



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

Vol. 6 No..1

ISSN 1322-6401

March, 1999

EDITORIAL

We're starting volume 6, which is no. 22 of our newsletter - volume 1 had 5 issues - and a new year of activities. First will be our Annual General Meeting at the Wilson Hall of the North Shore Synagogue at 7.30 pm on Sunday 14th March, 1999. Our guest speaker after the formal part will be our member Diane Armstrong, whose extended family history, "MOSAIC", has been published to great acclaim in 1998 by Random House. She will talk in particular about her methods of research and how she traced both sides of her family in Krakow and Lwow over a whole century and five generations.

On 20th December, 1998 we participated for the first time in "Chanukah in the Park" organised in Hyde park by the Great Synagogue and the "Australian Jewish News" and shared a stall with

Elana Traurig and her children's books and with the Australian Jewish Historical Society. We believe that our stall was one of the most interesting ones in the whole festive gathering. Rieke and Peter Nash, Miriam Shifreen, Bernie Freedman and Sophie Caplan shared the duties for our Society and were elated by the response of the public. We also recruited several new members and were able to help an American visitor with addresses of Sydneysiders born in the same town in Germany.

The two Sunday morning workshops since our last newsletter have been well attended. Our collection of books is growing well and has something for almost everybody. Although these books are rare and not for lending, sometimes the same book is available for loan from the

(Continued on page 7)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society(Vic) Inc	Lionel Sharpe	3
News from the South Australian Branch	Klee Benveniste	3
Canberra Corner	Sylvia Deutsch	4
Report from Queensland	Morris S. Ochert O.A.M	4
News from Western Australia	Michelle Urban	4
A trip to Poland, Belarus and Western Ukraine (Part1)	Sophie Caplan	5
Societies and Special Interest Groups (SIGS)	Sophie Caplan	8
Polish Provinces To Change		11
Forebears, Australian Family Finder		11
Australian Data Base Surname Index	Rieke Nash	12

Office Bearers of the Society

President	<i>Sophie Caplan</i>
Vice-President & Secretary	<i>Rieke Nash</i>
Treasurer	<i>Terry Newman</i>
Resources Librarian	<i>Rieke Nash</i>
Membership Chairman	<i>Phillip Baynash</i>
Minutes Secretary	<i>David Laufer</i>
Co-ordinator of On-Line Services	<i>Gary Luke</i>
Committee	<i>Nigel Meinrath</i>
Honorary Auditor	<i>Helena Rule</i>
Editor of Kosher Koala	<i>Sophie Caplan</i>
Editorial Committee	<i>Miriam Shifreen</i>
Tape Librarian	<i>Selma Jackson</i>
Australian Capital Territory Representative	<i>Sylvia Deutsch</i>
Central Coast Representative	<i>Beulah Gross</i>
Queensland Representative	<i>Morris Ochert</i>
South Australian Representative	<i>Hilde Hines</i>
Victorian Representative	<i>Lionel Sharpe</i>
West Australian Representative	<i>Michelle Urban</i>

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 154

NORTHBRIDGE SYDNEY NSW 1560

AUSTRALIA

E-mail: rieken@zeta.org.au

Annual Membership \$Aust30.00

Pensioner or Student \$Aust15.00

Annual Overseas Subscription \$Aust40.00

Please send your cheque to:

The Treasurer - A.J.G.S.

P.O. Box 485

ST IVES NSW 2075

AUSTRALIA

Memberships and Subscriptions can be paid by
Credit Card. Please state payment method.

- ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Visa
☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard

Card Holder.....

Card Number.....

Expiry date.....

Signature.....

Amount

SYDNEY WORKSHOPS 1999

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 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.

New York, New York

19th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy

August 8-13, 1999

Email: nyc99conf@aol.com

WWW: <http://members.aol.com/nyc99conf>

Salt Lake City July 7-12, 2000

London, 2001

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New South Wales

Justin Abrahams

Sharon Stephenson

Sylvia Rosenblum

Frank Warren

Victoria

Felicity Bloch

Diane Gabb

Walter Lenoble

Miriam Matheson

Eric Monheit

Louis Coleman

Henry Leighton

Jeffrey Lowenstein

Annie Rosenthal

Sth Australia

Diana Terry

Myra Waddell

W. Australia

Neil Reynolds

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>

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS

This Society is holding its annual Showcase this year on Friday and Saturday, 28-29 May, 1999. Our Society will have a stand on the Friday. Any help on the day will be welcome. Come and see us!

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (Vic) Inc.

Report from Lionel Sharpe

A visitor from Lodz, Poland, Barbara Cellar was our first speaker for 1999. She spoke on the topic: "Archival Records of the Lodz Ghetto and the Lodz Jewish Cemetery" at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre on Wednesday, 17th February 1999 at 7.30pm.

Barbara Cellar works for the local city council in Lodz in strategic planning. Some of her work has been in the area of Jewish-Christian relations and she is a member of a Foundation concerned with information retrieval from archives pertaining to World War 11.

