



# The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**By Rieke Nash**

The last few months have been very busy with the completion of various projects. The most rewarding part has been the renewals of our faithful members and often their generous donations, both cash and kind. For example, Bob Beecher has given us his complete collection of Avotaynus from Volume 1 Number 1, our Brisbane member, Vivien Solo, has given us a generous donation to help the cause, while many others have generously devoted their time.

The new AJGS Resource CD was very well received although a few people were puzzled that they couldn't hear anything on their CD player! Alas, a computer is needed to access the data. Others have had the time to systematically explore the possibilities and one member appeared at the latest workshop with a list of all the resources that she had found on the CD and that she now wanted to see.

We are about to release another CD, the complete collection of Kosher Koalas that have been published since 1993. The format is completely searchable and even though some of the early references such as websites and addresses will have changed we believe that it is still a valuable resource. The CD will be on sale shortly.

This April as we commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, JRI-Poland released the database of Deaths in the early years of the ghetto. It can be searched on [www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/](http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/) and George Sternfeld's poem on page 12 documents the emotions of many of us.

Some of our members are very active on the International genealogical scene. You can spot their names helping others on various Internet Discussion groups, quite a few are involved with indexing records for the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland Project and a member's mother, Hanka Gliksman has been translating a Yizkor Book for the JewishGen Yizkor book Project. The about-to-be released Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy includes chapters by two of our members. Sophie Caplan has written about research in Australia and Peter Nash has documented resources for tracing the former Jewish communities in China.

Beware the SARS virus for printers! After Miriam's printer disintegrated last Kosher Koala, mine has sympathised with it and followed suit this time.

*Rieke Nash, President*  
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## EDITORIAL

**By Miriam Shifreen**

Some weeks ago, through the AJGen discussion group, I saw an email from Geoff Moss. It turns out, he is the 4th great grandson, that is the gggg grandson of Frances, oldest daughter of Deborah and Moses Levey who were married in 1781 in Whitechapel, London. Joe, my husband is the ggg grandson of Susan second youngest daughter of Deborah and Moses Levey. So what, you say? Well, 20 years ago, Geoff and Joe had worked in the same accountancy office and even had adjacent desks. And as this was before any of us were interested in genealogy, neither knew that they were 5th cousins once removed. Bit scary isn't? Which relative do we unknowingly pass when we walk down the street, sit in a restaurant, or choose food off the supermarket shelves? Anyway it was good for us all to meet at our May meeting, *Different Approaches to Documenting Your Research*.

So, Edwin Murray may be right when he says in his book *Your Ancestors into History*, "Often we spend so much time searching for names, dates, places and relationships for our ancestors that we forget to learn about what their lives were like. What kind of house or apartment did they live in? How did they get from place to place? What kind of education did they have? Where did they go to school? Were they rich or poor? How did they meet their spouses?" Dennis Leonard reveals how he tried to find out answers to questions like these, in his story about his grandfather Peter Solomon, part 2 on page 4.

So now is the time to start writing up your family history. For the family historian, letters offer clues to vital family information. Cherished letters may also provide background to family life. Recently I found a letter typed in Yiddish from the Warsaw Immigration Society, dated 1929, to my cousin's mother with information about her impending travel to Australia because her British visa had come through. Have you found something of interest to share with us?

You will find Sonia Gold's intriguing story on page 3 essential reading, and David Landor's family history on page 6 absolutely absorbing. This issue is full of interesting information and ideas. I hope they will lead you on to significant new finds.

*Miriam Shifreen,*  
*Editor*  
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## A SKELETON FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

by Sonia Gold

In about November, 1999, at a workshop, I picked up a book called *The Scattered Seed* by George Sackheim of Skokie, Illinois, U.S.A. Over two volumes, it contained his family tree tracing back over ten generations.



Curiously leafing through it, I came across a name that gave me 'goose bumps' – Lazar Kaganovich. My maternal grandmother was a Kaganovich and all my life, my mother had told me that she was a sister to the infamous Lazar Kaganovich, Stalin's right-hand man.

Timidly I wrote to George Sackheim about my connection. In January 2000, this was his reply:-

"Dear Cousin, your grandmother was Sarah Kaganovich, who married Morris Sapier. Sarah's father was Mordechai Cohen, who was a brother to Lazar Kaganovich's father – Meshulam Zalman Cohen. The name was changed by him to Kaganovich". So my grandmother was a first cousin, not a sister.

I was stunned. Of course, Sackheim, the master genealogist, would have my grandparents in his research. But to write to me so quickly furnishing me with a complete family tree ....!

And what a family tree it was – nine rabbis in direct ancestry and forty-three in this branch of Sackheim's tree. Important names are Rabinowitz, Katzenellenbogen and Zak.

I have researched this family tree back to its origins and, although I have no official clarification, it seems to me that it begins with Scholem and then Rabbi Israel of Rozana, involved in a blood libel in 1659 when the Jews were accused of killing a Christian boy to use his blood to make matzos.

