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The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc

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WORKSHOP DATES 2007

**Sunday, April 1
from 9.30 a.m.**

*Galitzianer
Resources*

**Wednesday, April 11
from 10 a.m.**

**Monday, May 7
from 10 a.m.**

**Sunday, May 13
from 9.30 a.m.**

**SUNDAY, MAY 20
2.00 PM
*Searching
Websites***

**Sunday, June 3
from 9.30 a.m.**

**Wednesday, June 13
from 10 a.m.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT AT THE 15 TH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
AUSTRALIAN JEWISH
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc.
25 March, 2007 held at the Jewish Centre
On Ageing, Woollahra at 2.00 p.m.**

By Rieke Nash

Last November, 2006 the Society celebrated 15 years since its formation. Those of us still involved who were founding members are satisfied that what has emerged is a society that aims to meet the needs of family history researchers with their Jewish ancestry. We seem to be doing it successfully.

Initially, from 1992 to 1997 when we conducted annual beginners' seminars, the basics of Jewish genealogy were explored and the scarce resources publicised. Since those years, the enormous expansion of research opportunities through different media has shifted the strategies for helping the disparate interests of our members. Our focus is now on individualised help through our informal workshops where each researcher can access resources and expertise to suit their needs.

With references, websites and Special Interest Groups catering for specific geographic backgrounds, the task of helping members has changed dramatically.

Members continue to support the Society in a variety of ways, including donations of money and books, attendance at workshops and events, articles for our newsletter, Koshher Koala, and by renewing each year. We are pleased that our membership has remained stable at around 160 members.

Equipment

The purchase of a laptop computer with online facilities at workshops and a small copier has been a great success. The next item to be purchased is a digital projector which will enhance demonstrations and talks. These purchases have been possible through the funds raised from the sales of our CDs, particularly the Rookwood Cemetery CD.

Resources

Many important publications were acquired this year through membership funds and special donations from some members. By pooling the funds from individuals, the Society continually adds to our reference library, items that are sometimes not available anywhere else in Australia.

Koshher Koala

Four 16-page editions published during the year were well received and proved to be useful and entertaining for all members, whether they attend regularly or not.

(continued on page 12)

EDITORIAL

By Miriam Shifreen

Family gatherings are wonderful times to talk about family genealogy, discover new links, and listen to family stories.

Two weeks ago I attended the Barmitzvah of my cousin's grandson, Matthew Bruck. For the celebration, Matthew's father, Tony, had prepared a family tree with photos. Everyone who was family with spouses and *their* parents were included. So, imagine the delight when two seemingly unrelated people from opposite sides of the family found they had Deutsch gggrandparents from Hungary.

The wonderful thing about Barmitzvahs and Batmitzvahs is that families have had time to become bonded and now see themselves united through this happy event. This family tree spread over three tables was the talking point of the afternoon. Even the young children in the family came first to see their own photo, and then wanted to know just how they were related to each other. I think this will long be remembered as an outstanding event in our family.

As will the Family Reunion of Terry Newman's Levy Family reported on page 16 with hints on how you can organise your own family reunion..

Peter Nash tells us how he found his elusive ancestor Anny Levy in the United States on page 3. Peter's success comes from his tenacious attitude to research and we can learn much from his careful persistence.

Eva Browne found lost records on eBay by being a member of the Austria-Czech SIG. Read her story and if you have not yet joined a SIG, follow the steps on how to join a SIG on page 6.

We have updated our Database. Check out pages 8 and 9. You may find a new connection.

Our two Ten Year Members, Joe Ben Mayor and Ken Smith have stories and research hints you may find interesting and useful on pages 10 and 11.

And don't forget to search the websites which may lead to that elusive relative on page 12 and to read all the other interesting news reports in this issue.

Information about the 27th IAJGS Conference in Salt Lake City is on page 14.

As usual, I must thank all those who have contributed their wonderful stories to this edition of the Koshher Koala.

Miriam Shifreen

Editor

editor@ajgs.org.au

FINDING AN ELUSIVE ANCESTOR IN THE UNITED STATES

By Peter Nash

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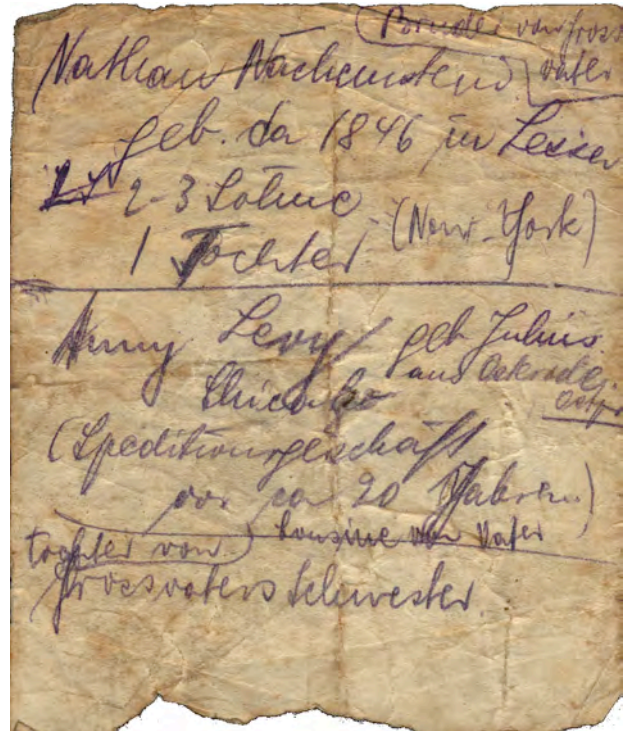
I am an only child and a Holocaust survivor. Family is special to me. In my quest to document all Nacheinsteins everywhere, I have sent letters, used the Internet and have travelled extensively. Generally, research in the United States yields success more easily than searches in other countries because of access to more recent census, birth, marriage and death records and other prime databases, such as Social Security Death Index and passenger manifests. That's why I was so surprised (and frustrated) when all my efforts to locate Anny Levy hit a brick wall. It took 13 years and an unorthodox approach—some luck—but finally I found Anny. This is a “never give up story” and an example of how to find a married woman immigrant to the U.S. when you don't know her husband's first name.

Two weeks after *Kristallnacht* (the night the Nazi storm troopers left a trail of smashed glass windows on buildings owned by Jews, destroyed synagogues and murdered Jews), my father received an eviction notice at our apartment in Berlin dated November 25, 1938. Quoting a Nazi proclamation order that "Jews could no longer live under the same roof as Aryans," we had to vacate our apartment by December 31, 1938. Without the necessary or affordable entry permits to the United States, Australia or anywhere else, my parents and maternal grandparents opted to escape to Shanghai in China where entry permits were not required. We reached Shanghai in May 1939 among about 20,000 Central European refugees to do so.

