



# The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society  
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## EDITORIAL

This thirteenth issue of the newsletter marks just over five years since the foundation of our Society, five years in which branches have been established in Melbourne and Adelaide as well as our initial branch in Sydney, with small groups also active in the Central Coast of New South Wales and in Canberra, representatives in Perth and in Brisbane, and individual members in Darwin, in Northern Territory, Tasmania and in country towns in New South Wales and Queensland. We are now close to 200 members, though we are aware that non-renewals may bring this number down again early in 1997.

Our second Jewish Genealogy Day, again held in tandem with the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS), this time at Mandelbaum House, the new Jewish residential college of the University of Sydney was very successful even though publicity had not been extensive and we had to compete with several major functions held to commemorate Kristallnacht, the pogrom of 9th November, 1938. The team work of the

committee and several other members is very heartening, as is the joining of new members. It is also satisfying to help searchers for unusual information, as the SAG active member I was able to help with information on his own father who had died before his birth in another country, from my knowledge of contemporary Jewish social history and later from a book in French in my personal collection about Jews who fought in the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil war of 1936-39, probably the only copy held in Australia. Such serendipity is one of the great joys of genealogy.

On 9th March 1997 we shall be holding our fifth Beginners' Seminar at Shalom College of the University of New South Wales and one of its highlights will be the lecture "SPLIT TREE - FRAGMENTED BRANCHES, THE KARA/CARO FAMILY WORLDWIDE" by Chava Agmon, the expert on the descendants of Rabbi Joseph Caro of Safed, who will be visiting Australia and New Zealand in March. Chava Agmon will also be giving her lecture in Perth on Sunday evening 2nd March  
(continued on page 10)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Victorian News	<i>Lionel Sharpe</i>	3
My Trip to Russia and Lithuania	<i>Selma Jackson</i>	4
New Books in Our Library		5
Jewish Genealogy Bookshelf	<i>Sophie Caplan</i>	6
The Guckenheimers of Savannah, Georgia	<i>Hilde Hines</i>	8
Forebears		10
Australian Data Base - Surname Index	<i>Rieke Nash</i>	11



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## SYDNEY WORKSHOPS 1997

The Society will hold its usual workshops at the North Shore Synagogue, Lindfield in the Rev Katz Library on the following Sunday mornings, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

February 2    April 6    May 18    June 1  
Contact 9427-6075.

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**Sunday, 9th March, 1997**

## Annual Beginners' Seminar

on  
JEWISH FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH  
at  
Shalom College, University of  
New South Wales  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## CHAVA AGMON

will speak in the afternoon on  
**"A Split Tree - Different Branches  
The KARA/CARO  
Family Tree World-wide"**

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FOR YOUR DIARY

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**13th April, 1997 at 7.30 p.m.**

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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

### New South Wales

<i>Vic Audet</i>	<i>Ronda &amp; John Gaffey</i>
<i>Lynette Brooker</i>	<i>Matthew Israelson</i>
<i>Vivienne Durell</i>	<i>Kevin &amp; Marcelle Marks</i>
<i>Jacqueline &amp; Veronica Porter</i>	

### Victoria

<i>Rodney and Suzanne Eisfelder</i>	
<i>Hiram Grinblatt</i>	<i>Maureen O'Neill</i>
<i>Lynette Kirby</i>	<i>Mark Steiner</i>

### Australian Capital Territory

*Valda Ryan*

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**NOW ON THE INTERNET**

**JEWISH GENEALOGY IN AUSTRALIA**

<http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/jozgen.htm>



## INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGIST VISITS MELBOURNE

by Lionel Sharpe

'You've all got relatives in America', exclaimed Geraldine Winerman, President of the Los Angeles Jewish Genealogical Society, 'it's just a matter of knowing how to trace them'. Mrs Winerman was addressing the Victorian Branch of the A.J.G.S. on November 13th at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre.

'Two million migrants flowed into the United States at Ellis Island between 1880 and 1914 and 60 volumes are in preparation containing the names of all settlers from Russia (including present day Poland) from 1875 to 1914'. Mrs Winerman said that these volumes will be available in the near future for genealogical research.

Mrs Winerman's enthusiasm for genealogy commenced fourteen years ago when she started to research her own family history. This led to the discovery of a Melbourne connection, Harry Mendoza, whom she met for the first time at this meeting of the Victorian Branch.

Taking time out from this first visit to her recently discovered relatives, Mrs Winerman spoke to the Society about USA census and citizenship records, manifests of alien passengers, synagogue records and the Mormon Family History Index.

She described family research as an adventure requiring an open mind and persistence. Using overheads demonstrating her own family records she introduced the audience to the Soundex/Miracode filing system and spoke about the traps in the spelling of surnames. For example, her husband's family name has been variously spelt as Weinerman, Waineman and Wainermann.

She pleaded with the audience to lodge their own family trees with Dorot Archives at Beth Hatefutsoth, the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora in Israel and similar depositories, so that other Jewish descendants searching for relatives around the world might connect up with Australian families.

Lionel Sharpe, chairman of the Victorian Branch, had problems in closing the meeting and clearing the hall. The entranced audience persisted in seeking more information and clues for their own researching. Mrs Winerman invited the audience to attend the next Summer Seminar in Los Angeles in July 1998.

The Victorian Branch was also addressed by Ian Samuel, a Melbourne born solicitor, on December 4. His talk, "Discovering My Family, or How to invite 1900 relatives to your next family Simcha" demonstrated the interconnections discovered in researching an enormous base of 1500 family members in Australia alone.

The Victorian Branch is looking forward to a visit by Chava Agmon from Israel who will speak on March 5th, 1997 on the topic "Split Tree - Fragmented Branches - The KARA/CARO Family Worldwide".

## THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON JEWISH GENEALOGY JULY 13-19, 1997

### PARIS

Hosted by the  
Cercle de Genealogie Juive,  
14 rue Saint Lazare, 75009, Paris, France.

**PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS!!**  
Simultaneous translation into English.  
Post Seminar Guided Field Trips  
are being organised to  
Central and Eastern Europe.

## MARIAMPOLE INDEX

A group of 25 researchers of Mariampol, have put together an index of births, marriages and deaths from 1808 to 1920. The town of Mariampol is now in Lithuania and was previously part of Suwalki gubernia.

Records were not available for all years. However it is virtually complete from 1826 to 1870. There are close to 9500 names listed. The information available includes number, year, family name of individual and the father's name, if available.

The costs for the index pages were over \$US 3,500 and these have not yet been fully paid. Most of the contributors paid \$US110.00. However two had to contribute considerably more so that the index could be acquired. We would like to see that those two should have the balance refunded. If anyone would like a copy they could e:mail [whitz@cam.org](mailto:whitz@cam.org). The cost will be \$US110.00.

Raymond Whitzman     [whitz@cam.org](mailto:whitz@cam.org)

## VICTORIAN BRANCH

The Victorian Branch meets at the BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Melbourne

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## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

President: Hilde Hines

Correspondence to: Dr Klee Benveniste  
C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation  
P.O. Box 320, Glenside SA 5065



## MY TRIP TO RUSSIA AND LITHUANIA

by Selma Jackson

Knowing my interest in obtaining information for our family tree, by brother, Gerald Horowitz of Johannesburg, South Africa, sent me a cutting someone had sent to him, advertising the July 14th - 19th International Gathering of the Horowitz/Horwitz/Hurwitz/Gurwitz Families in Tel Aviv, and there and then I decided that I was going to Israel - it was 22nd February in fact! I booked to leave on 6th July, 1996 so that I could spend a few days before the gathering, meeting cousins of my Berman family to whom I have been writing for some months. I asked Gerald to come with me, and he said he would think about it. Gerald called me one evening in March to say that his sons, Steven and Gordon, wanted to come but could only leave on 24th June, because of a family wedding, and we would have to go to Lithuania and Latvia first, as the boys were due back at school and university. I had wanted to go to Israel first, to talk to Luba, a cousin who had lived in Kvedarna (Dad used the old name of Chveidan) to find out where my grandparents' house and shop was, etc. I would not have gone to my shtetlekh on my own, but now having gone, I could easily have travelled on my own with Regina Kopelowitz, our wonderful guide, interpreter and now a friend, whom I can highly recommend to anyone wanting to go to Lithuania. Wherever we went, she made it interesting for us. She went to talk to elderly men and women who may have had some information for us, and she certainly knows her Lithuanian and Jewish history.

Priority Travel in Johannesburg, about whom I had read in Elaine Solarsh's story of her trip to Moscow and Lithuania, has during the last few years, arranged a number of "finding one's roots" tours, and so we started organising our travel arrangements. There were a few hiccups, but finally things started coming together, and Moscow for two days was included, though I wasn't really interested in going to Moscow!

I left Sydney on **Monday**, 24th June, on Thai International and had to change to Lufthansa in Bangkok. Because we were late on arrival in Bangkok, the ground staff were in a frenzy, and it was only while flying to Frankfurt, don't ask me why, I decided to check my air tickets and found that not only had the ground staff taken my Bangkok/Frankfurt ticket, she had taken my return Bangkok/Sydney ticket as well! I called for the purser, who said she would advise Bangkok, and that on arrival at Frankfurt Airport, on **Tuesday** morning, 25th, I should go to the enquiries counter and report this. You cannot believe the length of the enquiries queue at Frankfurt Airport, and it took ages for me to be attended to. Luckily, as I was reporting what happened, the fax machine started, and there was a fax from Bangkok asking that they should broadcast my name and explain the position! They gave me a copy of the fax to present

in Bangkok on my return. Then I couldn't find Gerald and the boys. I didn't see them in the transit area. They must have gone "looking" at the duty free shops, and they weren't at gate A23, from where we were to leave for Moscow. After running all over the place carrying my overnight case, I decided I just had to sit on my own at Gate A23 for three hours! Before I left Sydney, I thought I was very fortunate that my Lufthansa flight was arriving in Frankfurt five minutes before Gerald's Lufthansa flight from Johannesburg. Ha! Ha!

What a relief when the flight was called, and Gerald arrived!

Arrival at Moscow airport was quite a let down to me. We changed money at the airport (5030 roubles = \$US1.00). Adrian, our guide, introduced himself and we were driven to the Kosmos Hotel which is an "Intourist" hotel, at 150 Prospekt Marksa, about 10 kms from the centre of Moscow, evidently built for the Olympic Games, where the KGB accommodated their guests, and which was known to have been bugged in communist times. The hotel is a 26 storeys high building containing 1767 rooms, a bustling, busy hotel, with many tour groups from all over the world e.g. Trafalgar Tours and Far East tour groups were there. I would have preferred a hotel downtown, but evidently "Intourist" decides where they put you up!

Once we checked in, made arrangements with Adrian to collect us the following morning for a morning tour of Moscow, put our luggage into our rooms, which were clean and much better than what I was given to expect, we took ourselves off to the railway station - "VDNKh" which was just across the main road from the Kosmos, via an underground. The first Metro line was opened in 1935. There were vendors along the pavements selling a few cakes of soap, toilet paper, fruit, vegetables, cheap jewellery etc. all trying to earn a few 'kopeks' for food. Unemployment in Russia is very high, and there is no social security payment (unemployment benefit). There are no shops as we know them, but in the station concourse, there are kiosks selling everything and anything - playing cards, radios, watches, wallets, toys, bottled water, cool drinks etc. Russian money is roubles and kopeks.

