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The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc P.O. Box 42, Lane Cove NSW 1595, Sydney, Australia

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rieke Nash

In May, we celebrated 60 years since the creation of modern Israel and marvelled at this awe-inspiring achievement. The anniversary occurred during the visit of the first ever Jewish group of genealogists to the Red Cross International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, a small town in Germany. The members of the group walked the streets of the town all wearing badges with a blue star in honour of the occasion, in sharp contrast to 70 years ago when Israel did not exist, being Jewish in Germany was not something to flaunt and when a yellow star became the mandated symbol.

The committee organising our Conference in Canberra in October have been working behind the scenes preparing for the event and looking forward to enjoying this unique opportunity to spend time together and learn about the latest developments for researching your Jewish family history. Details of the programme and registration instructions will be available in late August but the committee is still receiving expressions of interest to add names to the mailing list.

And some of the latest developments have been significant. Congratulations to the Victorians for the release of the Beverley Davis Burial Data and to the Great Britain Society for their part in the indexing project of the London United Synagogue Marriage Authorisations.

One of the items on Lionel Sharpe's Wish List is the creation of a National Database of the research interests of all Australian researchers. The database already existing for the Sydney membership is being expanded with entries from Victoria. If you have not already filled in a Database Form for the Society or you would like to add your most recent discoveries, the form can be downloaded from our website.

Also on our website are the instructions for joining our discussion group, AJGen. This valuable source of advice and information was created in June, 2001 by Gary Luke and has had over 2,500 messages posted. There are currently nearly 300 researchers registered, many of whom are happy to help with queries.

At our AGM last March, the existing committee were returned without any changes, and, on behalf of all members, we thank them for their continued support and enthusiasm for the Society.

Rieke Nash

President

president@ajgs.org.au

EDITORIAL

By Miriam Shifreen

Because Genealogy is now the third most researched word on the Web, according to a recent article in the Sun Herald Holiday Travel Section, a new Travel Agency in Australia is suggesting travellers use their DNA to choose their next holiday destination and are offering to organise a customised DNA Holiday for them.

I HAVE A BETTER SUGGESTION. Why not come to our National Conference in Canberra to be held in October this year. You will find details on page 9.

Lionel Sharpe, secretary of AJGS (Vic) Inc and the editor of their newsletter Jewish Genealogy Downunder, was the guest speaker at Our AGM in March this year. His *Wishlist for Australian Jewish Genealogy* on page 4 makes interesting reading.

As usual there are some very intriguing websites in this issue, starting with page 6, *The Beverley Davis Burial Data*, of Jewish burials at all cemeteries within Australasia and Oceania, including Australian War Graves and some graves of Australian interest overseas.

An Australian Story which appears on Page7 is an article not to be missed. This is not just an interesting story, but it will give you a number of new sources that may help you to expand your family tree.

Our President, Rieke Nash's recent trip to Bad Arolsen included a visit to the Jewish archives in Berlin where she made an unexpected discovery. See page 8 *The Significance (or not) of an Ancestral Town*.

Alec Charlson has reviewed *There Once was a World*, the 900 year story of a shtetl called Eishyshok on page 11.

This issue is full of information and news. See page 12 for new websites to keep you occupied and hopefully to widen your family knowledge.

There are several important events for you to attend in the next few months, so don't miss checking out dates and venues on page 14.

Our data base appears on page 16.

On May 8 this year, Israel celebrated its 60 Birthday, a remarkable feat after 2000 years of exile: the reason why we Jewish genealogists now need to go searching documents all over Europe to find out who we are.

Miriam Shifreen,

Editor ed@ajgs.org.au

A WISH LIST FOR AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGY

By Lionel Sharpe

Given at the AGM of the AJGS, Sydney, on March 16, 2008

Thank you for providing me with an excuse to visit Sydney - this is an opportunity to revisit old friends and meet new faces. Maintaining contact between our colleagues in all the States and Territories is vital for mutual support and to share our common issues. I know that SA and WA welcome any contact with the Eastern genealogical and historical societies.

So my first wish is that the Canberra conference in October will be a great success and I look forward to many of you coming together to meet, to share, to learn and to enjoy this unique event. I am sure we will have a great conference.

Some years ago someone asked me what was my wish list for Jewish genealogy in Australia. I had not given the subject any thought at the time and only came up with a trivial response.

Things had moved such a long way since Sophie Caplan launched a national newsletter, The Kosher Koala, 15 years ago. All States and Territories had soon developed branches or appointed representatives of the AJGS, members began venturing overseas to attend international conferences and of course, around that time the internet was taking off as a great tool for research.

We were well on our way to having our initial wishes fulfilled. Today we have three State based newsletters - NSW, Victoria and Western Australia, an Australian Gen Discussion Group moderated by Gary Luke, a collection of Australian Jewish databases and a growing membership and more importantly a great confidence in the future of genealogy.

Let me raise some basic questions.

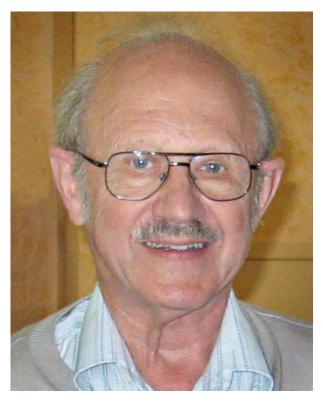
First, we might ask - why do we engage in ancestral research? Arthur Kurzweil, a world leader of modern Jewish genealogy and author of that popular book 'From Generation to Generation', a must read for all of us, once described our past-time as Mitzvah work. What he meant was that we honour those who are no longer with us by memorialising their names and deeds in books, charts, websites and the like, thus enabling future generations to know at least the names of their forbears. The by-product of this has been to enable families and individuals with a common ancestral heritage to reach out to each other and contribute further to this shared family history.

The opening words on the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names on Yad Vashem is very poignant. It quotes from a letter written by a man who was shot in Vilna in July 1941 at the age of 19 years. These words appear on the website:

"....I should like someone to remember that there once lived a person named David Berger."

