



# The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.  
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### WORKSHOPS

Sunday, from 9.30 a.m. to  
12.30 p.m.

#### July 7

This workshop  
will feature the  
**FORMER JEWISH  
COMMUNITIES OF  
CHINA.** Peter Nash  
will be there to help  
researchers.

Workshops will also be on  
August 4  
September 1

### **Eastern Suburbs Gathering**

Sunday 23 June, 2002  
3 p.m.

Ring for details about  
this Internet related  
topic  
9371-9880

An Internet related  
gathering will be held  
in July for members on  
**the North Shore.**

Ring for details  
9427-6075

Events for August and  
September to be advised



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rieke Nash

Over the last ten years one of the most satisfying aspects of the Society has been the loyalty of many of the members. It has been wonderful to receive your messages of support.

Your generosity for the tribute to Sophie Caplan on her retirement is much appreciated and it is evident that many of you have been helped by her. As one member says "I have greatly admired her for her dedication to the Society and for all she has achieved since its foundation". Sophie had developed the art of networking well before the Society existed and even before the Internet was invented and her efforts have helped to establish Jewish genealogy in Australia. All our good wishes go to her and Leslie for the future.

Recently I was intrigued by the story of the making of the Oxford Dictionary. The task to document the English language in a systematic way was begun in the 1850's. It took seventy years to complete and was mainly achieved by the work of hundreds and hundreds of unpaid volunteers. It sounded a little like what is happening in the world of Jewish genealogy. For example, the JRI-Poland project aims to have indexed every existing vital record for Polish Jewry up to 1939 and will achieve it with the help of a world-wide volunteer force. As the Polish archives only release 100 year old information maybe it will be 2039 before everything is indexed!

It is always a thrill to see that members of our Society living in Australia have participated in this project. Some are actually transcribing the LDS microfilm indices for their own town even though the records are in Polish. Others have helped finance the transcribing of the Russian-era records, many of which are still in the Polish Archives. The result is that those who participate as volunteers are able to capitalize on the experience with some unexpected outcomes. I was a 'witness' to the tragedies experienced in a small shtetl in 1848 when I indexed the 166 deaths from a cholera epidemic with whole families being wiped out. I also recorded the subsequent increased births and marriages the following year.

If you have anything to contribute to the huge effort to document Jewish genealogical resources, don't hesitate. You never know what your reward will be.

Rieke Nash  
President

## EDITORIAL

By Miriam Shifreen

Welcome to the June 2000 issue of the Koshers Koala, and, my first as editor.

It is going to be a hard act to follow on from the Editorship of Sophie Caplan who inaugurated this Newsletter and was its Editor for so many years. Sophie had a wide-ranging knowledge of Jewish genealogy and an extensive network of overseas genealogists and connections.

So I am going to need all help I can get from all of you, our readers. Should you have any ideas or suggestions or better still would like to submit an article on your research, your most recent genealogical adventure, family tree gathering, amazing success, or dare I even say it, a lost lead, why not share it with all of us?

Meanwhile, I hope you will enjoy this June Koshers Koala. In it you will find Lionel Sharpe's tribute to Sophie Caplan, our retiring President after ten years of dedicated service to our Society and seconded by Morris Ochert; Peter Nash's first instalment *Navigating Berlin Resources to Solve a Family Puzzle* when he tossed a pebble into the pond and the ripples led to his rewarding and amazing discovery; perhaps you can help solve a riddle for newly rejoined member of our Society, Max Croot when he asks, *What's in a Name?* the first in a new series of articles that will be called *Hitting A Brick Wall*, for those with a lost lead and whose research needs a little help from one of our readers.

If you are thinking of a family gathering, then you'll be interested in reading about Stuart Shaw's highly successful *Shaw Family Reunion* when 116 Shaw family members gathered on the Sydney Harbour foreshores; and for those who are thinking of volunteering for projects run by the Society you will want to know *Who's Running Our New Committee*.

We are going to start a new series on the members of our Society, beginning with the two longest-standing members Stuart Shaw and Terry Newman, and over time I hope you'll all be introduced to the membership through these columns so that we can promote Australian interests and research.

Finally, I hope you like our new look cover.

My best wishes to you all  
Miriam Shifreen  
Editor



## NAVIGATING BERLIN RESOURCES TO SOLVE A FAMILY PUZZLE (Part 1)

### *The Ripple Effect*

By Peter Nash

In 1991 I visited the Jewish Community Centre in Fasanenstrasse, the site of a former well-known and large synagogue in Berlin. I was there with an older cousin from London who remembered standing on an adjacent higher railway bridge on November 10, 1938, the morning after the infamous *Kristallnacht* and watching the smouldering remains of the destroyed synagogue. I was there to research the Centre's resources and I was able to scan the *Gedenkbuch*<sup>1</sup> (Memorial Book) for Holocaust victims who were former German residents. This book contains 125,000 names and I immediately searched for my birth name NACHEMSTEIN - which is so unique that any Nachemstein is part of my ancestral lineage. I did not recognise any of the seven names I found but went away with a copy of their names.

After my return to Sydney I showed my father Herbert Nachemstein the names but he only recognised two of them, one being his father's brother and the other Max Nachemstein whom he described as "a cousin", had also lived in Berlin as we did, but without any knowledge of our true connection. I was quite disappointed but at the same time challenged to solve the genealogical connection. I also noted that Max was murdered in Minsk in 1941 and that Klara Nachemstein nee Rosenthal also died there at the same time, so together with the closeness of their birth years I assumed that they were husband and wife.

With the help of the *Freie Universität Berlin*<sup>2</sup>, my London cousin confirmed that Max was born in Lessen, in the district of Graudenz of the former West Prussia, now Lasin, Poland. This was very significant as other Nachemstein's also came from Lessen. I tried various ways and resources to establish a connection with Max but nothing clicked. This was frustrating as I had been very successful in finding other Nachemstein branches<sup>3</sup>.

I had also decided that when appropriate I would reveal as much of my interest in genealogy and background as possible including my name at birth - something that I consciously avoided for many years. I had learned already that in genealogy research your lucky find comes when you put yourself in a position to be lucky.

Then in 1994 (after my father had died) I went to my London cousin's daughter's wedding. I was chatting to another guest and slipped in that my birth name was Nachemstein not Nash.

Immediately I was told that the birth name of a female friend was also Nachemstein! This amazing information gave me a sleepless night wondering who this could be. I scanned through my family records which I had with me as I planned to do research elsewhere. The fact of a Nachemstein existing in London totally mystified me as my parents had been to London several times and had never met or mentioned another Nachemstein. I somehow got the feeling that this person was the granddaughter of Max and Klara Nachemstein.

With a given contact number and unable to contain myself any longer, I phoned very early next morning, quickly explained the reason for calling, first to a sleepy male voice and again to an equally sleepy female voice. There was initial hesitation and doubt about my bona fides, even after spelling out 'Nachemstein' correctly. I then asked Marion FISHER nee Nachemstein if Max and Klara were her grandparents and murdered in Minsk - she replied: "No - they were my parents." We were both stunned and quite speechless.

