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The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc

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WORKSHOP DATES

**Sunday 9.30 a.m.
October 1**

**Wednesday 10 a.m.
October 11**

OCTOBER

Sallyann

Amdur

Sack

(see page 16)

**Sunday 9.30 a.m.
November 5**

**Monday 10 a.m.
November 20**

**Sunday 9.30 a.m.
December 3**

**Monday 10 a.m.
December 18**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rieke Nash

We are delighted to welcome Sallyann Amdur Sack to Sydney in October and invite our members to take the opportunity to meet this outstanding personality in the world of Jewish genealogy. For details see page 16.

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference hosted by the New York Jewish Genealogical Society was an outstanding success, reaching a new level for organisation, activities and information that will be difficult to duplicate. Our thanks to all the organising committee for the many hours spent working and sleepless, but especially to Hadassah Lipsius, Linda Cantor and Gloria Berkenstat Freund.

Our Australian contingent only numbered five this year, two from Melbourne, Phil Lipshut and Debbie Jurblum and three from Sydney, Greta James, Peter Nash and me. With something for everyone, beginners and the experienced found valuable leads, not the least being the chance to meet up with old friends and new contacts. Greta and Peter have written about their impressions on page 12 and the detailed syllabus is available for perusal at workshops.

Recently our online discussion group, AJGen, has been providing a valuable service for local and overseas researchers. To register on it (it is free), go to our website on www.ajgs.org.au and follow the directions.

We are sad to report the death of the husband of our founding and past President, Sophie Caplan, after a long illness. Leslie was a great supporter of our Society from its beginnings, always showing a genuine interest in our progress and applauding our successes. We have lost a true friend and we send Sophie condolences from all at the Society for her great loss.

Another unexpected loss for our Society was our member, Matthew Israelson, whose story appeared in the last edition of *Kosher Koala*. We were fortunate to have published it before he died and send his family our condolences.

Our good wishes extend to our hard-working Vice-President, Jeannette Tsoulos who is recovering from a car accident recently sustained in Paris. Fortunately her recovery is progressing well.

We wish all members a safe, happy and prosperous 5767 and may the New Year bring peace.

Rieke Nash, President president@ajgs.org.au

EDITORIAL

By Miriam Shifreen

Leslie Caplan AM, a well-known leader in the Australian Jewish Community, a *gittle neshuma* (a truly good man) died on his 74th birthday in August, 2006. He was the husband and soul-mate of Sophie Caplan, the founder of our Society and founding-Editor of this Newsletter. We extend our condolences to Sophie and family and wish them all (in the Australian Jewish tradition), *Long Life*.

Genealogist and Historian, Sophie, and their sons Gideon, Jonathan and Benjamin, ensured that Leslie's legacy would be remembered through the stories they told at each *minyan* after his funeral, and by having the names of all of Leslie's family including cousins, in the newspaper notices.

It is at times like these that families sitting *Shiva* (in mourning) get together, talk and relate family stories. My daughter and I recently had a discussion about what should be kept private and what should be revealed. Should private letters and papers be opened just to family members or printed in books and newspapers, biographies for all to read? Should there be a gap of generations? But, when I mentioned a story from our own family, she was at first rather piqued that *she* had not been told before.

So, when, and to whom, should family details be told? After my mother died, a cousin told me a story which I felt showed my mother's generous and caring nature, though at the time it may have been considered a lack of her judgement. At a family gathering, another cousin said she had long known another strange family story.

According to an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* more than 40 years ago the staff at the *Society of Australian Genealogists* felt they had to protect innocents from the C word. It was thought that no one would want to be told that their family was listed on the important 1828 Convict Muster.

Were they right? Some years ago, when I told my husband's elderly aunt that two family members had come to Australia as convicts, (even though they were important enough to be in *Australian Genesis*, written by Rabbi John Levi), Joe's aunt very quickly denied that anyone in her family had been convicts.

Would you like to share your views on this topic?

And now thank you to those who have sent in their stories to this really wonderful edition of the *Kosher Koala*, and *Shana Tova*. I wish you all a healthy, rewarding and successful NEW YEAR.

Miriam Shifreen, Editor editor@ajgs.org.au

**POLISH RECORDS AND
THE JEWISH RECORDS INDEXING –
POLAND PROJECT (JRI-POLAND)**

www.jri-poland.org

By Rieke Nash

In 1994 at the Jerusalem conference I met Stanley Diamond with whom I have a mutual interest in the small town of WYSZKOW, Poland. As a result of his research into his family's *Beta-Thalassemia* trait, he had just found a cousin through Hadassah Hospital in Israel who shares with him a previously undocumented mutation of this genetic trait generally unknown to Ashkenazi families.

At that time we were not to know that this interest of his would eventually lead to a database which, through the efforts of a dedicated team of volunteers, has currently close to three million entries for towns and shtetls in present day Poland and it is still growing. To trace others who might be affected by this genetic mutation, Stanley gained the cooperation of the Polish State Archives (PSA) and was allowed access to the Birth, Death and Marriage records held in the Pultusk Archives. The experience was so successful that the Jewish Records Indexing – Poland (JRI-Poland) Project gained permission to access the Jewish records in all the PSAs.

Benefits from supporting the Project

As I was a contributor to the funding for the project of indexing the Wyszkw records, I received an Excel file with all the entries. I was then able to carefully search through and make some unexpected connections. With minimal information I discovered the previously unknown married name of my grandfather's sister, ZELASNICKI, and that the original surname of her son-in-law, GOLD, was actually JAGODA. None of her family had known these original names. When the indexing of the neighbouring town BROK was complete, there was my grandfather's brother, remembered only as *Srubinon* by the family. It was the marriage of *Srul Binem* AJZENBERG. For just \$US10 each I was able to order a copies of these certificates through JRI-Poland.