After the Japanese military occupation of Shanghai ended in August 1945 my father, Herbert Nacheinstein, once again looked for potential immigration sponsors. Unable again to secure an entry permit to the United States, we finally managed to do so for Australia and we arrived in Sydney in early 1949. My father died in 1993 (my mother had died earlier) leaving me many documents. Among these was a piece of scrap paper on which I found incredible genealogical data in his handwriting, written in Shanghai just after World War II ended. On it were the names of two members of the Nacheinstein family who lived or had lived in the United States, so possible sponsors for our immigration.

The first name was that of his grandfather's brother, Nathan Nacheinstein who came from Lessen,

Prussia (now Lasin, Poland), lived in New York, and had sons and a daughter. Over some years I managed to trace all of Nathan's family and eventually connected them with living descendants. (See *Kosher Koala* Vol 4 No 2 Page 4, June 1997).



The other U.S. name in my father's notes was Anny Levy. He had included the information that her maiden name was Julius; she was born in Osterode, East Prussia (now Ostroda, Poland), but lived in Chicago about 20 years earlier where her or her husband's occupation was *Speditionsgeschäft* (equivalent to trucking, removal business, teamster). She was the daughter of my great-grandfather's sister and thus, my father's aunt.

Later, in perusing an LDS (Mormon) microfilm, I discovered that my great-grandfather Leiser Nacheinstein had five brothers and two sisters, all born in Lessen. The sisters were Rahel born in 1845 and Hana born in 1858. Lacking a marriage record for either Rahel or Hana I had to assume that either could have been Anny's mother. Thus, I estimated that Anny was born between 1870 and 1883.

For years every effort to find a connection to Anny Levy hit a brick wall. The name and all its variants were hopelessly common and I did not know Anny's husband's first name. I searched the only LDS microfilm with Jewish records for Osterode/Ostroda and looked through the U.S. Social Security Death Index. I ordered all possible matching death certificates. None yielded any possible connection.

On a visit to Chicago, I ploughed through the *Polk Chicago City Directories* for the years 1906, 1910,

1922/23 and 1928/29, and specifically for the occupation of teamster or the like. I followed up by searching U.S. federal census records for given addresses for Anny's possible husbands, but none had come from Prussia or Germany. I visited the Cook County Court's Probate Division, but accessing wills took more days than I had available, and I was unable to find any index entries for an Anny Levy – only a few male Levys.

Back in Sydney I searched through the online Illinois Statewide Death Index for 1916–50 which showed about 25 Anny Levys including spelling variants. "Possibles" were followed up by finding obituaries in Chicago newspapers, then requesting death certificates (by e-mail when they were free); nothing matched.

Using Stephen Morse's website (WWW.STEVE MORSE.ORG) and the One-Step technique for searching Ellis Island Arrivals for 1892-1924 produced 138 hits for "A... Lev...". All seemed negative. All the time, of course, the name Levy connected to Chicago was sitting on the JewishGen Family Finder, but it produced only a few nibbles, none even remotely connected.

Years later, at an IAJGS conference Ask-the-Expert session, Sallyann Sack suggested that I contact Berlin-based Ruth Leiserowitz who was doing research in the former East Prussian area and specifically the Olsztyn Archives which include records from Osterode/Ostroda. Leiserowitz looked, but found nothing

In 2004, on an extended visit to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, I again looked through the microfilm for Osterode/Ostroda. Still no record for Anny Levy (née Julius) but some records suggested a connection to Anny. This time I noted the following information:

- Lucie née Julius [possibly Anny's sister] married Hugo Ragolski in 1912 with Lucie's Hebrew name shown as Leah bat Eleazer [for Leiser?]. The Hebrew name of their daughter born in 1918 was Rachel [possibly after Anny and Lucie's mother, suggesting that Rahel Julius had died before 1918].
- A death record for Leiser Julius in 1926 gave his age as 82, therefore, born circa 1844, which fits well with Rahel's birth in 1845. So was Leiser the father of Anny and Lucie? There was no death record on this film for Rahel; perhaps she died in another town.
- A death record for Arnold Julius, son of Leiser, with occupation given as printer. He died aged 23 in 1914.

In October 2006, Sallyann Sack visited Australia. She asked about my progress in my search for

Anny Levy. When I replied "None," she suggested that I look again at the Ellis Island Passenger Arrivals database on Stephen Morse's website but search by "town name," that is Osterode. I entered "sounds like" and the whole range of years on the database. Although there were close to 500 hits, none seemed to match the names Levy or Julius or the age range.

Following an obscure impulse I then decided to play around using just the parameters: *First name starts with "Ann"* and *Last name starts with "Levy."* This time I was stunned to find a result that fitted Anny's age criterion, namely, born between 1870 and 1883. It was not an immigrant record, but the recording of the arrival of a returning citizen on October 2, 1910. The manifest showed:

(line 8) Annie Levy, 35, US Citizen, wife of Samuel Levy, address 1540 Clybourn Ave. Chicago

(line 9) (ditto) Hazel, 9, daughter

(line 10) (ditto) Arnold, 19, printer, Osterode, Germany (origin), father Leiser Levey

Strangely, Arnold Levy's name and all the data on his line was crossed out, but the original data was clearly readable. It appears Arnold did not sail. This was confirmed for me by Marian Smith, historian at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (formerly Immigration and Naturalization Service), in Washington D.C.

As noted above, Arnold Julius died in Osterode in 1914 at the age of 23, and his occupation was printer. The coincidences with the manifest entry for Arnold Levy, age 19, in 1910 with a father's first name Leiser and the fact that he was a printer made it probable that Arnold was a Julius, but somehow had assumed the name of Levy for travel to the United States. That he did not sail may have been because he failed a medical test or that his papers were not strictly in order.

Although somewhat circumstantial, it seemed that for the first time I had something concrete: that is, the name of Anny or Annie Levy's husband, Samuel, and that they lived at a specific address in Chicago. That she was already a U.S. citizen was a surprise.

Now I needed to see what the federal census records would show. I found records quickly for Samuel and Annie/Anna Levy in the 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 censuses (in 1910/1920 she is listed as Annie; in 1920/1930 it is Anna) at various Chicago addresses, as well as daughters Della and Rosie (1900); daughters Della, Hazel and Gladys (1910); daughters Hazel, Gladys and Emma (1920); and daughter Emma (1930).

Samuel's occupation in 1900 was teamster; 1910, expressing (presumably transporting); 1920, taxi cab chauffer; and 1930, hotel proprietor. It appeared that Samuel's 1900 and 1910 occupations fitted well with my father's note.

Thinking that a marriage record for Samuel and Annie should provide her maiden name, I searched the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index for 1763-1900 and found an entry for Samuel Levy and Annie Levy on June 22, 1893, in Cook County. I thought it odd that Annie was recorded as Levy and not Julius—but perhaps this was a transcription error. The marriage certificate itself showed that they were married under those names by a Justice of the Peace with no witnesses' names, addresses or parents' names. I was not sure what to make of this, other than that her age was given as 18 years old and Samuel's as 22.