My grandmother was born on 15 July, 1897 and bore my mother and three sons. Tragically she died in Kobryn, then Poland (and now Belarus) on 18 July 1933 from breast cancer, only weeks away from setting off to join her husband in Sydney, Australia. Suddenly my mother at age 13 was catapulted into bringing herself and her three younger brothers from Poland, across Europe by train and then by ship to join her father in Sydney. But that is another story.

Lazar Kaganovich was born on 22 November, 1893 in Kabany(?) and lived into his nineties. My research has revealed that he was one of Stalin's chief Commissars and that he rose to become the only Jew to occupy a Soviet leadership role and in that capacity he was involved against his fellow Jews. Kaganovich joined the Communist party in 1924 after showing such tendencies as a youth.

On a personal note, my mother, who was born in 1920 in Kabana (Kahana), had memories from her childhood of accompanying her mother secretly delivering packets to an outcast of the family. Lazar Kaganovich came from a strictly Orthodox family and his Communist leanings, in his late teens, would have definitely made him a 'black sheep'.

Lazar Kaganovich's name has featured in several publications. Mara Moustafine's *Secrets and Spies* links him, as Commissar for Transportation, directly with the oppression of the Jews of Harbin.

The 1965 publication of *Who's Who in the U.S.S.R.* lauds his achievements which included the construction of Moscow's subway system in 1934 (named after him) and the organisation of Moscow's industrialisation. The 1972 edition of the same publication features Colonel Mikhail, Lazar's son. There is more information in other journals and in biographies of Stalin and his regime.

The most intriguing aspect of this story is that of the possible lines of marriage. Lazar Kaganovich had a sister, Rosa, who was supposed to have become the third wife of Joseph Stalin. Lazar's son, Mikhail, was reported to have married, in 1951, Svetlana, a daughter of Stalin.

Family tree exponents try working that out diagrammatically!

The lesson here is look more closely at other family trees – you never know, you may be sitting on a branch.

Sackheim, George I., *Scattered Seeds*, Vol. 1 and 2, R. Sackheim Pub. Co., Skokie Ill. 1986

Moustafine, Mara, *Secrets and Spies – The Harbin Files*, Random House Aust. Pty Ltd, Sydney, 2002.

Biography of Lazar Kaganovich from *Who's Who in the U.S.S.R.* 1965-6, p.114

*Sonia Gold lives in Sydney and has been an enthusiastic member of the Society since 1995. The story of the paternal ALTSHULER side of her family from HARBIN is just as interesting.*



## MY GRANDFATHER - PETER SOLOMON

### *A country tale - Part 2*

By Dennis Leonard

Peter Solomon's Business Success in Bombala  
Peter Solomon's first establishment in Bombala, Southern New South Wales, was noted in the Bombala Newspapers on 22/5/1891, page 3 as *Sydney House...P. Solomon...next to Australian Arms Hotel*. The Australian Arms later became the Hotel Bombala and there is still a very old (empty) shop in about the right location.

It seems to have been a quite modest building but over a period of time Peter gradually expanded it into a general store, carrying such things as groceries, explosives and shearers supplies according to the Bombala Newspapers, the *Bombala Herald* and the *Bombala Times*, which regularly printed his advertisements. On 23/10/1906 Peter Solomon advertised shearing supplies and on 7/12/1900 p.2 the local and general news (L & G) announced *licences for the keeping and sale of explosives have been granted...P. Solomon, Bombala*

He was also into recycling as the local newspaper advertisement for P. Solomon on 28/8/1906 says *Tenders for purchase of empty cases and casks...*

Peter closed for the Jewish Holydays

*Notice The Stores of the undersigned will be closed on Saturday NEXT and re-open at 6 p.m. P. Solomon*

*similarly: 26/9/1905 L & G, Mr Solomon's and Mr Leonard's shops closed Saturday next*

*and 11/9/1906: Notice ...Thursday September 30th closed all day P. Solomon, showed Peter closed for the Jewish Holydays.*

He travelled to Sydney several times to buy stock On 11/12/1891 p.1 *P. Solomon begs to inform the public that he has been to Sydney...*

*and 12/6/1906 L&G Mr Solomon has just returned from Sydney having selected large range of millinery. This is now being unpacked, and is worthy of inspection, the prices being within the reach of all shows that he did not just rely on Commercial Travellers.*

Shops were open for very long hours - something that was gradually phased out in the early years of last century but Wednesday was a half-day and no one dared open on Sunday.

*8/5/1906 Notice all stores will close at 9 o'clock on Saturday night from May 12 to October 16 1906, which Peter probably tried to avoid because on 15/4/1902 p.2 L&G Police Court-On Tuesday,*

*before Mr H.M. Joseph, J.P., P. Solomon, store-keeper charged with a breach of the Early Closing act, pleaded not guilty and the case was adjourned till April 29.*

### My Grandmother, Fanny



Peter moved his shop in 1893 Advertisements on 20/10/1893 and 27/10/1893 p.3 *The Sydney House Bombala.*

*The above business has been removed to the premises lately occupied by Mr.M. Goodman....*

*P. Solomon.* [Goodman had shifted to Delegate, another country town in N.S.W.] and finally into a property he bought in 1900. Peter Solomon bought two Blocks of land in 1895 that were Torrens Title. They were located on the north-eastern part of Forbes Street, Sydney, in Section 37.

