

The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc P.O. Box 42, Lane Cove NSW 1595, Sydney, Australia Phone: 61-2 9427 6075 or Email: society@aigs.org.au

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rieke Nash

In the past few months many of our members have been attending our Sunday morning workshops and making use of the exciting new resources that have been added to our library. There have been some very significant discoveries and many new leads are being followed up, particularly from the *Marriage Records of the Great Synagogue, London 1791-1885, The Jewish Victorian 1861-1880* and *The (London) Jewish Chronicle CD 1900-1909.*

If you are a beginner or an experienced researcher try and attend one of these Sunday morning workshops (see page 1 for the dates) to inspect some of these new books, CDs and our collection of international newsletters. Contact me if the time is not convenient or you are from out of town so that we may arrange an alternative time.

Thank you for your wonderful financial support for our Rookwood and Kosher Koala CDs (see page 16). It has enabled us to purchase many new valuable resources, such as the latest publication from Avotaynu, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia*. After the recent visit by the Chairman of the Netherlands Society for Jewish Genealogy, Simon Italiaander, we will be updating our already excellent collection of Dutch resource materials.

Some of the out-of-print books whose indices are now online are available in our resource library, for example Malcolm Stern's First American Families and Trowen In Mowkum (Jewish Marriages in Amsterdam 1598-1811).

Also, seriously consider the possibility of attending one of the overseas conferences. Apart from being a great incentive to organise all those scraps of paper, they are a lot of fun and usually result in the development of significant connections.

We are continually being informed about new online databases, expanding your opportunities for researching from your own home. Don't be surprised about what is out there already!

And finally, my seven year old grandson has been surfing the new online Yad Vashem site (see page 9), thrilled to find the entries submitted by his two grandfathers and developing his knowledge of his ancestry. Is this a record?

We wish you all safe and happy summer holidays and look forward to a busy and successful 2005.

Rieke Nash President president@ajgs.org.au

EDITORIAL

By Miriam Shifreen

What's in a name?

An article in the *Jerusalem Post* of August 11, 2004 suggests (perhaps tongue-in-cheek) that the origin of the name Murphy comes from the Hebrew word *Mar'peh – a healer*. The story goes that many of the surgeons on the ships of the Spanish Armada, were Jews. After the English defeat of the Armada 400 years ago, these healers joined the sailors who swam ashore to Ireland after their ships were sunk. Furthermore, the large number of Maranos in the crew explains the plethora of Cohens and Levys in Ireland.

Rabbi Apple explores his name on page 6.

And *Who is* (the real) *Walter Bulka?* Read about this intriguing mystery on page 7.

There are several fascinating ways to extend your research this summer – Finding Jewish Ancestors in New Zealand page 3: the Second Litvak Study page 10 investigates the emigration from South Africa to Australia; or check out all the websites listed in this issue. Just to whet your appetite:

χ The No. 1 Jewish Genealogy Website www.jewishgen.org

χ Search the Family Tree of the Jewish People (ftjp): www.jewishgen.org/gedcom/

χ Search the Jewishgen Family Finder (JGFF): www.jewishgen.org/jgff/

χ Sephardic names, genealogies, recipes, etc: www.sephardim.com

Y Sefardi sig

www.jewishgen.org/sefardsig/

χ Iraqi Jews Genealogy: www.samba.co.il/iraqijews

\chi The Istanbul Jewish Genealogy Project: www.kazez.com/~dan/Istanbul/Gen.html

χ mavensearch the leading Jewish web directory www.maven.co.il/subjects.asp?s=296

χ The website for Cora Num:

www.coraweb.com.au

Steve Morse Sites

http://stevemorse.org

χ Need more to keep you busy? See also the Roots Column in the Australian Jewish News, the Community RSVP column on the inside back cover of Section 2 of News Review in the Saturday edition of the Sydney Morning Herald and visit your local Library.

Happy Chanuka and Happy New Year

Miriam Shifreen Editor editor@ajgs.org.au

THE SOCIETY'S BAR MITZVAH SHABBAT TOLEDOT 13 NOVEMBER, 2004

With over sixty Society members and friends attending this event at the North Shore Synagogue we celebrated the thirteen years since foundation in fine style. About eighteen people were experiencing their first orthodox Shabbat service and reported that they had enjoyed and appreciated this opportunity. Members of our past and current committees participated in the service with an impressive Haftorah from David Landor. Other founding committee members, Terry Newman and David Laufer, past committee member Philip Baynash and members of our current committee, Steve Traurig, Ken Lipworth and Peter Nash were called up.

The shul's Rabbi, Paul Lewin, who had suggested this event, conducted a beautiful service, explaining the prayers, addressing the significance of Toledot (Generations) and congratulating us for our achievements. The service was enhanced by the harmonious and traditional rendition of the Chazzan, Rabbi Tanny, and the impressive shul choir in fine form.

At the lunch following the service the President, Rieke Nash welcomed Rabbi Lewin, Calvin Stein, President of Synagogue, and his wife, Janis and our out-of-town visitors. The event highlighted one of the joys of being involved with Jewish genealogy, the chance to meet up with others from all ages and backgrounds with this shared interest. On this festive occasion, even long-suffering spouses enjoyed the informal socialising and family talk.

Gwenda Harris was thanked for her superb organising efforts and especially for arranging the delicious Kiddush and lunch, which included cholent! Past President Sophie Caplan, Les Oberman, President of AJGS (Vic), Lionel Sharpe, Secretary of AJGS (Vic) and Treasurer, Gary Luke also added a few words.

We received favourable comments and congratulations from others around the Jewish genealogy world for our unique commemoration.

On the following Sunday morning we opened our resource library for a few hours for our visitors, Les and Sonja Oberman, Gilda and Russell Feldman from Victoria and John Copeland from Albury.

Unfortunately, as it was Shabbat, we were unable to photograph this memorable occasion!

