



# The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

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## EDITORIAL

Chanukah 5760 was early and we participated again in a most successful 'Chanukah in the Park' in Hyde Park, Sydney. Once again we shared a booth with the Australian Jewish Historical Society and were kept extremely busy answering inquiries from the hundreds of visitors. We've already gained some new members from the many visitors who took our membership forms and hope that more will join us. We were even able to help a St John's Ambulance Officer with her very unusual inquiry. The Society team could be identified by the newly printed T-shirts with the Society logo in blue on white provided through the initiative of Kim Phillips. Some are still available at \$25 plus \$4 postage and packing, from Kim Phillips c/o AJGS. Those members who helped to man our booth this time were Ruth Barnett, Philip Baynash, Bernie Freedman, Rieke Nash, Kim Phillips, Jeannette Tsoulos and Sophie Caplan. Peter Nash helped to bring the boxes of material in the morning and to take them back in the afternoon.

In mid-September, just before our previous newsletter had to go to press, we were able to secure a talk by Myrna Teck, an expert on Jewish Art, formerly of Kansas City and now of Rockville, Maryland. Due to the short lead-time after learning of Myrna's trip to Sydney, on the way to a conference in Brisbane, we could not advertise her talk very widely and held it at my home. It was an illustrated lecture on "Jewish Cemetery Art in USA" with many slides taken by Myrna Teck in USA cemeteries. We were also able to arrange for guided visits for Myrna to Rookwood and Northern Suburbs cemeteries in Sydney, while Morris Ochert guided Myrna in Toowong cemetery in Brisbane.

On 8 and 9 November Rieke and Peter Nash and Gary Luke participated at the Melbourne Conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies, as described elsewhere in this issue by Lionel Sharpe. They were shown the usual warm hospitality by our Melbourne counterparts Leslie and Sonya Oberman and Lionel Sharpe.

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## 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 OnLine Services | <i>Gary Luke</i>  |
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| Editor of Kosher Koala          | <i>Sophie Caplan</i>  |
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| Victoria Representative         | <i>Lionel Sharpe</i>  |
| West Australia Representative   | <i>Michelle Urban</i>   |

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 154

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AUSTRALIA

E-mail: [ajgsnsw@idx.com.au](mailto:ajgsnsw@idx.com.au)

Annual Membership \$Aust30.00

Pensioner or Student \$Aust15.00

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Please send your cheque to:

Membership Secretary - A.J.G.S.

Philip Baynash

49a Watts Road

DENISTONE EAST NSW 2112

AUSTRALIA

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## SYDNEY WORKSHOPS 2000

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 6

March 5

April

2 May 7

June 11

July 2

## Annual General Meeting

March 19, 2000 at 7.30 p.m. at the North  
Shore Synagogue, Lindfield

We are looking for members who  
would like to speak on the progress of  
their genealogical research.

Please ring 02-9958-6317 if you would like to  
present the fruits of your research.

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society  
and the  
Australian Jewish Historical Society

## The National Archives of Australia and Researching the Australian Jewish Community

presented by Guest Speakers

The latest publication of the National  
Archives "Antipodean Haven:Records of  
Jewish Interest in the National Archives"  
will be introduced.

Sunday, 27 February, 2000 at 2.00 p.m. at  
Mandelbaum House, 385  
Abercrombie Street, Darlingtown

R.S.V.P. Cost: \$5.00    Tel/Fax: 9519-9907

Email: [feraltek@zeta.org.au](mailto:feraltek@zeta.org.au)

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

### New South Wales

Gregory Brodie

Robert Klein

Scott Chase

### Victoria

Anne Bernhau

Richard Goldstein

Penny Blankfield

Shana Green

Monique Brand

Maratana Hope

Trevor Cohen

Alexander Jaye

Rene Eisner

Irene Jankovsky

Leon Midalia

Yael Bodian

Josephine Chanesman

### Queensland

John Goldstein

Vivian Solo

## EDITORIAL (cont. from page 1)

In late September and early October I paid a short visit to London, where I was able to renew contact with Dr Anthony Joseph, our English member, and to speak by phone with Harvey Kaplan in Glasgow and David Fielker in London.

After notifying my genealogical friends in Israel of a personal visit in October, I was invited to give a talk to the newly formed Family History Research Society of Tel Aviv, which is chaired by Aviva Neeman, the former editor of 'Sharsheret Hadorot' who is also active in the Joffe/Jaffe Family Society, and with our friend Chava Agmon, who is the world expert on the Caro/Karo clan as Hon. Secretary. I spoke on 'Australian Jewry, Its History, and Current Religious and Educational Trends' and seemed to be well received. My talk took place at the Bible Lands Museum on Rothschild Boulevard, in the historic building where David Ben Gurion proclaimed Israeli Independence on Friday 14 May 1948. It was awe-inspiring to speak in such a place. Later the group took my husband and me to the excellent Yemenite 'Zion' restaurant in the picturesque old Yemenite quarter of Tel Aviv. It was the best meal of our whole trip, and we appreciated the warm hospitality. Shelly Dardashi, formerly of Arizona, with whom our Society had corresponded, was also present, as she is in Israel researching the Jews of Persia in the Diaspora. Both at the talk and the restaurant it was good to renew acquaintance with several Israeli genealogical friends.

Recently we were informed by Rieke Nash, our Vice-President, Honorary Secretary and Resources Librarian that she had decided to take a year's leave of absence from the time of the next AGM on 19 March, 2000. Rieke joined us at the time of the foundation of our Society in early November 1991 and has been a tower of strength, establishing most of the systems to record our resources, the welcome to new members, the Australian Database of names and towns being researched by our members, the link of this database with JewishGen, receiving the e-mail messages for the Society and for me as president, and responding herself to many of these messages, and establishing herself as a most knowledgeable, hardworking, and respected Jewish genealogist. She is an organiser par excellence and she codified the way she logged inquiries and all items that needed to be recorded. She also wrote the agendas for our committee meetings, and our publicity flyers, and insisted on herself supplying and bringing coffee, tea, milk and kosher biscuits for our lectures with speakers. As well she did an enormous amount of photocopying on her own machine for the Society as a whole and for

members who requested photocopied pages from our books or other resources, bearing the costs of these services to the Society herself.

For the first twenty-three issues of the 'Kosher Koala', she was the sole publisher, establishing the visual format of the journal, and in recent issues teaching the ropes and guiding Miriam Shifreen to take over that particular task. She also contributed the Australian Database pages at the back of the journal, and many snippets of information, as well as writing some articles. She also posted the journal and organised the system of address labels, and bulk postage to the Victorian Society. She has been creative, multi-skilled, and reliable in all the tasks she assumed, and perhaps we have all taken her and her work for granted.

Her husband Peter has also contributed by being ever ready to ferry boxes of books, papers, computers and microfiche readers back and forth from lectures, exhibitions and displays. He also uncomplainingly supported financially all the expenses which Rieke incurred for the benefit of our Society. We owe him a debt of gratitude, too.

Now that she seeks a break from all her duties, we have the task of finding other members to do all the jobs she carried out so well. It is quite obvious that no one will be found to do the multiplicity of tasks she carried out, but we need someone to assume her secretarial jobs, the responsibility of posting this journal, of running the workshops she established, of running the database and liaising with JewishGen.

