



The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

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March, 1997

EDITORIAL

Another year, another volume of our newsletter! We continue to receive good feedback from our overseas readers in other societies, and some of our articles are quoted or reprinted, but hardly ever a word of comment or praise from the members of our Society for the enormous effort which your editor and your publisher put in to bring this journal out every three months. We would appreciate some comments.

In the meantime Beulah Rose Gross's article on the IGI has been reprinted integrally by AVOTAYNU under a slightly different title, Morris Ochert's poem "Some Thoughts on Genealogy" has been reprinted in the February 1997 issue of BRANCHES, newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami, both with attribution. Both AVOTAYNU and SHEMOT have mentioned Bernie Freedman's and Ruth Barnett's articles in recent issues of the

Kosher Koala, so we do figure in a modest way on the world Jewish genealogical scene.

These last months have seen our annual summer recess from mid-December to early February, so there is little to report: but we do look forward to many events. Our annual Beginners' Seminar on March 9, 1997 will, we hope, be graced by Chava and Hugo Agmon, our Israeli visitors. For the last twelve years Chava Agmon has been researching the CARO/CARA/KARO/KARA family and she will talk to us on "Split Tree, Fragmented Branches, the Kara/Caro Family Worldwide." It promises to be a stimulating session and we will accept visitors who wish to attend only that session of the seminar day. Chava will already have given the same talk in Perth and in Melbourne, and we were fortunate indeed to be able to persuade her to share her vast knowledge with our branches in the three Australian cities she is visiting on her vacation.

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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

April 6 May 18 June 1 July 6

August 3 September 7 October 12

November 16 December 7

The library is occasionally open at other times . If
you would like to be notified when a day or evening
session is planned, please contact 9427-6075.

5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on

Sunday Evening

13th April, 1997 at 7.30 p.m.

at

24 Sharland Avenue, Chatswood

Ring David 9412-1259

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New South Wales

Barbara Curthoys
Philip & Marlene Epstein
Diana Harvey
Robert Joshua

Frank Moag
Irene Rothenberg
Lynnette Smith
Richard Symonds
David Wallace

Victoria

Helen Brown
Eve Chapman
Sheldon Cohen
William Rooseboom

Linda Ryszman
Ian Samuel
Peretz Samuels

Australian Capital Territory

Malcolm Gray

South Australia

Joe Bolaffi
Marjorie Luno
Dorit Ninio

NOW ON THE INTERNET

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NEWS FROM THE VICTORIAN BRANCH

by Lionel Sharpe, Chairman

A number of visits and workshops were held in January and February as a start to activities for 1997.

Because of the heavy demand for visits to the Church of the Latter Day Saints, the Mormon Family History Library in Moorabbin, the Society arranged two visits in February. The library volunteers were very co-operative in assisting searches.

A beginner's workshop was held at Beth Weizmann Community Centre on Sunday afternoon February 9 in association with the Makor Library, which assisted in making resources available. This was well attended and newcomers were assisted individually in their searches following short talks from Ester Csaky, Rhonda Lasky, Richard Reisner and Lionel Sharpe. A number of new participants were surprised and excited by their success in finding leads and one person phoned the following week to express appreciation for the assistance given.

Two major events are planned for March.

Our Society will have a table and display at the "In One Voice" Festival in Caulfield Park on Sunday March 16. This Celebration in the Park is now an annual event comprising a six-hour celebration of Jewish music, song and dance, a Saturday evening concert and an art exhibition. A sub-committee is planning an eye-catching display and computer demonstration to attract new members. The event attracts many thousands of visitors every year.

Chava Agmon will be speaking at Beth Weizmann Community Centre in association with the Makor Library on Wednesday 5 March on "Split Tree - Fragmented Branches - The Karo/Caro Family Worldwide".

The second annual general meeting of the Branch will be held on Tuesday 9th April at Beth Weizmann. Nominations are being called for elections to the committee. There will be a guest speaker.

A number of members have indicated their interest in attending the 5th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Paris in July. Registration forms are available for Victorians from Lionel Sharpe.

Tel: 03-9523-6738. Fax: 03-9532-7797 or
sharpe@rmit.edu.au

The Victorian Branch meets at the BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Melbourne. Tel: 03- 9273 5611.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 189, GLENHUNTLY
VIC 3163, AUSTRALIA

Internet contacts:-

Leslie Oberman oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

Dr Albert Braunstein sbr@bbs.ausom.net.au

Enquiries: Rhonda 03-9578 6456

Ester 03-9578 0368

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

by Klee Benveniste

The South Australian branch was formed in May 1996 and now has six financial members. Meetings are held quarterly unless anything of special interest arises.

At the second meeting in October, guest speakers Howard and Marianne Cooklin spoke about the Cooklin Family Reunion which they attended in London in July 1996. The reunion marked the centenary of the arrival of the Cooklin family in England from Rechysta in Belarus. Over 400 descendants attended the reunion from around the world with the Cooklins being the Australian connection. Their talk was accompanied by a detailed family tree of hundreds of descendants, many photographs of the reunion, and publicity about the event from the 'Jewish Chronicle' newspaper of July 1996. Their interesting presentation was enjoyed by all who attended.

The third meeting was held in January and was devoted to discussion of members' research interests. A visitor mentioned ancestral connections to the Levinsohn family of Ballarat, the Susman family of Tasmania and the Lazarus family of Sydney. Using these families as examples, resource books were searched for information about surnames. Members became acquainted with useful books and journals, as well as the family names that other local members are researching. The value of members' knowledge of families and communities was also shown to be very valuable to aid research.

A committee has been formed to coordinate the Branch. The current committee is:

President: Hilde Hines

Vice-President: Marjorie Luno

Secretary: Dr Klee Benveniste

Treasurer: Ralph Kaiser

Membership: Ruth Kaiser and Dorit Ninio

The branch often receives enquiries about South Australian Jewish families. Members so not have the resources to undertake extensive genealogical research for others. If an enquiry is connected to a family being researched by one of our members, it is notified to the member. Otherwise the Secretary will try to answer the enquiry when time permits. A considerable amount of time may be needed, so please be patient. Family history enquiries should always be in writing specifying names and dates and should be limited to personal relatives.

The contact address for the branch is

Dr Klee Benveniste,

Honorary Secretary

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (SA branch)

C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation

P.O. Box 320, Glenside SA 5065

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Our Conference Group (email discussions) may be accessed from any Internet Service Provider, via either a mailing list (listserv), soc.genealogy.jewish (Usenet newsgroup) or Fidonet. These are three different ways of accessing the same message base. The Conference Group is "moderated". All messages are reviewed by Moderator Susan King or team members, who relay the postings that are of genuine interest to the group. To send or receive mailings via email, you need to subscribe to the mail list. You then will receive all mail postings sent to the list by its members. You may follow the discussions or join in on them. If you respond, you can send your response to the list (in which case, all members of the list will receive it), or to an individual on the list. You can signoff (unsubscribe) from the list at any time. So how do you subscribe? Connect to your favourite internet provider and send an email message to:

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**THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON
JEWISH GENEALOGY
JULY 13-17, 1997**

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Hosted by the Cercle de Genealogie Juive,
14 rue Saint Lazare, 75009, Paris, France.
paris97r@jewishgen.org

Registration forms and information
are available locally from
Tel: 61-2-9427-6075
Fax: 61-2-9427-7530
Email: rieken@zeta.org.au

POST PARIS MINI-SEMINARS

July 18-24, 1997

Minsk, BELARUS	Vladislav Sushnikov
Riga, LATVIA	Alexandra Feigmanis
Vilnius/Kaunas, LITHUANIA	
	Harold Rhode
Krakov, POLAND	Eileen Polakoff
Warsaw, POLAND	Gary Mokotoff
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Also

