

## **COPYRIGHT**

This publication either in print or electronic form should NOT be copied or distributed. One hard copy can be made for inclusion in participating Society libraries.

# 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@ajgs.org.au](mailto:society@ajgs.org.au)

Web site: [www.ajgs.org.au](http://www.ajgs.org.au)

Volume 12 No 3

ISSN 1322-6401

September 2005

## *Inside This Issue*

## *Page*

## *Coming Events*

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*By Rieke Nash* 2

### **EDITORIAL**

*By Miriam Shifreen* 2

### **LOST and FOUND**

**Nazi-era Passport Connects Four Continents**  
*By Peter Nash* 3

### **THE OTTOLENGHI/OTTOLANGUI/LANGLEY FAMILY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**

*By Lesley Goldberg* 5

### **MY JOURNEY THROUGH THE LABRYNTH**

*By Bettina Glass* 7

### **KETUBOT FOR GENEALOGY**

*By Shalom Sabar* 10

### **NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY** 11

### **OUR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNETTE WINTER** 12

### **TRACING EUGENIE MELLER** *By Pauline Strasser* 12

### **THE 2005 IAJGS CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS** *By Greta James* 13

### **SOUTHERN AFRICAN SIG** *Bubbles Segall* 14

### **WORKSHOP DATES 2005**

**Sunday mornings from  
9.30 am to 12.30 pm**

#### **September 4**

*Greta James – A Report  
on the IAJGS 2005  
Conference*

#### **October 2**

#### **November 6**

#### **December 4**

### **OTHER EVENTS**

(See back page for details)

#### **September 18**

*Local and International  
Sources for European  
Research*

#### **October 23**

*How to Conduct  
Hungarian Jewish  
Research*

#### **November 27**

*GEN-EXPO 2005*

---

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### By Rieke Nash

One of our loyal committee members, Bernie Freedman, has decided to retire after many years of dedicated support for the Society. Bernie was responsible for the indexing of all the family trees held by the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Sydney and by our Society. This index is on the Society's Resource CD. On behalf of all the members we thank you, Bernie, for your time and willing participation in all our activities and look forward to still seeing you at our events.

At our last Sunday morning workshop many members enjoyed the use of our new equipment bought with the proceeds of the sales of our two CDs. Having a photocopying machine readily available was much appreciated and the ability to access the internet live from the library on our new lap-top computer is already proving productive.

Our growing resource collection now includes some remarkable Dutch resources as well as the new Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames. These will be reviewed in the next Koshers Koala. Thank you to all who continue to make donations to our library.

Our experience has been that one never knows where doing your family history might lead. Outcomes can never be predicted making it quite possible that someone from your family crossed the Atlantic to the US. Therefore some of us are looking forward to the IAJGS Conference to be held next August in New York. They are expecting close to 2000 participants, so the chances of you finding either a relative or a fellow landsman is quite good! Apart from accessing USA records, there are other archives in New York devoted to European Jewish research, such as New York Public Library, the Centre for Jewish History which houses both YIVO and the Leo Baeck Institute and that is as well as all the experts who will be attending. If you are considering going please let me know.

A new column by the AJGS (Victoria) Secretary, Lionel Sharpe, has appeared in the Australian Jewish News. *Roots – Tips for Tracing Jews* will be a regular feature.

With Rosh Hashanah occurring in October this year it seems a bit early to be wishing everyone a very Happy New Year. Nevertheless L'Shona Tova and Well Over the Fast.

*Rieke Nash*  
President  
[president@ajgs.org.au](mailto:president@ajgs.org.au)

---

## EDITORIAL

### By Miriam Shifreen

In April the National Geographic Society announced the Genographic Project sponsored by IBM. With Melbourne one of the ten research Centres, this five-year study will analyse more than 100,000 DNA samples from indigenous populations across the globe including the Australian Aborigines. It will become the world's largest genetic database tracing human migratory history over the past 60,000 years using population genetics and molecular biology, making DNA based genealogy the face of the future.

Genealogy is now the second most popular subject accessed on the Internet. Why do we need to feel a sense of identity to our past? Australian researchers say it is because we are part of a multicultural broth and of course this is what is pivotal to all Jewish genealogical researchers everywhere.

Every Thursday in the late afternoon Sydney time I speak to my cousin Fan in Perth. Fan's mother worked hard to save enough money to bring her mother and several siblings (which included my mother) to Australia from the Ukraine in 1924. Amazingly, our Thursday chats always reveal something new for my family story. This helps to make up in part for not having asked my parents all the right questions. So I was honoured to introduce Rosemary Block, our guest speaker, at our Eastern Suburbs meeting. See page 14 for a review of her talk.

So...what turns the family tree into a family history are the details we add of family life. Need help in this direction? Then this issue of Koshers Koala is for you. Every page has a story that reveals an insight into making your tree individual and fascinating.

You will be amazed how Peter Nash found the owner of a lost passport on page 3; intrigued how the Langley family ended up in Australia and New Zealand; gratified by Bettina Glass' successful research on page 7 and Pauline Strasser's Hungarian research on page 12; inspired to search for old family documents when you see how easy it is to read Hebrew marriage documents and other certificates on pages 10; pleased to meet Annette Winter on page 12; disappointed to have missed out on attending but happy to read about the IAJGS Conference In Las Vegas attended by Greta James on page 13. And that's not all. Don't miss a single page of this issue!

**Happy New Year to you all.**

**May your year be inspiring and successful.**

*Miriam Shifreen*

[editor@ajgs.org.au](mailto:editor@ajgs.org.au)

---

## LOST and FOUND

### Nazi-era Passport Connects Four Continents

By Peter Nash

Recently a Chinese citizen in Shanghai found two Nazi-era passports issued to refugees fleeing to Shanghai before World War 2. (See "Reclaiming Lost Passports" in *Kosher Koala*, June 2005). The owner of one of those passports, Gerda Brender of Sydney, claimed and collected her passport.

The second passport was in the name of Manfred LICHTENSTEIN who was born in Halle, Germany, reportedly on 24 August 1932 and as no one claimed it I decided to try to find Manfred or someone connected with him. After all I had many Shanghai resources in my possession and also knew where other valuable resources were available.

The first resource I looked at was the Japanese controlled 1943 - 44 Census for the Europeans and other Nationals forced into the Shanghai Hongkew Ghetto.<sup>1</sup> Manfred was not listed which was odd but not totally unusual. I also knew that the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) in Shanghai took applications from most of the Jews migrating to other countries after 1945. These so-called Shanghai HIAS Lists<sup>2</sup> have been microfilmed and are searchable<sup>3</sup>.

Valery Bazarov heads the HIAS Location and Family History Service in New York and he found an application from Hermann Lichtenstein, his wife Esther and children Manfred and Ruth, giving their place and dates of birth and other data. My excitement in knowing the names of the other Lichtenstein family was tempered slightly by the fact that their application did not list potential sponsors, an extremely valuable part of the HIAS Lists which often gives a clue to onward migration. However I also now had their birth dates and this showed up an anomaly, namely, Manfred was born on 24 June 1923 not 24 August 1932.

To find where any or all of the Lichtenstein family migrated from Shanghai was the next key step. About 7000 settled in the United States the highest number to any country, with about 5000 going to Israel, 3000 to Australia and the remainder spread throughout the world.