Other Torrens Title purchases or sales have not been investigated e.g. the properties at Vaucluse and Double Bay, both in Sydney.

Peter - Prominent citizen of Bombala

Peter first appeared on the local Electoral Roll in 1896, No. 576 P. Solomon, storekeeper.

He was naturalised 30 May 1894 according to the Colonial Secretaries Records. The Index of Naturalisation certificates (COD204) which is a handwritten index to Naturalisation Papers originally held by the NSW Chief Secretaries Office contained an entry *Solomon, Peter Russia 30 May 1894 Page 208.*

This led to reel 136, which had a microfilm of the Naturalisation Certificate (Have copy). From Reel 2967 - the index to Colonial Secretaries Letters - found Solomon Peter Naturalisation Letter No. 94.5589. There was some correspondence including certificates relating to his naturalisation which listed his sponsor as one Nathan Bassor of 15 York Lane Sydney, Warehouseman & Merchant (presumably Peter dealt with him).

Probably under the influence of H.M. Joseph, Peter found himself on the Bombala Hospital Board by 14/1/1898 according to p.2 L&G followed by numerous references over the years.

He became a Mason (M.U.I.O.O.F.), being "treasurer for many years" and on his retirement the L&G of 4/6/1907 said, At the meeting of Loyal Prince Arthur Lodge MUIOF last week, Bro. P.



Solomon...presented with handsome gold pendent on the reverse side 27-5-07...valuable assistance as treasurer for many years

**Problem** He must have learnt English quite well to function both as a shopkeeper and on public bodies. Did he have an accent? (Given the age at which he arrived in Australia, probably.)

**Problem** There are missing issues of the local newspapers. No copies of Bombala Herald between 25/12/1891 and 22/6/1892 seem to have survived, and none between 29/12/1893, (which is incomplete), and the issue of 28/1/1898. To make matters worse, the other town paper, the Bombala Times, established in 1867, had a disastrous fire in 1912 causing the loss of virtually all copies before that date. [No copies were deposited with the State Library during the relevant period] So that Peter's doings during those periods are unknown.

**Problem** When was he first elected to the Hospital? This occurred during the period of missing newspapers.

Peter obviously prospered since he bought property in 1895 and 1900 and built up a thriving general store business. The first purchased property was sold in 1923 and the latter sold to another Jewish businessman in 1914 for the then enormous sum of £2100.

He was involved in town business and convened a meeting about problems with transport of goods. On 11/10/1904 there is a newspaper report on p.5: A meeting of shippers convened by Mr P. Solomon met at Moran's [Commercial] Hotel on Wednesday Afternoon. Goods were shipped to Eden instead of Merimbula. Mr Solomon said he was quite agreeable to send all his stuff to Eden...In reply to Mr Goodman, Mr Solomon said he had written to the Union Company asking for their charges in Eden...Mr Solomon wanted to know if it would be any use writing to the company which had a boat to Moruya. If they had goods lost or damaged by the I.S.N. Co and wrote about them they could not even get a reply to their letters. (There is a related letter on p.2 from Emanuel disagreeing with Peter's position)

There are several examples of Peter's signature. As a matter of interest Fanny (who would have been automatically naturalised when and if Peter was) appeared on the Electoral roll in 1903 as soon as women had the vote. However, she was apparently illiterate since as late as 1926 she signed a document with "her mark" (an X). If Fanny was illiterate how did she manage to vote?

*Dennis Leonard is the Editor of a Philately magazine. (The conclusion-Pt 3 will appear in our next issue – Ed)*

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## THE JEWISH COLONIAL TRUST LTD.

The Trust established about 100 years ago, is searching for the original shareholders or their valid descendants in order for these people to receive a cash settlement

The Jewish Colonial Trust Ltd founded in 1899 by Theodore Herzl to serve as a financial instrument for the Zionist Movement, was the parent company of the Anglo Palestine Bank, the predecessor of Bank Leumi of Israel.

The home page where you can search for the names of relatives and find other information is at <http://www.jct.co.il/shareholders.asp>

Jewish Colonial Trust, Ltd.

17 Kaplan Street Tel Aviv 64734, Israel

Tel: 972-3-691-4111/2

Fax: 972 3-691-4170

<http://www.jct.co.il/contact.html>

[info@jct.co.il](mailto:info@jct.co.il)

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## BELGIUM INDEMNIFICATION APPLICATIONS

The Right to claim for Indemnification for persons affected by anti-Jewish measures or anti-Semitic acts committed during the Second World War in Belgium has been extended until 9 September, 2003. So far the Indemnification Commission has received 4,500 applications, which they are researching. The applicant will receive notice that their application is being processed. If the claim needs to be documented any further, the Commission will contact the person in question who will be notified of the decision of the Commission.