Recently, Barbara and her team, with the help of the Lodz History Museum, retrieved and sorted almost the complete records of transports to the Lodz Ghetto from Czechoslovakia and various cities in Germany.

Our next Beginner's Workshop will be held on Sunday, 7th March at 2.00pm at Beth Weizmann Community Centre and on Sunday March 14th we will have a table display at the annual "In One Voice" cultural event in Caulfield Park. The first Annual General Meeting of the recently incorporated Victorian Society will be held on Wednesday, April 14th at 7.30pm

We launched our very first six page newsletter in February and it has been well received by the membership. The aim of this newsletter is to provide information about local resources for research, new acquisitions at the Makor Library etc. While there may be some overlap in reporting about Victorian activities in The Kosher Koala it does not intend to simulate this national newsletter.

Interstate members wishing to receive a copy should write to:

AJGS(Vic)Inc.,
PO Box 189, Glenhuntly, 3163, Victoria
enclosing two 45 cent stamps in a stamped (45c.) addressed envelope.

We are currently planning two major projects.

The President, Lionel Sharpe is joining a planning committee for a proposed conference in association with the Australian Association for Jewish Studies and the Australian Jewish Historical Society(Vic) Inc. The conference is planned to be held in Melbourne later this year.

A meeting has been arranged with the Jewish Holocaust Museum and Research Centre in Elsternwick next month for the purpose of amalgamating the data base of names of survivors derived from such sources as passenger lists and video or audio interviews. It is hoped that we can develop a comprehensive register of survivors who settled in Victoria after the Second World War.

Enquiries:

Lionel Sharpe 03-9523-6738 Fax:03-9532-7797
sharpe@pa.ausom.net.au
Les Oberman:03-9571-8251
oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

by Klee Benveniste

At our January meeting, Margot Bailey spoke to us about the Jewish community which once lived in Penang, Malaysia. Georgetown in Penang is one of five cities twinned with the city of Adelaide under a sister-cities scheme. It was fascinating to hear that there had once been Jews there who came originally from Bagdad and travelled to Penang along the trade route. It was once a sizeable community with a Synagogue and seven Torah scrolls. Jewish burials there dated from 1835 to 1978. Margot and her husband had visited Georgetown last year and had seen the graves, and found further information about the Jewish Community which once lived in Penang.

Our next meeting in late March will be a research meeting to give us time to scan the latest JewishGen Family Finder, newsletters and materials received by the branch, as well as journals and books owned by members.

The South Australian branch welcomes new members: Diana Terry and Myra Waddell. This brings our membership total to 15; 14 in Adelaide and 1 in Port Lincoln.

The South Australian branch can be contacted by post:

*Dr Klee Benveniste
Honorary Secretary,
Australian Jewish Genealogical
Society(SA Branch)
C/- Adelaide Hebrew Congregation
P.O. Box 320,
Glenside, SA 5065
AUSTRALIA.*

NEWS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA

by Michelle Urban

About twenty West Australian members were treated to a bright and breezy talk by prominent Jewish historian Louise Hoffinan on Sunday 21st February, 1999. An Authority on the foundation of Jewry in Western Australia, Louise detailed the early years of the Jewish community through the eyes of many of those whose industry and endeavours were responsible for the successful establishment of the western colony. While men like Lionel Samson are well known for their exploits in the infant colony, Judaism really did not become a religion of significance until the migration of Eastern European Jews in the mid-1880s. The Fremantle congregation was first in W.A. but, as the balance of commercial power moved up the Swan River to Perth, so did the Jewish population. By the early 1900s, the Brisbane Street Synagogue became the focus for the most of the States's Jews.

With the discovery of gold to the east of Perth in the 1890s, the population of the colony swelled dramatically and amongst the many fortune seekers were sufficient Jews to establish small congregations in Coolgardie and later in Kalgoorlie. Within a relatively short period, however, only the Perth congregation remained as a viable centre of Jewish religious observance.

Louise's intimate knowledge of her subject made for an enthralling discovery by younger members who were unaware of the background to the congregation of the late twentieth century. There is little doubt that all members present are hoping that in a 'return bout' by Louise, they will learn even more about our heritage and the men and women who established the Jewish religion on such foreign shores.

There are a few members whose interests are in Slovakia, and they found the Society's books, periodicals and journals, CD's and Microfiche which are growing through the help of the Sydney resources very interesting.

Workshops are being held with Guest Speakers on
27 June: Dr Ossie Tofler: Early Western Australian Jewish Personalities.

29 August: Martin Levit: From South Africa to Perth, A Jewish View.

7 November: How To Use The Internet.

Enquiries can be directed to Michelle Urban

Tel: (08) 9375 3874, Fax: (08)9375 3574

E-mail: urban@wantree.com.au.

CANBERRA CORNER

by Sylvia Deutsch

The latest issue of Avotaynu has arrived (vol. XIV, No 4, Winter 1998) and also newsletters from American Jewish genealogical societies.