An online search of ProQuest's Historical Newspapers (1849-1985) revealed obituary notices for Anna Levy (June 1935) and Samuel Levy (July 1938). These stated the married names of their daughters and grandchildren. In one glorious hit I got the changed names of all the daughters and the names of their children! What wonderful resources obituaries can be!

Next, the Illinois Statewide Death Index for 1916-1950 gave the number of Anna Levy's death certificate. The certificate provided excellent information:

Birthplace: Prussia, Germany

Father: Lester Julius, from Prussia, Germany

Mother: (unknown), from Prussia, Germany

At last I had proof that Anny's maiden name was Julius! The name Lester suggests that it was misunderstood from Leiser, which I think connects well with the death record for Leiser Julius on the LDS film for Osterode. I could not absolutely confirm Anny's mother's first name, but now the evidence in hand supported all the data that my father noted, namely, that her maiden name was Julius, origin was Osterode, lived in Chicago and involved in a carrier, removal type of business.

Keys to the Success

After 13 years of failure I succeeded in breaking through this genealogical brick wall in less than two weeks. How had it happened? Revisiting the Ellis Island database (EIDB) was key. This database includes all arriving passengers, including returning citizens. When I first searched it in 2001, however, my focus was on the immigrant Anny Levy from Germany or Prussia, not on a returning U.S. citizen with an address in the United States. My original search parameters were designed to get

possible hits by the given age and year of arrival (to match my estimated year of birth). Then I viewed manifests for origin or pre-immigration residence.

The slow downloads due to dial-ups in 2001 meant that I had to restrict time spent looking at manifests. Such advances in technology as faster downloads allowed me to look at more possible manifests for such a common name and all its variants. Over time search techniques such as Stephen Morse's search engines have become more refined.

Previously, I did not consider the arrivals of returning U.S. citizens. It was sheer luck that Anny's "second coming," her return from Europe to Chicago showed a Chicago residence, her husband's name and the connection to Osterode. A bit of lateral thinking helps by coming from a different direction.

I did note, however, that errors in the EIDB still exist to plague the researcher. Even if I had an inkling that Arnold Levy was connected to Anny Levy, I would have missed him in my search for Osterode as the town of origin. The scan of the manifest distorted the name Osterode and the summary shows Arnold's residence as *Astasde*, Germany.

Other search engines such as ProQuest's Historical Newspapers, especially useful for obituaries, are available now only through institutional subscribers, such as university libraries, so trips to such a library¹ or access through helpful friends is required. Many of the Ancestry.com databases including U.S. federal censuses may also require a subscription¹ or help from friends who are subscribers.

Not surprisingly, surmounting one brick wall has led to new puzzles. I have tried again to find Anny Levy's first arrival in the United States—still with no success, although two censuses show it as 1890 and 1892 respectively. Why did Annie/Anna marry in the name of Levy? Did her mother marry Leiser Julius first and re-marry another Levy? What was the connection between Arnold and Annie/Anna?

I have since made telephone contact with one of Anny's granddaughters whose number I found in an online listing. The surprise and joy was special on both sides.

1. I am very grateful to Kathleen Craine in Chicago and Larry Freund in New York for their help.

Peter Nash is a founding member of the AJGS. In addition to German and United States research, his special interest is resources for the former Jews of China, on which he has lectured and published widely including the China chapter in the Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy.

JOINING A SIG CAN LEAD TO LUCK

By Eva Browne

Early in October as I was reading my email, an item sent by Celia Male in the Austria-Czech SIG digest caught my attention.

She had come across a 1938-issued birth certificate from Czechoslovakia being auctioned on eBay for a Johann Neumann b. 1863 from Kostel (Podivin) in our area. With the particulars she gave about his parents and grandparents, I pricked up my metaphorical ears as these were identical to my paternal great-grandmother's (Julia Neumann) parents and grandparents. In other words this must have been from a very much younger brother of Julia's.

I hastily contacted Celia to find out more, and to cut a long story short, promptly registered with e-Bay, bid and bought the certificate, (for the vast sum of \$4.50) and contacted the seller (in Israel) to find out more about this previously unknown relative.

It turned out that my seller, a young Israeli student who collects and deals in old postcards, had acquired the certificate as well as more material for this family together with a batch of postcards from another dealer. As he wasn't interested in the family material, he decided to sell it, and now offered me the rest. However although he was unable to tell me much about it as he could read neither the German nor the Czech it was written in, he was thrilled the papers were going to a member of the family.

This whole matter started a flurry of emails including one from a very helpful librarian in Israel (related to the witness in the birth certificate) who offered to contact my seller and inspect the rest of the papers to see what was there.

Eventually we learnt the rest of the story, when she found a grandson (Gidi Ne'eman) of my Johann.

I have since corresponded with him and returned his grandfather's certificate to him, while he is sending me copies of the rest of the papers that our young dealer had given him.

He thought that they were all lost when his mother moved to a retirement home after his father died. They must have been inside some old books they gave away at the time.

It seems that his father and an uncle migrated to Palestine in 1936, where they then helped their married sisters and parents to also make Aliyah (migrate to Israel). Another brother went to London. The name was changed to Ne'eman later.

As all these papers were dated November 1938, the parents must have applied for them after they left. Johann N. lived, with most of the family, in Kiriat Ata, until his death in 1948. One son became mayor there, and so we have found yet another branch of our widely scattered family, whom Hitler failed to completely destroy.

ebrowne@optusnet.com.au

JOIN A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

On www.jewishgen.org go to *Regional Special Interest Groups* to access the web pages for SIGs that focus on regions of origin. Areas include Austria-Czech, Belarus, Courland, Early American, French, Galicia, German, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Scandinavia, Sephardic, Southern Africa, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Rabbinic. Search the site, enter your towns and join the group.

The Jewish Records Indexing-Poland database (www.jri-poland.org) has recently added data indexed from all the LDS Microfilms for Lublin, Radzyn Podlaski, Zamosc and Gowarczow. Also additional data has been added for Warszawa and Sandomierz. More than 35,000 new indices are now available.

German SIG. The Landesverband der Israelitischen Kulturgemeinden in Bayern (Association of Jewish Communities in Bavaria) has a web site at <http://ikg-bayern.de> with names and addresses of the Jewish communities (Gemeinden), detailed and illustrated descriptions of cemeteries (Friedhöfe), the latest issue of their publication *Jüdisches Leben in Bayern* (Jewish life in Bavaria) etc.

Hungarian SIG. The LDS (Mormon) Family History Library has added birth, marriage and death records for the Jewish population of a number of towns in the Slovak Republic including Brezova pod Bradlom, Casta, Chropov, Dunajska Streda, Nove Zamky, Prievidza, Sahy and Stara Lubovna.

One of the goals of the Ukraine SIG was to index the Russian Consular Records - "Li-Ra-Ma", containing approximately 11,400 files on Jewish, Ukrainian and Finnish immigrants between 1898 and 1922 who came to Canada from the Russian Tsarist Russian Empire. The documents provide passports, passport applications, questionnaires, and identity papers (many with photos). Documents can be searched by surname, etc., at: www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/li-ra-ma/index-e.html

And don't forget AJGen, the Australian group, that can be found on our website, www.ajgs.org.au.