Contact:

The Indemnification Commission Secretariat

Rue de la Loi 16

B-1000 Brussels,

Belgium

Phone +32 2 213 44 60

Email [marc.detrage@premier.fed.be](mailto:marc.detrage@premier.fed.be)

Website [www.premier.fgov.be](http://www.premier.fgov.be)

Sydney residents can contact

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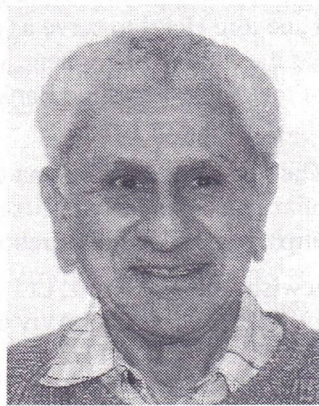


## MEET OUR TEN YEAR MEMBER -

By David Landor

Prior to 1992 I had taken only a mild interest in putting together the family tree and was recording my information manually. I started to use a software genealogical programme in 1992 because my tree was getting too big and sprouting branches everywhere.

My late mother, Marjorie (nee Gubbay) Landor, has Sephardic roots. With the collaboration of other researchers and family members, I discovered that one line, the de Sola line of my mother's antecedents



had lived in London for the last two centuries (since 1818), and before that in Holland from 1492 when they were expelled from Spain. The previous 24 generations had lived in Spain from the 8<sup>th</sup> century to 1492. The de Sola family had settled in Andalusia before the 7<sup>th</sup> century. I found that the de Sola family had been well researched by a number of descendants and genealogists during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The surname de Sola is said to have had its origin in the name of an estate the family possessed in northern Spain in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is surprising to me that surnames were introduced in Spain so early.

My father was Ashkenazi and his antecedents lived in Russia, Poland and Germany, the earliest line, subject to confirmation, going back to Moshe Yakov Hachohen born in 1420.

1992 was the year I struck gold, so to speak. Looking to see if any of the surnames in my family tree appeared in the indexes of history books or in the multi-volume Jewish Encyclopaedia in the Rev. Katz Library, I found to my surprise that several did. This find prompted me to take a much deeper interest in researching my roots.

I found my mother's great grandfather Rev. David Aaron de Sola near the bottom of the de Sola Family Tree printed in the 1905 edition of the Jewish Encyclopaedia. Rev. David Aaron de Sola was the senior minister of Bevis Marks Synagogue, London, and was known in London as the "learned chazan (*Reader*) of Bevis Marks".

At the top of the tree was one, Baruch ben Isaac ibn Daud who occupied a high Office of State in the 9<sup>th</sup> century in Navarre, Spain. Baruch would have been born between AD 770 and AD 790. From him

to my 18 months old granddaughter span 41 generations. I am informed that the de Sola Tree stands today as the oldest authenticated Jewish family tree in existence. The Jewish Encyclopaedia displayed 137 descendants of Baruch in 1905. The tree that I submitted to Beth Hatefutsoth in 1993 contained about 900 descendants. This has now grown to 1600 names in my database.

Notwithstanding, there are gaps in the tree in some of the earlier generations where names are still missing. It may be accessed on the Internet at [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org), although I have not updated it for some years.

My first question was: How could anyone trace a line back 1200 years? I learnt that records of the Roman Catholic Church in Spain were the principal source though not the only one. My great, great, uncle Abraham de Sola, who was the Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Literature at McGill University, Montreal, was evidently given permission to access Spanish Church Archives. He travelled to Spain to do most of his research. Evidently, some scholars were allowed to study old church records.

Abraham could read Spanish and Portuguese. He died in 1882. The Tree was submitted for inclusion in the Jewish Encyclopaedia by his son, Clarence Isaac de Sola.

The next obvious question I wanted an answer to was: What were Jews doing in Roman Catholic records? I learnt that the Church retained lists of Jews who were seized by the minions of the Holy Office during the six centuries of the Spanish Inquisition. Thousands were tortured and if found guilty of crimes such as secretly practising Judaism after they had converted to Christianity, suffered death at Auto-da-Fés. Reading the section "Inquisition" in the Jewish Encyclopaedia, they must have been terrible and extremely frightening days for Marranos or New Christians. Tribunals handed them over to the civil authorities to carry out the sentence, not to have blood on the Church's hands. De Sola is today a common name in Spain in the general community. Presumably they would all be descendants of Jews.

In the same encyclopaedia I also found David Aaron de Sola's wife Rica Meldola's tree. It is also a rabbinical tree. It had been traced back to Isaiah Meldola, born in 1282. Toledo, Spain. Isaiah fled Spain to live in Italy. He became Chief Rabbi in Mantua. I found that the Meldola line is 20 generations to my grandchildren, with no names missing. These Trees were included in the Jewish Encyclopaedia simply because they were rabbinical trees. There are many other rabbinical trees in this



encyclopaedia. Just as Europeans have always held an interest in the family trees of royalty, the Jewish world has always held an interest in the trees of rabbis. The lesson is that if you can trace a line to a rabbi, it may take you back a few more generations. No guarantees!!! Encyclopaedia Judaica is also of course worth going through but there are few, if any, family trees in it.

