



The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

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		<i>Coming Events</i>
<i>Inside This Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>	
President's Report By Rieke Nash	2	JANUARY IS RESEARCHING ON-LINE MONTH This issue is full of new websites to promote your research
Editorial by Miriam Shifreen	2	
Mary Lurie Segall By Bubbles Segall	3	
Jews in the Northern Territory, Australia – 1938 <i>From the Northern Standard Newspaper</i>	4	
How the Website of The National Archives of Australia Can Help Your Research By Rieke Nash	5	Sunday morning Workshops: February 1, 2004 February 29, 2004 March 14, 2004 from 9.30 a.m.
Reviews and Resources	7	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 28 MARCH, 2004 7.30 P.M.
News From NSW	9	
Report From Victoria	9	
Report From South Australia	10	
Western Australian Report	10	
Our 10 Year Members	12	
PLANNING A HOLIDAY IN SYDNEY DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS? LIKE TO RESEARCH IN OUR LIBRARY? OR JUST WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH? CONTACT US TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS		

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rieke Nash

At last the community is gradually becoming aware that, even though we are the **Australian JGS**, providing help to members with their overseas research is one of our main concerns. To do this we need assistance and would welcome offers to become involved in the Society's administration or research projects.

The rewards for volunteering in the many tasks and projects are varied with networking, using old and learning new skills and furthering one's own research..

Recently I was able to track down the entry for a family on the 1891 UK census and confirm that a woman who had migrated to Sheffield around 1869 was born in the same town as my great-grandfather. A Templinski from Sluzewo, in Poland – she had to be mine! Moreover the man she married in Sheffield came from Ishbitz, Poland – the town, Izbica Kujawski, for which I had spent many hours transcribing all those LDS records without knowing that I had a connection to it.

A few years ago I had discovered some useful documents on the website of the National Archives of Australia and offered to write an article for Kosher Koala (see page 5). This week in order to check the current procedures, I used some family references and, to my surprise, found some new information: the name of the ship that my mother had migrated on, that my father had unsuccessfully tried to sponsor an uncle from Poland in 1937 and that World War II service records could be searched by place of birth. Quite a haul!

We have achieved much this year and with more volunteers we can plan for even more information, services and seminars next year.

We do appreciate that many of you are busy with work and family commitments so we are still happy to have your support with your membership and the occasional contact.

Rieke Nash
President
president@ajgs.org.au

P.S. I have just ordered ten certificates from the Polish State Archive through JRI-Poland and I am eagerly awaiting their arrival.

EDITORIAL

By Miriam Shifreen

The long hot lazy days of summer are here. With nothing to do but sit around, take leisurely walks, picnic, play golf, tennis or swim, look after the children or grandchildren you'll have time on your hands. So, that's where *January: Is Searching On-Line Month, comes in*.

Start with the article on page 5, *How the Web Site of The National Archives of Australia Can Help Your Research*, by our President, Rieke Nash. Get registered, order your requests, and then while you are waiting for them to be processed, inspect all the other websites listed in this newsletter. And don't forget to try out the sites mentioned in our previous issues that you've been saving up.

Then if you can come to our library you can read *The Diaries Of Bernhard Cahn: A Man Of His Time By Arline Sachs* which I reviewed on page 8. Not only will you learn about every day *Life In 19th Century Germany*, but you will also learn the value of keeping a journal and what an interesting legacy you can leave to your descendants. Bernard Cahn was just an ordinary man, yet his comments on every day life leave you with the picture of an amazing man.

You will find other interesting resources discussed by Peter Nash, on page 7, some of which are also in our Library.

There is much more to this Kosher Koala. On page 3 Bubbles Segall writes about her grandmother, Mary Lurie Segall as well as sending us an interesting snippet about Jews in the Northern Territory, Australia in 1938

News around the Australian States and other snippets of interest complete our newsletter.

And after all that, if you still have free time on your hands, you can write up that story you have been promising to write for Kosher Koala.

