, the ship owners of Sunderland converted their convict ships into migrant ships and ran aggressive campaigns in the Sunderland press promoting emigration to Australia?

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**Research in the USA. Talk
by Nancy Goodstein-Hilton**

**Reported by
Peter Nash**

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Nancy is a member of the Latter-Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah/USA and authored an index for specifically Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalogue. In her talk on February 2, 2003, she recommended the logical sequence she took to trace her Jewish ancestors who emigrated to the US from Europe in the second half of the 1800's.

Research in the US is facilitated by access to ten-yearly Census Records 72 years after Census taking. On-line access to the 1930 Census is now available and is aided by a One-Step 1930 Census Website developed by Stephen Morse. City Directories (similar to phone books) can aid in pin-pointing addresses for a Census search. A Soundex coding system can also be used.

Another key source is the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) database which depending on the year of death can lead to birth, death and other family connection data. For those not listed on the SSDI applications under the Freedom of Information Act can be made.

Naturalization records prior to 1906 can be requested in writing and a copy of an index card will be provided giving data such as naturalization and arrival dates, country of origin and occupation. From 1906 naturalization records were centralized and additional data including town of birth, birth date, wife and children's names and their vital data was then recorded.

Probate records can be a valuable source to find the deceased's heirs, including married names and locations of children. They can be ordered from the County Clerk's Office where the person died. Obituaries can also be a valuable source of Birth, Marriage and Death information as well as a variety of life achievement information while Cemetery records will not only provide the deceased's Birth and Death data but also data on spouse and children. To search for Probate, Obituary or Cemetery records the place for the event must be known.

Passenger arrival lists are another vital source of family data but require the port of entry into the US. They can lead to the towns of origin. The myth of name changes at the port of entry was also exploded by Nancy as the names on arrival were taken from the passenger manifest at the port of departure. So name variations started at that point and clearly occurred frequently. Other record sources highlighted were Court, World War I Draft, Published Genealogies, Gazetteers and Name Guides. In any case certificated records are obtained by direct contact with the authority holding the records.

A Handout with details of the mentioned data sources was provided and copies can be obtained from the AJGS (per Peter Nash). Other source contact details can be found in the AJGS Library's Resources.

Peter Nash is our society's Program co-ordinator and author of Navigating Berlin Resources To Solve A Family Puzzle which we published over a series of newsletters in 2002.

Some Special Thanks		Vol 10 No. 1		
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David Laufer is stepping down from the committee after eleven years of continuous service. He is one of the Founding members and the longest serving Committee member. He has been Vice-President, minute secretary, representative on NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, attending workshops regularly, always asking good critical questions during committee discussions and volunteering for that extra job, like helping out at our stall at the Chanukah Fair. We wish David well and look forward to his continued interest in the Society.

Stuart Shaw has been a diligent recorder of speakers at our gatherings and a most valued monitor of our email post-office for three years from late 1999.

Philip Baynash will be taking on the task of redirecting general business emails to the appropriate committee member.

Selma Jackson over the years has donated many resources to our library, the latest being the syllabus from the 18th International Jewish Genealogy Conference held in Los Angeles 1998 Hollywood Chai and Newsletters of the South African SIG.

Planning an Overseas Trip This Year?		Vol 10 No. 1		
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Here are several exciting choices.

20 - 25 July, 2003 The 23rd Jewish Genealogy International Conference in Washington D.C. to be held at JW Marriott Hotel 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Website: www.jewishgen.org/dc2003 for full details. If you are thinking of going, contact our President, Rieke Nash.

2 - 16 July, 2003 A Living History Tour to Eastern Europe visiting Krakow, Warsaw, Prague, and Berlin with Tour Leader Professor Konrad Kwiet, historian and lecturer on Holocaust Studies at the University of Sydney. Contact Voyager Travel on (02) 9356-4700 or the Sydney Jewish Museum on (02) 9360-7999

11 - 21 June, 2003 A Trip to Lithuania

A Jewish Life and Heritage Tour with Howard Margol. For details 4430 Mt Paran Parkway, NW, Atlanta, GA 30327-3747 USA,
Ph: (404)261-8662 Fax: (404)228-7125(press*) email: homargol@aol.com

1 - 5 December, 2003 A Genealogy Cruise

from Miami, Florida to Key West, Florida and Cozumel, Mexico has been organised by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. Nine experts on Jewish genealogy will be giving talks.

www.jewishgen.org/iajgs/cruise/cruise.htm

Congratulations to Gary Luke

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on receiving his *Diploma in Family History Studies* (Dip FHS) through the Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney. When Gary decided to join us in November, 1993, our Society acquired one of its most valuable resources. His creative and dedicated approach to genealogy continues to benefit most of our members and has helped the world-wide Jewish genealogical community by his foundation of the AJGen Discussion Group. With his vast knowledge, exploring mind and enthusiastic interest and energy, his contribution to the committee has also been appreciated.

We wish him success in the future and thank him on behalf of all the past and future beneficiaries of his generosity.

In Remembrance

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DIANA WRIGHT died on 3 December, 2002.

Diana had a passion for researching her family heritage and was the self-published author of *Our Jewish Connections: The Eight Children of Deborah and Moses Levy*, which we reviewed in the KK Vol.7 No.1, March, 2000. Even after the book was published, Di kept up a correspondence with many *family members* including Verna Rouvray and Dinah Harvey daughter of Paul Cullen and connected to Moses Levy.

Diana's careful research of the descendants of each of the eight children will be one of her lasting legacies as it includes many prominent families like Sir John Monash, Nancy Keesing Hertzberg, and Sir Lewis Cohen. Diana donated a copy of her book to both our Society and to the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

Jeanette Tsoulos who devotes her time to both organisations says that as so many of the descendants migrated from England to Australia this book has been invaluable in helping many people trace families such as Levy, Levey, Hart, Yates, Marks, Harris, Moss and Alexander, (*which includes the family of my husband, Joe Shifreen, so I also kept up a correspondence with Di - Editor*) as well as Evelyn Wilcox in England, John Nathan, Ian Nicol and Heather Davis to name but a few.

PETER FLECKER

We were sorry to hear that our long-term member from Garbutt, Queensland, Peter Flecker, died on 11 October, 2002 after an illness first diagnosed in 1999. His wife, Margaret, has written that, in spite of his illness, Peter concentrated on achieving a medical degree. She says that it was such a shame that he never succeeded in finding his Jewish ancestry.

Report from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 10 No. 1	
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The past few months has witnessed a surge in new members. Nineteen new members were welcomed since December bringing our membership to 150. This year has started with a busy program.

Rodney Eisfelder, a committee member of AJGS (Vic) spoke on 'Documenting a Family History' on Wednesday, 12th February showing some of the documents covering his own family history from the 18th to the 21st century. This talk was not so much the story of his family, but rather a discussion of the influence of historical events on the records and how and where the records were obtained. Rodney is a very experienced and knowledgeable researcher who has been gathering family history for over fifteen years.

Nancy Goodstein-Hilton paid a short visit to Melbourne and spoke about Jewish Records in the Family History (Mormon Library) on Monday, 3rd March 2003 at the Jewish Museum of Australia in St.Kilda. This follows some very successful talks she gave to our colleagues in Sydney.


Nancy is the author of an index entitled, "Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalog", which has been jointly published by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and the LDS Family History Centre. The index covers Jewish records in 90 countries and territories including Australia, United Kingdom, Eastern and Western Europe, North and South America and Africa. The index is available on CD and comprises thousands of records and publications of significant value to Jewish genealogical research.

In April we decided to hold a hands-on workshop for beginners and others in the evening rather than the usual Sunday morning. This workshop will be held on Wednesday 2nd April 2003, 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre.

"In One Voice Festival" Celebration in the Park will take place on Sunday 16th March 2003, 10.00am to 5.00pm in Caulfield Park. The AJGS (Victoria) will have a display and information table. The event usually attracts thousands of visitors and many community organisations have displays.

The 5th Annual General Meeting of the AJGS (Vic) Inc. will be held on 21st May 2003 at 7.30 pm at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre.

Enquiries: Lionel Sharpe (03) 9523 6738
ajgs@exist.com.au
Les Oberman (03) 9571 8251
oberman@tmxmclb.mhs.oz.au

Report from South Australia	Jeanie Susman	Vol 10 No. 1	
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Our first meeting of the year was held on Tuesday, February 25th at the home of our Treasurer, Ben Carr.

It was a business meeting arranged to discuss a number of important issues relating to the re-structuring of our group for the future. Our President, Marjorie Luno, has been corresponding with Rieke Nash and Lionel Sharpe, and as a result put forward various proposals. It was unanimously decided that the South Australian Branch becomes autonomous and that our subscription rates not be changed at this stage. Satisfactory arrangements are now being finalised for members to receive individual copies of "The Kosher Koala" from Sydney and "Jewish Genealogy Downunder" from Melbourne, to be sent by bulk delivery to us for distribution.

It was also decided to see how we fare under the new management before committing ourselves to the purchase of any material for the resources collection.

The President outlined some very interesting and exciting activities being planned for this year. These will be confirmed with further details at our forthcoming A.G.M. arrangements for which are now in progress.

The South Australian contacts are:
Marjorie Luno, President,
c/- Beit Shalom Synagogue,
P.O. Box 47, Stepney SA 5069
Email to Hon. Secretary : Jeanie Susman
chatsworth@picknowl.com.au

Back to Illawarra		Vol 10 No. 1		
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**BACK TO ILLAWARRA
60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
SOUTHERN SYDNEY SYNAGOGUE**

Saturday 10th May 2003
at Southern Sydney Synagogue at 9.00 am

Special Shabbat Service followed
by our famous Kiddush.
If you have any special memories/photos etc contact Bert Kahana at 9567-7603 or
Fel Prentice at 9661- 6306

RELIVE SIXTY YEARS

Our Diamond Jubilee Special Viewing
on Sunday 11th May, 2-4 pm

JewishGen Joins the Museum of Jewish Heritage		Vol 10 No. 1		
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JewishGen has become a division of the Museum of Jewish Heritage located in New York effective January 1, 2003. Susan King, founder and president of JewishGen, will be employed by the Museum and hold the title Managing Director of JewishGen. In addition, two key JewishGen technicians, Warren Blatt and Michael Tobias, will

become full-time employees of the Museum and will now be able to devote their efforts to projects which have stalled due to lack of available time. The Museum has developed a strong interest in making genealogy an integral part of their public program.

In recent years, JewishGen has been struggling as a volunteer-based organization that relied on contributions for its operation. Susan King can now focus on the growth of JewishGen.

JewishGen focused much of its energy on servicing people who are already involved in family history research, and it is likely that the Museum connection will help involve more people in genealogical research.

The Museum is located on the waterfront of Lower Manhattan not far from the former site of the World Trade Center. The building will contain a theatre, classrooms, and special exhibition space, among other facilities. The East Wing, set to open in Autumn 2003, will enhance the Museum's mission of remembrance, education and genealogy.

For more information: <http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/pr/MJHAnnounceQs.htm>

Three Valuable New Resources		Vol 10 No. 1		
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We welcome the arrival in our library of the new, updated *WHERE ONCE WE WALKED, Revised Edition, A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust* by Gary Mokotoff, Sallyann Amdur Sack and Alexander Sharon published by Avotaynu, Bergenfield NJ 2002.

This gazetteer is usually the first reference for any beginner and is definitely the most used resource in our library.

Another eagerly awaited Avotaynu publication, *SEPHARDIC GENEALOGY, Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World* by Jeffrey S. Malka, 2002 has arrived and will be reviewed in the next Kosher Koala. Without a doubt this is a book that anyone with Sephardic roots will find valuable.

For Lithuanian research, don't forget to consult the latest important publication, the four volume, *THE HOLOCAUST IN LITHUANIA 1941-1945*. This can be studied in the Library of the Sydney Jewish Museum, Darlinghurst.

AJGS Resource CD, Edition 1, March 2003		Vol 10 No. 1		
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The first edition of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society Resource CD has been produced by *Bernard Freedman, Rieke Nash, Kim Phillips and Jeannette Tsoulos* from the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (AJGS) and Helen Bersten from the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS). It contains the

- **FAMILY NAME INDEX FROM THE FAMILY TREES**
at the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society and the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Sydney compiled by *Bernard Freedman*
- **RESEARCH INTERESTS**
of members of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Sydney, compiled by *Rieke Nash*.
- **RESOURCES**
in the catalogues of the library of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Sydney, compiled by *Rieke Nash, Kim Phillips and Jeannette Tsoulos* and of the library and archives of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, Sydney, *compiled by members of the AJHS, Sydney.*

All current members of the AJGS will receive a copy as part of their membership dues for 2003.

Special thanks must go to *Gary Luke* who has produced a CD which should be easily accessible by most computer systems.

President's Report	Rieke Nash	Vol 10 No. 2	
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The last few months have been very busy with the completion of various projects. The most rewarding part has been the renewals of our faithful members and often their generous donations, both cash and kind. For example, Bob Beecher has given us his complete collection of Avotaynus from Volume 1 Number 1, our Brisbane member, Vivien Solo, has given us a generous donation to help the cause, while many others have generously devoted their time.

The new AJGS Resource CD was very well received although a few people were puzzled that they couldn't hear anything on their CD player! Alas, a computer is needed to access the data. Others have had the time to systematically explore the possibilities and one member appeared at the latest workshop with a list of all the resources that she had found on the CD and that she now wanted to see.

We are about to release another CD, the complete collection of Kosher Koalas that have been published since 1993. The format is completely searchable and even though some of the early references such as websites and addresses will have changed we believe that it is still a valuable resource. The CD will be on sale shortly.

This April as we commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, JRI-Poland released the database of Deaths in the early years of the ghetto. It can be searched on www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/ and George Sternfeld's poem on page 12 documents the emotions of many of us.

Some of our members are very active on the International genealogical scene. You can spot their names helping others on various Internet Discussion groups, quite a few are involved with indexing records for the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland Project and a member's mother, Hanka Gliksmann has been translating a Yizkor Book for the JewishGen Yizkor book Project. The about-to-be released Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy includes chapters by two of our members. Sophie Caplan has

written about research in Australia and Peter Nash has documented resources for tracing the former Jewish communities in China.

Beware the SARS virus for printers! After Miriam's printer disintegrated last Kosher Koala, mine has sympathised with it and followed suit this time.

Rieke Nash, President
president@ajgs.org.au

Editorial

**Miriam
Shifreen**

**Vol 10
No. 2**



Some weeks ago, through the AJGen discussion group, I saw an email from Geoff Moss. It turns out, he is the 4th great grandson, that is the gggg grandson of Frances, oldest daughter of Deborah and Moses Levey who were married in 1781 in Whitechapel, London. Joe, my husband is the ggg grandson of Susan second youngest daughter of Deborah and Moses Levey. So what, you say? Well, 20 years ago, Geoff and Joe had worked in the same accountancy office and even had adjacent desks. And as this was before any of us were interested in genealogy, neither knew that they were 5th cousins once removed. Bit scary isn't? Which relative do we unknowingly pass when we walk down the street, sit in a restaurant, or choose food off the supermarket shelves? Anyway it was good for us all to meet at our May meeting, *Different Approaches to Documenting Your Research*.

So, Edwin Murray may be right when he says in his book *Your Ancestors into History*, "Often we spend so much time searching for names, dates, places and relationships for our ancestors that we forget to learn about what their lives were like. What kind of house or apartment did they live in? How did they get from place to place? What kind of education did they have? Where did they go to school? Were they rich or poor? How did they meet their spouses?" Dennis Leonard reveals how he tried to find out answers to questions like these, in his story about his grandfather Peter Solomon, part 2 on page 4.

So now is the time to start writing up your family history. For the family historian, letters offer clues to vital family information. Cherished letters may also provide background to family life. Recently I found a letter typed in Yiddish from the Warsaw Immigration Society, dated 1929, to my cousin's mother with information about her impending travel to Australia because her British visa had come through. Have you found something of interest to share with us?

You will find Sonia Gold's intriguing story on page 3 essential reading, and David Landor's family history on page 6 absolutely absorbing. This issue is full of interesting information and ideas. I hope they will lead you on to significant new finds.

Miriam Shifreen,
Editor
editor@ajgs.org.au

In about November, 1999, at a workshop, I picked up a book called *The Scattered Seed* by George Sackheim of Skokie, Illinois, U.S.A. Over two volumes, it contained his family tree tracing back over ten generations.