Marion asked if we could meet the next day and apologised again for their slow response when I called as they had only returned from a holiday late the night before - in fact a day earlier than planned, which is the "making your luck" part of genealogy, as I was flying out of London early the next day.

Within an hour, I met Marion and husband Richard, and we had a very exciting and emotional meeting which we savoured together for several hours. It was interrupted briefly as I called my wife Rieke in Sydney with the story of my incredulous find.

Marion confirmed she was born thirteen years before me in Berlin where Max had a scrap metal business which was the family "birth mark" as nearly all the known Nachemstein's worked in the scrap metal industry. She had fled to London in April 1939 shortly after her older brother Hans, but their parents remained in Berlin. Until the day we met Marion thought that no other Nachemstein had survived as the previous year her older brother Hans had passed away. The other amazing coincidence was that Hans had also changed his name to Harold NASH, making three separate branches independently adopting the name NASH - in Los Angeles, London and Sydney!

However we could not work out how we were exactly connected. Marion confirmed her grandmother's name was Rosalie nee Saliski which was one of the seven names in the *Gedenkbuch* - so now I also solved that little puzzle. She did not know her grandfather's given name at all, possibly because he died before she was born.

(continued on page 6.)



## HITTING A BRICK WALL WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Max Croot

My father Harry Croot was a leading tenor in the Synagogue Choir for 18 years, until the 1960's when he became ill. He was for many years an employee of A.B.C. radio, both as a singer, radio announcer, and then in administration. He had commenced working in radio in 1926 for 2FC which was then Farmers and Co. He died in 1971 aged 68. His brother, Michael who died in 1997, aged 96, was very much involved in politics, and local government, and was on the Hurstville Council for over 40 years, serving several terms as mayor.

Both Harry and Michael refused to reveal any information about the family despite all our efforts. My niece studied at Cambridge University and when she applied to work in England, was refused a work permit because we could not prove British ancestry. Even though my father had been born in London there was no legal documentation of a name change.

According to the naturalization records, my grandfather, Hyman Cohen was born in Dvinsk, (now Daugavpils) Russia on 14th August 1879. His death certificate lists his father as unknown Cohen, glazier, and mother unknown. This information was given by my father's oldest brother Alex.

My grandfather, Hyman left Dvinsk in 1896 aged 17, apparently to evade military service and/or the pogroms and went to England. He could not speak English and called himself Cohen because it was a common Jewish name. He worked in his profession as a tailor. After living in England for one year, he returned to Dvinsk, for two years. Whilst there he married Rachel Saperri, and had one son, Alex. In order to leave Russia again he bought a forged passport for about £3, which was apparently the usual practice in those days. He returned to England with his wife and son. His next two sons were born in London. Michael was born on 10th June 1901 at 137 Lawrence Avenue, Manor Park. His birth certificate states: Father Hyman Cohen, occ. Tailor, mother, Rachel Saperri, details supplied by Mother.

Harry, my father, was born on 2nd May 1903 at 130 Third Avenue, Manor Park. His birth certificate states: Father, Hyman Cohen, Master Tailor, Mother Rose Cohen, formerly Semperia, details supplied by father. As they could not speak much English and couldn't write or spell neither would have known if the details were correct. When my father was eight months old Rachel was supposed to have died. I can find no details of her death records, not even at St Catherine's House. According to uncle Mick she was supposed to be French. On 31st July Hyman married

Sarah Bergman at the East London Synagogue. The family then decided to migrate to Australia. It is believed that Hyman had a sister who went to the U.S.

On his application for naturalization Hyman stated that he arrived on the ship *Beltana* on 5th April 1912. Enquiries and shipping records reveal that the *Beltana* did not arrive on that day. He probably travelled in the name of Cohen and because of his lack of English skills, he gave the wrong name of the ship his family had travelled on.

According to one of Uncle Mick's stories, Hyman was a very sick man and the ship's doctor would not give him a clearance to land. Hyman demanded a second opinion and he was sent ashore in the company of a steward to see another doctor. He gave the steward the slip and disappeared and the P&O line were fined £100 for losing a passenger.

His new wife Sarah arrived in Sydney on 9th May 1914, travelling in the name of Croot. Hyman went through all the interviews prior to being naturalized. Inspector Kelly of Regent Street Police Station states that "Hyman has no passport from the Russian Authorities enabling him to travel abroad. Enquiries in the neighbourhood elicits very little information as to character, generally opinion is that they are to all appearances a respectable family and work hard for a livelihood. It is a difficult matter to obtain from the applicant the names of persons who could vouch for his good character. He says that he knows many people but not their names, however on this he is clear that two of his countrymen, Mr Silverman and Mr Carpin, naturalized Russians residing in Bankstown, have known him since his arrival in Sydney, and were acquainted with his people in Russia, and can recommend him as fit for naturalization."

Hyman was naturalized in the name of Croot on 23rd December 1914. The ship's doctor had been right. Hyman was a very sick man, and he died on 28th September 1916 aged 37 years. He is buried in the name of Cohen in the Jewish Cemetery at Rookwood.

When Michael and Harry were adult men and needed their birth certificates, they supplied their details and received certificates in the name of Cohen. It came as a shock for them to find out that Sarah was their step-mother and that Rachel was their real mother, as they had not been told. Neither my father nor his brothers would talk about, or give any details of their early life. How did Hyman acquire the name of Croot? Could it have been when he absconded from the ship, and why did he choose the name Croot? All we know is that there is no legal documentation of a name change, so we can't prove British ancestry

P.S. The Latvian Archives informed me that most records from 1879 up to 1900 have not survived.

Max Croot

maxanna@shoalhaven.net.au



## SOPHIE CAPLAN OAM-A Tribute

By Lionel Sharpe

It came as no surprise to those of us who are close to Sophie to learn of her decision to retire as President of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society at the AGM in March. She has been struggling with this decision ever since her husband Leslie's health began to deteriorate in recent years.

She phoned me last year and confided that she felt it was time to give up some of her commitments but she really wanted to wait until she felt confident that the AJGS was in a sound position to carry on the impetus she had provided for more than a decade. The acceptance by long time colleague Rieke Nash to step into the presidency finally assisted her in taking that final step. She felt assured that the AJGS was in safe hands.

In the editorial of the March Issue of *The Kosher Koala* Sophie reflects on the passion that has driven her to inaugurate Jewish genealogy in Australia and represent us in international forums. She was responsible for establishing branches in all States and the ACT, she edited thirty three issues of *The Kosher Koala* and was a contributing editor to the prestigious international journal, *Avotaynu*.

But can one really imagine Sophie in retirement? When I spoke to her recently about her retirement, before hanging up, she commented - "Please call on me anytime if you need any assistance".