I look forward to meeting you all at our Annual General meeting on 28 March and at our lectures and meetings that will be announced.

Where has 2003 gone? I hope that this has been a successful research year.

Miriam Shifreen,
Editor
editor@ajgs.org.

P.S. Don't forget to return the members' questionnaire that you will find in this Newsletter.

MARY LURIE SEGALL

By Bubbles Segall

In 1984 my first cousin John Emdin and his wife Ava, sent their two children, Mark and Natalie to stay with my husband, Ian and me for two weeks in Katherine in the Northern Territory of Australia where we were living at the time. Katherine is a country town 300 kilometres south of Darwin. Mark was almost 13 years old and Natalie, ten. The Emdins, like me, migrated from South Africa to Australia in the seventies and settled in Sydney where they still live today.

Mark and Natalie brought me a book *From Generation to Generation. How to Trace your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History* by Arthur Kurzweil. I read this book from cover to cover and became absolutely hooked on genealogy. I ate, slept and dreamed genealogy for weeks and weeks. I couldn't get enough. I decided that the first thing to do was to find out the story behind a beautiful plaque which John has in his possession in memory of our grandmother, Mary Segall nee Lurie.

I first became aware of this plaque in the early 1980s when I visited John in Sydney. Some years previously his father and mother, Samuel (Sonny) and Dorothy Emdin nee Segall, visited relatives in America and were given this plaque which is inscribed as follows:

**JEWISH WOMEN'S HEALTH ASSOCIATION
RECUPERATIVE CENTER**

1907 - 1957

**IN LOVING TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF
MARY LURIE SEGAL***

whose vision, humanitarianism and sympathy for the sick and underprivileged, inspired the founding, 50 years ago, of the Jewish Anti-Tuberculosis Association, now known as the Jewish Women's Health Association Recuperative Centre.

November 19, 1957

Signed by the Secretary
Miriam C. Abramson

I wrote to my father Eddie, in South Africa, asking him for some more information about his mother, my grandmother. He told me that she had been a nurse in Boston USA and that she worked with Jewish patients suffering from tuberculosis. Using Arthur Kurzweil's book I looked up addresses of places in Boston where I thought I might find information about her.

My first letter was sent to the American Jewish Historical Society on the campus of the Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts. The Librarian, Nathan Kaganoff, was extremely helpful



Bubbles Segall

and found some information which he forwarded to me regarding my grandmother. He also suggested that I contact the Archives at Beth Israel Hospital Boston, Massachusetts.

Ruth Freiman, the hospital's archivist, contacted me. With the

help of Dr. Arthur J. Linenthal, a staff physician who was studying the early history of Boston's Jewish Hospitals, she was able to send me the following information.

In 1907 Mary Lurie began her service with the Tuberculosis Clinic at Boston's Mount Sinai Hospital. It was recognised that many poor migrant Jews with language difficulties were becoming ill with tuberculosis and it was suggested that a nurse be employed to home visit and supervise patients. The nurse's role was to investigate the home conditions of patients and ensure that the prescribed treatment was being carried out. Mary Lurie was the first nurse to be employed in this program. She organised women to work in the crowded tenement districts of Boston conducting educational campaigns for immigrants afflicted with tuberculosis.

The Mount Sinai Tuberculosis Program was supported almost entirely by funds from the association started by Mary Lurie. Late in 1907 the group changed its name to the Jewish Anti-Tuberculosis Association and early in 1908 was chartered by the state as a charitable organisation.

In 1908 Mary Lurie resigned from the Mount Sinai Hospital Society and travelled to a town called Stellenbosch in South Africa to join her sister, Etta Ganenda. Whilst there, she met and married my grandfather, Daniel Tzvi Segall.

Mary Lurie was awarded a posthumous citation from the Jewish Women's Health Association at a Jewish Women's Health Association Golden Anniversary Luncheon in 1957 for her contribution to education about tuberculosis, hence the plaque.