Planning is under way for Jewish genealogy workshops in Canberra during 1999. These will be held on Sunday mornings from 10.30am-12.30pm in the library of the National Jewish Memorial Centre. AJGS members in Canberra will be notified of the dates by letter and through this column. These occasions will provide an opportunity for members and interested others to use the growing resources, books, journals, pamphlets, etc. held for Canberra members and will serve as a useful forum for sharing information.

Enquiries can be directed to Sylvia Deutsch in Canberra - Tel/fax: 02-6248-6196 or email: deutand@ozemail.com.au.).

REPORT FROM QUEENSLAND

By Morris S. Ochert O.A.M.

In the past twelve months, I have been fortunate to be joined by Carol Davis Stirk. She has proved to be most knowledgeable in genealogy and associated research and her secretarial skills have been put to great use.

Carol has, for instance, been invaluable in the preparation of my manuscript entitled "Headstones in the Jewish Cemetery at Toowong, Brisbane"; this should be of help, both to Jewish genealogists and historians.

Our tiny Brisbane organization acts as a suburban branch of the AJGS, which circulates literature from overseas, as well as the Kosher Koala, to our Queensland members: these publications are most interesting and of great value to researchers.

Carol, a member of the Queensland Family History Society (QFHS), has been instrumental in establishing an East European Special Interest Group - with emphasis on Jewish families - from the regions of Russia, Poland, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, etc. The first meeting was held on 30th January 1999.

Carol has also facilitated a journal exchange between QFHS and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.

A TRIP TO POLAND, BELARUS AND WESTERN UKRAINE.

By Sophie Caplan.

Part 1- Poland.

In the northern summer of 1997 my husband and I took a trip to Belarus and one to Ukraine in further search for our roots. The trip to Belarus was before the International Seminar in Paris and the one to Ukraine some twelve days after it. Our timetable was determined by the availability of our chosen guides, Waclaw Wojciechowski for Belarus and Oleg Silberman for Ukraine. Each one was a guide I had first encountered in my 1995 trip with Gesher Galicia and found particularly helpful. I had kept in contact and recommended them to friends in Sydney, who had also been full of praise for their knowledge, good humour, and care of their clients.

Apart from securing our flights and hotel bookings, we needed visas, and we found that, the less desirable the destination, the higher the cost of the visa. One can get visas for Ukraine from Melbourne at \$AU90 each. Belarus does not have any consulate, legation or embassy in Australia. To get their visa one can either courier one's passport there and back to Tokyo, not an inexpensive business, or obtain it at an intermediate stop. We decided to make Warsaw the hub of our trips to the rest of Eastern Europe and to get our Belarussian visas there. Even with a personal recommendation for us from the Australian Embassy in Warsaw, and with no other "clients" visible on the day of our visit, it took an hour and a half and \$US120 (= \$AU204 now) each to obtain a Belarussian visa for five days. Had we been prepared to wait several days, it would have been a little cheaper.

As well, both Belarus and Ukraine now require an "invitation" from relatives, or from an organization in each country, to obtain a visa. Since all of our relatives who lived in those countries have been dead since 1942, and because we did not wish to involve any Jewish organization in our visits which were entirely private, it was necessary for our son's travel agency to sub-contract our hotel bookings to ethnic agencies which had the right contacts for our "invitation".

We were not going to Belarus on our own. In 1930 Leslie's parents had made a return visit to England with his older sister, then a little girl. Leslie's father Phillip and his older brother Abraham from Liverpool, England, had jointly travelled back to

their home town of Porozow, then in Poland, to see their own father, who died a year later. Sixty-five years later two cousins, both named after the same grandfather and great-grandfather travelled together back to Porosova, now in Belarus. Leslie Fox had visited Sydney with his wife the previous January, and Leslie Caplan had proposed that they join us on our trip to Belarus on a journey recalling that of their father and grandfather. We flew to Warsaw and met Leslie Fox there. His wife did not come.

We were due to leave Warsaw the day after obtaining the Belarusian visa but, that same afternoon, my Leslie became acutely ill and the doctor called to the hotel advised that he be hospitalised to determine what was wrong. Naturally I was very hesitant to see my husband be treated in an Eastern European hospital, but he was in pain. By chance our family physician in Sydney, was born in Poland and still speaks perfect Polish, as he left Poland at sixteen. By chance also I had his home telephone number on me, and he was able to talk to the hotel doctor and to reassure me that it would be all right to go to the clinic suggested. We were assured that this was the clinic which treated the Polish Prime Minister and his cabinet, and so we went. Although it was very scary for the first few hours when the admitting sister spoke of an operation, everything was fixed with a relatively simple procedure, though Leslie was kept for observation, as they told me it would be unwise to travel to Belarus, without making sure that he was completely well again. Interestingly both the treating specialist and the "god professor" who ran that department, spoke perfect English. The professor wanted to keep Leslie longer "because he had such sad eyes". That scared me, as I recalled stories of Jews being identified in wartime by their "sad eyes". One cannot visit Poland without constantly recalling World War 11. The Lecnica Rzondowa hospital in Emilie Plater Street in the centre of Warsaw was evidently considered "state of the art" in Warsaw, though it would not have been state of the art in Australia or the United States, and after the first scare we were treated very kindly.