David Berger was writing to a friend who had managed to leave Poland in 1938 and settle in Palestine. He clearly foresaw his fate on the eve of the Nazi occupation of Poland. Thus Yad Vashem will ensure that my descendants will remember the name David Berger and remember their own ancestors who perished in the Holocaust.

Therefore my next wish for Australian genealogists is to perform Kurzweil's mitzvah - to encourage and assist members of our own communities to enter their own lost families on this database. Time is running out and it should be high priority for all of us.



Only a few months ago I was approached by an old acquaintance at an anniversary celebration. She informed me that her father had migrated from Lodz in Poland in 1939 and had settled in Melbourne. He had left behind parents, brothers, sisters, cousins - all perished in the Holocaust. Her father died in the 1970s without passing on a list of his family names. She told me that she had knowledge of some first names so I asked her to write them on a slip of paper. She also knew that one brother had migrated to France from Lodz and had married and had a child.

She was aware of this family as she had found a letter written in Yiddish received by her father at the outbreak of war. The letter, which I soon had translated, confirmed the names of three members of the family and gave a Paris address.

She was anxious to find out what happened to both the Paris uncle, his wife and daughter as well as those left behind in Lodz.

To my dismay I quickly discovered that her late father had not entered his missing relatives in the Pages of Testimony on the Yad Vashem database. I thus decided to search the Polish born uncle who lived in Paris. At least I had names and an address. I turned to Serge Klarsfeld's French convoy deportation records, and using other sources, I was able to get sufficient reliable information to initiate the task on her behalf. In appreciation she sent a donation to both our society and to Yad Vashem.

There are many other living survivors who have not contributed data to this valuable resource for genealogy and there are many who believe that some other member of the family may have already done so.

As you are aware there is a group of six Australians visiting the ITS in Bad Arolsen in May. It is my hope that we can retrieve the letters written from Australia in the decade after World War 2 by members of our community seeking knowledge of missing relatives.

My next wish relates to using the internet to reconstruct scattered families.

We all know about the waves of migration to Australia since 1788. First from England and Germany in the first half of the nineteenth century, from Russia and Eastern Europe, especially Poland, between 1880 and 1930, then from Germany, Austria, Hungary, Rumania, Egypt, pre and post Israel and more recently South Africa. Our quest crosses numerous national boundaries and leads to many archival resources.

JewishGen, well known to this audience, provides us with an amazing tool for international searching. This incredible compilation of databases was initiated by Susan King of the USA in 1987. It began as a bulletin board with only 150 users and two decades later, hundreds of thousands have joined a virtual community with interests as diverse as Rabbinical dynasties to DNA matching.

With such an amazing search website you may wonder what is my specific wish for Australian Jewish genealogical research.

Let me give you two examples.

Last week, following an enquiry from someone who was seeking the birthplace of his grandfather who arrived in Melbourne in 1902, I searched for a shtetl in Lithuania named Vilkomir. I obtained this birthplace town from a record in the National Archives collection. There is a wealth of ancestral information on this database if you can afford to purchase digitised or hard copy records.

Consulting Avotaynu's, Where Once We Walked, I found that the name had been changed to Ukmerge. I then entered this town name on the JewishGen Family Finder and was pleased to find 252 researchers interested in this town.

I wonder if any of these researchers live in Australia? Maybe there are relatives living here. Only the most patient with plenty of time on their hands would write to all of them.

The same day I received a request from a man who plans to visit his ancestral town in the Ukraine and wanted advice about guides and interpreters. I suggested to him that it would be useful to speak to other Australians who had made the journey already. Again I searched the Family Finder and found 173 researchers interested in the same small town in the Ukraine. Only two entries indicated an Australian address. One of them he knew personally.

This wish has partly been granted. It had been initiated many years ago by Rieke Nash with a database of Australian researchers and their ancestral names and places. The AJGS had started collecting ancestral names and birthplaces from members since its inception in the 1990s. Victoria has only initiated this data collection this year moderated by Liz James.

Would it not be a great idea to have an accessible comprehensive database of all past and present members Australia wide? As many may not wish to make public their contact address we will have to devise a way of putting members in touch with each other.

Another wish relates to the huge treasure of family data which is buried in Jewish history books published in Australia. Historians such as Goldman, Rutland, the Rubinsteins and many others write about hundreds of Australian Jews. There are synagogue histories, BDM record books, Brit Mila records as well as organisational histories and annual reports.

Some do have indexes or partial indexes but it is time consuming to seek out specific information about individuals we are researching. I come across my own relatives sometimes quite by accident. This happened to me last year when researching the history of the Melbourne Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society founded in 1857. I found my own mother was foundation president of an auxiliary.

Let me give three examples.

Rabbi Goldman, in his 1954 self published book, *The Jews in Victoria in the Nineteenth Century*, devotes four pages to the story of Daniel Tallerman, a London Jew, who arrived in Melbourne in the decade of the Gold Rush in 1853 at the age of 21 years. I found a very detailed account of his commercial enterprises, especially his greatest achievement, the establishment of the Australian export meat trade. Tallerman is an extraordinary unknown story hidden away in a book densely packed with information mostly taken out of early newspapers. Unfortunately Goldman provides no sources for his research findings and this is a great problem for the serious historian.

I consulted this same book for a recent search. This man had no background information on his ancestor, Joseph Abrahams. He knew that Joseph had arrived in Melbourne in the 1850s. I had found among other facts that Abrahams and his brother became businessmen and were donors to the first synagogue in Melbourne.

My non-Jewish enquirer wrote in appreciation:

'I am happy to inform you that the search that you have conducted for me looking for information to do with Joseph Abrahams of Collingwood led to my family. As you could appreciate, this information is more than I expected, given the involvement of my ancestors in the establishment of the Jewish religious life in the early colony'.