My wife Rieke suggested I look at the National Archives of Australia (NAA) website<sup>4</sup> and search for Manfred's name. I immediately found a file existed for Manfred. To access this file at NAA in Canberra I asked our Canberra-based AJGS member, Frank Atkinson if he could retrieve the file and send a copy. Now I found that an application by the then Australian Jewish Welfare

Society (AJWS - now JewishCare) for entry to Australia was approved in 1948 for Esther, Manfred and Irmgard Lichtenstein. It also gave their ages. Post-1945 AJWS files are still archived in Sydney and Melbourne, but neither Bella Sharp-Collins (JewishCare, Sydney) or Lionel Sharpe (AJGS Melbourne) could find one for this Lichtenstein family, casting doubt on their migration to Australia.

As Ruth and not Irmgard was included on the HIAS List, I felt that Irmgard may be Manfred's wife and that Ruth probably married in Shanghai and emigrated elsewhere. This thought induced me to do a reverse search of the 1943 - 44 Shanghai Census. I searched for those with the first name Irmgard and based on nationality, ages and occupation (Census versus NAA file) I matched up with an Irmgard Haas, possibly her maiden name, which I thought may be useful information.

Next I looked at my copy of Shanghai Death Lists which except for one year includes the deaths of refugees in the years 1940 to 1948 and I found that the father Hermann had died in 1946. Surely Esther born in 1896 would also have died by now. With no confirmation that any of the Lichtenstein family actually migrated to Australia, I searched the very accessible Mormon's database for US Social Security Death Index using Stephen Morse's versatile and valuable website<sup>5</sup>. Luckily the HIAS Lists gave me Esther's exact date of birth as there were other possible matches, but I was able to confirm that she died in 1975 and that her last residence was Astoria, Queens, NY. But more than that it also showed that her Social Security was issued in Illinois – perhaps Chicago?

It then occurred to me that over about 60 years starting from 1934 a vast number of former German speaking Jews used the New York published German language periodical *Aufbau* for a variety of personal notices (as my family certainly did). I also knew of the so-called Aufbau Indexing Project (AIP) which aimed to have a searchable database by name. However after several years it had still not been launched and I was unsure of its status.

Through JewishGen's German SIG I found the name and contacted the current AIP coordinator, Alex Calzareth, who said the AIP was partially completed but that if I gave some details he would check with the issues that had been scanned and indexed so far. I was in luck, as there was an obituary for Esther S. Lichtenstein née Friedler, originally from Halle in the 21 March 1975 *Aufbau* issue following her date of death.

The bonus was that other surnames mentioned in the obituary were LAUB, LIGHT and LEIB. My

---

hunch that *Aufbau* could help was right. But I was also confused as I had no prior connection to these new names. Noting the order of the names in the obituary, my thoughts then were: "Esther's husband Hermann died in Shanghai, so did she re-marry (someone) Laub, and live and die in New York?"; "Did Manfred and Irmgard (possibly his wife) change their name to Light?"; "Did Ruth marry (someone) Leib?"

To get answers to these questions I re-visited the 1943 - 44 Shanghai Census List, Social Security Death Index website, and also searched online White Pages Directories for Illinois, New York and Florida (a popular destination for many American Jews). I could not connect anything with any certainty. As luck often begets luck, Alex Calzareth decided out of interest in this unusual story to search submitted family trees on [worldconnect.rootsweb.com](http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com) a website linked to [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) (not necessarily with a Jewish focus). On a tree submitted by Harold J. Schmidt, he found Manfred Lichtenstein from Halle, Germany, his correct parents' names and that he died on 20 February 1996 in Chicago. Given this date and his birth date 24 August 1923 (not 24 June 1923 nor 24 August 1932!) he also cross-checked the SSDI and found a death for Fred LIGHT! Thus some mysteries were solved: Manfred changed his name and his wife was Rosie (surname unknown) - not Irmgard Haas.

The Schmidt Family Tree (last updated in 2002) showed that Irmgard Lichtenstein married Herman Laub and that Harold married the daughter of Ruth and Joseph Leib. The Tree showed that as well as Manfred, Irmgard and Herman Laub and Ruth Leib had died – but not Joseph Leib. It also gave their dates of birth and death. It also seemed that neither Manfred nor Irmgard had children. In submitting his tree, Harold J. Schmidt also provided an email address. I sent a message, that did not 'bounce' and waited and waited ... but I never got a response.

I was disappointed of course but thought it may have been for a variety of reasons: spam control, sender's name not known and therefore blocked, etc. I then searched the online White Pages Directory for Chicago/Illinois, found some possible hits for Harold J. Schmidt, phoned, but could not make a connection.

As ex-Shanghaianders have Reunions every two or three years I consulted attendee lists, especially the 1993 Reunion held in Chicago. I found that the Laubs and Joseph Leib had attended. With the given address for Joseph who now would have been 92 I wondered if he was still alive and at that address. So I contacted an ex-Shanghai school

classmate, Joan Deman, in Chicago for assistance and also mentioned that Irmgard Laub had only died within the last year making it more likely to find an informant for her death. Joan then told me that another Shanghaiander, Kurt Jacoby, worked for the Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Burial Society) in Chicago. I contacted Kurt and not only did he know the Leib family but he also believed that Joseph Leib was still alive and would try to locate him.

The breakthrough finally came when Joseph Leib's daughter, Susan Schmidt, phoned me, first apologising for taking a while to respond. It seems that she was very pre-occupied with her father as he needed a lot of care lately. Susan was born in the US but she was in awe of how her grandparents and parents and their siblings came to Shanghai from Germany and survived the harsh conditions and then built new lives in the US. She was very keen to claim her uncle Manfred's passport so I gave her the necessary contact details in Shanghai.

Even though there was no direct connection with my own family history, it felt as though there was and so I was very thrilled with the outcome.

The strange discovery of Manfred Lichtenstein's passport and the search for him connected four continents: Europe, Asia, America and Australia. However, there is still no explanation as to how Manfred and Gerda Brender's passports mysteriously appeared in a Shanghai market and it also makes one wonder if there are still more to be found.

#### References

1. The Gross-Hongkew 1943-44 list is on CD-ROM attached to the book *Exil Shanghai 1938-1947* by Armbrüster, G; Kohlstruck, M; Mühlberger, S.; Tetz, Germany, Hentrich & Hentrich, 2000
2. Peter Nash; "Shanghai HIAS Lists"; *Avotaynu* Vol. 17, no.4 (Winter 2001); 19
3. Shanghai HIAS Lists on microfilm searchable on site at Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem [<http://sites.huji.ac.il/archives>] and YIVO Institute of Jewish Research, New York [[www.yivoinstitute.org](http://www.yivoinstitute.org)]
4. [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au) – also see Home Page of AJGS website: [www.ajgs.org.au](http://www.ajgs.org.au) for how to search NAA site
5. [www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)

*Peter Nash, a Holocaust child survivor from Berlin, found refuge in Shanghai and lived there from 1939 to 1949. He authored the chapter on China in the "Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy".*

---

## A FAMILY STORY: THE OTTOLENGHI/ OTTOLANGUI/ LANGLEY FAMILY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

By Lesley Goldberg

Part 2 from the talk given by John Goldberg at the AGM of the AJGS in Sydney on March 20, 2005.

### *Ottolanguis leave for Australia and New Zealand*

The first Ottolangui to leave London for the Antipodes went involuntarily in 1830 to Van Diemen's Land, aged 19. With a prior conviction for larceny (stealing from a brass foundry), David Ottolangui, Israel and Miriam's eighth child, who described himself in the indictment as a hawker, was sentenced at the Old Bailey to transportation for life to Van Diemen's Land for stealing a 24lb cheese, valued at 12 shillings.