Wloclawek Archives

My other family research concerned an area of Poland where there were few records. According to the Archivist at the WLOCLAWEK branch of the PSA, the Nazis had collected the volumes of Jewish records for the area and loaded them on a train for Berlin but the train was bombed and the records destroyed. In the Family History Library Catalog¹ there was only one year of marriages for the large town Wloclawek (1929). When I examined this film at our local LDS Family History Centre I




The Szulman family in Wloclawek c. 1924

discovered that it had been microfilmed in 1949 in Berlin so this time the story that the records had been destroyed in the war was partially accurate. Since then I have found other records from this area that are still in the German Archives although not complete registers.

Shtetl Co-op Project

Another JRI-Poland strategy for documenting existing Polish records, the *SHTETL CO-OP PROJECT*, guides volunteers with an interest in a town to help them create a database from LDS microfilms and make the results available on the JRI-Poland website for all to search. Through Stan's encouragement I became involved in indexing other towns from this area of North-West Poland whose records had been microfilmed by the Mormons. There was a chance that I might discover some family records in these nearby towns.



TRANSLATION: It happened in the town of Sluzewo on the 17th day of October, 1855 at 11 am. Came the Jew, Leyb Templinski, labourer, aged forty-three, residing in Sluzewo in the presence of the witnesses, the Jew, Icek Jakubowski, cantor, aged 74, and Hersz Jelonek, merchant, aged 62, living in Sluzewo and they stated that on the 16th day of the current month and year at 4 pm died Marye Templinska, aged 40, leaving behind her widowed husband and four children and no estate. After visually confirming the death of Marye, this document was read out to the declarants and signed.

'ooo' Leyb Templinski
 Hersz Jelonek
 Icek Jakoboski

After indexing the 1929 Wloclawek marriages I decided that the Birth, Death and Marriage records for IZBICA KUJAWSKA may be of interest to one of my cousins. Despite the fact that there was nothing about my family in the 3,827 records that I indexed, I found that I was now able to read most hand-written names in Polish and was even able to translate the ages for the bride and groom, the baby's parents and age at death of the deceased.

These were records from 1826 to 1865, the years when separate Jewish records were kept in Polish. From 1866 until World War I the records were kept in the Russian language which presents a much more difficult transcription task.

Wloclawek Archive Coordinator

I was now the JRI-Poland Archive Coordinator for the Wloclawek Archive and Team Leader for towns in this archive. Where records are available in a PSA, the pooling of funds by researchers with an interest in a town enables these mainly Cyrillic records to be transcribed and indexed by a JRI-Poland team in Poland. It is an efficient and cost-effective way of gaining access to the information.

My task was to encourage others to support their towns and donate funds towards the indexing costs. Once funded, the results could be added to the JRI-Poland database for all to access. My reward was having access to each town's Excel file as it became available. The benefits of volunteering time or financially supporting the Project are illustrated with the next experiences.

I always knew that I was named after my great-grandmother, Rekla but nobody knew her maiden name. She was married to Paltiel **TEMPLINSKI** and they lived in Sluzewo. Each time I would receive an Excel file I would quickly scan for Templinskis without success. When the **NIESZAWA** file arrived there were, as usual, no Templinskis so I started scanning the entries and noticed an entry for a Rekla and thought 'How nice, the name was used at that time'. The surname, Pinkus, meant nothing to me.

Further down the list I found the Death of an Ester Pinkus in 1872. Now, my Rekla's mother was Ester and around 1875 Rekla named her daughter, my grandmother, Ester. Looking back at the original entry, I found it was a Marriage, with the groom's first name a question mark and his surname **Peltyn!** I ordered the certificate through JRI-Poland and when it arrived I transcribed Templinski into Cyrillic characters, searched each line and found that Peltyn was a Templinski. Without having access to the total file, I am sure I would not have made the connection.

Another side of my family has SZULMANs and KWIATs, both very common names in Poland with few records for their town, LIPNO. When I received the file for DOBRZYN-nad-WISLA, finding my great-great-grandparents' marriage in 1841 in that town, was quite a surprise.

Other towns in the area being indexed include KOWAL, LUBIEN KUJAWSKI, PIOTRKOW KUJAWSKI, RADZIEJOW and RYPIN.

Jewish Clues

The 1808-1825 records were another challenge. For some towns there are some valuable Jewish records in the registers amongst the Roman Catholic civil transcripts, some of which have been microfilmed by the Mormons. Towns around Wloclawek, unlike other Polish towns, have only a few names listed by patronymics (the father's first name) and most have surnames. To identify the Jewish records, there are a number of clues. Some are signed using Hebrew script and occasionally the signature is 'ooo' rather than crosses for illiterate informants. The record itself may have Zyd (Jewish) next to the town name but mostly the informant is described as Starozakonny (literally the 'old law' and used to denote 'the Jew'). Over the years I have found a few TEMPLINSKI families around the globe but had been unable to connect them. Many of them had

migrated to Britain from this part of Poland in the mid-1800s, settling in Sheffield, Glasgow and London. From these early records I was able to rationalise the tree at last.

Original Surnames

The difficulty of discovering the original surname for ancestors who migrated to England is a common experience. Recently a researcher from Brisbane found me on Google as I was listed there as Town Leader for SLUZEWO. He had documents to show that his great-grandfather, JACKSON MARKS, came from Sluzewo before migrating to London in the 1850s. His wife was Phoebe and they were married in Poland around 1846. A search of the years failed to find a Markowicz or Markowski so I looked for a promising Fayge (Yiddish for Phoebe) and came up with a marriage for a MARKUS JAKOBOWSKI! Further evidence from the marriage record and tombstone inscriptions confirmed the parents' names and that it was the right record.

Future projects

With additional types of resources being accessed, the Project has become a very powerful tool that increases the possibility of success for tracing original names, maiden names, previously unknown siblings and additional towns of origin. Indices from *Books of Residents*, Census records and other non-vital records are continually being added to the collection. The three million entries in the database are being used to aid Bone Marrow Matching and genetic research.

