



The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 154, Northbridge 1560, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Phone: (612) 9958 6317 or (612) 9427 6075 Fax: (612) 9967 2834

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EDITORIAL

It's Chanukah time again and we will be scaling down our activities until February, although this year for the first time we are participating in *Chanukah in the Park* at Hyde Park in the centre of the city of Sydney on 20th December, where we will be sharing a stall with the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Some extra helpers for the stall for a few hours would be welcome. Ring Sophie at 9958 6317 to volunteer.

Our recent activities have included our usual monthly workshops at the Reverend Katz Library of the North Shore Synagogue, and an evening with two speakers on different aspects of German-speaking Jewish genealogy: Kurt Lippmann of Melbourne who spoke about his updating of a family history encompassing three centuries and three continents - Europe, North

America, Australia, and the publication of the Lippman family history, and René Loeb of Zurich, the founder and president of the Swiss Jewish Genealogical Society, which publishes the only German language Jewish genealogical journal *Maajan, die Quelle (The Source)*, which is now also jointly the organ of the Hamburg Jewish Genealogical Society.

René Loeb told us something of the history of the Jews in Switzerland throughout the centuries and of the work of his society. We hope to reprint his talk.

The problems with the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies seem to have resolved themselves with Sallyann Sack's resignation becoming permanent and Karen Franklin now at the helm. Since Hal Bookbinder

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Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 154

NORTHBRIDGE SYDNEY NSW 1560

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E-mail: rieken@zeta.org.au

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SYDNEY WORKSHOPS 1998

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 7

March 7	April 11
May 2	June 6
July 4	August 1
September 5	October 10
November 14	December 12

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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SYDNEY CHANUKAH CARNIVAL

in

HYDE PARK

Sunday, 20 December, 1998

Come & visit us

and the

Australian Jewish Historical Society

at our stall

See details in editorial

DATES OF FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

New York, New York

19th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy

August 8-13, 1999

Email: nyc99conf@aol.com

Salt Lake City July 7-12, 2000

London, 2001

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New South Wales

Michael Cohen

Australian Capital Territory

Leonie Webb

NOW ON THE INTERNET

JEWISH GENEALOGY IN AUSTRALIA

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

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy/ajgs>

THE HOME OF JEWISH GENEALOGY

<http://www.jewishgen.org>

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (Vic) Inc.

by Lionel Sharpe

A well-attended 'Eureka!' evening was held on October 21. Members were invited to share their recent research findings and issues. Among those presenting short talks were Albert Braunstein, Naomi Ciddor, Eric Cohen, Bruce Colcott, Rodney Eisfelder, Lionel Sharpe, Stephen Schmideg, Mark Steiner, and Enid Yoffa-Elton.

A highly successful Beginner's Workshop was held at Beth Weizmann on Sunday 8 November at 2 p.m. Notes pertaining to Jewish Genealogical research in Victoria were distributed as well as a new reading list of books available at the Makor Library.

The final meeting for the year will be held on Wednesday 16 December 1998 at 7.30 p.m. at Beth Weizmann. Professor Bernard Rechter will speak on: *Dispersion from Spain - The Origins of the Sephardi World*.

Individual or small group tuition on the use of the Internet for research. Ring for an appointment:

Les Oberman 9571 8251 (PC Computers)

Lionel Sharp 9523 6738 (Macintosh)

Fee: \$5.00 donation to the Society.

Enquiries: Lionel 03-9523-6738 Fax: 03-9532-7797

Les Oberman: oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

New Victorian Research Project

The immigration archives of Jewish Community Services (J.C.S.) formerly Jewish Welfare, have been made available to the Victorian Society. A small group of members are currently updating a computer data base which already comprises nearly 3000 names initiated by J.C.S. last year

Names and other data are being recorded from passenger lists of persons arriving through the Port of Melbourne as well as those arriving by plane. Lists contain those sponsored by the American Joint Distribution Committee (The JOINT), Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (H.I.A.S.), the International Refugee Organization (IRO), landsmannschaften and private sponsors.

The data is being entered into a comprehensive data base which will be accessible to the membership when completed. Names also include those who passed through Melbourne, but settled in other places such as New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand. The passenger records commence about 1938 and continue to the present day.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

by Klee Benveniste

At our research meeting in mid-September, we spent time scanning the newsletters and materials received by the branch. We actually possess very few resources, but this has been due to our small size and youth as a branch and branch concern about on-going care of a library by such a small group. We are grateful to Sophie Caplan for personally donating some books as well as sending a variety of leaflets and articles collected at the international conferences. While looking through the items, we enjoyed listening to Marjory Luno describe her visit to Sydney. Marjory expressed her appreciation of help given to her by Rieke Nash during her visit. Marjory was able to obtain a document about the history of the Boas family written in Dutch and is now researching for someone to translate it!

In mid-October, branch members had the chance to meet Sophie Caplan, President of the national society while she was spending a weekend in Adelaide on the first step of a holiday. Sophie had offered to speak to us about the recent Hollywood Chai Conference and about research in Europe. The meeting was well attended by members during the Caplans' busy stay.