Ruth Barnett has already taken on the task of receiving e-mail messages for the Society and passing them on, and Jeannette Tsoulos will take on some of the duties of Resources Librarian, but she needs a back-up. We also need other members to respond to the challenge left by Rieke's projected absence if we expect the Society to continue to function and to thrive. We all have the responsibility of spouses, children, grandchildren, jobs, and other interests, but the Society needs members who have never contributed other than a membership fee to now come forward and volunteer for a task. Otherwise the Society cannot continue to operate as well as it has with Rieke's work.

Will you respond to the challenge and help our Society to survive? Please ring me at 02-9958 6317 to offer your services in whatever skills you possess,

To Rieke we say: We hope that you enjoy your year away and that you will decide to come back to us afterwards. We need your skills, your initiatives, and your dedication. Whatever happens, the Society is grateful for all you have done so far.

*Sophie Caplan, Editor.*

## AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (Vic) Inc.

### Report from Lionel Sharpe

The past three months has witnessed a great deal of activity in Victoria.

Lionel Sharpe and Kurt Friedlaender reported on their experiences at the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held in New York in August, at a meeting held on September 22nd. Lionel showed the colour slides he had taken of the Lower East Side synagogues as well as streetscapes and other buildings in New York including the new Holocaust Museum at Battery Point. Seventeen audio-taped lectures from the conference are now available at the Makor Library.

Lionel had presented a demonstration at the conference on the use of interactive multimedia in presenting family history. He illustrated the possibilities of this technology with the CD ROM which was produced by, and now on show at the Jewish Museum of Australia in St.Kilda, called "Jews in Australia - A Swag of Stories". The presentation was well received and one New York Jewish school has already ordered copies.

On Wednesday, 13th October, Oskar Delatycki, a Melbourne academic, spoke on 'Travels to Belarus'. Oskar has already visited Belarus three times to research archives relating to his family from Novogorodek and to obtain material to write about events which occurred in the area of his birth during the Holocaust. He spoke about the archives in Minsk and Grodno and the problems of getting access to records as well as his current Holocaust research.

This was followed by a talk by local member, Ian Grinblat whose business is called "Crafted Expression". He spoke about 'putting flesh and bones' on family trees through the publication of facts, stories and documents.

Again the Society had a display table at the annual open day of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies held in Burwood in October. The display was suitably located between the Irish and Scottish displays. Visitors also had an opportunity to go on conducted tours of the archives of the National Archives of Australia in the building nearby.

Another of the regular workshops was held on Sunday 24th October at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre which attracted a number of new members.

The major event of this year was the joint hosting of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies Conference in Melbourne on 7-8 November. Apart



*Rieke and Lionel enjoying the famous lady of New York*

from a full morning on genealogy a number of other lectures were of direct genealogical interest. Sonya and Les Oberman hosted a dinner at their home to welcome our colleagues from Sydney, Rieke and Peter Nash and Gary Luke who were attending the conference. A very productive evening was spent with members of the Committee of Management discussing matters of mutual interest. A report of this event appears in this issue.

The final event for 1999 (and the century!) is being held on December 8th when long standing committee member, Enid Yoffa-Elton will talk on 'Researching your Ancestry in Poland'. Enid travelled to Poland recently to research Jewish archives especially Warsaw and Cracow.

The fourth issue of the Victorian newsletter 'Jewish Genealogy Downunder' will be available at this meeting. Members outside Victoria can subscribe for \$8.00 p.a. for four issues.

The President, Les Oberman and members of the Committee of Management, wish all members good health and successful searching into the year 2000 and beyond.

*Enquiries: Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738*

*sharpe@labyrinth.net.au*

*Les Oberman (03)9571 8251*

*oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au*

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## NATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT

By Lionel Sharpe

Over eighty participants attended the 12th Annual Conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies held in Melbourne in November. This was the first time the AAJS conference was offered in association with two other organisations namely, the Australian Jewish Historical Society and our own Society.

Spacious Slome Hall was an ideal setting for the conference and another room was made available for the parallel session on the second day. Slome Hall is part of the Temple Beth Israel complex in St. Kilda and the conference extended over two days, Sunday and Monday 7th-8th November 1999.

There were a total of nineteen lecture presentations, and a genealogical workshop was conducted by members of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society on the second day. Rieke and Peter Nash and Gary Luke came from Sydney to assist with this event which attracted about twenty five participants.

The theme of the conference: "Australian Jewry - From a Remnant of Israel to a Vibrant Community", aimed to reflect the growth and dynamism of the Jewish communities throughout Australia. Of major interest to genealogists was Rabbi Dr John Levi's keynote address - "The Hidden Truth - The Jews of Colonial Australia 1788-1850", where he offered glimpses of the forthcoming second edition of his 1974 book 'Australian Genesis'.

Gary Luke from Sydney presented a talk on "Non-British Migrant Records in Australian Archives" showing the wealth of material in such documents as Alien Registrations. Lionel Sharpe gave an illustrated talk on the archives he is using to develop a data base on Jewish refugee arrivals to Australia between 1938 to 1953. Some other papers, such as a presentation by Judith O'Donnell on the convict Ann Solomon, focused on Jewish individuals of historical interest.

The experience of this combined conference augurs well for future as these conferences give a high profile to the work of the AJGS.

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### "WITHIN THE WALLS" EXHIBITION

This remarkable exhibition about the Theresienstadt Ghetto 1941-45 has reopened at the Sydney Jewish Museum, 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst, Tel: 9360-7999. See it before the end of February as it then moves on to the Old Parliament House building in Canberra and later to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC, USA.

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## NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

By Klee Benveniste

South Australian members meet every two months. In August, a research discussion was held. In October, Margot Bailey spoke about 'Memories of Sir Lewis Cohen' her great-grandfather. We hope that Margot will write about these memories for the 'Kosher Koala' when she can.

The Jewish Community in South Australia held an exhibition titled 'The Tree of Life' in the community access section of the Migration Museum in Adelaide recently. Jews have lived in South Australia since 1836. The exhibits included a series of panels with photos and short texts about some of the early Jewish settlers, philanthropists, members of the armed forces, Jewish mayors, artistic performers, and the development of the orthodox and liberal synagogues. The panels were accompanied by various artefacts on loan from families. Display of a prepared Shabbat table was accompanied by photographs of families celebrating Shabbat and the havdalah ceremony. A collection of Hannukah candelabra, and photographs of a wide variety of mezuzot from the doorposts of the community were displayed as well as a fabric hanging of a tree with each leaf prepared by a Jewish child in Adelaide introducing themselves and their family's country of origin. A video playing during the exhibition featured a series of interviews with individuals whose families had come during the waves of immigration which added to the local community, for example, English, South African, and Russian. The exhibition was put together by a group of people from a wide cross-section of the local community under the direction of Kitty Goode. Entry to the exhibition was free. As a result, a number of members of the general public spoke of their pride in their Jewish heritage.

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 Or phone Chairperson, Hilde Hines 61-8-8379 6030

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### FAMILY HISTORY AWARD

The Annual Alexander Henderson Award for the best published family history.

Entries close on 30 November every year.

For information:

Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, Inc.

P.O. Box 339

BLACKBURN VIC 3130

## DATA SHARING AGREEMENT SIGNED.

**Howard Margol, President, Iajgs**

On Sunday night, October 24, as President of IAJGS, I had the honor and privilege of signing a tripartite agreement joining the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, Jewishgen, and Beth Hatefutsoth (the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv) in merging the Family Trees we each hold in our respective databases.