This co-operative strategy and the pooling of funds has made the task of recovering family records a much cheaper exercise compared to hiring researchers in Poland, paying the Archives to search through records or travelling there in person.

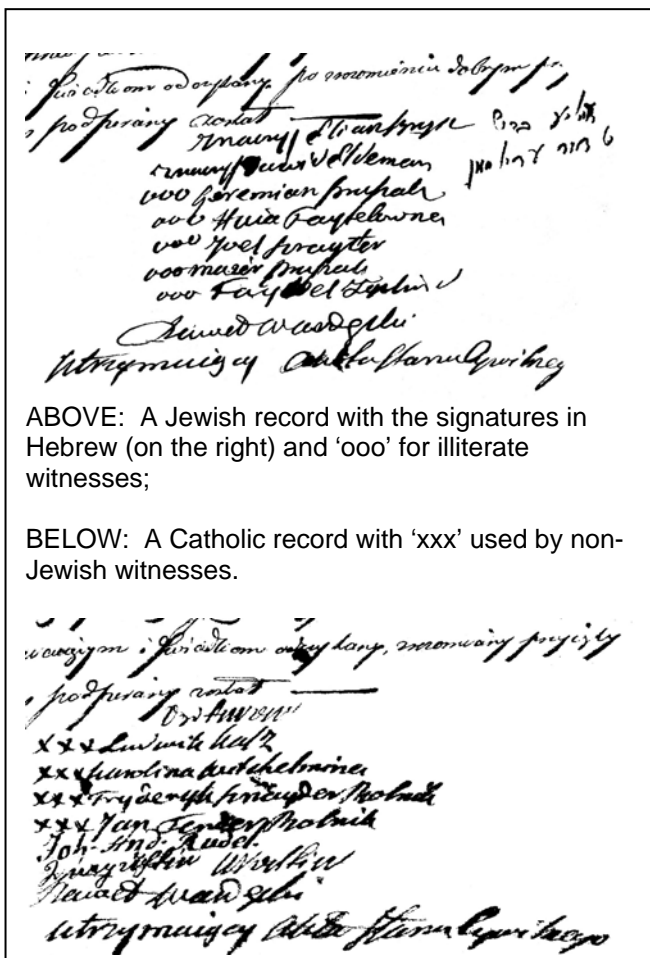
Participation in the JRI-Poland Project has given a large team of volunteers, knowledge and skills that are being used to help and teach others, expanding the expertise of our research community.

Personally I know that my family, my descendants and many members of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society will be forever grateful for Stanley's vision, initiative, persistence, his persuasive and consulting skills and his hard work.

Rieke Nash is President of our Society.

A version of this article appeared in Shemot, the Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, vol 14 no 2 June, 2006.

1. Family History Library Catalogue – www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp



GENEALOGY AND DEMOGRAPHY

By Alan Joffe

According to the dictionary **genealogy** is a *recorded history of one's ancestry*, while **demography** is *the statistical study of populations* and it would seem therefore that the two disciplines have relatively little in common. However, as someone who has been accumulating information about my family for quite a while now and who has extensive, albeit not complete, information about the descendants of my great grandparents, it seems to me that the demography of one's family might well be a topic of worthwhile interest.

My great grandparents, Jacob and Beile Joffe, or Jaffe, were both born in Lithuania around 1820. Jacob's parents lived in Raguva and he was probably born there while Beile, came from the nearby shtetl of Neustadt-Sugint. They lived in Neustadt-Sugint and had three children Tzipporah, Lena and Chaim and the successive generations flourished so that a total of some 350 descendants have been produced and today more than 270 of these descendants are living a multitude of diverse lifestyles around the world.

I recently completed a book on what I know about "The Family History of Jacob and Beile" and included in that a chapter on a "Summary of the generations of Jacob and Beile's Descendants". That chapter, which covers the various demographics of the family, is the source of the material presented below.

Descendants by Generation

At the time of writing Jacob and Beile had a total of 347 descendants

- 3 children
- 17 grandchildren
- 40 great-grandchildren
- 66 great-great grandchildren
- 130 great-great-great grandchildren
- 88 great-great-great-great grandchildren
- 3 great-great-great-great-great grandchildren

The above analysis is complicated by the fact that Chaim, Jacob and Beile's son married his niece, Chaya Sara, the daughter of his sister Tzipporah. Consequently my father's grandmother was also his aunt, but I have used the former rather than the latter for all of Chaim's descendants.

On the presumption that there will be no more children born to the generation of great-great-great- grandchildren then the average number of children per generation is 2.65. By today's standards this would seem to be on the high side

but not all that high if you consider the number over the full period.

Birth Patterns

A summary of the number of births by decade shows the following

Decade of Birth

| <u>Year of Birth</u> | <u>Number</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Before 1899 | 29 |
| 1900 – 1909 | 16 |
| 1910 – 1919 | 11 |
| 1920 – 1929 | 12 |
| 1930 – 1939 | 16 |
| 1940 – 1949 | 24 |
| 1950 – 1959 | 28 |
| 1960 – 1969 | 33 |
| 1970 – 1979 | 45 |
| 1980 – 1989 | 39 |
| 1990 – 1999 | 65 |
| 2000 – 2005 | 29 |
| Total | 347 |

It is interesting to observe that until 1940 the number of births per decade was fairly static but since then the number has increased quite significantly, especially once the generation of great-great-grandchildren started. Of the above 273, or 79%, are currently alive.