Curiously leafing through it, I came across a name that gave me 'goose bumps' - Lazar Kaganovich. My maternal grandmother was a Kaganovich and all my life, my mother had told me that she was a sister to the infamous Lazar Kaganovich, Stalin's right-hand man.

Timidly I wrote to George Sackheim about my connection. In January 2000, this was his reply:-

"Dear Cousin, your grandmother was Sarah Kaganovich, who married Morris Sapier. Sarah's father was Mordechai Cohen, who was a brother to Lazar Kaganovich's father - Meshulam Zalman Cohen. The name was changed by him to Kaganovich". So my grandmother was a first cousin, not a

sister.

I was stunned. Of course, Sackheim, the master genealogist, would have my grandparents in his research. But to write to me so quickly furnishing me with a complete family tree!

And what a family tree it was - nine rabbis in direct ancestry and forty-three in this branch of Sackheim's tree. Important name are Rabinowitz, Katzenellenbogen and Zak.

I have researched this family tree back to its origins and, although I have no official clarification, it seems to me that it begins with Scholem and then Rabbi Israel of Rozana, involved in a blood libel in 1659 when the Jews were accused of killing a Christian boy to use his blood to make matzos.

My grandmother was born on 15 July, 1897 and bore my mother and three sons. Tragically she died in Kobryn, then Poland (and now Belarus) on 18 July 1933 from breast cancer, only weeks away from setting off to join her husband in Sydney, Australia. Suddenly my mother at age 13 was catapulted into bringing herself and her three younger brothers from Poland, across Europe by train and then by ship to join her father in Sydney. But that is another story.

Lazar Kaganovich was born on 22 November, 1893 in Kabany(?) and lived into his nineties. My research has revealed that he was one of Stalin's chief Commissars and that he rose to become the only Jew to occupy a Soviet leadership role and in that capacity he was involved against his fellow Jews. Kaganovich joined the Communist party in 1924 after showing such tendencies as a youth.

On a personal note, my mother, who was born in 1920 in Kabana (Kahana), had memories from her childhood of accompanying her mother secretly delivering packets to an outcast of the family. Lazar Kaganovich came from a strictly Orthodox family and his Communist leanings, in his late teens, would have definitely made him a 'black sheep'.

Lazar Kaganovich's name has featured in several publications. Mara Moustafine's *Secrets and Spies* links him, as Commissar for Transportation, directly with the oppression of the Jews of Harbin.

The 1965 publication of *Who's Who in the U.S.S.R.* lauds his achievements which included the construction of Moscow's subway system in 1934 (named after him) and the organisation of Moscow's industrialisation. The 1972 edition of the same publication features Colonel Mikhail, Lazar's son. There is more information in other journals and in biographies of Stalin and his regime.

The most intriguing aspect of this story is that of the possible lines of marriage. Lazar Kaganovich had a sister, Rosa, who was supposed to have become the third wife of Joseph Stalin. Lazar's son, Mikhail, was reported to have married, in 1951, Svetlana, a daughter of Stalin.

Family tree exponents try working that out diagrammatically!


The lesson here is look more closely at other family trees - you never know, you may be sitting on a branch.

Sackheim, George I., *Scattered Seeds*, Vol. 1 and 2, R. Sackheim Pub. Co., Skokie Ill. 1986

Moustafine, Mara, *Secrets and Spies - The Harbin Files*, Random House Aust. Pty Ltd, Sydney, 2002.

Biography of Lazar Kaganovich from *Who's Who in the U.S.S.R.* 1965-6, p.114

Sonia Gold lives in Sydney and has been an enthusiastic member of the Society since 1995. The story of the paternal ALTSHULER side of her family from HARBIN is just as interesting.

My Grandfather - Peter Solomon. A Country Tale - Part 2	Dennis Leonard	Vol 10 No. 2		
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Peter Solomon's Business Success in Bombala

Peter Solomon's first establishment in Bombala, Southern New South Wales, was noted in the Bombala Newspapers on 22/5/1891, page 3 as *Sydney House...P. Solomon...next to Australian Arms Hotel*. The Australian Arms later became the Hotel Bombala and there is still a very old (empty) shop in about the right location.

It seems to have been a quite modest building but over a period of time Peter gradually expanded it into a general store, carrying such things as groceries,

explosives and shearers supplies according to the Bombala Newspapers, the *Bombala Herald* and the *Bombala Times*, which regularly printed his advertisements. On 23/10/1906 Peter Solomon advertised shearing supplies and on 7/12/1900 p.2 the local and general news (L & G) announced *licences for the keeping and sale of explosives have been granted...P. Solomon, Bombala*

He was also into recycling as the local newspaper advertisement for P. Solomon on 28/8/1906 says *Tenders for purchase of empty cases and casks...*

Peter closed for the Jewish Holydays

Notice The Stores of the undersigned will be closed on Saturday NEXT and re-open at 6 p.m. P. Solomon

similarly: 26/9/1905 L & G, Mr Solomon's and Mr Leonard's shops closed Saturday next

and 11/9/1906: *Notice ...Thursday September 30th closed all day P. Solomon,* showed Peter closed for the Jewish Holydays.

He travelled to Sydney several times to buy stock On 11/12/1891 p.1 P. *Solomon begs to inform the public that he has been to Sydney...*

and 12/6/1906 L&G *Mr Solomon has just returned from Sydney having selected large range of millinery. This is now being unpacked, and is worthy of inspection, the prices being within the reach of all* shows that he did not just rely on Commercial Travellers.

Shops were open for very long hours - something that was gradually phased out in the early years of last century but Wednesday was a half-day and no one dared open on Sunday.

8/5/1906 *Notice all stores will close at 9 o'clock on Saturday night from May 12 to October 16 1906,* which Peter probably tried to avoid because on 15/4/1902 p.2 L&G *Police Court-On Tuesday, before Mr H.M. Joseph, J.P., P. Solomon, store-keeper charged with a breach of the Early Closing act, pleaded not guilty and the case was adjourned till April 29.*

My Grandmother, Fanny



Peter moved his shop in 1893 Advertisements on 20/10/1893 and 27/10/1893 p.3

The Sydney House Bombala.

The above business has been removed to the premises lately occupied by Mr.M. Goodman.... P. Solomon. [Goodman had shifted to Delegate, another country town in N.S.W.] and finally into a property he bought in 1900. Peter Solomon bought two Blocks of land in 1895 that were Torrens Title. They were located on the north-eastern part of Forbes Street, Sydney, in Section 37.

Other Torrens Title purchases or sales have not been investigated e.g. the properties at Vacluse and Double Bay, both in Sydney.

Peter - Prominent citizen of Bombala

Peter first appeared on the local Electoral Roll in 1896, No. 576 P. Solomon, storekeeper.

He was naturalised 30 May 1894 according to the Colonial Secretaries Records. The Index of Naturalisation certificates (COD204) which is a handwritten index to Naturalisation Papers originally held by the NSW Chief Secretaries Office contained an entry *Solomon, Peter Russia 30 May 1894 Page 208.*

This led to reel 136, which had a microfilm of the Naturalisation Certificate (Have copy). From Reel 2967 - the index to Colonial Secretaries Letters - found Solomon Peter Naturalisation Letter No. 94.5589. There was some correspondence including certificates relating to his naturalisation which listed his sponsor as one Nathan Bassor of 15 York Lane Sydney, Warehouseman & Merchant (presumably Peter dealt with him).

Probably under the influence of H.M. Joseph, Peter found himself on the Bombala Hospital Board by 14/1/1898 according to p.2 L&G followed by numerous references over the years.

He became a Mason (M.U.I.O.O.F.), being "treasurer for many years" and on his retirement the L&G of 4/6/1907 said, At the meeting of Loyal Prince Arthur Lodge MUIOF last week, Bro. P. Solomon...presented with handsome gold pendent on the reverse side 27-5-07...valuable assistance as treasurer for many years.

Problem He must have learnt English quite well to function both as a shopkeeper and on public bodies. Did he have an accent? (Given the age at which he arrived in Australia, probably.)

Problem There are missing issues of the local newspapers. No copies of Bombala Herald between 25/12/1891 and 22/6/1892 seem to have survived, and none between 29/12/1893, (which is incomplete), and the issue of 28/1/1898. To make matters worse, the other town paper, the Bombala Times, established in 1867, had a disastrous fire in 1912 causing the loss of virtually all copies before that date. [No copies were deposited with the State Library during the relevant period] So that Peter's doings during those periods are unknown.

Problem When was he first elected to the Hospital? This occurred during the period of missing newspapers.

Peter obviously prospered since he bought property in 1895 and 1900 and built up a

thriving general store business. The first purchased property was sold in 1923 and the latter sold to another Jewish businessman in 1914 for the then enormous sum of £2100.

He was involved in town business and convened a meeting about problems with transport of goods. On 11/10/1904 there is a newspaper report on p.5: A meeting of shippers convened by Mr P. Solomon met at Moran's [Commercial] Hotel on Wednesday Afternoon. Goods were shipped to Eden instead of Merimbula. Mr Solomon said he was quite agreeable to send all his stuff to Eden...In reply to Mr Goodman, Mr Solomon said he had written to the Union Company asking for their charges in Eden...Mr Solomon wanted to know if it would be any use writing to the company which had a boat to Moruya. If they had goods lost or damaged by the I.S.N. Co and wrote about them they could not even get a reply to their letters. (There is a related letter on p.2 from Emanuel disagreeing with Peter's position).

There are several examples of Peter's signature. As a matter of interest Fanny (who would have been automatically naturalised when and if Peter was) appeared on the Electoral roll in 1903 as soon as women had the vote. However, she was apparently illiterate since as late as 1926 she signed a document with "her mark" (an X). If Fanny was illiterate how did she manage to vote?

Dennis Leonard is the Editor of a Philately magazine. (The conclusion-Pt 3 will appear in our next issue - Ed)

The Jewish Colonial Trust Ltd		Vol 10 No. 2		
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The Trust established about 100 years ago, is searching for the original shareholders or their valid descendants in order for these people to receive a cash settlement.

The Jewish Colonial Trust Ltd founded in 1899 by Theodore Herzl to serve as a financial instrument for the Zionist Movement, was the parent company of the Anglo Palestine Bank, the predecessor of Bank Leumi of Israel.

The home page where you can search for the names of relatives and find other information is at <http://www.jct.co.il/shareholders.asp>

Jewish Colonial Trust, Ltd.
17 Kaplan Street Tel Aviv 64734, Israel
Tel: 972-3-691-4111/2
Fax:972 3-691-4170
<http://www.jct.co.il/contact.html>
info@jct.co.il

Belgium Indemnification Applications		Vol 10 No. 2		
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The Right to claim for Indemnification for persons affected by anti-Jewish measures or anti-Semitic acts committed during the Second World War in Belgium has been extended until 9 September, 2003. So far the Indemnification Commission has received 4,500 applications, which they are researching. The applicant will receive

notice that their application is being processed. If the claim needs to be documented any further, the Commission will contact the person in question who will be notified of the decision of the Commission.

Contact:

The Indemnification Commission Secretariat

Rue de la Loi 16

B-1000 Brussels,

Belgium

Phone +32 2 213 44 60

Email marc.detragegnies@premier.fed.be

Website <http://www.premier.fgov.be/>

Sydney residents can contact

Claire Van de Ginste Vice-Consul

Consulate General of Belgium in Sydney

12A Trelawney Street

Woollahra NSW 2025 -

Australia

Tel : (02)-9327 8377

Fax : (02)-9328 7924

Meet Our Ten Year Member

**Vol 10
No. 2**



David Landor



Prior to 1992 I had taken only a mild interest in putting together the family tree and was recording my information manually. I started to use a software genealogical programme in 1992 because my tree was getting too big and sprouting branches everywhere.

My late mother, Marjorie (nee Gubbay) Landor, has Sephardic roots. With the collaboration of other researchers and family members, I discovered that one line, the de Sola line of my mother's antecedents had lived in London for the last two centuries

(since 1818), and before that in Holland from 1492 when they were expelled from Spain. The previous 24 generations had lived in Spain from the 8th century to 1492. The de Sola family had settled in Andalusia before the 7th century. I found that the de Sola family had been well researched by a number of descendants and genealogists during the 19th and 20th centuries. The surname de Sola is said to have had its origin in the name of an estate the family possessed in northern Spain in the 12th century. It is surprising to me that surnames were introduced in Spain so early.

My father was Ashkenazi and his antecedents lived in Russia, Poland and Germany, the earliest line, subject to confirmation, going back to Moshe Yakov Hacoen born in 1420.

1992 was the year I struck gold, so to speak. Looking to see if any of the surnames in my family tree appeared in the indexes of history books or in the multi-volume

Jewish Encyclopaedia in the Rev. Katz Library, I found to my surprise that several did. This find prompted me to take a much deeper interest in researching my roots.

I found my mother's great grandfather Rev. David Aaron de Sola near the bottom of the de Sola Family Tree printed in the 1905 edition of the Jewish Encyclopaedia. Rev. David Aaron de Sola was the senior minister of Bevis Marks Synagogue, London, and was known in London as the "learned chazan (*Reader*) of Bevis Marks".

At the top of the tree was one, Baruch ben Isaac ibn Daud who occupied a high Office of State in the 9th century in Navarre, Spain. Baruch would have been born between AD 770 and AD 790. From him to my 18 months old granddaughter span 41 generations. I am informed that the de Sola Tree stands today as the oldest authenticated Jewish family tree in existence. The Jewish Encyclopaedia displayed 137 descendants of Baruch in 1905. The tree that I submitted to Beth Hatefutsoth in 1993 contained about 900 descendants. This has now grown to 1600 names in my database.

Notwithstanding, there are gaps in the tree in some of the earlier generations where names are still missing. It may be accessed on the Internet at www.jewishgen.org, although I have not updated it for some years.

My first question was: How could anyone trace a line back 1200 years? I learnt that records of the Roman Catholic Church in Spain were the principal source though not the only one. My great, great, uncle Abraham de Sola, who was the Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Literature at McGill University, Montreal, was evidently given permission to access Spanish Church Archives. He travelled to Spain to do most of his research. Evidently, some scholars were allowed to study old church records.

Abraham could read Spanish and Portuguese. He died in 1882. The Tree was submitted for inclusion in the Jewish Encyclopaedia by his son, Clarence Isaac de Sola.

The next obvious question I wanted an answer to was: What were Jews doing in Roman Catholic records? I learnt that the Church retained lists of Jews who were seized by the minions of the Holy Office during the six centuries of the Spanish Inquisition. Thousands were tortured and if found guilty of crimes such as secretly practising Judaism after they had converted to Christianity, suffered death at Auto-da-Fés. Reading the section "Inquisition" in the Jewish Encyclopaedia, they must have been terrible and extremely frightening days for Marranos or New Christians. Tribunals handed them over to the civil authorities to carry out the sentence, not to have blood on the Church's hands. De Sola is today a common name in Spain in the general community. Presumably they would all be descendants of Jews.

In the same encyclopaedia I also found David Aaron de Sola's wife Rica Meldola's tree. It is also a rabbinical tree. It had been traced back to Isaiah Meldola, born in 1282. Toledo, Spain. Isaiah fled Spain to live in Italy. He became Chief Rabbi in Mantua. I found that the Meldola line is 20 generations to my grandchildren, with no names missing. These Trees were included in the Jewish Encyclopaedia simply because they were rabbinical trees. There are many other rabbinical trees in this

encyclopaedia. Just as Europeans have always held an interest in the family trees of royalty, the Jewish world has always held an interest in the trees of rabbis. The lesson is that if you can trace a line to a rabbi, it may take you back a few more generations. No guarantees!!! Encyclopaedia Judaica is also of course worth going through but there are few, if any, family trees in it.

Since 1992 my database has developed into a maze of family trees all linked together by marriage. I correspond with family members in Israel, England, United States, Canada, South Africa, Germany and Australia to expand my database. I always ask folk to send me a few notes of interest on everyone. Some will. Most folk won't. I have also made extensive use of books held in the collection of AJGS at the Rev. Katz Library and of a number of synagogue libraries, the State Library and the libraries of the Society of Australian Genealogists. I have had limited success in finding material on the JewishGen website.