Both Ruth Freiman and Dr. Arthur Linenthal were interested in this plaque as Dr Linenthal's father Dr. Harry Linenthal was awarded a similar citation at this Golden Anniversary Luncheon in 1957 for his contribution.

In 1991 I received a treasured book in the mail from Dr Arthur J. Linenthal entitled "First a Dream.

The History of Boston's Jewish Hospitals 1896 to 1928" which he had just completed. My grandmother receives a mention for her role in nursing Jewish patients suffering from tuberculosis in the early 1900's.

These revelations regarding my grandmother turned out to be the beginning of an ongoing fascination with family history which continues to give me immeasurable enjoyment and satisfaction today.

** Mary's husband Daniel Zvi Segall spelled Segall with two 'l's. He and his brother Eliezer Nossen were the only family members who used this spelling. Their siblings spelled it as 'Segal'. On the plaque dedicated to Mary, the name is spelled with one 'l'.*

Bubbles Segall, a member of our society who lives in the Northern Territory of Australia, has followed in her grandmother's footsteps by choosing nursing as a career and like her she also worked in the field of public health. Bubbles has spent many years working with traditional Aboriginal people in remote parts of the Northern Territory and like her grandmother has been recognised for her contribution to health.

To commemorate the Centenary of Federation (1901-2001), the Australian Government awarded Centenary Medals to individuals who have made a significant contribution to Australian society. Bubbles was a very proud recipient of this medal for her contribution to women's health in the Northern Territory. She was previously acknowledged by the National Family Planning Association when she received their inaugural President's Award.

Email: Bubbles@octa4.net.au

And the following interesting news item which appeared in an old newspaper in the Northern Territory was sent to us by Bubbles Segall.

JEWS IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA - 1938 FROM THE NORTHERN STANDARD

Letter To the Editor,

Sir, - I landed at Darwin with the first electric cable in October, 1871, and was a resident there for 30 years. Somewhere about the middle seventies I was a cadet in the Survey Department and sketched the country and charted the base line for the Roper River Trigonometrical Survey from the river mouth until we reached the existing overland telegraph line.

This will probably be sufficient to prove my general knowledge of the Northern Territory, of which Darwin is the capital and will soon have its hundredth anniversary, since Capt. Stokes, R.N., in H.M.S. Beagle, landed there on September 3, 1839, and called the port after the naturalist, Charles Darwin, who was not on the ship on that occasion.

I wrote to your Prime Minister a week ago suggesting all the spare Jews you seem to have in Europe should be settled in this Roper River country at or near Leichhardt's Bar, which is 90 miles inland from the mouth. Between this Leichhardt's Bar and the telegraph line there are many thousands of acres of good agricultural lands that would support all the Jews in Christendom. It will never be populated by Australians, and as I can offer 30 years' experience of station management and some 1200 miles of coastline with its nine navigable rivers, I could, if so desired, assist the European government to dispose of spare Jews. The climate is good; April to September quite cool and humid during November to March in the wet season.

To form a settlement of this kind will run into money, but if the Jews are accustomed to agricultural work there is ample room in this part of the Territory which will never be likely to appeal to young Australians.

It is on the whole well grassed, having really only two seasons - dry from April to November and the balance more or less wet. There are plenty of hills for homesteads, and as the Roper River, like most Australian inland waterways, is subject to flood, care in selecting homesteads would have to be considered. However here, if properly managed at the start, "God's own people" could live at peace with the world. -

Yours etc.

H. W. H. STEVENS

Gresham House, Battery Road, Singapore,
November 5, 1938.

"The Northern Standard" was the predecessor of the Darwin daily newspaper, "The Northern Territory News". Bubbles says: We know this area well. It is about 600 kms south-east of Darwin. The Church Missionary Society set up a mission there at some stage for Aboriginal people and called it Roper. It is now a large Aboriginal community and goes by the name of Ngukurr (pronounced Nu-ker) and is no longer run by the Church Missionary Society but a Community Government Council.