An analysis of the family by country of birth produces the following result

| <u>Country of Birth</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Lithuania | 20 | 6 |
| Europe | 17 | 5 |
| Israel | 31 | 9 |
| United Kingdom | 29 | 8 |
| U.S.A. | 81 | 23 |
| South Africa | 131 | 38 |
| Australia | 22 | 6 |
| Canada | 15 | 4 |
| Asia | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 347 | 100 |

A more extensive analysis of country of birth by generation shows the move away from Eastern Europe, first to other parts of Europe, and then at the turn of the century to the lands of opportunity – United States and South Africa – by the third generation. Recently, Canada and Australia have been added to the list of countries where the family have settled.

Overall 55% of the descendants are male and 45% female. This represents an interesting deviation from the norm.

Marriages

There have been over 170 marriages among the descendants of Jacob and Beile.

There are eight golden weddings that I know of, mostly among the early generations.

Of the 347 descendants more than half (178) have never been married. Most of these are age related.

Less than 10% of the marriages have ended up with divorces, a rather good statistic in today's world.

Geographic Distribution

An analysis of the surviving family by country of residence produces a very different distribution to the one above showing the country of birth:

Country of Residence 2005

| Country | Number | Percentage |
|----------------|--------|------------|
| Lithuania | 0 | 0 |
| Europe | 2 | 1 |
| Israel | 27 | 10 |
| United Kingdom | 31 | 11 |
| U.S.A. | 104 | 38 |
| South Africa | 46 | 17 |
| Australia | 44 | 16 |
| Canada | 19 | 7 |
| Total | 273 | 100 |

Not surprisingly, there is no one left in Lithuania, only two people in Europe, excluding the United Kingdom. However it is also relevant to note that even though almost 40% of the family were born in South Africa, less than 20% live there now – a good indicator of the emigration that has taken place recently. Conversely the USA and Australia are the major growth areas as far as the family is concerned.

Another indication of the degree to which the family has moved around the world is the following summary of the countries in which each parent/child combination was born.

| <u>Parent (vertical) and Child's (horizontal) Country of Birth</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-----|--------|----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-------|
| Country | Lith | Eur | Israel | UK | USA | SA | Aust | Can | Asia | Total |
| Lithuania | 20 | 11 | | 2 | 6 | 19 | | | | 58 |
| Europe | | 4 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 10 | | | | 25 |
| Israel | | | 16 | | 1 | | | | | 17 |
| UK | | | | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | | 20 |
| USA | | | | | 52 | 2 | | | 1 | 55 |
| SA | | 2 | 6 | 12 | 15 | 98 | 16 | 13 | | 162 |
| Australia | | | | | | | 3 | | | 3 |
| Canada | | | 5 | 2 | | | | | | 7 |
| Total | 20 | 17 | 31 | 29 | 81 | 131 | 22 | 15 | 1 | 347 |

In total only 58% of the people were born in the same country as their parents or conversely over 42% were born in different countries to their parents. Once again the redistribution of the South African family around the globe is quite apparent and strikingly different to the picture for family members born in the USA.

Impact of the Second World War

Our branch of the family was very fortunate in regard to the Holocaust primarily because almost everyone had left Europe prior to the War. Only one person perished and he was living in Lithuania at that time. However, one doesn't have to go far to find people who were lost in the Holocaust. Among Jacob's sibling's children at least 27 perished.

Seymour Coleman died while fighting in Europe and Elliott Rowland lost an arm while fighting in Burma. A number of people left Europe shortly before the outbreak of the War while others fled during the war. Only a few remained in Europe and suffered throughout the War.

Professions and Religion

An analysis of the professions of the current generations includes almost anything and everything conceivable. There are many in the medical, legal and financial professions as well as others in almost every walk of life.

Although the majority of the family have retained their Jewish religion, several members have married out of the faith, while others have become non-observant.

Indeed, if all the members of the family were to meet in a single room we would represent an extremely diverse group of people, but the one thing that we would all have in common is that we are descended from Jacob and Beila Joffe.

Conclusion

I believe that the above shows that my family is by and large a "typical" Jewish family, or at least similar to many of the families where a significant part of the family emigrated to South Africa at the end of the 19th century or early in the 20th century

and then went through the whole process again 100 years later.

Alan Joffe has been a member of our society for six years. He was born in South Africa and has lived in Sydney since he retired in 1998

GRAVE ENCOUNTERS

By Lorin Blumenthal
Journalist at the Australian Jewish News

As a pale wintry sun hides behind the towering trees of Rookwood Cemetery on Sunday 21 May, a cluster of Jews gather in the oldest section of the burial ground where the history of early Jewish settlers lies beneath the surface.

Rookwood's oldest section is home to graves dating back to the first settlers, including Joseph Josephs, a man born in England in 1763. Close to a third of those on the historical tour had ancestors buried within this section.

"The area contains 220 years of Australian Jewish history," says AJGS treasurer Gary Luke.

Along with researcher Terry Newman, translator Michael Taub and photographer Kim Phillips, Luke takes the group on a guided tour of the old section of the cemetery, sharing information gleaned from the creation of the database members put together, replete with photos, maps and historical information about each individual tombstone.

Luke says he is involved with the AJGSs Rookwood Cemetery Compact Disk project, moderates the AJGS Discussion Group and has assisted in the transcription project of 1850 Hungarian births and census.

Since 1969, Terry Newman has been gathering a large collection of Jewish records including *Sydney Morning Herald* extracts from 1831 to 1881. His cemetery records include photos of tombstones from Rookwood's old Jewish section which he photographed during the early 1970s.

"The tombstones were in such bad state of repair so I began to photograph them. I felt that they represented the community that had been forgotten and that this was one way of preserving their memory," he said.

As the tour weaves its way through the grass and stony patches of the graveyard, Phillips shows them the technique she used on marble headstones to uncover the written text, which had been faded by the tide of history.

Phillips says she produced and co-ordinated the Rookwood Cemetery project as she wanted to "make a major contribution to the living. By photographing these tombstones we can ensure that records can be kept for posterity."