Sophie once reminded me that we first met in 1951 at the *Hachshara* in country Victoria, a training farm for young people preparing to go on aliyah to Israel. I had been invited to produce a photo essay about life on the *Hachshara* for *The Zionist*, the official journal of the ZFANZ. Sophie had come up for one month as a visitor to inspect this unique experiment in communal living. I actually took a photo of her.

Many years later I met Sophie at a conference in Melbourne and she handed me three pages of hand written notes giving a short biography on each of the young people featured in that 1951 issue of *The Zionist*. I still retain these detailed notes which reveal her intense interest in committing to paper the names, dates and events of those who came in contact with her. These were the initial symptoms of a genealogist in the making.

Many years were to pass when I read in the Jewish press that Sophie Caplan was coming to Melbourne from Sydney to address the recently formed branch of the AJGS in Victoria. I had a marginal interest in collecting names and dates of my own maternal ancestry, which dates back to 1855 in Melbourne.

and thought it might be interesting to attend the meeting.

I came home spellbound. I had taken pages of notes during the talk. I had scribbled down the names of every book she had mentioned, recorded the details of international personalities and noted resources for local research. I was hooked! Within months I took over from Audrey Schwartz.

Immediately I was impressed with Sophie's generosity. Many of the books on genealogy located in Melbourne's major Jewish Community Library were donated by Sophie out of her own pocket. She was aware that if the branches were to succeed, they required basic books for research. Sophie had arranged with her good friend Ros Collins, the Director of the Makor Library, to house the Victorian genealogy collection. Other branches also benefited from her generosity.

Sophie's memory for detail, her ability to go off into tangents - "before I forget I must tell you that....", thus opening up a whole new subject area for discussion, her contacts both local and worldwide and her detective skills, are without equal in Australia. Before the computer became the popular key resource for research it was people like Sophie who reunited lost families and discovered ancestral links utilising little more than word of mouth and telephone books. Her interstate and international phone bills must have been, and possibly still are, a major item of the monthly household budget.

Sophie is also the face of Australian Jewish genealogy for our colleagues across the globe. I have attended a number of international conferences of the IAJGS and the moment one mentions Australia to the delegate, whether from Romania, Argentina or South Africa, the response is - "Oh, I know Sophie Caplan!". Sophie's facility in reading and speaking foreign languages including German and French, has opened many doors and greatly enhanced her ability as a researcher. Jewish genealogy requires language skills and these linguistic skills have opened the doors to non-English language publications and interpersonal relationships bridging the language barrier.

Her interests extend beyond the work of our society. She completed a Master of Education thesis on "The Jewish Day School in N.S.W., 1940-1974. As a child survivor of the Holocaust she has been drawn to research that tragic event in Jewish history. Utilising the skills of an oral historian she has interviewed survivors of the Holocaust and prewar refugees and has lectured on the Shoah at the University of NSW. She instituted, assesses and donates the awards for the Hans Kimmel Prize which encourages Sydney Moriah College students



to undertake family genealogical research. She has been active with numerous organisations, especially the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Among her publications is a history of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, *With One Voice* which was written with Dr. Suzanne Rutland of the University of Sydney.

Her life time dedication to Jewish history and genealogy was recognised when she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Honours List in January 2000. All of us shared pride in this public recognition of her work. We wish Leslie a return to good health and trust Sophie maintains her limitless energy to continue her contribution to Jewish communal life in Sydney.

*Lionel Sharpe is a member of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc and Editor of its newsletter, 'Australia Downunder'*  
*sharpe@labyrinth.net.au*

## **SOPHIE CAPLAN**

**By Morris Ochert, OAM**

Sophie Caplan stamped her personality and her imprimatur upon Australian Jewish Genealogy. All this was done while – ever generous with her time and skill – she served Australian Jewry in various capacities. Generous in every way to various deserving causes, I was proud to nominate her for recognition at a National level and we were all overjoyed when she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia.

*Morris S. Ochert is our contributor from Queensland.*

*3 23 Lucinda Street, Taringa Qld 4068  
Tel: 07 3870 3860 Email: stirk@uq.net.au*

## **ALIYAH PASSPORT PROJECT**

In the 1930s as the shadow of history was lengthening over the Jews of Europe, several thousand Polish Jews managed to emigrate to what was then British Mandate, Palestine. An index has been created from nearly 4,000 passports now in the holdings of the Jewish Historical Institute (JHI) in Warsaw. (Inter-war Poland included towns now in Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania)

The list has all the SURNAMES in the file, and all the TOWNS mentioned as birthplaces of the passport-holders, and correlates each surname in the Polish Passports file to the towns of birth and residence associated with that surname in the file.

You can find this new Surname/Town list at [http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/jhi/aliyah-passport\\_surn.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/jhi/aliyah-passport_surn.htm)

Contact - Judy Baston, Coordinator JRI-Poland Aliyah Passport Project

## **NAVIGATING BERLIN RESOURCES TO SOLVE A FAMILY PUZZLE (PART 1) - The Ripple Effect**

(Continued from page 3)

We began communicating regularly with each other and both Marion and I enjoyed telling immediate family and friends how we had discovered each other. Meanwhile, I was faced with the challenge of finding the name of her grandfather and our true connection in order to fit together the pieces in the family jigsaw puzzle - the basis of genealogical research.

### **Endnotes :**

1. *Gedenkbuch* (Memorial Book) - lists German Residents who were victims in the Holocaust, published 1986. A Memorial Book for Berlin Residents only was also published. Referral to the books can be made at the Sydney Jewish Museum. Another edition is in the planning stages with corrections and omissions.
2. *Freie Universität Berlin* - not a current resource
3. See e.g. author's article "Finding Family with Phone Directory Assistance", *Kosher Koala* Vol 1 No.3, Aug 1994, page 5

*Peter Nash (formerly Nacheinstein), is a child Holocaust survivor from Berlin whose family found refuge in Shanghai from 1939 to 1949. He is a founding member of the Society and has researched widely the available resources for tracing the former Jewish communities of China.*  
*email: rieken@zeta.org.au*

*Part 2 will appear in September.*

## **QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY FAMILY HISTORY AWARD 2002**

The Society invites entries for the 2002 QFHS Family History Award. This will be presented to the person or persons producing the best history of a Queensland family, published within the last five years. It must be the story of a family, not an individual.

The award is open to the general public, as well as to members of the Society. The competition will be judged by a panel of three independent judges.

Entries close on 30 November 2002.

Further details and entry forms from the Secretary, QFHS Inc., PO Box 171, Indooroopilly, Q, 4068, or from Robert Adamson 17 Kywong Street Wavell Heights, Q 4012.



## MEETING TWO OF OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN WITH US FOR TEN YEARS

### STUART SHAW

I joined the society at its inception and was the first treasurer, serving in that capacity for five years. At present I'm responsible for receiving and redirecting the society's e-mails.

I first became interested in genealogy and family history in about late 1986 when a cousin who was born in Russia started to tell me stories about the family's life in Russia.