Jeannette Tsoulos, Rabbi Dr. John Levi and Gary Luke at the book launch of
These Are the Names

THESE ARE THE NAMES ***Jewish Lives in Australia 1788-1850***

On Sunday afternoon, December 10, 2006, many of our members joined the Australian Jewish Historical Society at the Sydney Jewish Museum, for the book launch of John Levi's *These Are the Names*.

It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the publication of such a landmark resource for Australian Jewish history and John should be congratulated on completing such a task.

As John commented on the day, new information and corrections are inevitable with this type of work but future researchers will now not have to start from scratch. The range of records that John has been able to access will also give inspiration to other researchers.

Suzanne Rutland wrote in her review of the book in the *Sydney Morning Herald*,

'This mammoth work represents a lifetime of research and inquiry. ... This book will become a must for anyone interested in Australian Jewish history or genealogical research.'

Reading through the pages, one is amazed not only by some of the appalling experiences of the early settlers but also by some of their successes.

There will be copies of the book available for borrowing at the Society workshops in Lindfield.

A TRIBUTE TO GARY LUKE

Gary Luke has found someone to take over his job as Treasurer!

Gary joined the Society in November, 1993 and, very early, was active on the newly created genealogical Bulletin Boards, publicising them in 1994 in the first of his many articles for *Kosher Koala*. He joined the Committee in March, 1995, creating our first web site in 1997 and taking over as Treasurer in March, 2001. Over the years his expertise has helped the Society in many ways, developing CD-Roms, representing the Society and giving numerous talks to many groups.

His articles have been published in overseas journals and in 2003 Gary gained his Diploma in Family History Studies (Dip. FHS) from the Society of Australian Genealogists.

Through his enthusiasm, creativity and productivity he has contributed enormously to the growth of the Society and, on behalf of all members, we cannot thank him enough for the many hours he has given us. Gary remains the research contact for the Society and continues to support our Discussion Group, AJGen, which he founded in 2000.

His vast knowledge, gained through his personal research (one of the secrets of being successful) and through helping others, is one of our Society's most valuable resources.

Thank you, Gary, for all you have done for us.