HOW THE WEBSITE OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA CAN HELP YOUR RESEARCH

www.naa.gov.au

By Rieke Nash

Many of our members are unaware of an important resource that should be regularly checked by all researchers, whether the family came in the First Fleet or was a recent arrival. Accessing the website of the National Archives of Australia is as simple as nominating a personal Id and Password and then searching the amazing wealth of information on-line. In the absence of any Australian census records, a relative's WWI army records, a naturalisation application or the application to sponsor the immigration of a relative may provide that elusive missing piece of information needed for a breakthrough in the puzzle.

Navigating the site is easy with lots of explanations, help buttons, advice on the systems used by the Archives and instructions for requesting copies. The method for obtaining copies of documents depends on whether the status of the file is 'open' or 'not yet examined' and more than 30 years old.

Making a request for a digital copy of a file is a fascinating process. Having identified the correct record, a request can be made for its digital image to be available on-line. All the contents of the file will be scanned so that the pages can be viewed on-line and printouts made of any that are worthwhile. Recently one request took around two months to be added to the site but the wait was not inconvenient, the results worthwhile, and the service free. A little blue logo like a written 'r' indicated that the request had been completed on the RecordSearch website.

Being able to search the site personally allows more control of the search process and optimises the chance of success. For example, my father's 1938 immigration application to sponsor an aunt listed her under her mother's maiden name. An archivist doing a search would not have recognised this name or identified this item as the correct record.



The Collection

Using Our Collection
Family History
Cabinet
Defence
Federation
Indigenous Records
Prime Ministers
Security
Transport
Foreign Relations

Reference Inquiry and Requests

PURPOSE: Use this form to lodge your research inquiry or to request copies of our records. Before sending your inquiry please read [Using Our Collection](#) and check our [RecordSearch](#) and [PhotoSearch](#) databases, [fact sheets](#), [research guides](#) and [Collection](#) pages to ascertain if we have material on your topic.

If you want a World War I service record, please use our [World War I Record Request Form](#). For a World War II defence service record, please use our [World War II Record Request form](#). If you are seeking family history information, use our [Family History Inquiry Form](#).

The records are mainly from 1901 onwards and do not contain Birth, Death or Marriage records. They are sufficiently varied and detailed to be of significance and although not always fool-proof this can be another means of determining if a relative (with an unusual surname!) had migrated to Australia.

Even though a trip to Canberra can be a pleasant experience check first whether the actual records, particularly pre-Federation, (i.e. before 1901) are available there or should be viewed at the local State Offices of the National Archives.

Arrival Records

The microfilms of passenger arrival records for Sydney 1923-1966 are available at The Rocks in Sydney at 2 Globe Street, 9-5 weekdays, but to have success one needs to know year, month and port of arrival and/or the ship's name.

A new initiative in Fremantle, Western Australia, is starting to simplify this problem. A Work for the Dole scheme has so far created indices for the passengers on all ships that arrived in Fremantle between January, 1926 and June 1930 even if the passengers were not disembarking in Fremantle. In fact the Fremantle records are sometimes more complete than the Sydney arrival records. Not only can you order a record on-line but you can also view the whole passenger list.

Citizenship and Naturalisation

The application form typically contains date and place of birth, children's names and ages, a signature and was usually handwritten by the applicant.

Title		
Applicant - ISENBERG Louis, Nominee - SHULMAN Jacob Lewis, nationality Polish		
Series number	Control symbol	Contents date range
A261	1936/273	1936 - 1936
Access status	Location	Barcode
Not yet examined	Canberra	8199345

One for a widow included her maiden name which was not previously known.

Alien Registrations

Immigrants and visitors alike who were non-British were required to make an *Application for Registration By an Alien Entering Australia*. A delightful example highlighted in the Archives Newsletter, Memento, in May 2003 is a copy of the form filled in by Gregory Peck when he arrived in Melbourne in 1959 to star in the film *On The Beach*.

Defence Service Records

www.ww2roll.gov.au

The World War Two Nominal Roll site honours those who served in Australia's defence forces and an attractive certificate of service can be printed on-line. These records include date and place of birth and next of kin as well as service details.