In 1987 I did a course in *Researching Your Family History*, run by Sydney University's Centre for continuing education, which covered the basics of genealogical research.

In 1988 I attended some workshops on researching your Jewish family history, run by Gael Hammer from the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

Over the next three years after doing research in the Australian Archives (in Sydney and Canberra), the NSW state archives, the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, as well as talking and corresponding with older relatives, I had enough information to draw up a family tree.

At present I have been able to research our family back to the middle of the 19th century in Belarus. The family originally came from Gori-Gorki, a small town in the Mogilev province of Belarus.

Our family name was originally Shroog, a biblical name derived from the name of Abraham's great grandfather Serug.

Other family names I'm researching are Manevitch, Slutzky, Bogen, and Zacks.

*Late last year, the Shaw Family held a successful family re-union which is on page 10*

### TERRY NEWMAN

A founding member of this society, Terry served on the committee for 10 years, the last five as treasurer.

Terry had already served on the committee of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) throughout the 1970s and was particularly

interested in the history of 19th century NSW Jewish communities, and the early pioneers, going as far back as the convicts and early free settlers. He read the books and articles that had been published, examined the old synagogue records, in the care of the Great Synagogue, and inspected relevant material in the State Archives and the Mitchell Library.

He says: "I worked with the late Dr George Bergman and Louise Rosenberg of the AJHS, in a number of important projects, especially involving some little known Jewish cemeteries in Sydney that were under threat. Many tombstones from the former Devonshire Street and Raphael's Ground cemeteries, some dating from the 1830s, now no longer exist. However, fortunately, starting in 1969, these historic tombstones were photographed and transcribed. Had this not been done, part of our early history would have been lost."

He began extracting Jewish births, marriages and deaths from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, for several decades during the 19th century, as there was no Jewish newspaper in Sydney during that time. They are currently being indexed.

He came to family history in 1966 whilst still a teenager, following the death of his father, Edgar Newman, who had been President of the Bankstown Board of Jewish Education during the 1950s. He was looking through his father's library and became fascinated by some of the articles published by the AJHS. He discovered, he says, the Dr Anthony Joseph article (vol V, May 1964): *On Tracing Australian Jewish Genealogy*, and having read it, "the rest is history..."

Terry's family extends several generations back in Australia, including two sets of great- great grandparents (Morris and Sophia Phillips, Samuel and Rachel Lewis), who began married life in Bendigo in the 1850s. Ten of his direct ancestors were married in the Great Synagogue, Sydney, or its predecessor, the York Street Synagogue..



Although no longer on our committee, Terry assures us he will try to assist the society whenever possible. He said it is good to see others becoming involved in the important work that needs to be done.

Terry is grateful for the friendships made, and the networks developed, in addition to the knowledge gleaned from the society's valuable resources



## WHO'S RUNNING OUR NEW COMMITTEE?

### Rieke Nash - President

Genealogy has fascinated me for over 20 years and even though I was a founding member of the Society, I have had limited success with my own family research in the Wloclawek area of Poland and in London. The rewards have come from the new friends made around the world, the conferences that stimulated ideas and the thrill from helping someone succeed with a worthwhile goal. My working life involved computers, books and education which seems to have prepared me well for this latest hobby.



*Miriam Shifreen, Sophie Caplan and Rieke Nash at the AGM in March.*

### David Laufer – Vice-President and Membership Chairman

David is married to Diana née Wantoch and they have two children Julian and Rebecca.

David became interested in genealogy in 1983 when he discovered that Diana's grandmother's maiden surname was also *Laufer*. The search for ancestral links with his wife has been a major factor in his interest in genealogy. The other major factor has been to find relatives, as he has no siblings and only knows of one first cousin, who lives in the USA.

After reading Arthur Kurzweil's book *From Generation to Generation* in 1984, David wrote to the Polish state archives for the birth records of his father who was born in Opatow, Poland. Unfortunately no record was found. He then started correspondence with the Israelische Kultusgemeinde in Vienna (IKG Wien) regarding the maternal side of his family, as well as his wife's family and was pleased with some of the information received. However, even this line of enquiry reached an end.

In the late 1980's David attended some workshops on Jewish Genealogy run by Gail Hammer at the

Great Synagogue in Sydney. These renewed his interest, so that when the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society was being formed he became a foundation member. Being keen to further his genealogical research he attended the first few meetings of the AJGS on the assumption that they were workshops, but instead they evolved into committee meetings. David has been on the committee of the AJGS ever since, primarily in the role of Minutes Secretary. He also attends most of the AJGS workshops held at the North Shore Synagogue in Sydney and is a mentor at these workshops.

Since the AJGS was formed ten years ago, David has learnt a lot about the history of the Jews in Europe through his activity in the Society and in reading the various magazines which are available at the workshops. He has long been a subscriber to Avotaynu, the Kielce-Radom SIG, and to the Bohemia-Moravia SIG (the latter also being a de facto SIG for Austria). Since his retirement from the workforce a few months ago, David has more actively pursued his genealogical research by searching through LDS microfilms of Vienna, Gliwice and Glogow (the latter two in Silesia), and has joined the Sephardi (his maternal great grandmother) and Hungarian (some of Diana's relatives) SIGs.

### Gary Luke - Treasurer

My personal research interests stem from a "mixed" marriage, as my mother's family has been resident in Australia since the 1850s, but my father only arrived in 1938. Almost all my immigrant ancestors came from Poland, the Prussian sector (1850s), the Russian sector (1870s), and from the previously Hungarian sector (1938). The single non-Polish thread leads back through London (1820-50) to Rotterdam. My other research interests include 19th century NSW Jewry, paper trails of non-British immigration to Australia, and local history of the Erskineville/Alexandria area. I am happy to assist members and others through the society's internet facilities, and sometimes take on contract research. I have been a member of AJGS since 1993, a committee member since 1995, and treasurer since 2001.

### Peter Nash – Program Coordinator

My "other life" began about 15 years ago after steady prodding from Rieke. I became a founding member of the Society, came to the Beginners' Seminars, used the then available resources and was soon rewarded with some successful finds,



thereby "hooked". My professional background was as a textile technologist and I also became involved in the lecture programming of International Textile Conferences. I was still working in the textile industry in the 90's and often travelling overseas on business which enabled me to do some on-site research. The fun part of the genealogy world is that it is full of interesting people with some becoming firm friends. Apart from my own research interest areas, I have developed a lot of knowledge of available resources for tracing former Jewish residents of China, given talks on this topic as well as my personal survival story in Shanghai both locally and overseas.



### **Steven Traurig - Internet Coordinator**

Steven comes to the committee as the Director of an internet company, Globalise. He has been working in computing since 1987, during which he completed his degree in Applied Science (Computing). Steven's family comes predominantly from Eastern Europe (Czechoslovakia, Poland, Germany) and Israel.

He has a strong interest in genealogy, and faces the challenges that we all face at times with too little time, and in terms of older generations who hold important family information, too little time left.