The formal signing of the agreement took place, at the Hotel Pierre in New York City, at a dinner honoring Harvey Krueger, Vice Chairman of Lehman Brothers, philanthropist, amateur genealogist and the catalyst for bringing together the three organizations. I signed the agreement as President of IAJGS, David Alexander, Director General, signed for Beth Hatefutsoth and Susan King signed for JewishGen. General (Ret.) Matan Vilnai, the Government of Israel Minister of Science, Culture and Sports witnessed the signing.

The finalizing of the data sharing agreement was the fruition of eighteen months of hard work and negotiations between the three parties. On behalf of IAJGS, I want to thank Karen Franklin, Bruce Kahn, and Larry Hamilton for their efforts and for a job well done.

I am proud to have been a part of all this and to finally set into motion a collective effort to create a true Family Tree of the Jewish People.

## AUSTRALIAN JEWS IN THE BOER WAR

Russell Stern of Sydney is attempting to prepare a list and possibly a book detailing the exploits of Australian Jews who participated in the Boer War, which began on 11 October 1899. At present there is no record of their service, and generally their names are unknown. Some died in South Africa.

Australians volunteered for "Australian" units as well as for "irregular units", these being formed in South Africa, and also in British units. They also served as nurses.

He has a listing of some 90 names at present. Many have been able to be confirmed as definitely both Jewish and Australian. For some their Jewish status has to be confirmed.

He would appreciate details, photos, letters from, etc relating to Australian Jews. If any of our readers have any information please contact directly:

Russell W. Stern,  
42 Streatfield Road,  
Bellevue Hill, Sydney, NSW 2023.  
Tel/fax (02) 9326 1183

## JEWISH GENEALOGY DATABASES UNITE TO CREATE A FAMILY TREE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

People throughout the world who are interested in tracing their Jewish roots and finding relatives will now have a vastly improved and readily accessible database of over 2 million names in a family tree format, thanks to a long-awaited agreement signed on Sunday, October 24. The three major Jewish genealogy organizations:

the *International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies* (IAJGS) There are 75 genealogical societies worldwide),

*JewishGen* (the Internet site for researching Jewish ancestry), and

*Beth Hatefutsoth* (the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv)

have agreed to combine their family tree information. The agreement will allow this valuable resource to be available on site at the museum, on the world wide web, and on CD-ROM.

Prior to this agreement, anyone searching Jewish family lines had to contribute their family trees to all three organizations to ensure that they could be found by lost relatives and fellow researchers. Now, an Australian consulting the database on the web might find a cousin in Chicago who had registered the family tree with Jewishgen or IAJGS, and an avid genealogist cousin in Israel who had donated the family tree to Beth Hatefutsoth. Long-lost relatives can reunite and learn more about their shared history.

Harvey Krueger, the Vice Chairman of Lehman Brothers, Inc., genealogy enthusiast and philanthropist, envisioned this agreement to help Jewish people graft together branches of their families that were torn apart by the Holocaust and separated by emigration, and was the catalyst for its completion. Combining the three databases will create a 2 million-strong family tree of the Jewish people, a tree that can only grow and flower as it is nurtured by this agreement.

To learn more about searching the database, which should be operational by the end of January 2000, and about submitting trees to the participating not-for-profit organizations, please consult their websites:

Jewishgen: <http://www.jewishgen.org>  
IAJGS: <http://www.jewishgen.org/ajgs>  
Beth Hatefutsoth: <http://www.bh.org.il>

# UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

## IN SEARCH OF THESE PASSENGERS

The Survivors Registry of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is seeking documentation on the fate of passengers from the 1939 voyage of the SS St. Louis. Anyone with information about a St Louis passenger - particularly any of the passengers on this list - still unaccounted for, should contact

Scott Miller

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW

Washington, DC 20024

Tel: (202) 488 0495

Fax: (202) 314 7888

E-mail: [smiller@ushmm.org](mailto:smiller@ushmm.org)

\* Indicates passengers for whom there is documentation of survival, or death, but for whom minimal information exists on wartime experiences.

| Name                      | D.O.Birth     | P.O.Birth       | Prewar       | Wartime |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|---------|
| Ball (Lippert), Magdalena | Mar 4, 1900   | Berlin          | Berlin       | France  |
| *Brühl, Walter            | Apr 13, 1885  | Berlin          | Berlin       | France  |
| Buchholz, Wilhem          | Jan 24, 1872  | Schildberg      | Berlin       | Belgium |
| *David, Emma              | May 25, 1880  | Steinach        | Erfurt       | France  |
| *Edelstein, Ida           | Nov 10, 1879  | Bonn            | Berlin       | Holland |
| *Epstein, Moritz          | May 15, 1895  | Eichstatten     | Pirmasens    | France  |
| Goldbaum, Anna            | Dec 10, 1875  | Wrietzen        | Berlin       | Belgium |
| *Goldschmidt, Fritz       | May 11, 1907  | Kitzingen       | Berlin       | France  |
| *Heimann, Erwin           | Aug 6, 1903   | Borken          | Frankfurt/M. | Belgium |
| *Heller, Frantisek        | Apr 14, 1903  | Prague          | Prague       | France  |
| *Jacobowitz, Walter       | May 1, 1908   | Breslau         | Breslau      | Holland |
| *Jonas, Julius            | Feb 26, 1893  | Bendorg         | Bendorf      | Holland |
| Kaminker, Berthold        | Sep 29, 1897  | Ulanow          | Vienna       | France  |
| *Krohn, Regina            | Feb 10, 1908  | Konigsberg/Pr   | Berlin       | Holland |
| Leyser, Erich             | Dec 10, 1881  | Berlin          | Berlin       | France  |
| Lichtenstein, Fritz       | Feb 15, 1887  | Berlin          | Berlin       | Holland |
| *Maschkowsky, Arthur      | July 13, 1888 | Culm/Westpr     | Berlin       | Belgium |
| *Moser, Edmund            | Jun 20, 1871  | Helmstedt       | Prague       | France  |
| Münz, Meta                | Jan 28, 1912  | Altengronau     | Frankfurt/M. | Belgium |
| *Oehl, Dorothea           | Nov 24, 1870  | Gostyn          | Berlin       | Belgium |
| *Oppler, Arthur           | Jan 8, 1871   | Gleiwitz        | Berlin       | France  |
| *Präger, Siegfried        | May 18, 1887  | Laasphe         | Nordhausen   | Holland |
| Rebenfeld, Kurt           | Nov 28, 1899  | Frankfurt/Main  | Krefeld      | France  |
| *Richter, Marianne        | Apr 8, 1868   | Neubreuck       | Berlin       | Belgium |
| Riesenburger, Hermann     | Mar 4 1898    | Krojanke        | Berlin       | France  |
| *Rothmann, Martin         | Sep 1, 1882   | Kletzkow        | Munich       | France  |
| Siegel, Arthur            | Jan 19, 1891  | Ems             | Ludwigshafen | France  |
| Sternlicht, Lotte         | Dec 9, 1905   | Forst           | Dresden      | Belgium |
| Velman, Walter            | May 4, 1906   | Altona(Hamburg) | Hamburg      | Holland |
| *Wertheim, Fritz          | Apr 5, 1899   | Berlin          | Berlin       | Holland |
| *Wolf, Moritz             | July 5, 1883  | Dietzenbach     | Dietzenbach  | Belgium |
| Zweigenthal, Fritz        | June 8, 1909  | Vienna          | Vienna       | Belgium |

## JEWISHGEN, MAKING THE INTERNET A BETTER PLACE TO RESEARCH

From Susan King  
and the Officers and Board of JewishGen

We are most pleased to inform our readership that JewishGen has been chosen by the Genealogy Forum on AOL to receive the Best Site Pick for the month of December 1999.