At the end of October, we were delighted to have our first international visitor to speak to our branch. René Loeb, President of the Swiss Jewish Genealogical Society, offered to speak about genealogical research in Switzerland and nearby areas of France, Germany and Austria. He also answered questions about the Jewish community in Switzerland, how the Society was formed, and we found that our Societies had much in common.

We continue to receive many enquiries from members of the public who are not part of the Jewish community, but who are seeking help to research Jewish branches of their family tree. Although our resources are limited, we try to help them where possible. Our next meeting will be planned for January.

The South Australian branch can be contacted by post to:-

*Dr Klee Benveniste, Honorary Secretary,
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society
(SA Branch)*

*C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation
P.O. Box 320, Glenside, SA 5065, AUSTRALIA.*

CANBERRA CORNER

by Sylvia Deutsch

Profound thanks to President Sophie Caplan who visited Canberra on Wednesday 26th August, 1998 with her husband Leslie and addressed us. A most enjoyable and informative evening.

Canberra member Valerie Brown purchased a copy of the Jewish Cemeteries Project CD ROM from Sophie and has offered to lend it to members.

We've had an enquiry re the Jewish surname Blackstone. Can anyone help?

Forthcoming AJHS functions (all AJGS members welcome):

Mon.30.11.98 Visit of Rabbi Raymond Apple

Sun. 7.2.99 (tentative) Bus trip to Sydney to Powerhouse Museum exhibition "Precious Legacy. Treasures from the Jewish Museum of Prague"

Received from Sydney:

June 1998 edition of *JewishGen Family Finder* (ed Gary Mokotoff)

The following genealogy society newsletters have arrived:

Chai (Colorado), Vol 3 No.1, Fall 1998

Discovery (San Diego) Vol.13 No.3, Summer 1998

Branches (Miami) Vol.11 No. 1, Sept. 1998

Travel-Rite Inc. brochure: *Reporting from Kiev in the Jewish Ukraine. Relatively Seeking: An Ancestral Odyssey* (1998)

Enquiries can be directed to

Sylvia Deutsch in Canberra

Tel/fax: 02-6248-6196

Email: deutand@ozemail.com.au

YIDDISH PRESS AND A SOUTH AFRICAN MIGRATION STUDY

Saul Issroff writes that as part of a study on migration, he is looking for reports about South Africa that were sent to Yiddish papers such as *Der Forwart*, *Hamelitz* and *Hamagid*, especially between 1890-1915, on conditions in South Africa. Reports in other language presses would also be useful.

Also any family letters that may have descriptions of life and conditions in South Africa; and reports of the sea voyages, and the stay at the Jews Temporary Shelter in Leman Street, London East End.

Contact Dr Issroff at saul@swico.demon.co.uk.

EDITORIAL (continued from page 1)

is now vice-president, a new treasurer has been appointed until next August, when all executive positions come up for re-election. It's Nancy Brant, president of Cincinnati JGS in USA. The next USA summer seminar will be in New York from 8th to 13th August 1999, though it is uncertain what will happen to the previously planned summer seminar in Salt Lake City in 2000. It has now been announced that there will be an international seminar again in London in the northern summer of 2001.

In September 2000 the Australian Federation of Family History Societies will hold a conference in Perth, whether during or before the Olympic Games in Sydney is not yet known.

During the Olympic Games, which will take place in Sydney from 18th or 20th September, 2000 for a fortnight, our Society presently envisages a possible hospitality programme for visiting international Jewish genealogists. If you are one of our overseas readers and planning a visit to Sydney during the Olympics, please let us know well in advance by email to riecken@zeta.org.au or to our regular mailing address.

In the last fortnight we have suffered the sad loss of our member Sir Asher Joel, aged 86, who always provided us with his perused copies of *Piotrkow Trybunalski landsmannschaft* newsletters. Sir Asher was born a poor boy in a then slum district of Sydney, went to work at thirteen, served in World War 11 as Australian liaison with General Macarthur's staff, became a journalist and pioneer of the Australian public relations and media industries, a supreme organiser of royal, papal, and U.S. presidential tours to Australia, and of the opening of the Sydney Opera House. He was twice knighted by the Queen of Australia and was the first Australian Jew to be made a papal knight. He also wrote *Australian Protocol and Procedures*, and he was a good Jew and a loyal friend. We shall miss him

Sophie Caplan, Editor.