Steven is looking to assist the Association and its Members through his knowledge and experience of how the application of technology can bring benefits to all people, both "techno-literate" and not. The internet is a wonderful reference and meeting place for genealogists - probably having revolutionised it in many ways - and the AJGS has an important role to play as a central resource for its Members.

### **Kim Phillips**

I first became interested in genealogy in 1989. This interest led me, firstly to the AJHS and then to the AJGS. As a committee member, I assist where I can, being involved in special interest, including capturing cemetery records and making them available by CD to others. Currently we are looking at Maitland Cemetery, and will continue with Raphael's Burial Ground, and Rookwood.



My family arrived in Australia in the early 1800s from England. Using the resources of AJGS, I've traced them back to the late 1600s in Amsterdam. Although I know they originated in Spain and were expelled in 1492, I'm still trying to confirm that line. The Family names I am researching are Phillips, Tolano and Crabbe.

### **Bernie Freedman**

I was born in Sydney into a thoroughly Australian Jewish family. My mother was born in Bulli, on the



coast just south of Sydney, one of 10 siblings, all of whom married locally and provided me with 24 first cousins. My up-bringing was insular Australian, there were no foreign languages, customs, or attitudes but I did receive a good Jewish education,

Eastern Suburbs Central Synagogue style.

My life-long immersion in family produced a need to know more and so 10 years ago I started to produce a family tree for the Czerniaks of Przedeck Poland and the Glassers of Krakow Austria. I have enjoyed almost every moment of the search except that I now know that I had as many relatives in 1860 when my grandparents left Poland as I had at the Family Reunion in Centennial Park, Sydney in 1990 but I only know my direct grandparents' descendants and no-one from their many aunts, uncles, cousins. No-one can do family history in Sydney without contacting and receiving help from Sophie Caplan. So began my involvement in AJGS.

I am presently drowning in a project to produce a computer data bank of all names in family trees presented and held in the libraries of the AJHS and AJGS. And I will be writing an article on this project in the near future.

### **Jeannette Tsoulos - Secretary and Resources**

I put my interest in genealogy down to my enjoyment of being part of a large and close extended family - my mother alone, had 52 first cousins, so the family tree was very much a living entity for me. I joined AJGS in 1995, and, thanks to Rieke's eagle eye, struck gold right away, finding common ancestry with Dan Rottenberg, author of the seminal book on Jewish genealogy, *Finding our Fathers*. Was that ever a boost!

All my ancestors were out of Europe by 1875, and the last to arrive in Australia were here by 1909.



Many had been in England in the 18th Century, so naturally I am interested in early English and Australian Jewish families and their connections, as well as the areas in Poland, Lithuania and Germany my European forebears came from. I am secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society and answer their genealogical queries, which tallies well with my genealogical interests.

I am also interested in languages, and am learning Russian, which will come in handy when deciphering Polish documents written in Russian. I am Secretary and Resources Person for AJGS, looking after the books and journals.

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### **Miriam Shifreen, Editor of the Kosher Koala**

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My interest in genealogy was sparked by the grandmother of my husband, Joe, although I did not actively start any research until about 14 years ago, some years after her death.

I am a first generation Australian, like many of us, so it was a surprise not only to me but also to Joe to discover he is a fourth generation Australian. My interest grew from there, so when in 1995 Sophie Caplan asked me to join the Society I was very pleased. When I volunteered to do some typing for the Kosher Koala, I didn't realise what the job would lead to. Of course without the intensive training given by Rieke I wouldn't be writing this now. When Sophie decided to step down from many of her tasks in the Society, I was elected Editor.

In my previous life I was an English/History teacher, with over 25 years at the NSW Correspondence School where amongst my many roles, I was school archivist, a job I loved because my hoarding and collecting habits could then be regarded as a virtue.

I am researching Levy, Alexander, Moss, & Moses from England, Berlin, Benjamin, & Shifrin from Poland, Chalezkly & Yalowitz from the Ukraine

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### **VICTORIAN NEWSPAPERS FROM THE 1840S ONWARDS** [www.oldnewscopy.com](http://www.oldnewscopy.com)

**NSW IMMIGRATION INDEXES 1839-1896 are now on-line**  
[www.records.nsw.gov](http://www.records.nsw.gov)

**WORLD WAR 2 DEFENCE SERVICE RECORDS**, are available from the national Archives of Australia, POB 7425, Canberra Business Centre AACT 2610. Photocopies of Army and RAAF service records are \$16.20. Single orders for photocopies of Navy records will be supplied free. Do not send payment with your request, you will be invoiced with your request.

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## **THE SHAW FAMILY REUNION**

### **By Stuart Shaw**

A very successful family reunion was held on 4 November last year by the Shaw family attended by about 116 people.

Our reunion was the result of six months of planning by the coordinating committee consisting of seven coordinators, one from each branch of the family. We had a total of four planning meetings over the previous six months and each coordinator was given a certain number of tasks e.g. compiling a family database, organising the sound system etc.

Invitations were sent out about three months in advance, to give plenty of notice to everyone, as some family members lived interstate and some were overseas.

The venue we decided on was The Gap Bluff (The Old Armory), a function centre at Watsons Bay. The venue was ideal, as it had plenty of parking, space outside for the kids to play and a spectacular view of Sydney Harbour.

Everyone brought their own food, crockery and cutlery etc. The function ran from 11.30 am to about 5 pm.

After lunch, the coordinators from each branch of the family gave a speech about their side of the family and how they came to Australia. The speeches were accompanied by overhead transparencies made from old family photographs. Prior to giving their speeches, each coordinator introduced each member of their family who was present on the day.

On the wall we put up photographs and memorabilia about each branch of the family as well as the current family tree and photographs of previous family reunions and we recorded all the speeches on cassette and video tapes.

Finally, we all went outside on the grass to have a photographer take a group photo.

All in all, a great success!

*Stuart Shaw is one of our longest standing members. His genealogical interest and research and work for the Society is on page 7.*

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### **LOOKING FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION**

of Meyer Haim Herbert, son of the Hon. Reuven Dov Sterren Herbert of Lithuania (died. 1880)

Seeking a link with Yaldotchnik of Ukmerge (Wilkomir), Lithuania.

Gilbert and Valerie Herbert  
[Herbert@tx.technion.ac.il](mailto:Herbert@tx.technion.ac.il)



**PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT GIVEN AT  
THE 10th A.G.M. OF THE A.J.G.S on  
Sunday 24th March, 2001, at the Wilson Hall of  
the North Shore Synagogue.**

**By Sophie Caplan OAM**

Apologies from Bernard Freedman, in hospital after five arterial bypasses last Wednesday.

This is my tenth and last Annual General Meeting as President and I want to welcome all those present, particularly our member and guest speaker Diane Armstrong who will talk about her latest book, *The Voyage of their Life, the Passengers of The Derna*.

Our membership this year is not yet known to me, but as the end of last year it stood at 180 members. Many members are of long standing, some for the whole ten and a half years of our existence, others leave us after a year or two. Sometimes members moved to a new address without informing us. We do try our utmost to find the new address and phone number, but sometimes it is impossible. So if you value your membership, please keep us informed.