GFSByron@aol.com writes in part: "Your site has been chosen because of its comprehensive nature in providing a resource for people searching their Jewish heritage. For over fourteen years, JewishGen has been the leader in ploughing the path of Jewish genealogy on the cyber-world making it easier for those that follow behind. JewishGen not only provides surname databases where researchers can find each other and join efforts, but the volunteers at JewishGen have a gold mine by freely sharing their knowledge through research aids to help people learn where to search for their ancestors. JewishGen also needs to be commended for realizing the effects of working as a team not only among their 200+ volunteers but with numerous other Jewish interest groups as well.

The information and organization of your site shows your dedication and effort in providing easily accessible information to other genealogists.

On behalf of the Genealogy Forum on AOL, we would like to thank you for your time and effort in making the Internet a better place to do research."

To view the award logo go to our homepage, <http://www.jewishgen.org> and scroll down to the very bottom of the page. We display it proudly and with heartfelt thanks to our volunteers who work behind the scenes, to those who have come forth with their financial support of our efforts, and to all who contribute the information they have acquired, thus participating in the JewishGen mission of "preserving our history for future generations."

May I join with AOL and say to you all.. well done!

### CATALOGUE OF WORKS ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

We have available to our readers the latest catalogue of books, CD-Roms, microfiche and maps which can be purchased from AVOTAYNU Publishers on Jewish genealogy.

Write to our postal address enclosing \$1.50 in unused stamps to cover the postage and envelope..

## "THE JEWISH VICTORIAN" (U.K.)

Genealogical Information from English Jewish Newspapers 1871-80 transcribed and edited by Doreen Berger ISBN 1 899536 38 8

It has six hundred pages with more than 20,000 entries and the pedigrees of hundreds of families.

Inside the covers of this invaluable volume are all the birth, marriage and death entries from the Jewish newspapers. Also included are obituaries, gossip and events concerning individuals, reported as they were actually occurring. The book is arranged in the form of an alphabetic index, with details from the life of each subject listed under their name, in date order. Under each narrative is listed the subject's near relatives, including those of the subject's spouse.

The genealogies are cross referenced: old families were related to each other and married amongst themselves. Within these pages are accounts of women dying in childbirth, second and third marriages, forgotten murder mysteries, court proceedings, heroism and academic success. Light is shed on the attitudes of the day and class differences in Jewish Society. Read of the leading Jewish families as well as the middle classes and the poverty stricken.

Genealogists: Work out the pedigrees of hundreds of families.

Historians: Examine from the contemporary accounts the events of the decade.

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An invaluable reference book and genealogical tool

*Doreen Berger*

*Doreen is a founder member of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. She writes regular articles on stories from the Jewish newspapers of the past and is a contributor to the New Dictionary of National Biography to be published by Oxford University Press. She has given many talks on genealogy.*

Go to the Jewish Genealogy Society of Great Britain website <http://www.ort.org/jgsgb> for further details, sample pages and an order form.

Price: £34.95 per copy (£31.45 for members of JGSGB) plus £6 for surface mail delivery, or £113.50 per copy airmail

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## A TRIP TO POLAND, BELARUS AND WESTERN UKRAINE.

### Part 111 Western Ukraine

By Sophie Caplan

On Sunday 27 July we flew to Warsaw after a week's Baltic cruise during which we had met my genealogical correspondent Cantor Maynard Gerber in Stockholm. A very pleasant morning was spent touring the Stockholm synagogue and Jewish community centre with someone who had become a friend through Richard Hoffman's Family Newsletter, now defunct. When I had found that one of my dearest friends, now deceased, was distantly related to him I had introduced him by mail to the rest of her family. This is one of the delights of Jewish genealogy, the ability to befriend people in distant countries through mutual help and similar interests.

Our cruise ship brought us back to Copenhagen, from which there was no direct flight to Lviv, so we flew to Warsaw, then to Frankfurt and thence to Lviv by Lot Airlines, as comfortable as any Western airline. On arrival in Lviv at 10.10 a.m. it took us an hour and a half to clear all arrival formalities, including the ubiquitous forms left over from the Soviet era, similar to those in Belarus, listing jewellery, cameras, weapons if any, and all currencies carried whether in cash or traveller's cheques. Australians tend to pack in side expeditions to various countries on the one trip away, and this meant long boring lists of currencies. Perhaps that was why we were the last travellers out of the customs hall after a detailed examination of our luggage. Luckily Oleg Silberman was there to meet us, having driven from Germany to guide us and to translate for us in Western Ukraine.

I had met Oleg when I had travelled with a Gesher Galicia group to Lviv by train from Kiev in July 1995, and found him a helpful, cheerful and personable guide. He was now living with his family as a Jewish refugee in Germany, but had decided to come and help us out, using the opportunity to visit his sister still living in Lviv.

Once again we stayed overnight at the Dniester Hotel while in Lviv. After settling in and lunch we went to see Diana Pelts at the Lviv provincial archives as I had arranged with her in Paris. Diana, chief archivist in Lviv, and speaking perfect French although she had never previously been to France, had been invited as a keynote speaker to the International Seminar in Paris a few weeks earlier, and I had told her of my projected visit and arranged to visit her archives that day.

The archives were in a medieval building which had actually once been part of the Lviv ramparts, and also a monastery, not exactly a state of the art air-conditioned environment. On seeing the environment of the archives one becomes aware of the dedication needed by archivists like Diana Pelts. It seemed that the institution lacked every modern aid taken for granted by our institutions, even writing and copying paper. There were no Jewish B.M.D. records, but some records of land holdings, of taxes paid and of school student lists. Diana Pelts told us that at this time Jewish genealogists were those most interested in those archives. In view of the penury of the whole institution, I left a sizeable donation, and a few months later received photocopies of some landholding records which may have been of one of my great-great-grandfathers. Unfortunately the linking B.M.D. records which would verify that MECHTEL STEIN of DOLINA was the right person, are absent.

Our walks through Lviv that day revealed a town mostly built at the time of Emperor-Franz Joseph during the second half of the 19th century, replete with sadly neglected beautiful buildings of this period corresponding to our Victorian era, including the Opera House and various public buildings. We had dinner at an outdoor Pizza and ice-cream parlour, recently introduced and vastly popular.

The next morning we drove south-east, to the towns of my maternal family, particularly those I had not had time to see or even drive through during the trip with Gesher Galicia. This time we had booked in at the Roxolana Hotel in Ivano-Frankivsk, right next door to the provincial archives in that town, to which it had taken a long dreary drive of over three hours in 1995 when the organisers had unaccountably lodged us at the Sheremoosh in Chernovtsy. The Roxolana had opened in 1993, redesigned from two Belle Epoque mansions, very comfortable, with reasonable food and menus which even had English translations.