Then there is the outstanding contribution to genealogy by Rabbi Dr John Levi's, *These Are the Names*, which provides short biographical accounts of Jewish settlers between 1788 and 1850. While providing an index of the key settlers, it lacks a comprehensive index of all names cited. Let me give an example.

In researching in 2007 the family of Ita Buttrose for an episode of *Who Do You Think You Are?* shown recently on SBS, I found the name of her ggggrandfather, Rabbi Moses Jacob Rosenthal of the Province of Wartzburgh, Germany. This name appeared in the profile of the father-in-law, Casper Marks, of her ancestor, Julius. I hope that any future next edition of this great resource is fully indexed.

Finally, there was the coffee table publication produced by the Jewish Museum of Australia in 2001. This book is a wonderful contribution to a

number of Jewish family histories through a collection of photographs. Now out of print, *From Where We Have Come: Portraits of the Australian Jewish Family*, offers us with 126 pages of portraits and family groups. There are many hundreds of photographs from the collections of 160 families.

Every photograph is accompanied by a short description of the family. Individuals in those photographs taken in Australia are identified by name. What is disappointing is the lack of an index of all persons named in the publication. A recent enquirer writing to me from a rural town in Western Australia was delighted to receive alongside names, scanned photos of her ancestors. It would not be a difficult task to prepare an index.

The Australian Jewish Historical Society journal also has numerous photographs. There are also group and individual photos in the Jewish press. So, another wish, a database of Australian Jewish family photos?

I now wish to deal with our refugee history. I refer to databases on pre-war and post war immigration to Australia of refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe, Shanghai and elsewhere. Some years ago I received a grant from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) to microfilm the records of the organization established to assist the migration of thousands of refugees to these shores. Jewish Welfare Societies were established in all States and Sydney and Melbourne offices were the headquarters of this massive rescue, resettlement and integration effort. Stored away in very unsatisfactory archives are thousands of personal immigration and search files and registration cards.

I am fortunate that the Melbourne archives are in good condition and apart from rusting paper pins they are easy to handle and rebox. The files are ordered chronologically using file numbers rather than names. Social work files were kept completely separately.

I have now arranged the microfilming of over 10,000 files relating to sponsorship applications, granting of landing permits, HIAS and AJDC application forms for loans, as well as search requests for lost relatives. Inside these files are many names not identified on the file's cover. More work is needed to recover these names.

I also received a grant to develop a database of Jewish passengers on ships coming to Australia via Fremantle. Details about passengers vary in quality from list to list and one cannot know whether port of disembarkation is the final destination for their settlement. I have about 15,000 names on this separate database.

Another valuable resource is the press cuttings collection of Jewish Welfare dating from 1938. These are press cuttings from both the Yiddish press and English newspapers. Obituaries and search notices and even lists of passengers and some personal stories are especially valuable for the family historian.

The early Yiddish and English press cutting books have now been microfilmed for the USHMM and we have retained a digital copy for our own use.

The Sydney Welfare Society archives, which were in very poor condition, are currently been worked on by a team led by Denise Lvoff. This is an enormous task – far more time consuming than than what I experienced with the Melbourne records. I do hope that sometime in the near future we can merge both the Melbourne and Sydney records into a single search database.

Cemetery records, tombstone inscriptions, Chevra Kadisha burial registers is a topic in itself. My wish is that one day all these records will be available and accessible for searching.

Major progress has been made on the Jewish cemetery records both in Sydney and Melbourne. Beverley Davis, the former honorary secretary of the AJHS in Victoria, commenced a project of recording all tombstones of Australia Jews, not only in Australia but also overseas eg New Zealand, Fiji, New Guinea and British War Graves in Belgium and France etc. These records embrace 363 cemeteries and 48,400 graves.

The Melbourne Chevra Kadisha, under the leadership of Ephraim Finch, has also developed a large database on burials in Victoria. We have now formed a committee to explore the possibility of merging the two collections. Progress has been slow to date and Dr Harvey Cohen is devoting a great deal of time and energy to this technical task.

I must also acknowledge the work on the Rockwood Cemetery and the CD which gives all of us much pride. Don Cohen, in Western Australia has made an enormous contribution to burial data in that State.

We are fortunate to have work in progress in collecting family trees and placing them on a searchable database, thanks to the Feldmans and Bernie Freedman.

Lionel Sharpe is the secretary of AJGS (Vic) Inc and the editor of their newsletter Jewish Genealogy Downunder.

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THE BD-BD

The Beverley Davis Burial Data www.bd-bd.info

The committee of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) are pleased to announce that we have now placed online the AJHS material on Jewish burials at all cemeteries within Australasia and Oceania, including Australian War Graves and some graves of Australian interest overseas.

This massive resource is known as The BD-BD. It has resulted from the remarkable work of Beverley Davis OAM, who, over some 28 years, visited cemeteries with the support of AJHS and its members. Over 48,000 headstones were transcribed from Hebrew and English and these results have been digitised and are now available to users online

As this is still a work-in-progress, the user is advised that although it is wide-ranging, this resource is not complete. A number of burials are missing and some may be inaccurate, but we are working to correct this by supplementing it from other resources.

Placing the Beverley Davis compilation online is a milestone for the Australian Jewish Historical Society Vic. Inc. We hope that with the support of the user community we will be able to further develop the search tools available, plug gaps in the database, and provide access to other records and databases.

Good luck in your searching!

Dr Harvey Cohen Webmaster AJHS Vic Inc Digital Archivist

SPIELBERG'S FOUNDATION ONLINE

http://tc.usc.edu/vhitc/

The Testimony Catalogue for the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education is now online. This catalogue is an index to the interviews with survivors that were recorded by the Spielberg Foundation.

By accepting the conditions for researching, it is possible to search this index to over 50,000 interviews using a large number of criteria. The search engine allows not only a surname but also the town of birth, a list of concentration camps and ghettos and other war-time experiences. The subsequent listing of qualifying respondents gives an interview code for the actual interview.

The taped interviews with Australian survivors can be viewed at the Sydney Jewish Museum in Sydney. Melbourne's Monash University has also copies of these interviews.