FINDING JEWISH ANCESTORS IN NEW ZEALAND

By Nigel Isaacs

A surprisingly large number of Jewish people were involved in early New Zealand (1840s to 1900s). They came for many reasons – to trade, hunt for whales, search for gold, or just to escape poverty. In many cases information is readily available on them, although not always due to their 'Jewish' connection.

If you want some background history, NZHistory.net.NZ (www.nzhistory.net.nz) offers an accessible, reliable way to start looking at the history of New Zealand, or your local library will have more material.

There is a detailed guide to tracing your Jewish ancestors in New Zealand – Claire Bruell's chapter for the just published *Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy* edited by Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff. The sample chapter available for free download from the website is for New Zealand, and should be your first stop: www.avotaynu.com/books/guide.htm.

I am not going to repeat the depth of information in that chapter, but will highlight some key publications, and discuss other sources of information.

Although many of the references given here are to web sites, not all material is available in electronic form. There are likely to be local Australian repositories of many of the documents, for example, in the Society of Australian Genealogists, the State Library or your local LDS Family History Centre. The links given in this article can be used to find correct titles for searching in these local sources.

Historical Background

Jewish communities were established in the North Island in Auckland and Wellington and in the South Island at Christchurch and Dunedin in the early days of the colony. Fledgling communities developed in Greymouth, Hokitika, Nelson and Westport in the South Island, and in Hawke's Bay, Napier and Wanganui in the North Island, but these no longer exist although their cemeteries still hold important information.

The most important book on Jews in New Zealand, *The History of the Jews in New Zealand*, by L.M. Goldman was published by A.H. and A.W. Reed in 1958, is now out of print. (There is a copy in the A.J.G.S. Library.) A more recent attempt at a national Jewish history did not achieve the same level of depth or veracity. Auckland and Wellington communities have both published their

own stories, and these provide considerable detail of many aspects of the communities. A new book, an anthology of New Zealand Jewish lives, is underway and will offer another perspective, but it is not expected to be completed for some time.

Government

The most important web address for New Zealand is the main Government portal: www.govt.nz.

From here you can find any central or local government activity in New Zealand, including the web address (if there is one). Government web sites are evolving, so it is well worth checking to see if more information is available on-line. Some sites will have a *family history* or *genealogy* section, providing guidance on the use of their historical records.

Often departments will accept requests by e-mail, but be aware that 'user pays' has a strong presence in New Zealand. Payment may be required for some services. It is also important to carefully read all instructions, as in some cases the requirements may not be obvious.

Some Government sites of possible interest include: **Births, Deaths and Marriages** records are currently only available from 1848 to the present day (www.bdm.govt.nz). Microfiche indexes (by year) are available – for example 1921-1980 occupies 3977 microfiche. The records are currently being computerised, but this is taking some time. The NZ Society of Genealogists has compiled a range of 'district keys' which can be used with the indexes to help identify locations and the time period within the year – often all that is needed to trace a newspaper advertisement. See also *Varcoe's NZ Marriages Index* listed later in this article.

National Archives is the main repository for nonvital Government records, with the head office in Wellington and regional offices in Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin (www.archives.govt.nz). The location of records is generally by region, some are located at head office, including immigration records, probates, coroners' reports, notices of intention to marry, and military service records up to 1913. A number of informative Reference Guides are available for downloading from their web site.

The Ministry of Culture and Heritage (www.mch.govt.nz) supports some important web sites, including the on-line Dictionary of New Zealand Biography with over 3,000 biographies (www.dnzb.govt.nz), the New Zealand history site (www.nzhistory.net.nz) and the currently under development on-line *Encyclopaedia of New Zealand*.

Land

National land records are maintained by Land Information New Zealand (www.linz.govt.nz). Many councils have their rates database accessible online. Although (by law) these do not include names of the occupants, they are very likely to link to some form of map, which may provide you with additional information on the locations important to your ancestors. For example Dunedin City has both a map of central Dunedin and the rating database linked to a GIS (Geographical Information System) (www.cityofdunedin.com)

There are also records of land owners from earlier times. The Government document (available through NZSG) *A Return of Freeholders of New Zealand, 1882* includes the names, addresses, and occupations of landowners in October 1882, covering some 60% of the male population of the time.

Military Service

Many New Zealand Jews have served their country in war or peace. In some cases their service was with English or Australian services, so their records will be in those countries. This was not unusual. and the Australian War Memorial (www.awm.gov.au) has nominal roles available for on-line searching this is worth a quick look. The London Gazette also recorded awards for many New Zealand participants in WWI and WWII, and these are on-line searchable (www.gazettesonline.co.uk). The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website (www.cwgc.co.uk) provides information on those who died on active service.

National Archives military holdings are documented in the *War Reference Guide* which can be downloaded from their web site (www.archives.govt.nz). There is a CD of *New Zealand World War I service personnel & reserves index* produced by the St Johns Branch of the NZSG (see *Sales - Branches Publications* on www.genealogy.org.nz).

Individual personnel files, which exist from the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902 onwards, are held by the New Zealand Defence Force

(www.nzdf.mil.nz). Note that access to files will require their permission if the person is still living, or acceptable proof of death.

The web site *New Zealand's Roll of Honour 1899-1945* lists the names of those who died for New Zealand from the Anglo Boer War to World War II, but is still under construction:

(www.nzmrangloboerwar.org.nz/index.html)

Genealogical Sources

Just as in other parts of the world, interest in New Zealand genealogy has been growing. Many

national and local organisations have been collecting genealogical material for many years, and some are now making it available through internet, and in some case CD.

The starting point must be the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG), which is a treasure house of information (www.genealogy.org.nz). Much of their work is for members only, but the web-site provides a tantalising treat. Much of their published material is available through corresponding Australian organisations or libraries. One interesting topic covered in the *NZSG Index Version 3 CD-ROM* is school admissions. The 1.36 million records include admissions, names of parents/guardians, school teachers and names from school inspectors returns.