We drove through Stryi where we photographed the derelict synagogue, obviously once an imposing structure. Stryi is a medium-sized town which still appears prosperous and bustling. We also passed through Drohobych, where in 1995 I had found the former pharmacy of the father of our cousin by marriage, Tola Spiegel nee Stempler, still a busy pharmacy, although its founder had perished.

Then we headed for Boryslaw, distinctive because of its many petroleum wells, where our relatives Berel Spiegel and Berel Rosenman had worked, the first as a foreman, the second in the offices. I tried to find the street where the Spiegels had lived, its proportions known to me from an often perused

photograph, but without a street name, this was impossible. Then on to Bolechow one of the early centres of Eastern Galician Jewry, from which at least some of our ancestors may have come.

The Bolechow synagogue still stands in a reasonable state, having been used for decades until the fall of communism in 1995 as a trade union meeting hall and theatre. We were directed to the guardian of the building, a baker from the bakery next door, obviously originally part of the synagogue precinct. This man, a Ukrainian, pleaded with us to alert Jewish organisations abroad to the fact that the synagogue building could be restored with some funds. Unfortunately, we do not have the connections to these sorts of funds, but possibly a reader with access to Samuel Gruber and the American Fund for Cultural Heritage Abroad could do something about this.

The guardian of the building then drove with us to the Bolechow Jewish Cemetery on a hillside at the outskirts of the little town, still extant though neglected, a real miracle after our visits to the destroyed Jewish cemeteries in Porozow, Volkovysk and Szczuczyn Litevski in Belarus. A few thousand dollars could certainly restore it as the stones are still standing and seemingly in excellent condition.

On to Ivano-Frankivsk, the former Stanislawow, along an excellent highway with very little traffic. The landscape was green and undulating with small rises and occasional hills framing an aged river valley. The land seemed better cared for than in Belarus, different in small intangible ways, with occasional cattle, but not the herds that Australians or Americans are used to, but single cows led by a teenager or an older person, or half a dozen at the most. Once during that week we saw sixteen cows grazing in a meadow on the way to Rozniatow, and that was the largest herd we saw. The Roxolana was comfortable, and the welcome was warm, also unusual in a former Soviet country.

The next day we drove to some smaller towns associated with my maternal family. Firstly to Holyn now Kotiatich Golin, to its old quarter and small rural town hall where we asked about Jewish records. There were none, and the staff, though friendly, seemed surprised at such an outlandish request.

While we drove around I noticed a number of houses with the tell-tale front door to the street indicating a former probable Jewish house and wondered whether one of them could have been that of my Halperin ancestors. Then on to BROZNIOW and KRECHOWICE where my great-uncle ZORACH STEIN had lived and then died in

a sawmill accident. It turned out that the only timber mill was in BROZNIOW the two small towns a continuous ribbon strip along the main road to Holyn and Kalusz. We stopped and went into the timber mill and factory and asked if there were any archives. The mill had been founded by a Jewish family named GLEISINGER, but the archives only went back to 1944 when the Russians had taken it over after the rout of the German army. All earlier papers had disappeared.

We then drove to ROZNIATOW, PEREHINSKO and DOLINA, all on the southern side of the Dniester River. Driving through the pleasant little town of Rozniatow, lush with summer greenery, tended to bring back memories of the English-language articles by Simon and Olive Liberman in the Rozniatow Yizkor book of their 1930's trips to the town, which was just as lush with new growth as now. Indeed their accounts peppered with surnames connected by kinship or friendship to my family, TANNE, RECHTSCHAFFEN, REITER HOROWITZ, LUSTHAUS, LONDNER, WAECHTER, FASSBERG, have always led me to re-read them with pleasure, although the Jewish stores and landmarks described by them had all disappeared.

We asked about the synagogue, and it seemed to have gone, but to our utter amazement we were directed to the still extant Jewish cemetery. It was set in a block surrounded by houses, but could only be reached by hazardously jumping on to large stones over a small creek, which probably discouraged vandals.

We looked at and photographed a number of graves and I had just expressed the wish to find at least one gravestone of someone associated with my family, when my husband Leslie discovered the intact stone of KEILE STRASSMANN who was born a HAUSMANN and died in 1936 in Rozniatow. Shortly afterwards we found the grave of PINIE RECHTSCHAFFEN. We could have spent a lot longer in that cemetery, but we also wanted to visit PEREHINSKO and DOLINA. As we were leaving the cemetery neighbourhood, a woman from the house next to the footpath which ran along the creek, who had earlier explained to Oleg how to get to the cemetery, came out to invite us for a cup of coffee with her. Had we had more time we might have accepted, but we were conscious of how much I had missed in 1995 and did not want to have the same regrets this time, so we declined. Now, I wonder whether we could have learnt something important.

The drive to Perekhinsko was through a flat verdant countryside, the road edged by trees, but  
(continued on page 15)

## STUDIES IN ANGLO-JEWISH HISTORY

Edited by Rabbi Bernard Susser (in association with the Jewish Historical Society of England)

**1. Jewish South-West of England census returns, 1841-91**

**2. Jewish Tombstone Inscriptions in South-West England**

Introduction Exeter Bristol (Barton) Falmouth  
Penzance (with photographs) Plymouth Gifford  
Place

**3. The Old Jewish Cemetery on Plymouth Hoe**

**4. Jewish South-West of England Wills**

[I shall gradually transcribe this handlist of all the  
wills that I can find in the Archive and add them.]

**5. Jewish South-West of England Birth,  
Marriage and Death Registers**

Exeter Marriage Register  
Plymouth Birth Register 1829-1837  
Plymouth Marriage Register

**6. Biographies (c. 2,500) Of All Known Jews in  
South-West England**

[Sadly, Rabbi Susser's card index of the  
Biographies appears to be lost. FJG]

**Archive Transcripts by Rabbi Susser**

Inscriptions in the Alderney Road Cemetery,  
London, 1696 - 1853  
New Synagogue (London), Duplicate Ketubot  
Register  
The Great Synagogue, London, Burial Register  
1791-1823  
Myer Solomon Circumcision Register  
Asher Asher Circumcision Register  
Circumcision Register of Joseph Joseph of  
Plymouth  
Circumcision Register Edinburgh  
Circumcision Register of Rabbi Ash of Dover  
Wedding & Circumcision Register of Rabbi Ash  
Marriage Register of the Western Synagogue  
Hambro's Synagogue Burial Register  
Norwich, Ipswich and Great Yarmouth Tombstone  
Inscriptions  
Biography of Nathan Joseph Altmann  
Exeter Marriage Register 1838-1907  
Plymouth Birth Register 1829-1837  
Plymouth Marriage Register 1837-1933  
Plymouth Hebrew Congregation Deaths 1927-1963  
Handlist of Plymouth Deeds, 1963  
Handlist of Plymouth Synagogue Artefacts  
Handlist of Plymouth Synagogue Artefacts, 1892  
Handlist of Plymouth Synagogue Artefacts, 1934  
Plymouth Gifford Place Cemetery Tombstone  
Inscriptions  
Extracts from the Chief Rabbinate Correspondence  
for Devon and Cornwall  
Report on Plymouth Sifrei Torah

## THE SUSSER ARCHIVE

### By Frank J. Gent

The documents and papers of the late Rabbi Dr Bernard Susser, historian of the Jews of South West England, together with his computer disks, have recently been placed temporarily in the care of Frank Gent of the Exeter Synagogue in England. He will be extracting the data from Rabbi Susser's disks, and publishing these, both in written form and on a website, in honour of Rabbi Susser's memory and his work for the Jews of South West England, both present and past.