AN AUSTRALIAN STORY

A few months ago, Larry Freund, one of our New York friends, sent us a research request. His greatuncle, Max, supposedly had a brother who had migrated to Australia and he wondered if there was any trace of him in the records here. His search on www.ancestry.com had resulted in an entry for a Michael Shalitt and also a Clara but he was not sure if they were related.

Searching the National Archives of Australia (www.naa.gov.au) site revealed entries for Michael and Clara which had already been digitized and could be viewed and downloaded. The documents revealed that Michael had been naturalised in 1913, that he was born in Vitebsk on 17 April, 1888 and that he had arrived in Australia in 1911. He initially worked as a farm labourer in country New South Wales as work as an engraver was difficult to find in Sydney.

Larry then Googled 'Shalitt Australia' and came up with a few references to him in the Australian Jewish Historical Society's cumulative index of their Journal from 1939 to July, 2005 which is now online at www.ajhs.info/journal/index. While the actual articles are not online, back copies of the Journal are readily available at our Society and in libraries. The references described Michael's 28 years as Treasurer of the Western Suburbs Synagogue (also known as the Newtown shul) and noted that Mrs. Shalitt was on the Ladies Auxiliary.

Local 'record keeper', Terry Newman, had memories of Michael at the shul and was able to confirm that the couple were, indeed, very dedicated workers for the Synagogue.

Larry also accessed the Australian Electoral Rolls for 1930 and 1936 on www.ancestry.com where they were listed as living in Marrickville with Michael's occupation as engraver.

On the Birth, Marriage and Death register for New South Wales (www.bdm.nsw.gov.au), as well as a marriage for Michael and Clara (nee Flaschenberg) in 1919, we found a death record for a Morris Shalitt, age 17, father, Michael, and mother, Clara. There were no death records for Michael or Clara.

However, the Ryerson Index again proved its worth (www.ryersonindex.com) with the index to Sydney Morning Herald notices supplying death dates for Michael and Clara. Michael had died in 1987 aged 99 and Clara in 1988 aged 92. There didn't seem to be any other children.

For Larry to connect Michael to his family we still needed to confirm Michael's father's name. From

the records at the Australian Jewish Historical Society, Jeannette Tsoulos was able to find their 1919 Marriage Application to the Great Synagogue. Michael's father's name was stated as Moshe Isaac and his mother as Chaya Sarah. Jeannette also found that they had been buried at the Northern Suburbs (Macquarie) Cemetery and not at the more commonly used Rookwood Cemetery which is online at www.rookwoodjewishcemetery.org. The tombstone confirmed that Michael's father's Hebrew name was indeed Moshe Isaac Ha'Levi and that he was a Levite with the Levite symbol on his tombstone.



Finding such detail for Jewish relatives in Australia is not unusual although it helps if they have been active in the community. Without descendants, the trail ends here and it is sad that this couple outlived their only child by 50 years.

For Larry, he has to decide if this Moshe Isaac is the same Moshe of his great-uncle Max, even though the mothers' names seem to be different. His search may not have ended however, as there was one extra piece of information in the Australian records. The 1919 Marriage Authorisation stated that Michael's father, Moshe, was still alive, a teacher, and living in Jerusalem!

UK 1851 CENSUS STUDY UPDATE

The 1851 Study at

http://jgsgb.org.uk/1851/Introduction.asp

has been updated to include another few thousand names. It now contains over half of the Jewish population in the UK in 1851 and goes both backwards and forwards in time where the information on an individual has been researched or made available.

Our most sincere thanks go to its editor, Petra Laidlaw, and all the contributors who have been most generous with their time and knowledge.

Louise Messik

Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain

THE SIGNIFICANCE (OR NOT) OF AN ANCESTRAL TOWN

By Rieke Nash

Back in 1993 I read in an Avotaynu article that the Potsdam Archives in Germany held records for a few Polish towns, one of which was the town where my great-grandmother was born. When Peter and I decided to join the group going to the Red Cross International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen in May, we thought that this would be a good opportunity to chase up these records and see what they contained.

A few years ago these records had been microfilmed and were now available at the Centrum Judaicum in Berlin, one of the archives for researching German Jewry. The catalogue entries for these Polish towns were brief but potentially important as some of the towns had very few surviving records, either at the Mormons or in Polish archives.

The records turned out to be only Marriage records; in fact they were the records of the towns' Rabbis and many of the marriages had, each, up to four or five pages, sometimes including birth declarations for the bride and groom, the notice that banns had been read in the towns of residency and names and signatures of witnesses.

On the first day of research I found the 1843 marriage record for my great-great- grandparents in the town Lubien Kujawski. Both the bride and groom's parents' names were noted and it seemed that the groom was resident in another town. It had been a long wait for this record.

In fact, as I gradually worked my way through the records it was obvious that a large proportion of the marriages involved partners from other towns in the area.

The most serious problem preventing the creation of a surnames index to the films was that from around 1863 the marriage documents were in Russian, rather than the easier to read Polish, and that there were no indices. Occasionally the supporting birth documents were in Polish which identified some of the information for the participants but the progress was very slow (and not very accurate!).

The project to index all the films was obviously too large for the time that we had available so I created a priority list of tasks for the last few days' work. By the last hour we had reached the lowest priority, a town where I didn't have any ancestral connection.

Ten minutes before having to pack up I commented to Pete that I wasn't going to be able to finish this film and there really was no point in continuing to look at it. But as I continued to casually scan the film, one name caught my eye. I remarked to Pete that the name, Wroclawski, was in my tree. In the next frame, however, the town Sluzewo headed the document. Now Sluzewo was MY town. The name of the groom, Selig Pinkus, was the name of the father of my great-grandmother, Rekla, after whom I was named and I knew that he had married Ester Wroclawski.

In previous documents, Selig lived in the town Nieszawa, not in Sluzewo, and here was a marriage document for him in another town, Brzesc Kujawski. All these towns are within 50 km of each other.