My nephews, being 'shomrei shabbat', were anxious to find the Moscow Synagogue, as their Rabbi in Johannesburg had given them the name of the Moscow Rabbi, who would organise a kosher dinner for us. We were lucky that the ticket office at our station was open, because on our return journey, the ticket office was closed, so we just put five kopeks in the machine, too bad if it should have been more! The escalators up and down are very steep, very long and travel terribly fast. You have to concentrate when you get near the bottom, and step off very quickly! The trains are very frequent, every few minutes and they whizz into and out of the

(continued on page 9)



## NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY

We have acquired several new books of Jewish genealogical interest in our Sydney library, many of them by donation from generous members. Others have been purchased. In Melbourne Rosaline Collins also finds generous donors to donate books which are also of use to members of our Victorian Branch, and will receive others from our purchases. In Adelaide Hilde Hines has purchased a number of books for her personal library which she also makes available to other members of the still small South Australian branch. In particular she has a number of books on Jews in Bavaria, one of her special interests.

SARAH F. ORKIN, **"ROOTS AND RECOLLECTIONS"**, published by the author, and available from her by writing to 7 Blackstone Road, London, NW2 6DA, U.K. was donated to us a few months ago by Ruth Barnett. This is a family and personal history of a very large Sephardi cousinhood embracing the Hart, Joseph, Andrade, De Sola, Belais, Pinto, Mendes, Benjamin, Sebag-Montefiore, Van Raalte, Pool and Gubbay families, as well as various Ashkenazi families which intermarried with them in England, France and Canada such as Wolf, Landau/ Landor, Blaustein and several other Sephardi families as well.

JURGEN SIELEMANN and PAUL FLAMME, **"JEWISH VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM IN HAMBURG"**, 1996, Hamburg State Archives, was sent as a gift to Sophie Caplan by the author whom she has met at several international Jewish Genealogy Seminars. This book lists all the Jewish victims of the Holocaust who were either born in or who ever lived in Hamburg alphabetically by surname, with first name, maiden name of married women, date of birth, date of death if known or date of deportation and place to which deported. Although in German language, it is easily understood by those not familiar with the German language and it is a useful addition to the collection of Holocaust memorial books already owned by the Society or its members.

Sophie Caplan has purchased as a gift to the Society a set of ten volumes of the **JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA**, published in the USA between 1939-1943, which has much biographical data of outstanding American and German Jews, as well as geographical data on Jews in USA before 1939. Unlike the **ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA** published in 1972 by Keter in Jerusalem and simultaneously by Macmillan in London under the editorship of Geoffrey Wigoder after the death of Cecil Roth, and which has numerous entries on both large towns and shtetlekh in Eastern Europe and which largely documents the history of Eretz Israel, the **JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA** seems assimilationist in intent and content and largely directed at the non-Jewish American reader. Nevertheless there are many entries of genealogical interest for those who have

American Jewish and American German Jewish connections.

A total contrast is **"THE BIALYSTOKER MEMORIAL BOOK"** edited by I. SHMULEWITZ, IZAAK RYBAL and Rabbi LOWELL S. KRONICK and published in 1982 by the Bialystoker Centre in New York, which has 205 pages in English and 396 pages in Yiddish. In the English section there are articles on the history of Bialystok Jewry, and about some of its outstanding scions like Rabbi Szmuel Mohilever, one of the fathers of modern Zionism, co-founder of Choveivi Zion and of the Mizrahi moderate religious Zionist movement, like Dr Josef Chazanowicz, founder of the National Library in Jerusalem, or Dr Ludwig Zamenhof, creator of the international language Esperanto. There are lists of some of the Shoah victims of Bialystok, but only a few, lists of those prominent in pre-war communal organisations, as well as lists of the four hundred and something postwar survivors, and stories of Bialystoker groups in USA and other countries. Photos of both individuals and groups illustrate the book. Of interest to those who have roots in Bialystok. Donated by Sophie Caplan.

The **"AMERICAN GATHERING OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS"** led by BENJAMIN MEED has published its book of survivors who came to USA after World War II, a list originally computerised by GARY MOKOTOFF the founder of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. While this is not necessarily complete since it was only attempted in the 1980's, it contains several thousand surnames, first names and maiden names of those survivors indexed in three ways. Firstly alphabetically by surname, and this includes alphabetical listing by maiden names and by prewar surnames if those differ from postwar names. Places of prewar residence and postwar residence are also given, as well as camps and ghettos. The second indexed list is by places of prewar residence, and this gives people according to each name they have borne, so that one individual is often listed three to four times. The third index is by camp or ghetto, where again each name that individuals have borne is listed. This multiple indexing and listing gives the maximum chance to find an individual person. This book was donated to us by Diane Shteinman, our member and president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

Our South African born member Selma Jackson a few months ago travelled to Lithuania with her brother and two nephews to visit the places from which their parents and grandparents had emigrated and where remaining relatives had lived before their murder in the Holocaust. Selma who also attended the World Congress of HOROWITZ, HORWITZ, HURWITZ, GUREVICH families in Tel Aviv brought back as a gift for the Society the book by RABBI EPHRAIM OSHRY, **"THE ANNIHILATION OF LITHUANIAN JEWRY"**,

(continued on page 7)



## JEWISH GENEALOGY BOOKSHELF

by Sophie Caplan

Those books with an asterisk (\*) in front are held by our Society, books in the personal library of some of our members are marked with two asterisks (\* \*) and books marked with a ☆ can be borrowed from the Reverend Katz Library at the North Shore Synagogue where our workshops are held.

### BOOKS ON GERMANY

There is more material available for family history researchers on Germany than on other countries, even in Australia. For researchers who travel overseas many libraries have an excellent choice of books available and there are two specialised libraries with excellent collections of German Judaica, one in London, England, and one in New York, USA. In London it is the Wiener Library which, although specialising in material on the Nazi era, also has some material useful to family historians and is well worth a visit at 4 Devonshire Street, London, W1N 2BH. In New York it is the Leo Baeck Institute, presently at 129 East 73rd Street, New York, N.Y. Telephone (212) 744-6400, which sometime in the next two years is due to move and have either joint or neighbouring premises with YIVO and with the American Jewish Museum.