World War Two Service

PRIVATE JACK SHULMAN NN90430	
SERVICE	AUSTRALIAN ARMY
DATE OF BIRTH	20 APRIL 1917
PLACE OF BIRTH	POLAND
DATE OF ENLISTMENT	26 FEBRUARY 1942
LOCALITY ON ENLISTMENT	BONDJUNG NSW
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	PADDINGTON NSW
NEXT OF KIN	ISINBURG, HILLEN
DATE OF DISCHARGE	29 JANUARY 1946
POSTING AT DISCHARGE	231 PORT OPERATING COMPANY

VETERANS AFFAIRS

In fact, it is possible to search on place of birth and list every serviceman or woman born in a particular country. For example a search on Poland listed 338 town names and even though many of the towns were misspelt it can be a productive exercise.

The Department of Veterans Affairs site is searchable on a variety of fields.

www.dva.gov.au

Immigration of Displaced Persons

Of the 170,700 Displaced Persons brought to Australia under the International Refugee Organisation (IRO) program very few were Jewish. Most Jewish refugees were either sponsored by relatives or by Jewish Welfare in Sydney and Melbourne. The Archives do not have the Jewish Welfare files but some records may still be found in RecordSearch. A file that contains the Application to Migrate papers can identify dates, towns,

addresses, the results of a medical examination and even a photo.

Form No. 40

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
Immigration Act 1901-1940.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION OF RELATIVE OR FRIEND TO AUSTRALIA.

(NOTE.—A separate form should be used for each person. In the case of a married man who will be accompanied by his wife and children under sixteen years of age, their names may be included on this form.)

THE SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION,
CANBERRA.

I, Werner Graff
(Insert full name: surname in BLOCK letters)

The post-war form for the *Application for Admission of Relative or Friend to Australia* is interesting. The form required that the person being nominated be identified as Jewish or not. (For a number of years there were restrictions on the number of Jewish refugees allowed into the country after the war).

Information on the migrants who entered under the IRO scheme 1947-1953 can be found on the RecordSearch site.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

STATUTORY DECLARATION
(To be filled in by Widows)

Referred to in Paragraph 1 of annexed Application.

I, Fanny Napolsky, do solemnly and sincerely declare that—

1. My name is Fanny Napolsky

2. My name is 526 K... St. S. d.

Resources in our library

Turnbull, Malcolm J., *Safe Haven: Records of the Jewish Experience in Australia*, National Archives of Australia, Research Guide No. 12, Canberra, 1999

Chambers, Margaret, *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*, Canberra 1998

The Complete Set of Fact Sheets issued by the Archives.

Rieke Nash is the President of the Australian Jewish Genealogy Society with a special interest in Australian, English and Polish records. She is also the Wloclawek Archive Co-ordinator for JRI-Poland.

GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES IN NEW YORK

Edited by Estelle M. Guzik

Reviewed by Peter Nash

Of the over 12 million immigrants that arrived in the United States through New York between 1880 and 1924, 3.5 million were Jews most of whom settled there. Hence a research guide is an invaluable aid to finding family connections in New York. Published by the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. New York, this 2003 Edition supersedes the 1989 Edition of *Genealogical Resources in the New York Area*. The guide is divided into the five boroughs/counties of New York City – Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island – as well as Albany in upper New York State. Counties such as Bergen, Trenton, Westchester and others have been excluded this time.

Estelle Guzik and her team of numerous contributors have updated and included new sources of data and expanded the information on resources available from a variety of libraries, archives and public agencies. Only about 25% of these institutions are specifically Jewish orientated, so that this guide is also valuable to non-Jewish researchers. About 90 resource facilities, in alphabetical order, have their complete details provided – website, location, access, description of holdings, finding aids, etc. Location maps for each Borough as well New York Area Jewish Cemeteries are also given.