Since 1992 my database has developed into a maze of family trees all linked together by marriage. I correspond with family members in Israel, England, United States, Canada, South Africa, Germany and Australia to expand my database. I always ask folk to send me a few notes of interest on everyone. Some will. Most folk won't. I have also made extensive use of books held in the collection of AJGS at the Rev. Katz Library and of a number of synagogue libraries, the State Library and the libraries of the Society of Australian Genealogists. I have had limited success in finding material on the JewishGen website.

Fortunately I chose a good genealogical programme. Otherwise there is no way my database would have grown to its present size in ten years. My database presently holds about 12,000 people in it, being the ancestors of my wife and myself and the descendants of those ancestors; also in a number of cases the family trees of the spouses of blood descendants. In addition to the fore mentioned lines, two lines have been traced to the 17th century and several to the 18th century.

Confession time! In the beginning I made a big mistake. I did not cite my sources. Very unprofessional! I urge beginners to cite their sources from the start for each and every event. It gives credibility to your research even if many of your sources are given to you verbally from a family member. Citing a printed source, assuming it is a reliable source, is more valuable to your descendants, for it will enable them in a hundred years time to verify your work if they want to.

Don't be a gatherer of names only. There is little merit in a tree of names. Dates, or at least, years, and places are important too. A place should show three things, the city or town, preferably the state or province and definitely the country. Place names tend to repeat themselves all over the world. There is a Sydney and a London in Canada, a Melbourne in USA, a Perth in Scotland, and there are six Newcastles around the world.

I have two other genealogical interests. In 1995 the Society of Australian Genealogists, of which I was a member, formed a Brother's Keeper Interest Group. Brother's Keeper is the software genealogical programme that I use. Appointed

Coordinator of the group, for the next four years I presented a course of two-hourly lectures held bimonthly in the Rumsey Hall in the use of this programme.

The other interest of mine has been to computerise family trees for other members of the Jewish Community who have put their trees together manually, but are not computer literate.

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*David Landor is a foundation member and former committee member of the Society*

*See [www.jewishencyclopedia.com](http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com) for an online edition of Jewish Encyclopaedia (Ed)*

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## **SOME UKRAINIAN SITES TO TRY**

**<http://www.jewishgen.org/ukraine>**

Click on each Gubernia, to find icons for the Towns for which submissions have been made. You can also submit articles or data of interest for the towns you are researching. There are links to some very good maps covering the Ukraine, both old and new. And members have sent in descriptions of trips, and samples of their poetry. AND MORE

**[www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/  
Colonies\\_of\\_Ukraine/index.htm](http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Colonies_of_Ukraine/index.htm)**

Colonies of the Ukraine by Chaim Freedman

**<http://www.kazez.com/~dan/zaslav-cem/Izy.html>**  
Zaslav (Izaslav) Jewish Cemetery. Zaslav (current name Izaslav) is in present-day Ukraine. After about a year, the project to photograph and index all of the tombstones in the Jewish cemetery there is nearly complete.

If you find any tombstones for your family listed at the web site above. Daniel Kazez will be happy to supply you with a high-quality photograph of the stone. On the web, to keep-load time fast, he has not put high-quality images.

Daniel Kazez: [dkazez@wittenberg.edu](mailto:dkazez@wittenberg.edu)

**[www.rtrfoundation.org](http://www.rtrfoundation.org)**

Fire in Kamenets Podolskiy, Ukraine has destroyed a significant number of the historic documents including some Jewish vital records, Kahal records, school records, tax lists, voter lists, immigration records, recruit lists, property records and other types of documents. This archive now remains closed to the general public until further notice. Many unique historical documents were also water-damaged. For an update see Miriam Weiner's website.

*Miriam Weiner's book on Ukraine and Moldova is in the Library of our Society.*



## NEWS FROM N.S.W.

By Rieke Nash

Our speaker at the Annual General Meeting in March, Suzanne Rutland, gave a fascinating description of the difficulties faced by World War II Jewish survivors wishing to migrate to Australia. (See Jeannette Tsoulos' report on page 10). Her talk described her research into recently released files in the National Archives of Australia, Canberra. She detailed the means by which the then government tried to limit the number of Jews entering the country. As one of our members commented after the lecture "It was just as well that my ancestors came as convicts."

Our May event, *Different Approaches to Documenting Your Research*, proved to be an enjoyable, social and productive afternoon where a number of members highlighted the differences dictated by the special circumstances of each family. From simple word processed stories to high tech CD productions, we were entertained by Geoff Moss, Kim Phillips, Michael Gold, Gary Luke, Miriam Shifreen and Rieke Nash. The limits of time, expertise and cost were discussed but everyone found something new to consider.