The Wiener Library is now part of the Leo Baeck Institute in London at the same address and together they have published since the early 1950's a series of excellent yearbooks of high academic standard which contain much incidental information for family historians. These yearbooks are present in many university libraries and in some Jewish communal libraries, including the Reverend Katz Library and have excellent indexes. Early volumes were mostly in German, then mixed German and English, and nowadays all in English. There is also a Leo Baeck Institute in Jerusalem, Israel, at 33 Bustanai Street, but nothing is known about its library. Some volumes of the Yearbook may still be available by purchase from the above addresses.

A few years ago a Special Interest Group on German-Jewish Genealogy was founded in the USA and given the name **STAMMBAUM**, Family-tree, and published more or less consistently every quarter for two or three years. It contained a lot of worthwhile material and, despite its name, was published entirely in English. Late in 1995 the editorship of **STAMMBAUM** was taken over by Claus Hirsch of New York City with distribution to be handled by Karen Franklin of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. Since then the journal has appeared twice yearly but regularly, but distribution has been rather erratic with subscribers being treated rather high handedly. We hope that this will now be overcome. Subscription to **STAMMBAUM** is \$US 28 per annum

for Australia or \$US 50 for two years at Leo Baeck Institute, 129 East 73rd Street, New York 10021-3585, USA. Fax (212) 988-1305.

Ten years ago a German language Jewish genealogical publication was created as the quarterly journal of the Swiss Jewish Genealogical Society, **MAAJAN-DIE QUELLE**, the source in Hebrew and in German. At first edited by Rene' Loeb, it has now been edited for a long time by RAYMOND JUNG. Its address is Scheuchzerstr. 154, Zurich, CH-8006 and it is 60.-- Swiss Francs per annum for Australia. Its main focus is Swiss Jewish genealogy, which also covers the French province of Alsace, and Bavaria and other areas of Germany close to Switzerland.

### THE EFFECTS OF THE HOLOCAUST ON GERMAN JEWRY

As with many other countries, the consciousness of the Holocaust has resulted in the publication of many books memorialising the victims or disappeared Jewish communities. In Germany many books which one could categorise, as Yizkor books were researched and written, not by survivors and their descendants, but by local high school teachers and other minor historians and published under the sponsorship of local Christian-Jewish Friendship societies. In January 1991, while visiting a relative who had returned to live in his former native town, I made contact with such a historian who had written a series of articles about members of my family, later published in a book. He took me to a meeting of the local chapter of the Christian-Jewish Friendship Society, who quizzed me for hours about aspects of my family. Whether this came under the rubric of Studies of a Lost Civilisation, or true nostalgia for a more varied society in Germany, I found their interest rather touching even though I am well versed in the history of the Holocaust, and the relatives in question had all perished.

\* \* The major book is the two volume **GEDENKBUCH** or MEMORIAL BOOK of the VICTIMS of NATIONAL SOCIALISM IN GERMANY, published by the West German Archives in Koblenz in 1986, and costing circa \$AUS 320 a few years ago. It lists 128,000 Jews either born in or living in Germany in 1933 to 1942 who perished. Not all the people listed were German nationals. It appears that a second more complete edition has recently been published, or will soon be published.

A book of Holocaust victims from Berlin has been published in 1995 or 1996 and a copy can be consulted at the Sydney Jewish Museum and possibly at the Jewish Holocaust Centre Library in Elsternwick, Melbourne.

\* JURGEN SIELEMANN and PAUL FLAMME have compiled a similar book of Holocaust victims from **HAMBURG** with first name, surname and maiden surname of women, date and place of birth, and place and date of death or deportation.



The memorial books for smaller towns combine short histories of the towns with lists of victims of the Holocaust, lists of those who emigrated after 1933, or data about outstanding Jewish citizens of the town. They will be listed below.

\* \* **NAFTALI BAR-GIORA BAMBERGER** has published several detailed studies of towns connected with his family's history including a listing of every gravestone in the town's Jewish cemetery, a photograph of each stone and text in German of the deciphered stone. This is of great value to those whose families come from those towns.

\* \* **"DER JUEDISCHE FRIEDHOF IN HOCHBERG"**, Wurzburg, 1991, Verlag Ferdinand Schoningh, Wurzburg State Archives, pp.457. **THE JEWISH CEMETERY IN HOCHBERG**. The text is in German. There is also a complete indexed list of persons buried, which is further listed for place of residence and analysed for birthplace.

\* \* **"DER JUEDISCHE FRIEDHOF IN CELLE, MEMOR BUCH"**, **THE JEWISH CEMETERY IN CELLE, MEMORIAL BOOK**, Heidelberg, 1992, pp 232, has a similar format as the book on Hochberg with each stone listed in Hebrew text, in German translation and with a photo, and an alphabetical list of all persons buried, a register of localities of origin, and a chronological index of burials. There are also a photograph of the restored interior of the synagogue and a map of the region.

\* \* **"DER JUEDISCHE FRIEDHOF IN GAILINGEN"**, **THE JEWISH CEMETERY IN GAILINGEN**, two volumes, Tubingen, 1994, has the same format as the two preceding volumes with an additional feature of clearly photographed pages of the register of births in Gailingen between 1739 and 1811 indexed alphabetically. This is obviously a copied indexed version of a previous register. Family surnames like Gans, Metzger, Erlanger, Guggenheim, Jung, Bicard, Ottenheimer, Hasgall, Bloch, Weill, abound in all three books.

\* \* **"THE POSEN FAMILY, THE DESCENDANTS OF ELIEZER LAZARUS POSEN AND HIS WIFE BRENDINA WETZLAR - POSEN"**, London, 1985, pp. 165 in English, circa 1940 in Hebrew, is a story of a family who came from the Posen province to Germany, became goldsmiths, prospered and then had to flee in the 1930's, and their descendants. Very clear listings of branches and of individuals, illustrated by family portraits. Many family surnames including Bamberger, Beifuss, Elizur, Florsheim, Erlanger, Finkel, Fachler, Seekbach, Spiegel, Shavit, Wachter, Shomrat, Spitzer, and of course Posen.