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATABASE

Update of the Surnames being researched by our members

March, 2007

| Id | Surname | Old name of Town | Current name of Town | District | Country | Dates |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 601 | AUDET | | MAITLAND | | AUSTRALIA | 1800s |
| 517 | BAEVSKY | KRITCHEV | KRYCHAW | | BELARUS | 1790+ |
| 517 | BERGER | | WARTA | | POLAND | 1800-1902 |
| 517 | BLASHKI | | BLASZKI | | POLAND | c.1900 |
| 35 | BOGIN | | MINSK | | BELARUS | 1800s-1910 |
| 595 | BOOKER | | ECHUCA | | AUSTRALIA | Late 19th Cent |
| 536 | BRAUNSPAHN | | | POZNAN | POLAND | c.1840 |
| 14 | BRODY | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | 1820-1891 |
| 431 | CAPUA | | ANY | | ITALY | 1100+ |
| 552 | CHIVETSKY | | | | POLAND | 1850-1900 |
| 595 | CLARK | | LAUNCESTON | | AUSTRALIA | 19th Cent |
| 599 | COHEN | | DOROHAI | | ROMANIA | |
| 566 | COHEN | | KIEV | | UKRAINE | From 1850 |
| 599 | COHEN | | | | ENGLAND | |
| 595 | COOPER | | NIMMITABEL | | AUSTRALIA | Late 19th Cent |
| 100 | DANKER | | MILOW | | GERMANY | ANY |
| 536 | DAVIDSOHN | | BERLIN | | GERMANY | c.1872 |
| 536 | DAVIDSON | | BERLIN | | GERMANY | c.1872 |
| 536 | DAVIS | | MARIJAMPOLE | | LITHUANIA | c.1842 |
| 601 | DONNER | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | 1890+ |
| 35 | FELDMAN | | | | POLAND | 1890s |
| 284 | FLAMBAUM | | RAWA MAZOWIECKA | | POLAND | |
| 552 | FROMMER | | | | | To 1914 |
| 553 | GILBERT | | NEW YORK | | U.S.A. | 1920-1970 |
| 536 | GLASS | | BERLIN | | GERMANY | c.1872 |
| 595 | GREEN | | LAUNCESTON | | AUSTRALIA | 19th Cent |
| 553 | GREENBAUM | | NEW YORK | | U.S.A. | To 1970 |
| 553 | GRUNBAUM | | BUDAPEST | | HUNGARY | To 1970 |
| 595 | GRUNBAUM | | | BAVARIA | GERMANY | 19th Cent |
| 52 | GUGGENHEIMER | | HOCHSTETTIN | | GERMANY | Pre 1810 |
| 52 | GUGGENHEIMER | | PRISHIB | TAURIDA | UKRAINE | 1810-1910 |
| 52 | GUGGENHEIMER | | SLAVGOROD | ALTAI | SIBERIA | 1910-1930 |
| 231 | HART | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | 1800-1860 |
| 555 | HERBATSCHKEK | | VSETIN | | CZECH REP | 1877 |
| 81 | JALOWIEC | | NOVAKOVNA | | UKRAINE | 1860s |
| 481 | JOFFE | | | | LITHUANIA | To 1890 |
| 137 | KOLUM-SOFER | | AMSTERDAM | | NETHERLANDS | 1668-1732 |
| 517 | LASKER | | WARTA | | POLAND | 1800-1902 |
| 553 | LASSLO | | NEW YORK | | U.S.A. | 1920+ |
| 553 | LASSLO | | | CALIFORNIA | U.S.A. | 1920+ |
| 553 | LAZSLO | | BUDAPEST | | HUNGARY | To 1920 |
| 553 | LAZSLO | | | | ROMANIA | To 1920 |
| 588 | LEDERER | | BRNO | | CZECH REP | 1890-1903 |
| 599 | LEVI | | | | AUSTRALIA | |
| 137 | LEVY | | AMSTERDAM | | NETHERLANDS | To 1754 |
| 35 | LEVY | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | 1890-1920 |
| 60 | LEVY | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | Pre 1850 |
| 581 | LEWIS | | AUCKLAND | | NEW ZEALAND | 1860+ |
| 581 | LEWIS | | | | GERMANY | 1800 |
| 581 | LEWIS | | | | RUSSIA | 1800 |
| 588 | LOEBL | EIDLITZ | UDLICE | | CZECH REP | 1700s-1800s |
| 536 | LOHDER | | STARGART | | GERMANY | c.1870 |
| 14 | LYONS | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | 1807-1884 |
| 561 | MARKS | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | To 1824 |
| 561 | MARKS | | | TASMANIA | AUSTRALIA | 1824+ |
| 595 | MARSH | | NIMMITABEL | | AUSTRALIA | 19th Cent |
| 555 | MATZNER | | VSETIN | | CZECH REP | To 1877 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| 98 | MAZZA | | CORFU | | GREECE | 1775 |
| 536 | MEIJER | | BERLIN | | GERMANY | c.1869 |
| 536 | MEYER | | BERLIN | | GERMANY | c.1869 |
| 581 | MEYERS | | HOBART | | AUSTRALIA | 1815-1849 |
| 581 | MEYERS | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | |
| 581 | MEYERS | | | | GERMANY | |
| 553 | MOLNAR | | KISPEST | | HUNGARY | To 1930 |
| 553 | MOLNAR | | SYDNEY | | AUSTRALIA | 1920+ |
| 14 | NATHAN | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | 1801-1891 |
| 595 | NICHOLLS | | NIMMITABEL | | AUSTRALIA | 19th Cent |
| 599 | OESTERREICHER | | TIMISOARA | | ROMANIA | |
| 89 | ORWIN | | | | LITHUANIA | 1900+ |
| 16 | PEREIRA | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | C18-C19 |
| 241 | PHILLIPS | | MELBOURNE | | AUSTRALIA | 1861-1862 |
| 241 | PHILLIPS | | SYDNEY | | AUSTRALIA | 1833-1861 |
| 599 | PLATUS | | BERLIN | | GERMANY | |
| 588 | POLLAK | | BIESTIN | | CZECH REP | 1700s-1800s |
| 588 | REBENWURZEL | STRASSNITZ | STRAZNICE | | CZECH REP | 1800+ |
| 555 | REICHENBERGER | | JOHLINGEN | | GERMANY | 1870 |
| 555 | REICHENBERGER | | KARLSRUHE | | GERMANY | 1870 |
| 588 | REZEK | | HAIFA | | ISRAEL | 1930+ |
| 552 | ROPMOLOVITCH | | | | RUSSIA | 1881-1950 |
| 552 | ROSENBURG | | MANCHESTER | | ENGLAND | 1881-1950 |
| 24 | SALAMSON | ORANY | VARENA | | LITHUANIA | |
| 553 | SALMON | | | VICTORIA | AUSTRALIA | Up to 1960s |
| 543 | SCHWARTZ | UZGOROD | UZHOROD | | UKRAINE | To 1832 |
| 599 | SEGAL | | SULITA | | ROMANIA | |
| 599 | SEGAL | | | | ENGLAND | |
| 601 | SEGELOV | BREST LITOVSK | BREST | | BELARUS | 1890-1913 |
| 601 | SEGELOV | | SWANSEA | | WALES | 1900+ |
| 601 | SEGELOVSKY | BREST LITOVSK | BREST | | BELARUS | 1890-1913 |
| 601 | SEGELOVSKY | | SWANSEA | | WALES | 1900+ |
| 552 | SHEVIDSKIE | | | | POLAND | 1850-1900 |
| 81 | SHIFREEN | | NOVOZYBKOV | | UKRAINE | 1800s |
| 35 | SHROUG | | WELLINGTON | NSW | AUSTRALIA | 1913-1923 |
| 35 | SLOUTZKY | | MOGILEV | | BELARUS | 1880s-1925 |
| 35 | SLOUTZKY | | SLUTSK | | BELARUS | To 1850s |
| 517 | SLUTZKIN | KRITCHEV | KRYCHAW | | BELARUS | 1790+ |
| 561 | SOLOMON | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | To 1817 |
| 561 | SOLOMON | | | TASMANIA | AUSTRALIA | 1817+ |
| 599 | STEENBHOM | | | | AUSTRALIA | |
| 595 | STEIN | | LYE | | ENGLAND | 1930-40s |
| 14 | SUTTON | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | 1818-1861 |
| 595 | SYKES | | NIMMITABEL | | AUSTRALIA | Mid 19th Cent |
| 601 | TAFFEL | | LONDON | | ENGLAND | 1890+ |
| 536 | TAPULSKI | | MARIJAMPOLE | | LITHUANIA | c.1822 |
| 601 | TREGGER | BREST LITOVSK | BREST | | BELARUS | 1890-1913 |
| 98 | VIVANTE | | ZANTE | | GREECE | 1775 |
| 595 | VORCHHEIMER | | THUNGEN | | GERMANY | To 1940s |
| 595 | VORCHHEIMER | | WURZBURG | | GERMANY | To 1940s |
| 595 | VORCHHEIMER | | | | U.S.A. | |
| 517 | WAGCZEWSKY | | BLASZKI | | POLAND | c.1900 |
| 600 | WEINBERGER | | SENTA | | SERBIA | 1890-1943 |
| 600 | WIERNIK | | PIATNICA | LOMZA | POLAND | 1850-1941 |
| 588 | WINTER | | MOSCOW | | RUSSIA | 1935-2006 |
| 588 | WINTER | | STRAZNICE | | CZECH REP | 1800-1950 |
| 588 | WINTER | | WIENER NEUSTADT | | AUSTRIA | 1938+ |
| 588 | WINTER | | | | ISRAEL | 1938+ |
| 588 | WINTER | | | | ITALY | 1938+ |
| 555 | WINTERNITZ | | TUBINGEN | | GERMANY | To 1889 |
| 545 | YABLOTCHNIK | | | | U.S.A. | 1920s+ |
| 267 | ZUKERMAN | | ANY | | ENGLAND | |
| 267 | ZUKERMAN | | KALVARIJA | | LITHUANIA | |

OUR 10 YEAR MEMBERS

IN THE 1970s AND 1980s I WAS LUCKY

By Joe Ben Mayor

I have always been interested in genealogy. I am jealous when friends can say they traced their family to... I especially admire Holocaust survivors, who after such an insurmountable ordeal, out of sheer determination have rebuilt a bridge to their past. In my case I thought it would be actually impossible. Language barriers, physical destruction of evidence and information, finally the multitude of birth places of my ancestors would be too great a challenge. So I doubled the challenge by embracing the family of my wife, Eliane, too, the Vivantes. At least, I thought, researching two families I may achieve something. So...

In the 1970s and in the 1980s I was lucky that two members of our families (Vivante and Ben Mayor/Benmayor) were still alive and most importantly they had very good memories. They knew most of the family members starting with their grandparents and their descendants.

My research started after my father passed away in 1975. Dad had a very good memory and knew everybody, but when he talked I didn't listen. After he died I realized that my link with the past had almost disappeared. Luckily, a few years later, Dad's brother Felix (1910-2005) was in Sydney and his knowledge of the family was gigantic. We sat and drew a genealogy tree of the Ben Mayors. I am sure that there are some mistakes but in time I hope they will be corrected.

The Ben Mayor (Benmayor) ancestry is complex:

My father Moise was born in Alexandria, Egypt. His father Joseph was born in Smyrna, Turkey in the 1850s and died in Alexandria in 1934 (Smyrna was the old name for Izmir). Luna Raccah, his wife was born in Tripoli, Libya in the 1880s and died in Alexandria in 1948. We are not sure where her father Felix was born but he died in Tripoli, Libya. The family came from Italy. Felix's wife, Camilla Samama (or Sciamama) was born in Italy and died in Tripoli.