Waclaw, our guide, was very understanding about postponing our departure, and came to see Leslie in hospital. We also decided in the afternoon to do a tour of Jewish Warsaw for the benefit of Leslie Fox, who had never been before, and that I would come too while my Leslie rested in our hotel room after discharge, ready for departure, two days late, the next morning.

We started by going to look at the portion of the wartime Warsaw ghetto wall, still standing because it was part of a building and within the landscaped courtyard of a block of flats. That wall carried a plaque affixed by President Herzog of Israel on a state visit to Poland several years before, and two small plaques showing where single bricks had been removed, one for display at Yad Vashem, the other at the Holocaust Centre in Melbourne. As we were examining these plaques suddenly a raw egg described a perfect trajectory and splashed down right next to us on Waclaw's briefcase and shoes but luckily not on anyone's clothes. We all looked up and there on a balcony on the third floor of the block of flats was a child, a little boy of about five, looking down at us. Our first assumption was that the little boy had thrown the egg, perhaps prompted by an adult, and Waclaw yelled up something in Polish which he later told us was: "If you do that again, I'll come up and kill you." But later we realised that no child could have thrown the egg so perfectly from that distance, and that it must have been thrown by an adult male who then beat a hasty retreat and sent the child out to tell him where the egg had landed. Waclaw felt at once angry and embarrassed at this show of Polish antisemitism and assured us that he often took tourists to that spot and nothing similar had ever happened before.

The rest of the tour was more routine and included a trip to a bookshop near Warsaw University where some books of Jewish interest on Poland in English could be purchased. Waclaw undertook to post them to me by seamount and they arrived safely here some months later. This time the monuments at both the sites of the Mila 18 bunker and the white marble memorial at the Umschlagplatz carrying all the variety of Jewish first names in Poland at the time of the Shoah were thankfully free of defacing graffiti. For me this memorial is particularly poignant because it contains the first names not only of relatives who disappeared, but also those we've given to our children and those carried by our grandchildren.

The large monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Revolt now definitely shows signs of needing restoration, and it seems that the current Polish government, or perhaps Warsaw municipality, is still waiting for Jews around the world to pay for this restoration. This seems at odds with the fact that so much renewal and restoration has already occurred since the end of the Soviet era in Poland. Gone is the drabness I saw on my first visit in 1983 at the time

of martial law. Many parts of Warsaw have the look of an interesting and elegant city. Everywhere old buildings are being pulled down and new ones erected, some with British and Dutch joint venture capital. Nowy Swiat Street is full of elegant and expensive shops and the hotel we stayed in, the Warsaw Sheraton, is equal in standard and facilities to Sheraton hotels all round the world.

Unfortunately in July and August, when so many overseas Jews and others visit Warsaw, the Yiddish theatre is closed. On our visit to the Jewish Historical Institute Dr Yale Reisner was also away on his annual vacation, but on our return from Belarus the next week we met Grazyna Pawlak, his fellow director. We also met the impressive Konstanty Gebert who edits the communal Jewish weekly, both of them at the Centrum Kultury Zydowskiej (Jewish Cultural Centre) at 6 Twarda Street. There are now also a Jewish monthly called *Midrasz* and a youth magazine. Both Grazyna Pawlak and Konstanty Gebert represent the new assertive educated breed of Polish Jew, intent on Jewish continuity in Poland, if that is possible, as does Dr Stanislaw Krajewski whom Leslie and I met on a previous visit. Last July our meetings were necessarily brief as they were both attending the funeral of Yad Vashem Shoah historian Chone Shmeruk who had come from Jerusalem to die and be buried in Warsaw.

We left Warsaw early the morning after Leslie was discharged from the clinic, taking food brought from England and Australia, and fruit bought in Warsaw, for the days on the road and in Belarus.

The original driver whom Waclaw had booked had reneged because of the delay, but Waclaw was using his own Volkswagen minibus and as a driver we had Marek, a neighbour of Waclaw's, who was a security guard by profession and an excellent driver. The places I had written Waclaw that we wanted to see included Szczuczyn, from where Leslie's maternal grandfather had come. I thought it was the one in northern Poland, but from all the information I had given him Waclaw had deduced it was Szczuczyn Litevski, north east of Vilna.

He also told us one other thing which was a revelation. In shtetlekh and villages many Jews were traders and had small businesses run from their home. One could tell which were the former Jewish houses by the fact that there was a front door, whereas those houses which had never been Jewish and did not need to be accessible to potential customers, had their main entrance at the back

where it gave the house-owner easy access to the back-yard to attend to the poultry and other animals. Now the Jews were gone and the businesses were closed and so the front door was permanently closed, steps which led up to it were often gone, paths to the front door overgrown with bushes hindering passage, and other signs of disuse. This simple set of facts led to interesting observations in all the towns and villages we then passed or visited.