Apart from discovering the town that Ester came from, the document named his parents as Moska and Rykiel, showing that my great-grandmother had been named after her grandmother with this unusual name.

I was really in shock realising that it was just luck that I had discovered this crucial piece in my ancestral puzzle.

The document also indicated that Selig was divorced. Was there another marriage for him? Would there have been one in Sluzewo?

On my return home, I checked the indexing that I had done in 2004 at Salt Lake City for Sluzewo and, sure enough, there were not just one but two marriage records for him with his parents named as Moysesz and Rykiel. I had scanned and indexed these records, not realising their significance. I had assumed that Selig had not come from Sluzewo and did not know that Ester was not his only wife.



An added bonus to the whole episode was that, on his 1838 marriage, his signature appeared in Hebrew.



MARRIAGE AUTHORISATIONS FROM THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE, U.K.

By Louise Messik

I am delighted to let you know that the long awaited joint Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain (JGSGB) and United Synagogue project of the searchable index of United Synagogue Marriage Authorisations has begun.

The first batch of records (3,900) within this database has been added to the website and covers the period from 17 February, 1880 to 30 December, 1886. They will be added to as each year's indexing is completed.

The search engine may be reached via www.jgsgb.org.uk or

www.theus.org.uk/support_services/

find_your_family/marriage_records

(please ensure that you copy the entire web address into your browser).

We are delighted to offer you the opportunity to order online copies of Marriage Authorisation Certificates for marriages which took place under the auspices of the Office of the Chief Rabbi before 1908.

Marriage Authorisations are granted by the United Synagogue (from c.1845) to give permission to a local Rabbi to conduct a marriage ceremony. The Authorisation is granted after the authorities are satisfied that both parties are halachically Jewish or that they have an acceptable Certificate of Conversion.

The Marriage Authorisation gives amongst other information:-

- The proposed place and date of marriage
- The Hebrew and English names of the bride and groom
- Their addresses
- Their country of origin
- The Hebrew names of the bride's father and groom's father
- The Hebrew names of the groom's unmarried brothers and which ones intend to attend the marriage ceremony.

Records cost £15 for United Synagogue and JGSGB members and £20 for non-members.

For further information about tracing Jewish ancestors please visit the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain or email the JGSGB Genealogical Enquiries Team quoting reference USCRMAC.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE CANBERRA OCTOBER, 2008

JEWISH GENEALOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

is being organized by the

ACT JEWISH COMMUNITY,

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, SYDNEY

and the

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (VIC)

A varied programme combining a mixture of lectures, seminars and panel inputs, together with visits to National Institutions and genealogical resources is being planned.

The opportunity to meet in person other enthusiastic researchers will be an occasion not to be missed.

On Sunday 26 - Monday 27 October, 2008

There will be lectures, presentations, panel discussions, Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings, a project planning session and the Conference Dinner.

Registrations will open around June-July with more details of the programme and requests for your areas of interest.

The registration fee will be \$120 for these two days. This covers lunches, morning and afternoon teas and conference handouts.

The Dinner is optional and will cost \$80 per person. All food and wine will be kosher.

From Tuesday 28 October

There will be a less formal programme with research activities and trips.

The accommodation options (not included in the registration fee) close to the Conference Centre can be viewed on the Conference website.

For further information visit

www.ajgs.org.au/conf08/index.htm

SUSAN KING RETIRES FROM JEWISHGEN

There are times when it's almost impossible to find the right words, and perhaps this is one of those times.

Twenty-two years ago (seems like eons), I had an idea that grew up to be JewishGen. Over the years you may have been one of those wonderful people who offered help and together we nurtured that brainchild of mine. Together we loved it and lived it.

It has been an extraordinary ride and looking back from where we have come, we can all take enormous pride in what we have established collectively. It is a legacy that I know will follow me wherever I go for the rest of my life. There is nothing better than knowing that you have fulfilled a dream and to know you have made a difference in so many lives. I will cherish these years forever.

I am ever so grateful for the true friendships I've developed along the way, ever so grateful for the spirit of the volunteers who have worked with so much dedication over these many years creating and building a real grassroots effort that was at the core of my vision and so grateful that JewishGen has been at the center of my life for so many years.

I can't thank everyone enough for lending their talents, their skills, their hearts, their ideas and their time. Effective Monday, March 31st, I will no longer be associated with JewishGen either as an employee or as a director. Even though I may be moving forward and perhaps defining yet another life purpose, please know that JewishGen and all of you who walked the walk with me, nurturing my dream along with yours, will remain in my heart forever.

Susan E. King JewishGen Founder

Susan will be honoured at the Opening Ceremony of the IAJGS Conference in Chicago in August.

WARREN BLATT TAKES OVER

As I assume the post of Managing Director, I want to send greetings to those who already know me, and introduce myself to what I hope will be new friends and colleagues. I have been part of JewishGen since 1990, and been its Editor-in-Chief for many years.

As JewishGen moves into this new phase, we will be integrating more fully with our parent organization, the Museum of Jewish Heritage. As of April 1, 2008, the offices of JewishGen have been relocated from League City, Texas to the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, located in Manhattan's Battery Park. JewishGen has been an affiliate of the Museum since 2003, and this move was initiated in order to better integrate JewishGen's functions with Museum programs and provide a seamless delivery of services to the JewishGen community.

The mailing address of JewishGen is now: JewishGen, Inc., Museum of Jewish Heritage, 36 Battery Place, New York, NY 10280. Phone: (646) 437-4326. Fax: (646) 437-4328.

One of the unfortunate consequences of this transition is that two of our dedicated employees were not able to join us in the new location. The entire JewishGen community joins to acknowledge the work of Joanna Fletcher and Becky Rogers, who have served JewishGen for over 8 years.

Over the next few months, in addition to becoming more fully integrated with the Museum, we will be announcing several new projects, as well as giving you a glimpse into our plans for the future of JewishGen.