Fortunately I chose a good genealogical programme. Otherwise there is no way my database would have grown to its present size in ten years. My database presently holds about 12,000 people in it, being the ancestors of my wife and myself and the descendants of those ancestors; also in a number of cases the family trees of the spouses of blood descendants. In addition to the fore mentioned lines, two lines have been traced to the 17th century and several to the 18th century.

Confession time! In the beginning I made a big mistake. I did not cite my sources. Very unprofessional! I urge beginners to cite their sources from the start for each and every event. It gives credibility to your research even if many of your sources are given to you verbally from a family member. Citing a printed source, assuming it is a reliable source, is more valuable to your descendants, for it will enable them in a hundred years time to verify your work if they want to.

Don't be a gatherer of names only. There is little merit in a tree of names. Dates, or at least, years, and places are important too. A place should show three things, the city or town, preferably the state or province and definitely the country. Place names tend to repeat themselves all over the world. There is a Sydney and a London in Canada, a Melbourne in USA, a Perth in Scotland, and there are six Newcastles around the world.

I have two other genealogical interests. In 1995 the Society of Australian Genealogists, of which I was a member, formed a Brother's Keeper Interest Group. Brother's Keeper is the software genealogical programme that I use. Appointed Coordinator of the group, for the next four years I presented a course of two-hourly lectures held bimonthly in the Rumsey Hall in the use of this programme.

The other interest of mine has been to computerise family trees for other members of the Jewish Community who have put their trees together manually, but are not computer literate.

dlandor@tpg.com.au

David Landor is a foundation member and former committee member of the Society

See <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/> for an online edition of Jewish Encyclopaedia (Ed)

Some Ukranian Sites to Try		Vol 10 No. 2		
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<http://www.jewishgen.org/ukraine>

Click on each Gubernia, to find icons for the Towns for which submissions have been made. You can also submit articles or data of interest for the towns you are researching. There are links to some very good maps covering the Ukraine, both old and new. And members have sent in descriptions of trips, and samples of their poetry. AND MORE

www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/

[Colonies of Ukraine/index.htm](http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Colonies_of_Ukraine/index.htm)

Colonies of the Ukraine by Chaim Freedman

<http://www.kazez.com/~dan/zaslav-cem/izy.html>

Zaslav (Izaslav) Jewish Cemetery. Zaslav (current name Izaslav) is in present-day Ukraine. After about a year, the project to photograph and index all of the tombstones in the Jewish cemetery there is nearly complete.

If you find any tombstones for your family listed at the web site above. Daniel Kazez will be happy to supply you with a high-quality photograph of the stone. On the web, to keep-load time fast, he has not put high-quality images.

Daniel Kazez: dkazez@wittenberg.edu

<http://www.rtrfoundation.org/>

Fire in Kamenets Podolskiy, Ukraine has destroyed a significant number of the historic documents including some Jewish vital records, Kahal records, school records, tax lists, voter lists, immigration records, recruit lists, property records and other types of documents. This archive now remains closed to the general public until further notice. Many unique historical documents were also water-damaged. For an update see Miriam Weiner's website.

Miriam Weiner's book on Ukraine and Moldova is in the Library of our Society.

News from New South Wales	Rieke Nash	Vol 10 No. 2		
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Our speaker at the Annual General Meeting in March, Suzanne Rutland, gave a fascinating description of the difficulties faced by World War II Jewish survivors wishing to migrate to Australia. (See Jeannette Tsoulos' report on page 10). Her talk described her research into recently released files in the National Archives of Australia, Canberra. She detailed the means by which the then government tried to limit the number of Jews entering the country. As one of our members commented after the lecture "It was just as well that my ancestors came as convicts."

Our May event, *Different Approaches to Documenting Your Research*, proved to be an enjoyable, social and productive afternoon where a number of members

highlighted the differences dictated by the special circumstances of each family. From simple word processed stories to high tech CD productions, we were entertained by Geoff Moss, Kim Phillips, Michael Gold, Gary Luke, Miriam Shifreen and Rieke Nash. The limits of time, expertise and cost were discussed but everyone found something new to consider.

One of our members believes that the records will always be there to research but one's own memories will not and he believes that it is more important to make sure that these are documented and then one can always go backwards in time. Of course the risks here are that sometimes sources are destroyed (such as, the recent vandalism in the Plashet cemetery in London where over 300 stones were damaged for example), some resources are removed from public access and costs for records can increase dramatically.

Maybe genealogy is like investment strategies - one has to spread the risk according to your available resources, money and time.

We are looking forward to a big weekend at Limmud Oz where our team is presenting papers on *Our Ancestors and Their Paper Trails* and another session on *Internet or InterNOT?* We will be joined in our open panel sessions by Lionel Sharpe from Melbourne.

There has been a very keen response to our visit to the LDS Family History Centre in Carlingford in June and it has been fully booked out.

Enquiries: Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595

Tel: 9427-6075

Email: society@ajgs.org.au

Given Name Changes		Vol 10 No. 2		
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JewishGen has redesigned, expanded, and upgraded Given Names Data Bases of the European Jewish and secular given names that your ancestor may have used at different times and in different venues during the period 1795-1925. Each such set of linked Jewish and secular names from Europe is accompanied by sets of statistically linked vernacular names adopted by our ancestors upon immigration to any of 10 foreign countries, such as the US. This allows you to search for their names in Europe and to find likely names that they may have chosen in any foreign country, or to follow the reverse research direction.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/GivenNames/> or at the UkraineSig web site, where the new data base for Ukraine is also available.

Editor: This is not an exact science as each family had their own practices in adopting new names in a new country.


Place Name Changes		Vol 10 No. 2		
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The following internet sites are helpful for identifying towns.

<http://www.atsnotes.com/other/gerpol.html>

German-Polish and Polish-German names of the localities in Poland & Russia

<http://guillaume.roelly.org/entraide/villagesad.htm> towns in Alsace and the Moselle region showing both the French and German names.


Hamburg Emigration Site Adds Additional Years		Vol 10 No. 2		
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The Hamburg Emigration Index database is now complete for the years 1890-1902. It is located at:

http://www.hamburg.de/fhh/behoerden/staatsarchiv/link_to_your_roots/english/index.htm

The index provides basic information about the emigrant: name, country/state of origin, approximate age, and destination. For a fee, you can receive an abstract of the entire entry from the ship's manifest. The cost for an abstract has been lowered to \$US20 for 1-3 persons; \$US30 4-10 persons; \$US40 for 11-20; \$US50 for 21-30 persons. Payment can be made with MasterCard, EuroCard or Visa. Because it is an abstract rather than the actual manifest, each member of a family of three on a specific page would have his/her own abstract. Therefore, they would count as three persons if you requested information about all three.

The Holocaust in Lithuania 1941 - 1945 A Book of Remembrance	Reviewed by Paula Seligman	Vol 10 No. 2		
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Volume 1 to 4, Gafen Publishing Co. Jerusalem and New York, 2002.

By Rose Lerer Cohen and Saul Issroff

This set of books comprises 4 volumes numbered I, IIa, IIb and III. There are various essays about the Lithuanian Holocaust and research resources, but it's the pages of names of deceased relatives and friends sent in by survivors, names from Yizkor books and also from work camp, ghetto and concentration camps, that fill the reader with awe and sadness. In 1997 the authors, Rose Lerer-Cohen and Saul Issroff set out to compile a list of names of the Jews of Lithuania, who were murdered in the Holocaust.

Over 5,000 names were submitted in response to articles in journals and the daily press, mailings to survivors and to the project website. The authors say that, *this is not a historical study; it is a compilation of names of victims and a guide to available resources*. Rose Lerer-Cohen and Saul Issroff both share an interest in the Lithuanian Holocaust. The former's interest stems from the loss of her grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins during the Shoah in Lithuania. She lives in Israel and has been a past chairperson of the Israel Genealogy Society.

Saul Issroff's interest and research arose through his studies of Jewish History, Holocaust and genealogy. He is a founding member of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Great Britain.

Over 90% of the Jews of Lithuania died during the Shoah. In his forward Dr Stephen D. Smith MBE says *that is why you will see lists upon lists of names. But of course they are not just names. They are lives. Names have mothers and fathers, brothers, sisters...* A set of these books has been donated to the Sydney Jewish Museum's library and can be perused there.

I wish that I had known about this project, for it is exactly at this time that I became interested in researching my Lithuanian roots. I was living in Paris and I joined the French Jewish genealogy society. However, I could not benefit from their newsletters, as my knowledge of the French language was very limited.

My late father, like so many of his generation, was loath to speak about his boyhood in Lithuania. He told me that he had been born in Krekanova. No one that I spoke to had ever heard of this shtetl. I found it on a map close to Panevezys.

Imagine my surprise when I read Shalom Bronstein's review of *The Holocaust in Lithuania* from Sharsheret Hadorot, Vol 17 No.1, that his ancestral shtetl is also Krekanova.

Paula Seligman is a new member of our Society and is a volunteer at the Sydney Jewish Museum.

**Sephardic Genealogy,
Discovering Your
Ancestors and Their World**

**Reviewed by
Jeannette
Tsoulos**

**Vol 10
No. 2**



By Jeffrey S. Malka, 2002

published by Avotaynu.

This latest acquisition for our Library covers Oriental Jews as well as those whose ancestors came from Spain. The book is an excellent guide for anyone researching Sephardic genealogy.

The reader will find in its pages a history of Sephardic communities, names and languages, detailed information on resources and archives in 20 countries. For beginners there are suggestions on researching and documenting their family trees, with an introduction to the Internet and a discussion of software. There are 12 pages of Sephardic websites. The 12 appendices cover a variety of information of use to the Sephardic researcher, such as scripts and alphabets, Inquisition tribunals, some Egyptian tombstone inscriptions, Jewish names in printed sources, and synagogue affiliations in 16th century Salonika, Greece. The book contains maps, tables and an extensive bibliography.

This is a book no Sephardic genealogist should ignore. Additional information, including a Table of Contents, can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/sephardic.htm>.

Jeannette Tsoulos is the Resource Librarian of our Society, and Secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

A Tribute to Kenneth Symonds		Vol 10 No. 2		
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One of our members, Ken Symonds died on the 13 March, 2003 in Jerusalem. Born in Bellevue Hill he spent most of his life there except for a few short years in Brisbane during his childhood, and of course the years that he served with the Australian Army in New Guinea during World War II.

He was a committed communal worker, being involved with the Central Synagogue, the Board of Deputies, and Interfaith relations. At the time of his death he was writing the biography of his father, Ralph Symonds, which unfortunately he never completed.

The Unwanted: Post-War Jewish Migration to Australia	Reported by Jeannette Tsoulos	Vol 10 No. 2		
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from a talk given in March by Dr Suzanne Rutland at the AGM of our Society.

Our guest speaker at the AGM in March was Dr Suzanne Rutland, who holds the Chair of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies at Sydney University and is President of the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Suzanne's topic, of which she has made a special study, was *The Unwanted: Post-War Jewish Migration to Australia*.

The story was depressingly familiar. After World War 2, Australia set about increasing its small population by subsidising refugee immigration, sponsored by the International Refugee Organisation (IRO). Among the millions of displaced Europeans were a number of Jews, survivors of the Holocaust. The Australian Government's initial sympathy for these Jews, and readiness to accept many as migrants, was turned around by the hostile attitude of Australians. As a result, Jews were all but excluded from the scheme.

Dr Rutland detailed the measures taken by the Minister for Immigration, Mr Calwell, to restrict the immigration of Jews, despite appeals from the Jewish community. These included the 25% quota imposed from 1946 on Jews arriving by ship or plane, and the Iron Curtain Embargo, set up in 1949 to stop migration of Jews from Eastern Europe and even Israel and Shanghai, under the guise of a general ban on migration from Communist countries. Jews were seen as undesirable, while Nazi sympathisers and collaborators from Germany, Austria and the Baltic States had no problem being accepted as migrants. Where displaced persons from virtually any European country could be sponsored by the IRO, Jews could only come if sponsored by a Jewish organisation or by a family. However this was effectively stopped by the Iron Curtain Embargo.

Throughout this sorry saga, compassion for the pitifully few survivors of the destruction of European Jewry seems to have played little part. Government files and letters uncovered by Dr Rutland's research show that government and bureaucratic circles were not free of religious and racial prejudice. One obstacle after another was placed in the path of Jewish migration to Australia, though the Government sought to hide this fact behind a screen of obfuscation and doublespeak.

In the end, Australia, with 23,000 Jews, took 35,000 Holocaust survivors, more per head of population than any country except Israel. However, our contribution could have been far higher. Our country has a long way to go in eradicating ignorance and prejudice against those perceived as different from ourselves.

Jeannette Tsoulos is the Resource Librarian of our Society, and Secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

Have You Surfed These Websites

**Vol 10
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<http://coraweb.com.au/> has many useful links:

Under cemeteries see Jewish Maitland for a list of burials and a mention of our Gary Luke's contribution.

An Australian Gateway Site for tracing your family tree

Genealogical journals on-line

Download Brothers Keeper BR6 full version

Searching for something Jewish?

<http://www.haruth.com/> (go to site map)

Did you know that you can find the microfilm numbers for the 1939 German Jewish Census on the LDS Family History Library Catalogue on the following site?

<http://www.familysearch.org/>

This is one of the many useful research topics to be found on this site.

The Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum in Vilnius, Lithuania

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<http://www.jmuseum.lt/>

Click "EN" in the upper right corner of the screen to get the English version of this site.

Steven Spielberg Develops Online Films of Jewish Life

**Vol 10
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The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive has begun a major project to make films of Jewish life of the past available on the Internet at:

<http://spielbergfilmarchive.org.il/kv/index.htm>

There are films of pre-Holocaust Jewish life in Bialystok, Krakow, Lviv, Vilna, and Warsaw. There are numerous music clips--Ashkenazic, Hassidic, North African, Sephardic, Yemenite and others. Major film categories are Jewish Communities, Holocaust, Pre-State (of Israel), State of Israel and Hebrew University of Jerusalem. These are not short film clips. Most are 10 minutes or more.

Weapons of the Spirit		Vol 10 No. 2		
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The Huguenot Society is showing a video about Huguenots saving Jewish refugees in WW2 on Sunday 10 August 2003 at 2 p.m. at WEA, Bathurst Street. Email: <mailto:ozhug@optushome.com.au>

Warsaw	George Sternfeld	Vol 10 No. 2		
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Amongst my parents photographs from the past
I found a postcard from Warsaw.
It is a monument of Chopin in Lazienki Park
Covered with a white blanket of snow.
Warsaw, the city of my birth
I have never known you the way I should.
The great city of yesterday,
Destroyed by bombs.

Its people massacred,
My ancestry permanently removed.
Our culture vanished from your town,
I am a survivor from a dying generation.

Music lingers in my mind
I recognise the tune.
It is Chopin's Piano Sonata No. 2
The Funeral March.
The music reminds me of loss and despair.

Warsaw the city of my birth
I never knew you the way I should
Though my father and mother were proud of your charm,
Of your buzz, monuments, the river and the parks.
Cannot give you recognition from a far away land.

Just stare at the postcard and accept my fate.
Warsaw, you are the city of my parents.
Known to me by the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.
The heroic people from your town,

Known to me from an image.
The Warsaw Ghetto monument represents my past.

George Sternfeld is a child survivor from Poland who read his poem at the Sydney Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto.

JRI-Poland Shtetl Co-Op Project for Pabianice	Alan Glixman	Vol 10 No. 2		
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A project is underway to index the names from the Jewish vital records for the period 1831 to 1870 of Pabianice which is approximately 12 km south west of Lodz and before the war had a Jewish population of around 8500. There are about 2350 Jewish records for this period of which 270 are written in Russian (1868-1870) and the rest are in Polish.

My grandfather Leon Gliksman was born in Pabianice in 1881. His ancestors, the Gliksman and Zylbersztejn families, arrived in Pabianice around 1840 and were prominent merchants in the town.

There are volunteers from Israel, the UK, the USA, Poland and Australia helping with this project.

The database will be available online at <http://www.jewishgen.org/JRI-PL/jriplweb.htm>.

Alan Glixman, Sydney

Project Co-Ordinator

alan.glixman@optusnet.com.au (02) 9949-7790.