ETSI, A NEW SEPHARDIC HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

has been formed in Paris. Etsi ("my tree" in Hebrew) covers any region where Sephardi Jews have lived, including Spain, the Ottoman Empire, Northern Africa, Portugal, Italy and Gibraltar. A quarterly review will be published and an Ottoman SIG will be formed. For further information, contact Laurence et Philip Absenur: laurphil@wanadoo.fr (Branches Vol.11 No. 1)

THE DEVELOPMENT OF JEWISH FIRST NAMES IN THE AUSTRIAN EMPIRE

PART 2. The Fight of the Jews for Free Choice of First Names. (Cont. from the September issue)

Over several decades the Josephinian laws regarding Jewish names were, to all appearances, observed. In those days, when the father registered the name of the newborn child with the municipality, the official checked the first name against the approved list. The Jews were more or less satisfied with the arrangement, but in the early decades of the 19th century a new generation which had grown up during the period of the Josephinian reforms were becoming dissatisfied with the restrictions on the free choice of first names. It was in Prague, one of the large Jewish centres of the empire, where the opposition to the restrictions was organised. It seems also that it was in Bohemia, and especially in Prague, where an antisemitic city administration enforced the law strictly.

The first challenge came in 1828 when a Jew from Prague, Benjamin Katzan, registered his new born son as Ludwig. His registration form was returned. Katzen then appealed to the Gubernium arguing that the decree of November 12, 1787 limiting the choice of first names was an inadmissible interpretation of the patent of July 23, 1787. Katzan maintained that the November decree was only issued because the stubborn old-fashioned Polish Jews refused to give up their favourite names, thus urging the authorities to issue a list of old Jewish names in a German version - this being a concession to those Jews who wanted to maintain very ancient Jewish names.

The Gubernium, however, rejected Katzan's application on December 18, 1828. Six Jews from Prague, Katzan among them, then submitted the following February a new application which, after being bounced back and forth between the court chancellery in Vienna, the Gubernium and city council was rejected by the chancellery with a court decree of August 26, 1830.

A petition signed by a large number of Jews accompanied by a brief from the leaders of the Prague Jewish community was next sent to the court chancellery on June 15, 1831. From there it went back again to the Gubernium, which asked the Jewish senior jurist Landan to compile a list of significant German first names. During the debate, some councillors voiced their concern that the Jews

might choose the names of Christian saints, which could lead to unrest. Therefore, Landan was instructed to prove from the Old Testament that any names of Christian saints on the list had Jewish significance. After protracted negotiations between the Jewish leadership and Landan on the one side and the Gubernium on the other, the new list was submitted in December of 1832. The Gubernium then asked the official Hebrew translator, Karl Fischer, to comment on Landan's list. It was favourable.

By this time the Jews had become impatient and, on April 29, 1833, they enquired on the progress of their application. The Gubernium in the meantime decided to hear the opinion of the Catholic consistory of Prague. The preamble of the consistory's reply speaks for itself: *For a long time religious Catholics have been annoyed to see the names of their highly honoured and venerated saints preferred by the Jews, when they see that Jews give these names to their children and thereby appear by name as Christians, but are and remain Jews.*

In the eleven close-spaced pages that followed, the Consistory professed to be indignant that on the list were names of martyrs who had converted to Christianity, and names of recently canonized saints who had been arbitrarily linked to the Old Testament of the Jews. They went on to note that there is a big difference between religion and civic rights; that those who want to be members have to accept its dogma and that the church is not in business, does not bargain and cannot diminish its doctrine of faith, arrangements or remedies.

Amongst other things, the Consistory asked to strike from the approved list the names of Christian saints (**Bernard, Damian, Lukas, Markus, Veit, Agathe, Aspasia, Barbara, Cecelia** and others). The church wanted only to protect the names of the saints from profanation, and had no objection to the use of Persian or Greek names for Jewish children - although adding it may seem ridiculous for Jewish children to have names of heroes when it is known that Jews are not cut out to be either heroes or brave soldiers. The Consistory, after eliminating from the list 28 male and 25 female non-Jewish names, enclosed a new list of 342 male and 45 female names, all taken from the Old Testament. This list consisted mostly of obscure and totally obsolete names such as **Abdimeluch, Abdinadab, Adonibesech, Achimelech, Achsa,**

Basemath, Maacha, Sunamittinn and others.

It was explained by the Consistory that the enlarged number of names would accommodate the Jewish request for greater diversity and it was also suggested that the female list could be enlarged by adding a female ending (for instance the **Abdimeluch** could be the basis for the female name **Abdimelucha**). Finally, the Consistory proposed penalties for non-compliance with the regulations, and requested to be supplied with the official registers from time to time for control.

The Gubernium now had in its possession all the opinions, pro and con. The official adviser (General-referent), councillor Hartmann, after carefully examining all submissions, came to the following conclusion:

- 1) According to the laws of 1787, Hebrew names are prohibited; however, the free choice of names is restricted by the decree of November 12 and December 13, 1787. The fear of the Jews that the restrictions on the choice of names will have a detrimental effect on their standing in the country is groundless, since the respect of persons is based on their character, not on their names.
- 2) The list of names submitted by the Consistory consists of many outdated and incomprehensible names and therefore contradicts the patent of July 23, 1787.
- 3) The proposal of the Consistory to ban the use of Christian names should be rejected.
- 4) The existing approved list should be enlarged by 81 male and 60 female names (for example: **Adolf, Albert, August, Eberhard, Ernst; Adela, Albertine, Constanze, Eleonora, etc.**)

The Gubernium unanimously adopted these proposals and forwarded them to Vienna on July 31, 1834. The response, a decree dated November 6, 1834, pointed out that the patent of July 23, 1787 expressly prohibited the use of foreign and incomprehensible names and that it had specified the use of German names. Therefore, the patent gave the Jews the right to choose any German first name for their children. However, the Jews were not allowed to change their names. The decree did not mention the newly proposed list.