Some other useful web sites include:

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Park/7572/nz.htm - *The NZ Genealogy Internet Guide*

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~ourstuff/index.html - *Denise & Peter Homepage* mainly for Wellington (they have a separate site for Auckland) from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s including links to NZ ship passenger lists, barmaids, etc

Libraries

Local libraries have always held material on their area history, but are now making much of this accessible through the web. It is well worthwhile finding out if the local library in the area of interest to you has a web presence, for it may well have useful information. Two libraries with particularly broad ranges of genealogical resources are the National Library of NZ (www.natlib.govt.nz) and Auckland City Libraries:

(www.aucklandcitylibraries.com).

Search their on-line catalogues for *genealogy* or *family history* to find the correct reference for material that you may be able to access at a local or state library close to you.

One local example is the main Dunedin City Library, which has a superb card index, including names, covering from 1851 to 1993 of *The Otago Daily Time's, Otago Witness* and *The Star* community newspaper. After 1993, with some additions for the 1850s and 1930s, the index is online, and accessible anywhere in the world (www.dunedinlibraries.com).

The Auckland City Library also holds much material in its various libraries, but provides web access to a number of its own databases (www.aucklandcitylibraries.com), including

1881 Electoral Rolls for residents of over 6 months in North Auckland, Auckland Metropolitan and South Auckland area into the Waikato.

1897 Address to Queen Victoria, which lists the 25,000 children from the Auckland Education District who signed a congratulatory address to Queen Victoria on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee.

Auckland Area Passenger Arrivals 1838-1886 from newspaper reports of Auckland area inward passengers for the period 1838 to 1886.

Auckland Police Census 1842-1846

The Hocken Library at the University of Otago provides access to a wealth of historical Otago focused material

(www.library.otago.ac.nz/libs/hocken).

The Hocken holds the old record books for the Dunedin Jewish Community, and these are now fully listed in their on-line catalogue. *The Related Sites* accessed through their main web page, give links to:

Otago-Nominal-Index to 1876: electoral rolls and street directories for Otago and Southland. Names from the Otago Police Gazette are being added.

Caversham Project: based on electoral rolls and trade directories for Caversham Borough, Dunedin from 1893 to 1940.

Southern People: a dictionary of Otago and Southland biography.

Varcoe's New Zealand Marriages Index: designed to be used in conjunction with the microfiche *Marriages Indexes* published by the New Zealand Registrar-General's Office, allows the user to match up brides with grooms.

Old Images

Many old images are now available through the web. The Auckland City library has a web accessible **Heritage Images** database which includes images of Auckland, portraits from 1930's to 1970's and World War One soldier portraits.

The National Library of New Zealand, through its *Digital Collections* has made a wide range of images available (www.natlib.govt.nz). These include multimedia items, photographs and old newspapers (full text, all pre-1900). Not all collections are fully indexed, but are well worth browsing, even if only to see the types of issues (and advertisements) your ancestors faced.

Cemeteries

JewishGen has a detailed listing of New Zealand Jewish cemeteries, so should be a first step to identifying possible locations:

(www.jewishgen.org/cemetery/asia-pac-ind/newzealand.html)

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists is then the place to go for genealogical information. Their web site provides a wide range of useful information, and members can benefit from many resources that represent massive amounts of work form many hundreds of volunteer genealogists from throughout the country (www.genealogy.org.nz). They also have a number of publications available for sale, including the vital book for the serious researcher "Tracing Family History in New Zealand" by Anne Bromell (latest edition 1996).

Of particular note is the NZSG "New Zealand Cemetery Records as at May 1998". This comprehensive listing (910 microfiche!) of monumental inscriptions, includes some burial records and memorials. Jewish cemeteries are listed, along with other religious and non-religious cemeteries.

The NZSG has loaded some cemetery records onto a members-only CD-Rom "NZSG Index Version 3", and it is likely that more records will find their way onto CD in the future.

Some 100 cemeteries are now available on-line, searchable by a range of criteria, including first name, surname, date of death and in some cases the religion.

Examples include: the Nelson City Council's Cemeteries Database

(www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz)

and the Palmerston North Cemetery & Cremation Database (www.pncc.govt.nz).

Auckland cemetery records are available through the Auckland City Library website (www.aucklandcitylibraries.com) — Hillsborough, Onetangi (Waiheke Island), Otahuhu Public, Waikaraka, and Symonds Street (the main Auckland cemetery until 1886).

The End

I am not going to even suggest that this is a comprehensive overview of the material available on your ancestors that may have been in New Zealand. The families I have been tracing arrived in New Zealand from the 1860s through to the 1900s, so my focus has been on these resources for Dunedin, Wellington and Auckland.

In many cases more detail is available on 'early settlers' – generally those who arrived before the gold rushes of the 1860s. For those people, I would always start with the local library (normally a service of the local council), as they often have clipping files or specialist local knowledge.

More recent arrivals may also be documented in newspapers – the National Library of N.Z. holds a number of indexes – most notably the *Alexander Turnbull Library Biographies Index* of biographical clippings, 1890-1988 which is available on 271 microfiche.

If you have reached the end of your options, there is always an advertisement in the New Zealand (Concluded in column 2)

THE NAME APPLE



By Rabbi Raymond Apple

Ouestion:

Answer:

Pardon me for being personal, but how can a rabbi be called *Apple*?



Apple happens to be a distinguished, historic Jewish surname. In ancient times there were four leading Jewish families descended from the tribe of Judah – Min HaTappuchim or De Pommis meaning Apple; Adumim or De Rossi meaning The Red Ones; HaZ'kenim meaning The Old Ones and HaAnavim or De Nonci meaning The Modest Ones.

The De Pommis family was significant in Italian Jewish history and produced leading scholars such as Nathan ben Yechiel of Rome who compiled the famous lexicon, the Aruch (though the Jewish Encyclopedia says that Nathan came from the Anavim family.)