We had planned to enter Belarus at the frontier post near Bialystok and then drive straight to Porosova, the nearest little town. As we drove along the road to the frontier we counted well over seventy semi-trailers waiting in line which we passed on the way to the frontier post. Unfortunately it turned out that no private cars were allowed to pass the frontier there. We had to drive north for two hundred kilometres along the Polish side of the frontier to the next crossing point at Bobrowniki. Here there were even more loaded semi-trailers waiting in line, plus two lanes of buses and private cars, loaded to the gunwales with people and goods. From time to time a car left the line in front of us and raced back on the remaining road lane, and then came back trying to re-enter its previous position. Eventually we had to do this too as the Bobrowniki municipality was exacting an "environment protection tax" which was one of the forms necessary to cross the frontier. Other forms included information on ownership of our vehicle and, for every passenger, a customs declaration which included information on any weapons, cameras, watches, as well as a minutiae of detail on all currencies carried, including travellers's cheques and in which currency they were, and detailed descriptions of any jewellery carried or worn. Not for the first time I became aware of the absolute obsession with gold and jewellery at customs of the Soviet and former Soviet countries. Since some of the things listed had to be inspected at the frontier post itself this was a slow and cumbersome procedure. From our arrival on to the queue cousin Leslie Fox entered into his journal all the details of the procedures and their time sequence. It took us six hours to cover the couple of kilometers to the frontier post and through the customs procedure. And unlike most other cars we were not carrying machinery, or domestic appliances, or goods for sale. We had become aware that one line of private cars and buses was for those going to Belarus, and the other line for "transit cars" going on to Russia, since this road was the main one going on to Minsk

and Mogilev and Moscow. The quality of the cars seen was amazing and Leslie Fox for the first time then, expressed the opinion that perhaps all the good quality cars stolen in England and in Western Europe took this journey.

The fast food shops on the side of the road were doing a brisk trade, as did the toilets. We were glad that we had brought our own food and drink for ourselves, our driver and our guide. It was eleven thirty at night when we were finally free to take the road to Grodno on the Belarus side. There were no street lights. (to be continued)

Sophie Caplan

EDITORIAL (continued from page 1)

Reverend Katz Library where our collection is kept. Since our foundation we have participated in the exchange of journals and newsletters with other Jewish genealogical societies (JGSs) world wide. While the more important journals can only be perused at workshops, Rieke Nash, our Resources Librarian, has decided that many sets of newsletters can be sent for loan to country and interstate, members who are willing to pay the postage there and back. Please contact Rieke Nash through fax 02-9427 7530, or PO Box 42, Lane Cove, 1595, NSW, or by e-mail: rieken@zeta.org.au. This may be a great help to distant members.

We also run a loan service for tapes of lectures from both overseas conferences and local speakers, which is grossly underutilized. Contact Rieke Nash, as above, or Selma Jackson, our Tapes Custodian, at fax 02-9371-9487, e-mail: jacksonsel@aol.com.

In the past few months our Society and its members have suffered several grievous losses. Our sympathy goes to our Sydney member Valerie Coppel and husband Ronald, and family, over the tragic and untimely loss of their gifted son, Clinton Coppel, aged thirty-six. Also to Sylvia Deutsch, our Canberra coordinator, over the loss of her father Theodore Karas, a gentleman of the old school, whom I had the pleasure of meeting at my talk at South Head Synagogue just a year ago. And these last weeks we lost Suzie Gold, who attended our Beginners' Seminar two years ago, and became a member just before being diagnosed with breast cancer. Suzie Gold had intended researching her own Sperling family from Poland as well as her late husband Sam Gold's Chester family, through which they were connected to the growing Australian Lubavitch rabbinical dynasty of Gutnicks and Feldmans. Alas, she never got very far.

Sophie Caplan, Editor.

SOCIETIES AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS AS SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

by **Sophie Caplan**

Have you subscribed to any Societies or Special Interest Groups (SIG's) connecting you with the areas whence your family originated? Although it is expensive for Australians to pay annual subscriptions in US dollars and often a \$AUS15 fee for an international bankdraft to your bank, receiving the 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. Money orders on \$US can also be bought at post offices.

Since 1985 a number of SIG's have sprung up which publish bi-annually or quarterly journals, some through subscription and some on the Internet. Each 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 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 Australian subscribers. Some give a special rate of \$US50 for a two-year subscription for Australia. For those having our previous list of SIG's 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 \$US40 for one year, \$US77 for two years, \$US106 for three years. Back issues for \$US12 each. World leader on all matters of Eastern European genealogy. All our branches have subscriptions. **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 Web site: <http://www.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.

Email: frank@lbi.com

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.