The Douenias (or Duenias) are just as complicated:

My mother Renée Douenias was born in Sofia, Bulgaria and her father Avram was born in the 1870s in Constantinople (now Istanbul), Turkey and died in Alexandria in 1935. My maternal grandmother Lisa Nathan was born around 1875 in Sofia, Bulgaria and died in Alexandria in 1940.

All these births happened during the time of the Ottoman Empire. Records would be in Hebrew or Turkish which I cannot read.

Eliane's aunt Rosine Levy (née Vivante) 1906-1998 died at the age of 93 and she had a clear mind. Rosine was a story-teller and had very good recollection and knowledge of her ancestors and their descendants. The difficulty was not her memory but the sheer size of the Vivante clan. (One of the cousins wrote his memoirs and called it "The Elia Vivante clan"). Rosine had a vivid memory of her grandmother, Allegra, born around 1837 and who died in Alexandria in 1919. She was quite an old woman when she died and loved to spend time with Rosine who had a very inquisitive mind from a very young age. After a couple of days we had the family tree on a large spreadsheet.

The diversity of the Vivante ancestry made it also complex to research.

Eliane's father Eugene was born in Alexandria, Egypt. His father, Elia, was born in 1871 on the island of Zante, Greece and died in Alexandria in 1948. Rebecca Mazza, his wife, was born around 1869 in Alexandria, Egypt and died in 1956. She remembered when Napoleon III walked into Egypt and, when asked by one of the children "what is the most impossible thing in life?", she answered "when you can hear someone talking in America".

Eliane's mother was Frida Braun. Her Grandfather, Jacques Braun was born in Constantinople, Turkey and died in Alexandria in 1959. I have no knowledge of where his parents were born, but they came from Germany. His wife Adele Goldenberg was born in Bucharest, Rumania in 1886 and died in Alexandria, Egypt in 1949. I haven't gone any further, as Frida has very little recollection of the past, being the youngest child in the family.

However, from the Vivante-Mazza clan I got most of the anecdotal stories. The Vivante family is related to the Nacson family. The story goes that the Nacsons (expelled from Spain in 1492) went to live in France. The Nacsons were very rich merchants and loaned the King of France funds. At one stage the King decided to unilaterally cancel all debts to the Jews which immediately prompted the family to move to Turkey. There the Sultan appreciated the Jews for their competence with money and banking. The Sultan became friends with the Nacsons and they became his financial advisors. Some time later news came to Istanbul that French merchant ships were anchored in Alexandria. The Sultan lent the Nacsons a couple of frigates with the friendly approval that they could capture the vessels to regain the money they had lost to the King of France. The story carries on that

the friendship between the Sultan and Nacsons grew stronger and for services rendered, the Sultan offered the family the Island of Cyprus. The family rejected this magnanimous gift and settled for the Island of Naxos. They were given the name of the Dukes of Naxos.

Another story is that of the nine-year-old uncle of Eliane's grandmother, Rebecca. He was the only survivor of a pirate attack. The pirates made all the passengers and crew walk the plank except him. He was put in the galley joining the crew and in time accumulating great wealth (Eliane's grandmother, Rebecca received large quantities of jewellery that was eventually distributed amongst the children). All the grandchildren have a souvenir of that fortune; we have two plates hanging on the wall.

My endeavours and the advent of computers helped my search for more information. I soon realized that I would not be able to go very far back in time, so I decided that I would try to give an ancestral view to all the youngest members of the family and I enlarged my data sideways. Today I have nearly 1800 names including over 600 marriages.

I have been a volunteer and a member of the committee at the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Sydney for the last five years. I am also a volunteer to an international Sephardic group digitizing all the records supplied by the Jewish Congregation in Istanbul. The result is the digitized records of:

- More than 35,000 Istanbul marriage records, from the Chief Rabbinate (1887–), Ashkenazi Community (1923–), and Italian Congregation (1870s–).
 - More than 30,000 Istanbul burial records, including *Hemdat Israel* (1899–), *Italian burial list* (1918–), *Italian (Sisli) Cemetery* (1800s–), *Kuzguncuk Cemetery* (1913–), *Ortaköy Cemetery* (1939–), and *Yuksekkaldirim Synagogue* (1916–).
- See www.sephardiccouncil.org/istanbul

THE ALEXANDER FAMILY

By Ken Smith

In researching my family history some years ago, I was quite surprised to find that I had Jewish ancestry. I had not been aware of it and after much searching found that my Jewish line stopped almost 125 years ago when my great grandfather married in the Church of England. Getting a basic knowledge of the Jewish faith has been an interesting learning experience.

My story starts with Israel Alexander (1794-1876) who was born in Poland. In 1813, he married Hannah Lyons (1796-1871) in Poznan, Prussia,

where she was born. Their parents are not known nor whether their Yiddish names were anglicised.

They migrated to London where their seven children were born between 1817 and 1827. His occupation is thought to have been Clothes Salesman. Their two eldest sons, Raphael and Godfrey, migrated to Port Phillip, Victoria in about 1835/7 whilst Israel and Hannah together with their two youngest children, Michael and Rosa, followed in 1848. The other three brothers, Abraham, Morris and Samuel arrived before them. Israel and Hannah are buried in separate unmarked graves in the Hebrew section, Melbourne General Cemetery.

Initially, Raphael and Godfrey were drapers in Portland, Port Phillip, but by the mid 1840s were living at Melbourne and Geelong, respectively. Raphael subsequently moved to Ballarat in c1860.

My great-great-grandfather, Godfrey (1820-1900), married Miriam Levy (1834-1911) in 1850 in the Hebrew Congregation, Geelong. Whilst there he was a Draper but also became a substantial and respected citizen. In August 1849, he was listed as one of three Trustees for land granted by Governor FitzRoy for use as a burial ground for the Jewish community. Godfrey, with the same two gentlemen, was also a Trustee to another land grant by the same governor in May 1851 for the erection of a synagogue. Godfrey subsequently became the Warden in 1854 in relation to the first synagogue, a wooden building. He also was one of a large number of signatories to a petition in 1854 about the location of Geelong Botanical Gardens.

Apparently his drapery business flourished for a while but in 1856 he sold the business and a number of properties and went to Melbourne. By 1863, he had moved to Sydney, where he was listed in the Sands Directory as a Chiropodist, the first in Sydney. It is hard to fathom why an apparently prosperous businessman would begin a new career in a little known occupation in a strange city away from other family members. He conducted this chiropody business at various locations around the city and apparently had no competition until 1884 when another chiropodist began practice. He was involved for many years with the Great Synagogue in Sydney. Godfrey continued his business basically until he died in 1900. He and his wife are buried in a well marked grave in the Jewish section of Rookwood Cemetery.