The Hungarian version of the Apple family was called Alma. In Russian it was Yablotchnik. The actual origin of the Tappuchim – De Pommis - Alma – Yablotchnik – Apple family may be applelike rosy cheeks. It is possible that my family is part of this historic tradition, though it is also possible that my paternal ancestors grew or sold apples in Eastern Europe.

Let me add that there may be a connection with families called Redapple or Goldapple. In England there is a Rabbi Apfel who came from Germany and I used to tell people he was an apple from a different tree!

Rabbi Raymond Apple has been Senior Rabbi of the Great Synagogue Sydney for the past 32 years, a role he will be relinquishing at the end of this year. Among his many interests, he is a member of our Society and of the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

Finding Ancestors in N.Z. (from column 1) Chronicle (PO Box 27 156, Wellington or e-mail editor@rifkov.co.nz). This monthly magazine reaches the Jewish community throughout New Zealand.

Good luck and good searching.

Nigel Isaacs is a scientist at the Building Research Association of New Zealand, based in Wellington. He started to explore his family history a couple of years ago, and thought that others might benefit from his many adventures into the wrong places discovering his New Zealand family. His ancestors travelled through Australia – and one was an early settler who did not choose to immigrate as his g.g.grandfather was a convict sent to Van Diemen's Land.

New Zealand, based in Wellington.

WHO IS WALTER BULKA?

By Bill Wallace

In 1952, 15 year old Billy Wallace wanted to join

the British Navy under the Bov Service scheme. He asked his Dad for a copy of his Birth Certificate, and discovered that his real name was Walter Bulka, born on May 1937 5th Paddington, London and that his real Mother was Chrissie



Bill Wallace in 2003

Welch Wallace, and his real Father was Shmul Bulka. The registration of Birth was made by *Declaration* in August 1938, around the time of the reported Death of Shmul Bulka whose last address was stated as Sanatorium Britannica in Barcelona, Spain!

Billy/Walter was told that his Mother had died shortly after he was born and that his Father had been killed during the Spanish Civil War. The man he had always called his Dad was actually his Mother's brother (his uncle), Harold Edgar Wallace who, along with his wife, Jean Vinnecombe, had looked after him for those 15 years.

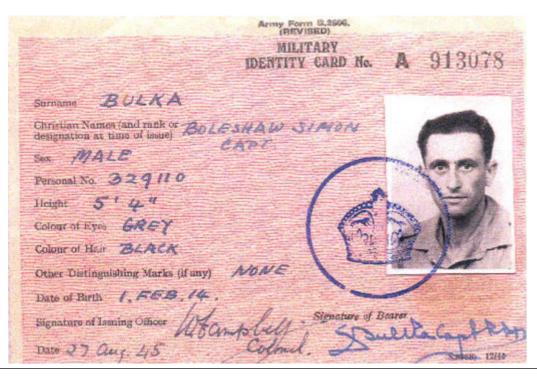
To satisfy the Navy requirements, Walter Bulka changed his name by Deed Poll, and became William (Bill) Wallace. And that's ME!

Through the 1960s and early 1970s, the search for

my birth father, Simon Bulka, continued at a casual pace because I had been living and working in Australia since early 1958. Information on the Birth and Marriage certificates of my real parents, were perused in greater detail, and I attempted to gather more background about Shmul and Chrissie's lives in London. Alas, no records could be found to confirm their residency or work details in the Paddington area. In fact, there was no trace of them at all in Medical/Hospital or civic records throughout the Greater London region.

After Uncle Harold's death in 1976, I decided to make a concerted effort to trace Shmul's movements, particularly with regard to his occupation as stated on the aforementioned certificates, as a "Captain Doctor in the Spanish Regular Army". Imagine my surprise, when I discovered, upon reading a little about the Spanish Civil War, that the Regular Army referred to was actually the Rebels or Republicans which had Incorporated the "International Brigade" to help in the fight against the Franco Fascist Forces. This discovery led to a lot more study of the Confusing Conflict that was the Spanish Civil War.

Although Shmul's father's name had been shown as Gdalje Bulka, and occupation given as 'Independent means', there was no indication of where, the family came from. Searching for the Bulka surname, anywhere in the world had proved fruitless, up to this point. Of course, this was before the proliferation of Genealogical Societies and long before the explosion of global communication via the Internet The old *brick wall* syndrome continued for a few more years. However, adopting a never-



THE FAMILY OF SIMON BULKA - Circa 1930/31



Back row, from left: ?, ?, Simon's Aunt Yetta, ?, Simon's grandfather Ayzya Lewin, Simon's father Gustave, Simon Bulka.

Middle Row, from left: Simon's mother Zenia née Lewin, ?, his grandmother Rivka née Baruch, ?,?,? Front row, seated on the right: Simon's sister Guta.

give-up policy, resulted in a series of lucky breaks, and many new contacts, after which my research seemed to snowball.

The arrival of a new book *Jewish Surnames* was the first sight of the Bulka name in print with the statement that it was a Polish Jewish name meaning *Bread Roll*.

Joining the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society was certainly a valuable boost to the search, especially through the wonderful help and guidance of then President, Sophie Caplan. Her knowledge, experience and incredible memory helped launch a whole new phase in the search for this man who appeared to have no recorded background.

Sophie's first revelation was *I have seen that name* in a book about Jews who fought in the Spanish Civil War. She later managed to obtain a copy of the book (in French) Jewish Fighters in the Spanish Republican Army by David Diamant, and there, on page 114, was the first mention of Simon Bulka as an Adjutant to General Walter Swierczewski in the XIIIth, International Brigade. Obviously the forename Simon was an Anglicisation of Shmul, and in the index of this book (also in other references discovered later) he was even known as Boleslaw Simon Bulka.

About the same time, we had made contact with the International Brigades Association and their collection of Spanish Civil War (SCW) letters, diaries etc at the Marx Library in London. Here we discovered some more references to *Dr. Bulka*, along, with some comments about his questioned qualifications and Communist Party membership in Scotland.