There have been no changes in leadership of the interstate societies still under our aegis: Michelle Urban is chairperson of the Perth group, Marjorie Luno of the Adelaide group, Sylvia Deutsch of the Canberra group and Morris Ochert of the Brisbane group. Leslie Oberman leads the Melbourne society which continues to publish *Jewish Genealogy Down Under*, but still receives the *Kosher Koala* by bulk postage and then distribute it to their members.

In the last year we again held 12 Sunday morning workshops at this synagogue's Reverend Katz Library and a few lectures mostly at other venues. David Landor opened all the workshops and we are grateful to him for this help.

At our last AGM Helen Bersten of the Australian Jewish Historical Society spoke of some unusual genealogical problems brought to her, and in early September Professor Konrad Kwiet gave us a long talk on the history of German Jewry from the time of the Romans, the Crusades, and the Enlightenment to the present on the occasion of a special workshop on German Jewry. Unfortunately our long-awaited October speaker David Montefiore Jacob cancelled at fairly short notice.

In November we had the pleasure of a talk by Rabbi John Simon Levi of Melbourne on the occasion of the publication of the long awaited second edition of his book with the late Dr George Bergman *Australian Genesis, Jewish Convicts and Settlers, 1788 to 1860*. The first edition, published in 1974, only went to 1850. This lecture was in

conjunction with the AJHS, although we initiated the evening.

We also initiated a recent talk in conjunction with the Sydney Jewish Museum by Mara Moustafine on *The Jews of Harbin* which was also a great success.

Three weeks ago at a committee meeting I was plaintively asked why we no longer had any overseas speakers coming to enrich us with their knowledge. The very next day the prayers of our committee were answered when I received a letter from Dr Chanan Rapoport of Jerusalem, practising psychologist, academic and genealogist who will be in Sydney in two week's time. He will give a talk at the April Sunday morning workshop on the relationship of Messianism Chassidism and Rabbinic Judaism with Jewish history and genealogy. Dr Chanan Rapoport has worked closely with the late Dr Paul Jacobi and is archivist of the latter's papers, so this should be most interesting.

We took part again this year in *Chanukah in the Park* and distributed many membership pamphlets and also flyers for the Levi and Bergman book. We had many visitors to our stall but so far no new members resulted from this.

Both Peter Nash and David Wallace had articles printed in *Avotaynu* this year and one of my articles was reproduced with attribution in *Scattered Seeds*, journal of Palm Beach County JGS. We produced four *Kosher Koala* issues this year, two of twelve pages and two of sixteen pages, and we obtained permission from *Avotaynu* to reproduce a major article on Jewish genealogy in the Russian Empire in the March issue which will be distributed tonight.

We now distribute the *Kosher Koala* to most overseas societies by electronic means, the brainchild of Kim Phillips.

Miriam Shifreen has been a tower of strength to me these last two years in the production of the *Kosher Koala* and I would like to thank her for this help publicly. I understand that the new president and committee may now nominate her as the next editor and she should be an excellent choice.

We bought some books in England in July, and I purchased some as a gift to the society libraries in all the states under our aegis. I may continue with such gifts from time to time, but as you will hear in the Treasurer's report the Society can now afford to buy a few more books itself.

The reasons why I am stepping down tonight are several. Firstly, I believe that leadership changes occasionally are good for an organisation, bringing new blood, new ideas, new energy. I have been

(Continued on page 13)



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATES

### NSW NEWS

**By Rieke Nash**

#### *Recent Events*

*At the Annual General Meeting on 24 March, 2002 Diane Armstrong delighted us with her account of her experiences in writing her latest book, The Voyage of Their Life: The Story of the SS Derna and its Passengers. Diane's talk is on tape and can be borrowed from our Library*

At our usual monthly workshop on 7 April, 2002 we were fortunate to hear Dr Chanan Rapoport's analysis of the interaction of the major movements and how they influenced the lives of our ancestors in the early Modern European period.

We also welcomed to our Society Dr Lynn Hilton and Nancy Goodstein-Hilton from the United States. Nancy was particularly impressed with our resources and they both enjoyed Chanan's

On 21 April, 2002 we held an informal research afternoon in the Eastern Suburbs. All those who attended, including the "experts" had a informative, enjoyable and delicious afternoon. Thank you, Sara! We will continue to schedule this type of event. Let us know why you couldn't come!

#### *Congratulations to Helen Bersten*

Helen Bersten, the Archivist to the Australian Jewish Historical Society was recently recognized by the Royal Australian Historic Society. A Certificate of Achievement was presented to her by Hazel Hawke. Many researchers into their Australian Jewish heritage are indebted to her for the years of dedicated help.

#### *A Tribute to Simon Sekel*

Members of the Society were saddened this month to hear of the death of one of our supporters, Simon Sekel. Simon, who died suddenly, contributed to Kosher Koala (Sept, 2001) and helped many of our members with translations of their precious items, and if he couldn't do the job, he usually found someone who would. His life story is an amazing one, highlighted by jumping ship in Sydney in 1938. Our condolences go to his wife, Rae and to his son Gary Luke and the rest of the family.

*Enquiries: Australian Jewish Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 42, Lane Cove 1595 Sydney, NSW.*

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

## AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. Inc

**By Lionel Sharpe**

Rabbi Philip Heilbrunn, Chief Rabbi of the St Kilda Synagogue, spoke on "Rabbinical Genealogies: A Port in a Storm" on 24th April 2002 at 7.30 pm at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre. Rabbi Heilbrunn is descended from Rabbi Aharon Shmuel Kaidanover and Rabbi Samuel Gershon Steg of Warburg and is on the Steering Committee of the Rabbinic SIG (Special Interest Group) which was established only last year.

The 4th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, 22nd May 2002 at 7.30 pm at Beth Weizmann Community Centre, to be followed by guest speaker, Judy Hopkins, *Researching Jewish Genealogy from English Records*. Judy is an active member of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies. Nominations are being sought for the annual election of office bearers.

Dr David Cohen, AJGS (Vic) committee member, will discuss aspects of his family research work at the meeting on Wednesday, 12th June at 7.30 pm and a Beginners' Workshop will be held on Sunday 23rd June at 2.00 pm. at Beth Weizmann. AJGS (Vic) will participate in the LDS Open Day *Footprints Through the Past* in May and Lionel Sharpe has been invited to make a presentation on Jewish Genealogy at Yom Limmud (Day of Learning) on 8th-9th June at the Caulfield Campus of Monash University.

Michelle Urban (W.A. Branch of the AJGS) and Marjorie Luno (S.A. Branch of the AJGS) visited Melbourne in April and had productive discussions about resources and future co-operation with Lionel Sharpe.