The period saw a great increase in Jewish criminal activity<sup>1</sup>. David's descent into crime may have been directly related to the decline in the family fortunes following Israel's trial and sentencing. He arrived on the *David Lyon* on 19 August 1830 after a 3½ month voyage. Six years later in Tasmania he married another convict and is described at the registrations of their five children as a bricklayer. However, he is recorded in the 1860 census in California, where he married again and had a second family and numerous descendants. He died in California in 1882.

The progenitors of the Australian and New Zealand settlers are his brothers, Israel and Miriam's sixth and seventh children, Moses Ottolangui (1808 – 1885) and Aaron Ottolangui (1810 – 1874). At the Bevis Marks Synagogue in London these brothers had married sisters, Emma and Reyna Bensabat. For more than 20 years the brothers and their families lived close to each other in Shepherd Street, Spitalfields. The closeness of the first two generations of Ottolanguis in Australia and New Zealand must stem from this proximity, with doubly related cousins growing up together in London.

### *Melbourne and Dunedin: boom towns in the South Pacific*

In the 1850s when Israel Ottolangui's grandchildren and their contemporaries were contemplating leaving London, gold discoveries ushered in a boom time in the British colonies in the South Pacific. The new cities of Melbourne and Dunedin were attractive to young people of adventurous or entrepreneurial bent in the years after the gold strikes in Victoria (1850s) and Otago (1860s). Both cities were flourishing and retain some of the grand buildings that reflect the optimistic climate of the time.

### *Amelia's story*

The first of the family to make the decision to migrate to Australia was Amelia (b.1832), the eldest daughter of Moses and Emma, and she came without her family. There are some puzzling aspects to this tale.

There was a shortage of marriageable women in the new Australian colonies. The heavy imbalance between the sexes meant that the newly established Jewish communities depended on providing Jewish brides. Without a Jewish mother, a Jewish man's children would be lost to these new communities. The problem became more acute with the arrival of more Jewish single men during the goldrushes. In 1853 Caroline Chisholm, founder of the Family Colonisation Society and the champion of female emigration to Australia, was in contact with the London-based Hebrew Ladies' Benevolent Society and she brought out a group of single Jewish women in 1853 and a few more as part of another group of Jewish families on the *Ballarat* which sailed from England on April 14, 1854<sup>2</sup>. One of these was Amelia Ottolangui, aged 22.

A week after Amelia sailed, her aunt, Sarah Mendes (nee Bensabat), her mother's sister, died on April 21, 1854, leaving several children. However, Sarah's widowed husband, Gershon Mendes, seems to have migrated to Melbourne later that year, as he married his wife's niece, Amelia Ottolangui, very much his junior, in Melbourne on 20 December 1854. We can only speculate about what family arrangements were put in place to bring about this surprising match, whether concern for Amelia's situation led to family action or whether the bold young Amelia took the opportunity for a free passage.

### *Amelia's family join her*

Soon, Amelia's siblings began to join her and Gershon. In 1858 she sponsored her sister Rachel (b.1837) who was soon married in Melbourne and by 1859 her oldest brother Jacob and his wife had migrated also.

Jacob Ottolangui had already made an early attempt to escape the poverty of the London Jews. Like many others, Jacob first sought his fortune in America. He took ship in 1851 for New York, accompanied by his cousin Jacob Bensabat and that young man's cousin Judah Mendes. They were all 17 – 18 years old. However, Jacob did not find success and was back in London by 1857 when he was married at the Bevis Marks Synagogue.

By 1859 he was operating a china and glass business in his new home of Melbourne. In the prospering new city with migrants pouring in, a business supplying household necessities did well,

so well that in the early 1860s Jacob took his family on a return visit to England. He returned in 1864 on the *Yorkshire* and it may have been as a result of this visit home that in 1866 his parents, Moses, now aged 58, and Emma made the decision to leave London for Melbourne. They arrived with their youngest daughter Hannah, who was only ten years old, to be greeted by three children and 12 grandchildren. They brought with them Gershon Mendes' three children from his first marriage, whom Emma had been caring for in London<sup>3</sup>. Moses and Emma's voyage may have been financed by the successful business of their son Jacob, and their son-in-law Gershon Mendes must have wished to be reunited with the children of his first marriage.

#### *Ottolanguis in New Zealand*

Recently it has been established that Aaron and Reyna's son, Abraham (b.1843) was attracted to the Otago diggings in the 1860s. Abraham was close to his cousin David, Moses and Emma's third son who was a little younger, and with whom he had grown up in London. It seems likely that it was at Abraham's urging that David moved to New Zealand. Certainly, the cousins were living close to each other in Dunedin in the 1870s. David's now successful brother Jacob may have seen this as a new family business opportunity.

By 1875 David Ottolanguis (b.1846) was married and operating a china and glass business in Dunedin. The existence of two glass and china emporia in Melbourne and Dunedin argues for arrangements by the brothers with common suppliers in London, and there seem to have been trips across the Tasman also. Moreover, Israel, David's older brother (b.1841) also moved to New Zealand and had a china and glass business in Hokitika on the west coast of the South Island, not far from a new gold field in Westland.

The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 shortened the time taken for consignments to reach Melbourne from London, and there were frequent sailings between Melbourne and Dunedin. A letter sent from Melbourne could reach its cross-Tasman destination in as little as a week, with a favourable crossing. Both businesses suffered in the depression of the 1890s, and Jacob turned to other types of enterprise, and seems never again to have achieved his earlier level of prosperity.

In Dunedin, however, David and then, after his death, his widow Agnes, carried on the business until the 1930s depression. In 1934 David and Agnes' son Victor and his family left for Australia, though others of the family remained in New Zealand. They were not the only Ottolanguis/

Langleys to move back and forth across the Tasman, and were following a common pattern in many migrant families over more than 150 years.

#### *Cousins migrate to Melbourne*

Aaron and his wife Reyna did not join the emigration from London to Australia. It is likely that they never had sufficient funds or perhaps felt they were too old. At different times Aaron described himself as a confectioner and later as a grocer and general dealer. However, five of their children followed their cousins to Melbourne, knowing they could join an established clan. The eldest daughter Rachel (b.1833) came with her husband Henry Simmons, although they seem not to have remained there, and other arrivals were Jacob (b.1841), Gershon (George) (b.1854) and Sarah (b.1857) and finally, Emma (b.1859).

The closeness of the two families was further reinforced by the marriage in Melbourne in 1880 of Aaron's daughter Sarah (b.1857) to her first cousin, Moses' son Joshua (b.1848), although she died two years later.

#### *Emma Nathan and her descendants*

Emma (b.1859) the youngest, was John Goldberg's



**Emma Nathan (nee Ottolanguis), John's great-grandmother, taken at Telsa Studio Prahran about 1894.**

great-grandmother. She married Abraham Nathan in the Great Synagogue in London in 1884 by which time both her parents had been dead for some ten years. Census re-cords show that Emma had been living since their deaths with her sister, Millie Miriam Amelia) who

had married David Romain in 1868. Soon after their marriage, Abraham and Emma Nathan also migrated to Melbourne, arriving in 1885. The post-gold boom had ended and soon a severe depression began in the southern colonies. However, Abraham Nathan came with some capital and in Australia he became a very successful businessman, who established furniture businesses in the thriving inland towns of Bendigo, Albury and Wagga, as well as in Melbourne.