Although the decree decided in favour of the Jews, its text seemed to be too vague. The authorities in Prague felt that the problem of Jewish names required yet further study. Councillor Hartmann surveyed again the entire development of the Josephinian laws and came to the following

conclusion: Israelites should be permitted to choose any name mentioned in the decree dated July 31, 1834 if the name is referred to in the Old Testament or if the name had significance in the German language. The Gubernium was divided on the issue and after a lively debate it voted to reject the Jewish request for free choice of first names.

The Jews of Prague had not expected this kind of response and were quite disappointed. It was not enough that the prominence of the patent of July 23, 1787 was acknowledged; they wanted explicit permission to choose any name and therefore continued their campaign. Eleven Jews from Prague submitted, on February 22, 1835, a new petition to the Gubernium to allow free choice of first names. The petitioners stated that they were speaking in the name of all the Jews of Prague and they asked the Gubernium to instruct the city council on the true sense of the decree of November 6, 1834.

On April 12, 1835, Prague merchant Markus Wiener complained to the Gubernium that he had tried to register his newly-born son as Ferdinand and had been refused by the registrar of the city council. Wiener used all the familiar arguments, but also pointed out that Ferdinand was the Emperor's name and the Jews had used names of Emperors (Josef, Franz) before, thereby showing their gratitude for the beneficial reform laws. Wiener quoted also from the decree dated November 6, 1834. The Gubernium sent the complaint to the city council, but it was mostly interested to find out who had leaked to the Jews the content of the decree of November 6, 1834. The city council investigated but could not find the culprit.

The Jews of Prague, seeing they were not getting anywhere with the Gubernium, appealed again to the court chancellery in Vienna on November 16, 1835. The petition was returned to the Gubernium in Prague, where in a discussion on March 28, 1836, councillor Hartmann now proposed to recommend to the Viennese authorities that Jews should have virtually free choice of first names. Members of the Gubernium were of general agreement with Hartmann's suggestion and *Oberburggraf* Chotek in his closing speech pointed out that it was the aim of the administration to break down the dividing walls between Jews and Christians. It was his conviction that this important encouragement would be received with gratitude by all Jews.

With these warm remarks the Gubernium ended its (continued on page 9)

THE STORY OF AN UNFORGETTABLE WEEKEND

by Hilde Hines

Recently, I took my two English grandchildren and their partners, all in their twenties, to Nuremberg for a weekend. They had read the history of my family and were anxious to see the place where it all happened. My father was born in the centre of the City of Nuremberg - a city he loved. He knew every corner - hidden archways, courtyards, and byways. The family house was in one of the main streets, Karolinenstrasse, No. 8.

He loved all that Nuremberg stood for - its history going back to the Middle Ages, its art and craft and poetry. It was fortunate that my father did not live long enough to see what Nuremberg stood for in latter years. In his time antisemitism was something only attributed to uneducated hooligans. He was a soldier in World War 1, as were his brothers, and many of his relatives lost their lives fighting for the Kaiser and the German Reich.

I was still at school when Hitler came to power. I had to cope with the change in attitude, in life style - from being an ordinary German of Jewish religion to becoming a leper, an outcast, a person not wanted, part of a people who were responsible for all the bad things which happened to Germany.

I was fortunate enough eventually to be able to leave Germany in 1938, and we lived in Holland until November 1939, when World War II had started. We left Europe with the last Dutch ship and arrived in Australia in January 1940.

Nuremberg had rebuilt its mediaeval quarter beautifully. We went to the new little synagogue which is part of an old age home. You had to advise them beforehand that you were coming as a visitor, and announce yourself, before you were allowed to enter the synagogue.

Nuremberg had in its heyday approximately 10,000 Jews. After the war there were but ten Jews left in Nuremberg. A small influx of survivors came and the community grew to about 350 people.

The home of the Jewish nursing sisters had survived Allied bombing, and services were held in their little prayer room for many years. They eventually built an old-age home, with the assistance of the City of Nuremberg, and a small synagogue was included. In the last few years the community has grown through the influx of Jews from Russia and

now has over seven hundred souls.

The religious service we attended was impressive - and there was no talking! At the end we were invited to the kiddush which was a sit down luncheon. We had a chance to talk to the cantor and other leaders of the community. He told us that there were seventy-two children participating in religious instruction classes. He himself came from South Africa, had lived in Israel and was reluctant to come to Germany, but was persuaded and felt it was his calling to help a small community such as this to maintain a Jewish life.