At the recent meeting of the Committee of Management, appreciation was expressed to retiring AJGS President, Sophie Caplan OAM, for dedicated and untiring work over the years. Sophie initiated the Victorian Branch in 1995 and thanks to her efforts the Branch grew rapidly and later became incorporated as a separate group. We wish Sophie all the best in the coming years. We also welcome Rieke Nash as the incoming AJGS President and look forward to close co-operation in the coming year.

Home page: <http://www.ajgs.exist.com.au>

*Enquiries: Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738*

*[sharpe@labyrinth.net.au](mailto:sharpe@labyrinth.net.au)*

*or [ajgs@exist.com.au](mailto:ajgs@exist.com.au)*

*Les Oberman (03)9571 8251*

*[oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au](mailto:oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au)*



## REPORT FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

By Jeanie Susman

On April 30th a group of members and friends met at the home of our President, Marjorie Luno, to hear a talk presented by David Ninio entitled *To Australia, via Spain, Turkey & Egypt*. We learned of the background of his family's migration, from the origin of the Sephardi Jews in Spain and the subsequent spread of Jews after their expulsion.

He detailed the lives of a number of his family members during their times in Turkey and Egypt. David himself was born in Egypt in 1940, but as conditions were becoming rather unsettled there and in parts of the Middle East, the family decided in 1957 to leave the country. After a short stay in Italy, they migrated to Australia, arriving in 1960.

Because of his meaningful Spanish background and appreciation of its traditions, culture and religious expressions, David regards himself as a dedicated Spanish Jew.

For your interest, David Ninio's complete talk, as given at our recent meeting, may be found on the Adelaide Jewish Museum website at [www.adelaidejewishmuseum.org](http://www.adelaidejewishmuseum.org)

Prior to the talk by our guest, a short business meeting of members was held. Among the items discussed were the contents of a letter from Rieke Nash to our President. A number of these matters will be given further attention at a forthcoming business meeting and resolutions made known in due course. However, there was general agreement that the Society should be well-publicised, and its reference collection, when suitably housed, be made available to everyone in the community, not just restricted to members of AJGS

*The South Australian Branch contact is :*

*Marjorie Luno, President,*

*AJGS (SA), c - Beit Shalom Synagogue,*

*P.O. Box 47, Stepney. S.A. 5069*

*Email to*

*Hon. Secretary : Jeanie Susman*

*E-mail: [chatsworth@picknowl.com.au](mailto:chatsworth@picknowl.com.au)*

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## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN REPORT

By Michelle Urban

At the meeting held on Sunday 24th February 2002, in the foyer at PHC, celebrated Perth writer Ruth Marchant James spoke about Western Australia's beginnings. She ably filled in as Guest Speaker for Dr Harry Cohen AM, who had to go into hospital at the last minute.

Our interesting speaker on Sunday 26th May 2002, was Vivienne Levin who spoke about her father Jules Lewin, a prominent Jewish businessman in Perth who helped set up the Temple David. Her topic was "A Step Back in Time to My Roots" Vivienne has been very involved with the Perth community and in particular WIZO

After our very successful afternoon workshop on Jewish genealogy through the Internet last November, another hands-on workshop for beginners and others, will be held on 25th August 2002 and on 24th November 2002, we shall hold a beginners workshop on family history, oral history and genealogy. This will be a journey of researching our ancestry and how to use records to find out about our relatives both past and present.

Enquiries: Michelle Urban, Co-ordinator

21 Broomhall Way, Noranda WA 6062

E-mail : [urban1@inet.net.au](mailto:urban1@inet.net.au)

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## PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(continued from 11)

there since we started on 3rd November 1991 and I have been getting tired, even though I enjoyed it as a whole. But since 9th November 2001 my husband Leslie, whose health was not brilliant heretofore, has been acutely ill, and in and out of hospital. When he is home I am a full time nurse and carer. I cannot continuously carry out my duties as president of the Society and editor of this journal as well. I hope you will all understand and give your support now to Rieke and her team.

I would like to commend all those who have served with me this past year: our vice-president and resources chairman Jeanette Tsoulos, our treasurer Gary Luke, our membership chairman Greta James, who is also stepping down tonight due to pressure of professional work, David Laufer our minutes secretary, our at-large committee members Kim Phillips and Bernard Freedman. Unfortunately we still lacked an honorary Secretary this year. I would also like to commend Stuart Shaw who has received our Society's emails and faxed them on to me, David Landor our workshop opener and closer, Rieke Nash who still did our labelling and some circulars while officially *resting*, Glenda and Sybil Goldberg who both assisted with the posting of the *Kosher Koala*.

I would also like to thank the North Shore Synagogue and its president, Calvin Stein and its general secretary, Dafna Orbach for their generous hospitality to us and to the synagogue library committee for their hospitality to us in the Reverend Katz Library.

May the Society continue to prosper and grow.

*Sophie Caplan.*



## SOME NEW INTERESTING WEBSITES

### A new Eastern European Archival Database

Miriam Weiner's Routes to Routes Foundation has released the complete Jewish holdings of the State Archives of Belarus, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine. This database is the result of years of effort on the part of Ms. Weiner who worked closely with the head archivists of the five countries to create this project.

For beginners or the experienced, everyone with ancestry from this area (which is most of us) will find new and useful information. As well, those members who cannot attend workshops to consult our resources but have access to the web have now another avenue for research.

<http://www.rtrfoundation.org/>  
See the site map page

<http://www.rtrfoundation.org/sitemap.html> to gain an understanding of the comprehensiveness of the presentation.

Miriam Weiner can be found at  
[mweiner@routestoroots.com](mailto:mweiner@routestoroots.com)

### Warszawa Gubernia Duma Voters Lists 1907

This is an on-line list of voters from some of the towns in the Warsaw province. These lists were used by Alexander Beider in *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland* but now have the additional information of the Voter's name and father's name.

[www.jewishgen.org/databases/WarszawaDuma.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/WarszawaDuma.htm)

### The Catalogue of Jewish holdings in the Family History Library (LDS)

This collection of references for Jewish research in the Family History Centre is available on-line. Our Society has a searchable CD of this file. We are fortunate to have visiting Sydney for the next year or so, Nancy Goodstein-Hilton who created this resource and her husband, Dr Lynn Hilton. Nancy has graciously agreed to conduct some seminars for our members to help them access the resources of the Family History Library. You will be notified in the next Kosher Koala of the dates.

[www.jewishgen.org/databases/fhlc/](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/fhlc/)

### Owners of East European estates where Jews were tenants

[www.avotaynu.com/magnates.htm](http://www.avotaynu.com/magnates.htm)

### Sephardic Special Interest Group

A place where all researchers of Sephardic Genealogy and History are welcome

[www.jewishgen.org/SefardSIG](http://www.jewishgen.org/SefardSIG)

and see also:

<http://www.ferdinando.org.uk/sephardi.htm>

[www.sephardim.com](http://www.sephardim.com)

[www.ajoe.org](http://www.ajoe.org) (In French)

The link below details the personal holding of David Ferdinando at the Jewish Historical Society of England books/articles and so on.