Many of their headstones had inscriptions in both Hebrew and English and it was Michael Taub who translated them. The Hebrew was often the only determinate of death and burial dates.

When the Jewish burial site at Devonshire Street in the city (Jews were once buried at the southern end of platforms 18 and 19 of Central Station), some of the ornate tombstones were transported to Rookwood and are in this old Section.

Edited from Loren's article which appeared in the AJN May 26, 2006

ROOKWOOD CEMETERY VISIT

By John Norris

About thirty people gathered at The Old Jewish Section of Rookwood Cemetery with Gary Luke, Terry Newman, Michael Taub and Kim Phillips, as guides, giving an insight to the past achievements of some of the people laid to rest there.

This section opened in 1867, remaining in operation until 1906. There are some burials up to 1984, including transfers from Devonshire Street cemetery, making a total of approximately 1,700.

From "The Sleeping City," the story of Rookwood Necropolis edited by David A. Weston, the Old Jewish Section was one of the first to be consecrated on the 31st of December 1866, by Reverend Solomon Phillips, "A special train left Sydney station at a quarter past 1 o'clock p.m. conveying about 100 gentlemen of the Jewish faith, together with a number of persons belonging to the Christian denominations."

The first burial was that of Rose, daughter of Abraham and Alice Friedman, who died on the 15 January 1867, aged 8 months.

Up to 1906, everyone would have come to the cemetery by train departing from the Mortuary Station in Regent Street in the city. The train service operated up to 1948, with originally a twice daily service during the week later restricted to Saturday and Sunday only just before it ceased.

As we strolled through the Cemetery, either Gary or Terry pointed out different headstones and gave a brief resume of the life or achievements of the person buried there and the various symbols on the headstones.

Michael explained some of the Hebrew inscriptions and other important details that were not mentioned in the English version. There were poems, where the first letter on each line of the poem spelled out the person's name. In some of the Hebrew there were minor mistakes and the conclusion was that the work may have been done by someone who could not speak or write Hebrew.

A very informative and enjoyable day, thanks to our guides for the work they did.

John Norris is a member of our Society.



Kim Phillips, Rieke Nash and Miriam Shifreen

"The Wizards of Oz" - creators of the Rookwood CD - Michael Taub, Gary Luke, Kim Phillips and Terry Newman



Margaret Stevens with a shattered family tombstone

EXPLORING THE LONDON *JEWISH* *CHRONICLE* WEBSITE

www.thejc.com

By Evelyn Collyer

On Sunday 18 June Miriam Pollak gave a presentation on navigating the London *Jewish Chronicle's* website at The Rev. Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue to our enthusiastic audience.

Miriam's resources included a CD she had authored titled *The Jewish Chronicle Project – Personal Announcements 1900-1909*, also several copies of the Jewish Chronicle 1950-1960, *Dicken's Dictionary of London 1888*, *The Jewish Year Book*, *The Jewish Chronicle and Anglo Jewry 1841-1991* David Cesarini, *Baedekers London and its Environs 1900*. Additional resources provided by the Society included Doreen Berger's *The Jewish Victorian 1861-1870 and 1871-1880*. Members showed great interest in perusing these items.

Miriam was able to rivet the attention of her audience by inviting us to call out the surnames of those people we wished to find in *The Jewish Chronicle*, then writing these names on the whiteboard. There was a buzz of excitement as we waited for search results. The computer images were projected onto a large screen so everyone had a good view of Miriam's lively demonstration. Search types were explained and these included an exact phrase or keyword, such as a name, city, street or year. We learnt that a common surname yielded an overwhelming result (Cohen - 239 documents in one year) and a less common surname a smaller result (Templinsky - 13 documents over a number of years). Fascinating snippets of information were retrieved including births, barmitzvahs, engagements, marriages and deaths. Other items included competition and tournament results, letters to the editor, voting lists and advertisements. We acknowledged that all of this "Put flesh on the bones of somebody's life".

Miriam told us something of the history of *The London Jewish Chronicle*. This publication was famous as the Jewish newspaper of the English speaking world and was posted to Wales, Ireland and Scotland and countries such as Australia, America, South Africa, India, China and Russia. In the 1830s the tax was removed from newspapers and it became a more affordable commodity. A published announcement was considered a high expense for many families and only the most important items went into the paper. The majority of the Jewish population were immigrants, however, and as they became established they

became more affluent and published increasing numbers of personal announcements.

Today we are able to have an enticing view of this site at no cost, however charges are incurred for downloading. The charge for 1 page is £1 pound sterling and 100 pages £100 pounds sterling. The subscription charge for 26 weeks of 24-hour access to the site is £45 (pounds) which includes 26 weeks of the JC delivered by airmail.

Navigating the *London Jewish Chronicle* transported us back and forth in time, in fact, for many of us it was an amazing trip 'down memory lane'.

Miriam is keen to collect older issues of The London Jewish Chronicle and would be appreciative if anyone would like to contact her at miriam_pollak@hotmail.com

Evelynn is a member of our Society.

COMMENTS ON THE JEWISH CHRONICLE SITE

By Ruth Barnett

I'm very grateful for the information on the Jewish Chronicle website published in the Koshers Koala.

A cursory look, though I'm not a registered subscriber, yielded an amazing amount of information on my mother's (Supran) family; e.g. my great-grandmother's death notice (I didn't even know her first name, let alone when she died!), my mother's (aborted) previous engagement before she married Dad, my grandfather's death notice, etc. I even found my brother's and sister's (Mendes) birth notices from Australia.

My own birth notice, of which I have a copy, did not show up on a search. As well, neither did my Dad's and uncle's (Mendes) birth notices from 1892 and 1894, of which we also have the copies, so apparently they haven't scanned in everything.

But it was wonderful, quite spine-chilling actually, to suddenly be confronted with all this information.

Many thanks again.