**LONDON
July 20-25, 1997**

Visits to London's main research centres

Saul Issroff, JGS of Great Britain
29 c Elsworthy Road, London NW3 3BT
Fax: 44-171-4831542

saul@swico.demon.co.uk

MY TRIP TO RUSSIA AND LITHUANIA

(continued from Vol. 3 No. 4)

by Selma Jackson

After a cup of coffee at Intourist, we took a 2.45 - 5 pm afternoon bus sightseeing tour of the City with Sivietta, our guide, who pointed out the British Embassy, State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, KGB Headquarters, Temple of Christ, Tolstoy Museum, Bolshoi Theatre, Karl Marx statue, Metropole Hotel, Hotel Russia (the biggest hotel in Moscow), and the repaired "White House" which was badly damaged during the fighting last year. We then walked passed the St Basil Cathedral into Red Square, the main square where mass celebrations and military parades are held. There were not many people or tourists in the square, only a few Russian soldiers on tours of their own, some taking photographs of Stalin's grave, among other to the left of Lenin's Tomb, and a few gypsies trying to sell us postcards and imitation fur Russian hats. Gordon bought a hat. Quite honestly I expected Red Square to be much bigger as when we see the May Day parade on television it seems much bigger than it is! We saw Lenin's Tomb, Gum, the only departmental store in Moscow, and went inside a small church across the way from Gum. We then drove up to the University from where we could see the whole panorama of Moscow, and where students have street stalls selling a wonderful variety of beautiful hand painted Babushka dolls, lacquered boxes, amber, amethyst and semi-presious stone jewellery, real fur hats and church icons. A bride and bridegroom arrived with their retinue to have their photographs taken, with the Moscow background. Moscow has 9 million people plus 2 million visitors a year! At the end of the tour, Gerald, Steven and I went to McDonalds in Pushkinshaya Square for a fish burger. Gerald and I had wanted to go to the ballet, but when we enquired at the hotel that morning, we were told there were no seats available! My nephews decided they wanted to go and see the Moscow Circus, so off we all went! Yes, we again found our way there, with several train changes, thanks to Gordon, but we took a yellow taxi back to the hotel, having been told to only use the yellow taxis.

Thursday, 27 June, after leaving our luggage with the porter, we went back to the Moscow Synagogue, as Gerald and the boys had not seen the inside, and while we were waiting for someone to open the Shul for us, we noticed a big wired-in section in the Shul entrance foyer containing big boxes marked "from the American Joint", and about eight elderly men and women waiting nearby, who were then given food parcels from the cage. Upstairs and to the side of the Synagogue was a passage, with men and women in the passage, which evidently led to the Mikva, but I did not go through. There is a plaque at the top of the staircase saying that part of the building was requisitioned in 1941 as a military

hospital, and later used as a medical institute. In 1987 Rabbi Arthur Schneier of the Park East Synagogue in New York, initiated negotiations with the Soviet authorities for the return of the building, and the Moscow City Council approved the return in 1989. The building was rededicated as a Jewish educational and cultural centre on 5 August 1991, under the patronage of the Mayor, Gavriil Popov.

Gerald had heard about the beautifully decorated platforms of the Metro, and our guide Alex, told us exactly which "Brown line" stations to go and see, so we decided to do a tour of the Brown line of the Metro. They are magnificent, each station different with coloured stained glass panels, beautiful light fittings, brass and copper designs, mosaics depicting different labour scenes in the period 1905-1917, one of Lenin and different arts and professions depicted.

We were being fetched at the hotel by the taxi at 3.30 pm, to be taken to the station, as the train to Vilnius was leaving at 5 pm, so with time to spare, we decided that on the way back to the hotel, we would go and see where all the people were walking to and we found a huge soccer field, a flea market and street vendors beneath the "Monument to the Success of the Educated" which was near our hotel.

When we arrived at the station, our taxi driver would not allow us to pay the porters 150,000 roubles (US\$30) that they quoted, to take our luggage, nine pieces, but when we were going to pull our own suitcases, one porter decided to accept what the taxi driver was willing to allow us to pay, 80,000 (US\$16)! The train was on the station, but the carriage was locked, and the lady on the train would only unlock at 4.45 pm! While standing on the platform waiting to be allowed onto the train, two lots of men arrived and gave the lady in charge big full plastic carrier bags which were evidently to be taken to be sold in Lithuania! Our first class compartment was very comfortable, draped with yellow and pink curtains and artificial flowers. The train ticket from Moscow to Vilnius costing US\$70.78 had been prepaid in Johannesburg, and we had to pay 7000 roubles (US\$1.40) each on the train for the use of the linen and blankets. Before the train left Moscow station, Gordon had made sure he had his supply of chocolates! We were previously advised to buy food before going on the train, so we opened tinned tuna with Provita for supper, but had I known there was a dining car on the train, which we later found out about, as one of the passengers in our carriage bought lovely smelling food, I would certainly have gone to buy a roll! The "babushka", the typical Russian lady in charge, but very pleasant, brought us, and all the passengers in our carriage Russian tea! She allowed me to use her bathroom, and Gerald and the boys quickly followed. She loved the little koala bear souvenir I gave her! At 10.10 pm the sun was still shining! It was a very pleasant train ride, not freezing cold as we had been warned.

Friday, 28 June. The countryside we passed through, with the shtetls among the trees along the way, was beautiful, green, well looked after vegetable gardens alongside each house with their corrugated roofs, oh so different to Russia!

Having crossed the border, we stopped at Kana, where immigration officers came on board, and where Gerald, Steven and Gordon were to get their Lithuanian visas. They were not given their visas in Johannesburg, but they had a typed letter from the Honorary Consul in Johannesburg, stating that the visas would be handed to them at the border post! Travelling on a British passport, I did not need a visa, and they just stamped one of the back pages, and even though Gerald offered their three passports, the immigration officers refused to take them! We arrived in Vilnius (Vilna) at 9.45 am, and Regina came on board the train to meet us. Valera, (Valerijanes Orsevshis) the driver, loaded our luggage into a minibus and off we went to the Neringa Hotel at 23 Gedimino pr (street). The hotel, relatively new, was within easy walking distance of everything, the Jewish Museums, the Ghettos, and places of interest, to which Regina would be taking us. While we were sitting in our lounge working out our itinerary, I happened to mention to Regina that the others had not received their visas at the border, and Regina jumped into action, making a number of telephone calls to different departments, insisting that it was the immigration officials who had failed to attend to the visas. They told Regina that Gerald and the boys should go back to the border or to the airport for the visas, but Regina was having none of that! She insisted that as it was Immigration's fault, they had to come to the hotel and take the passports to be attended to! The police finally arrived, and we had to wait an hour before they brought the passports back. Had Gerald and the boys not had the visas, they would not have been allowed to leave Lithuania! We went next door to the hotel restaurant for lunch and later walked to the Jewish Holocaust Museum where Rachel Kostenyan, who runs the museum, took us on a wonderful informative tour. The museum is temporarily in a wooden house, till a larger building is built. They have the history of the Lithuanian Jews during Nazi rule with statistics obtained from German records, which were evidently very detailed, of where and when most of the 250,000 Jews were killed. Unfortunately my photograph of a chart listing the numbers of Jews killed is out of focus, and unreadable. As we were finishing Rachel was called away, as two men from a TV station came to do some filming for a Holocaust story. Being deeply touched by what we had seen, Gerald offered a donation of US\$30.00, besides having paid the normal entry fee, but she wouldn't accept same, saying it was too small an amount, and she insisted on US\$50.00!! We then spent time at the Lithuanian State Jewish Museum on Pylimo Street, near Palangos Street. Valera then drove us to Paneriai (Ponar) where various memorials have been erected in recent years, and we saw three of the ten huge

pits of mass graves where 70,000 Jews were buried. This being our first of many encounters with mass graves, we were overcome, very upset and it was sad to hear details of what had happened. During Soviet rule, no mention was ever made that those killed and buried there, were Jews, only "partisans" were mentioned, but now since liberation, permission was granted, Jewish inscriptions have been added, and Jewish memorials erected. Steven and Gordon went to Shul, as it was erev Shabbat, and they had been invited by the Rabbi to go back to his home for dinner. Gerald and I went to the Neringa restaurant next door to the hotel for dinner. At 10.30 pm it was still light.