Michael Tobias and I continue Susan's tradition, by striving to grow JewishGen and take it to the next level. But be assured that we will not venture too far from our roots; we are built on our volunteers. JewishGen's volunteers are our wealth and strength, and that will always remain. We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our family. Both Michael and I hope to see many of you at the IAJGS Conference in Chicago this summer.

I look forward to working with all of you over the months and years ahead, as JewishGen continues to be the leading internet resource for Jewish genealogy.

Again, I wish to greet all of you, and as we move into this holiday season, wish you and your family a Chag Sameach and Happy Pesach, from me and my family.

Warren Blatt Managing Director, JewishGen

In addition to founding JewishGen, Susan has been an inspiration and motivating force for all of us, and will be greatly missed. We at JewishGen and the Museum of Jewish Heritage wish Susan all the best, and will continue to embrace her spirit and dream as we move forward.

BOOK REVIEWS

THERE ONCE WAS A WORLD A 900-Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok by Jaffa Eliach 1998

Reviewed by Alec Charlson

Professor Eliach has written a nine hundred year history of the Jewish people living in Eishyshok, a shtetl in Lithuania. The book is a useful reference text. If the reader wants to know about education, he or she can read chapters 5 and 6. Or chapter 11 can be consulted to find out about commerce.

Reading *There Once Was a World* from cover to cover can acquaint a reader with many interesting events and ideas from a small town in Eastern Europe.

When the Jewish people first came to Eishyshok about 1100 AD, the Lithuanians were pagans and they welcomed the newcomers. In fact the Lithuanian princes regarded the Jewish people as allies in their fight with Christians. But when the Lithuanians became Christians they became anti-When Napoleon passed Eishyshok, he was impressed by the synagogue and gave a cloth with his name on it to cover the ark. The cloth was stolen, but it was recovered at a later date. The Jewish bathhouse in Eishyshok resembled bathhouses made by the Romans. Whereas the Romans used their bathhouses for pleasure and entertainment, the Jewish bathhouses were used for religious rituals. Although in larger towns the different artisan groups had their individual synagogues, (even the thieves had their own synagogue), in Eishyshok there were only two synagogues. The Jewish people of Eishyshok believed that ghosts of deceased people got up at midnight and walked from the cemetery to pray in the synagogue. Early in the morning, the beadle opened the door of the synagogue to make sure that all the ghosts had left before morning prayers. In one of his plays, Shakespeare described how Hamlet went to meet the ghost of his dead father who started to walk at midnight. All over Europe, people must have believed in ghosts walking at midnight. The Jewish people of Eishyshok had a very fatty diet. But they did not get fat because they walked everywhere and many of them did hard physical work. These are but a few of the many events and ideas described in this book, which is a seven hundred page mine of information.

For many centuries, the way of life of the Jewish people living in Eishyshok did not change very much. But major changes came about after the introduction of fast transportation by trains and automobiles. Ideas came from Western Europe to the large towns in Eastern Europe. Then the ideas came to small villages like Eishyshok. Over the years, Jewish boys only studied Talmud and Torah. But then secular subjects were taught as well. Previously girls were denied an education, they now became educated. At some schools, both boys and girls were educated together. New political movements, Communism and Zionism, came to Eishyshok. One of the leaders of the Zionism movement, Jabotinsky, anticipated the coming events in the early 1930s and recommended that all the Jewish people should leave Germany and Eastern Europe. He felt that the majority of those people should go to Palestine as illegal immigrants.

Toward the end of the book, Jaffa Eliach describes in graphic detail the horrific slaughter of Jewish males in Eishyshok by Nazis and their Lithuanian and Polish collaborators. A few days later the Jewish women and children were slaughtered.

After the killings, the murderers had drunken parties to celebrate the death of the Jews. When the author of this review was in Edinburgh in 1960, he heard a Scotsman who had studied in Germany in 1930 state that "In Britain people think that what happened in Nazi Germany cannot happen here. It can happen here". It can happen anywhere. All Jewish libraries should purchase Jaffa Eliach's excellent book.

This book was kindly donated to the Society library by Beulah Gross, our representative from the Central Coast.

EVERY FAMILY HAS A STORY Tales from the Pages of Avotaynu, Gary Mokotoff (Ed.), 2008, Avotaynu

This book is a wonderful collection of family stories that had previously been published in Avotaynu, The International Review of Jewish Genealogy, some of them dating back to 1987, before on-line research became common.

There are 70 tales, covering a variety of topics, amazing discoveries, connecting with ancestral towns, Cyrpto-Jews maintaining their heritage, luck in research, and of course, the Holocaust.

The fascinating story of her research for her Topf family by our Founding President, Sophie Caplan, has been reprinted in detail.

It is an excellent bedside read or the perfect gift for a keen genealogist. Not only does every family have a story but the collection shows that every family's story is unique.

It can be ordered from www.avotaynu.com.

USEFUL WEBSITES

POLISH AND GALICIAN GRAVES in the Salzburg Jewish Cemetery

www.flickr.com/photos/cam37/sets/721576052403 40950

I have just completed the indexing of all the graves in Salzburg Jewish cemetery.

As well as the 227 graves, I have indexed the names of all the burials registered on plaques at the entrance and added genealogical and biographical notes. Thus the site includes all the names of graves which were desecrated in the Nazi era as well as burials in the post-holocaust era 1945-1949. There are probably over 600 names indexed on the site. Some are quite distinctive e.g. Israel Rauchweder, Markowitsch, Smeliansky, Markus Kasarnowsky, Baruch Sternlieb and Schmaije Kupferschmied.

I hope, as a result of this work, there will be genealogical discoveries and some people may identify family members, lost in the Holocaust, who actually died in Salzburg whilst in DP camps. Salzburg Jewish cemetery is quite a surprise. This is because a high proportion of the graves suggest that the burials were of Polish or Galician Jews as well as Jews from Bukowina and Romania.