Other Australian Volunteers Working with the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland Project		Vol 10 No. 2		
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Diana Terry (SA) Szczekociny CZESTOCHOWA
Rita Nash (NSW) Krzeszow, Firlej, Kock, LUBLIN
Ester Czarky (VIC), Bychawa, LUBLIN
Rieke Nash, (NSW) Ozorkow LODZ
and Izbica Kujawska, POZNAN

We would like to hear from anyone else helping with this project. Please contact the President, Rieke Nash, president@ajgs.org

JRI has indexed more than 1.8 million records to date and can be found at:
<http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl>

Warsaw Ghetto Death Card Database		Vol 10 No. 2		
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On the eve of Passover, April 19, 1943, German troops and police entered the Warsaw ghetto to deport its surviving Jews. For nearly a month, seven hundred and fifty ghetto fighters fought valiantly. On 16 May, 1943 the uprising was defeated and

more than 56,000 Jews were captured. 7,000 were shot and the rest were deported to the death camps.

To commemorate the 60th Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Jewish Records Indexing (JRI-Poland), the Jewish Historical Institute and Jewish Genealogy Society, Inc (NY) have announced the completion of the Warsaw Ghetto Death Card Database at:

www.jri-poland.org/

Washington DC 2003 Report	Peter and Rieke Nash	Vol 10 No. 3	
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The Conference overall was a great success with over 1000 registered. The venue was the Marriott Hotel in Pennsylvania Avenue which was centrally located for easy access to research archives, the Library of Congress and the Holocaust Museum. The facilities for lectures, SIG meetings, the Banquet and resources were excellent as were the hotel services and appointments.

The program organization left little to be desired except for the usual and increasing problem of choosing the lecture/meeting from two or more simultaneous events with the program commencing at 8 am and ending at about 9 pm. Each registrant received a hard copy as well as a CD-Rom of the syllabus. The Resource Room had some specially obtained Mormon films, reference books, etc. while the Cyber Classroom offered about 30 terminals with on-line access to Ancestry.com, and databases from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's holdings. There were also nine on-line terminals available for free access to one's email server if required. The themes and topics covered the whole Jewish genealogy world and were aided by some outstanding lecturers and presentations. A room for purchase of resources and other genealogy-related materials was always open while authors were also on hand for book-signings.

There were several enthralling presentations. Amongst these were "Doing the Immigration Dance - HIAS and INS Case Files" given by Valery Bazarov, Location and Family History Specialist (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society/HIAS) & Marian L. Smith, Historian (Immigration and Naturalization Service). Case files of refusal for entry into the United States (mostly at Ellis Island, New York) from the archives of HIAS and INS were presented in sequence by Bazarov, on behalf of the defence for the refugee, namely HIAS, and Smith on behalf of the adversary, the INS who rejected entry. The examples were only a few of the thousands on file filled with strange twists and turns and mostly successful outcomes.

A very articulate and easy to follow talk was given by John P. Colletta, a Washington-based genealogist who teaches at the National Archives, Smithsonian Institution and area universities. He covered the often difficult to navigate topic of "U.S. Passenger Arrival Records" - in two consecutive presentations: "The Basics" and "Beyond The Basics". If one has ever been stuck in negotiating or even finding the right U.S. passenger lists then the guidelines presented by Colletta would surely yield the right outcomes. He was definitely one of my favourite speakers.

Stephen Morse had already become a "household name" in Jewish genealogy in the last year or so. The inventor of the original Intel 8086 PC chip, is in his own words an

"amateur genealogist" but he developed the One-Step Ellis Island (for New York arrivals) Website plus some other One-Step front-end aids to search engines (for example, the 1930 U.S. Census and the Mormon's on-line U.S. Social Security Death Index). His lucid presentations would make any hesitant internet user feel comfortable in handling the rapidly changing internet-aided genealogy world. Stephen gave three presentations: one dealing with Ellis Island arrivals, another with the 1930 U.S. Census and a fascinating third lecture on Creating Your Own One-Step Search Application. His enthusiasm for solving problems and willingness to consider suggestions was infectious. His website can be found at <http://stevemorse.org> and extracts from his talks can be found on the Conference CD.

Linda Cantor and Lucille Gudis, both on the New York JGS management committee, combined competently in giving the essential archives and repositories to visit for research in New York. Their presentation "Only in New York" highlighted where to find (in brief) Vital Records, Naturalizations, Court and Coroners' Records, Draft and Military Records, Probates and Wills, Landsmanshaftn, Jewish Organisations, etc.

Ron Arons from the San Francisco JGS gave an up-dated version of his presentation at last year's Toronto Conference, namely: "Using the Internet to Find Anyone and Anything". In a "not-to-be-missed" talk, he provided a comprehensive list of websites for locating people, records, directories, maps, translations, libraries, newspapers, photos, etc. He emphasized that while many sites are free, often the best results will come from fee-based services.

For those whose research hit a "brick wall", the professional genealogist, Eileen Polakoff, offered her words of wisdom in "Brick Walls, Needles in Haystacks and Other Genealogical Obstacles". Using case files she demonstrated how less orthodox approaches can yield results.

Another fascinating lecture was given by Harold Rhode. In Rescue of Jewish Records and Holy Books from Baghdad he described his recent experiences in Iraq, when he unexpectedly became responsible for a collection of Jewish artefacts that had been discovered in the water-logged cellar of an Iraqi Secret Service building. An innovative feature of this Conference was a one-on-one "Ask The Experts" session where anyone whose research had hit a "brick wall" could get some help. It required pre-registration with a concisely written definition of the research problem. The consultations were with one of several well-known genealogy experts both professional and non-professional.

Other new events during this conference included a help desk for translations, a Special Interest Groups' (SIGs) Fair and a program of films of interest to the registrants or their accompanying partners. Many of the Special Interest Groups scheduled meetings and luncheons to facilitate networking possibilities.

These groups covered many areas of interest including Belarus, Bohemia-Moravia, Galicia, Germany, Hungary, Kielce-Radom, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Southern Africa, Lodz Area Research Group, Ukraine, Rabbinical Research and the more specialised Birds-of-a-Feather groups for Early America, Grodno, Kremenetz,

Rzeszow, Slutsk, Suchostaw, Luboml, Kupishok, Rokiskis, Prussian, and Nowy Sacz.

Volunteers working on the Jewish Records Indexing - Poland project were glad to hear that the trial system for ordering records from Poland through the JRI-Poland site will be expanded soon. The indexing of Polish vital records continues to expand with around 2 million records from 350 towns now being available for searching.

As usual, JewishGen had some exciting releases. A new site, the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) aims to centralise cemetery data from around the world. Burial records, tombstone inscriptions and even photographs can be searched at: www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery

Following on the success of the All Lithuanian Database, JewishGen has plans to follow it up with other All "Countries" Databases.

An important resource in Washington is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. As well as the permanent exhibition, the museum was currently hosting a very moving Anne Frank exhibition. For researchers, the extensive Library and Archives were a treasure trove and the helpful staff and volunteers there were appreciated. Handouts from a number of lectures on the Museum are available on the conference CD-Rom.

Other lecturers presented the strategies needed for achieving successful research in other institutions in Washington, New York and elsewhere. In particular, the holdings of the U.S. National Archives, the Institutes at the Center for Jewish History in New York, the American Red Cross and Yad Vashem were well covered.

These gatherings are always memorable for the personal contacts made and renewed and this was no exception. Our ANZ contingent was small but all enjoyed themselves. From Sydney came Sophie Caplan, David and Diana Laufer, Rieke and Peter Nash, from Melbourne Shirley Lubovsky, from Darwin Bubbles Segall and from Auckland, New Zealand we were glad to meet up with Claire Bruell and her husband, Joe.



**Joe Bruell (N.Z.) Diana Laufer, Claire Bruell (N.Z.) Rieke Nash, Bubbles Segall
(Darwin) David Laufer, Sophie Caplan, Rebbetzen Shirley Lubofsky
(Melbourne), Peter Nash**

The conference banquet was addressed by Hadassah Lieberman, wife of Joseph Lieberman, the Presidential candidate. Hadassah, the child of Holocaust survivors was overwhelmed when Valery Bazarov presented her with a copy of her family's immigration file from the archives of HIAS.

At the banquet the IAJGS Awards were presented to:-

Miriam Wiener, the Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of service to the Jewish genealogical communities and for her publications, in particularly *Jewish Roots in Poland* and *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova*

Stephen Morse, Outstanding Contribution Award for his one-step web pages

JGS of Montreal, Outstanding Project Award for the indexing of 75,000 names in the Quebec Vital Records

JGS of Palm Beach County, Outstanding Publication Award for their Beginner's Guide.

The Conference concluded with an invitation to all to attend the 24th IAJGS Conference, "Next Year in Jerusalem", to be held July 11-16, 2004 in Jerusalem. See www.jewishgen.org/jerusalem2004

A Tribute to Lawrence Sack		Vol 10 No. 3		
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A very sad event occurred a week after the conference. Lawrence Sack, the husband of founder and editor of AVOTAYNU Sallyann Sack, unexpectedly died at their holiday home on Martha's Vineyard. We have always enjoyed meeting up with Larry over the years and he will be missed. The members of the Society send their condolences to Sallyann and her family.

Czerniak Glass/Cohen Family Trees	Bernie Freedman	Vol 10 No. 3		
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The 150 descendants of the Czerniaks of Przedecz, Poland gathered together for a Family reunion in Centennial park, in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney in 1990

Share my delight in discovering my new 19th century Polish family tree (shown below) completely unknown to anyone in Australia until this year.

The essential background to this story is as follows:

My grandmother Emma Czerniak (the family name changed to Cohen on arrival in England) left Poland in 1864 (at age 6) with her parents to follow her married brothers to England. In 1878 she married Jacob Glass born in Krakow, who had also immigrated to England to accompany his married sister and younger brothers.

In 1879/1881 Emma and Jacob Glass immigrated to Sydney with one son and settled in the mining town of Bulli (40km south of Sydney), produced nine more children and encouraged their parents, sisters and brothers to join them in Australia.

One hundred and ten years of peace and acceptance has produced the Sydney family reunion photograph taken in 1990 at Centennial Park.

The emotions aroused by the family reunion fed the need to research the earlier family history, so armed with only the family name *Czerniak*, the Polish district of *Posnan* and the shtetl *Przedecz*, I spent two years researching the records at the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) and found approximately 130 birth, marriage and death certificates from the Posnan province covering the years 1810 to 1880 all relating to the family name *Czerniak*.

The actual shtetls researched were Kolo, Klodowa, Izbica Kujawska, Dabie, Kalisz and Przedecz.

Then the unexpected happened. The names, dates and relationships sorted themselves into the family structure as shown. The Australian branch of the family is shown in italics. The long branch on the far right side below.

Certainly, this is only the start of the journey to develop a family tree linking the present with the past, but it is the skeleton to be clothed with personal stories of migrations, relationships, achievements, and tragedies.

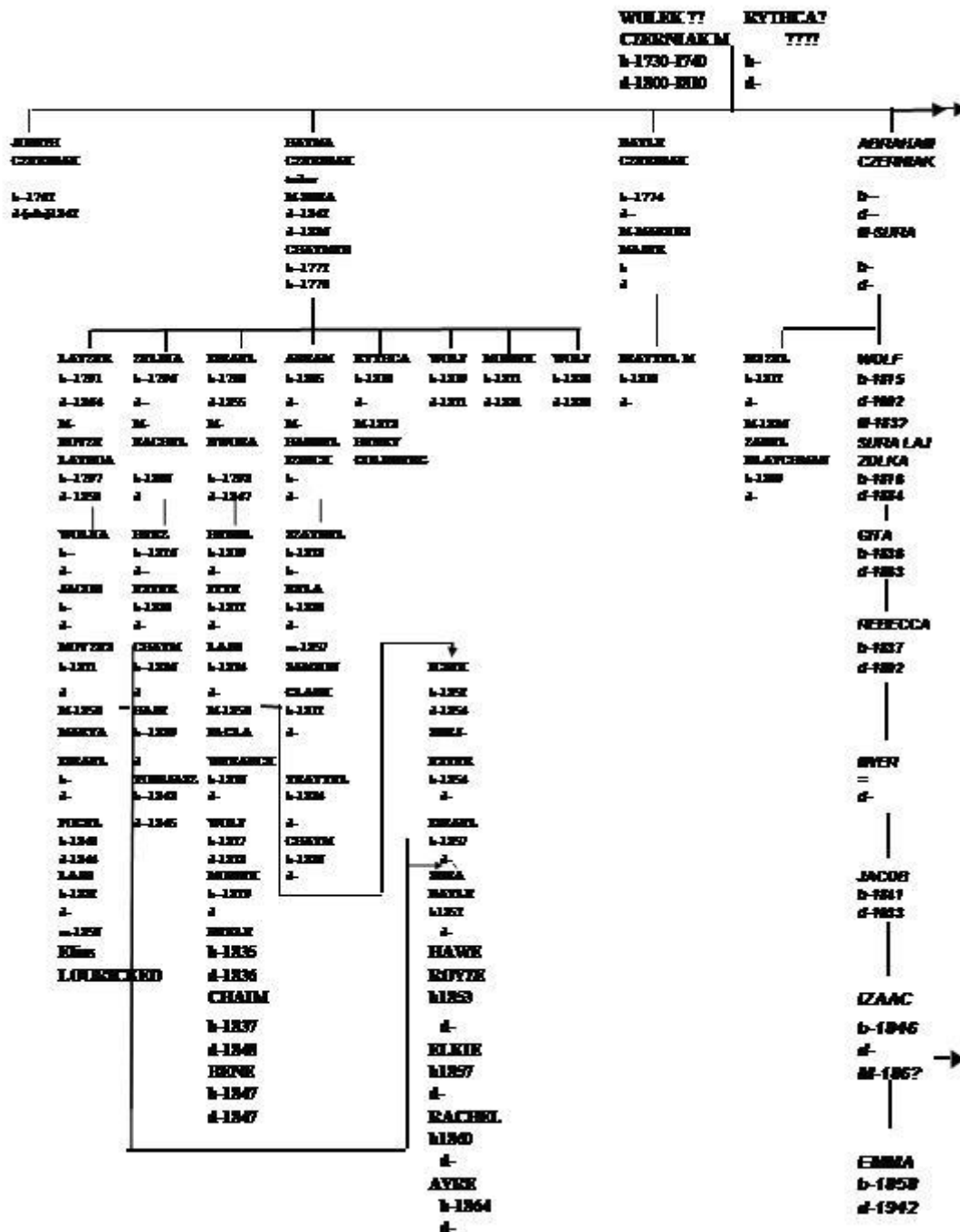
The breakthrough we are anxious to achieve is a living connection between the Australian branch and any of the other branches on the 19th century tree.

Surely, many family members emigrated from Poland before and after the Holocaust? Many families in America carry the family name Chernik but as yet the writer has not found anyone with records of their family tree extending back to the 1860s or to Poland. It will happen.....