An article about this site appeared in Koshers Koala Vol 13 No 2 June, 2006

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain has announced that an updated edition of **JEWISH ANCESTORS? A GUIDE TO JEWISH GENEALOGY IN LATVIA AND ESTONIA**

is now available. It can be ordered through the shop at the Sydney Jewish Museum.

Tel: 9360-7999

TRAVELS TO POLAND and LITHUANIA – Seeking Roots

Our member Susan Cooper and her partner Yitzhak Gerichter addressed the very well attended July Sunday morning workshop and gave a fascinating account of their recent travels to Poland and Lithuania. Their aim was to connect with the history and circumstances of the origins of Susan's grandparents and in Yitzhak's case – his father, mother and grandparents.

Their travel took place in March with winter still upon them. The need for good preparation was very evident in the carefully chosen route through Poland followed by Lithuania. The first stage started in Warsaw (home of Yitzhak's mother and siblings) and then Treblinka, Czestochowa (origin of Yitzhak's father and grandfather), Bytom, Krakow, Auschwitz, Gniewoszow (Yitzhak's maternal grandparents) and back to Warsaw. Yitzhak's childhood Polish came in very handy especially as they self-guided with a hired vehicle.

In Czestochowa, Yitzhak obtained over thirty documents on data that he had provided prior to the trip. At the family shtetl, Gniewoszow, the locals were quite apprehensive that their purpose for visiting was to reclaim his family's property. They also received a cool welcome at the Warsaw Nozyk Synagogue.

Susan's roots are Lithuanian and so this stage started in Vilnius, with a guide (and driver) only hired from Vilnius (Vilna). They travelled to Vieksniai, Plateliai Lake, the Telsiai Ghetto, Varniai and Marijampole before returning to Kaunas and Vilnius.

A Power Point presentation gave graphic assistance to the commentary with some sharp and often snow filled camera shots of the various places visited, with descriptions of the Jewish sites that either still existed or their former locations.

Of special interest to Yitzhak was the Sugihara House in Kaunas (Kovno) where the Japanese consul, Chiune Sugihara issued transit visas, to thousands of fleeing Polish and other European Jews. Yitzhak's father was one of these recipients who found his way to Japan and then Shanghai, thus surviving the Holocaust. One presentation image showed Yitzhak sitting at the same desk that Sugihara had used to sign these visas.

Susan can provide further assistance on choice of guides and the associated costs for anyone interested in the regions covered. Next time, however, they would travel when the weather was warmer!

The visit of Sallyann Amdur Sack

(continued from page 16)

Sallyann wrote a book *Search for the Family* with Mark M. Shulkin, published in 1980, and two versions of *Jewish Genealogical Research in Israel* in 1987 and 1997, then *Jewish Vital Records, Revision lists and other Holdings in the Lithuanian Archives* with Harold Rhode, published in 1996. With Gary Mokotoff she researched and wrote *Where Once We Walked, a Guide to Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust*, a book worth its weight in gold, which was winner of Best Jewish Reference Book of the Year by the Jewish Librarians Association in USA. In recent years she also edited together with Gary Mokotoff *The Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy* with more than 60 co-authors. Presently she is preparing a curriculum for teaching genealogical research to children of all ages in Jewish day schools and religious schools.

A few years ago she co-founded with Gary Mokotoff, Dr Chanan Rappaport and others the International Institute of Jewish Genealogy based in Jerusalem, which is endeavouring to put Jewish genealogy on an academic research basis, and which is linked to the Hebrew National Library in Jerusalem.

Sallyann Sack was the recipient of an International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Lifetime Achievement Award in July 2000. She initiated and organized a project to create a Holocaust-era assets database and to locate living heirs. She has been listed in *Jewish Women in America* by Hyman and Moore, the only genealogist to be listed. She is a member of several genealogical advisory Boards, including the Douglas E Goldman Genealogical Centre at Beth Hatefutsot and the US National Archives.

Her husband Larry was not interested in genealogy, but he encouraged and supported Sallyann in all her endeavours, and accompanied her to many conferences, where we had the pleasure of getting to know him. Unfortunately he became ill shortly after the 2003 Washington conference and died a fortnight later in 2003.

Dr Sallyann Sack is an accomplished speaker as well as writer, and those who will hear her during her trip to Australia have a treat in store. It is expected that she will also speak to Jewish genealogical groups in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, with the dates and venues to be announced.

By Sophie Caplan, O.A.M., First President of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society and founding Editor of Kosher Koala for ten years.

Reports on the 26th International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference, New York, 2006

By Peter Nash

The 26th IAJGS Conference was held from 13 to 18 August, 2006 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel situated in Times Square, Manhattan, New York. About 1200 participants soon found a dilemma – choosing from a vast array of genealogical topics, all of which were competing with other lectures or presentations, held simultaneously.

Many of the traditional speakers in their specialised areas were present, such as Stanley Diamond, Peter Landé, Miriam Weiner, Gary Mokotoff, Sallyann Sack, Stephen Morse, etc. However, newer and developing areas such as Sephardic genealogy and genetic testing and its implications for genealogical family history were well covered over several sessions and brought along new faces to the speaker podia. Jeffrey Malka, who has Rabbinic ancestors, proved to be a highly knowledgeable and delightful speaker on all aspects of Sephardic research. Nina Sitron gave an easy to follow presentation on what genetics is all about.

Those with specialised interests were fully catered with a wide range of SIG (Special Interest Group) or BOF (Birds of Feather) meetings. These also featured some 'new faces', such as Roger Lustig (Prussian Poland) and Logan Kleinwaks (Online Polish and other Directories). Unusual resources for research were also covered by several lecturers.

Specialised computer workshops held daily were all booked out on a variety of areas of interest, such as Internet beginners, creating and 'mining' websites, family tree software, etc. New York's abundant and readily accessible Jewish archives were a special feature as were tours to cemeteries, museums, and numerous venues of Jewish interest, especially to those accompanying registrants.