Rabbi Dr Bernard Susser was born in 1930 in North-West London, of Galician ancestry. His father was the beadle in the Dunstan Road Synagogue, whose kosher wine shop in the Golders Green Road was a local landmark. He was educated at Dame Alice Owen's school, Islington, and took his first degree and Rabbinical Diploma at Jews' College, London.

At Exeter University he took a degree in law whilst submitting a PhD thesis in the Department of Economic History on the Jewish communities of South-West England, 1181 - 1981. He published numerous articles on South-West Jewry; The Jewish Cemetery on Plymouth Hoe; an account of Chief Rabbi Adler's Census of Anglo-Jewry, 1845; and The History of the Johannesburg United Hebrew Congregation. His definitive book, *The Jews of South-West England*, has been much acclaimed. He was preparing to publish works on Jews in the decennial Census returns, Jewish Wills, and Tombstone Inscriptions at the time of his death. (The Society in Sydney purchased this book which is available for consultation at workshops.)

He worked as a rabbi in England, South Africa and Israel till retiring to live in London with his wife, Sylvia. They have a son in London and a daughter and grandchildren in Jerusalem.

*The Susser Archive,*  
*Exeter Hebrew Congregation,*  
*Synagogue Place, Mary Arches Street,*  
*EXETER, DEVON EX4 3BA*  
Email: [exeshul@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:exeshul@eclipse.co.uk)  
Website: [www.eclipse.co.uk/exeshul/susser](http://www.eclipse.co.uk/exeshul/susser)

### Other Historical Writings of Rabbi Susser

History of the Willesden & Brondesbury  
Synagogue  
The Jews of South-West England  
Social Acclimatisation of Jews in Eighteenth and  
Nineteenth Century Devon  
The Jewish Historical Library of Rabbi Dr B.  
Susser

## **GENETIC RESEARCH**

### **Ancestry of the Ashkenazim**

**By Vivian Moses**

A group of us at University College in London are using genetic methods to try to unravel some of the ancestry of the European Jews, particularly those from Eastern Europe. The link between genetic ancestry and genealogy is very close, each able to shed light on the other, so that genealogists will find our work of direct relevance to their own interests. An outline of our project was presented to an interested audience at the Jewish Genealogical Society conference in New York and details are on our website: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/tcga/ashkenazim>

Through the good offices of the JGS and others, we hope to sample about 5,000 men of Eastern Europe Jewish descent who know, at least more-or-less, where in that area their paternal and maternal lineages originated. Sampling itself is trivial: just rubbing the inside of the cheek for a few seconds with a cottonwool swab.

Because of the difficulties of meeting so many people in person we are hoping to collect samples by mail. Would it therefore be possible for you to forward this email to people you feel might be willing to contribute a sample, asking them to send their mailing addresses to me? We will ship a sample pack to each one with our next mailing; just how soon that will be will depend on how rapidly responses come back but we will certainly get to everyone who responds.

Sampling Eastern European Jewish men or their descendants is the first phase of our study. Eventually we hope also to obtain specimens from many of the peoples, including perhaps descendants of the Khazars, who have been proposed as possible ancestors. Indeed, in January we are planning to go to Bautzen in Germany to obtain cheek swabs from Sorbs, one group postulated on linguistic grounds as having contributed to the Ashkenazi gene pool.

With many thanks for your cooperation,  
Vivian Moses

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## **20TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY**

**From: Howard Margol, President of the  
International Association of Jewish Genealogical  
Societies.**

Mark your calendar and reserve the dates - July 9-14, 2000 - 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy - Salt Lake City, Utah - Home of the Family History Library. The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is putting on this conference. Our conference coordinators, Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Sack are hard at work and making great plans for an outstanding conference. If you have never done research at the Family History Library in SLC, you are in for a real treat. The Library has more Jewish records on microfilm than any other place in the world. If you have done research in SLC previously, you will still want to do some additional research. Special arrangements are being made in order for us to have maximum access to the Jewish records. Research opportunities will be available that would not be possible at other times. You might say, "Why go to Salt Lake City when I can just stay home and go to my local Family History Center?" You can accomplish more in four days at the FHC in SLC than you can in four years at your local FHC. Everything is right there at your finger tips. Additionally, you can access records in SLC that cannot be obtained in your city of residence. This is especially true in Europe as well as in other foreign countries. For information about the conference, visit our web site at <http://iajgs.org/slcy2k> - visit it often as it is being updated every week. Mark your calendar and reserve the dates - July 9-14, 2000.

### **NOTE OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!!!**

[Ajgsnsw@idx.com.au](mailto:Ajgsnsw@idx.com.au)

### **FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **The Australian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO)**

is holding its next conference in early September 2000 in Perth. As we have not received any direct advice from the AFFHO, we do not know the precise dates or focus of the programme.

## MY ROAD BACK TO JUDAISM

By Miriam Mandryk

I began tracing my family tree about eight years ago. I was interested in learning about my origins and I hoped to track down my 'missing identity'.

I began tracing my father's line, thinking that one's identity lies with one's paternal ancestry. I found English, Irish, Scottish and German ancestors. However it wasn't until I was 25 and became more feminist in my thinking, that I decided to research my mother's line. My cousin in Poland sent me some certificates at my request and the names of my great-grandparents.

Later that year (1994), I travelled to Poland to visit my relatives. At that time I was a practising Catholic and so I was quite surprised, when on board the flight to Rome, I found myself sitting next to a young Jewish man from Melbourne. I hadn't met too many Jews before, and I certainly never discussed religion with the few I did meet. This Jew was different though, he was religious - which seemed to be a contradiction in terms! I had been taught that G-d had sent the Jews their Messiah and they rejected him, so G-d rejected them. But this Jew was religious and it seemed to me that G-d was with him - how could this be? We talked and I learned that Judaism accepts converts, and if I had a Jewish ancestress on my direct maternal line that I'd be Jewish! As my mother was born of Polish parents who were taken prisoner during the war, the latter seemed a possibility. As for conversion, well I had been told by a priest that if I became Jewish that I'd go to hell for rejecting Jesus.

When I came back from Poland I read the Hebrew Bible (or as the Christians call it the "Old" testament). I then became very confused with regards to my faith and I decided to resume tracing my mother's line in the hope of finding a Jewish ancestress. Research proved to be a long and expensive process, but I wanted so much to be Jewish. I became convinced a number of times that my mother's parents were Jewish. My mother, whose first name is Roza, tells me her father used to call her Shoshanah when she was a little girl, and that her mother often made latkes (potato pancakes).

Shortly thereafter I commenced study at Newcastle University and so moved to Newcastle. I made contact with the synagogue there. The secretary of Newcastle synagogue told me if I couldn't furnish any documentation to prove I was Jewish, then I would have to convert. I had some documentation, but it was of little help in establishing proof of my grandmother's religion.