One of our members believes that the records will always be there to research but one's own memories will not and he believes that it is more important to make sure that these are documented and then one can always go backwards in time. Of course the risks here are that sometimes sources are destroyed (such as, the recent vandalism in the Plashet cemetery in London where over 300 stones were damaged for example), some resources are removed from public access and costs for records can increase dramatically.

Maybe genealogy is like investment strategies – one has to spread the risk according to your available resources, money and time.

We are looking forward to a big weekend at Limmud Oz where our team is presenting papers on *Our Ancestors and Their Paper Trails* and another session on *Internet or InterNOT?* We will be joined in our open panel sessions by Lionel Sharpe from Melbourne.

There has been a very keen response to our visit to the LDS Family History Centre in Carlingford in June and it has been fully booked out.

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## GIVEN NAME CHANGES

JewishGen has redesigned, expanded, and upgraded Given Names Data Bases of the European Jewish and secular given names that your ancestor may have used at different times and in different venues during the period 1795-1925. Each such set of linked Jewish and secular names from Europe is accompanied by sets of statistically linked vernacular names adopted by our ancestors upon immigration to any of 10 foreign countries, such as the US. This allows you to search for their names in Europe and to find likely names that they may have chosen in any foreign country, or to follow the reverse research direction.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/GivenNames/> or at the UkraineSig web site, where the new data base for Ukraine is also available.

*Editor: This is not an exact science as each family had their own practices in adopting new names in a new country.*

## PLACE NAME CHANGES

The following internet sites are helpful for identifying towns.

<http://www.atsnotes.com/other/gerpol.html>  
German-Polish and Polish-German names of the localities in Poland & Russia

<http://guillaume.roelly.org/entraide/villagesad.htm>  
towns in Alsace and the Moselle region showing both the French and German names.

## HAMBURG EMIGRATION SITE ADDS ADDITIONAL YEARS

The Hamburg Emigration Index database is now complete for the years 1890-1902. It is located at:

[http://www.hamburg.de/fhh/behoerden/staatsarchiv/link\\_to\\_your\\_roots/english/index.htm](http://www.hamburg.de/fhh/behoerden/staatsarchiv/link_to_your_roots/english/index.htm)

The index provides basic information about the emigrant: name, country/state of origin, approximate age, and destination. For a fee, you can receive an abstract of the entire entry from the ship's manifest. The cost for an abstract has been lowered to \$US20 for 1-3 persons; \$US30 4-10 persons; \$US40 for 11-20; \$US50 for 21-30 persons. Payment can be made with MasterCard, EuroCard or Visa. Because it is an abstract rather than the actual manifest, each member of a family of three on a specific page would have his/her own abstract. Therefore, they would count as three persons if you requested information about all three.



**THE HOLOCAUST IN LITHUANIA 1941 – 1945 A BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE, Volume 1 to 4, Gafen Publishing Co. Jerusalem and New York, 2002.**

**By Rose Lerer Cohen and Saul Issroff**

**Reviewed by Paula Seligman**

This set of books comprises 4 volumes numbered I, IIa, IIb and III. There are various essays about the Lithuanian Holocaust and research resources, but it's the pages of names of deceased relatives and friends sent in by survivors, names from Yizkor books and also from work camp, ghetto and concentration camps, that fill the reader with awe and sadness. In 1997 the authors, Rose Lerer-Cohen and Saul Issroff set out to compile a list of names of the Jews of Lithuania, who were murdered in the Holocaust.

Over 5,000 names were submitted in response to articles in journals and the daily press, mailings to survivors and to the project website. The authors say that, *this is not a historical study; it is a compilation of names of victims and a guide to available resources*. Rose Lerer-Cohen and Saul Issroff both share an interest in the Lithuanian Holocaust. The former's interest stems from the loss of her grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins during the Shoah in Lithuania. She lives in Israel and has been a past chairperson of the Israel Genealogy Society.

Saul Issroff's interest and research arose through his studies of Jewish History, Holocaust and genealogy. He is a founding member of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Great Britain.

Over 90% of the Jews of Lithuania died during the Shoah. In his forward Dr Stephen D. Smith MBE says *that is why you will see lists upon lists of names. But of course they are not just names. They are lives. Names have mothers and fathers, brothers, sisters....* A set of these books has been donated to the Sydney Jewish Museum's library and can be perused there.

I wish that I had known about this project, for it is exactly at this time that I became interested in researching my Lithuanian roots. I was living in Paris and I joined the French Jewish genealogy society. However, I could not benefit from their newsletters, as my knowledge of the French language was very limited.

My late father, like so many of his generation, was loath to speak about his boyhood in Lithuania. He told me that he had been born in Krekanova. No one that I spoke to had ever heard of this shtetl. I found it on a map close to Panevezys.

Imagine my surprise when I read Shalom Bronstein's review of *The Holocaust in Lithuania* from Sharsheret Hadorot, Vol 17 No.1, that his ancestral shtetl is also Krekanova.