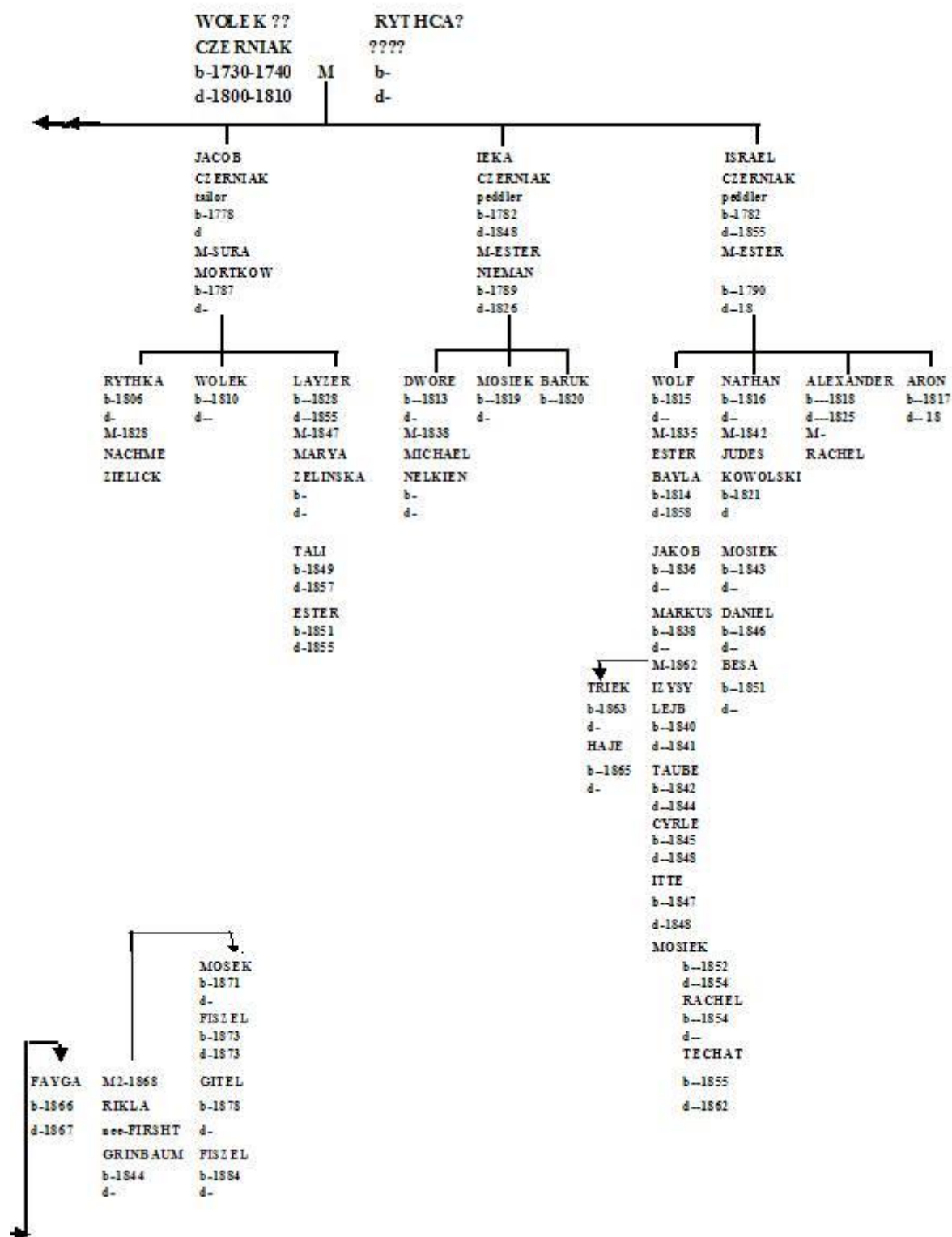
I find it interesting to fantasise that if my ggf Wolf Cherniak had held a family farewell/reunion in a park in Poland prior to his departure in 1864, he could have welcomed more than 150 cousins. Now 130 years later in Australia we have been able to hold such an event.

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GLASS, COHEN AND CZERNIAK FAMILY TREE - Born in POLAND



GLASS, COHEN AND CZERNIAK FAMILY TREE - born in POLAND



Isaac Moyse or Moses or Moss

Geoff Moss

Vol 10
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My Great, Great, Great, Great, Great Grandfather was an Isaac Moses, or was it Moss, or could it have been Moyse, or was he known by all of these surnames ?

Finding my GGG Grandfather was relatively easy, he was Isaac Moss, who married Maria Folk (daughter of Samuel and Amelia Folk), in Sydney in October 1842.

Finding my GGGG Grandfather was fairly easy as well. He was Philip Moses Moss, who married Rosetta in 1815, his second marriage. His first marriage in 1812 was to Eve Solomon, who died in 1814. Philip Moses Moss was also known as Uri (nicknamed Feiss) Moss and Philip is known to have had at least two brothers, Elias Moses and Moses Moss.

The father of Philip (Uri), Elias and Moses was an Isaac, who came from Ipswich in County Suffolk, on the eastern most point of England. Evidence exists to support this, mainly through marriage records of his sons.

From here, tracking down more details on Isaac, my GGGGG Grandfather has proven to be much more difficult than I thought, but at the same time very interesting and quite a challenge, especially for someone with limited experience with the methods of researching genealogy. To start, I needed to ensure that I kept very accurate records of my research, as highlighted by a number of researchers recently in *Kosher Koala*.

A number of other researchers have identified Isaac Moses (Moss) in their family trees but I've been unable to identify any source records, which probably accounts for the lack of specific information about Isaac. A number of Isaac's descendants (Researchers), both here in Australia and in England, have placed Isaac in Ipswich, Suffolk and Bristol, but still little information has been uncovered, in terms of when and where.

Before commencing my research, all I had was a name Isaac Moses, from Ipswich and possibly Bristol, and that he had three sons, but no other details.

Recently, after making contact with Monte Moss from Brisbane, who I believe is my third cousin, twice removed (I think) I had a new lead on this mysterious Isaac. At first I thought this had to be incorrect, as I had been down this path before (searching for a convict ancestor). However, what he said kept niggling away at me, to the point that I thought maybe there was something. As Monte was so convinced, I decided to go back and have a much more thorough look.

What Monte had told me was, that Isaac Moses was from Ipswich, that he was a Convict and that his name was not actually recorded as Isaac Moss or Isaac Moses. He believed that Isaac had been transported to Australia very early on, in 1792 in fact and had later returned to England in 1818 and died in the UK in 1846. Armed with this information, off I went to the Mitchell and Sydney Reference Libraries and what follows is a chronological sequence of what I uncovered.

On the Convict microfiche (No. 623, page 240) Royal Admiral Indent, I found Isaac Moyse, age 27, sentenced on the 25 March 1789, to seven years at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. His sentence was commuted to "Capital Respite" (*meaning - One who is transported instead of suffering the death penalty*). Isaac was one of three charged on the same date at Bury St Edmund, all three sentenced to seven years.

All three were held in the prison hulk Stanislaus on the River Thames, until they were loaded onto the convict ship *Royal Admiral* and transported to Sydney with the 4th fleet.

Another reference *4th Fleet Families of Australia*, written by Dr C J Smee, published 1992, states that Isaac Moyse, convicted 25 March 1789 from Suffolk, sentence seven years.

Next stop was the Archive Office - in Tape No. 2427 - *Musters and Other Papers - Convict Ships* a different listing is shown to that mentioned above, but the spelling of Isaac Moyse is exactly the same. For the record, Isaac Moyse is listed on three separate lists and was convicted at Bury St Edmunds on the 25 March 1789 and transported with two others (Rueben Parker and Obediah Paxman) of the same crime. All three men were sentenced to seven years and transported to Botany Bay aboard the ship *Royal Admiral* in 1792.

Between 1792 and 1800, no further reference has been found for an Isaac Moyse, Isaac Moses or Isaac Moss in NSW. So what happened to him during this period and what was he doing?

Next I checked for his death between this period and he was not listed.

I checked the *Musters and Lists - NSW and Norfolk Island 1800-1802* and in the Kings List 1801 - *List No. 7 - List of Convicts who have received a Conditional Emancipation*, I found an entry for an Isaac Moss (entry id. - BG167). This Isaac Moss was pardoned by Governor Philip Gidley King. This listing also showed Isaac as remaining in the Colony and his employment was listed as Seaman. Note, that from this point on, no reference of an Isaac Moyse has been found, so Isaac went by the surname of Moss from this point onwards.

I was aware of another Isaac Moss who had arrived in Sydney in 1800, aboard the same convict ship, the *Royal Admiral*, which had transported Isaac Moyse in 1792. This Isaac Moss however was sentenced to 14 years and remained in the colony until his death in 1832, aged 73. It's highly unlikely that he would have received a pardon from Governor King on a 14-year sentence in January of 1801, after having only arrived the year before (ie. 1800).

In a search of Lesley Uebel's Convict databases, in the *Convict Names and in the Conditional Pardons (1791-1825)* sections, I found Isaac Moyse (Moss), who was listed as being from Suffolk, sentenced to seven years, at Bury St Edmunds and was granted a conditional pardon on the 18 January 1801. This is the only reference I've found to date, that links the surnames Moyse and Moss together. Moss was included in brackets, following Moyse.

So maybe Isaac Moyse went by the name of Isaac Moss and is the one listed as receiving conditional pardon in 1801 from Governor Philip Gidley King, after all. Lesley Uebel's Convict database certainly confirms this theory.

Still being doubtful, I emailed Lesley Uebel, who kindly responded and indicated that she was 98% certain that Isaac Moyse and Isaac Moss were one and the same,

after having gone through all the con-vict arrivals and having found no other likely match.

While at the Sydney Reference library I came across a book, *Our ForeFathers" - A Dictionary of Biography of the Jews of Australia 1788-1830*, by John Simon Levi (published in 1977). Having seen this book before at the AJGS library, I checked it out again and found an entry for ISAAC MOSES, sentenced at Bury St, Edmunds, 25 March 1789, 7 years transportation. Arrived NSW per *Royal Admiral* October 1792. Permitted to leave NSW, June 1818 (reference - Sydney Gazette 30-5-1818).

Having found this entry in Levi's book, I'm now convinced that Isaac was known by three different surnames.

Further research at the Mitchell library has revealed that Isaac, upon receiving his conditional pardon, signed on a number of ships operating out of Sydney, as a seaman. These ships included the schooner *Brothers*, departing Sydney 17 August 1811 and again 30 November 1811, the brig *Governor Macquarie* departing Sydney on 26 June 1813, 11 March 1815, 4 November 1815 and 9 December 1815, the ship *Rosetta* departing Sydney in 1816. There was a seaman, listed in the ship's log as Mosee, who signed onboard the ship *King George*, departing Sydney 8 February 1817 for the South Seas and return. Isaac next signed on the 57 ton brig *Endeavour*, departing Sydney on 24 April 1817, 6 September 1817 and 11 October 1817. The brig *Endeavour*, according to the ship's log, was operating in Bass Strait and Kangaroo Island, in search of Oil fish.

Isaac finally departed the colony in 23 July 1818 aboard the brig *Lynx of Calcutta*, as indicated in the Sydney Gazette on the 23 and 30 May 1818. This Lynx was a 187 ton trading ship, known to carry Whale Oil and Whale bone amongst other cargo and operated between Australia, New Zealand and India. On this trip, according to the ship's muster of Mates, Crews and Passengers, the destination was Calcutta, India and aboard was a crew of 21 and 5 passengers. Isaac was listed as a Passenger. The exact reference in the log reads - *Isaac Moss - discharge from the Endeavour* - came thru in the Elizabeth Barker (no record of a ship by this name has been found, so far).

A more general search of the name Moyse appears to indicate it's of French origin and appears to have been a fairly common Jewish name in France during the 1700's and 1800's. So maybe Isaac Moyse or his ancestors came from France, possibly was born there, and as Suffolk is on the east coast, travelled to Suffolk and got into some trouble. This is all conjecture, unsupported by any evidence.

References from other researchers have placed Isaac at Bungay, Suffolk, which is right on the east coast of England, about 30 miles from Bury St Edmund (source - *My Family* by Herbert Walford). Also, Michael Sayer from England has recorded in his family history research that Isaac was from Ipswich, but also lived in Bristol, at some stage.

As Isaac was convicted and sentenced at Bury St Edmund in Suffolk, and held in the prison hulk on the Thames, his wife and three sons probably followed him, moved from Suffolk to London and remained there until his departure. The *Royal Admiral*

departed London on the 30 May 1792 reaching Port Jackson on Sunday 7 October 1792. The aim of this voyage was to transport both male and female convicts to Port Jackson and then proceed to China to load tea for the voyage back home.

Perhaps, Isaac's wife and sons then moved onto Bristol, after Isaac's ship departed London for Port Jackson and they may have returned to London, upon Isaac's return to England in 1818/19. Perhaps Isaac went straight to Bristol to meet his family, though there is no evidence to support this theory.

All of Isaac's sons are known to have lived and prospered in London, all involved in the Rag trade.

It was Isaac Moyse grandsons (sons of Philip Moses Moss), who came to Sydney around 1841, who married Maria Folk in Sydney at the Synagogue in October 1842. Isaac Moss, I believe came to Australia via New Zealand, aboard the ship *Dianna* in 1841, but it is possible he arrived in Australia earlier than 1841.

Isaac's brothers Lewis and Henry Moss both migrated to New Zealand and I wonder whether it was their grandfather Isaac Moyse, his convict sea going adventures and stories that prompted them to immigrate to Australia and New Zealand.

So after all this research, the evidence uncovered indicates that Isaac Moyse (Moses or Moss) born around 1765, was convicted in 1789, aged 27, transported to Botany Bay, Australia, in 1792 with the 4th fleet, served his time and received a Conditional Pardon in 1801. Once free, Isaac worked as a seaman aboard a number of coastal fishing and trading ships, before eventually departing Sydney in July 1818 as a passenger and returned to England in late 1818. Isaac is believed to have died around 1846, aged 71.

Then a showstopper comes along and blows most of the above research out of the water. My Auntie Gail from Cairns, who started genealogy research about 16 years ago, has discovered that Isaac Moyse died aboard the *Royal Admiral*, on the 15 September 1792, half way across the Indian Ocean. There were many deaths from fever aboard the *Royal Admiral*, which was also to have an impact on the settlement, after the Royal Admiral arrived at Port Jackson.

Details are available from the following link, which contains details of the deaths from the Ship's Log - <http://www.ihr.com.au/royalad2.html>

Having researched Isaac's life thus far, raises more questions: Where was he born? Who did he marry? Did he only have three sons? What was his crime?

If you are related to this Isaac and have any further details on him, please get in touch, I'd love to hear from you.

geoffrey_alan_moss@hotmail.com

Geoff Moss, is a new member of our Society. He has shown great resourcefulness and determination in pursuing all aspects of his research, and in creating his own Family Tree computer program which he presented at our Waverley Library Meeting

on Different Approaches to Documenting Your Research. (And he is a 5th cousin to my husband, Joe Shifreen through his Levy branch. Ed)

My Grandfather - Peter Solomon. A country Tale - Part 3 - Conclusion

Dennis Leonard

Vol 10 No. 3



The Children of Peter and Fanny Solomon

Peter and Fanny had five children - all born in Bombala. They all survived their country upbringing:

The eldest, Rachael, born in 1892, later became famous for travelling around the countryside establishing C.W.A.'s (Country Women's Associations), including one in Bombala.

New & Notes (N&N) which were usually found on page 2 of The Bombala Times (Est. 1863, and which merged with The Bombala Herald 1911) reported on 18/12/1925 *Mrs Victor Cornfield [that is Rachel Solomon, the eldest daughter] is on a visit here with the intention of forming a branch of the Country Women's Association meeting at School of Arts December 19th at 3pm...*

and

on 25/12/1911 on p.3 CWA: a meeting (was) convened by Mrs Victor Cornfield J. P., a member of the executive of the Cumberland branch...

Maurice, born in 1893, obviously did not possess his father's business acumen as one of the few records I found was of his bankruptcy in 1925. Family rumour has it that he was a gambler who was finally banished to Western Australia by his father.

Joseph was born in 1897 and, until ill-health intervened, he was a storekeeper in Campbelltown, south-west of Sydney.

The next two children were girls - Isobel born in 1900 and Ettie (Ethel) born in 1902. In common with most women of the time, they didn't have specific careers, their occupation being noted on the electoral rolls as domestic duties.

8263 Solomon, Fanny, 31 Cook Rd, (Centennial Park), home duties, F
8265 Solomon, Isobel, 31 Cook Rd, home duties, F

Ettie later helped run the general store in Bombala, which was established by her father-in-law in 1905 and inherited by her husband, Julius.

The final member of the family was Phillip, born in 1904, who obviously inherited his father's business head, running a general store in Campbelltown and eventually retiring to the city where amongst his many activities he was president of the Great Synagogue 1972-75.

The electoral rolls show the children reaching voting age and later leaving home.

Back to the "Big Smoke"

In 1907 Peter decided to return to Sydney permanently, giving as a reason, ill-health. This is ironical since he lived for another forty years, dying in 1948. He is described on the Electoral rolls from then on as of independant means. His income from then on revolved around property investment and mortgages.

1925 Electoral role

8270 Solomon, Peter 31 Cook Rd, Sydney, indep. means, M.

But he revisited Bombala at least twice. At his first visit in 1910, the Local and General news reported on 3 May, *Mr P. Solomon who had a storekeeping business here for a number of years is on a visit to Bombala. He is accompanied by his wife.*

and

when he visited in 1925, there was a report on 3/4/1925 stating that *Mr. Jacob Leonard, at the age of 46, died in the Bombala Hospital on Monday at midday ...The service according to the Jewish religion was read by Mr. P. Solomon, who came from Sydney as soon as he heard of Mr. Leonard's serious illness, and was with the family to give them what comfort could be afforded by their religion.*

Peter was a founder of the Central Synagogue, Sydney, a board member from 1912 to 1917, President in 1918 and on the board again in 1919 according to D.J. Benjamin *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal* Vol. 2, pt 10, pp 513-23. *Orach Chaim: A Way of Life - a history of the Central Synagogue* by Jones & Lutman (State Library of NSW Press, 2000) notes on p36, that he resigned in April 1919 (but gives no reason) and that he rejoined the board again from 1923 to 1928.