New York is renowned for its Broadway shows but the Conference also provided enjoyable and first class entertainment. This included Klezmer and Hassidic music and Yiddish songs. Films covering a range of stories and historical perspectives from the 'old country' were constantly on view.

The NY2006 organisation team was outstanding. The Conference website started many months in advance and the ultimate test of the actual Conference was of the highest possible standard. It was a tribute to a very dedicated, hard-working organising committee that reflected many years of experience. The 'best ever' label has been widely granted by many and is well-deserved.

By Greta James

Five and half days packed with activities related to Jewish genealogy. This was the rich feast that awaited us in New York. Sessions ran from 8am in the morning until 6pm in the evening most days with up to eight sessions running concurrently. Evenings were not neglected either as, on several nights, this was an opportunity to catch one of the many films related to Jewish life, to be updated on recent JewishGen developments or, on Thursday evening, to attend the banquet. Add to this the many Special Interest Group lunches for various countries and regions and Birds-of-a-Feather meetings for towns and locations and you can understand why many of us hardly left the hotel – despite its central location right on Times Square.

In the sessions I attended, we learned that good progress is being made in getting access to records in a number of Eastern European countries. These include Poland, Lithuania and the Ukraine. Indexes to many of these records are being built or expanded and, increasingly, online access to the indexes is available. Jewish Records Indexing – Poland was a pioneer in this area and continues to expand its website which also includes the ability to order some records from the Polish State Archives.

A session of interest to many of us in Australia was British Passenger Lists and Medical Records as a Source for Migrant History, 1793-1914, in which Nicholas Evans discussed these little used records. He discussed the various types of passenger lists related to Jewish migration through Britain and provided a large number of internet links to useful sources.

A very well attended session was Miriam Weiner's Archival Holdings in Ukraine, Moldovia, Belarus, Lithuania and Poland: An Update. Miriam, the author of the foundational Routes to Roots books and website, provided a valuable guide to record availability and existence. Not only was there standing room only but it was hard to even *find* somewhere to stand..

The final presentation I would like to highlight is Peter Nash's "China: Unusual Resources for Family Research". While those that have links to China are a select group, the story of Jews in this vast and influential country is fascinating. In particular, it served as a refuge for many fleeing Europe in the 1930's. Peter also told some good stories to illustrate his theme including his quest to return recently discovered passports to families.

This year's conference was a wonderful experience and I would encourage anyone who is able to go to Salt Lake City next year to do so!!

OUR TEN YEAR MEMBER

MY DECADE OF EXPERIENCES IN THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

By Bernard Woolfe Freedman

The invitation to recollect my experiences from my ten year membership of the AJGS was a pleasant surprise and I began to think of my experiences of finding my own family history as member of a genealogy society.

Let me first describe my background from which my genealogy society memoirs can be assessed.

I was born in Sydney, one of three siblings with 23 first cousins from the ten children of Emma and Jacob Glass, my grandparents both born in Poland. They had emigrated to England with their immediate family in their teens, married in Sheffield, and then emigrated separately to Australia and the small mining town of Bulli on the south coast of NSW.

My grandmother's pleasure was always to recount her sea voyage at twenty-one years with only her first child from Sheffield to Bulli, south of Sydney. She talked of her life producing seven boys and three girls, running the miner's clothing shop with her husband, Jacob, and her solo visits by train to Redfern, Sydney, for each of her six boys for circumcisions. Her life was involved with local charity work and weddings, followed by relocation in Sydney to follow her married children. And finally grandmother to twenty-three grandchildren.

She so adored her sea/mountain Bulli town location with the isolated but accepted Jewish family life that nothing beyond or earlier was ever recounted to me. And I only asked local questions.

Following my retirement at age 65, I joined the AJGS and armed only with my grandmother's family name in Poland (Czerniak) and the district of Poznan, I contacted the Church of the Latter Day Saints and was referred to their Greenwich Family History Centre where my application for microfilms of the indices of the Polish Birth, Marriage and Death registers for my town were ordered from Salt Lake City in the United States and were then available for inspection on their microfilm readers.

What a surprise to find records of the Czerniak family and after a full year's research of these documents I assembled more than 160 certificates covering the years 1810 to 1880.

I never recovered from the excitement of finding that these certificates could be arranged into one

genealogy family tree, with my grandmother's immediate family included as one of the branches.

One of the mysteries I have not fully explained is the change of family name from Czerniak in Poland to Cohen on emigrating to England.

However what a fabulous cycle of family history was created when we held a family picnic in Centennial Park in 1991 and over 150 people celebrated. I now find that if my grandmother's family had held a similar picnic in Poznan, Poland in 1865 (125 years earlier), they could have invited an equal number to the event.

Rethinking this discovery I realise the continuing enrichment it is giving to my life. Feeling part of a 200-year family history is placing me on comparable terms with all the national histories I had learned at school. History was a favourite subject, so maybe it is *family* history that should be taught at school.

The Family Tree diagram, the icon of genealogy, for me, is the skeleton to be clothed by the individuals populating my tree. I derive much enjoyment not only philosophizing about this icon, but also I have to admit that I have many times described my new found Polish family with my departed grandmother who so far has not voiced her pleasure at my diligence but I do feel even closer to her.

My hobby for many years has been enjoying and studying paintings. Creating *The Family Tree* has become an artistic pleasure for me.

Another unexpected and very pleasant experience is from working in a genealogy society in the company of the classical genealogists, who are always so happy to pass their data on, both orally and in records. Looking back over the ten years, my thoughts and thanks go the new family of friends who are to be found in genealogy societies, all seeking in their own way to find family members.

As each member works on his/her history, surrounded by surprises, disappointments and successes as they occur, at each and every meeting shared experiences become a new starting point, a new trail within the hilly landscape over which Jewish family history extends and for me has yielded a personal blossom.