The continuing attachment between the generations is perhaps reflected in the continuance of family names. Emma Nathan named her first daughter



**From left Sadie Nathan, eldest daughter of Emma Ottolanguis, married Joseph Levy 1908. Emma is holding John's mother, Emma Edna. Next is probably one of Sadie's younger sisters. Taken about 1909.**

Sarah, presumably after her still recently deceased sister and her second daughter Amelia (Millie) after her beloved older sister who had stood in the role of mother after the death of their own mother when Emma, the baby of the family, was 15. The youngest daughter, Hazel, also bore the name of Reyner, a variant of her grandmother's name. Sarah Levy (nee Nathan), John Goldberg's maternal grandmother, named her only daughter, his mother Emma Edna, after her grandmother, and Emma Edna's daughter, John's sister, was named Sari, a variant of her grandmother's name.

Emma Nathan made at least one return trip to London to see her sister, Millie who made at least two visits to Melbourne. Aunt Millie Romain remained a vivid figure to Emma's granddaughter, Emma Edna, in stories told by her grandmother.

#### *Ottolanguis/Langleys - Australia and New Zealand*

The successful transplantation of Ottolanguis to Australia and New Zealand means that there are now hundreds of descendants in the two countries who are just beginning to get to know each other. It is rewarding to discover so many people who have a common ancestry and whose enterprise has been part of the 19th and 20th century history of Australia and New Zealand.



**Siblings of Aaron and Reyna Ottolanguis. Taken 1894 by Telsa: Gershon, Amelia, Emma, and Jacob (?)**

<sup>1</sup> Todd M. Edelman *The Jews of Britain 1656 – 2000* UCP 2002

<sup>2</sup> Hilary I. Rubinstein *The Jews in Victoria 1835 – 1985* Allen & Unwin pp25-26

<sup>3</sup> 1861 UK Census

*John and Lesley Goldberg are members of our Society. Part 1 appeared in Vol 12 No 2 Page 3*

## MY JOURNEY THROUGH THE LABRYNTH

**By Bettina Glass**

Although a relative newcomer to the AJGS family, I was moved to find out what I could about the family I had married into thirty-four years ago; the family who had welcomed me into their midst so warmly and were the forebears of my two children. They knew very little about their father's parents, not even their forenames and as I discovered, they even had their father's name wrong. They knew that their father was Jewish and their grandmother had been widowed when she married their grandfather, a second-hand dealer whose father was a tailor.

My husband, Lionel David Glass, had four brothers and a sister, all of whom believed their father's name to be Samuel Julian Glass. Their father had died in Sydney on my husband's birthday five months after our marriage in 1961 in Darwin. None of the family could make the journey from Sydney to our wedding so it was almost a year later that I met them. My gracious mother-in-law passed away in 1972 and I was only then prompted to try to find out what I could beyond these two parents.

I thought the first thing was to obtain a copy of my father-in-law Samuel Julian's birth certificate. He was born in Newcastle, N.S.W. Australia and was 79 years old when he died in 1961. No family member had a copy of his marriage certificate and I was such an ill-informed novice at family research that such a resource did not occur to me.

The birth certificate duly arrived He was not Samuel Julian, but Isaac Samuel. How could the family have mistaken his name for all those years? Did he want them to think that was his name? In subsequent research, the names Isaac and Samuel associated with the name Glass have thrown themselves tantalizingly at me from LDS microfilms, tempting me to presume a connection which cannot yet be proved without corroborative evidence. I have learned much about fascinating Ashkenazi naming traditions during my journey.

When I queried the supposed second name of Julian, the family told me that their father, a music teacher and violinist, had toured in his bachelor years billed at concert halls on American goldfields as *The Great Julian*. The name obviously had some significance for him. The closest I have come to a possible link to the name Julian in my research, is a birth entry for an illegitimate child in 1829 whose mother was Julia Glass. I have tucked this away as a *significant other*, but can't connect.

---

Isaac Samuel's birth certificate gave me information about my husband's grandparents. Salomon Glass, (dealer) aged 40, born at Schrimm, Poland and Rachel formerly Isaacs late Shaffran aged 40, born at Mariampolo, Russia, had been married in Sydney in 1881. The child, Isaac Samuel was born at Market Approach, Newcastle, NSW in 1882. I was ecstatic at having found some information hitherto unknown to the family. Deciding to search further, I sent for the marriage certificate of Salomon and Rachel, which confirmed her status of widow, his occupation of Dealer and their Jewish faith. Unfortunately, no records of parents had been entered. Salomon and Rachel were married by Alexander B. Davis, at the same address given for Salomon's residence, 703 George Street South, Sydney. Rachel resided in Castlereagh Street. S Cooper and A. Baumberg were their witnesses.

Searching various maps I could find no reference to the towns of Schrimm or Mariampolo and no mention in the Encyclopaedia Britannica. At that time the Encyclopaedia Britannica offered a service where one could ask for information that was not covered in their volumes. I did so and eventually received photocopied entries from different gazetteers listing both towns. Names had changed. Mariampolo had been renamed Kapsukas and was in Lithuania. Since the fall of the USSR, both these towns have reverted to their original names of Srem and Marijampol. In recent months I have been thrown into confusion by discovering a town called Marijampol in Ukraine. I have searched an appropriate LDS microfilm for Mariampolo Lithuania without finding the birth of Rachel. Now I am wondering if her Mariampolo was the one in Ukraine, which would have been in Galicia when she was born in 1842. Her first husband was Shaffran, a name I have seen several times associated with Galicia. I digress.

I found the address for an archive in Poland and wrote in English requesting advice about a search for the birth of Salomon Glass. The year was now 1977. It took three months for a reply and when it reached me, my heart sank but I laughed. It contained two pages, entirely in Polish.

We were living by then in the North Queensland town of Townsville and I could find only one person who spoke Polish. That woman had been schooled in Poland but only to Primary School standard and she attempted without success to translate my Polish letter. One page apparently contained directions about payment and the second page was an invoice for \$30. I put it in *the too hard basket* for the moment.

I discovered the address of a Lithuanian *government in exile* - the Lithuanian Legation in London. Although very succinct and disappointing, their reply to my approach was at least in English. Due to Soviet Russia's occupation of Lithuania, Moscow was in complete control and I had to apply for assistance to the Russian Consul. With a few choice and unrepeatable words, the *too hard basket* was again used.

I then made a half-hearted, unsuccessful attempt to find a record of Salomon's death in Sydney. With no idea of the approximate date within the mandatory five-year search time span and no appropriate resources that I knew about in Townsville, these repeated failures defeated me for several years. In late 1979 we moved to the village of Yungaburra on the Atherton Tableland in far north Queensland. I became aware of a Family History group meeting in Atherton but my interest had waned and did not recover until we entered the world of computers about the year 2000. I found a Polish dentist on the Tableland who translated my Polish letter about sending money to Poland.

Computer technology was my saviour. As we all discover, it holds many secrets just waiting to be found. Through a combination of AJGS, AJHS, JewishGen, JRI-Poland, GerSig, a Family History Centre and LDS microfilms, Australian microfiche BM&D records, Inter Library Loans and individual helpful and willing people within all these areas, I have entered the amazing world of Jewish genealogy and learned much fascinating *stuff*.

I no longer describe my husband's forebears as Polish. I now say with pride, *Polish Jews* or *Jewish from Poland*. I have discovered that Rachel was not a widow after all, but divorced from Isaac Shaffran with whom she had had three children, Harry, Sarah and Esther, half-siblings to my husband's father Isaac Samuel Glass.