Saturday 29 June, after breakfast I took a walk to see what was being sold in the kiosks and stalls on the square. Regina came to fetch us, and with Abraham Dimenstein we spent the most interesting four and a half hours, walking, seeing and hearing the stories of the Jews in the small and large Vilna Ghettos which were the downtown Jewish sections of the city. We walked to Skapo Street, where Yasha Heifetz studied at the Vilna Conservatory of Music. We walked all the streets including "Glassmakers street", "Butcher street" where all the kosher butchers had been, "Jewish street" and "Gaon Street", and Abraham Dimenstein asked me to take a photograph of him standing on the steps where he had lived prior to the Holocaust. He is going to Israel on Aliyah at the end of 1996 to join his family. The buildings of the small and large Ghettos are very dilapidated, standing as they were in 1941, nothing having been done to them since the Judenrats selection of 1200 Jews took place in the courtyard of the Jewish Gymnasium, and they were sent to their death. On 7 September 1941, 2,000 Jews ("wos geharget" - murdered) were murdered in Panerz. A few buildings are getting a face lift. One is a very upmarket restaurant, where a wedding was being held! In the large Ghetto, 30,000 were sent to their death from 6 to 23 September 1943, of which 300 survived, many escaping through the Rudminky sewer to outside of the ghetto. September 23 is remembered as Shoah Day every year.

We walked along Zemaitijos Street and saw the wooden doors to the Synagogue of Valt. There used to be 140

ATTENTION ALL HOROWITZES

Are you or were you a Horowitz, Horwitz, Hurwitz or maybe Gurvit, Gurevitch, etc.? The Horowitz Family Association has just completed its first international meeting in Israel. We are attempting to form a Horowitz Family Association in the Diaspora for genealogical purposes, family research and general information for your edification and so that you can inform your children and grandchildren about this important family in Jewish history. If you would like further information, please write to: Horowitz Family Assoc., P.O. Box 4023, Burlingame, CA 94011, USA (From The Jewish Journal, Sept. 20-26, 1996)

synagogues, prayer houses and workshops with minyan. There was a separate prison for Jewish people, and the library in front shielded the prison from view. One of the dilapidated buildings opposite Lydos street was the Jewish market for fish and wood. Esra was the Jewish Religious School, and in Pilimo Street was the Jewish Teachers' College. Unfortunately I do not know exactly which shtetl my Grandfather Hyman (Chaim) Salamson (family in America spell it Solomson) came from, other than "Vilna Gubernia".

From Valera we learnt that "Da" means yes, "Nuit" no, "Labadirna" good morning, "Atchee" thank you!

Sunday, 30 June. Regina and Valera, with his wife Linda, fetched us in the minibus and we left at 9 am for Anykst/Anyksciai where my maternal grandmother's Schneider family came from, which was an hour's drive from Vilnius. A new modern suburb of Vilnius, Suskenia, is being built on the outskirts of Vilnius. The dual highway to Ponevys, the A2, is 140 kms long and ten years old and has plenty of haystacks and Friesian cows along the way. When we reached Kurkliai, we went looking for the old wooden shul, which is the only one left. An elderly gentleman on a bicycle showed us the way between houses and fields, and here it is easy to imagine how the Jews were herded into the wooden synagogues and set alight! We then went to the Forest of Anykst, Puntuho Akmuo, 2 kms before Anykst, where earlier photographs show the Jewish youth enjoying their camp holidays. There is a huge rounded stone, more than 600 years old, and in 1933, the faces of two Lithuanian pilots were cut into the rock face as a memorial to them. This was where the Jewish Resistance gathered in the 1940's.

We then went to the Anyskt Jewish Cemetery, which was on the way into Anykskiai. There are no tombstones to be seen on the level area near the road. Evidently most of the Jewish cemeteries in Lithuania are on a hill, maybe the reason being that when it rains, the rainwater would drain away easily. As we climbed to the top of the little hill, where the few remaining small low tombstones are, I fell into a hole, where a tombstone had recently been dug out! The inscriptions are hardly decipherable, but Regina rubbed sand over the inscriptions, and managed to read Avraham Eliezer ben Rov Gershon, 1896, and Yitzchak Zvi Hirsh from Svat.

I did not find my great-grandfather Yehuda Jakov Schneider's tombstone. He is said to have died in 1906, after his return to Anykst from attending his daughter Rachel, my grandmother's wedding in Cape Town, South Africa. Let him, Yehuda Jakov, Great-Grandmother Mary, Great-Great-Grandmother Goldie and Great-Great-Grandfather Chaim, rest in peace! Steven and Gordon said Tehillim (Psalms, as Kadish is only said with a minyan of 10 men). We drove into the shtetl, a lovely town, and bigger than I thought, and Regina showed us where the Synagogue and Jewish houses used to be, and where a big concert hall now stands. I thought nothing more about it! We walked along Synagogos g-ve, Baznyeios g-ve, and took a photograph of a two storey brick building on the corner of Baznyeios and Saltupio g-ve, and, had I, during lunch, looked at the map in the book "Anyksciai 9" I had bought at the Museum on the hill, I would have seen that my Grandparent's house at no. 7 Saltupio g-ve was just across the road from the building of which I had

(continued on page 15)



Selma Jackson with her nephew, Gordon, and the wooden synagogue in Kurkliai, Lithuania

NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY

Our member from the Central Coast of New South Wales, BEULAH-ROSE GROSS has presented our Sydney library with a copy of her privately printed family history **"L'DOR VADOR, From Generation to Generation, The Family History of Henny AUSBRUCH dating from circa 1820-1996"**. This is a history of the AUSBRUCH, FELDMAN, MAU, GUTMAN, RYSS, ELIASOV, GOTTSCHALK, ALLISON AND BAETZ families of SHAVLI/ SIAULIAI, PIKELN/PIKELIAI, LIBAU/LIEPAJA, KOVNO/KAUNAS in Lithuania and later of South Africa, Israel, England, Canada, Sweden and Australia. It is a true labour of love into which have been incorporated a wealth of anecdotal details which bring the story to life, as well as dates and documents, and a large number of beautifully reproduced family photographs. One feature which makes this family history really special is that, unlike most equally lovingly assembled family histories, this one is based on the female line, going from Beulah-Rose's great-grandmother Mariana Eliasov née Mau, to her grandmother Henny Ausbruch née Eliasov, and to her mother Ida Baetz née Ausbruch, and including most of their descendants. Beulah-Rose has had letters and documents translated from several languages and included in the book, which also helps to give the book a great immediacy. Other families mentioned include BERMAN, CALO/CATO, FELDMANN, KAHN, KANGIESSER, BERNITZ, SIDELSKY, HORWITZ, LUTRIN, GOODMAN, GROSS, OBEL, KLUGMAN, KALK, MENDELSTAM and many others. The book is not for sale, but Beulah-Rose Gross invites data and comments to be sent to her to 10 Pixie Avenue, Green Point, NSW, 2251, AUSTRALIA.

Tel: 61-43-691-486 (w); 61-43-695-855(h);
fax: 61-43-631-522; or email: rachi@ozemail.com.au.

"IN MEMORIAM", the list of Jews from Holland who perished in the Holocaust, published 1995 in the Hague by SDU Uitgeverij Konininnegracht, has been donated to the Society libraries in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra by Sophie Caplan. This list of over one hundred thousand names and pp858, gives family names, first names, maiden names, dates and places of birth and dates and places of death of all those sent out to be killed from Holland. While most of those listed were born in various parts of the Netherlands, from Amsterdam to Groningen to Oude Pekela, there are also large numbers of people born in every other country in Europe, and beyond. Since a number of transports went from Holland to Sobibor, this book constitutes one of the few published sources of names of those who were gassed at Sobibor. Many transports were sent to Auschwitz, but curiously this memorial book differentiates between Auschwitz, Birkenau aka Auschwitz II and where the majority of all Jewish victims were killed, and Monowitz aka Auschwitz III. This was a workcamp, a

short way from Birkenau, to which those incapable of working anymore were returned for gassing. This is an oddity since most Jews after mid-1942 were in fact brought to Birkenau directly and died there, yet most notations here are for Auschwitz, the generic name for the whole complex, with some specified as Birkenau. Apart from this quibble, it is good to have lists of victims of yet another country available to family historians. Those who were deported but survived are not listed, unlike in the French and Belgian memorial books.