Godfrey and Miriam had eleven children and I am descended from the eldest child (of 13) of their third child. I would be pleased to hear from anyone researching this family or is a descendant of it.

smithken@optusnet.com.au

NEW WEBSITES

The Mémorial de la Shoah Musée, Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine (Memorial to the Shoah Museum and Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation) located in Paris has searchable database of Jews deported from France, Jews killed in France, persons executed or who died in the French internment camps, Jewish resistance fighters who belonged to the network of the Jewish Combat Organization.

www.memorialdelashoah.org

An everyname index of emigration lists for all ships that left ports in the British Isles from 1890-1960 mostly to Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the U.S. Currently only those lists from 1890-1909 are online. There is no charge to see the passenger's name, sex, year of departure, departure port, destination port and country. Charges apply for a transcript of a specific passenger entry.

www.ancestorsonboard.com

The Bevis Marks marriages in the UK are available on line in the searchable Supplementary database at www.jewishgen.org/databases/UK

Add your family website to JewishGen's FamilyLinks which has links to more than 850 Internet sites with Jewish family histories at:

www.jewishgen.org/family

The Museum of Family History is an interesting site. Although some of the information has a United States orientation, Steve Lasky has collected a wide range of material from Europe. Of interest to the Ukraine researcher see

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/ukraine.htm

The Israel Genealogical Society has an up-to-date list of Chevrot Kadisha (Burial Societies) with websites at www.isragen.org.il/ROS/ARCHIVES/Hevra%20Kadish.html

Ashdod Society is at www.ashdod-kadisha.co.il

The Tirat Carmel (near Haifa) is at www.mdt.org.il/search.asp.

Sign up to the GEN-UKBMD list at:

www.british-genealogy.com/mailman/listinfo/gen-ukbmd for news of the latest additions to UKBMD sites, such as the Lancashire BMD. This site has added a substantial number of marriages in Liverpool Synagogues to their databases.

www.lancashirebmd.org.uk

For Dutch post-war immigrants to Australia search

www.nationaalarchief.nl

President's AGM Report (continued from page 2)

Speakers, Events and Workshops

Occasionally we have a visitor from overseas and this year we were delighted to welcome Sallyann Amdur Sack. As reported in Koshers Koala, many of us were inspired with the new opportunities that she described and with her unabated enthusiasm.

An informative tour of the Old Section of Rookwood Cemetery explored the findings from the project to document this Section and which formed the basis for the CD-Rom created by members of the Society.

Sunday morning workshops are usually well attended where researchers exchange information and experiences. Additional workshops have been extended to monthly mid-week mornings for those unable to make it on Sunday mornings.

Some members of the Society have given talks about Jewish genealogy to groups around the State.

AJGen

Our discussion group, AJGen assists non-members from around the world with their Australian research. (See our website for details).

We wish to thank:-

Rabbi Paul Lewin, President Ken Wolfsohn, Dafna Orbach, Katherine Israel and Gwenda Harris of the North Shore Synagogue for their hospitality, The Society Committee,

Gary Luke, who is resigning as treasurer and *Greta James*, who is replacing him,

Jeannette Tsoulos, Vice-President and Resource Librarian

Sunny Gold, Secretary and Minutes Secretary

Miriam Shifreen, Editor of Koshers Koala

Ken Phillips, Koshers Koala

Peter Nash, Publicity and Programmes

Kim Phillips and *Annette Winter*.

Our representative on the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, *David Laufer* has resigned after many years and this task has been taken up by *Annette Winter*. Others who have volunteered in various ways include *Steve Traurig*, *Terry Newman*, *Michael Taub*, *Nigel Meinrath*, *Evelyn Frybort* and *John Stanhope*.

Genealogical research is not necessarily easy but just when you think that you have reached a dead-end, a new 'database' becomes available or someone contacts you through JewishGen and you are engrossed again.

Also, consider thinking about all the pieces of paper in archives around the world waiting to be accessed!

Once again, I have enjoyed the privilege of being President and thank you all for your support and encouragement.

A LEVY FAMILY REUNION

(continued from page 16)

In the hall a large computer printout about six metres wide was attached to a wall showing descendants of Henry and Simmie Levy of London, Michael Levy's parents. Separate smaller trees were placed on the wall for each line of descent from Michael and Charlotte's children, with descendants present being encouraged to check and update them where necessary. There was a constant trail of cousins perusing the printouts to see how they related.

The formal part of the day's programme followed:

11.30 – 12.30 Arrival, receiving name tags with coloured ribbons representing the various family branches of the children of Michael and Charlotte, setting up tables and chairs, socialising.

12.30 – 1.30 Lunch was supplied by each family.

The following activities all took place on the raised permanent band platform, equipped with microphones, amplifiers, etc, that were powered by a very distant electricity generator.

1.30 – 2.15 Welcome by Master of Ceremony, Michael Levy, great-great-grandson of Michael and Charlotte (5 minutes), talk on Levy Family by Terry Newman (10 minutes), cutting of a huge cake with the assistance of the three grandchildren of Michael and Charlotte present who were in their 80s and 90s, responses by the three grandchildren of memories of their Levy ancestors (5 minutes each), toasts to Michael and Charlotte and the rest of their descendants (champagne or apple juice).

2.15 – 4.30 Concert by Levy descendants from three years of age upwards comprising variety plus singing, instrumental including guitar, flute, trumpet, didgeridoo ending with a jazz concert.

4.30 Group photos taken. Thanks to the organisers and volunteers.

One of the highlights of the day was the MC dressing up as his great-great-grandfather, Michael Levy, in period costume with a beard and top hat and conducting an auction of country wares based on an actual Michael Levy auction advertisement.

Large framed coloured portraits of Michael and Charlotte were on exhibition and small photos of them were provided to many descendants. A visitors' book was passed around to gather the comments and impressions of those present.

For maintaining the interest of the many small children, a jumping castle was supplied and faces were painted. Older children had a hit out with a cricket bat and ball.

Concerning the organisation of the reunion, a family dinner party took place in April 2006 to

which representatives of the various branches of Michael and Charlotte's lines were invited. Contact details, especially email addresses, were collected after it was decided that it would be good to preserve our links with the past by having a family reunion.

A working committee began meeting in December 2006 with the aim to stage a family reunion to take the form of a picnic in a park. A large space was required, as there was no idea of the numbers who might attend.

Once the venue was selected, and booked with the Lane Cove Council, messages were forwarded by email, phone calls and in person, to various family members, asking them to communicate details of the planned reunion to other members of the family. Further, they were asked to obtain their contact information, so the list of those invited grew.

Messages were next emailed to the invitees setting out family tree information, in columnar format, so that several generations of descendants of Michael and Charlotte were shown for each of their children. The idea of placing an asterisk in the front of the names of persons who indicated they intended to be at the reunion, prompted others to also want to attend, or stimulated others to encourage families to come as whole units. There were several meetings in various cousins' homes for planning purposes.

As each day went by, numbers grew and more work was placed on the organising team. The latter needed to be expanded and from an initial core of six, the working team was considerably enlarged. One major task was to do all the name tags on computer. Updates of the family tree came flooding in, and additions and adjustments to the data base in the genealogical program had to be made.