To be concluded. Sophie Caplan

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## PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE NOTICE

From The Ancestral Searcher Vol 19 No 3, September, 1996

The Public Record Office (PRO) Chancery Lane office, London, will be closed to the public from December 31, 1996. Microfilm records will remain in London at a undetermined site.

To check their whereabouts phone  
The Document Moves Hotline on  
0181 392 5200.

Just in case you are visiting London next year!

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## JEWISH LADS & GIRLS BRIGADE

Dorot, Summer 1996

The Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade in Great Britain celebrates its 100th birthday this year. The JLGB was called the The Jewish Lads' Brigade until the mid-late sixties when girls were admitted. Prior to the First World War there were branches of the JLB in Canada, South Africa and Dublin. **"A GOOD JEW AND A GOOD ENGLISHMAN"** by Dr Sharman Kadish, published in 1995 by Valentine Mitchell, describes the history of the JLB/JLGB. Copies of the book can be obtained from the JLGB direct. Many names are mentioned in the book and it might prove of interest to genealogists researching the UK, and London in particular, from the late 19th Century. The JLGB has fairly extensive records on members going back to 1895. Their address is:

Camperdown,  
3 Beechcroft Road,  
London E18 1LA, U.K.

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## NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY

(continued from page 5)

1993, published by the Judaica Press, Inc., 123 Ditmas Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y., 11218, USA. Tel (718) 972-6200 and (800) 972-6201, which details the fate of many large and small Jewish communities in Lithuania. This book of 312 pages is entirely in English and has an English index of names, though unaccountably the end maps are in Yiddish in the Hebrew alphabet which will make it hard to read for most readers.

**"JEWISH LIFE IN GERMANY, MEMOIRS FROM THREE CENTURIES"**, edited by MONIKA RICHARDS, which will be included in our feature **JEWISH GENEALOGY BOOKSHELF, BOOKS ON GERMANY**, has also been donated by Sophie Caplan.

We are delighted that so many members now donate books to our Society.

Sophie Caplan



## THE GUCKENHEIMERS OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

by Hilde Hines

My personal interest in genealogy started when I found amongst my late mother's papers the Guckenheimer family tree written by hand.

It started off with Hirsch Mossmann and his wife Treinla. Their first child, Malichen, married Samuel Guckenheimer. They had eleven children, of which eight survived to adulthood. Isak, their middle son, was my grandfather, Guckenheimer being my birth name.

I knew very little about the origins of my family, other than that they were all born in or near Nuremberg. It was only when the uncles made some weak jokes - the family called them "hasliche Spruch" - Hasliche sayings. I knew Haslach was a place, but there are various Haslachs in Germany. I wrote to a couple of them, to the Mayor, asking if there had been a family Guckenheimer living in that place. Eventually I found the one I wanted was Burghaslach, between Wurzburg and Nuremberg. After a lot of searching and writing I discovered that there was an Archive in Castell, and the Archivist kindly corresponded with me and sent me a number of very interesting papers regarding my family.

However even before this I had started to bring the family tree up to date, including writing to all the living members of my father's family spread all over the globe. Cousins in Chicago, Seattle, Toronto Canada, England and one who still lived in Germany. Eventually I was able to piece together all the relevant details and add them to the original paper.

In true genealogy style once you have started you will never stop and today I would like to tell you about my latest discovery. A relative living in England had sent me a photo of a little boy, Sam Guckenheimer, Savannah.

My grandfather had gone as a young man to America but he had returned and started his family in Nuremberg. So where did Sam Guckenheimer fit in, in Savannah? Grandfather's oldest brother was called Selka, which he changed to Simon. I subscribe to Avotaynu, the International Quarterly of Jewish Genealogy, and found that there is a Jewish genealogy Society in Atlanta, Georgia. So I wrote to them with all my details about Sam Guckenheimer, Savannah and my particular interest with regard to a relationship with my Guckenheimers. A professional genealogist took up my request and sent me a copy of the Savannah Morning News of the 20th February 1900 with the heading, "Simon Guckenheimer Dead. Death claimed one of Savannah's leading merchants". The article, written in the style of the period, describes in great detail his death, his illness, the doctors who attended, as well as his long life and the many organisations with which he was connected and also the esteem in which he was held

in the town. Let me just quote extracts from this long newspaper obituary:-

*"Mr. Guckenheimer was born of Jewish parents at Burghaslach, Bavaria, Germany, on April 6th 1830. He left school and was apprenticed to a merchant weaver in Burghaslach. It was while employed by this weaver, Mr. Haas, that an attachment was formed by Mr. Guckenheimer for Miss Sarah Haas, a daughter. The love of the boy for a girl of 13 endured and it was 9 years after his departure for America that Mr. Guckenheimer returned to his native land to claim his bride. He came to America as a young man in 1851 with \$20 in his pocket. In 1855 he opened a general store in Charlton county, Georgia. He was very successful in his new venture, his business acumen, coupled with unswerving honesty and a certain foresight that marked his career, winning him the custom of the surrounding country. In 1860 he sold his store and returned to Germany, where he claimed his bride. On October 23rd 1860 he and Miss Haas were married, and in November they took passage to New York, reaching Savannah on December 11th.*

*Mr Guckenheimer always enjoyed the reputation of being eminently public spirited. He was in all enterprises that looked to the development of the city and its betterment. Among the important posts he held was President of the Merchants' National Bank, of which he was still a director at the time of his death. For many years he was president of the congregation Mickve Israel, with whom he worshipped.*

*From a poor boy to a merchant prince is a leap that many of the former dream of and yearn for, but it comes so seldom that all honor should be paid to him who, by sterling integrity and native ability, is able to surmount all difficulties and leave a name such as Simon Guckenheimer's."*

Also included with this long article from the newspaper was the name of some of the descendants still living in Savannah. Of course, I quickly corresponded with them and found one, an attorney also interested in genealogy. Sam was Selka/Simon's oldest son. Savannah itself has been the subject of a book, "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" which, by chance, a friend had given to me. This added to the family connections, decided my sister and me to visit Savannah this summer. Cousin Alan, the lawyer, sent us a full list of all relatives still living in Savannah, as well as those buried in Savannah cemeteries. He was our kind guide and instructor during the week we spent there. I had also encouraged another cousin and his wife who live in Chicago, and who are also interested in family history, to meet us in Savannah.