Betty Symonds has donated a copy of the 1996 AVOTAYNU publication **"JEWISH VITAL RECORDS, REVISION LISTS, AND OTHER JEWISH HOLDINGS IN THE LITHUANIAN ARCHIVES"** by HAROLD RHODE and SALLYANN AMDUR SACK, a good adjunct to researchers on Lithuanian Jewry. This is not a list of people's names, but of the contents of archival deposits still extant in Lithuania and concerning Jews. The same book has been presented to the Victorian and the South Australian branch libraries by Sophie Caplan.

The AJGS in Sydney and Makor Library in Melbourne have each acquired ALEXANDER BEIDER, **"A DICTIONARY OF JEWISH SURNAMES FROM THE KINGDOM OF POLAND"**, 1996, Avotaynu, Teaneck pp570. Like its predecessor Beider's **"A DICTIONARY OF JEWISH SURNAMES FROM THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE"** publication of this book is a major event for Jewish genealogists worldwide who have Eastern European ancestry and it is a book which should be in every major Jewish library, including schools and synagogues. Beider's impeccable scholarship will facilitate the task of generations of Jewish genealogists. It is a reference book which we cannot lend. Come and consult it at one of our regular workshops.

We have also acquired DAVID S. ZUBATZKY and IRWIN M. BERENT, **"SOURCEBOOK FOR JEWISH GENEALOGIES AND FAMILY HISTORIES"**, 1996, Avotaynu, Teaneck, pp456 which lists thousands of alphabetically indexed Jewish surnames and books, articles, unpublished manuscripts in public archival collections which throw a light on each surname. Again the broad range of the authors makes this an essential work of Jewish scholarship. Naturally one checks on those surnames one knows, and most of them are there properly indexed, except that unaccountably the important Australian Jewish family BLASHKI, on which Gael Hammer has published a book, is indexed under BEHREND, which is the surname of one of the Blashki sons-in-law. It also seems that the only manuscript Australian family trees listed are those held by the Victorian Branch of the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Let us hope that the main branch in Sydney will also be consulted for any new editions as well as Perth and Adelaide.

Sophie Caplan

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS AS SOURCES OF JEWISH GENEALOGICAL INTEREST

by Sophie Caplan

Have you subscribed to any Special Interest Groups (SIG's) connecting you with the areas whence your family originated? Although it is expensive for Australians having to pay annual SIG subscriptions in US dollars and often a \$AUS10 fee for an international bankdraft to your bank, receiving the SIG publication and being on its Family Finder can advance your research tremendously and puts you in touch more directly with those researching the same surnames or the same areas. Subscribing to GESHER GALICIA has certainly done this for me.

Since 1985 a number of SIG's have sprung up which publish bi-annually or quarterly and only exist through subscription and contribution to these journals. Each SIG specialises in its own area, Lithuania, Switzerland, France, and former Galicia (south-western Ukraine and south-eastern Poland), or some town in Russia. If your ancestry is linked to these countries or areas, it is worthwhile to become a member of its specific SIG and receive its publication and thus have contact with other members around the world researching the same area. Most SIG journals are published in English, but some are in French or German or Spanish.

Annual subscriptions vary from \$US5 to \$US28 for Australia by airmail. Most cost \$US28. All subscription prices given are for Australia. Some give a special rate of \$US50 for a two-year subscription for Australia.

For those having our previous list of SIG please note that some have changed their addresses or fees. **AVOTAYNU** is the International Quarterly of Jewish Genealogy and the world leader in Jewish genealogical journals. Reading it is absolutely essential for the serious Jewish genealogist. Cost by airmail \$US37 for one year, \$US72 for two years, \$US106 for three years. World leader on all matters of Eastern European genealogy. AVOTAYNU also publishes many essential books on Jewish genealogy. In English. AVOTAYNU Inc., P.O. Box 900, TEANECK, NJ 07666, USA. Tel: (201) 387-7200 Fax: (201) 387-2855.

Email: info@avotaynu.com

STAMMBAUM is the English language newsletter of German-Jewish genealogical research. It is now distributed through the Leo Baeck Institute in New York by Karen Franklin. Costs are \$US28 for one year and \$US50 for a two-year subscription to STAMMBAUM, Leo BAECK Institute, 129 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021, USA

REVUE DU CERCLE DE GENEALOGIE JUIVE is the French language quarterly of the French JGS which specialises in research on France particularly Alsace, the Comtat Venaissin and other areas where French Jewry was established for over six hundred years. There

are two rates, one for subscription to the journal only, the other which includes membership and entitles one to free FAMILY FINDER column questions often answered by other readers. This membership plus journal is FR Frcs 295 for Australia per year. New address: Cercle de Genealogie Juive, 14 rue St Lazare, 75009 Paris, FRANCE.

MAAJAN, DIE QUELLE, quarterly journal of the Swiss JGS, in German. Specialises in Swiss, Bavarian and also Alsatian Jewish genealogy. Costs Swiss Frcs 60 per annum, to be paid by bank draft to SVJG, 8021 ZURICH, PC Konto 80-39475-5, or to René Loeb, POSTFACH 876, ch-8021, SWITZERLAND. Since September 1996 MAAJAN, DIE QUELLE has also become the organ of the HAMBURG JGS, jointly with the Swiss JGS.

ROM-SIG News is the journal of Romanian Jewish genealogical research. Cost \$US20. Write to Sam Elpern, 27 Hawthorn Street South, Greenwich CT 06831-4201 USA. Email: samelpern@aol.com.

MAGYAR SZIDO is the journal of Hungarian Jewish genealogical research on all areas which were once part of Hungary, including eastern Slovakia and Transylvania. Cost \$US10 from H-Sig, POB 34152 Cleveland, OH 44134, USA. Tel: 1-216-661-3970 Fax: 1-216-291-0824. Email: lousmagyar@aol.com

LANDSMEN, journal of the Suwalki-Lomza interest group for north-east Poland and south-west Lithuania, comes as a quarterly, or in two double issues annually. Many translations of Birth, Marriage and Death records indexes for some towns and villages. Cost \$28 per annum. Suwalki-Lomza Interest Group, Apt 228, 3701 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA. English language.

LITHUANIAN SIG for central and northern Lithuania, started 1995. Not personally seen, but our Society has membership form. Cost \$US8. Write to Edmund U. Cohler, 85 Bloomfield Street, LEXINGTON, MA 02173-5534, USA. Tel: 1-617- 862-1210. Email: ecohler@cspi.com.

LATVIA SIG calls itself "A Journal of Jewish Genealogy in Latvia", though "on Latvia" might be more accurate. It has appeared for just one year and seems already to have established a good publishing standard. Cost \$US30 per year to Deborah Levine Herman, 22449 Douglas Road, Shaker Heights, OH 44122-2058, USA. Tel: 1-216-831-2727 Fax: 1-216-831-7375. Email: mgetz@capaccess.org. New Latvia SIG web site: <http://www1.jewishgen.org/latvia>. Comments to: werle@pacific.net.net.

SOUTH AFRICA JGS publishes a very small newsletter. Write to Ivan Elion at PO Box 1388, Parklands, Johannesburg, 2121, SOUTH AFRICA.

GESHER GALICIA is a SIG reuniting this area now covering south western Ukraine and south eastern

Poland, from Brody to Cracow and Lwow/Lvov/Lviv/Lemberg to the Carpathian mountains. Publishes a quarterly journal "The Galizianer" and an important family finder indexed by surname and by town every year. Cost \$US27. Send to Shelley K. Pollero, 549 Cypress Lane, Severna Park, MD 21146, USA.