My English grandchildren who are all involved in Jewish activities, were urged to see if an exchange of young people between Nuremberg and England would be possible, to show Nuremberg youngsters what life in a big Jewish centre would be like.

We walked through the old City of Nuremberg past the place where grandfather's house, which is now a part of a department store, had stood, to the location where the old Synagogue had been. A large monument has been erected showing that there had been a synagogue on this spot from 1874 until Kristallnacht when Nuremberg Nazis destroyed its main synagogue. We visited the place where I had lived as a child, a building which does not exist any more, but which has become part of a large school.

Nuremberg had been bombed very badly during the war and only very few houses remained here and there showing the old style and architecture. We visited various family places and I was able to tell my grandchildren of our life "once upon a time..."

On the Sunday morning we went to the Jewish cemetery, as both my father and Gus' father were buried there. There is a large War Memorial at the entrance to the cemetery in memory of those who fell from 1914 - 1918; the heroes of World War I. On both sides there were plaques with the names of those who gave their lives for the Fatherland - amongst them one of my cousins, Fritz Rosenzweig. I was able to explain that I lost as many cousins fighting for the Kaiser in the First World War as were killed in the concentration camps in the second. Fritz's father, Ludwig Rosenzweig, had been president of the Nuremberg Israelitische Kultusgemeinde for many years between the two world wars. Underneath the inscription remembering the heroes of The First World War is a large plaque dedicated to those who died for their faith.

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AFTERTHOUGHTS ON THE 1998 CONFERENCE

By Bernie Freedman

The 1998 Hollywood Chai Conference in Los Angeles was my first attendance at any annual international Jewish conference and I am thus not in a position to comment historically or to make comparisons with previous conferences. I certainly enjoyed and benefited from attending and I wanted to share that experience and then compel myself to think more deeply about it so that my future activities in Jewish genealogy might be influenced by this money-wise expensive trip.

Let me first set the scene of the conference as it affects the impression it made on me and various personal conclusions I then draw. The conference took place in a very large L.A. hotel with extensive conference facilities, lasting from Sunday night to Thursday night, with lectures from 9 am to 5 pm in two parallel sessions every day followed by two major lectures every evening until 9 pm. Special interest sessions were held during the lunch break, and tours to museums, university or Mormon Libraries meant that you had to miss lectures to visit. Certainly it was assumed that everyone attending the conference wished to attend continuous lectures as their prime purpose. There was certainly an atmosphere of quasi-dedication to Jewish Genealogy and such an attitude was accepted by all participants.

The standard of the lectures was good. Most were experienced lecturers and many had obviously carried out personal research into the subject of the lecture and could illustrate the lecture with slides of their family history.

Some personal comments: I have no figures for the non-American attendees, but to me the conference exhibited the American energy and enthusiasm on which the conference was organised, programmed and executed.

Relating to the Jewish basis of the conference, it is nice to comment on the friendly and co-operative integration of the speakers, lecturers and participants who in religious matters extended from strongly orthodox to complete liberal. It seemed that searching for one's forebears is an honourable and spiritual pursuit, and in this context we were all Jews pursuing an approved area of research.

A description often levied at "collectors",

(genealogists in this context could equally be described as "collectors") is that the particular view of the collector-object relationship often makes it difficult for a collector to be part of, or active in a group activity. The many hours spent in lonely pursuit of one's family tree could certainly produce such a problem, but the very opposite seemed to be exhibited at this conference. Everyone was ready to listen, assist and congratulate all other participants on their work. Whatever it is, the Jewishgen Soc., the internet communication system, or the religious common factor, the obvious group activity is the way to achieve far better individual results and perhaps something more in the way of community values.

Humour is often the way to describe one's insecurity, and an old Jewish Australian joke runs: In Australia I am a "bloody Jew" and in Israel I am a "bloody Australian". It may be my sensitivity on this subject that I associate the flood of Jewish interest in genealogy with the feeling of not fully belonging, the feeling which is expressed in "searching for one's roots". The American Jewish world is in a special period in that the achievement of the "American dream" for many has allowed them to devote their energy to organise an industry searching for roots, originally in Europe, and then scattered throughout the world in a way that has seen the holocaust destruction of their physical bodies as well as their culture. It is to be hoped that the search for roots will not stop at family tree skeletons, but will gain knowledge and understanding of these roots which will become alive and able to send new growth into the Jewish communities of the future to produce new trees of knowledge and new forests of culture.

Attending this conference gave me much hope that the energy and enthusiasm already existing in the Jewish Genealogical Societies will make it one cutting edge activity for the international Jewish community and our local Australian societies are doing well to be associated.

I am looking forward to the next conference to be held in New York in August 1999. Knowing the unique energy level of this city I am sure it could be a conference to launch the Jewish genealogical organisations into the third millennium with perhaps prospects for revival of Jewish culture. It is my hope that the N.Y. planning committee will introduce Jewish historians, philosophers, social

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From QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY (Vol. 19, No. 4.)