Graves are arranged alphabetically by family name with all pictures enlarging by clicking on them. Go from "thumbnail" to "detail" and scroll through or choose a slide-show which will, at the fastest pace, take you just under an hour. This however is quicker than going to the cemetery and you get a guided tour!

You can superimpose the notes by clicking the letter *I* in the centre of each picture. Unreadable graves are grouped together and we are gradually deciphering the Hebrew script graves.

Of special interest to JRI-Poland researchers are all the names on the plaques in the "Missing headstones" section. Many must have been Displaced Persons who died after the liberation of Europe. Some may be still-born children and infant deaths as the mothers were so weak. There are many Adam and Chawa first names. Is this indicative?

Galician refugees also arrived in Austria during WW1 and some graves probably belong to these family members. Here are viewable individual graves of interest: Bard from Krylow; Mozes Buch from Rozwadow; Jakob Ehrenfreund from Jasin; Lea Helfer from Jablonow; Max Kerzner from Wilna/Vilnius; Abraham Klotz from Poczajew, Wolhynien; Bernhard (Baruch) Kochanowski from Breslau/Wroclow and Israel; Owadjie Kreutzenauer

from Drohobycz; Jacob Mandler, from Kolomyja; Sali Margulies from Ulaszkowce; Bernhard Margulies from Horodenka; Gitel Nudel born Grabowice; Ludwig Ornstein from Drohobycz; Ita Majta Prochownik from Lodz; Regine Rudy from Lemberg; Bernhard Singer from Mosciska; Schyfra Turner from Brzezany; Josef Wengenborski from Naschelsk?, Poland; Paulina Wilder from Warsaw; Lyvscha Wydra from Roscha?, Poland.

There may be many others, too, as yet unidentified. Full acknowledgments and further reading links are given on the title page of the set.

Celia Male United Kingdom

LITVAK MIGRATORY DECISIONS in the Second Half of the 19th Century and their Consequences

www.judeninostpreussen.de

This website has a copy of this presentation which was given at the Third Annual Seminar of the Israel Genealogical Society on Jewish Genealogy on 17 November 2007. It describes Jewish migration between the 18th and the 20th centuries.

Ruth Leiserowitz, PhD Berlin

BRITISH-JEWRY DISCUSSION GROUP

Sherry Landa from the British-Jewry Discussion Group has announced that thanks to the huge efforts of David Alexander they are now the proud hosts of two new databases:

English-born Jews extracted from the Dutch Jewish website can be found at: www.british-jewry.org.uk/misc%20db.htm

Jewish names extracted from the Old Bailey Trials 1674-1799 at: www.british-jewry.org.uk/ New%20Member%20Area/dbhome2.htm

DIGITIZING OF ALL DUTCH JEWISH GRAVESTONES

An Israeli organization, Akevoth, and the Nederlands-Israelitisch Kerkgenootschap (Organization of Jewish Communities in the Netherlands) have undertaken a joint venture to film all the Jewish tombstones in The Netherlands and place them on the Internet at:

www.stenenarchief.org.

The site is currently in Dutch; an English version is under construction.

NEW ADDRESS FOR ROOTSWEB

The world's oldest and largest free genealogy website, will be changed to: rootsweb.ancestry.com.

DATABASE OF GERMAN ADDRESS BOOKS, 1699–1958

An index to German address books from 1699–1958 is located at

http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/Search.html.

Only a limited number of years are covered for a limited number of towns. For example, for Berlin the years 1801, 1823 and 1825 are available. The index can be searched by last name, first name, place name and/or occupation. A list of all books in the system can be displayed by town, title or year.

NEW SHTETLINKS WEBSITES

The following towns have been added to the website for Shtetlinks on JewishGen www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org

Botosani (Botoshan), Romania

Created by Robert Zavos

Briceva (Bricheva), Moldova

Created by Ayana Sadetsky-Kimron

Galati (Galatz), Romania

Created by Ayana Sadetsky-Kimron

Lanovtsy (Lanowce, Lanavtse), Ukraine

Created by Sol Sylvan

Miscolk, Hungary

Created by Helen Kenvin

Plonsk (Plintsk), Poland

Created by Ana Raquel Nuta

Webmaster Ron Miller

Skierniewice (Skiernivitz), Poland

Created by Aubrey Jacobus

Teplice (Teplitz-Schonau), Czech Republic

Created by Ann Jemsen

Vilyeyka (Vileika, Wilejka), Belarus

Created by Eilat Gordin Levitan

Webmaster: Kevin Lo

Wegrow (Vengrov, Wengrow), Poland

Created by Helen Kenvin

Vilkaviskis (Vilkovishk)

Shtetlpage adopted by Wayne N. Frankel

If you wish to follow their example and create a ShtetLinks webpage or your ancestral shtetl or adopt an exiting "orphaned" shtetlpage please contact us at: shtetl-help@jewishgen.org

Susana Leistner Bloch <bloch@mts.net>

U.K. BOOTH COLLECTION ONLINE

http://library-2.lse.ac.uk/archives/pdf/ Jewish_notebooks.html

The four notebooks from the Charles Booth collection relating to the Jewish community in London in the 1880s and 1890s have been digitised and are now online. One covers documents about the Jewish religious influence and the other three relate to the textile trades in late 19th Century.

LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/

family-research/

Catch up on their latest Family History Services, especially *London Generations* and *London Signatures*.

UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL ARCHIVES

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The U.K. National Archives are continually expanding their search capabilities through their Search the Archives site. As well as access to Census data, the Migration option allows a search for all shipping from 1890 to 1960 to and from the U.K. but excludes travelling to and from Europe. For travel to Australia and New Zealand, copies of the ship's manifest from the U.K. can be purchased for a fee from www.findmypast.com

IMMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

www.ancestry.com.au

Ancestry is another source for tracking entry to Australia. A free 14-day trial is available from them. Registration is required but can be cancelled within the 14 day period. Recent additions include passenger lists for:

Assisted immigration 1828 to 1896 and Unassisted immigration 1826 to 1922

SYDNEY CITY ARCHIVES

Many of our ancestors lived or traded within the districts now and then covered by the City of Sydney, such as Darlinghurst, Newtown, Alexandria, Kings Cross and Camperdown. Their archives have an easy-to-use search site.

www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Investigator/ Search.aspx

I tried some family names in the keyword search and found the following:-

My father, trading as Ajax Photo Service, applied for photographic rights in the early 1950s at the town halls in Darlington, Redfern, Alexandria and Erskineville.