In recent years new sources of genealogical data have emerged and are described. These include the Center for Jewish History which incorporates seven Jewish specific institutions including American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Society, Leo Baeck Institute and YIVO. Others are Ellis Island Immigration Museum, Museum of Jewish Heritage and more.

Although remotely located in Sydney I have been very successful in finding family in the New York area often aided by the predecessor of this guide. This new updated guide will be even more valuable and quickly help to sort through the maze of repositories and various institutions.

It costs \$US49.95 plus \$US10.00 shipping and can be ordered from the Jewish Genealogical Society, C/o BookMasters P.O. Box 388, Ashland OH 44805, U.S.A. or by internet at www.jgsny.org/newbook.htm

Peter Nash has researched the former Jewish communities of China and is the author of Navigating Berlin Resources to Solve a Family Puzzle. (See KK Vol.9 No.1 March 2002).



NEW RESOURCES IN OUR LIBRARY

The Austrian Victims of the Holocaust

Dokumentationsarchiv des Österreichischen Widerstandes (DOW) Vienna, 2001

This searchable CD-Rom was created as a memorial to the Austrian Victims of the Holocaust and records the fate of approximately 62,000 Jews who between 1938 and 1945 were murdered or committed suicide in Austria as well as those who were deported from Austria and did not survive. Not only Austrian citizens but also all those who lived as Jews in Austria are considered Austrian in this database.

The database contains names, dates of birth, destination of deportation transports and, where known, the places and dates of death.

For a more restricted on-line search, try:
www.doew.at

My Ancestors Were Jewish

by Dr. Anthony Joseph, Society of Genealogists (U.K.) London, 2002

This booklet is an updated edition of Isabel Mordy's original publication. Researchers will find the historical background and bibliography useful.

There is some duplication of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain's publication *Jewish Ancestors? A Beginner's Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Great Britain*.

As can happen, some of the websites have dated.

On sale for £2.75 and available from Society of Genealogists Enterprises Ltd 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA
sales@sog.org.uk

Macquarie Park Cemetery Transcriptions

A CD-Rom has been produced by the Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney. The database of burials at the former Northern Suburbs Cemetery includes the full transcription of the stone, denomination, section, row, plot number and nearby graves.

It can be ordered on-line for \$60.00 from the Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney web site at www.sag.org.au

Our library has a microfiche copy of the Sydney Rookwood Cemetery's Jewish section although a CD-Rom version is now available. As the listing is not complete, a negative result is not conclusive.

THE DIARIES OF BERNHARD CAHN:
A Man of His Time
Life in 19th Century Germany

Written By Arline Sachs
Published by the Avotaynu
Foundation



Reviewed By Miriam Shifreen

Bernhard Cahn, the great-great-grandparent of Arline Sachs kept a journal for over 50 years, from 1817 to 1871 in twelve volumes written in the German language but using Hebrew script. His journals written in a conversational style reveal a fascinating story of family life amid the setting of the Jewish community of a small town, Kastel, Germany. But he was a man who could encompass the wider picture of the World Jewish community, as well as events round the world. He reported a pogrom in Odessa, a performance of the Magic Flute or the discovery of ancient Jewish tombstones during the building of a railway line in Mainz.

His writings reveal how he needed to become a citizen of Kastel as well as permission to marry his dear Vogelche. He wrote about presents he had received for his birthday, the Jewish Reform Movement, the big uprising against Jewish tailors and needle handlers in Prague in February 1866. In 1867 he noted the population of world Jewry was 6,000,000, of which the largest number 1,300,000 lived in Russia but 10,639 were already living in Palestine, 5,700 of them in Jerusalem. He wrote about the unusually hot summer in 1864 which led to a potato shortage. He wrote about a solar eclipse on 15 March 1858 and an earthquake at 6 pm on 24 May 1858. He wrote about immigration to the U.S.A. shortly after the Californian Gold rushes in 1849 and the shooting of President Lincoln. He noted English Queen Victoria's visit and that of the Kaiser's mother. In 1860 he wrote about the streets being lit by gaslight.