The annual Alexander Henderson Award for the best family history published in Australia has been made yearly since 1974, in memory of Alexander Henderson, a well-known family historian who made a significant contribution to genealogy in Australia. It is conducted by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, Inc.

Entries close on 30 November each year. For conditions and guidelines of the award, apply to A.I.G.S. Inc., P.O.Box 339, Blackburn, Vic. 3130

RESEARCH IN LATVIA

A Jewish researcher who has helped our member Selma Jackson with Latvian research, is seeking more clients. Please contact him for further information:

ROMAN BLUMENTALS,

Kr. Valdemara 109-19, Riga, LV 1013, Latvia.

Tel: home 371 2 371155. Email:intrad@parks.lv>.

Nothing further is known about Roman Blumentals and no responsibility taken by this society for your dealings with him.

WHAT'S NEW IN

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

A GRODNO GUBERNIA SIG has been reorganised and is prepared to sell so-called *Inventories* which are photocopied lists of names from various sources to its members. Membership is \$US20 p.a., but there are only email addresses as contact addresses, namely

Amy Levinson: arl@teleport.com and

Ellen Renk:Phrases@aol.com.

It is a pity that no proper mailing address is available for those of us not on email.

A BELARUS SIG for gubernia areas in Belarus other than Grodno, namely MINSK, MOGILEV, and VITEBSK, was formed on 14 July at the Los Angeles Seminar. It also has only an email address for its SIG co-ordinator,

David M. Fox: fox@erols.com

1998 CONFERENCE

(continued from page 8)

scientists, psychologists, etc, with the intention of opening up the subject to one of gaining knowledge and the understanding of our culture as well as our roots.

Bernie Freedman is a member of the Sydney branch of our Society.

JEWISH FIRST NAMES

(continued from page 6)

session and forwarded its decision to Vienna on the same day. In this changed atmosphere, the court chancellery issued a decree on July 20, 1836 stating that the Israelites were not to be restricted in the choice of desired German first names, not excluding those used also by Christians. Those first names must not have an addendum which would designate a Christian saint.

The Jews were finally successful. Over the next few years the clear-cut decision was properly observed and there were no complaints. From time to time Jews applied for a change in name, but in nearly all cases this was refused.

With the proclamation of the general law regarding civic rights of December 21. 1867, all restrictions came to an end.

UNFORGETTABLE WEEKEND

(continued from page 7)

Germany, during the Hitler period, deprived us not only of our nationality - but of our personality. I had to reinvent myself and only found who I was by becoming an ardent Zionist with the hope of a Jewish Homeland, a Jewish country where we would be permitted to live by right and not by sufferance.

How do I feel regarding this city and this country where I once lived? I do realise that the German Government after the war has made considerable efforts to make restitution. But how much had the German character changed? The upsurge of Neo-Nazism is frightening. We experienced an evening at a restaurant - there were two tables of younger people, laughing very loudly and thumping the table with their fists - a reminder that what was now being done in joy and laughter was very similar to what was done in fury and hatred in our time. I was glad when I left Germany again on the flight back to London, and I am happy to live in Australia, a country which now regards multi-culturalism as its way of life.

This is a weekend I shall never forget!

We saw, we spoke, we remembered!

I was able to pass on to the third generation

The tragedy of that time.

*And they will now understand so much better
the Jewish life and suffering
of the Jews in Germany.*

*Hilde Hines is a pioneer member of our Society and
the president of its South Australian branch in
Adelaide...Ed*

NEW BOOKS IN THE SYDNEY LIBRARY

We have acquired a few new books in our Sydney library recently.

LUBOML, THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF A VANISHED SHTETL, edited by Berl Kagan, published by Ktav Publishing House, Inc, New York, 1997 is the English language version of the Yizkor book originally published in 1974 in Hebrew for the Libovner-Voliner Benevolent Society, pp425. with appendices containing both Hebrew and German texts. Luboml was also called Libivne and was in north-western Volhynia, first settled by Jews in the fourteenth century. The community was exterminated on 1 October, 1942 with just fifty one survivors who lived by hiding, joining the partisans, adopting false identities, or serving in the Soviet army. In USA and Israel there were others who had emigrated before WWII. This book, one of the few Yizkor books to be translated entirely into English, is the result of gathering photographs and souvenirs from those who emigrated in time. It has a list of Holocaust victims of the town in English, stories of survivors, and a wealth of illustration. Truly an amazingly user-friendly Yizkor book. Donated by Leslie and Sophie Caplan.

THE GAON OF VILNA AND HIS COUSINHOOD by Neil Rosenstein, published by the Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy, 654 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 07208, 1997, pp437, is the second book to be published on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the death of Lithuania's greatest Talmudic scholar and one of Judaism's greatest spiritual and intellectual leaders of modern times, Rabbi Elijah ben Solomon Zalman of Vilna, known in the rabbinical and secular world simply as the Vilna Gaon. "Gaon" in Hebrew means "genius" and this man has long been considered one of Judaism's greatest modern geniuses. Many people claim descent and this tome added to Chaim Freedman's previous one ought to resolve the matter once and for all.