During the visit to the U.K. and Spain in 1997 we were only successful in finding the actual hospital building in Barcelona given as Simon's last address, and saw the battle sites Brunete and Burgos, but we still could not find any definitive record of his death. Another brief visit to England and Scotland in 2000 also failed to find more specific answers.

Then came a big breakthrough! When re-reading a diary account of an Australian nurse in the SCW, we noticed a reference to help from Amirah Inglis in Canberra. Sophie Caplan already knew Amirah and contacted her on the off-chance that she may know of someone with more SCW information on medical personnel. JACKPOT!

Spanish academic, Guillermo Casan has been conducting research on all International Brigades' medical personnel. He confirmed that Boleslaw/Simon Bulka was in fact the same Dr. Bulka referred to in earlier research. Although he had not actually graduated as a doctor, he was also a political commissar who had unfortunately "died" from severe stomach wounds (according to a Dr Broggi) at the battle of Belchite.

But the same Boleslaw Simon Bulka is recorded as being a political prisoner in France early in WWII, transferring to a camp in Algiers, serving with British Army, and after the war marrying the widow of a French officer, living in France, then Poland and eventually settling back in the French city of Nice, last known record 1970. Senor Casan also advised that the only BULKA listed in the Nice telephone directory (2001) was Daniel, but Senor Casan was not sure if Daniel was related to our Boleslaw Simon.

Sophie Caplan came to the rescue yet again. She telephoned Daniel Bulka and was thrilled to report that he was indeed the son of Simon Boleslaw and therefore my Half-Brother.

After much correspondence between Daniel and myself, mostly translated by Sophie, there were even more revelations about the family history of this *father* that I had never known.

Shmuel (Shmulek) was born in Konin, Poland and an English writer, Theo Richmond had researched and written a book about the people of Konin before, during and after WW2. He had actually interviewed Simon and was able to put me in touch with several other relatives, cousins of Simon and their families, mostly living close to London.

On learning that my half-brother, Daniel was ill with cancer I had no hesitation in planning another visit to Europe to meet all the new members of my extended family. This took place in May 2003, with the loving help of my daughter Julia who lives in London, my very understanding and supporting wife Glenn, and the wonderful assistance from a true friend, Sophie Caplan.



Bill and Daniel in 2003

Simon Boleslaw Bulka died at Roquebilliere, France on 30th July, 1998, less than two years before we knew of his life after the Spanish Civil War.

Bill Wallace (Walter Bulka) lives in NSW and can be contacted by email or letter through the AJGS.

Legacy of the Spanish Civil War by Sophie Caplan reveals the detailed research that produced many of these key discoveries. See Avotaynu Vol XIX, No. 4, Winter, 2003, page 49.

CENTRAL DATABASE OF SHOAH VICTIM'S NAMES NOW ONLINE

http://www.yadvashem.org

By Rieke Nash

A most exciting new research facility has just become available online. Since 1955 family members and friends of Victims of the Holocaust have been able to memorialise these victims with Pages of Testimony submitted to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum and Archive in Jerusalem. Until recently it was only possible to access this resource personally in Jerusalem.

To the two million names submitted over the years have been added names from hundreds of Nazi lists such as concentration camp inmates and deportation lists.

If known, the possible information can include date and place of birth, parents, residence before and during the War, place and date of death, family details and the name, relationship and contact information of the submitter.

Many of the pages were submitted in Hebrew and other European languages so that the transcriptions to Roman letters may result in some unusual spellings but with this new facility it is now possible to use a very sophisticated search engine, thereby optimising the opportunities for a successful outcome.

There are some duplication of names, where different members of the family have submitted pages and where the name was also on a Nazi list. Each instance is important as additional information can be found.

Some researchers have had some problems accessing the data reliably but most of the glitches have been solved. The most common problem relates to a PC's firewall not allowing access to some screens. Adjusting the setting on the firewall software usually fixes this problem.

Not only have some families discovered the fate of some of their relatives but there are many other valuable ways to use this database. For example, children of survivors with access to the database found what their parent submitted in the 1950s, accessing information that was often not discussed or had even been forgotten over the years. I found my uncle's name in the database. It had been submitted by his wife's sister living in Israel. I had not known the name of his wife until then. Tracking down previously unknown submitters of your family's fate can have an exciting outcome.

And much more.....

THE SECOND LITVAK DIASPORA STUDY

From a talk given by Professor Colin Tatz on Sunday, 29th August, 2004 at the Sydney Jewish Museum

Reviewed By Dr. Peter Arnold

Lithuanian emigration

From the 1860s, around 800,000 Litvaks migrated to the USA, and 40,000 to South Africa. That South African community grew to about 120,000, 90% Lithuanian—one of the world's most organised communities.

Our study

Dr Saul Issroff, an ex-Johannesburg Londoner, and Milton Shain, Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town, are, with Mendel Kaplan's assistance, tracing the migration to South Africa. Peter Arnold and I are tracing their descendants to Australia and New Zealand. We emailed a questionnaire to around 1,800 families, starting with 40 friends and relatives, who supplied names and addresses. We breached no privacy laws. Our 610 responses are a 34% response rate. One normally does well getting 10%.

Our statistician, Gillian Heller, will crunch the numbers, which we will incorporate into a readable book. No names will be mentioned. No-one could identify themselves or others.

General reasons for migration

Why did the Litvaks leave? Why do Jews leave South Africa?

People generally migrate half-way around the



Professor Colin Tatz

world because of:

1. Religious/ethnic minority persecution

We asked, "Why did your ancestors leave?" People answered, "Pogroms!" But were there serious pogroms then? There were some, but not systematic, driving Jews out.

2. Natural disasters

Volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, etc.