*Paula Seligman is a new member of our Society and is a volunteer at the Sydney Jewish Museum.*

**SEPHARDIC GENEALOGY, Discovering Your Ancestors and Their World,**

**By Jeffrey S. Malka, 2002,  
published by Avotaynu.**



**Reviewed by Jeannette Tsoulos**

This latest acquisition for our Library covers Oriental Jews as well as those whose ancestors came from Spain. The book is an excellent guide for anyone researching Sephardic genealogy.

The reader will find in its pages a history of Sephardic communities, names and languages, detailed information on resources and archives in 20 countries. For beginners there are suggestions on researching and documenting their family trees, with an introduction to the Internet and a discussion of software. There are 12 pages of Sephardic websites. The 12 appendices cover a variety of information of use to the Sephardic researcher, such as scripts and alphabets, Inquisition tribunals, some Egyptian tombstone inscriptions, Jewish names in printed sources, and synagogue affiliations in 16th century Salonika, Greece. The book contains maps, tables and an extensive bibliography.

This is a book no Sephardic genealogist should ignore. Additional information, including a Table of Contents, can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/sephardic.htm>.

*Jeannette Tsoulos is the Resource Librarian of our Society, and Secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society.*

**A TRIBUTE TO KENNETH SYMONDS**

One of our members, Ken Symonds died on the 13 March, 2003 in Jerusalem. Born in Bellevue Hill he spent most of his life there except for a few short years in Brisbane during his childhood, and of course the years that he served with the Australian Army in New Guinea during World War II.

He was a committed communal worker, being involved with the Central Synagogue, the Board of Deputies, and Interfaith relations. At the time of his death he was writing the biography of his father, Ralph Symonds, which unfortunately he never completed.



## THE UNWANTED: POST-WAR JEWISH MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

from a talk given in March by Dr Suzanne Rutland at the AGM of our Society.

### Reported by Jeannette Tsoulos

Our guest speaker at the AGM in March was Dr Suzanne Rutland, who holds the Chair of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies at Sydney University and is President of the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Suzanne's topic, of which she has made a special study, was *The Unwanted: Post-War Jewish Migration to Australia*.

The story was depressingly familiar. After World War 2, Australia set about increasing its small population by subsidising refugee immigration, sponsored by the International Refugee Organisation (IRO). Among the millions of displaced Europeans were a number of Jews, survivors of the Holocaust. The Australian Government's initial sympathy for these Jews, and readiness to accept many as migrants, was turned around by the hostile attitude of Australians. As a result, Jews were all but excluded from the scheme.

Dr Rutland detailed the measures taken by the Minister for Immigration, Mr Calwell, to restrict the immigration of Jews, despite appeals from the Jewish community. These included the 25% quota imposed from 1946 on Jews arriving by ship or plane, and the Iron Curtain Embargo, set up in 1949 to stop migration of Jews from Eastern Europe and even Israel and Shanghai, under the guise of a general ban on migration from Communist countries. Jews were seen as undesirable, while Nazi sympathisers and collaborators from Germany, Austria and the Baltic States had no problem being accepted as migrants. Where displaced persons from virtually any European country could be sponsored by the IRO, Jews could only come if sponsored by a Jewish organisation or by a family. However this was effectively stopped by the Iron Curtain Embargo.

Throughout this sorry saga, compassion for the pitifully few survivors of the destruction of European Jewry seems to have played little part. Government files and letters uncovered by Dr Rutland's research show that government and bureaucratic circles were not free of religious and racial prejudice. One obstacle after another was placed in the path of Jewish migration to Australia, though the Government sought to hide this fact behind a screen of obfuscation and doublespeak.

In the end, Australia, with 23,000 Jews, took 35,000 Holocaust survivors, more per head of population than any country except Israel.

However, our contribution could have been far higher. Our country has a long way to go in eradicating ignorance and prejudice against those perceived as different from ourselves.

*Jeannette Tsoulos is the Resource Librarian of our Society, and Secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society.*

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## HAVE YOU SURFED THESE WEBSITES?

<http://coraweb.com.au> has many useful links:

Under cemeteries see Jewish Maitland for a list of burials and a mention of our Gary Luke's contribution.

An Australian Gateway Site for tracing your family tree

Genealogical journals on-line

Download Brothers Keeper BR6 full version

Searching for something Jewish?

[www.haruth.com](http://www.haruth.com) (go to site map)

Did you know that you can find the microfilm numbers for the 1939 German Jewish Census on the LDS Family History Library Catalogue on the following site?

[www.familysearch.org/](http://www.familysearch.org/)

This is one of the many useful research topics to be found on this site.

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## THE VILNA GAON JEWISH STATE MUSEUM IN VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

<http://www.jmuseum.lt/>

Click "EN" in the upper right corner of the screen to get the English version of this site.