I have discovered a possible reason for her presumed status of *widow* (the first marriage was perhaps a Synagogue one only and it was more convenient to become a *widow*), and a probable reason for Isaac Samuel's reticence in talking about his Jewish heritage and his cremation in the non-Jewish sector of Rookwood Cemetery (in an assumedly orthodox family, he had created the sin of *marrying out*).

From Rachel's Will I discovered the spouses of her Shaffran children and the names of some of their children. I have photographs of the graves of Salomon and Rachel and their death certificates reveal that they immigrated separately in 1857, although this is not reliable for Rachel. I have a copy of their marriage declaration. I have the name

---

of Salomon's father and most treasured, the microfilmed entries of Salomon's birth, as Salisch, his two sisters, Hanna and Rehle and two brothers, Samuel and Leibusch, and his mother's name, Male Braunspahn. Samuel died at the age of two from tuberculosis. The family left Schrimm and moved to Berlin and the brother Leibusch became Louis in Berlin where he is buried in the Friedhof Weissensee next to a Marie Glass (nee Lohde).

Rachel's first husband, who was married twice after being divorced from Rachel was a hairdresser and once attempted suicide by means of his razor. From three marriages he had at least twelve children. Wives after Rachel were Rosa, then Hannah Harris. He settled at Brighton, England. His children with Rosa and Hannah were born between 1869 and 1890. The first three, Martha, Morris and Eliza, were born in Australia. Phillip, Samuel, Sarah, Hyman, Robert and Millicent, were all born in England. At least two sons became hairdressers.

Rachel's son Harry (Harris) Shaffran, b.1863 Queensland, Hairdresser, m.1899 Sydney to Esther Davis. Their children were:

Elizabeth b.1900 married Simon J. Gus in 1924 at Sydney

Maud b. 1902 d.1902, Mosman.

Miriam Eileen, b.1903 Mosman, married Harry W. Gray in 1927 at Mosman.

Phyllis and Rose (twins), b.1904 Mosman. Phyllis d. Mosman 1933.

John b.1907 Mosman, married Leah Levy in 1933 at Sydney.

Rachel's daughter, Sarah Rebecca Shaffran b.1865 Queensland, married 1887 David Greenberg.

Their children were:

Eva b.1888 Sydney, married Morris L. Leschinski in 1912 in Sydney. Morris Leschinski the son of Ezekiel and Scheena Muriel Leschinski, d.1947, QLD). Their children were:

Muriel b.1913 QLD., married Albert John Lord in 1932 in QLD

Zilla b.1915 Queensland.

Henry (Harry) b.1891 Sydney, married Ina Sussman in 1923 at Waratah.

Louis L. b.1896 at Paddington.

Rachel's daughter Esther Hinda Shaffran b.1867 at sea, d.1925 Sydney, m.1886 George Goldsmid, furniture dealer, at Newtown. Their children were:

Harry L. b.1887 Sydney.

Joseph b.1888 Paddington

Bertram C. b.1889 Sydney

Raie b.1890

From my studies of Ashkenazi naming traditions, the Synagogue name, the nickname or Kinnui and the secular name I have found a possible reason

why Isaac Samuel called his wife (my mother-in-law Dorothy) *Sarah*. I smile when my husband and his siblings say that their father did not give them Jewish names: Arnold Julian, Keith Samuel, Neville Arthur, John Allen, Lionel David and sister Rae Doreen. Our son has named our two grandchildren Jake and Ben.

It was common in 19th century Poland to register as illegitimate, the child/children from a Synagogue marriage that had not been registered with the State. Remember my intrigue with the entry for the child of Julia Glass?

Salomon's father was known as both David and Samuel. David possibly had a brother Hermann who was a Torah Scribe and whose second wife was Eva (Chava) Schreiber, possibly the daughter of the Rabbi Schreiber of Schrimm in the early 1840s. Hermann's first wife was Sorel Fabisch who died at Schrimm in 1840. Together they had a daughter Rela, b.1838. With his second wife Eva, Hermann had a son Ftzig (?) b.1844 and a daughter Feige b.1846, at Schrimm.

Another treasured document is a copy of an article about Schrimm. sent to me by Peter Nash. Written by Rabbi Doctor Hermann Schreiber, translated by Werner Zimmt and published by the Leo Baeck Institute in *Stammbaum* in 2004, titled: *Schrimm: Memories from Our Youth*. Rabbi Schreiber grew up in Schrimm in the 1880s and 1890s. Could his grandfather have been the father of Eva Schreiber, second wife of Hermann Glass? Was Hermann a brother to David Glass?

I would like to know more about David Glass and his wife Male Braunspahn and where and when they died. I would like to know more about Rachel Glass 'late' Shaffran formerly Isaacs. There are many distant cousins descended from Rachel's Shaffran family out there. Are there descendants of Louis and Marie Glass formerly Lohde who might have made their way to Australia? Is there a connection to Julia Glass? I want to know more about an Isaac Samuel Glass who married Leic Farin in Schrimm c.1822-3 and died; Leic then marrying Nachem Nerried in 1825.

So I see that the most interesting part of my journey has really only just begun though I have actually discovered much. I am putting aside other activities in order to wander further along this journey. I am grateful for assistance and/or interest from so many people without whom I would not only stumble, but fail. If anyone recognizes a name from their family tree, do contact me. There is far to go...

*Bettina Glass, a member of our Society, lives at Yungaburra in far north Queensland.*  
*bettinaglass@qldnet.com.au*

---

## KETUBOT FOR GENEALOGY

**By Shalom Sabar**

*From Sharsheret Hadorot, Vol 16. No.4 Oct., 2002  
From a lecture given at the Jerusalem Branch of  
the Israel Genealogical Society and summarised by  
Jean-Pierre Stroweis*

The Ketubah is the Jewish marriage contract between a groom and a bride, according to Halakhah, Jewish Law. The Ketubah lists the marital and financial commitments of the groom towards the bride at the time of the wedding, which is payable when/if she becomes a widow or gets divorced. This document serves as a protection for the Jewish wife and helps to preserve the institution of the Jewish family.

There is no mention of the Ketubah in the Torah (the Old Testament). But, as the Torah does mention the *get*, that is, the document of divorce, it is assumed this was an early practice. By the 5th century CE, written marriage contracts had come into common usage among Jews. The language and form of the Ketubah itself were formulated in the time of the Mishnah.

The Ketubah provides a wealth of information, on the bride and the groom, on the wedding witnesses, on the community, on artistic and folkloristic issues, on the ideals of marriage, and on the history of Jewish names many and various locations where the Jews lived in the past.

The oldest known fragments of Jewish marriage contracts are Aramaic papyrus from Elephantine, Egypt, which are dated to the 5th century B.C. and from Eretz Israel there are fragments from the Bar Kokhba period; which have an archaic shape and are significantly different from the Ketubot of Mediaeval and later times. (*Editor's note: Ketubot is the plural of Ketubah*).

The oldest decorated Ketubot come from the Cairo Geniza and date from the 10th century on. Each Ketubah from this period is a unique original masterpiece, with distinctive text and decorative patterns. It presents the bride's dowry, to be read publicly during the wedding to the audience. The content of the dowry was provided in great detail, thanks to specialized experts. Historians use these descriptions to learn about the clothes and the traditions of the period.