By now I had come to believe that Judaism is the true religion, and so I wasn't afraid of going to hell if I converted. So off I went on the train to Sydney, so I could see Rabbi Apple about conversion. My conversion took two and a half years. During that time I continued to trace my family tree in the search for a Jewish ancestress. Finally the certificates from the town registry office petered out and I had to start searching in the archives. The birth certificates which came from the archives said my ancestress had had a 'holy baptism' - this meant it was a Catholic baptism. I was bitterly disappointed and my conversion was proving to be very difficult indeed! With the help of the Alexander Beider book "Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland" I discovered that several of the names I had traced could in fact also be Jewish eg: Liczkowski, Owczarek, Marczak, Kusmierczyk (was Kürschner), Zemachowski (from the Hebrew Tzemach), Swierz, Wozniakowski and Mandryk (from Madryk/Mondryk means Wiseman). Mandryk is my mother's name and it is also now my surname. Obviously I had Jewish ancestry, but where were my Jewish ancestors?

Shortly after I converted I found myself in Sydney for Passover. I was visiting the house of a kosher butcher and telling my story. I said it was strange that many of my mother's maternal ancestors had Jewish surnames, but yet their birth certificates said that they had been baptised. Then from my host I heard something very interesting - that many of the Polish Jews who had assimilated (ie. converted to Catholicism) heard that the Nazi were coming and would check registers. So the Jews who had converted out bribed officials to alter the registers for them in the hope of avoiding capture by the Nazi. I remember my grandmother telling me how she had grown up in a big house with lots of animals on a big farm. However when I arrived at my relatives' home, the house was but a small shack and the land and animals were very few. Perhaps they sold up their assets so they would have the money to bribe officials? Did my great-grandparents convert to Catholicism or was it their parents? And why were my grandparents taken prisoner? Many questions must remain unanswered as my grandfather is dead and my grandmother won't talk.

Recently I received some information from the Ukrainian archives regarding my grandfather's birth. (He was born in Kalush which before the war was part of Poland.) The names of his parents and grandparents were given. Again there were Jewish surnames - Mandryk (which I already knew about), Malaszkowski and Szafierowicz! The letter said he was Christian on his father's side (nothing about his mother's side).

## CANBERRA CORNER

By Sylvia Deutsch

Many thanks to local member Valerie Brown for another kind donation to the Canberra group. Valerie has kindly compiled a complete set of the National Archives of Australia's current *Fact Sheets*. These include an index and topics covered include immigration records, internment records and guides to the collections. The NAA will shortly be publishing a guide to records of Jewish interest in its collections, compiled by Dr Malcolm Turnbull (no, not the high-profile republican: Dr. Turnbull is editor of the Melbourne edition of the *Journal of the Australian Jewish Historical Society*).

The last genealogical workshop for the year was on 7 November from 1.30 – 3.00pm at the National Jewish Memorial Centre, ending the first year where these have been offered. The first workshop for the year 2000 will be on Sunday 6 February. Feedback is being sought on what activities AJGS members in Canberra would like planned for the year 2000.

*Enquiries can be directed to*

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*Tel/Fax 02-6248-6196*

*Email: [deutand@ozemailcom.au](mailto:deutand@ozemailcom.au)*

### NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY

The Society has purchased MIRIAM WEINER's *JEWISH ROOTS IN UKRAINE AND MOLDOVA*, Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories, published in 1999 by YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, and written in cooperation with the Ukrainian State Archives and the Moldovan State Archives, 600 pages, abundantly illustrated, and costing approximately \$AUS 120 plus postage and packing. This is a massive book on the lines of her *JEWISH ROOTS IN POLAND*, published in 1997 to great acclaim. It covers some of the same ground as Suzan F. Wynne's 1998 opus *FINDING YOUR JEWISH ROOTS IN GALICIA* regarding the area of Eastern Galicia, now Western Ukraine, but covers the whole of the present Ukraine. Moldova is the former Bessarabia and Ukraine now includes Bukovina and some of what was known as Carpatho-Russia in Slovakia. There is an enormous lot of information for anyone with roots in those areas. It is however unfortunate that the maps are in Cyrillic script, with the Latin script underneath in much smaller size and giving also, the Ukrainian version of the name, not the former version, which most people would know.

Our member Toni Addison has donated "JEWISH PEDLARS AND HAWKERS, 1740-1940" by BETTY NAGGAR, published in 1992 in Camberley, Surrey, U.K. by Prophyrogenitus. This is about Jewish hawkers and pedlars in England, as the sources are English, but could apply as well to pedlars and hawkers in France, Holland, Germany and even Australia, where many Jewish immigrants last century and even up to the mid-1950's worked as hawkers to feed their families and save some money to be able to establish themselves in a small business and progress from there. It was the classical way for a penniless Jewish or non-Jewish immigrant to make a living if they did not have a trade or profession in which they could easily get a job.

The AUSTRALIAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc. has given us a book which is surplus to their needs, written by AVRAHAM SHMUEL BENJAMIN SOFER-SCHREIBER "SEFER KOTEV ZOT ZIKARON" published in New York in 1957, seemingly self-published by the author. It is in Hebrew except for one title page and a large number of pages of photographs with English language legends giving the names of the people and institutions portrayed. Much of these concern Rabbi Akiba Eger of Eisenstadt and Posen, his male descendants, pupils and contemporaries, and also Rabbi Moshe Schreiber, and Chatam Sofer, of Pressburg now Bratislava, his descendants, students and contemporaries. These photos are all of rabbis and rabbinical scholars and would be of interest to genealogists of rabbinical descent. Though too numerous to list them all, some of the surnames of men portrayed include Diamond, Friedman, Hamburger, Kohn, Weber, Spitzer, Feigelstock, Bressnitz, Grunwald, Kraus, Halpert, Kornitser.

### MY ROAD BACK TO JUDAISM

(continued from page 13)

Well, I suppose I know as much as I ever will. One of my conversion teachers told me that converts are Jewish. They either can't prove or don't know it, and that converts are lost Jewish souls returning. I continue to trace my mother's line.

Although I've now converted, still I hope to discover some documentation that says an ancestor was Jewish. I hope some day to find this out.

*Miriam Mandryk was a member of the Society in Sydney for several years before her conversion. She now lives in Melbourne. ...Ed.*



## FOREBEARS

### AUSTRALIAN FAMILY FINDER

The Family Finder column rate of \$AUS8 is for 25 words plus address, telephone, fax or email number. Overseas rates are \$US5 if sent in cash OR US\$15 for cheques. Please communicate directly with inquirer, but kindly inform us if this column has helped your research.

00078 AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS TRACING AGENCY, JAN MURPHY, 159 Clarence street, Sydney, 2000. Tel 02 9229 4211, Fax: 02 9229 4265, has appealed to us to find SEMION/SIMON MARGULIS, mother TUBA/TOBA. Semion is being sought by a relative or friend in USA who has been advised by Belarussian Red Cross that Semion emigrated to Australia in May 1991. Sent to Australia via American Red Cross Holocaust Centre.

00079 FELIX PIRAK, 26 Rechov Aluf David, RAMAT GAN, 52226, ISRAEL. Tel/Fax 972 3 6748935. Email: felix1@internet.zahav.net Seeking information about VICTOR and SOPHIE ZEISSL, their descendants or family. Last known address in 1948: 9 Anthony Street, Chatswood, Sydney.