Problem: Why did he help found the Central Synagogue - after being a member of the Great Synagogue? The need for another Synagogue seems to have been recognised by *Orach Chaim: A Way of Life*, as the Great Synagogue assisted in its formation.

Peter & Fanny Solomon



The Last Years

In 1930 Peter and Fanny moved to 67 Kings Road, Vaucluse, Sydney. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1939.

It was noted on 1/12/1939 L&G: *Old Bombala friends will join in hearty congratulations to Mr and Mrs Peter Solomon of Vaucluse who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 22 November at home of Mr and Mrs S. Lesnie...also present were Mr and Mrs J. Leonard (Bombala).*

In 1940, Fanny died during an operation. On 15/3/1940 L&G stated *General sympathy will be felt for Mrs J. Leonard, of Bombala, whose mother, Mrs Peter*

Solomon, died unexpectedly in a private hospital in Sydney on Tuesday after a few days illness. Mr & Mrs Leonard were in Sydney at the time. Other members of the family are Mrs V. Cornfield, Mrs Sid Lesnie, Joseph and Phillip, with another son, Maurice, deceased. The funeral took place at the Jewish cemetery, Rookwood on Wednesday.

In 1946 Peter married Elisabeth Entwistle with whom he lived at 158 Bellevue Road, Double Bay until his death in 1948. The Bombala Times said on 8/10/1948 p.1

Obituary - MR. PETER SOLOMON - Passed away at a private hospital, Vaucluse, on Friday last, 1st October, Mr. Peter Solomon, of 158 Bellevue Road, Double Bay, and formerly a well known and respected identity of Bombala. The late Mr. Solomon, who was 79 years of age, had not been in good health for some time. He was the father of Mrs. J. Leonard of this town, who will have the special sympathy of her wide circle of local friends in her bereavement. In earlier times he conducted one of Bombala's leading businesses for a good many years, now known as Goldberg Bros. & Co., disposing of his interests and retiring to Sydney about 42 years ago. Through the years he maintained contact with the old town by periodical personal visits. In his Bombala days the Manchester Unity Oddfellows Lodge was one of his special interests and he was generally well respected for integrity and his goodwill. He is survived by the wife of his second marriage, three daughters - Mrs. V. Cornfield, Mrs. S. Lesnie and Mrs. J. Leonard - and two sons, Joseph and Phillip. One son (Morris) predeceased him. There are nine grand children.

Dennis Leonard the Editor of a philately magazine can be contacted at: drl@bigpond.net.au

Fred Meadows

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We extend our condolences to Julie Meadows and her family on the recent loss of her husband, Fred. Fred was in Sydney only just recently when he accompanied Julie who was presenting our workshops on Writing Your Family Stories. Many of us were lucky to have had the chance to get to know Fred.

What's Happening in New South Wales

Steven Trauig

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The Limmud Oz Festival of Jewish Learning and Culture was made all the richer this year by a strong showing by the AJGS. Limmud Oz is a two-day conference with local and international presenters speaking on many diverse topics such as "The Image of the Jews in the Koran", "The PLO At The Crossroads" and "Midrash: A Journey Into The World Of The Rabbinic Imagination". At all times throughout the 2 days, there at least 12 lecture streams and workshops being attended by over 500 enthusiastic delegates.

The AJGS's effort was shared amongst committee members - all of whom gave their time to assist during the weekend - and amongst a number of valuable helpers who likewise made sure that our Society was well represented and our stand well attended. They were Bernie Freedman, Evelyn Frybort, Sunny Gold, Glenda Goldberg, Gael Hammer, David Laufer, Gary Luke, Peter Nash, Rieke Nash, Kim

Phillips, Miriam Shifreen, Steve Traurig, Jeannette Tsoulos and of course Melbourne's Lionel Sharpe.

Presentation by Gary Luke



We were given space to set up a stall in the main cafeteria area, which we did to the backdrop of a terrific AJGS banner that sports the Kosher Koala emblem. Across two tables we had some books from the AJGS resources library, such as "Where Once We Walked", CD's, plenty of membership forms, and, other interesting items for perusal. Most significantly, we had available our "Golden Secret" - the country-by-country Jewish Genealogy Resources folders prepared by our President Rieke Nash and her helpers. This collection of over 30 folders contains information, articles, internet links, references and many other tidbits of information for all regions and many countries across the globe and was the culmination of months of work.

This valuable resource enabled any of us who were talking to Limmud Oz delegates at our stand to pre-sent a comprehensive summary of how the AJGS can assist anyone interested in Jewish Genealogy.

AJGS was allocated four lecture slots on Sunday after-noon. There were two 1-hour presentations, inter-spersed with two 1-hour Open Forums. The lectures were entitled "Our European Ancestors and their Paper Trail", and "Internet or Inter Not". The open forums, which were the first and last slots, were called "Family Research - Ask The Experts".

The first two slots were well attended by a mixed audience, with over 20 additional delegates apart from the full force of AJGS members! The facilities were excellent with our lecturers Peter Nash, Rieke Nash, and Gary Luke able to make use of a speedy online connection to the internet coupled with overhead projectors for presentations.

The next two hours were largely spent assisting delegates who had queries - some beginner and some advanced - but all with the common interest of tracing their families. Our resident experts - particularly David Laufer with his extensive knowledge on Bohemia-Moravia (which seemed to be an area of intense interest by more than a few delegates), and Lionel Sharpe from AJGS Victoria, with his particular knowledge of Public Records collections - culminated in six new Memberships being signed "on-the-spot"; a welcome side-effect of the efforts of all involved.

With such a great show of enthusiastic AJGS volunteers to help out at the stand and seminars, most of us were at some time during the weekend able to break away and attend other lectures of personal interest. Of particular interest and popularity were the lectures given by Israeli journalist Danny Rubinstein, an expert and biographer on Yasser Arafat and the PLO.

Lionel Sharpe, on the left, with Sydney Members



Thanks go to Gary Luke and Rieke Nash for organising this event, all her Committee team, and all the valuable helpers and members who contributed their time and effort in attending the stand, helping with logistics, assisting interested delegates (and anyone else within earshot) with their genealogical research enquiries, and bringing a very visible enthusiasm about Australian Jewish Genealogy to the conference.

steve@globalise.com.au

Steven Taurig is a Committee member responsible for setting up our Website with Gary Luke.

Report from Victoria

Lionel Sharpe

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The 5th Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 21st May at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre. The following were elected to the Committee of Management

President: Les Oberman

Vice-President: Enid Yoffa-Elton

Treasurer: Kurt Friedlaender

Secretary: Lionel Sharpe

Committee: Rodney Eisfelder, Dr David Cohen, Lewis Coleman and Bettye Susskind

Makor Liaison: Leonie Fleiszig

Two new committee members, Simone Beyfus and Donna Purchase, have since been co-opted.

Guest speaker at the AGM was Lionel Sharpe who spoke on the topic *The Chazan of Coolgardie*, outlining his research into Joseph H. Myslis, a very religious Jew, who arrived from Hebron and settled in Carlton in the 1880s. He moved eventually with his family to the goldfields of Western Australia in the 1890s and died in Perth.

Joseph's granddaughter, Venie Holmgren nee Rich, travelled from Pambula on the NSW coast especially for the talk and presented Makor Library with the book of poems she has written about her mother Pearl, *Among the Sepias*. Also present at the meeting was great granddaughter, Joanna and her husband, Michael Herrmann who flew from Sydney for the occasion. Joanna is the daughter of Flora and Gordon Rich of Perth.

An evening tour was arranged to visit the Helen McPherson Smith Genealogical Centre at the State Library of Victoria on May 14th. Anne Burrows introduced thirteen members to the resources available at the newly expanded centre.

Marjorie Luno, the President of the S.A. Branch of the AJGS was invited to our committee meeting in April where we shared matters of mutual concern. Again in May we participated at the LDS Open day at Braeside receiving many enquiries about Jewish ancestry. Lionel Sharpe, Secretary participated at Limmud Oz in Sydney on 8 June, guest of the AJGS, Sydney.

At our June 25 meeting Ephraim Finch, Director of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha, spoke on the topic *Downunder but Not Forgotten* - the story of the transfer of the graves from the old Harrington Jewish Cemetery in the city of Hobart to the Jewish Section of the Cornelian Bay Cemetery.

A number of members of the Society, including three committee members, joined the Australian Jewish Historical Society's historical weekend in Hobart, 23rd - 26th May, for the Dedication Ceremony at this cemetery conducted by Rabbi Dr John Levi on 25 May. That same day, a new book - *A Few from Afar: Jewish Lives in Tasmania from 1804*, edited by Peter and Ann Elias, was launched at the Hobart Hebrew Congregation by His Excellency, the Administrator of the Commonwealth of Australia, Sir Guy Green.

A Beginner's workshop was held on Sunday 6 July. Les Oberman, presented an online demonstration: *Exploring your Ancestry on the Internet*, on Wednesday, 23 July, utilising a data projector. The Society has purchased a used computer to be located permanently at Beth Weizmann Community Centre.

The September meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2 September at 7.30 pm at Beth Weizmann. There are two speakers: Dr Peter Elias will discuss *A Few From Afar - Jewish lives in Tasmania from 1804*, the new book he edited with his wife, Ann. Simone Beyfus will speak about her own research: *Skeletons in the Family Tree*.

Following the retirement of Beverley Davis OAM as honorary archivist of the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Victoria the AJGS (Vic) has taken over all genealogical records, microfilm and microfiche, acquired by the AJHS over many years. The Society wishes her well as she moves on to other worthy activities. A microfilm reader and printer as well as a microfiche reader have also been handed over to us by the AJHS and will be located at the Makor Library.

Enquiries: Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738
ajgs@exist.com.au
Les Oberman (03)9571 8251
oberman@mira.net

Canberra Corner

**Sylvia
Deutsch**

**Vol 10
No. 3**



While things have been quiet on the meetings front the collection of genealogical material held in Canberra continues to grow. The annual subscription to Avotaynu

has kindly been renewed through the Sydney AJGS and other journals are received routinely through the generosity of fellow Jewish genealogical societies, including *Jewish Genealogy Downunder* from our colleagues in Victoria. Other material has been received through the generosity of AJGS founder Sophie Caplan OAM, such as *Dublins' Little Jerusalem*, an account of Dublin Jewry by Nick Harris (A&A Farman, Dublin, 2002). Sophie has also kindly donated CDs and pamphlets from the recent IAJGS conference held in Washington.

Harris' account includes an interesting Australian connection. He refers to the young Max Nurock, a brilliant young Jewish student at Trinity College, who became an academic, served in the British Army during World War II and then immigrated to Palestine where he played a major part in establishing the civil service. He was honoured later by the Israeli government by being appointed Ambassador to Australia. (p.133).

In fact Mordekhai Nurock, as he was known by then, served as Israel's diplomatic representative to Australia from 1955-1959. The legation was situated in Room 403, 84 Pitt St., Sydney, not yet having the status of an embassy. Nurock was a strong proponent of moving Israel's mission to the national capital, and laid the foundation stone for the embassy in 1958, although he returned to Israel before the embassy was completed. The first Ambassador to occupy the new Embassy was his successor Mr. Moshe Yuval.

Enquiries: Sylvia Deutsch
Tel:02-6248-6196 Fax:02-6257-3631
deutand@ozemail.com.au

Report from South Australia	Marjorie Luno	Vol 10 No. 3	
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Hilde Hines, our founding president has been awarded the Centenary Medal for her long service to the Jewish community of S.A. In Israel she received the Yakir Keren Hayasod Award for her work in the Diaspora as Guardians of Israel. Only three of these medals are issued worldwide every year - so it was a great honour.

Our first meeting this year was purely business - with our small membership all members are on the committee. As a now autonomous group, we discussed forming a combined genealogical and historical group, as they have done in Perth. We might attract more members as there is no historical Society in Adelaide. A decision is to be made next year.

We do not have anyone to conduct workshops on a regular basis, but Myra Wadell arranged for a room at Seniors-on-Line where we each had a computer and Diana Terry took us through a range of Search Sites.

After a short AGM, our guest speaker was Gary Rogers, a Kindertransport child. He showed us some film clips, one of which showed him as a boy of fourteen walking down the gangplank in England. Fortunately, he was copying the film onto tape, as he did not expect to see himself.

We visited the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society with its extensive collection, and on 26th August we are to have a privately guided tour of our State Library which has been closed for two years for extensive modelling renovations.

In November a visitor from the U.S. will tell us about his family research and we have some interesting meetings lined up for next year.

The South Australian Branch contact is
Marjorie Luno, President,
AJGS (SA), c/- Beit Shalom Synagogue,
P.O. Box 47, Stepney. S.A. 5069
Email to Hon. Secretary : Jeanie Susman chatsworth@picknowl.com.au

Jews of Lituanian Origin (Including Latvians and Courlanders)		Vol 10 No. 3		
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The story of the Lithuanian Jewish migration to South Africa is now beginning to be told by several scholars. One gap is the "out migration" of Jews of Lithuanian origin from South Africa to places like Australia and New Zealand especially those with both Lithuanian and South African connections. We are interested in what you or your parents know or knew of their origins, dates and places of birth, occupations in Europe, era of their migration and their reasons.

Contact Prof Colin Tatz and Dr Peter Arnold at:
peter@arnold.name
or AJGS
Tel: (612) 9327.4024 FAX: (612) 9327.4026

Jewish Chronicle (UK) Project		Vol 10 No. 3		
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Miriam Pollak, AJGS member, who has transcribed more than 22,000 entries covering the years 1900 - 1906, can be reached at
miriam_pollak@hotmail.com

For more details See KK Vol. 8 No.3 September, 2001 and Vol. 10 No.1 March 2003.

Germans to Recieve Jewish History Awards		Vol 10 No. 3		
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The German-Jewish Community History Council will be giving Obermayer German Jewish History Awards for the fourth year, to a number of Germans who have made extraordinary contributions to preserving the Jewish history, culture, cemeteries and synagogues in their local communities. The awards, will be given in the Plenary Chamber of the Berlin Parliament on January 27, 2004, the German Holocaust Memorial Day (the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz). Jews throughout the world may nominate German individuals who, in many cases, have devoted their lifetimes to such important endeavours.

See: <http://www.obermayer.us/award>

Email: germanaward@hotmail.com, or write: German-Jewish Community History Council, 239 Chestnut Street, West Newton, MA 02465 USA. Nominations close September 22, 2003.

Arthur S. Obermayer, Chairman

tel: 617-244-0180 fax: 617-244-2496

President's Report	Rieke Nash	Vol 10 No. 4	
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At last the community is gradually becoming aware that, even though we are the **Australian** JGS, providing help to members with their overseas research is one of our main concerns. To do this we need assistance and would welcome offers to become involved in the Society's administration or research projects.

The rewards for volunteering in the many tasks and projects are varied with networking, using old and learning new skills and furthering one's own research.

Recently I was able to track down the entry for a family on the 1891 UK census and confirm that a woman who had migrated to Sheffield around 1869 was born in the same town as my great-grandfather. A Templinski from Sluzewo, in Poland - she had to be mine! Moreover the man she married in Sheffield came from Ishbitz, Poland - the town, Izbica Kujawski, for which I had spent many hours transcribing all those LDS records without knowing that I had a connection to it.

A few years ago I had discovered some useful documents on the website of the National Archives of Australia and offered to write an article for Kosher Koala (see page 5). This week in order to check the current procedures, I used some family references and, to my surprise, found some new information: the name of the ship that my mother had migrated on, that my father had unsuccessfully tried to sponsor an uncle from Poland in 1937 and that World War II service records could be searched by place of birth. Quite a haul!

We have achieved much this year and with more volunteers we can plan for even more information, services and seminars next year.


We do appreciate that many of you are busy with work and family commitments so we are still happy to have your support with your membership and the occasional contact.

Rieke Nash

President

president@ajgs.org.au

P.S. I have just ordered ten certificates from the Polish State Archive through JRI-Poland and I am eagerly awaiting their arrival.