- 3. Famine
- 4. War

5. Economic problems

Common to all migrations, except from South Africa, is desperate hardship, eg Ireland, southern Italy, etc. Was life economically impossible for Litvaks? It was difficult. Many *shtetl* Jews serviced the coaches—inn-keepers, laundries, bakers, sheet makers, etc. The railways, built towards the end of the 19th century, went nowhere



near the coach routes, depriving those Jews of a living.

6. Disease

Much immediate post-1860 migration was to escape cholera—the dreaded *chaleria*.

7. Political strife/intense turmoil

A la Chile, Argentina.

8. Following family/friends

9. Adoption

A child taken to another country.

10. Slavery

11. Forced relocation: ethnic cleansing

North American Indians, re-located to reservations.

12. Criminal incarceration/deportation

13. Not a first-born son

The first-born son 'inherited the earth'; the others could go peddle their wares in the USA or wherever.

14. Greater financial opportunity

15. Dislike of religious doctrines

The *Mitnagdim* couldn't abide the Chassidic movement and left Lithuania.

16. From diaspora to homeland

The 'return' to Israel or Armenia.

17. Genocide survivors

18. Marriage arrangements

Marriages arranged outside their own country.

19. Army service

For every Litvak who says, "My zeide left to avoid being conscripted", another says "My zeide was exempt". How much of a factor was this?

Motivation, as opposed to reasons

Another way of looking at migration is to consider motivation in choosing lifestyles. American political scientist, Harold Laswell, writes about being elite—who has something that makes them stand above the mass? He describes values that people pursue. Did we leave to achieve some of those values—goals we lacked, or were prevented from having, in South Africa?

Status

South Africans didn't migrate for status. Most had more in South Africa.

Income

Whilst several have made fortunes, this is not Rockefeller money, nor even Lowy money. For many, it's been a greater battle economically here.

Class

Relative to South Africa, Australia is classless.

Skills

South Africans didn't have to *leave* to contribute to computer and insurance industries, medical and legal professions, or academia.

Personality

People pursue leadership roles in the general community. Few South Africans have done so here. They are reluctant to get involved, aiming for a low or modest profile.

Safety

Safety is the crunch question—safety from strife and turmoil. How serious was that strife when they departed? Life-threatening turmoil? Door-knocks by a Gestapo equivalent? What constitutes 'crisis' when, objectively, there was no great crisis at various times?

Our findings

First, some numbers. With religion the only non-compulsory Australian census question, many Jews, for historical reasons, do not declare themselves. Bill Rubenstein and Charles Price estimate 22% under-enumeration. The 2001 census total is 84,000. Adding 22%, there are about 102,000. How many people born in South Africa—all races, colours, creeds? The census answer is compulsory: 79,000. Of those, 11,053 are Jews.

Migration and apartheid

We asked, "Why did you leave South Africa". Many answered, "Politics". 7.7% of our respondents came before 1970, in the 'bad' apartheid years. In the 70s-80s, with riots in Soweto township, and 500 black schoolchildren



L to R: Marika Weinberger, Colin Tatz, Margaret Gutman, Peter Arnold, and Rieke Nash

murdered, with South Africa in a state of turmoil - 13.8% came. Between 1980 and 1999, it's still bad, but no increasing turmoil—only a sense of urban guerrilla warfare and violence. Between 1980 and 1999, 61% arrived. And since 2000, a further 16%. How did individual South Africans perceive real crisis? Short-term, long-term, one episode, one mugging, one shooting?

Were people escaping political, racist turmoil, increased antisemitism or what? Why did the majority (77%) come after 1980? Might these patterns have little to do with *apartheid*.

Political danger

Around 50% left family behind. If you're fleeing Pinochet's Chile or a war, you don't leave your parents. What drove South Africans to go, without family?

Peculiarities

68% have a university degree. In what *other* group of migrants? People with tertiary degrees must have modest, if not reasonable, incomes.

71% came on a 'look-see' visit. What other group has sussed out communities and schools before migrating? In that sense, and I don't say this disparagingly, it's a luxury group of migrants.

Success in the new country

Do I have a formula for determining our contribution here? As a possible starting point, how many has Jewish Care helped and how? Is it poverty, delinquency, prostitution, drug taking? Melbourne has reported (a week after this talk) that help has been given to 121; 86 received assistance finding employment; six were financial. When Jewish Care does not have many financially dependent clients amongst a migrant group, you know that that group is taking care of itself.

Professor Colin Tatz and Dr Peter Arnold 2nd Litvak Diaspora Study PO Box 250 Edgecliff 2027 peter@arnold.name

HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO NU? WHAT'S NEW?

The free newsletter, Nu? What's New? is issued bimonthly and always includes helpful research hints. Compiled by Gary Mokotoff of Avotaynu, it is sent to 6,500 recipients around the world.

To be added to the mailing list go to http://www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm

To see back issues go to http://www.avotaynu.com/nu.htm



THE 25th IAJGS CONFERENCE, 2005

The 2005 International Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference will be held at the Flamingo Hotel in LAS VEGAS from July 10 to 15.

The conference information and registration and hotel registration can be found on:-

http//www.jgssn.org

If you have ever wanted to go to one of these conferences, then, with the improved exchange rate this will be one of the most affordable for Australian researchers in recent years. The tariff at this luxury hotel will be \$US61 per night per room (plus tax) with registration to be advised.

There are a number of advantages for this venue.

With 150 sessions planned, meeting with the experts and archivists from Europe and networking with others with similar interests will be easier to accomplish away from the distractions of archives, family reunions and big city tourist attractions.

Partners and family can be entertained in luxury resort facilities while you are occupied. There will be a program for spouses and kids with tours such as a raft trip on the Colorado River. While it is hot and sometimes muggy at that time of the year, playing golf at 4 pm is a possibility. Hats, sunblock and even a sweater are recommended!

The call for papers closes on 31 December with an emphasis on extensive research in Eastern Europe, South America and Israel. Contact is Carol Montello at carmont?@cox.net.

What about other research opportunities?