00080 SHARON FARBMAN DICKERMAN, 68 Normandy Rd, LONGMEADOW, MA 01108, USA, seeking FRAN ROBIN GOLDSTEIN born circa 1941 and JILLIAN KAYE GOLDSTEIN born circa 1944, daughters of JOYCE GOODMAN and CECIL GOLDSTEIN of Bondi, nieces of BERNARD GOODMAN, granddaughters of FRANK GOODMAN. Last known address in 1948: 3/9 Wonderland Ave, Bondi, Sydney. NSW. Sought by their cousin.

00081 VICTOR WICKARD, 47 Priors Croft, WALTHANSTOW, LONDON, E17 1JN, U.K. Would like contact again with David Mendelson of Marrickville and APPLEBAUMs formerly of Five Dock, Sydney, descendants of SARAH and SOLOMON APPLEBAUM (she died 1945) and their children ABRAHAM (died 1942), JOHN (died 1937) and MAURICE (died 1926) or any other family connection. We found David Mendelson about 18 months ago, but he does not reply to letters from Victor.

00082 URI CAVES, email: caves@garanti.net.tr Uri is a 16-year old, presumably Jewish, living in Istanbul, Turkey, who would like contact with an Australian Jew to tell him something of our community.

00083 Mrs BARBARA NIVEN, 27 Anembo St., NARRABUNDAH, ACT, 2604, is seeking people who may have known her late mother JANINA LYZWINSKA later TOMASZEWSKI, a Polish Catholic dressmaker, who lived at 72 Ocean St., Woollahra, Sydney from 1949 to 1954 and who died, aged 40, when Barbara was aged 2 in 1954. Janina had many Jewish dressmaking clients and acquaintances and Barbara would like to hear from them what they recall of her mother. Please contact her if you knew Janina.

## PART 111 Western Ukraine

(continued from page 10)

Perehinsko looked a much poorer and less pleasant village. The Jewish cemetery still existed, also surrounded by houses, but only flat lying gravestones were visible, no upright stones, and the area was damp underfoot and over-grown with nettles and other weeds. It was also obviously used as an open-range feeding area for poultry and as a laundry-drying field.

The people from the surrounding houses seemed friendly as they answered the questions Oleg put to them on our behalf, but unlike the Rozniatow and Bolechow cemeteries, it was not a place which invited lingering or contemplation. The whole effect of the cemetery and its surrounds was slatternly. We took a few photographs, but without gumboots it seemed inadvisable to venture over the whole extent of the cemetery.

On to Dolina which I had visited thoroughly in 1995 with Gesher Galicia. The large main synagogue had survived and been restored by the Baptists who now used it as their church. As in 1995 it was locked, but from the outside looked impeccably preserved. Again we wandered around the back to try to ascertain whether a mikva had been situated there. It was hard to tell, but it seemed probable that a mikva had existed since there were so many broken water pipes. We drove on uphill to the common fallow field which had been the Jewish cemetery. This time there were less remnants of masonry graves, but even in 1995 none had held any names or Hebrew writing. Again there were a few goats and many chickens feeding on the common. The most touching part of the visit was the young goat following me around for hand-outs as I ate a snack. In 1995 the very existence of the cemetery site where some of my ancestors had been buried was an emotional experience. This time the emptiness of the beautifully situated common field, atop a commanding cliff-site, dried my heart. For me, the name Dolina had always been a word to conjure with, now I realised there was really nothing left to come back to. I should have spent more time in Rozniatow.

It was pleasant to drive back to the Roxolana Hotel in less than an hour, to have dinner and a short walk. We knew that it was inadvisable to walk in the dark, so the three of us just took a quick turn outside the hotel.

*To be concluded in the next issue March, 2000*

*Sophie Caplan*

## AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATABASE

Names being researched by our new members

December, 1999

| Id  | Surname      | Town       | Country   | Dates         |
|-----|--------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| 460 | AARONS       |            | HOLLAND   | 1700's-1800's |
| 454 | ABRAHAMS     | LONDON     | ENGLAND   | 1850's        |
| 459 | BAUER        | PRAHA      | CZECH REP | Up to 1858    |
| 459 | BOHM         | PRAHA      | CZECH REP | Up to 1858    |
| 463 | BRODIE       | SYDNEY     | AUSTRALIA | 1939-1950     |
| 463 | BRODKIEWICZ  | ZAGAN      | POLAND    | 1915-1939     |
| 463 | BRODKIEWICZ  | SOSNOWIEC  | POLAND    | 1890's        |
| 29  | DANKER       | MAKOW MAZ. | POLAND    | 1800's        |
| 462 | DOBRIN       | BERLIN     | GERMANY   | Up to 1945    |
| 462 | GOLDSTEIN    | BERLIN     | GERMANY   | Up to 1945    |
| 461 | HAAS         | PUCHOV     | SLOVAKIA  | 1700+         |
| 454 | HERMAN       | BIRMINGHAM | ENGLAND   | 1860's        |
| 459 | JOCHOWITZ    | PRAHA      | CZECH REP | Up to 1858    |
| 29  | KUGEL        |            | SLOVAKIA  | 1880-1900     |
| 459 | LEWINGER     | KOLIN      | CZECH REP | Up to 1893    |
| 459 | LEWITZKY     | KOLIN      | CZECH REP | Up to 1893    |
| 461 | LICHTENSTEIN | PUCHOV     | SLOVAKIA  | 1700-1900     |
| 461 | LOWENBEIM    | PUCHOV     | SLOVAKIA  | 1700-1900     |
| 29  | MOSES        |            | AUSTRALIA | 1850's        |
| 29  | POLACSEK     |            | SLOVAKIA  | 1880-1900     |
| 459 | POPPER       | PRAHA      | CZECH REP | 1899-1945     |
| 459 | POPPER       | UJEZDEC    | CZECH REP | Up to 1870    |
| 459 | POPPER       | KOLIN      | CZECH REP | c.1870        |
| 29  | PRUBULTER    |            | POLAND    | 1800's        |
| 454 | RICHARDS     | KRAKOW     | POLAND    | 1860's        |
| 459 | SCHIDLOW     | UJEZDEC    | CZECH REP | Up to 1893    |
| 29  | SCHLACHET    |            | SLOVAKIA  | 1880-1900     |
| 460 | SCHLESINGER  | HAMBURG    | GERMANY   | 1700's-1800's |
| 29  | SIMPLER      |            | SLOVAKIA  | 1880-1900     |
| 29  | SOLOMONS     | LONDON     | ENGLAND   | Pre 1850      |
| 461 | STEINER      | PUCHOV     | SLOVAKIA  | 1700-1900     |
| 29  | STIEGLITZ    | BUDAPEST   | HUNGARY   | 1880-1900     |
| 29  | STILLER      |            | SLOVAKIA  | 1880-1900     |
| 459 | TIAS         | PRAHA      | CZECH REP | Up to 1858    |
| 461 | WEISS        | PUCHOV     | SLOVAKIA  | 1700-1900     |
| 29  | WICKS        |            | SLOVAKIA  | 1880-1900     |
| 289 | WOLF         | BIALA      | POLAND    | c. 1816       |

**All the research interests of members of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society have been entered on the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder (JGFF) which can be found on**

<http://www.jewishgen.com/jgff>

**All up-to-date contact information such as names, addresses and email addresses can be found on this site.**

**All members are advised to check their own contact information**

**as well as the entries for their research interests.**

**If changes are needed, a password is required.**

**This can be obtained from the Society.**