[david.ferdinando@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.ferdinando@ntlworld.com)

### An informal email group of families coming from Chernowitz.

To join, email Bruce Reisch at

[bir1@nysaes.cornell.edu](mailto:bir1@nysaes.cornell.edu)

### The Rabbinic Genealogy Special Interest Group (Rav-SIG) has announced the launch of a major project, the comprehensive Rabbinic Genealogy Bibliography. More than 300 resources for rabbinic genealogical research are listed in categories such as bio-bibliographical dictionaries, Chassidic rabbis, biographies, family genealogies, Sephardi and Mizrahi resources, regions and countries, periodicals, audiotapes, and CD-ROMs. Indexes by author and by names of rabbis found in the bibliography are also provided.

A link to Lithuanian resources may be accessed from the Table of Contents.

The bibliography is located at

### Beider Dictionary On-Line

*Ancestry* has placed Alexander Beider's, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire*, published by Avotaynu in 1993, on-line, in the form of a free searchable database.  
[www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/3173.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/3173.htm)

### ISRAELI NAMES – WHO'S FIRST?

From *the Book of Names* By Dr Avraham Ariel, published by the Israeli Ministry of Defence, the most frequent Israeli surnames are:

- 1 Cohen
- 2 Levi
- 3 Mizrahi
- 4 Peretz
- 5 Bitton
- 6 Dahan
- 7 Avraham
- 8 Friedman
- 9 Azoulai
- 10 Katz

The most frequent first names are **Moshe** and **David**.

From "Family Finding" Vol 10 No. 1, 1999 the quarterly newsletter of the Wisconsin Jewish Genealogical Society.



### Office Bearers of the Society

President *Rieke Nash*  
Vice-President *David Laufer*  
Treasurer *Gary Luke*  
Secretary *Jeannette Tsoulos*  
Resources Librarian *Jeannette Tsoulos*  
Membership Chairman *David Laufer*  
Minutes Secretary *David Laufer*  
Co-ordinator of OnLine Services *Gary Luke*  
Committee *Bernard Freedman*  
*Kim Phillips*  
*Steven Traurig*  
Program Cordinator *Peter Nash*  
Honorary Auditor *Helena Rule*  
Editor of Kosher Koala *Miriam Shifreen*  
A.C.T. Representative *Sylvia Deutsch*  
Central Coast Representative *Beulah Gross*  
Queensland Representative *Morris Ochert*  
Sth Australia Representative *Marjorie Luno*  
West Australia Representative *Michelle Urban*

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### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

#### New South Wales

Nancy Goodstein-Hilton  
Michael Taub

Lynn Hilton

#### Victoria

Susan Stafford

Rebecca Shavitsky

### SYDNEY WORKSHOPS

All workshops are usually held at the Rev Katz  
Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road,  
Lindfield, once a month on Sunday mornings, from  
9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

### INTERNATIONAL JGS CONFERENCES

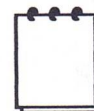
Toronto Canada August 4-9, 2002

Let our President know if you are planning  
to attend the Toronto Conference.

Washington D.C., U.S.A. 2003  
Jerusalem, Israel 2004

Articles and material may be submitted to the  
Editor at: P.O.Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595,  
Sydney, Australia  
or by email to: [ajgs@idx.com.au](mailto:ajgs@idx.com.au)

Permission to reproduce articles and material  
from the Kosher Koala should be sought from  
the editor



**Peter Nash** will be at our **7th July**  
**WORKSHOP** which will feature the former  
Jewish Communities of China.

**Peter Nash** has been collecting resources  
from this era, and his war-time connections  
with Shanghai have enabled him to address  
several International Jewish Genealogical  
Conferences on this subject. He is currently  
guiding at the special China Exhibition on  
Shanghai at the Sydney Jewish Museum

Even those members with no connections to  
China will find this workshop of great interest  
about a fascinating period of Jewish History.



## AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATABASE

Names being researched by our new members

June 2002

Id	Surname	Town	Country	Dates
501	ALPERIN	SAFAD/HAIFA/JERUSALEM	ISRAEL	Pre 1930
503	DANCIGER	KISVARDA	HUNGARY	1800+
503	DICKER	PAP	HUNGARY	1800+
503	DICKER	KISVARDA	HUNGARY	1800+
445	DOMBOWSKI	SZCZEKOCINY	POLAND	
445	FRYDMAN	LODZ	POLAND	
501	GILBERG	SZCZERCOW	POLAND	Pre 1942
501	GILBERG	LODZ	POLAND	Pre 1942
501	GLIKSMAN	SZCZERCOW	POLAND	Pre 1942
501	GLIKSMAN	LODZ	POLAND	Pre 1942
493	HARRIS-HUMBERTA		GERMANY	1860-1890
493	HARRIS-HUMBERTA	BERNE	SWITZERLAND	1860-1890
501	HELPERIN	SAFAD/HAIFA/JERUSALEM	ISRAEL	Pre 1930
445	ISAACS	LONDON	ENGLAND	
445	ISAACS	NEW YORK	USA	
445	ISAACS		USA	
445	JEZIOROWSKI	SZCZEKOCINY	POLAND	
445	JEZIOROWSKI	CZESTOCHOWA	POLAND	
445	JEZIOROWSKI	LONDON	ENGLAND	
493	KLEID	KALISZ	POLAND	1860-1890
493	LASKER	KRAKOW	POLAND	1860-1890
501	MLYNARSKI	SULEJOW	POLAND	Pre 1942
501	MLYNARSKI	LODZ	POLAND	Pre 1942
493	NEWMARK	KAUNAS	LITHUANIA	1860-1890
501	NISSENSON	SAFAD	ISRAEL	Pre 1930
501	NISSENSON	MELBOURNE	AUSTRALIA	Pre 1930
501	SILBERMAN	SAFAD	ISRAEL	Pre 1930
501	STEINBERG	JERUSALEM	ISRAEL	Pre 1930
445	SUSSMAN	BEDZIN	POLAND	
503	TAUB	BEREGOVO	UKRAINE	1850+
503	TAUB	MUKACHEVO	UKRAINE	1800+
503	TAUB	ZWOLEN	POLAND	1760+
503	TAUB	RADOM	POLAND	1800+
503	TAUB	KAZIMIERZ	POLAND	1760+
501	WAJSBERG	SULEJOW	POLAND	Pre 1942
501	WAJSBERG	LODZ	POLAND	Pre 1942
445	WECHSLER	WARSZAWA	POLAND	
445	WECHSLER	BUENOS AIRES	ARGENTINA	
445	WILKINSKI	SZCZEKOCINY	POLAND	
445	ZAKS	SZCZEKOCINY	POLAND	

## AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGY DISCUSSION GROUP

By Gary Luke

Information & subscription via:

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

[It's the first link on the contents page]

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Any enquiries please email [AJGen-owner@yahoogroups.com.au](mailto:AJGen-owner@yahoogroups.com.au)