The Annual Jewish Genealogical Research Trip to Salt Lake City conducted by Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff will be held this year from October 19 to 26. For information contact:-
SLC Genealogical Trip, 155 N. Washington Ave.,
Bergenfield NJ 07621, USA
www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm

WEBSITES TO EXPLORE

Czernowitz Web Site

<http://czernowitz.ehpes.com>

This site for the town of Czernowitz (now Chernovtsy, Ukraine) is in English and contains interesting items even if you are not from the town.

Bessarabia Duma List Project

www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania

This project with a total of 128,000 names has been completed. It is a listing of all men over the age of 24 who were eligible to vote in the 1906 and 1907 Bessarabian Duma Elections. AJGS Victorian President, Les Oberman was a volunteer on this project.

Zimbabwe Jewish Community Site

www.zjc.org.il

This is a wonderful documentation of a shrinking community. With tombstone photos and family stories as well as the community's history it is well worth a look.

Tel Aviv Chevra Kadisha Death Records

www.kadisha.biz

Online information about the six cemeteries in the Tel Aviv area includes name of the deceased, name of father and date of death. It is in Hebrew but Steve Morse's English to Hebrew program can help.

Jewish Cemeteries in Eastern Slovakia

www.cemeteries.wz.cz

Slovak National Archives

To obtain Birth, Death or Marriage records from the Slovakian Archives write to:

Ministerstvo vnutra SR

Statny archive v Bratislave

Krizkova 7

811.04 Bratislava

Slovak Republic

Copies of the application form are available from our Society.

Jewish Sites in Warsaw

<http://jewish.sites.warszawa.um.gov.pl>

1934-1941 Registrations at the Polish Consulate in Shanghai

www.loc.gov/rr/european/polref/polrefindex.html
has about 850 Jews indexed by name.

Translation Guide

<http://ajax.parish.ath.cx/ads/> translates as you type, into and from English, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, and French.

London Gazette

www.gazettes-online.co.uk

Click on Archive and Full Search to find gazetted UK notices for change of name, UK military service, etc.

The British Army in the Great War 1914-1918

www.1914-1918.net

Researching soldiers in the British Army.

National Archives, Kew, London

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Search the Archives can give references to naturalisations, Army Service and even early Jewish Free School lists of pupils.

UK Records

www.ukbmd.org.auk

The UK BDM Exchange is an online resource for researching UK family history. Here you will find references to nearly 90,000 Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates since 1837 along with details of Church records of Baptisms, Burials and Church Marriages from before 1837.

Please note that there is a charge of £5 per year to use all the facilities of this resource, but there is one month's free trial.

Family Tree of the Jewish People

www.jewishgen.org/gedcom/

You will need to register with JewishGen to access this database.

Jewish Family History Foundation

www.jewishfamilyhistory.org

For the Grand Duchy of Lithuania-Kingdom of Poland in the 18th century and their early Russian Empire Revision Lists and 1784 and 1765 census/tax lists of the Jewish kahals.

Cora Num Website

www.coraweb.com.au

A useful site especially for Australian research

State Records New South Wales

www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/keyname_search_2187.asp

NSW Archives Records for 1800s, Convicts, solvency records, immigration, Unassisted migrants to Australia 1842-1855, divorce to 1930 etc

Australian War Memorial database

www.awm.gov.au/database/

**The Australian Jewish
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*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.

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FUTURE IAJGS CONFERENCE DATES

Salt Lake City - 15 to 19 July, 2007

Chicago – 2008

A SPECIAL OFFER

The CD of the New York 2006 Conference
Syllabus can be ordered by **international
purchasers only** from
www.jgsny2006/book_link.cfm
for \$US10.

This syllabus includes the speakers' bios and
handouts and information about doing research
in New York
City.

WELCOME TO SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

SALLYANN AMDUR SACK

Monday, October 16, 2006 at 8 pm

at the North Shore Synagogue, Lindfield.

This will be a not-to-be-missed opportunity to meet Sallyann and hear the latest in the world of Jewish genealogy.

RSVP: president@ajgs.org.au or phone 9427-6075



One of the world's leading Jewish genealogists, Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack is coming to Australia in October 2006 and will visit Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

In Sydney she will also give a lecture on Jewish genealogical research and how it differs from research into Christian ancestry to the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG), Rumsey Hall, 24 Kent Street, Sydney on Tuesday morning 17 October at 10 a.m.

**Bookings are essential. Phone SAG at 9247-3953 or book online at www.sag.org.au
Cost: \$25 non-members of SAG, \$20 members.**

Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack was born in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, in March 1936. She studied at Radcliffe College of Harvard University in Boston, graduating B.A. Magnum Cum Laude, first class honours. She then studied for a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at George Washington University in Washington. During her studies she met Lawrence Carleton Sack who studied medicine at Harvard and became a psychiatrist. They married young and have three children, establishing their practices in Bethesda on the outskirts of Washington, where Sallyann is a psychotherapist. She became interested in Jewish genealogy and founded the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington becoming its first president in 1980. She organised a number of US conferences on Jewish genealogy, and later two international seminars in Jerusalem in 1984 and 1994. In 1985

she became the co-founder and editor of AVOTAYNU, the International Journal of Jewish Genealogy, and she has remained its editor to-date.

In 1997-98 she was president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. Together with Gary Mokotoff, the publisher of Avotaynu, she founded the Avotaynu Foundation, a non-profit corporation designed to publish meritorious non-commercial genealogical reference works. These have included books which Mokotoff and Sack co-authored, as well as the books of Alexander Beider on Russian, Polish and Galician Jewish family names, and the book by Jeffrey Malka and that by Guilherme Faigenboim.

(continued on page 11)

Photo from www.avotaynu.com/sallyannsack.html