My grandfather's brother, between the 1880s & 1913, leased warehouses in the Haymarket, and submitted tenders for forage for the council's horse. In 1916 quotes were requested from another of his brothers for supply of wheels for the council's water carts.

For historical material, try keywords like Jews, Jewish and Synagogue. There are a few items relating to Newtown Synagogue as well as the Great Synagogue. The records seem to go back to at least the 1850s.

From Gary Luke

EVENTS

On Sunday afternoon the AJGS (Sydney) features its founding member,

Gael Hammer

recounting the organisation that went into the recent Blashki Family Reunion in Melbourne which attracted over 400 family members from around the globe. Gael will describe the innovative ideas that resulted from the many challenges and aspects and how these were dealt with by her small organising committee, who were not resident in the same city.

Gael will entertain us with the many incidents that made this a memorable and enjoyable family occasion. So whether you are planning a family reunion or not, you will come away with some different ideas about family history.

WHEN: 2.30 pm SUNDAY 22 June

WHERE: Jewish Centre on Ageing, 25 Rowe

Street, Woollahra

AJGS Members: \$3; Non-members \$5

On July 24, 2008 we have much pleasure in welcoming the Chairman of the **Jewish** Genealogical Society of Great Britain,

Laurence Harris

who will speak on

Resources for Anglo-Jewish Research What's New and What's Coming

WHEN: 7.30 pm Thursday Evening 24 July WHERE: North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield,

On September 7

Dr Anthony Joseph

President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain will be attending our usual Sunday morning workshop at Lindfield.

CONDOLENCE

We were very sad to recently lose one of our loyal members, John Schenker. Our condolences go out to Emma and family.

DON'T FORGET OUR CONFERENCE!

Jewish Genealogy in the 21st Century

Australian Jewish Genealogy Societies and the ACT Jewish Community, Canberra Sunday and Monday, 26-27 October, 2008 For details see our website at www.aigs.org

The 28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, August 17-22, 2008

To be held at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel.

Join hundreds of individuals from all over the globe interested in learning more about Jewish Genealogy and sharing what they know.

For details see www.Chicago2008.org For research possibilities in Chicago go to www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago

Annual Trip to Salt Lake City, 2008

with Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff will take place this year from 23 to 30 October. This is an opportunity to spend a whole week researching in the LDS Family History Library with the assistance of experienced genealogists and in the company of an enthusiastic group of like-minded researchers. www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm or

email: mokotoff@earthlink.net for details of cost

Sydney Jewish Museum Tour

The Sydney Jewish Museum is planning a 15-day tour for its members from 24 June to 9 July, 2009 to be led by Shoah historian, Professor Konrad Kwiet.

The Inaugural Holocaust Learning Experience will visit Berlin, Krakow and Warsaw in Poland and Yad Vashem in Israel. Contact the Museum at 9360-7999 or polandtour@sjm.com.au

THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 70th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The Australian Jewish Historical Society is celebrating its 70th Birthday on September 7, 2008. Special Guest will be Anthony Joseph, President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. All AJG Society members are invited to join the AJHS for lunch at the Great Synagogue.

For more information and expressions of interest email AJHS at ajhsinc@bigpond.net.au.

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

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

President Rieke Nash
Treasurer Greta James
Secretary Sunny Gold

Vice-President

& Resources Librarian Jeannette Tsoulos
Research and AJGen Moderator Gary Luke
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The Editor:

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

or by email: ed@ajgs.org.au

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.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New South Wales

John Harper Dennis Levy Stephen & Annette Nicholson Bruce Philp

Queensland Victoria Ludij Penan Barbara Baker

United Kingdom Graham Lewis

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

> > A.J.G.S. P.O. Box 42, Lane Cove NSW 1595

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IAJGS CONFERENCE DATES

2008 Chicago 17 - 22 August

www.chicago2008.org

The Chicago Marriott Downtown is the location of the 2008 conference. The room rate will be single and double \$US199 (plus tax) and an additional person is \$US30 (plus tax).

2009 Philadelphia 2 – 7 August

The Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel will be the venue for the 2009 IAJGS Conference organised by the IAJGS and the JGS of Greater Philadelphia.

2011 Washington

will be hosted by the JGS of Greater Washington.

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATABASE

Update of the Surnames being researched by our members

June, 2008

		Old name of	Current name of			
Id	Surname	Town	Town	Country	Dates	
638	BARNETT		LONDON		ENGLAND	1805-1881
638	BARNETT				POLAND	Up to 1805
638	JACOBS				POLAND	Up to 1818
638	JACOBS		LONDON		ENGLAND	1818+
638	JACOBS				AUSTRALIA	1877+
636	LEVY	GOLLANTSCH	GOLANCZ	POZNAN	POLAND	
636	LEVY		BERLIN		GERMANY	
11	LEWKOWICZ		BRZESC KUJAWSKI		POLAND	1800s
11	PINKUS		SLUZEWO		POLAND	1800s
39	PUKACZ		KASSEL		GERMANY	1800s-1939
39	PUKATZ		KASSEL		GERMANY	1800s-1939
635	SHWALBE		BERMINGHAM		ENGLAND	1855-1900
635	SZWALBE		KALISZ		POLAND	1790-1855
11	TABACZNIK		WLOCLAWEK		POLAND	1800S-1939
11	WROCLAWSKI	Ī	BRZESC KUJAWSKI		POLAND	1800s

ARCHIVES OF THE RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE, BAD AROLSEN, GERMANY MAY, 2008