In medieval Germany, Ashkenazi Jews established a simple, common text which appears on all Ketubot. Even the account of the dowry was fixed. It is thought that this standard formulation was established during a period of unrest and

persecution so it could be easily replaced in case the original Ketubah was destroyed.

In medieval Spain, Sephardic Jews continued to use distinct Ketubot, and the Ketubah is a very vivid document, with a wealth and variety of details. One Ketubah contains the signatures of nine witnesses, whereas only two witnesses are required according to the Jewish law. The name of the cities is often followed by the name of the river passing by. No mention of sovereign rulers is made in this period (though later Sephardi Ketubot and those made in Islamic lands at times do mention names of rulers). Each Ketubah is usually divided into two parts: the narration of the wedding event on one side, and the terms and conditions on the other side.

The practice of using the portable Chupah (the wedding canopy) is Ashkenazi and dates from the early 16th century. The Sephardim used fixed Chupah, and, unlike the Ashkenazim, their weddings were conducted usually inside the synagogue.

Until the 18th century, Jewish weddings took place during the first half of the Hebrew month, during the waxing of the moon, as a symbol of fertility and prosperity.

After their expulsion from Spain, Sephardic Jews kept their traditions. For example, many Ketubot from Venice are decorated in Moorish style with large horseshoe arches, and under the influence of Venetian Baroque art the Sephardi Ketubah becomes a genuine work of art. Quotations from the Bible are often part of the ornaments.

The Italian influence introduced blazons - heraldic shields or emblems adopted by families. In Halakhic discussion, the Italian sages indicate that blazons do not imitate Christian practice; the opposite is true, as they represent the symbols of the twelve tribes of Israel in the book of the Numbers (Bamidbar).

Sometimes, the family names of the groom and the bride are not even explicitly written; instead, the heraldry symbol of the family is drawn. For example:

The symbol of the Norzi family (Italy) is three covered heads in a triangle.

The Foa family (Italian of French origin) is represented by two facing lions around a large palm tree with Magen David.

The blazon of the Rappaport family shows the etymology of their name. The blazon includes hands raised in blessing (indicating Kohanim), a crow (*rabe* in old German) and the name of the city of *Porto* (Italy).

---

Sometimes the drawings refer to the names of the bride or groom: for Esther, a scene of the Megillah (Book of Esther), for Jacob, a ladder to heaven, for Yedidya, the scene of King Solomon when he suggests cutting the baby in half, etc.

The Ketubot of Moroccan Jews often have a long enumeration of the ancestry of the bride and groom, which was supposed to prove the family's Spanish origin. Most Moroccan Jews were married on a Wednesday, to follow an old Jewish tradition (Mishnah Ketubot, 1: 1). Thursday was the day where the Beit Din (Jewish court) was in session and any claim (re-the virginity of the bride) could be brought before the court.

*Shalom Sabar (PhD in Art History, UCLA, 1987) is Professor of Jewish art and material culture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Chairman, Dept. of Jewish and Comparative Folklore; Dept of Art History; Graduate School of Overseas Students. He has published a few books and many articles on Hebrew illuminated manuscripts, the Ketubbot of many communities, Biblical themes in art, Jewish art and the Halakhah, and many related subjects. His main fields of interest are Jewish art and material culture of the Sephardim in Europe, the Jews of Italy, and Jewish communities in Islamic lands. He is editor of 'Rimonim,' the only periodical on Jewish art in Hebrew, and on the editorial board of a number of other academic journals.*

To translate a Ketubah see page 33 of 'Jewish Ancestors: A Guide to Reading Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents' by Rosemary Wenzel. This new book can be inspected in our Library when you attend one of our Sunday Workshops. - Editor

---

## **TWO NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY**

### **Reviewed by Sunny Gold**

We have acquired two more books in the excellent series *JEWISH ANCESTORS?* by Rosemary Wenzel published by the *Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain*.

### **A GUIDE TO READING HEBREW INSCRIPTIONS AND DOCUMENTS**

The objective of this publication is to assist Jewish and non-Jewish researchers with the reading and understanding of Hebrew on documents and inscriptions.

It uses explanations, translations and transliterations into English to accomplish this aim with extensive and easy-to-read information about Jewish customs and beliefs and is of great assistance to researchers learning about the religious side of their roots.

Information is provided about the Jewish year, Hebrew words and letters and the spelling of names. A guide on reading Jewish tombstones in the U.K. is included.

Accompanied by extensive and clear illustrations, the book describes the Jewish way of life from 'birth to death'. Detailed references are made to documents connected to Jewish life events.

A compact 54 pages, it is a concise publication about another aspect of research into Jewish ancestry.

*(Editor's Note: I tried translating my parents' Ketubah with the help of the book and found I could read all the names. The main difficulty seemed to be reading the scribe's handwriting.)*

### **A GUIDE TO ORGANIZING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY RECORDS**

This excellent publication of 112 pages provides complete and comprehensive information with easy instructions to assist both beginners and the more experienced genealogists.

It makes recommendations and suggestions and gives examples on organizing records, construction of family trees, methods of conservation and use of technical equipment. The book comprises a prodigious and detailed volume about basic resources. It also delves into more complex areas such as early and working life data, education and military records and gives thorough instructions about cemeteries and graves. It deals with social occasions from birthdays and anniversaries to Valentines Day and Mother and Father's Day and the details of a marriage celebration.

This publication contains an exhaustive supply of information which is very well indexed allowing the researcher to select sections pertinent to their interest and is useful to genealogists in providing advice about completely novel avenues for exploration.

Both of these most useful books are available for reading at the Sunday morning Workshops so put them on your list of reference books and come to the next meeting. Alternatively you can purchase your own personal copies priced at £4.50 and £4.95 plus postage.

Contact information:

Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain  
JGSGB Publications  
PO Box 180, St Albans, Herts AL2 3WH  
U.K.

Email: [publications@jgsgb.org.uk](mailto:publications@jgsgb.org.uk)

Website: [www.jgsgb.org.uk](http://www.jgsgb.org.uk)

---

## OUR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

### ANNETTE WINTER

I have always been interested in family connections. I am an only child and have a small family as a result of the Shoah (Holocaust).

About 18 months ago I received an email from a young girl in Germany (who turned out to be a third cousin) who was doing a family tree from my mother's paternal side. She said she was the great granddaughter of one of my great grandfather's brothers. My mother never spoke much about her family or her past so I did not know that my great grandfather had any siblings. We corresponded and I found out about other cousins of whom I had never heard. A few of the cousins live in America; and as I was going to America for a holiday I contacted them and we had a "family gathering". It was an exciting and emotional experience.

I joined the genealogical society later wondering if I could find any relatives from my mother's maternal side. After about a fortnight with the help of some Society members, I found six people who were searching for the same name as myself. I answered all of them and gradually narrowed them down to one. I was excited finding another cousin; a descendant from my great grandmother's siblings which makes us third cousins. This cousin lives in Israel. We have similar backgrounds, interests and are close in age and we hope to meet each other soon.

*Annette has just joined the Society and at the same time generously agreed to join the committee. We thank her and really appreciate her help.*

---

### TRACING EUGENIE MELLER

#### By Pauline Strasser

Eugenia Meller or as she was known in Hungarian, Mellerne Artur, Miskolezky Eugenia, was well known in the Suffragette Movement, Women's and Children's Health and Education during the early 1900s and for peace and freedom.