KIELCE AND RADOM SIG This is a recently formed SIG which has just published the first issue of its journal, full of extracts of BMD records, Polish-English translations of occupations, etc.. Judging from this first issue this promises to be a most worthwhile investment for those whose ancestry is from these two provinces of Poland. Cost is \$US30 per year to Gene Starn, Coordinator, P.O. Box 520583, Longwood, FL 32752, USA. Tel 1-407-788-3898. Email: genes@iag.net. Gene Starn was also co-ordinating ROM-SIG. It is not known if this still appears.

FEDERATION OF EAST EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES is not a Jewish SIG, but a general one, which includes some Jewish information. Cost unknown. Have seen citations of journal, but not journal itself. Write to John C. Alleman, 377 N220 W, Salt Lake City, Utah 84103, USA.

SHARSHERET HADOROT is the journal of the Israel Genealogical Society. Tri-annually in Hebrew and English. Cost \$US40. Write to Esther Ramon, 50 Rechov Harav Uziel, Jerusalem 96424, ISRAEL. Tel: 972-2-542-4197. Also publishes booklets and books.

SLUTSK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, concentrates on this one Byelorussian town. Cost not known. Write to Harry Boonin, 112 Pocasset Road, Philadelphia PA 19115 USA. In English.

CZECH and SLOVAKIAN SIG. Not know if this has started publishing yet. Cost not known. Write to. Louis Schonfeld, 23995 Wendover Drive, Cleveland, OH 44122, USA. Approx \$US12. Presumably in English.

MOGILEV SIG devoted to this town in Byelorussia. Cost unknown. Write to Jerry Gilstrap, 2104 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21231, USA.

SVISHLOSH/SWISLOSH devoted to another town presumably the one in Belarus though there are two of them. Write to Mark Melnicove, 385 Cedar Grove Road, DRESDEN, ME 04342 USA to establish which Svishlosh is meant. Tel: 1-207-737-8116 Fax: 1-207-582-8227.

SHEMOT, journal of JGS of Great Britain is very informative and costs £ 20 in U.K. cheque or in sterling bankdraft. Write to Anthony Winner, 2 Milton Close, LONDON N2 0QH, ENGLAND.

DOROT, journal of New York JGS is also full of interesting information. Cost not known but includes membership of JGS. Write to Alex Friedlander P.O. Box 6398, New York NY 10128 USA.

SOCIEDAD ARGENTINA DE GENEALOGIA JUDIA BOLETIN (Bulletin of the Argentinian JGS) has appeared twice so far in Spanish and we receive a copy. Annual subscription is \$US20, Australian rate not quoted; \$US5 for a single copy. Provisional address: Paul Armony, Juana Azurduy 2223, Piso 8 (1429), Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tel: 54-1-701-0730. Email: armony@satlink.com. At the moment they are printing free of charge English language family finders ads for anyone who thinks he/she has relatives in Argentina and some of those printed are up to 80-100 words long.

IZMIR/SMYRNA Dov Cohen, Nof Ayalon, 306 POB 11, Doar Na Shimshon 99784, ISRAEL. Fax: 972-8-979-0256. Email: dcohen@gezernet.co.il is a specialist historian of Sephardim and of Sephardi genealogy in this town in Turkey, as demonstrated in his article in the above Boletin. Has many details on families Benmayor, Benveniste, Benjakar, Caro, Eskenazi, Farhi, Naon, to cite a few.

PIOTRKOW TRYBUNALSKI, The Voice of Piotrkow Survivors, Ben Giladi, 135-30 82nd Avenue, Kew Gardens, NY 11435, USA. This is not strictly a genealogical newsletter but has much genealogical information. Our VIP member Sir Asher Joel, himself a descendant of Piotrkow Trybunalski Jews, sends us his copies after he has read them.

NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY INC., 23 Olive Street, Great Neck, NY 11020, USA is a still extant New York landsmannschaft. Not known if they publish a news- letter, but their address may be worth knowing.

SEPHARD SIG can be accessed on Internet through the JewishGen Infocfiles on <http://www.jewishgen.org> or by email to sefard2@jewishge.org.

Many of the above, though not all, are received by the AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY through an exchange of journals with other JGS or through subscription in the case of SIGs, and can be viewed at our regular Sunday morning workshops. Others are subscribed to by members of the committee for themselves, and may be made available at some workshops through prior arrangements, e.g. the French Journal or Gesher Galicia.

In any case it is always worthwhile for members to come to workshops and to read through journals as each one covers a variety of genealogical information. Also note

FAMILY SEARCH BUREAU in ISRAEL Write to BATYA UNTERSCHATZ, POB 92, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL Write enclosing a donation of at least \$AUS 10, because this institution is run on a shoe-string and cannot help you without further funds. Very effective research, and

YAD VASHEM HALL OF NAMES for Pages Of Testimony, POB 3477, Jerusalem 91034, ISRAEL

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 (continued)

* * EDWARD LUFT, compiler, **"THE NATURALIZED JEWS OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF POSEN in 1834 and 1835"**, 1987, Brown University, under general editorship of Jacob Neusner, Scholars Press, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, pp181. This is an alphabetical list of Jews naturalized in the Grand Duchy of Posen (now Poznan, Poland) as Prussian subjects. The list was originally compiled by Isidor Hirschberg in Bromberg and published by him there in 1836, as a substitute for Jewish merchants needing to carry with them a certified copy of their naturalization certificate, so it marked acceptance of certain Jews, but also the antisemitic distrust of Jews which otherwise necessitated the carrying of naturalization certificates. Lists are indexed by surname and also give first name(s), place of residence in the Posen Duchy, occupation, and date of naturalization, as well as the details of the naturalization decrees in Gothic German script and in English translation.

* * GARY J. ZIMMERMAN and MARION WOLFERT, compilers, **"GERMAN IMMIGRANTS, LIST OF PASSENGERS BOUND FROM BREMEN TO NEW YORK, 1847-1854, and 1855-1862"**, two volumes, 1986, Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., Baltimore. This gives in each volume an indexed surname list, with many first names, but many initials only, age in years, place of residence, and numbers indicating ships and voyage. Naturally there is only a percentage of listed passengers who can be identified as Jews and by their name only. Most are gentiles, but this book could be a useful adjunct for the Jewish genealogist.

* * WALTER STRAUSS, editor, **"SIGNS OF LIFE, JEWS FROM WUERTEMBERG"**, 1982, Ktav Publishing House, Inc., New York, pp389, a compendium of fairly brief biographical notices and essays on and by Jews who originated in the province of Wuertemberg and who, one way or another, survived the Holocaust. These mini-biographies encapsulate a lot of interesting facts and family names. There is an index of place names, but unfortunately not one of surnames, which would have been of greater interest to a genealogist.

* * MANFRED BIERGANZ and ANNELIE KREUZ, **"JUDEN IN AACHEN"** (JEWS IN AACHEN), 1988, Alano Verlag, Aachen, pp166, is a well researched

brief history of the Jews of Aachen from antiquity, with the main emphasis on the 19th and 20th centuries. The author, a liberal high school teacher, compiled this history of the Jewish community, with biographical sketches of its four rabbis from 1850-1938, lists of Jewish citizens of Aachen under Napoleonic occupation, lists of those arrested and sent to concentration camps at Kristallnacht, lists of those deported later, and lists of Aachener Jews deported from other places to which they had fled, as well as photographs and biographical sketches of various well known Jews from Aachen. Dates and places of birth are given in most of these lists.

* * MANFRED BIERGANZ, **"DIE LEIDENGESCHICHTE DER JUDEN IN STOLBERG WAHREND DER NS-ZEIT"** (The History of Jews' Suffering during National Socialist Times in Stolberg), 1990, published by author and by Stolberg Municipal Council, pp82, contains a short general history of Jews in Stolberg, and then focuses on a number of individual families which made their homes in that town: Falkenstein, Mainzer, Morgenbesser, Salomon, Wolff, Willy Cohn, Hollaender, Waechter, Zinader and their fate under Nazism. Since the last two families were my relatives, I found much useful information since the author consulted town records and correspondence, laying bare the systematic misinformation about Jewish citizens sent by the Nazi mayor of Stolberg to government bodies during the 1930's e.g. claiming that some only paid taxes under duress when there is documentary proof that taxes were paid promptly and fully. The author also has amassed unpublished evidence of just which individuals and corporations profited from cheap purchase of Jewish houses and businesses, but fears for his life if he publishes. The Hollaenders of Stolberg were relatives of Anne Frank.