The LDS Family History Library is in Salt Lake City and is not far from Las Vegas. Planning some time there before or after the conference would certainly be rewarding and, of course, Los Angeles is also close by.

If any of our members are considering attending this event, we would like to know about it. Send a note to president@ajgs.org.au

NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY *AVOTAYNU GUIDE TO JEWISH GENEALOGY* Edited by Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary

Mokotoff, Avotaynu, NJ, USA, 2004 608 pp. www.avotaynu.com

Add this new book to the references to read before your research, and pick it up again at a few later stages. There will always be something more which did not seem so relevant in an early reading. The editors' aim was to publish a comprehensive guide. They were successful. Although there will always be new discoveries of old records, and easier access in the future, very little in this book will become redundant.

The main part (almost 400 pages) is a compilation, country by country, of records and contacts, with a brief history of Jewish communities. Before the 'Specific Countries' sections there is an overview of three of the major European empires in which many of our ancestors lived until the Great War; the Austro-Hungarian, the Ottoman, and the Russian Empires. This is supplemented by ten simple outline maps showing the changes of Europe, the extent of the Ottoman Empire, and aspects of Hungary and Poland. Appendices include a few foreign alphabets and a Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex chart.

Unusual for such a reference guide, there is no index. You can't flick it open and quickly jump to records of births in Egypt around the late 1800s. Read the whole of the relevant sections, which often, because of border changes, will include an empire and two or three countries. Each country has only a handful of pages, typically three or four to a dozen, and it is well worthwhile becoming a little familiar with the communal history and administrative procedures our ancestors encountered.

The first 100 pages include general information and hints about interviewing, Jewish naming practices, Holocaust research, cemeteries, Synagogue histories, published genealogies, and support organisations such as Jewishgen and the internet, Avotaynu (the journal and book distributors), and Jewish genealogical societies. The section for America (70 pages) includes archives of international interest, such as the LDS Family History Library, YIVO and the Leo Baeck Institute.

This is a book in our society library which should become dog-eared from over-use. Fortunately it is strongly bound and opens easily. Thank you to Avotaynu and to the 68 authors who contributed. Two sections were by AJGS members, *Australia* by Sophie Caplan, and *China* by Peter Nash.

Reviewed by Gary Luke

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History

By Arthur Kurzweil

This very readable book of 367 pages was reprinted by Jossey-Bass in 2004 to help Jewish genealogists from beginners to the more experienced. This is more than just a reference book.

Kurzweil uses the experience of researching his own family tree to cover a wide range of topics from *How to get started* and *Checking Records* to putting together your *Family History*.

While the book favours American Jewish genealogists looking for records in the United States, it nevertheless covers a range of topics and references that are general to all Jewish researchers looking for records and information in the European countries from where our ancestor came.

The book covers topics like Holocaust Research,, the Shtetl, Jewish Cemeteries and reading tombstones. Kurzweil emphasises that researching each historical period of towns and countries where our ancestors dwelt will shed light on the way they lived, making them and lives more meaningful to

To borrow this book from our Library, email or contact Rieke Nash: president@ajgs.org.au.

A FEW FROM AFAR Jewish lives in Tasmania from 1804

Edited by Peter and Ann Elias

Published in 2003 by The Hobart Hebrew Congregation, G.P.O. Box 128, Hobart, Australia 7001, 381 pp. this book is a wonderful memorial to the work of Peter who died recently. Chapters by thirty authors cover Tasmania's Jewish History from 1804 up to the present day with photos, lists, maps and an excellent name index.

INTERRUPTED JOURNEYS Young Refugees from Hilter's Reich

By Alan Gill

Simon and Schuster, Australia 2004 306 pp.

Catholic writer Alan Gill describes the experiences of a number of refugee groups who eventually made it to Australia, some sooner and others later. With chapters entitled *Children of the Holocaust, Operation Kindertransport, The Dunera Experience* to the little known story of the *Vienna Mozart Boys' Choir* he manages to cover a wide range. It includes a resource list and an index. Alan Gill is the former Sydney Morning Herald religion writer.

2004 IAJGS CONFERENCE, JERUSALEM

Over 750 researchers attended this very successful conference in Jerusalem. All the organisers are to be congratulated on hosting a wonderful event. Australian participants included Kim Phillips, Enid Joffe-Elton, Les and Sonja Oberman, David and Diana Laufer and Louise Rosenberg and her son-in-law.

Our committee member, Kim Phillips, presented "Buried Downunder and Other Australian Projects", a session that highlighted current Australian initiatives such as the Rookwood Cemetery CD. In another session, a description of Miriam Pollak's "The Jewish Chronicle Project 1900-1909", the searchable database of personal notices in this London newspaper, was presented by Enid.

Two CDs were created by the Israel organising committee. The syllabus CD with conference papers and speaker information can be purchased from Ortra at jgen2004@ortra.com. The other, the Israel Special Projects CD, can be purchased from the Israel Genealogical Society at igs@igs.org.il. (These CDs have been added to our resources and can be viewed at our workshops).

There was some gossip about Australia holding the 2007 conference but that may have been due to the waiters at the conference banquet making sure that the Aussies were well supplied with wine!

The 2004 Annual Conference Awards were:-

The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a living individual for a lifetime of outstanding contributions of major significance and benefit to Jewish genealogy and this year was awarded to Warren Blatt, a very well deserved choice.

The Outstanding Contribution Award is presented to a person, persons or organization in recognition of an exceptional contribution to Jewish genealogy via the Internet, print, or electronic product with Alexander Beider being the recipient for 2004.

The Outstanding Publication Award is presented to an IAJGS Member Organization in recognition of an outstanding journal, newsletter, or other publication that furthers Jewish genealogical research. This year the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. based in New York City received this award in recognition of its "Genealogical Resources In New York" (2nd Edition).

The Outstanding Programming or Project Award is presented to a person, persons or organization either in recognition of a single program or series of programs, or in recognition of a single project or series of projects. David Fox was the winner of this award in recognition of projects undertaken within the Belarus SIG, e.g. the "All Belarus Database".