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## STEVEN SPIELBERG DEVELOPS ONLINE FILMS OF JEWISH LIFE

The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive has begun a major project to make films of Jewish life of the past available on the Internet at:

<http://spielbergfilmarchive.org.il/kv/index.htm>

There are films of pre-Holocaust Jewish life in Bialystok, Krakow, Lviv, Vilna, and Warsaw. There are numerous music clips--Ashkenazic, Hassidic, North African, Sephardic, Yemenite and others. Major film categories are Jewish Communities, Holocaust, Pre-State (of Israel), State of Israel and Hebrew University of Jerusalem. These are not short film clips. Most are 10 minutes or more.

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## WEAPONS OF THE SPIRIT

The Huguenot Society is showing a video about Huguenots saving Jewish refugees in WW2 on Sunday 10 August 2003 at 2 p.m. at WEA, Bathurst Street. Email: [ozhug@optushome.com.au](mailto:ozhug@optushome.com.au)



## Office Bearers of the Society

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Treasurer	<i>Gary Luke</i>
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Resources Librarian	<i>Jeannette Tsoulos</i>
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## 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. See front page for dates.

Articles and material may be submitted to the Editor at: P.O.Box 42 lane cove NSW 1595

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Or by email: [editor@ajgs.org.au](mailto:editor@ajgs.org.au)

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## COMING EVENT

NSW and ACT Assoc of Family History Societies, Inc.

ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

19-21 September, 2003

Central Coast Family History Society, Inc.

Central Coast Leagues Club, Gosford

**Voyage of Discovery, Continuing the Journey**

[2003nsw&actconference@centralcoasths.org.au](mailto:2003nsw&actconference@centralcoasths.org.au)

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New South Wales

Danny Beran

Pamela Zopf

ACT

Frank Atkinson

## INTERNATIONAL JGS CONFERENCES

Washington, DC - July 20-25, 2003

<http://www.jewishgen.org/dc2003/>

Jerusalem – 2004

Las Vegas – 2005



## WARSAW

**By George Sternfeld**

Amongst my parents photographs from the past  
I found a postcard from Warsaw.  
It is a monument of Chopin in Lazienki Park  
Covered with a white blanket of snow.

Warsaw, the city of my birth  
I have never known you the way I should.  
The great city of yesterday,  
Destroyed by bombs.

Its people massacred,  
My ancestry permanently removed.  
Our culture vanished from your town,  
I am a survivor from a dying generation.

Music lingers in my mind  
I recognise the tune.  
It is Chopin's Piano Sonata No. 2  
*The Funeral March*.  
The music reminds me of loss and despair.

Warsaw the city of my birth  
I never knew you the way I should  
Though my father and mother were proud of  
                your charm,  
Of your buzz, monuments, the river and  
                the parks.  
Cannot give you recognition from a far  
                away land.

Just stare at the postcard and accept my fate.  
Warsaw, you are the city of my parents.  
Known to me by the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.  
The heroic people from your town,  
Known to me from an image.  
The Warsaw Ghetto monument represents  
my past.

*George Sternfeld is a child survivor from Poland who read his poem at the Sydney Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto.*

## JRI-POLAND SHTETL CO-OP PROJECT FOR PABIANICE

### By Alan Glixman

A project is underway to index the names from the Jewish vital records for the period 1831 to 1870 of Pabianice which is approximately 12 km south west of Lodz and before the war had a Jewish population of around 8500. There are about 2350 Jewish records for this period of which 270 are written in Russian (1868-1870) and the rest are in Polish.

My grandfather Leon Gliksman was born in Pabianice in 1881. His ancestors, the Gliksman and Zylbersztejn families, arrived in Pabianice around 1840 and were prominent merchants in the town.

There are volunteers from Israel, the UK, the USA, Poland and Australia helping with this project. The database will be available online at <http://www.jewishgen.org/JRI-PL/jriplweb.htm>.

Alan Glixman, Sydney  
Project Co-Ordinator  
alan.glixman@optusnet.com.au (02) 9949-7790.

## Other Australian Volunteers Working with the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland Project

Diana Terry (SA) Szczecociny CZESTOCHOWA  
Rita Nash (NSW) Krzeszow, Firlej, Kock, LUBLIN  
Ester Czarky (VIC), Bychawa, LUBLIN  
Rieke Nash, (NSW) Ozorkow LODZ  
and Izbica Kujawska, POZNAN

We would like to hear from anyone else helping with this project. Please contact the President, Rieke Nash, [president@ajgs.org](mailto:president@ajgs.org)

JRI has indexed more than 1.8 million records to date and can be found at:  
<http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl>.

## WARSAW GHETTO DEATH CARD DATABASE

On the eve of Passover, April 19, 1943, German troops and police entered the Warsaw ghetto to deport its surviving Jews. For nearly a month, seven hundred and fifty ghetto fighters fought valiantly. On 16 May, 1943 the uprising was defeated and more than 56,000 Jews were captured. 7,000 were shot and the rest were deported to the death camps.

To commemorate the 60th Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Jewish Records Indexing (JRI-Poland), the Jewish Historical Institute and Jewish Genealogy Society, Inc (NY) have announced the completion of the Warsaw Ghetto Death Card Database at:  
[www.jri-poland.org](http://www.jri-poland.org)