* * KLAUS H. S. SCHULTE, **"DOKUMENTATION ZUR GESCHICHTE DER JUDEN AM LINKEN NIEDERRHEIN SEIT DEM 17 JAHRHUNDERT"** (Documentation for the History of the Jews on the left bank of the lower Rhine since the 17th Century), 1972, Verlag L. Schwann, Dusseldorf, pp377 is an incredibly detailed scholarly but user friendly compilation in easily readable German. Its information touches all the towns and villages of the left bank of the lower Rhine, including Düren, Eschweiler, Euskirchen, Jülich, Lechenich, Meckenheim, Rheinbach and Zülrich to name just a few. There are lists of taxpayers in various localities, of deceased for whom epitaphs exist in Jewish cemeteries, of synagogue officials in some localities, of deportation lists from each locality with dates and often places of birth, as well as photographs, an index of surnames and one of localities mentioned in the text. A veritable genealogist's treasure trove. Includes Sydney family LUCAS.

* * GUNTER VON RODEN and RITA VOGEDER, **"GESCHICHTE DER DUISBURGER JUDEN"** (History of the Jews of Duisburg), two volumes, 1986

Walter Braun Verlag, pp1535. A very detailed history of Jews and Jewish institutions in Duisburg, including chapters contributed by other writers. The most important genealogical feature is a 354 pages long, double column, indexed list of Jews who were domiciled in Duisburg between approximately 1900 and 1945, though that generally means 1942. Each item includes surname, first name, date and place of birth, occupation and business address(es) while in Duisburg, home address, and the same for wife, with maiden surname, and children, including children's spouse and occasionally grandchildren, as well as a brief note on fate of each family member from 1933-1945. Thus each item is practically a brief history of the family and often also includes town of next domicile or that domicile at time of compilation of book e.g. Sommer, Hedwig - Paddington, Australia, and Sommer, Fritz - Dover Heights, Australia. Thus also a genealogist's treasure trove, with a large number of one-time Duisburgers born in various parts of Poland, but mainly in Eastern Galicia and not so far listed anywhere else. I found much material on my maternal collateral relatives Rechtschaffen, Strassman and Radomysler.

* * ESTHER RAMON, **"THE HOMBURGER FAMILY FROM KARLSRUHE, A FAMILY STUDY 1674-1900"**, 1992, Posner and Sons Ltd, Jerusalem, Israel, pp183. Esther Ramon is the founding president of the Israel Genealogical Society and this is her lovingly compiled family history, done with scholarly care and including even descendants now converted to Quakerism, to Unitarianism, to Catholicism, and to Lutheranism. Includes an index of persons and one of places, photos and two family trees. A small selection of associated and included surnames is Aronstein, Baer, Beer, Boettingheimer, Elsass, Ettlinger, Frank, Goldberger, Goldschmidt, Gumprecht, Kahn, Kaufmann, Marx, Mayer, etc.

* * WALTER THIEMANN, **"VON DEM JUDEN IM SIEGERLAND"** (About the Jews in the Siegerland region of Siegen, Westphalia), 1970, 2nd edition, published by Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation of Siegen, initially in 1968, pp57. This also has a brief history of Jews in that area, with lists of Jewish inhabitants in 1933, of Jews deported to Auschwitz, to Zamosc in Poland, to the camp of Theresienstadt, to Birkenau (which is given separately to Auschwitz, probably through ignorance of compiler), and of Jews who committed suicide. There are some brief biographies of notable Jews, as well as lists of Jews transported to places of death from neighbouring villages of HILCHENBACH, KLAFELD, WEIDENAU, NETPHEN, LITTFELD, DROMBACH, FERNDORF, EISERFELD. Again I acquired this some years ago as a gift from relatives who had contributed a biographical article, and whose parents were listed on transport lists. These give dates of birth and place of birth, although in one case, two male relatives with the same first and

surname, one not having even lived in Siegen, are mixed up. Still exact birth dates and places of relatives who perished are useful, as so far no documentation can be procured from Ukraine for our part of former Galicia.

* KURT LIPPMANN, **"OUR LIPPMANN FAMILY, A CHRONICLE SPANNING THREE CENTURIES AND THREE CONTINENTS"**, 1995, Print Synergy, Melbourne, Australia, pp86. This is a family history of our member Kurt Lippmann and his equally well-known late brother, Walter Lippmann. Kurt has continued and translated and brought up to date a family history compiled by his relative Leo Lippmann. Family origins as far as they could be traced were in Gunzenhausen, Southern Germany, but spread to Feuchtwangen, Leutershausen, Hamburg, Berlin, and to the rest of the world, including England, Australia and USA. Numerous photos illustrate this history, and the Society has also been presented with an elaborate family tree with several hundred names. SELIGMAN, SEGALL, FASS, GOLDBERG, FREEHLING AND LANDAUER are some of the families associated with this tree. Dr Helen Light, Curator of the Jewish Museum of Australia in Melbourne is Kurt Lippmann's daughter.

* MONIKA RICHARZ, editor, **"JEWISH LIFE IN GERMANY, MEMOIRS FROM THREE CENTURIES"**, translated by Stella P. Rosenfeld and Sidney Rosenfeld, 1991, Leo Baeck Institute Inc., New York and Indiana University Press, pp484. This abbreviation into one volume in English of three previous volumes published in German by the Deutsches Verlags-Anstalt from 1976-1982, now out of print but owned by this author, is a marvellous compilation of what life in Germany was like for Jews from 1800 until 1945. It is a collection of autobiographical documents by German Jews unknown to the public who deposited their manuscripts in the Leo Baeck Institute or Yivo. Each story mentions both family members and friends, as well as personalities with which the author came into contact. These names are listed in an index and are useful to the researcher on German ancestry.

* HERMAN HOLLANDER, **"MY LIFE AND WHAT I DID WITH IT"**, 1979, Koren Publishers, Jerusalem, Israel, pp377. This is an autobiography from the religious Agudat Israel and Mizrahi milieu in Germany, and later in USA and in Israel, but also in Sweden. The author was the scion of two German rabbinical families whose grandfather founded the HOLLANDER GROUP which traded in skins and leather and other commodities and for years travelled the world on behalf of the group and met many leading Mizrahi Zionist party personalities, and even for a short time was involved in the Israel government in the early years after independence, until he lost his fortune. Index of names. Families closely involved include GUTMANN, NEBENZAHL, SCHWARZCHILD, but many religious, business and political personalities are named.

(To be continued)

ACCESS TO THE LONDON "JEWISH CHRONICLE"

by Gary Luke

The Australian Jewish Historical Society has microfilms of index cards, categorized by subject and by names, giving the year, date, page and column. The National Library of Australia has a full set of microfilms of the actual newspaper. These can be ordered from Document Supplies Department of NLA by your local library, for reading in the library.

Title: Jewish Chronicle (..and Working Man's Friend)
Call No: mfm X132.

The paper changed its name a few times, always beginning with the first part as above, for a short time while they added the part in parentheses. All are under the same call number.

Charge is \$9 per request, up to ten consecutive reels are classed as a single request. There is approximately one year on each reel. They can accept payment from your local library after sending the films, or by a library's pre-paid voucher. Charge to yourself is by whatever system your library uses.

EDITORIAL (continued from front page)

Some of us are preparing ourselves to travel to Paris in the northern summer for the Fifth International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, to be followed by some genealogical research trips to Eastern Europe and a mini-conference in London. Application forms for all these activities can be obtained from Rieke by email: rieken@zeta.org.au, tel: 02-9427-6075 or fax: 02-9427-7530.