But while Rosenstein's book has rabbinical approbations, and reproductions of many Hebrew documents, making it possibly more scholarly, Freedman's book is easier to use for the non-Hebrew scholar genealogist and seems to contain more names, including large groups of Komesaroffs from Melbourne, and the descendence of our member, Jenny King. Evidently the emphases of

each author differ somewhat. But now the Society library in Sydney will have both and those hopeful of having gaonic descendence will be able to consult both. This volume is beautifully bound and illustrated, and is also the gift of Leslie and Sophie Caplan.

We have received a well-bound completely photocopied copy of the long out of print **AUSTRALIAN JEWRY BOOK OF HONOUR, THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918** compiled by the late Harold Boas (Hon.Lt.). Late Australian YMCA Jewish representative with the AIF, Perth, W.A., 1923, pp88. This contains a nominal roll of 35 pages of all known Australian Jews who served in the Imperial (British), Australian and Dominion forces, in alphabetical order, giving, first and family names, rank, army number, unit and state where they enlisted, plus information on honours received and casualties. Also a nominal roll of four pages with similar information on all known Jews in the New Zealand forces. Also statistics on honours awarded, including one Victoria Cross, a number of pages on individuals who received honours, giving the citations, and many pages of In Memoriam photographs of the Australian Jewish men who died on active service, as well as a page on Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash, the commander of the Australian Army Corps from May 1918 to the end of hostilities.

THE CROSS AND THE PEAR TREE, A SEPHARDIC JOURNEY by Victor Perera is an account of the complicated histories of the PERERA/ PERERRA/ PEREIRA/ PEREIRE families from the time of the Golden Age of Spain to the Inquisition, to Portugal, France, Israel, Egypt, Guatamala and USA, with conversions, steadfastness and returns to Judaism. Although mainly about one named family, there are other Sephardic families featured and this will be of interest to other genealogists who suspect Sephardic or converso roots. Publishe by Alfred A Knopf, New York, 1995, with illustrations and an index. Donated by Sophie Caplan.

FINDING YOUR JEWISH ROOTS IN GALICIA; A RESOURCE GUIDE by Suzan F. Wynne, published in 1998 by Avotaynu, Inc. in Teaneck, New Jersey, USA, pp220, is an up-to-date guide to research in Galicia by the person who founded the Gesher Galicia Special Interest Group. It has everything one would like to know about Galician genealogical research, an alphabetical

index to localities, as well as one showing administrative districts of towns, villages and even hamlets. Also lists of Yizkor books for Galician towns and lists of booksellers specialising in Yizkor books in both USA and Israel, and many other useful features. Alas it also shows that for certain parts of Eastern Galicia, such as the Kalush area, no births, marriages or deaths data whatsoever has surfaced so far. Donated by Leslie and Sophie Caplan. \$US 39.95 from Avotaynu, POB 900, Teaneck, NJ 07666, USA.

The Society itself has purchased **JEWISH ROOTS IN POLAND, PAGES FROM THE PAST AND ARCHIVAL INVENTORIES** by Miriam Weiner in cooperation with the Polish State Archives, published in 1997 jointly by Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc., and by YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, still for a short time at 555 West 57th Street, 11th floor, New York, NY 10019, USA, pp446. This book has been described as a tour de force and the ultimate guide to Jewish genealogical research in Poland and it deserved both these epithets. There are illustrations of documents, period postcards, identity documents and family photos on every page opening, as well as bibliographies, indexes of names and holdings. Some of this includes the part of Western Galicia still in Poland also included in Suzan Wynne's book, and some entries differ slightly. No matter. Both of these books are essentials for any self-respecting genealogical library and any self-respecting Jewish library. If you are a serious researcher and can afford to buy them do. \$US 60

The Society has recently received the June 1998 hardcopy edition of the **JEWISH GENEALOGICAL FAMILY FINDER**, now containing over 300 pages and over 13,000 researchers supplying names and towns being researched. Copies are in our libraries in Adelaide, Canberra, Brisbane, Perth and Sydney, and Melbourne is acquiring its own copy for Makor Library. \$US 30 from Susan King at JewishGen, 12 Greeway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, TX 77046, USA.
Sophie Caplan

PRECIOUS LEGACY - TREASURES FROM THE JEWISH MUSEUM IN PRAGUE

From November 24, 1998 to 28 February, 1999 the above exhibition will be on at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. On display will be a rare and magnificent collection of Judaica which will include more than 300 rarely seen objects, some dating from the 16th Century.