Two new groups have sprung up in France.

GEN-AMI, Association of International Jewish Genealogy which publishes the quarterly **GenAmi** journal in French. Membership for non-French members is FRFR 95, without membership which entail certain privileges, the journal subscription if FRFR 115, + FRFR 15 for bank fee. This should be added to foreign membership, too. Address is Micheline Gutmann, 76 rue de Passy, 75016 Paris, France. **GenAmi** also publish items on Belgium, including nineteenth century citizenship lists.

LAURENCE ABENSUR-HAZAN, organising chairman of the 1997 Paris Seminar on Jewish Genealogy and Dr **PHILIPPE ABENSUR**, the immediate past president of Cercle de Genealogie Juive, have split off from that organisation in late 1997 or early 1998 and formed a new JGS with special emphasis on Sephardi genealogy. No name is known for the group, and no publication has been received in Australia but Laurence is specialising in research on Turkish, Greek and Middle Eastern Jewish roots. Write to Laurence Abensur-Hazan, 77 Boulevard Richard-Lenoir, 75011 Paris France. Fax (33) 1 43 55 4979. Email: laurphil@wandoo.fr.

LA LETTRE SEPHARADE published quarterly by Jean Carasso, GORDES, 84220, France, is a non-genealogical journal specialising in Sephardi history, books, accounts of journeys to places of particular Sephardi interest, music, gastronomy, happenings, and at least one page of text in Judeo-espagnol, also known as Ladino. It is free on request to Jean Carasso. Most of the text is in French.

MAAJAN, DIE QUELLE, quarterly journal of the Swiss JGS, in German. Specialises in Swiss, Bavarian and also Alsatian Jewish genealogy. Costs Swiss Frs 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.

MISJPOGE, quarterly of Dutch Jewish Genealogical Society, in Dutch. \$US40, Write to Buurweg 24, 2203 CL Noordwijk, Holland.

ROM-SIG News is the journal of Romanian Jewish genealogical research. Cost \$US25. C/- Rae Barent, 4257 Saline Street, Pittsburg PA 15217, USA

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: lmagyar@en.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, Box 228, 3701 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA. English language.

The **LITVAK SIG** for central and northern Lithuania, started around 1995. It now functions through JewishGen at <http://www.jewishgen.org>

LATVIA SIG publishes "A Journal of Jewish Genealogy in Latvia", though "on Latvia" might be more accurate. Cost \$US30 per year.

Web site: <http://www.jewishgen.org/latvia>.

Email: werle@pacificnet.net.

The **SOUTH AFRICAN JGS** publishes YICHUS, a quarterly. Write to Ivan Elion, P.O. Box 1388 Parklands, 2121, South Africa. Tel Ivan Elion (011) 442 7048; Hannah Karpes (011) 640 6773.

Now also **THE JEWISH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN**, Paul Cheifitz, PO Box 51985, Waterfront, 8002, South Africa. Tel: (021)434 4825 (021) 423 0223. Email: jewfamct@global.co.za

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 publishes its journal, full of extracts of BMD records, Polish-English translations of occupations, etc. A most worthwhile investment for those whose ancestry is from these two provinces of Poland. Cost is \$US32 for seairmail delivery per annum, or \$38 for airmail delivery to Australia per annum. Send to Gene Starn, Coordinator, P.O. Box 520583, Longwood, FL 32752, USA. Tel 1-407-788-3898. Email: genes@iag.net.

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.

Web site: <http://www.feehfs.org>

SHARSHERET HADOROT is the journal of the Israel Genealogical Society. Tri-annually in Hebrew and English. Cost \$US40. Write to Israel Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 4270, Jerusalem 91041, ISRAEL and payments may be made with international credit cards Access, Mastercard, Visa or Diners Club. Previous publications can be bought for through librarian Reuven Naftali at Tel: 972-4-8345-468. Also publishes booklets and books. There are now also branch of the Israel Genealogical Society in Tel Aviv and Beer Sheva. See JewishGen for details.

SLUTSK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, concentrates on this one Byelorussian town. Cost not known. Write to Harry Boonin, 112 Pocasset Road, Philadelphia PA 19115 USA or Margot Tutun, 19 Tyler Road, LEXINGTON, MA 02173, USA. In English.

CZECH and SLOVAKIAN SIG. Not known if this has started publishing yet. Write to. Louis Schonfeld, 23995 Wendover Drive, Cleveland, OH 44122, USA. **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 JGS of Great Britain, PO Box 13288, LONDON N3 3WD, ENGLAND.

Web site:<http://www.ort.org/jgsgb>

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.

TOLDOT quarterly of the **SOCIEDAD ARGENTINA DE GENEALOGIA JUDIA** (Bulletin of the Argentinian JGS) published in Spanish. Annual subscription is \$US20, Australian rate not quoted; \$US5 for a single copy. Address: Paul Armony, Juana Azurduy 2223, Piso 8 (1429), Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tel: 54-1-701-0730. Email: armony@satlink.com.