When my husband and I decided to write a biography of his grandmother Eugenie Mellor, we began with a Family Tree. Riding a tram along the *Margit Korut* to Pest on the other side of the river, we had seen an advertisement for *Csaladfa*, a company of Genealogists on an upstairs window. We gave the *Csaladfa* an outline of our Mellor and Strasser families and ten weeks later a large package containing three volumes turned up at our daughter's place in Pasadena, USA.

One volume contained the Family Tree, the second contained copies of the documents from which the

information came, and the third, the sources such as the census, Jewish survivors of the Holocaust records, and so on. The charge of \$US1,000 (\$AU1,300) seemed as large as the package when we had supplied most of the material.

Researching from home proved difficult so we employed a Ph.D student to help with the research. The National Szechenyi Library in Budapest ([www.oszk.hu/index\\_en.htm](http://www.oszk.hu/index_en.htm)) provided many records, school reports, census records etc. while other records were found in the Hungarian National Archives. We were surprised that material in The Erwin Szabo Library has been so neglected that many journals were disintergrating.

During the course of our search, we have used The Jewish Community Centre; Ancestry.Com; The Radix Forum; Genealogy.com; MyFamily.com; Jewishgen.org; CousinConnection.com; and Ray Plutsko, a specialist in Slovak research as parts of Hungary belonged to Slovakia before the Trianon.

After reading Kurzweil's book *From Generation to Generation* we also subscribed to *Avotaynu* and placed an advertisement in the *Family Finder*. Two articles were of special interest. One by Ze'ev Glizcenstein about Dr. Gabriel Sheked working for Yad Vashem in Israel appeared in Volume XII No 2 1996 and the other which appeared in Volume XIII No 4 1997 was by George Eotvos containing resources for Jewish Research in Hungary.

My husband and I are still searching for information on his grandmother as we plan to write her biography with the help of Dr. Gillian Pollak a mediaeval historian from Canberra who has been both encouraging and informative.

*Pauline Strasser*

*palastra@homemail.com.au*

---

### CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO SPECIAL PEOPLE

who have received the Order of Australia Medal  
at the last Queen's Birthday Honours.

#### HELEN BERSTEN OAM

Archivist for the Australian Jewish Historical  
Society, Sydney

and

#### JULIE MEADOWS OAM

founder of the Writing Your History Project for  
the Makor Library, Melbourne.

---

## THE IAJGS CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS 2005

By Greta James

The International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies (IAJGS) conference was held this year in Las Vegas from Sunday 10 July to Friday 15 July. This was my first conference and it was a fantastic experience! Not only was the programme packed full of must-attend sessions but it was a great opportunity to meet so many people with so much Jewish genealogy wisdom.

I'll describe a few of the many conference highlights. This is, necessarily, a very personal account but I hope that it will give a flavour of the event and encourage more Aussies to go to future conferences.

Since all of my ancestors arrived in Australia in the second half of the 19th century, I am researching several countries including Poland, Lithuania, Galicia, England and the Netherlands. This meant that there were a lot of sessions to choose from and I wasn't able to go all the presentations of interest. But that is a wonderful problem to have.

Polish research was particularly well served with six sessions focussed specifically on these records. One presentation that is proving to be extremely useful was Judith Frazin's talk on translating Polish language vital records which complements the book that she has written. There was also an update by Stanley Diamond on the fantastic Jewish Records Indexing – Poland project. Another highlight was Fay and Julian Bussgang's presentation on the Best Kept Secrets of Polish Genealogy which described some little known sources including Residents Lists and Registration Books.

Other regions were also well served and included several sessions on Galicia, the Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and the USA.

As well as presentations on specific regions and their records, there were also lectures on methodology. I went to a particularly entertaining and informative one on Writing Your Family History in Small, Manageable Pieces. This is one example but there were a variety of sessions, meeting the needs of researchers across the spectrum of experience – from beginners to advanced.

On Thursday evening, there was a Film Festival. The choice was between "My Grandfather's House" about a family search in Lithuania; "Divan" about a trip to Hungary to reclaim an ancestral couch; and "Shalom Ireland" about the blending of Irish and Jewish traditions. Because I have

Lithuanian ancestors, I chose "My Grandfather's House". The film is a very moving account of Eileen Douglas's efforts to discover more about her family and includes a trip back to Kovno with her daughter to visit locations of family significance. The story is told in a very moving way with Eileen making contact with people that knew her family and filling in many of the missing details about life in Lithuania. At the end of the film there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

Of course, a conference is not just about the formal sessions, it's also about making contact with people. A major motivation for my trip was to meet many of the volunteers from Jewish Records Indexing – Poland that I have been communicating with in my role as Archive Coordinator for the Plock Archives. I also was able to make contact with fellow researchers from Brody in Galicia and from Kutno in Poland. Records for both of these shtetls are hard to get, so having made contact, we will now work together to share information and raise money to make available what information remains. For anyone with an interest in Brody, the records are in the Lviv Archive in the Ukraine which has been closed for some time. However, it looks like the Lviv Archive will reopen later in the year.

Would I go to another IAJGS conference? The answer is an unreserved "YES". In fact, I am seriously considering going to next year's conference which will be in New York from 13 – 18 August 2006. Hoping to see you there!!

*Greta James has been a member of our Society for six years and served a few years on the committee.*

---

### 2005 IAJGS AWARDS

#### *The Lifetime Achievement Award*

SUSAN KING for her 20 years of pioneering vision and leadership in creating and continually expanding JewishGen.

#### *Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy*

YAD VASHEM for the unique and exceptional resource that is the Central Database of Shoah Victim's Names.

#### *Outstanding Programming Award*

JGS OF LOS ANGELES for a series of 25th Anniversary events, publications and programs.

#### *Outstanding Publication Award*

JGS OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA for its quarterly journal Chronicles.

#### *Malcolm H. Stern Award*

JGS OF MONTREAL for digitizing and indexing the 1932-1951 Canadian naturalizations.

---

---

## **SOUTHERN AFRICAN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SA-SIG)**

*The Southern Africa Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group* (SA-SIG) was created to provide a forum for free exchange of ideas, research tips, and information of interest to those researching Jewish family history in the communities of South Africa, Lesotho (Basutoland), Botswana (Bechuanaland), Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia), Zambia (Northern Rhodesia), Swaziland, Mozambique and the former Belgian Congo.

The SA-SIG maintains a set of Web Pages which can be found at:

[www.jewishgen.org/safrica](http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica)

The SA-SIG Newsletter is published quarterly. Further information on how to subscribe to the Newsletter can be found at:

[www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/newsletter/index.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/newsletter/index.htm)

If you would like to contribute any articles to the newsletter about your South African research or South African connections, I would love to hear from you.

If you have any queries about the Newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Bubbles Segall

Editor

SA-SIG Newsletter

Darwin, Northern Territory

[bubbles.segall@wagait.net](mailto:bubbles.segall@wagait.net)

---

## **AVIGDOR SCHOOL, STOKE NEWINGTON, LONDON N16, UK**

Seventy-six years after its founding by Rabbi Avigdor (Victor) Schonfeld, the Avigdor School has just closed its doors. Following his death in 1930, the running of the school passed to his son, Rabbi Solomon Schonfeld who was noted for the huge number of kindertransport children he brought to London and to the school. He was affectionately known as 'The Pied Piper' and the school as 'Noah's Ark'.

Some of these former pupils still live locally and others have dispersed around the world. The school Minute Book has been passed to the Hackney Archives who are now seeking contact with former pupils of the school. Anyone who attended the school or who knows of former pupils can contact Stan Rose. A square in Stoke Newington bears the name Schonfeld Square, and information on the reason for its name is also being sought.