At last the picnic and reunion took place, amidst almost a spiritual atmosphere at times. There was a mixture of sadness that so many family members had not managed to reach this memorable day, with happiness to at last see so many young people and their families clearly enjoying their newly discovered Levy heritage.

A video was made of the occasion, by one of the volunteers. Also a film maker was engaged to gather material for a Levy family documentary, and he interviewed a number of descendants during the picnic.

With the feedback and goodwill generated by many of those present, the momentum is likely to develop into the development of a future Levy web site for the family. It is hoped to maintain contact using this means of communication.

27th IAJGS CONFERENCE SALT LAKE CITY 15-20, July, 2007

The 27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is planning a wide range of programs to complement the outstanding research opportunities at the Family History Library.

The Conference's opening session, on July 15th, will feature Paul A. Shapiro, director of the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. He will discuss the history of efforts to open the International Tracing Services' Archives at Bad Arolsen to researchers, the Archive's holdings, digitization of its records and the current state of access. These archives contain millions of documents on Holocaust victims which have been generally inaccessible to researchers.

The Banquet, on July 19th, will feature Dan Rottenberg, speaking on his book, "Finding Our Fathers," on the 30th anniversary of its publication. When "Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy" appeared in 1977, following the Roots series and Kunta Kinte, a mass of people realized that they could also trace their families and the modern Jewish genealogy movement was launched.

If you are a DNA or genetics junkie then Wednesday, July 18th, will be your day! There will be a series of genetic-oriented programs from morning through evening, including Syd Mandelbaum's "Helping to Find Those Who Were Lost, The DNA Shoah Project," Bennett Greenspan's "Genetics 2007," Jon Entine's "Abraham's Children: Race, Identity, & the DNA of 'The Chosen People'" and Gary Frohlich's, "Our Heritage & Our Health-Genetic Conditions Among the Ashkenazim". The day will include extensive Q&A sessions and a DNA collection. Still not enough? There will be yet more on Friday morning with Herbert Huebscher's "DNA and Classic Genealogy Join to Solve Genealogical Puzzle".

These are only a sampling of the 120+ programs that will be offered during the conference. While you will find some of your favourites, many of the presentations will be new.

To learn more about conference programming, research at the Family History Library, the conference film festival, its unique photographic exhibit, exciting things to do in Utah and much more, check out the conference website at www.slc2007.org. Also, be sure to sign up for the conference listserv so that you are the first to hear about conference plans and can share your

thoughts, questions and answers. You can do this by signing up for "Salt Lake City 2007" at www.lyris.jewishgen.org/listmanager/

See you in SLC this Summer!
Hal Bookbinder and Mike Brenner,
Conference Co-Chairs

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION FOR SLC

The Hilton Salt Lake City Center is the IAJGS 2007 conference hotel. You can register for the conference and can reserve your room at the conference hotel for the great rate of just \$US119 per day.

Hotel rooms for the conference are available for a limited number of days before and after the conference, based on availability. It is best to book rooms early and not be sorry.

To access the dedicated hotel conference website go to the conference website: www.slc2007.org and click on the left hand button "Travel and Hotel" then click on hotel and follow the instructions. When accessing the hotel site be sure to scroll down to start your reservation and do not click on the Hilton banner at the top of the page.

Jan Meisels Allen
Registration Chair

If you are planning to attend this conference, please let us know at president@ajgs.org.au

A NEW RESOURCE IN OUR LIBRARY

Nechama's List: New Jewish Genealogical Records added to the Family History Library Catalog. This CD-Rom is an addition to the original CD of Jewish Records in the Family History Library. All records can be checked on: www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHL/frameset_library.asp
A must if you are going to the Conference in July.

COMPUTER CHOICE ARTICLE ON FAMILY TREE SOFTWARE

Worth a look if you are thinking of purchasing a software package. Choice magazine published in Sydney has two articles on genealogical software. One article in the Choice Jan/Feb 2007 page 43 edition has a one-page summary of their test results. The full review of 11 packages can be found in the Computing Choice publication, Nov/Dec 2006, pages 12-15. The article evaluates some commonly used packages and notes the different features available in each one.

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

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

| | |
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SYDNEY WORKSHOPS

All workshops are usually held at the Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treats 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.

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**The Editor:
P.O. Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595, Australia
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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New South Wales

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Carmel Evans | Jo Harris |
| David Hazan | Fred Maehrischel |
| Marianne Nestor | Evelyn Platus |
| Aliza Sassoon | Leon Wiernik |

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IAJGS CONFERENCE DATES

Salt Lake City 15 - 20 July, 2007
Chicago 17 - 22 August, 2008

JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH

March 20 – April 18, 2007

The Kohen and Levi Conference

Jerusalem, Israel, July 15-19, 2007
www.levi-cohen.org

NEW PREMISES FOR SAG

The new research library and bookshop of the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) is now at Level 2, 379 Kent Street, Sydney between King and Market Streets. It is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm.
www.sag.org.au

A LEVY FAMILY REUNION

By Terry Newman
great-grandson of Michael and Charlotte Levy
and founding and life member of our Society

A very successful family reunion took place at the Tambourine Bay Reserve, Riverview, on the north side of Sydney Harbour, on Sunday, 18 February, 2007. After inclement weather earlier in the week, a regular summer's day presented a perfect setting for a family picnic, with a light breeze wafting through the trees. It was an opportunity for cousins to meet; many of them doing so for the first time.

The previous Levy family reunion had been in 1982, and it was felt by the organisers that there was danger of the present generation losing its links with our earliest family pioneers in this country.

Descendants and their families, numbering about 200, came to celebrate the memory and learn about the lives of their ancestors, Michael Levy and Charlotte Kersh, who, after marrying in the York Street Synagogue, Sydney in 1868, brought forth a large family in the western New South Wales (NSW) country town of Grenfell.

Michael Levy had emigrated from London in the middle 1850's, following the example of an older brother who had arrived some 20 years previously. Three other siblings arrived later.

Prior to his marriage, Michael had furniture stores and auctions in towns situated on various NSW

goldfields, such as Burrangong (Young) and Forbes, and, like many of the miners, followed the progress of the gold rushes.

He involved himself in the community: for example, helping to build the small wooden synagogue in Forbes; used the back of his auction room for religious services if there were sufficient Jews present; and became Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge; President of the Dramatic Society and the Musical Society; and Council Alderman (all at Grenfell).

Michael died in 1889 aged 60, leaving Charlotte, to bring up 8 children, the youngest of whom was only 3 years old. She died in 1921.

This rest of this report describes some features of the reunion together with some of the procedures used to organise it.

The location for the reunion was a reserve at the end of two or three dead end streets, which meant there was no passing traffic. Just a lovely quiet park, with some fixed tables, set amongst shady trees. The venue was hired for the day from Lane Cove Council, together with a Sea Scouts' Hall about 200 metres distant, which initially was a contingency in case of rain. With fine weather, the hall instead became exclusively the scene of a photographic and memorabilia exhibition, with trestle tables displaying material devoted to different branches of the family, with several photographic albums proving of major interest.

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