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 late member Sir Asher Joel, himself a descendant of Piotrkow Trybunalski Jews, sent us his copies after he had 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 newsletter, 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 sefard5@mail.jewishgen.org.

GRODNO GENEALOGY GROUP, Inc. for former Russian, now Belarus, Grodno Gubernia. Membership is \$US20 for calendar year 1999. See JewishGen for details but membership includes a semi-annual bulletin. Write to Grodno Genealogy Group, Inc., P.O. Box 19007, Portland, Oregon. 97280.

The Brazilian Jewish Genealogical Society, **SOCIEDADE GENEALOGICA DE BRASIL**, Caixa Postal 1025, 13001-970 Campin Sp, Brazil. Tel: (5511) 881-9365. Email: faiguen@ibm.net. We used to receive their newsletter, but have not received it for a while. In Portuguese. Cost not known.

WHAT'S NEW? WHAT'S COMING?

Several new SIGs (special interest groups) were formed at the 18th Annual Seminar for Jewish Genealogy in Los Angeles July, 1998.

Belarus SIG led by David M. Fox, fax@erols.com will focus on Minsk, Mogilev and Vitebsk. (A fourth Belarus gubernia, Grodno already has its own SIG, formed in 1995) The Belarus SIG has a web page on JewishGen and has a discussion group, searchable databases, and an on-line newsletter.

Volhynia SIG Held an organizational meeting under the leadership of Marilyn Natchez mrnatchez@aol.com. The SIG plans to create an on-line newsletter and may publish a print journal in the future. This is a separate venture from the Volhynia Discussion Group currently housed on JewishGen.

Latin America SIG, "LatamSig" is ready to launch a mailing list, hosted by JewishGen free of charge. Contact Rob Weisskirch at rweisskirch@fulleton.edu or Carol Skydell at skydell@vineyard.net for more information.

Bohemian/Moravian SIG was started by a small group of researchers interested in the former Czechoslovakia. At the moment, members will be linked through e-mail. For more information and to join the SIG, contact Susan Boyer at vitdoc@aol.com or Anne Feder Lee at 103004.2157@compuserve.com

To join these SIG mailing groups on-line, go to the JewishGen homepage, <http://www.jewishgen.org>. In the Discussion Group category, click on "Special Interest Groups". Check off the SIG you are interested in, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "I want to Subscribe To A Mailing List". Follow the directions to submit your request.

From "Lineage" Summer/Fall 1998

Any of the above, though not all, are received by the AJGS 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.

POLISH PROVINCES TO CHANGE

Just when you thought you knew where you came from, Poland has changed the names of its provinces!

On July 18, the Sejm - the lower house of the Polish parliament - approved legislation dividing Poland into 16 new provinces, to replace the current 49. The measure, part of a package of reforms aimed at doing away with the communist era administration and shifting power to local governments, took effect on January 1, 1999

The change involves a redrawing of borders, not just consolidation of multiple provinces to create larger ones. As a result, parts of many old provinces are now in several different new provinces. The new provinces and their capitals, currently capitals of provinces with the same name, are shown below. Cities which will no longer be provincial capitals are: Bielsko Biala, Biala Podlaska, Chelm, Ciechanow, Czestochowa, Elblag, Jelenia Gora, Kalisz, Konin, Koszalin, Krosno, Leszno, Legnica, Lomza, Nowy Sacz, Ostroleka, Pila, Plock, Przemysl, Piotrkow Trybunalski, Radom, Siedlce, Sieradz, Skierniewice, Slupsk, Suwalki, Tarnow, Tarnobrzeg, Walbrzych, Wloclawek and Zamosc.

Province	Alternate Name	Capital(s)
DS Dolnoslaskie	Lower Silesia	Wroclaw
KP Kujawo-Pomorskie	Kujawy	Bydgoszcz
LB Lubuskie	Pomorze	Torun
	Lubusz	Gorzow
		Zielona Gora
LD Lodzkie	Lodz	Lodz
LU Lubelskie	Lublin	Lublin
MA Mazowieckie	Mazovia	Warsawa
MP Malopolskie	Little Poland	Krakow
OP Opolskie	Opole	Opole
PD Podlaskie	Podlasie	Bialystok
PK Podkarpackie	Sub-Carpathia	Rzeszow
PM Pomorskie	Pomerania	Gdansk
SL Slaskie	Silesia	Katowice
SW Swietokrzyskie	Holy Cross Mtn	Kielce
WM Warminsko-Mazurskie	Warmia-Mazury	Olsztyn
WP Wielkopolskie	Great Poland	Poznan
ZP Zachodnio-Pomorskie	Western-Pomerania	Szczecin

The reform is also restoring *powiaty*, county-like provincial subdivisions abolished in 1975. Like those of the new provinces, borders of the more than 300 *powiaty* have been redrawn from scratch.