You can also access the forms directly on email for the Paris Conference on paris97r@jewishgen.org, for the post-conference trips on fjones@uniglobe-dynamic.com and for London on saul@swico.demon.co.uk.

Early application is advisable as the conference hotel in Paris may become booked out as rates are advantageous to conference attendees. If you can possibly afford the time and the money to attend this conference we urge you to go. Nothing can replace the boost to one's genealogical skills and connections offered by such a conference. It's also stimulating to meet other Jewish genealogists from all over the world. We hope that some of you will be able to join our contingent in Paris. Let us know if you are going. Au revoir

Sophie Caplan, Editor

JEWS OF POSEN PROVINCE

Edward David Luft, 1825 Corcoran Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-1607, USA advised us in a letter that he is presently compiling a larger work on the Jews of Posen province than his previous one, which he hopes will be the definite source on the Jews of Posen Province. We all look forward to its publication.

FIRST EVER JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SPEAKER IN PERTH

Using the opportunity of Chava and Hugo Agmon's visit to Perth, Ross Trobe, our representative in Perth, and his wife Dulcie, arranged a joint meeting with the Western Australian Jewish Historical Society on Sunday, March 2, 1997 in the foyer of the Perth Hebrew Congregation Synagogue at which Chava Agmon gave her talk on "SPLIT TREE, FRAGMENTED BRANCHES, the Karo/Kara Family World-wide" to an audience of about twenty-four, which included members of the Western Australian Genealogy and Family History Society. Many questions were asked and interest was aroused in this Society functioning in Perth possibly in conjunction with the Western Australian Jewish Historical Society. We hope that this may be the first step leading to the establishment of a proper branch in Perth.

YICHUS from ANCESTORS

Mrs JENNIFER KING, our member from the country town of Orange, NSW, is making a special trip down to Sydney to meet Chava and Hugo Agmon. Jenny has been in touch with Chava Agmon far longer than anyone else in Australia. She is descended from both the Caro line and from the revered Gaon of Vilna which in Jewish genealogical terms is Yichus indeed!

BOOK ON DESCENDANTS OF VILNA GAON

Jennifer King has also heard from Chaim Freedman that his book listing all the descendants of the Gaon of Vilna is almost ready for publication. If anyone else believes that they are descended from the Gaon, please let us know and we will try to put you in touch with Chaim Freedman. Unfortunately he advised most Jewish Genealogical Societies around the world of his project, but not us. We believe that some fairly recent immigrated South African families in Sydney may be connected.

JEWISH MUSEUMS IN EUROPE

The recent issue of STAMMBAUM has enclosed a most useful list of European Jewish museums, alphabetically indexed by country with full addresses, telephone and fax numbers and names of directors.

CERTIFICATE TRANSCRIPTION SERVICE for NSW BIRTH, DEATHS and MARRIAGES

Marilyn Rowan of MARBRACK SERVICES, PO BOX 38, Menai Central, NSW 2234 has informed us that she is now an approved transcription agent for NSW Birth Certificates from 1788-1908, and for NSW Marriage and Death Certificates from 1788-1918, at rates considerably lesser than official transcripts ranging from \$AUS5 to \$AUS10 for a full transcription, plus \$2 if Registration number is not quoted. Communicate with her directly at the above address. Possible payments by credit card make this a good alternative for overseas Jewish genealogists desirous of obtaining information on NSW certificates.

ANOTHER ISRAELI KIBBUTZNIK IS SEARCHING FOR HER FAMILY OF ORIGIN

Pnina Modlin of Kibbutz Shluchot was born POLA MESZURES, the daughter of ASZES and RYWKA MESZURES on either 8 January or 8 February, 1939 in WYSZKOW. She does not specify whether it was WYSZKOW LUBIELSKI, ENE of Warsaw, or WYSZKOW, 50 Km NNE of Warsaw. She was separated from her parents at an early age and has no recollection of them.

She spent part of World War II in a Russian town called BUZULUK, now called BAZAVLUCHOK in Ukraine, 88 kms SW of Dnepropetrovsk, but does not know when she got there or with whom. After the war, in 1946, she was repatriated with a group of other Polish children to GLIWICE, Poland, formerly GLEIWITZ, and eventually was taken to Israel and raised in a kibbutz.

She is desperate to find any surviving members of her family, or even anyone who can throw any light on her history. Pnina is seeking anyone with the name or former name of MESZURES or MESZORES or Mesores, or any variant of these. She is also seeking anyone who knew someone with those names. She is looking for anyone who came from either LUTSK or WYSZKOW. She would like to hear from anyone who spent part of 1939-1946 in BUZULUK, USSR, or the surrounding district. She believes that there were both Polish and Czech army groups stationed around BUZULUK and would like to hear from anyone who was connected with either of these groups.

She would be most grateful for any scraps of information which might help reunite her with any surviving members of her family of origin or their present-day descendants. This includes help with perusing passenger arrival indexes for postwar immigrants, ship or aeroplane, and looking for those names in any country of postwar immigration.

CONTACT ADDRESS:

PNINA MODLIN, KIBBUTZ SHLUCHOT,
Doar Na Emek Beit Shean, 10910, ISRAEL.
Tel/fax: 972-6-658-2241. Or by email to BEREL DOV
LERNER: bdlerner@post.fau.ac.il.

Other genealogical newsletters and journals please copy.

FELIX GRYFF of Sydney has contacted us seeking traces of a book published in Poland in 1925. It is Prof. Dr. Rabbi Mateusz Mises' "**GALERIA WYCHRZTOW POLSKICH**" (Gallery of Jewish Converts to Christianity in Poland). This book apparently created a sensation on publication, as it listed hundreds of Jewish ancestors of prominent Polish Catholic families.

Anyone knowing of a copy anywhere in the world is invited to write to this Society at
P.O. Box 154, NORTHBRIDGE, SYDNEY, 2063,
NSW, AUSTRALIA.



FOREBEARS AUSTRALIAN FAMILY FINDER

Our Family Finder column will be charged for at the rate of \$AUS 8 for 25 words plus address, telephone, fax or email 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.

00047 ROSEMARY SCHONFELD, Cellar Flat, Buckyette Farm, Littlehempston, Totnes, TQ9 6ND, Devon, ENGLAND. Seeking information on aunt **AURELIE NELLY SCHOENFELDOVA**, born January 7, 1915 in OSTRAVA, who survived Terezin and Auschwitz, emigrated to Australia after World War II, and remarried there. Also on her first husband Dr **MORRIS SCHOENFELD**, born June 28, 1903, a famous radiologist and author on that subject, who perished in Auschwitz. New married name unknown.

00048 YACOB TSUR, KIBBUTZ NAAN, 76829, ISRAEL is seeking any information on **PETR ENGELMANN**, b. May 15, 1924, who survived Terezin and Auschwitz and returned to Prague after liberation, and on **EMIL STEINER**, b. March 4, 1920, who was sent to the Lodz Ghetto, liberated at Ludwigslust.

00049 ERNEST SEINFELD, 71 Pumpkin Road, NEW MILFORD, CT 06776, USA. Seeks information on **ALICE STEIN**, born 1909, who survived both Terezin and Auschwitz, and also forced labour in Hamburg. Emigrated to Sydney after the war. Contact sought with her or with descendants. Also **PAVEL REISS** who worked at Jewish school in BRNO and was sent to Terezin in December 1941, working as an instructor in Sudeten barrack and with youth. Perished in Auschwitz. Would like to hear from anyone who knew him.

00050 YALE REISNER, Jewish Historical Institute, ul. Tlomackie 3/5, 00-090, WARSAW, POLAND tells us that an elderly Holocaust survivor, **SARAH WELCMAN**, pronounced **WELTSMAN**, is seeking her two brothers who emigrated to Australia from KALISZ, Poland. **ABRAHAM (ADOLPH) WELCMAN** b.1910 arrived 1933 with a 3-year-old daughter. **MORDECHAJ** came in 1939. All information welcome on descendants. Please contact directly or through this Society.