Editorial	Miriam Shifreen	Vol 10 No. 4	
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The long hot lazy days of summer are here. With nothing to do but sit around, take leisurely walks, picnic, play golf, tennis or swim, look after the children or grandchildren you'll have time on your hands. So, that's where *January: Is Searching On-Line Month*, comes in.

Start with the article on page 5, *How the Web Site of The National Archives of Australia Can Help Your Research*, by our President, Rieke Nash. Get registered, order your requests, and then while you are waiting for them to be processed, inspect all the other websites listed in this newsletter. And don't forget to try out the sites mentioned in our previous issues that you've been saving up.

Then if you can come to our library you can read *The Diaries Of Bernhard Cahn: A Man Of His Time* by Arline Sachs which I reviewed on page 8. Not only will you learn about every day *Life In 19th Century Germany*, but you will also learn the value of keeping a journal and what an interesting legacy you can leave to your descendants. Bernard Cahn was just an ordinary man, yet his comments on every day life leave you with the picture of an amazing man.

You will find other interesting resources discussed by Peter Nash, on page 7, some of which are also in our Library.

There is much more to this Kosher Koala. On page 3 Bubbles Segall writes about her grandmother, Mary Lurie Segall as well as sending us an interesting snippet about Jews in the Northern Territory, Australia in 1938.

News around the Australian States and other snippets of interest complete our newsletter.

And after all that, if you still have free time on your hands, you can write up that story you have been promising to write for Kosher Koala.

I look forward to meeting you all at our Annual General meeting on 28 March and at our lectures and meetings that will be announced.

Where has 2003 gone? I hope that this has been a successful research year.

Miriam Shifreen,
Editor
editor@ajgs.org.

P.S. Don't forget to return the members' questionnaire that you will find in this Newsletter.

Mary Lurie Segall	Bubbles Segall	Vol 10 No. 4	
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In 1984 my first cousin John Emdin and his wife Ava, sent their two children, Mark and Natalie to stay with my husband, Ian and me for two weeks in Katherine in the

Northern Territory of Australia where we were living at the time. Katherine is a country town 300 kilometres south of Darwin. Mark was almost 13 years old and Natalie, ten. The Emdins, like me, migrated from South Africa to Australia in the seventies and settled in Sydney where they still live today.

Mark and Natalie brought me a book *From Generation to Generation. How to Trace your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History* by Arthur Kurzweil. I read this book from cover to cover and became absolutely hooked on genealogy. I ate, slept and dreamed genealogy for weeks and weeks. I couldn't get enough. I decided that the first thing to do was to find out the story behind a beautiful plaque which John has in his possession in memory of our grandmother, Mary Segall nee Lurie.

I first became aware of this plaque in the early 1980s when I visited John in Sydney. Some years previously his father and mother, Samuel (Sonny) and Dorothy Emdin nee Segall, visited relatives in America and were given this plaque which is inscribed as follows:

JEWISH WOMEN'S HEALTH ASSOCIATION
RECUPERATIVE CENTER
1907 - 1957
IN LOVING TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF
MARY LURIE SEGAL*
whose vision, humanitarianism and sympathy for the
sick and underprivileged, inspired the founding, 50
years ago, of the Jewish Anti-Tuberculosis
Association, now known as the Jewish Women's
Health Association Recuperative Centre.
November 19, 1957 Signed by the Secretary
Miriam C. Abramson

I wrote to my father Eddie, in South Africa, asking him for some more information about his mother, my grandmother. He told me that she had been a nurse in Boston USA and that she worked with Jewish patients suffering from tuberculosis. Using Arthur Kurzweil's book I looked up addresses of places in Boston where I thought I might find information about her.

My first letter was sent to the American Jewish Historical Society on the campus of the Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts. The Librarian, Nathan Kaganoff, was extremely helpful and found some information which he forwarded to me regarding my grandmother. He also suggested that I contact the Archives at Beth Israel Hospital Boston, Massachusetts.

Ruth Freiman, the hospital's archivist, contacted me. With the help of Dr. Arthur J. Linenthal, a staff physician who was studying the early history of Boston's Jewish Hospitals, she was able to send me the following information.



In 1907 Mary Lurie began her service with the Tuberculosis Clinic at Boston's Mount Sinai Hospital. It was recognised that many poor migrant Jews with language difficulties were becoming ill with tuberculosis and it was suggested that a nurse be employed to home visit and supervise patients. The nurse's role was to investigate the home conditions of patients and ensure that the prescribed treatment was being carried out. Mary Lurie was the first nurse to be employed in this program. She organised women to work in the crowded tenement districts of Boston conducting educational

campaigns for immigrants afflicted with tuberculosis.

The Mount Sinai Tuberculosis Program was supported almost entirely by funds from the association started by Mary Lurie. Late in 1907 the group changed its name to the Jewish Anti-Tuberculosis Association and early in 1908 was chartered by the state as a charitable organisation.

In 1908 Mary Lurie resigned from the Mount Sinai Hospital Society and travelled to a town called Stellenbosch in South Africa to join her sister, Etta Ganenda. Whilst there, she met and married my grandfather, Daniel Tzvi Segall.

Mary Lurie was awarded a posthumous citation from the Jewish Women's Health Association at a Jewish Women's Health Association Golden Anniversary Luncheon in 1957 for her contribution to education about tuberculosis, hence the plaque.

Both Ruth Freiman and Dr. Arthur Linenthal were interested in this plaque as Dr Linenthal's father Dr. Harry Linenthal was awarded a similar citation at this Golden Anniversary Luncheon in 1957 for his contribution.

In 1991 I received a treasured book in the mail from Dr Arthur J. Linenthal entitled "First a Dream The History of Boston's Jewish Hospitals 1896 to 1928" which he had just completed. My grandmother receives a mention for her role in nursing Jewish patients suffering from tuberculosis in the early 1900's.

These revelations regarding my grandmother turned out to be the beginning of an ongoing fascination with family history which continues to give me immeasurable enjoyment and satisfaction today.

** Mary's husband Daniel Zvi Segall spelled Segall with two 'l's. He and his brother Eliezer Nossen were the only family members who used this spelling. Their siblings spelled it as 'Segal'. On the plaque dedicated to Mary, the name is spelled with one 'l'.*

Bubbles Segall, a member of our society who lives in the Northern Territory of Australia, has followed in her grandmother's footsteps by choosing nursing as a career and like her she also worked in the field of public health. Bubbles has spent many years working with traditional Aboriginal people in remote parts of the Northern

Territory and like her grandmother has been recognised for her contribution to health.

To commemorate the Centenary of Federation (1901-2001), the Australian Government awarded Centenary Medals to individuals who have made a significant contribution to Australian society. Bubbles was a very proud recipient of this medal for her contribution to women's health in the Northern Territory. She was previously acknowledged by the National Family Planning Association when she received their inaugural President's Award.

Email: Bubbles@octa4.net.au

And the following interesting news item which appeared in an old newspaper in the Northern Territory was sent to us by Bubbles Segall.

JEWS IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA - 1938 FROM THE NORTHERN STANDARD

Letter To the Editor,

Sir, - I landed at Darwin with the first electric cable in October, 1871, and was a resident there for 30 years. Somewhere about the middle seventies I was a cadet in the Survey Department and sketched the country and charted the base line for the Roper River Trigonometrical Survey from the river mouth until we reached the existing overland telegraph line.

This will probably be sufficient to prove my general knowledge of the Northern Territory, of which Darwin is the capital and will soon have its hundredth anniversary, since Capt. Stokes, R.N., in H.M.S. Beagle, landed there on September 3, 1839, and called the port after the naturalist, Charles Darwin, who was not on the ship on that occasion.

I wrote to your Prime Minister a week ago suggesting all the spare Jews you seem to have in Europe should be settled in this Roper River country at or near Leichhardt's Bar, which is 90 miles inland from the mouth. Between this Leichhardt's Bar and the telegraph line there are many thousands of acres of good agricultural lands that would support all the Jews in Christendom. It will never be populated by Australians, and as I can offer 30 years' experience of station management and some 1200 miles of coastline with its nine navigable rivers, I could, if so desired, assist the European government to dispose of spare Jews. The climate is good; April to September quite cool and humid during November to March in the wet season.

To form a settlement of this kind will run into money, but if the Jews are accustomed to agricultural work there is ample room in this part of the Territory which will never be likely to appeal to young Australians.

It is on the whole well grassed, having really only two seasons - dry from April to November and the balance more or less wet. There are plenty of hills for homesteads, and as the Roper River, like most Australian inland waterways, is subject to flood, care in selecting homesteads would have to be considered.

However here, if properly managed at the start, "God's own people" could live at peace with the world. -

Yours etc.
H. W. H. STEVENS

Gresham House, Battery Road, Singapore, November 5, 1938.

"The Northern Standard" was the predecessor of the Darwin daily newspaper, "The Northern Territory News". Bubbles says: We know this area well. It is about 600 kms south-east of Darwin. The Church Missionary Society set up a mission there at some stage for Aboriginal people and called it Roper. It is now a large Aboriginal community and goes by the name of Ngukurr (pronounced Nu-ker) and is no longer run by the Church Missionary Society but a Community Government Council.

**How the Website of the
National Archives of
Australia can help your
Research**

Rieke Nash

**Vol 10
No. 4**



www.naa.gov.au

Many of our members are unaware of an important resource that should be regularly checked by all researchers, whether the family came in the First Fleet or was a recent arrival. Accessing the web- site of the National Archives of Australia is as simple as nominating a personal Id and Password and then searching the amazing wealth of information on-line. In the absence of any Australian census records, a relative's WWI army records, a naturalisation application or the application to sponsor the immigration of a relative may provide that elusive missing piece of information needed for a breakthrough in the puzzle.

Navigating the site is easy with lots of explanations, help buttons, advice on the systems used by the Archives and instructions for requesting copies. The method for obtaining copies of documents depends on whether the status of the file is 'open' or 'not yet examined' and more than 30 years old.

Making a request for a digital copy of a file is a fascinating process. Having identified the correct record, a request can be made for its digital image to be available on-line. All the contents of the file will be scanned so that the pages can be viewed on-line and printouts made of any that are worthwhile. Recently one request took around two months to be added to the site but the wait was not inconvenient, the results worthwhile, and the service free. A little blue logo like a written 'r' indicated that the request had been completed on the RecordSearch website.

Being able to search the site personally allows more control of the search process and optimises the chance of success. For example, my father's 1938 immigration application to sponsor an aunt listed her under her mother's maiden name. An archivist doing a search would not have recognised this name or identified this item as the correct record.

Title

Applicant - ISENBERG Louis; Nominee - SHULMAN Jacob Lewis; nationality Polish

Series number

A261

Control symbol

1936/273

Contents date range

1936 - 1936

Access status

Not yet examined

Location

Canberra

Barcode

no
8199345

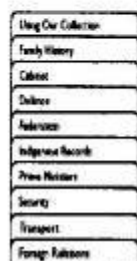
The records are mainly from 1901 onwards and do not contain Birth, Death or Marriage records. They are sufficiently varied and detailed to be of significance and although not always fool-proof this can be another means of determining if a relative (with an unusual surname!) had migrated to Australia.

National Archives of Australia - Reference Inquiry Form

Page 1 of 2



The Collection



Reference Inquiry and Requests

PURPOSE: Use this form to lodge your research inquiry or to request copies of our records. Before sending your inquiry please read Using Our Collection and check our RecordSearch and PhotoSearch databases, fact sheets, research guides and Collection pages to ascertain if we have material on your topic.

If you want a World War I service record, please use our World War I Record Request form. For a World War II defence service record, please use our World War II Record Request form. If you are seeking family history information, use our Family History Inquiry Form.

Even though a trip to Canberra can be a pleasant experience check first whether the actual records, particularly pre-Federation, (i.e. before 1901) are available there or should be viewed at the local State Offices of the National Archives.

Arrival Records

The microfilms of passenger arrival records for Sydney 1923-1966 are available at The Rocks in Sydney at 2 Globe Street, 9-5 weekdays, but to have success one needs to know year, month and port of arrival and/or the ship's name.

A new initiative in Fremantle, Western Australia, is starting to simplify this problem. A Work for the Dole scheme has so far created indices for the passengers on all ships that arrived in Fremantle between January, 1926 and June 1930 even if the passengers were not disembarking in Fremantle. In fact the Fremantle records are sometimes more complete than the Sydney arrival records. Not only can you order a record on-line but you can also view the whole passenger list.

Citizenship and Naturalisation

The application form typically contains date and place of birth, children's names and ages, a signature and was usually handwritten by the applicant.

One for a widow included her maiden name which was not previously known.

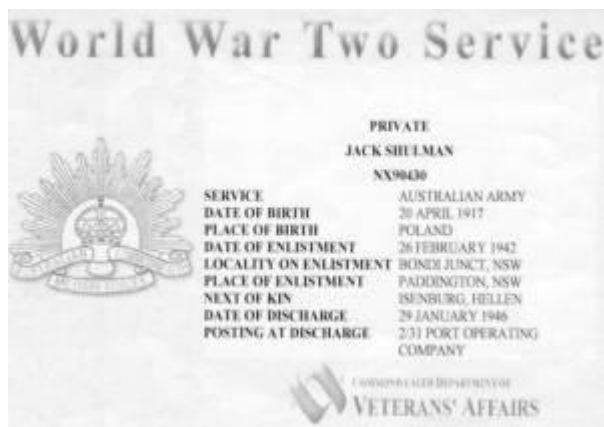
Alien Registrations

Immigrants and visitors alike who were non-British were required to make an *Application for Registration By an Alien Entering Australia*. A delightful example

highlighted in the Archives Newsletter, Memento, in May 2003 is a copy of the form filled in by Gregory Peck when he arrived in Melbourne in 1959 to star in the film *On The Beach*.

Defence Service Records

www.ww2roll.gov.au



World War Two Service

PRIVATE
JACK SHULMAN
NX98430

SERVICE	AUSTRALIAN ARMY
DATE OF BIRTH	20 APRIL 1917
PLACE OF BIRTH	POLAND
DATE OF ENLISTMENT	26 FEBRUARY 1942
LOCALITY ON ENLISTMENT	BONDI JUNCT, NSW
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	PADDINGTON, NSW
NEXT OF KIN	ISENBURG, HELEN
DATE OF DISCHARGE	29 JANUARY 1946
POSTING AT DISCHARGE	2/31 PORT OPERATING COMPANY

COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The World War Two Nominal Roll site honours those who served in Australia's defence forces and an attractive certificate of service can be printed on-line. These records include date and place of birth and next of kin as well as service details.

In fact, it is possible to search on place of birth and list every serviceman or woman born in a particular country. For example a search on Poland listed 338 town names

and even though many of the towns were misspelt it can be a productive exercise.

The Department of Veterans Affairs site is searchable on a variety of fields.

www.dva.gov.au

Immigration of Displaced Persons

Of the 170,700 Displaced Persons brought to Australia under the International Refugee Organisation (IRO) program very few were Jewish. Most Jewish refugees were either sponsored by relatives or by Jewish Welfare in Sydney and Melbourne. The Archives do not have the Jewish Welfare files but some records may still be found in RecordSearch. A file that contains the Application to Migrate papers can identify dates, towns, addresses, the results of a medical examination and even a photo.

The post-war form for the *Application for Admission of Relative or Friend to Australia* is interesting. The form required that the person being nominated be identified as Jewish or not. (For a number of years there were restrictions on the number of Jewish refugees allowed into the country after the war).



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
Form No. 70
Immigration Act 1958-1948

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION OF RELATIVE OR FRIEND TO AUSTRALIA.

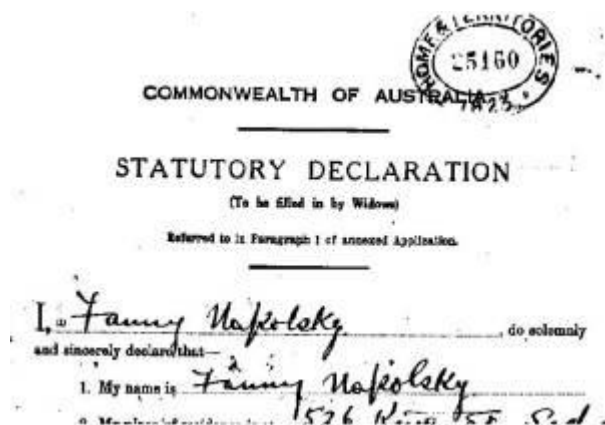
(NOTE—A separate form should be used for each person. In the case of a married man who will be accompanied by his wife and children under sixteen years of age, their names may be included on this form.)