Implications of this reorganization for the structure of the Polish regional archives system, for Family History Library cataloguing, and even for the names of some of our Jewish genealogical special interest groups are not yet known. One certainty is that all of us with roots in what is now Poland will need to do some geography homework in the next few months!

We thank the Polish Genealogical Society of America whose Summer 1998 *Bulletin* mentioned these changes, and also the Long Island, NY USA Jewish Genealogical Society. For more information on Poland's new provinces see

<<http://hum.amu.edu.pl/~zbow/ph/pro/plpro.html>>

From "LINEAGE", Long Island JGS Summer/Fall 1998



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.

00070 AVA ATZRAM, 1637 Borbeck Street, 2nd floor, PHILADELPHIA, PA19111, USA.

Ladyzram@aol.com. Seeks any connection to ABRAHAM GOREWITZ son of ISRAEL and CHAIKA GUREVITCH/HUREVITCH born in KIRIVOGRAD/KIROVO, UKRAINE. Israel was a cattle dealer who died in Elisavetgrad. Chaika was born circa 1874 and died in Ukraine in 1937. Children Zelda Koszokoff, Yonkel, Gittle, Laika, Zelman, Moishe/Misha, Fanny, Lizzie, Lovla born between 1895 and 1919 being sought, or their descendants.

00071 The French Holocaust Survivors Association (FFDJF) notifies that more and more French localities from which Jews were deported are erecting memorial monuments or plaques and staging reunions for family survivors or descendants. Inquiries to BERTHE BURKO-FALCMAN, tel (33)1 4280 3804; fax (33) 1 4453 6216.

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATA BASE

Names being researched by our new members March, 1999

Id	Surname	Town	Country	Dates
400 ANY		RHEINBISCHOFSEHEIM	GERMANY	1800's
426 BERGMAN		BIELSKO-BIALA	POLAND	1900+
426 BERGMAN		SZCZAWNICA	POLAND	1920-1930
426 BERGMAN		KRAKOW	POLAND	
426 BERGMAN		OSWIECIM	POLAND	Up to 1939
426 BERGMAN		KALWARIA ZEBRZYDOWSKA	POLAND	1910+
447 BLOKPOEL		S'GRAVENHAGE	HOLLAND	1889-1963
447 BOEKMAN		S'GRAVENHAGE	HOLLAND	1866-1911
439 CHARLSON		SIAULIAI	LITHUANIA	Pre 1890's
440 COHEN		s-HERTOGENBOSCH	HOLLAND	1890
442 FREZINSKI		MARIAMPOL	LITHUANIA	c.1840
401 GOODMAN		PRZASNYSZ	POLAND	c.1873
401 GOODMAN		CHORZELE	POLAND	c.1873
400 GREALSHEIMER		ALSACE	FRANCE	1700's & 1800's
400 HERRMAN		ST POLTEN	AUSTRIA	Late 1800's
400 HERRMAN		PLATZ	GERMANY	Mid 1800's
400 HERRMAN		STRAZ NAD NEZARKOU	CZECH REP	Mid 1800's
443 ISAACS		ADELAIDE	AUSTRALIA	1850-1855
400 KREIELSHEIMER		ANY	USA	1900's
400 LIFFMANN		ZULPICH	GERMANY	1800's
400 LIFFMANN		GYMNICH	GERMANY	1800's
400 LIFFMANN		ERFT	GERMANY	1800's
401 PETERKOSKI		KONIN	POLAND	c.1890
426 PRESSER		BORISLAV	UKRAINE	1900-1941
426 PRESSER		DROGOBYCH	UKRAINE	1900-1941
400 RHEUBEN		HOBART	AUSTRALIA	1800's
400 RHEUBEN		LONDON	ENGLAND	Late 1700's
447 RINGENOLDUS		APELDOORN	HOLLAND	1941-1949
401 SONENFILD		PRZASNYSZ	POLAND	c.1873
401 SONENFILD		LONDON	ENGLAND	1873-1890
426 SUSSER		KRAKOW	POLAND	1900-1941
426 SUSSER-PRESSER		KRAKOW	POLAND	1900-1941
426 SUSSER-PRESSER		BORISLAV	UKRAINE	1900-1941
426 SUSSER-PRESSER		SCHODNITSA	UKRAINE	1900-1941
447 VAN DE KOOI		NUNSPEET	HOLLAND	1910-1963
440 WEISHAUS		DRESDEN	GERMANY	1900

All members of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society are entitled to have their research interests appearing on this page. This information will also be entered on JewishGen's Family Finder (JGFF) which can be found on the Internet at <http://www.jewishgen.org>

It is highly recommended that everyone should provide the Society with their interests to maximise their chances of finding others with useful information. Many of our members have had some incredible successes from this very productive research tool. A number of members have not provided this information yet and should do so in the above format and send it to:-

Rieke Nash, Box 42, LANE COVE NSW 1595 or to rieken@zeta.org.au

This information will remain on both databases even if you are no longer a member.

Contact the above if you have any queries.