The town itself is beautiful and well-planned and preserved in a most unusual manner. Wherever two main street meet, there is a square with trees and lawns and benches and a memorial to Savannah's and America's historical figures. Cousin Alan had given us a

(continued on page 9)



## MY TRIP TO RUSSIA AND LITHUANIA

(continued from page 3)

stations, but once again the doors close very quickly, so you have to step aboard even before all the passengers getting off are off the train.

After six station stops, we finally arrived at Myasnit-skaya station. Gordon, with his map in hand, certainly seemed to find his way around, and we finally found ourselves walking down a road, where we came across three young men with yarmulkas, and they took us to the Shul at Ulitza Archipova 14. As we walked up the steps, an elderly lady and gentleman put their hand out, begging! The Mincha service had just begun, so Gerald and the boys joined the service in the small shul, and I was left in the entrance. The lady on duty at the entrance to the building asked if I would like to see the big shul - wouldn't I just! She went to get the key and unlocked the main door of the Shul. What a wonderful sight! ME in the Moscow Synagogue! Who would have thought that I would one day actually stand in the Moscow Synagogue! After the service we made our way three doors up from the Synagogue, climbed seven or eight flights of stairs in a very derelict building, as the lift wouldn't work, to a small room in some flat, where arrangements had been made for us to have an evening meal, evidently the "Business Centre" at Ulitza Archipova 6, with the table laid just for the four of us. A pleasant meal served by a young woman. It wasn't easy getting back by train. We can't read Russian, and whoever we asked could not speak English. One has to know which way to go AND which platform to go to, but Gordon showed he has a very good sense of direction, and only asked someone with a briefcase to confirm his thinking.

Wednesday morning, 26th June, our guide Adrian took us by Metro into the city to the Intourist office at 13 Moklovaya Street, (National Hotel) where we were joined by other tourists, and with the Intourist Guide, Alexander Sobolev, were taken on a three hour walk, 11 am to 2 pm, through the Kremlin, which means a fortress or citadel, built in 1495, has 2235 metres of walls surrounding 28 acres. Moscow celebrates its 850th anniversary this year. We saw the Lenin Library with figures around the outside and all the gold domes in the square of the five cathedrals. We saw the Cathedral of the Assumption, the large Cathedral on the right where the coronation of Alexander the Great took place, the Cathedral of the Annunciation, the private church of the Tsars and their families, Archangel Cathedral, Church of the Deposition of the Robe, the great Bell tower of Ivan the Great, 81 metres high, the Patriarchs' Palace, the tallest of the twenty towers is the Troyitsa Tower. There was also the Czar's Cannon weighing 20 ton, cast in 1586 and which has never been fired. The carriage weighing 15 ton had been brought from St Petersburg. The Headquarters of the Russian President was a yellow building, with all the big black limousines with

darkened windows parked out front! To the left is another yellow building housing the Security Services. I just stepped off the pavement across the road from this building, to take a photograph, and I was very quickly told to get back onto the pavement. Then we were taken into a beautiful building known as the Armoury Museum with its magnificent treasures, the most wonderful collection of antiquities: coronation robes, one of which weighs 24 kg, clothing head gear, crowns and wedding garments worn by the Tsars and Tsarinas, a beautiful tapestry from Catherine the Great, coronation chairs, gifts given to the Czars over the years, precious tableware including gold and silverware from the 12th and 13th centuries, their summer carriages and winter sleighs. There was an oak carriage from 1604, ancient weapons, priests' garments and icons, Fabergé eggs given by the Tsar to the Tsarina, some designed by the Tsarina and given by her as gifts to family and friends. Unfortunately we were not allowed to take any photographs, and the postcards available did not show what is in the Armoury. Anyone who saw the small Fabergé collection here at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney recently can imagine what wonders are held at the Armoury.

TO BE CONTINUED

*Selma Jackson is a member of the Society in Sydney to which she emigrated from her native Johannesburg, South Africa, about a decade ago. (Ed.)*

## THE GUCKENHEIMERS OF SAVANNAH

(continued from page 8)

book with the most interesting features of Savannah and in spite of summer heat we managed to see most of them. However the family memorials were the highlight. The synagogue has a large Guckenhimer stained glass window. In the cemetery were huge mausoleums for the various Guckenheimers, and there is even a Guckenhimer Place in Savannah. The story of Simon Guckenhimer and his family is written in the book, History of Savannah.

We met all the relatives and I have now been able to add another branch to the family tree! There is only one sad aspect to it, that in the year 1941 the then only living Guckenhimer decided to change his name, and that of his family, to Gaynor, as in the atmosphere of war the Guckenhimer name sounded "too German". We met all the cousins, and some of their children, on the Saturday morning at the synagogue, Congregation Mikve Israel, and were invited by each of them separately, after this, to visit them, so we had a chance to get to know them. The synagogue is still a focal point in their lives.

From Burghaslach in Southern Germany to Savannah. What a journey it was! Mine was from Burghaslach to Nuremberg to Holland to Australia and now just a visitor to Savannah!

*Hilde Hines is chairman of the South Australian branch of our Society in Adelaide. We have previously published her articles on other aspects of her family research.*



and in Melbourne at Makor Library on Wednesday evening 5th March.

On Genealogy Day we had another expert lecturing to us about "HOW TO ACCESS UNITED STATES CENSUSES AND ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS". This was Gerry Winerman, the President of the Los Angeles Jewish Genealogical Society, who is also connected to the Australian Sephardi-descended Mendoza family. Australia is becoming an ever more popular tourist destination for Americans, Israelis and Europeans, as well as Asians, and some of those tourists are experts in some aspects of Jewish genealogy. We shall endeavour to continue to invite them to share that expertise with our members, while showing them some hospitality in return, to the benefit of all concerned.