THE SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION,
CANBERRA.

I, WERNER SWICK

(Print full name in BLOCK letters)

Information on the migrants who entered under the IRO scheme 1947-1953 can be found on the RecordSearch site.



Resources in our library

Turnbull, Malcolm J., Safe Haven: Records of the Jewish Experience in Australia, National Archives of Australia, Research Guide No. 12, Canberra, 1999.

Chambers, Margaret, Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists, Canberra 1998.

The Complete Set of Fact Sheets issued by the Archives.

Rieke Nash is the President of the Australian Jewish Genealogy Society with a special interest in Australian, English and Polish records. She is also the Wloclawek Archive Co-ordinator for JRI-Poland.

Genealogical Resources in New York

Reviewed by Peter Nash

Vol 10 No. 4



Edited by Estelle M. Guzik

Of the over 12 million immigrants that arrived in the United States through New York between 1880 and 1924, 3.5 million were Jews most of whom settled there. Hence a research guide is an invaluable aid to finding family connections in New York. Published by the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. New York, this 2003 Edition super-sedes the 1989 Edition of *Genealogical Resources in the New York Area*. The guide is divided into the five boroughs/counties of New York City - Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island - as well as Albany in upper New York State. Counties such as Bergen, Trenton, Westchester and others have been excluded this time.

Estelle Guzik and her team of numerous contributors have updated and included new sources of data and expanded the information on resources available from a variety of libraries, archives and public agencies. Only about 25% of these institutions are specifically Jewish orientated, so that this guide is also valuable to non-Jewish researchers. About 90 resource facilities, in alphabetical order, have their complete details provided - website, location, access, description of holdings, finding aids, etc. Location maps for each Borough as well New York Area Jewish Cemeteries are also given.

In recent years new sources of genealogical data have emerged and are described. These include the Center for Jewish History which incorporates seven Jewish specific institutions including American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Society, Leo Baeck Institute and YIVO. Others are Ellis Island Immigration Museum, Museum of Jewish Heritage and more.

Although remotely located in Sydney I have been very successful in finding family in the New York area often aided by the predecessor of this guide. This new updated guide will be even more valuable and quickly help to sort through the maze of repositories and various institutions.

It costs \$US49.95 plus \$US10.00 shipping and can be ordered from the Jewish Genealogical Society, C/o BookMasters
P.O. Box 388, Ashland OH 44805, U.S.A.
or by internet at www.jgsny.org/newbook.htm

Peter Nash has researched the former Jewish communities of China and is the author of Navigating Berlin Resources to Solve a Family Puzzle. (See KK Vol.9 No.1 March 2002).

New Resources in our Library		Vol 10 No. 4		
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The Austrian Victims of the Holocaust

Dokumentationsarchiv des Österreichischen Widerstandes (DOW) Vienna, 2001

This searchable CD-Rom was created as a memorial to the Austrian Victims of the Holocaust and records the fate of approximately 62,000 Jews who between 1938 and 1945 were murdered or committed suicide in Austria as well as those who were deported from Austria and did not survive. Not only Austrian citizens but also all those who lived as Jews in Austria are considered Austrian in this database.

The database contains names, dates of birth, destination of deportation transports and, where known, the places and dates of death.

For a more restricted on-line search, try:
www.doew.at

My Ancestors Were Jewish

by Dr. Anthony Joseph, Society of Genealogists (U.K.) London, 2002

This booklet is an updated edition of Isabel Mordy's original publication. Researchers will find the historical background and bibliography useful.

There is some duplication of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain's publication *Jewish Ancestors? A Beginner's Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Great Britain*.

As can happen, some of the websites have dated.

On sale for £2.75 and available from
Society of Genealogists Enterprises Ltd


14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road,
London EC1M 7BA
sales@sog.org.uk

Macquarie Park Cemetery Transcriptions

A CD-Rom has been produced by the Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney. The database of burials at the former Northern Suburbs Cemetery includes the full transcription of the stone, denomination, section, row, plot number and nearby graves.

It can be ordered on-line for \$60.00 from the Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney web site at www.sag.org.au

Our library has a microfiche copy of the Sydney Rookwood Cemetery's Jewish section although a CD-Rom version is now available. As the listing is not complete, a negative result is not conclusive.

The Diaries of Bernhard Cahn: A Man of His Time	Reviewed by Miriam Shifreen	Vol 10 No. 4		
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Life in 19th Century Germany

Written By Arline Sachs

Published by the Avotaynu Foundation

Bernhard Cahn, the great-great-grandparent of Arline Sachs kept a journal for over 50 years, from 1817 to 1871 in twelve volumes written in the German language but using Hebrew script. His journals written in a conversational style reveal a fascinating story of family life amid the setting of the Jewish community of a small town, Kastel, Germany. But he was a man who could encompass the wider picture of the World Jewish community, as well as events round the world. He reported a pogrom in Odessa, a performance of the Magic Flute or the discovery of ancient Jewish tombstones during the building of a railway line in Mainz.

His writings reveal how he needed to become a citizen of Kastel as well as permission to marry his dear Vogelche. He wrote about presents he had received for his birthday, the Jewish Reform Movement, the big uprising against Jewish tailors and needle handlers in Prague in February 1866. In 1867 he noted the population of world Jewry was 6,000,000, of which the largest number 1,300,000 lived in Russia but 10,639 were already living in Palestine, 5,700 of them in Jerusalem. He wrote about the unusually hot summer in 1864 which led to a potato shortage. He wrote about a solar eclipse on 15 March 1858 and an earthquake at 6 pm on 24 May 1858. He wrote about immigration to the U.S.A. shortly after the Californian Gold rushes in 1849 and the shooting of President Lincoln. He noted English Queen Victoria's visit and that of the Kaiser's mother. In 1860 he wrote about the streets being lit by gaslight.

If you have family who came from Kastel, Mainz, or Germany in the 19th century, this book will give you insight into the lives of ordinary people living in that time. He mentions receiving a telegram, travelling by train, or how the washing was done. This book should inspire us all to keep a journal of our daily lives. You will find this book in our Library.

Arline Sachs has been Secretary, Vice-President and President of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington and the author of many published articles. She co-hosts a twice-monthly television show on Jewish genealogy in the USA.

JewishGen major Update to all Romania Database		Vol 10 No. 4		
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Nearly 40,000 new records have been added to this database which can be found at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania>

Over 100,000 records are still to be transcribed. The more volunteers, the sooner this task will be completed! Contact Terry Lasky at:

tlasky@bwn.net

Hungarian Research		Vol 10 No. 4		
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Hungarian SIG: www.jewishgen.org/Hungary

Hungarian Jewish Homepage:

www.interdnet.hu/zsido/english

National Archives of Hungary: www.natarch.hu/mol_e.htm

Translation Guide of Vital Records:

www.bmi.net/jjaso/index.html

Jewish Cemeteries in Hungary:

www.geocities.com/winter_peter_4/cemeteries.html

Interactive Hungarian road map: <http://lazarus.elte.hu/moterkep/indul.htm>

A new **Danish Jewish Genealogical Society** has been formed at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-denmark/>

At present the website is only in Danish, but it will be translated into English as soon as possible.

Gesher Galicia Special Interest Group has been formed for the former Austrian Province of Galicia. Join at: www.jewishgen.org/galicia/join_gg.html

Search Bureau for Information About Immigrants to Israel		Vol 10 No. 4		
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The role of Batya Unterschatz 's Search Bureau for Missing Relatives in Israel has been taken over by the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem.

Email: familyresearch@jazo.org.il

We will miss the extraordinary skills of Batya who was able to track down anyone (or their descendants) who had ever stepped foot in Israel. There are many of us in Australia who found long-lost or even previously unknown relatives. Many, many thanks, Batya, for your exceptional efforts.

East German Jewish Property Owners		Vol 10 No. 4		
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The deadline for claims from former East German property owners has been extended to March 31, 2004. See www.claimscon.org

Apologies		Vol 10 No. 4		
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to Clare Bruell's husband, Peter, who was incorrectly called Joe in the last edition's photo from the Washington conference.

News from New South Wales	Rieke Nash	Vol 10 No. 4		
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The visit on June 15 to the Family History Centre in Carlingford was very successful with around 20 people attending and with quite a few volunteers from the Centre helping. A copy of *Safe Haven* was donated to their library. The chance to see their collection was much appreciated but we missed the attendance of Nancy and Lyn Hilton who had to unexpectedly return to the States before the end of their time here in Australia. Fortunately Lyn's health problem was successfully resolved and so we wish them both all the best and thank them again for their kind attention during their stay here.

Since this visit the Centre has moved from Carlingford to 167 Pennant Street, North Parramatta (the extension of Kissing Point Road).

A report by Jeannette Tsoulos of our meeting with Dr. Neil Rosenstein appears on page 10 and reports of our November 2 meeting on the State Archives of NSW and the meeting on November 30 which will feature Miriam Pollak, and Kim Phillips and Gary Luke will appear in the next issue.

Enquiries: Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595

Tel: 9427-6075

Email: society@ajgs.org.au

Website: www.ajgs.org.au

News from Victoria	Lionel Sharpe	Vol 10 No. 4		
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We are experiencing a busy round of activities in the final months of this year. Les Oberman and Lionel Sharpe attended the opening of The Helen Macpherson Smith

Genealogy Centre at the State Library of Victoria. This newly renovated spacious area is a delight for genealogists. Another of our popular beginner's workshops was held on Sunday, 21 September 2003, 2.00 pm at Beth Weizmann Community Centre on 30 October.

Sy and Cyndie Pearlman, visiting and touring Australia from the USA, spoke to us on Wednesday, 29 October 2003 at 7.30 pm on the topic *Researching Roots in Eastern Europe and Belarus*. Sy's maternal ancestors go back to the 1810's in Belarus and paternal ancestors go back to the 1770's in Poland.

Sy spent six years on the New York Times as an editor, then three years as a freelance journalist in Vienna and Berlin covering Eastern Europe, including the Prague Spring of 1968. In 1970 he became the NBC bureau chief in Israel and super-vised coverage of the October war. He returned to the U.S. in 1973 and spent the next 24 years on NBC's main news programs and news magazines, during which time he travelled the world producing news stories.

Cyndie is an amateur photographer and was a news and features producer for ABC, Lifetime and NBC from 1980 until 1997. Their slide show talk took us to only a few stops on the route of their travels. They had driven 14,000 kilometers in their own car, through southern Poland, Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania and Eastern Germany.

The following Sunday afternoon, November 2nd, we had the pleasure of hosting a meeting with Dr. Neil Rosenstein and his wife Mavis. He spoke on the topic *Insights into Rabbinic Genealogy*. This meeting was preceded by a short workshop with Les Oberman using the internet for genealogical research.

Dr. Rosenstein is well known author of many works on Jewish genealogy. His magnum opus was the two-volume, *The Unbroken Chain* and he has accumulated a vast matrix of material on Jewish genealogy, especially in the field of rabbinical dynasties. He presented a talk using illustrations of family trees to demonstrate how mis-reading of names and family myths throw doubts on some ancestral claims.

The final meeting for the year will be held on December 10 at 7.30pm. at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre. Ken Haymes will speak on the work of the State Trustees.

We have been invited to join the Australian Jewish Historical Society, Vic. who are organising two identical boat trips along the Maribyrnong River on Sunday, 7 December and Sunday, 14 December. This two-hour cruise explores the forgotten sites of some early Jewish settlers in the Port Phillip Colony. Dr Howard Freeman, President of the AJHS (Vic) provides a commentary entitled: *From Levien's Punt to Solomon's Ford*.

We are currently working on the materials placed in our care by the Australian Jewish Historical Society and have listed some 100 family trees and family histories. Volunteers are currently working to put the material on a database. We are particularly grateful to Anne Budlender who has produced an index of 1000 death certificates which were purchased by Prof. Bill Rubinstein some years ago for a

study on the occupational status of Jews in NSW and Victoria. These are a random sample of names covering 100 years and the index can be inspected on our website: www.ajgs.exist.com.au.

Enquiries: Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738

ajgs@exist.com.au

Les Oberman (03)9571 8251, oberman@mira.net

Report from South Australia	Jeanie Susman	Vol 10 No. 4	
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Our last meeting for the year was held in November and was very well attended. Sy and Cyndie Pearlman, a much-travelled couple from the United States, were our guests. They are now very involved in researching their ancestry in Eastern Europe, Poland and the Ukraine, and told of their many experiences as they motored extensively around these areas.

Adelaide Group who attended the meeting



Plans are in hand for a most interesting and varied program in 2004. Details will be available after our first meeting in the New Year, when discussions will continue on the proposal, to form a combined genealogical and historical society. Already interest is being shown in this particular project. In the meantime, we send our very best wishes to you all for

the coming year.

The South Australian Branch contact is
Marjorie Luno, President
AJGS (SA) , c/- Beit Shalom Synagogue,
P.O. Box 47 , Stepney. S.A. 5069
Email to Hon. Secretary : Jeanie Susman
chatsworth@picknowl.com.au

Western Australian Report	Michelle Urban	Vol 10 No. 4	
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Our Society has changed its name and has incorporated with the Western Australian Jewish Historical Society in June. because the W.A.J.H.S. already existed and we had been working with them under that name. We will be holding the 1st AGM under this name next February.

We were fortunate to be able to listen to a wonderful in-depth, entertaining and historical presentation by Dr Jack Hoffman OAM MB.BS on The *Earliest Jewish Doctors in Western Australia 1829-1920*.

Enquiries: Michelle Urban
21 Broomahll Way, Noranda. WA 6062
Email: Urban1@iinet.net.au

**Dr Neil Rosenstein: Our
Guest Speaker on
Rabbinical Genealogy**

**Jeannette
Tsoulos**

**Vol 10
No. 4**



Sophie Caplan arranged for Dr Rosenstein to speak to us on Rabbinical genealogy, a subject on which he has written a number of books, three of which we have in our library.

Having discovered Rabbis of the well-known Katzenellenbogen family in his ancestry, Dr Rosenstein has researched not only his own family connections but those of other descendants of these Rabbis. Among the thousands of descendants he has found are Felix Mendelssohn, Helena Rubinstein, Martin Buber and Karl Marx.

Researching since the 1960s in South Africa, long before the advantages of internet, Dr Rosenstein's persistence and ingenuity paid off as he tracked down books and manuscripts hundreds of years old, with names, dates and relationships of rabbinical families clearly set out. His advice is always to go to original sources, as family traditions and myths are unreliable and can perpetuate mistakes. Original sources he quoted included archival sources, which are becoming more accessible by the day; books, in libraries or in private hands, especially if they contain inscriptions; epitaphs of Rabbis, as they will often extol their ancestry in detail; inscriptions on tombstones, Sefer Torahs, Ark coverings, and even goblets and yods, in honour of a particular Rabbi. Police records of births can be taken as reliable.

When two sources contradict each other, look for a third. Mistakes have happened in almost every major Rabbinical genealogy, whether through misreading a name, confusing two or more people of the same name, misinterpreting a phrase, or assuming descent from a son when it was from a daughter, as happened in the Rosenstein family. Our speaker uncovered many of these mistakes, long accepted as fact, in the course of his researches. The moral was, always go back to original sources.

The confusion in three different sources over his grandfather's birth date was solved by consulting the Gregorian Calendar, which was in use at the time. He left us with a useful piece of knowledge on reading Rabbinical tombstones: He died "at the age of bravery" means 80 years, and "at the age of fullness" is 70.

This lively and interesting presentation warned aspiring genealogists to be extremely sceptical and check everything, a lesson we should take to heart.

Jeannette Tsoulos is the Resource Librarian of our Society, and Secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society.



Leslie Caplan AM and
Sophie Caplan OAM
Stuart Shaw
Terry Newman
Anthony Joseph
Hilde Hines
Beulah Gross
Susan Koenig
David and Diana Laufer
Peter and Rieke Nash
Alan Shroot
Selma Jackson
Beverley Bos
David Landor
Vicky Rogut

Bob Beecher
Diane Armstrong
Ellis Setton
Valerie Coppel
Kim Phillips
Betty Symonds
Val Bennett
Philip Baynash
John Stanhope OAM and
Loreen Stanhope
Nigel Meinrath
David Itzkowic
Terry Lyons
Gary Luke