00051 DIPL.ING.JAROSLAV KLOUCEK, Cista u Mlade Boleslavi 294 23 Czech Republic seeks Czech-born Jewish girl **CATHERINE SLADKOVICOVA(?)** who joined her uncle in Sydney in 1947, aged 16. Contact ceased in 1948. Photo taken in Katoomba in 1948. He would like to get back in touch with her.

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATA BASE

Names being researched by our new members

March, 1997

ID	SURNAME	TOWN	COUNTRY	DATES
219	AARONS	KAUNAS	LITHUANIA	1800-1835
227	AISTON	LONDON	ENGLAND	1800's
227	AISTON		NETHERLANDS	
221	ALEXANDER	LONDON	ENGLAND	
221	ALEXANDER	POZNAN	POLAND	
213	ALLEN	LONDON	ENGLAND	Pre 1880's
231	BENJAMIN	LONDON	ENGLAND	
219	BERGMAN	GRODNO	BELARUS	1840's
219	BERGMAN	MANCHESTER	ENGLAND	c. 1870's
224	BUCHMAN	VINNITSA	UKRAINE	Pre 1900
224	BUCKMAN	KISHINEV	MOLDAVIA	Pre 1900
224	BUCKMAN	LONDON	ENGLAND	1900+
223	CASELBERG	GORA	POLAND	Pre 1820
224	CHAPLIN	BIALYSTOK	POLAND	Pre 1900
224	CHAPLIN	BREST	BELARUS	Pre 1900
224	CHAPLIN	LONDON	ENGLAND	1900+
231	COHEN	LONDON	ENGLAND	
220	FALKINER	MONTREAL	CANADA	Post 1880's
220	FELDMAN	MONTREAL	CANADA	Post 1880's
220	FELDMAN	LONDON	ENGLAND	Pre 1880
161	FREEDMAN	LONDON	ENGLAND	1880+
161	FREEDMAN	MELBOURNE	AUSTRALIA	1921+
161	FRYDMAN	ZAKROCZYM	POLAND	1800-1900

(continued from page 7)

taken a photograph! So near but oh so far. It was not meant to be that I would stand outside my Great-Grand-parents house! I have since received photographs of the house, for which I thank Daiva Gadliauskaite of the Anykst Museum. The house has been re-numbered No. 3 Saltupio g-ve.

The village green in the centre of the village is beautiful and lush, and each house in the village has a covered well. The people in the main street are all nicely dressed, in western style. I couldn't believe that I was actually standing in Anykst! We then drove to the Museum, which used to be the pharmacy, but before we went inside, there was a commotion, and we saw that a horse and cart had overturned, throwing the elderly man, woman and dog out onto the road. The lady's head was bleeding badly, and the ladies in the museum bandaged her head, while Steven & Gordon helped put the wagon together again! I then realised that the horse and cart was like that my Dad used to tell me he and his mother used, to go from Kvederna (Chveidan) to Memel (Klaipeda). By motor car today on good roads was a long way away, so what was it like in the early 1900's! It was here at the Museum that I bought the book on Anyksciai, which has the 1925 map of the streets, houses, and the names of who stayed where! After the museum we went to the restaurant on the weir on the Bangele River. I went to use the toilet at the

restaurant, which was a hole in the ground, and I had to squat. I later asked a lady to take my photograph. We were laughing so much but she still would not take the photograph lengthwise, to show the hole! Wherever we went to eat, Steven and Gordon had their Osem Soup!

We decided to drive on to Panevezys (Ponevys), 36 kms, the home of the Rappaport family, as Gerald said his friend, Brian Jossel's family came from Ponevys, and he would be able to tell him about the place. Ponevys was the fifth largest city in Lithuania with a population of 130,000 before the war including 10,000 Jews. There had been two windmills, the chazen had owned the flax plant and a soap factory was owned by Jews. The Jewish hospital was famous with top class, very well known doctors. The mafia were 90% Lithuanian nationals. Education was a top priority and today the gymnasium is a bakery, and the old shul is a tyre factory! We saw many walls in the town built with Jewish tombstones, here and there one can see the Hebrew letters, as the builder had no doubt forgotten to turn the stone! By the time we got back to Vilnius at 7.30 pm we had done 350 kms! We stopped in at the Vilnius synagogue in Pylimo Street, where the boys decided to stay for Maariv, and they walked back to the hotel.

(To be continued)

Selma Jackson is a member of the Society in Sydney to which she emigrated from Cape Town, South Africa, about 8 years ago.

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATA BASE
Names being researched by our new members **March, 1997 (continued)**

ID	SURNAME	TOWN	COUNTRY	DATES
219	GUTMACHER	LONDON	ENGLAND	c.1900's
213	HARRIS	LONDON	ENGLAND	Pre 1880's
226	HENRY	HOBART	AUSTRALIA	
226	HENRY	LONDON	ENGLAND	
213	HERTZON	LONDON	ENGLAND	Pre 1890's
224	HOUSEPETERS	BREST	BELARUS	Pre 1900
224	HOUSEPETERS	LONDON	ENGLAND	1900+
219	KAGANOWITZ	ROKISKIS	LITHUANIA	1800-1891
161	KAYE	WINNIPEG	CANADA	1901+
161	KAYE	NEW YORK	USA	1912+
213	KINGSBERG	VILNIUS	LITHUANIA	Pre 1890's
161	KOMESAROFF	BERDYANSK	UKRAINE	1909+
161	KOMISAR	KAUNAS	LITHUANIA	1780-1846
161	KOMISAROFF	DNEPROPETROVSK	UKRAINE	1846-1941
161	KOMISAROFF	MELBOURNE	AUSTRALIA	1912+
161	KOMISARUK	KAUNAS	LITHUANIA	1780-1846
161	KOMISARUK	DNEPROPETROVSK	UKRAINE	1846-1941
161	KVINT	LECKAVA	LITHUANIA	1830-1875
161	KVINT	PRIEKULE	LATVIA	1875-1900
161	KVINT	LONDON	ENGLAND	1900-1935
213	LAZER	VILNIUS	LITHUANIA	Pre 1890's
222	LEVEY-ROBERTS	PARIS	FRANCE	Post 1860
222	LEVINSOHN	LIEPAJA	LATVIA	c. 1852
226	LEVY	LONDON	ENGLAND	
226	LEVY	ANY	HOLLAND	
221	LEVY	LONDON	ENGLAND	
230	LEVY	SOMPOLNO	POLAND	1830's
230	LEVY	LONDON	ENGLAND	1860-1874
230	LEVY	DUNEDIN	NEW ZEALAND	1875-1920
231	LEVY	LONDON	ENGLAND	
222	LIPMAN	LIEPAJA	LATVIA	Pre 1860
213	LIPMAN	JERUSALEM	ISRAEL	Pre 1886
213	LIPSCHITZ	VILNIUS	LITHUANIA	Pre 1890's
221	LYONS	POZNAN	POLAND	
221	LYONS	LONDON	ENGLAND	
227	LYONS	LONDON	ENGLAND	1880's
224	OUSEPETTER	BIALYSTOK	POLAND	Pre 1900
224	OUSEPETTER	BREST	BELARUS	Pre 1900
219	PERLMAN	KISHINEV	MOLDAVIA	1800-1880
219	ROSENBERG	LONDON	ENGLAND	c. 1900's
219	ROSENTHAL	KAUNAS	LITHUANIA	1860-1910
219	ROSSITER	LONDON	ENGLAND	c.1900's
223	ROTHENBERG	PHILADELPHIA	USA	Post 1845
223	ROTTENBERG	KAUNAS	LITHUANIA	Pre 1865
223	RUBIN	POLICA	POLAND	Pre 1900
223	RUBINSTEIN	PILICA	POLAND	Pre 1900
229	SAMUEL	SYDNEY	AUSTRALIA	1850's
229	SIMMONDS	SYDNEY	AUSTRALIA	1850's
221	SIMMONS	LONDON	ENGLAND	
231	SOLOMON	LONDON	ENGLAND	
231	SOLOMON	BATH	ENGLAND	
219	VLOSKY	PULTUSK	POLAND	1810-1875