The Internet and e:mail have brought great benefits to many genealogists and we shall try to inform our readers about Web sites of interest to Jewish genealogists. There are some genealogists who believe that e:mail has made regular mail obsolete and have devised rude names for regular post. This obsolescence may exist when both parties to a correspondence have e:mail and there is no more need for envelopes and stamps. There should however be a code of conduct for e:mail users to ensure that others' rights are not infringed and that others are not burdened with the mailing or phoning costs which the e:mail user is saving.

Let me explain. I do not have e:mail and am not likely to have it in the near future. I prefer to get my messages by regular mail and to be able to answer the same way AT MY CONVENIENCE. Certain e:mail users have taken to writing to me care of other Sydney e:mail addresses, which means that the recipient has to phone me and/or fax me the message, thus incurring the telephone/fax costs saved by the e:mailer, who also omits usually to provide a regular mailing address, thus forcing me to respond via a friend's e:mail, which is a bother both to them and to me.

Further, some e:mailers believe that they are entitled to a swift response to their enquiry to total strangers, and to send long insulting e:mail messages if left to wait for an answer. I have received such rude messages and I deeply resent them and the people who send them. Perhaps an international opprobrium list should be compiled of those who indulge in such childish and self-centered behaviour. Personally I request that mail from those who have not yet become personal friends be addressed to me at P.O.B. 154, Northbridge, Sydney, NSW 2063, Australia

Please don't forget the next International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy will now take place in Paris from 13 to 19th July, 1997. For each session of the seminar there will be simultaneous translations in French and English. A highlight for some attending this conference, will be



## FOREBEARS AUSTRALIAN FAMILY FINDER

Our Family Finder column will be charged for at the rate of \$AUS 8 for 25 words plus address and telephone number, or fax number of inquirer. For overseas advertisements \$US 5 if sent in cash OR for cheques \$US15 due to new high bank exchange rates for cheques in other currencies. Please communicate directly with inquirer, but kindly inform us if this column has helped you to advance in your research.

00045 YOSSEF PARDO, C/- Sierra de Fredos, 8, 2-B, 3005 Murcia, Spain. Tel: 34-968-290-150 Fax: 34-908-276-341. He is a descendant of Conversos (Marranos) seeking information both on his Jewish ancestors and on their descendants wherever they may be. It is not clear whether these are only surnames being sought, or also towns: **PARDO, MADRID, SOLER, AYALA, LOPEZ, PEREZ, ALHAMA, BALLESTER**. Would also like to receive lists of Sephardic surnames of Spanish ancestry.

00046 RYSZARD J. REISNER, Apt 9,500 Glenhuntingly Road, Esternwick, Melbourne, Vic, 3185, Australia. Tel: 61-3-9523 7825 Mobile:0416 110416 Fax: 61-3-9530-0999. Seeking following persons, or information on their fate:**WANDA REISNER**, born circa 1928, daughter of Dr Henry Reisner and Maryla Apfelbaum, supposedly adopted by family friends out of Treblinka Work Camp; **FELA BERGHAUER**, youngest daughter of Hershel and Sarah, born circa 1900, sister of Channa, Meir and Moses. Lived with Channa Izygrim up to September 1939 and then married in Warsaw or area. Married name unknown. Supposedly left for Russia in 1940 with child and husband. **RENATA REISNER**, nee **BLOK**, wife of **MICHAEL REISNER** who died as a Polish cavalryman in the campaign of September 1939. She was born circa 1910, married in Poznan or in Bialystok 1927-1935. Children unknown.

the opportunity to visit some of the places being researched while in Europe. There is the possibility of guided field trips to Central and Eastern Europe being organised after the conference but these must be booked in advance. More details in our next issue.

Sophie Caplan, Editor.

## WANTED

*Articles by male members of the Society for Volume 4 to correct the imbalance of genders among contributors to this newsletter.*



# AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATA BASE

Names being researched by our new members

December, 1996

Id	Surname	Old Name of Town	Town	Province	Country	Dates
139	ABRAHAM		BANGOR		WALES	1783-1852
139	ABRAHAM		BARMOUTH		WALES	1783-1852
139	ABRAHAM		HARLECH		WALES	1783-1852
209	ABRAHAMS				VICTORIA	AUSTRALIA
139	ABRAM		LIVERPOOL		ENGLAND	1857+
139	ABRAMS		LIVERPOOL		ENGLAND	1845
209	ALLEN				VICTORIA	AUSTRALIA
137	ASCHER		LONDON		ENGLAND	1868+
137	ASHER		LONDON		ENGLAND	1800-1866
209	ASHER		LONDON		ENGLAND	1800-1866
212	AUDET		RACIAZ		ENGLAND	Pre 1845
142	BAEVSKI		MOGILEV		POLAND	
142	BAEVSKI		KRICHEV		BELARUS	1860-1920
138	BENVENISTE	PHILIPPOLIS	PLOVDIV		BELARUS	1860-1920
145	BERNBERG				BULGARIA	Pre 1900
135	BERNKLAU		KOLOMYYA		AUSTRIA	1830's
145	BERRICK		LIVERPOOL		POLAND	Up to WWII
128	BUBB		PEKLINO		ENGLAND	1800
209	CANTOR		SOUTH MELBOURNE		RUSSIA	
209	CATMULL				AUSTRALIA	1893+
140	CHERNUCHIN		DUBROVNO		VICTORIA	AUSTRALIA
145	CHIAREF	KEIDAN	KEDAINIAI		AUSTRALIA	1868+
209	COHEN		LONDON		BELARUS	1800-1900
143	COHEN		LONDON		LITHUANIA	1860's
209	COHEN		SOUTH MELBOURNE		ENGLAND	Pre 1858
143	COHEN		MELBOURNE		ENGLAND	1800-1870
143	COHEN		SYDNEY		AUSTRALIA	1870+
210	COLLINS		LONDON		AUSTRALIA	1860-1880
209	DUMMETT		MELBOURNE		AUSTRALIA	1850-1900
140	ERLICH		WARSZAWA		ENGLAND	Pre 1858
142	FLEGELTAUB		Any		AUSTALIA	1900+
142	FLEGELTAUB		BALLARAT		POLAND	1850-1920
178	FOLK		SYDNEY		POLAND	1840-1860
138	FRANCO	CANDIA	HERAKLEA		AUSTRALIA	1870-1910
145	FREDMAN		MANCHESTER		AUSTRALIA	19th Cent
144	FRIEDMAN		ROSH PINAH		CRETE	Pre 1890
128	GAVOLITZ		PEKLINO		ENGLAND	Late 18th Cent
145	GOLDSMID				ISRAEL	1915
144	GOODMAN	KIEV	KIYEV		RUSSIA	
136	GRUNSCHLAG		BOLEKHOV		ENGLAND	1785+
145	HARRIS		LONDON		RUSSIA	1880's
178	HART		HOKATIKA		UKRAINE	1760-1930
138	HASDA		LIVORNO		ENGLAND	1816+
178	HIMMELHOCH		SYDNEY		NEW ZEALAND	19th Cent
140	HUBERMAN		WARSZAWA		ITALY	Pre 1900
178	JACOBS				AUSTRALIA	19th Cent
145	JACOBS		LONDON		POLAND	1850-1920
178	JACOBS		SYDNEY		GERMANY	19th Cent
209	JACOBS		MIDDLE PARK		ENGLAND	1825+
145	JACOBSON		BRUXELLES		AUSTRALIA	19th Cent
141	KATZ	SNOWICZ	SNOVICH		AUSTRALIA	1872+
147	KONDOR		BALASSAGYARMAT		BELGIUM	Late 18th Cent
					UKRAINE	
					HUNGARY	Pre 1885



**AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATA BASE**  
**Names being researched by our new members      December, 1996 (continued)**

	<b>Id</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Old Name of Town</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Dates</b>
144	LANDY			CAIRO		EGYPT	1912
145	LAZARUS					ENGLAND	Early 1800's
209	LEVY			MELBOURNE		AUSTRALIA	1873+
147	LOEWINGER			BALASSAGYARMAT		HUNGARY	Pre 1888
147	LOVINGER			BALASSAGYARMAT		HUNGARY	Pre 1888
178	MANDELBERG			MELBOURNE		AUSTRALIA	19th Cent
178	MANDELBERG			SYDNEY		AUSTRALIA	19th Cent
178	MANDELBERG			KRAKOW		POLAND	19th Cent
145	MARKS					ENGLAND	Early 1800's
210	MARKS			LONDON		ENGLAND	Pre 1858
137	MARKS			LONDON		ENGLAND	1837-1908
138	MIRES			LIVORNO		ITALY	Pre 1890
145	NACHMAN			KRAKOW		POLAND	1790's
145	NATHAN			LIVERPOOL		ENGLAND	1800
208	NEROSLUFSKY			LIEPAJA		LATVIA	Late 19th Cent
141	PECZENIK	KAMYONKA-STRUMILOWA		KAMENKA	BUGSKAYA	UKRAINE	
141	PECZENIK	SNOWICZ		SNOVICH		UKRAINE	
140	PERGAMENT			WARSZAWA		POLAND	1850-1920
178	POND			PLONSK		POLAND	19th Cent
141	PRAGIER	SNOWICZ		SNOVICH		UKRAINE	
136	REISS			DOLINA		UKRAINE	1800-1910
136	REISS	WYGODA		VYGODA		UKRAINE	1800-1910
140	ROCHMAN			WARSZAWA		POLAND	1850-1920
208	ROSEN			LONDON		ENGLAND	Late 19th Cent
208	ROSEN			LIEPAJA		LATVIA	Late 19th Cent
145	ROSENWAX					POLAND	1850's
208	ROSSEN			LOS ANGELES		USA	20th Cent
208	ROSSEN			LONDON		ENGLAND	Late 19th Cent
208	ROSSEN			LIEPAJA		LATVIA	Late 19th Cent
145	SCHLEISINGER			BIALYSTOK		POLAND	1850's
142	SCHUR			KRICHEV		BELARUS	1860-1920
142	SCHWARTZ			MOGILEV		BELARUS	1860-1920
142	SHOR			KRICHEV		BELARUS	1860-1920
209	SICREE			ALBERT PARK	VICTORIA	AUSTRALIA	1884+
145	SIMMONS					ENGLAND	Early 1800's
142	SLUTZKIN			KRICHEV		BELARUS	1860-1920
209	SOLOMON				SOUTH AUST	AUSTRALIA	1849+
145	SOLOMON			LIVERPOOL		ENGLAND	1786+
209	SOLOMON				VICTORIA	AUSTRALIA	1849+
178	SOLOMON					GERMANY	19th Cent
178	SOLOMON			MELBOURNE		AUSTRALIA	19th Cent
209	SOLOMONS			LONDON		ENGLAND	Pre 1845
146	STEINBERG			KAUNAS		LITHUANIA	1839+
135	SUCHER			KOLOMYYA		POLAND	Up to WWII
140	SZITOP			SZESZIK		POLAND	1850-1920
140	SZUBRYFER			WARSZAWA		POLAND	1850-1920
140	SZULRIFER			WARSZAWA		POLAND	1850-1920
140	TUCHBAND			WARSZAWA		POLAND	1850-1920
136	WEITZNER			BOLEKHOV		UKRAINE	1800-1910
137	WOOLF			LONDON		ENGLAND	1847-1913
144	WOOLF			LONDON		ENGLAND	1900's
128	YULOVITZ			PEKLINO		RUSSIA	
140	ZECHLINER			WARSZAWA		POLAND	1850-1920