SOME NEW AUSTRALIAN CONTACTS FOR OUR SOCIETY

In Australia there are independent Jewish genealogical groups operating in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth (See contact information on page 15). In other areas, there have been a few informal groups affiliated with our Sydney base. Each group has some resources that are available for local researchers to consult.

Australian Capital Territory

For many years Sylvia Deutsch has been our ACT representative, looking after our members in and around Canberra, keeping track of the resources and organising the occasional event. Together with Earl Hoffman, she is also involved with the Australian Jewish Historical Society as well as many other organisations in the ACT. We are very grateful for all the time this very busy member has contributed to the Society. We thank her and wish her well.

Vernon Kronenberg is our new representative for the ACT. Vernon is a keen genealogist and we look forward to continuing our association with the ACT group.

He can be contacted at:-G.P.O. Box 1284 CANBERRA ACT 2601 Email: vkronenb@pcug.org.au

Oueensland

Owing to ill health, Morris Ochert has also stepped down from his role as Society representative. Over the years Morris has helped many researchers and written articles for Kosher Koala and for the Australian Jewish Historical Society journal. Thank you, Morris, for your work and we wish you well.

Vivien Solo has kindly agreed to take over the resources for the Queensland membership. Vivien has done extensive research into her Australian, Dutch and Polish roots.

Her contact address is:-22 Beryl Crescent HOLLAND PARK QLD 4121

On the Central Coast, New South Wales

Beulah Gross continues to be our representative.

FUTURE IAJGS CONFERENCES

1905 Las Vegas, USA1906 New York, USA1907 Salt Lake City, USA

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

Our aim is to encourage and assist those with Jewish ancestry to research their family histories

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SYDNEY WORKSHOPS

All workshops are usually held at the Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield, once a month on Sunday mornings, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. See front page for dates.

The Editor has the right to accept or reject or publish in revised form as might be appropriate.

Permission to reproduce articles and material from the Kosher Koala should be sought from the editor and all articles should be acknowledged. Articles and material may be submitted to

The Editor:

P.O. Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595, Australia

or by email: editor@ajgs.org.au

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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THE 13th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Australian Jewish Genealogy Society
will be held on Sunday
20 March, 2005
at 2.30 p.m.
at the
Jewish Centre On Ageing
25 Rowe Street

WOOLLAHRA



HAPPY CHANUKAH

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATABASE

Names being researched by our new members

December, 2004

Id	Surname		Town	Country	Dates
548	ATLAS	LEMBERG	LVIV	UKRAINE	1800-
552	BROCHE				To 1914
552	COHEN			AUSTRALIA	
552	CZERNIAK			POLAND	
548	CZOPP	VIENNA	WIEN	AUSTRIA	1800-1939
548	ENGEL	VIENNA	WIEN	AUSTRIA	1850-1939
548	FRIEDMAN	VIENNA	WIEN	AUSTRIA	1850-1935
552	GREEN	ODESSA	ODESA	UKRAINE	1862-1896
547	HARRIS		BENDIGO	AUSTRALIA	1875-1885
547	HARRIS		MELBOURNE	AUSTRALIA	1875-1885
552	KERSH	KREMENTCHEY	MOGILEV District	BELARUS	1876-1899
547	LAWRENCE		LONDON	ENGLAND	1816-1848
547	LAWRENCE		ADELAIDE	AUSTRALIA	1848-1886
547	LAWRENCE		SYDNEY	AUSTRALIA	1886-1904
547	LAZARUS		LONDON	ENGLAND	1816-1848
526	MENKES	LEMBERG	LVIV	UKRAINE	1850-1910
526	MENKES	VIENNA	WIEN	AUSTRIA	1910-1947
546	NAPHTALI		LONDON	ENGLAND	c.1785-1818
526	PHILIPPSOHN		DIEPHOLZ	GERMANY	1900-1942
526	PHILIPPSOHN		HANNOVER	GERMANY	1935-1939
552	SCHARLINSKI	KREIS MARIENWERDER	KWIDZYN	POLAND	1851-1923
552	SCHOEPS	BRESLAU	WROCLAW	POLAND	1829-1930
552	SMOLIANSKI	HEIDEKRUG	SILUTE	LITHUANIA	1800s-1930
547	SOLOMON		LONDON	ENGLAND	1822-1848
548	STERN	VIENNA	WIEN	AUSTRIA	1904-1939
548	WOLNER	VIENNA	WIEN	AUSTRIA	1850-1930

THE KOSHER KOALA CD-ROM

Issues of our newsletter, THE KOSHER KOALA, from Volume 1 Number 1, published in September, 1993 to Volume 10 Number 4 published in December 2003 are now available on CD-Rom. Fully word searchable for the cost of one year's subscription to the AJGS you can acquire ten years of articles.

FOR THE BEGINNER OR AS A USEFUL REFERENCE

The cost (including postage) is:

\$AU 35.00	AJGS members (Aust.)
\$AU 40.00	Overseas AJGS members
\$AU 50.00	Non-members (Aust)
\$AU 55.00	Non-members (Overseas)

See our website at: http://www.ajgs.org.au or contact:

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society P.O.Box 42, Lane Cove NSW 1595 Australia.

ROOKWOOD CEMETERY CD-ROM

This CD-Rom for over 1700 burials in the Old Jewish section at Rookwood is available. The cemetery was active from 1867 to 1906.

Do you have a relative who was buried there prior to 1910? Do you have a copy of their death certificate, or a photograph of them or their headstone? If you do, can you please contact Kim Phillips at kim.phillips@csiro.au and send a scan of the documents/photos? Or post them to her at P.O. Box 706, North Ryde NSW 1670, Australia.

The cost of the	e CD (including postage) is:
\$AU 35.00	AJGS members (Aust.)
\$AU 40.00	Overseas AJGS members
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