Book Proposal: THE JEWS OF CORNWALL

To be edited by Godfrey Simmons, Keith Pearce and Helen Fry. (to be published early 2000)

We have been notified of a project to deal in depth with the Jewish communities of Penzance and Falmouth, following on the late Rabbi Dr. Bernard Susser's 1993 book *The Jews of South West England*, and the more recent *The Jews of Bristol*, both in our Society's Sydney Library. The new book will attempt to fill the gaps and will gather together for the first time in one volume major classic articles by Venetia Newall, Cecil Roth (Penzance), and Alex Jacob (Falmouth), accompanied by updated editorial notes and commentary. These articles have major significance for contemporary research, but are usually inaccessible to Australian residents.

There will also be previously unpublished material in specially commissioned chapters, to include complete surveys and tombstone inscriptions together with biographical and genealogical information, including Anthony Joseph's pedigrees. The editors are also interested to receive any relevant familial, genealogical and illustrative material or photographs. While no guarantee can be given to use everything sent, every item used in publication will be acknowledged.

But it would be preferable if **copies only** of photographs and other items were sent, so that all items could be kept permanently by the editors in their files for future reference. Please write and send to: Keith Pearce (Co-editor) 3 Albert Terrace, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 2DD, U.K.

THE JEWS OF NEWCASTLE

Glenn Gordon, University of Newcastle is doing his PhD on the Jews of Newcastle. He is interested in early Jewish families and would particularly like to make contact with descendants of the following:-

Sir Samuel Cohen	H. Morris Cohen
S.J. Mitchell	The Hart family of Maitland
Isaac Lasker	D.L. Thalberg
Nicholas Dach	Charles Browne
George Berrick/Berwick	Dr Israel
The Sussman Family	G.F. Solomon
The Gubbay Family	The Isak Morris Family
A.B. Davidson (Maitland) Photographer	Neville D. Cohen

The University of Newcastle, University Drive
Callaghan NSW 2308

Tel: (02) 4921-8765 Fax: (02) 4921-8730

Email: ggordon@mail.newcastle.edu.au

Reading Tombstones

From "Dor to Door" Newsletter of Greater Houston Jewish Genealogical Society, Vol 2, No.1, October 1996.

These Hebrew phrases appear frequently on our ancestors' tombstones, and should be helpful to genealogists.

Son of	BEN	בן
Daughter of	BAT	בת
Title: Mr.	REB, RAV	רב, ר' / רב"ר
Son/Daughter of the honoured		ב"ר
The Levite	HA-LEVI	הלוי
The Cohen	HA-COHEN	הכהן
Here lies	PO NIKBAR	פ"נ
May his/her soul be bound up		ח.נ.צ.ב.ה
Dear, Beloved (Masc.)	HA-YAKAR	היקר
Dear, Beloved (Fem)	HA-Y'KARAH	היקרה
Father	AV	אב
My father	AVI	אבי
Our father	AVINU	אבינו
Mother	AIM	אם
My mother	IMI	אמי
Our mother	IMANU	אמנו
My husband	BAALI	בעלי
My wife	ISHTI	אשתי
Brother	AKH	אח
My brother	AKHI	אחי
Our brother	AKHINU	אחינו
Sister	AKHOT	אחות
Aunt	DODAH	דודה
Uncle	DOD	דוד
Man	ISH	איש
Woman	ISHAH	אשה
Woman(unmarried)	B'TULAH	בתולה
Woman(married)=Mrs.	MARAT	מרת
Old (masc)	ZAKAIN	זקן
Old (fem)	Z'KAINA	זקנה
Child (masc)	YELED	ילד
Child (fem)	YALDAH	ילדה
Young man	BAKHUR	בחור
Young woman	BAKHURAH	בחורה
Died (masc)	NIFTAR	נפטר

Died (fem)	NIFTARAH	נפטרה
Born(masc)	NOLAD	נולד
Born (fem)	NOLDAH	נולדה
Year, Years	SHANA, SHANIM	שנה, שנים
Day, Days	YOM, YOMIM	יום, ימים
Month	KHODESH	חודש, חדש
1st of the Month	Rosh Hodesh	ראש חודש; ר.ח.
Honest, straight		ישר, ישרה
Complete, Wholehearted.		תם
Modest		צנוע, צנועה
Honoured, Distinguished		נכבד



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 \$US5 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.

00068 LEWIS J. CHILTON/CHITRIN, 12666637-5 Ralston Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342, USA, has SCHNEIDER, PLOTNIK, TOKER, TONELSON, ROTTENBERG, SELESNIK, BINDER, MILLER/MULLAR and KOPANS ancestry from Anykst/Anykscai, Swados and Troskuni shtetlekh in Lithuania and seeks contact with Australians researching same families.

00069 MISS DEBBIE OSTERMEYER, 7 Kent Drive, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN4 OAP, UK is researching surnames SCHLACHTAUB, BRILL, OSTERMEYER, LUBINSKY, SCHWARZ, LAZARUS, SHRIMMER, LOEB, PREISS, BARE, SIMONI, ODENHEIMER, GROSSMAN, SCHUSTER, SIEDENER, LIVINGSTON, DAVID, HAHN, ABRAHAMS, FORST, KLEIN and LEVY.