Stan Rose

[stan@stanrosefamily.com](mailto:stan@stanrosefamily.com)

---

## **ORAL HISTORY TALK**

On 29th June, 2005 at the Jewish Centre On Ageing the Society hosted a talk on Oral History. Rosemary Block, Oral History Curator of the Mitchell Library in Sydney spoke about the art of compiling an oral history. Demonstrating with a tape recorder and transcript she presented an extensive interview with an elderly woman. The advice was to let the interviewer talk in a natural way without intrusive interruptions. Questions could be asked to prompt a reply and allowances should be made for repetition of stories.

Although Rosemary no longer interviews, she did present some specially taped interviews. The interview with the founder of the Bankstown Synagogue elicited an excited and interested response from those present who had connections with the shul.

*Sunny Gold*

---

## **SOME INTERESTING WEBSITES**

### **THE RYERSON INDEX**

This is an index to contemporary Death Notices and Obituaries in Australian Newspapers. It covers recent death notices from papers such as the Sydney Morning Herald.

[www.rootsweb.com/~nswsdps/dpsindex.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nswsdps/dpsindex.htm)

### **ISRAEL ON FILM**

From Beryl Baleson in Israel (through JewishGen Digest).

An amazing website from Steven Spielberg! Something to look at when you have time to spare..... there are some very interesting films. Enter the link below and you'll have Spielberg film archives on Israel at your disposal. You'll see films on Israel from 1911 onward. [www.spielbergfilmarchive.org.il/kv/5cat.html](http://www.spielbergfilmarchive.org.il/kv/5cat.html)

### **MIGRATION TO AMERICA**

For pre-Ellis Island immigration to America try <http://castlegarden.org> or access it through Steve Morse's site at: [www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)

### **EARLY IMMIGRANTS TO ARGENTINA**

A genealogical site of the first agricultural Jewish colony in Argentina, 1882 to 1929

[www.cemla.com/paginas/c\\_busqueda.htm](http://www.cemla.com/paginas/c_busqueda.htm) and in English

[www.generacionesmv.com/Generaciones/E-Bienvenidos.htm](http://www.generacionesmv.com/Generaciones/E-Bienvenidos.htm)

**Australian Jewish  
Genealogical Society, Inc.**

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

President	<i>Rieke Nash</i>
Treasurer	<i>Gary Luke</i>
Secretary	<i>Sunny Gold</i>
Vice-President	
& Resources Librarian	<i>Jeannette Tsoulos</i>
Minutes Secretary	<i>Peter Nash</i>
Webmaster	<i>Steve Traurig</i>
Committee	<i>Sunny Gold</i> <i>Kim Phillips</i> <i>Annette Winter</i>
Membership Database Officer	<i>Ken Lipworth</i>
Editor of Kosher Koala	<i>Miriam Shifreen</i>
Photograph Editor Kosher Koala	<i>Ken Lipworth</i>
A.C.T. Representative	<i>Vernon Kronenberg</i>
Central Coast Representative	<i>Beulah Gross</i>
Queensland Representative	<i>Vivien Solo</i>

P.O. Box 42  
Lane Cove NSW 1595  
Sydney, AUSTRALIA

**Website: [www.ajgs.org.au](http://www.ajgs.org.au)**

E-mail: [society@ajgs.org.au](mailto:society@ajgs.org.au)  
President: [president@ajgs.org.au](mailto:president@ajgs.org.au)  
Research Enquiries: [research@ajgs.org.au](mailto:research@ajgs.org.au)  
Editor: [editor@ajgs.org.au](mailto:editor@ajgs.org.au)

AJGS (Victoria) Inc: [www.ajgs.exist.com.au](http://www.ajgs.exist.com.au)  
Canberra ACT: [vkronenb@pcug.org.au](mailto:vkronenb@pcug.org.au)  
South Australia: [kwbailey@senet.com.au](mailto:kwbailey@senet.com.au)  
Western Australia: [jhgs@inet.net.au](mailto:jhgs@inet.net.au)

ABN No 95 225 473 428

**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](mailto:editor@ajgs.org.au)**

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

*New South Wales*  
Albert and Dinah Danon  
Cris George  
Peter Keeda

Annual Membership \$Aust 35.00  
Family Membership \$Aust 40.00  
Pensioner or Student \$Aust 20.00  
Annual Overseas Subscription \$Aust 45.00  
Please send your cheque to:

A.J.G.S.  
PO Box 185 Erskineville  
NSW 2043

Memberships and Subscriptions can be paid by Credit Card. Please state payment method.

Name.....

Address.....

Cash     Cheque     Visa  
 Bankcard     Mastercard

Card Holder.....

Card Number.....

Expiry date.....

Signature.....

Amount .....

**CONFERENCES**

**International Association of Jewish  
Genealogical Societies**

2006 New York August 13-18  
2007 Salt Lake City

**11th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and  
Heraldry June 2006**

Hosted by the Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia  
[www.octa4.net.au/genient](http://www.octa4.net.au/genient)

**NSW & ACT Association of Family History  
Societies State Conference**

15-17 September, 2006  
Hosted by the Liverpool Genealogy Society,  
P.O. Box 830, Liverpool NSW 2170, Australia

**14th International Oral History Conference**

Sydney, Australia 12-16 July 2006  
[www.une.edu.au/ioha2006](http://www.une.edu.au/ioha2006)

---

**SOME SPECIAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY**  
**GEN-EXPO 2005**  
**Journey of Discovery into Jewish Ancestry**  
**Sunday 27 November 2005**  
**11 am to 4 pm**  
**at the**  
**SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM**  
**148 Darlinghurst Road, DARLINGHURST**

At GEN-EXPO 2005 our Society will be providing lots of opportunities to catch up on the latest information for researching your family history. It will include sessions using a wide range of resources, the internet and guidance from experienced researchers. The resources available for consultation will cover any country where Jewish communities existed, including UK, Europe, Middle East, Asia, North and South America, Africa and of course Australia.

The cost for participation in the EXPO is \$10 per person which will also cover entry to the Museum and access to the permanent and current temporary exhibitions, "Through Australian Eyes" and "The Long Journey to Freedom".

The EXPO activities will feature an overview of the Jewish presence in Australia, beginners' sessions on Jewish research and internet demonstrations of Jewish databases.

The Museum Café will be open during the EXPO.

---

**Sunday September 18 at 2 pm**  
**North Shore Synagogue**  
**Lindfield**

**LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
SOURCES FOR  
EUROPEAN RESEARCH**

**Michael Abrahams-Sprod**

lecturer and doctoral candidate

His topic will cover techniques for locating, accessing and assessing both local and international primary sources related to the European Jewish experience and touching on primary sources in English, French, German, Hebrew and Russian.

Prior to the presentation there will be an opportunity to consult our resources and receive advice from other experienced researchers.

**Sunday October 23 at 2 pm**  
**Jewish Centre on Ageing**  
**25 Rowe Street, Woollahra**

**HOW TO CONDUCT  
HUNGARIAN  
JEWISH FAMILY RESEARCH**

**Michael Taub**

Michael started actively researching his family history in 1999 and it has led to extensive research of Hungarian vital records as well as Polish and American records. He is involved with the transcription of the 1828 Hungarian Wealth Tax Census and the 1869 Hungarian Census.

He is descended from the Modzitz Rabbinical Dynasty and found his paternal ancestor was a student of the famous Baal Shem Tov.