If you have family who came from Kastel, Mainz, or Germany in the 19th century, this book will give you insight into the lives of ordinary people living in that time. He mentions receiving a telegram, travelling by train, or how the washing was done. This book should inspire us all to keep a journal of our daily lives. You will find this book in our Library.

Arline Sachs has been Secretary, Vice-President and President of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington and the author of many published articles. She co-hosts a twice-monthly television show on Jewish genealogy in the USA.

JEWISHGEN MAJOR UPDATE TO ALL ROMANIA DATABASE

Nearly 40,000 new records have been added to this database which can be found at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania>

Over 100,000 records are still to be transcribed. The more volunteers, the sooner this task will be completed! Contact Terry Lasky at:

tlasky@bwn.net

HUNGARIAN RESEARCH

Hungarian SIG: www.jewishgen.org/Hungary

Hungarian Jewish Homepage:

www.interdnet.hu/zsido/english

National Archives of Hungary:

www.natarch.hu/mol_e.htm

Translation Guide of Vital Records:

www.bmi.net/jjaso/index.html

Jewish Cemeteries in Hungary:

www.geocities.com/winter_peter_4/cemeteries.html

Interactive Hungarian road map:

<http://lazarus.elte.hu/moterkep/indul.htm>

A new **Danish Jewish Genealogical Society** has been formed at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-denmark/>

At present the website is only in Danish, but it will be translated into English as soon as possible.

Gesher Galicia Special Interest Group has been formed for the former Austrian Province of Galicia. Join at: www.jewishgen.org/galicia/join_gg.html

SEARCH BUREAU FOR INFORMATION ABOUT IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL

The role of Batya Unterschatz's Search Bureau for Missing Relatives in Israel has been taken over by the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem.

Email: familyresearch@jazo.org.il

We will miss the extraordinary skills of Batya who was able to track down anyone (or their descendants) who had ever stepped foot in Israel. There are many of us in Australia who found long-lost or even previously unknown relatives. Many, many thanks, Batya, for your exceptional efforts.

EAST GERMAN JEWISH PROPERTY OWNERS

The deadline for claims from former East German property owners has been extended to March 31, 2004. See www.claimscon.org

APOLOGIES

to Clare Bruell's husband, Peter, who was incorrectly called Joe in the last edition's photo from the Washington conference.

NEWS FROM NEW SOUTH WALES

By Rieke Nash

The visit on June 15 to the Family History Centre in Carlingford was very successful with around 20 people attending and with quite a few volunteers from the Centre helping. A copy of *Safe Haven* was donated to their library. The chance to see their collection was much appreciated but we missed the attendance of Nancy and Lyn Hilton who had to unexpectedly return to the States before the end of their time here in Australia. Fortunately Lyn's health problem was successfully resolved and so we wish them both all the best and thank them again for their kind attention during their stay here.

Since this visit the Centre has moved from Carlingford to 167 Pennant Street, North Parramatta (the extension of Kissing Point Road).

A report by Jeannette Tsoulos of our meeting with Dr. Neil Rosenstein appears on page 10 and reports of our November 2 meeting on the State Archives of NSW and the meeting on November 30 which will feature Miriam Pollak, and Kim Phillips and Gary Luke will appear in the next issue.

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NEWS FROM VICTORIA

By Lionel Sharpe

We are experiencing a busy round of activities in the final months of this year. Les Oberman and Lionel Sharpe attended the opening of The Helen Macpherson Smith Genealogy Centre at the State Library of Victoria. This newly renovated spacious area is a delight for genealogists. Another of our popular beginner's workshops was held on Sunday, 21 September 2003, 2.00 pm at Beth Weizmann Community Centre on 30 October.

Sy and Cyndie Pearlman, visiting and touring Australia from the USA, spoke to us on Wednesday, 29 October 2003 at 7.30 pm on the topic *Researching Roots in Eastern Europe and Belarus*. Sy's maternal ancestors go back to the 1810's in Belarus and paternal ancestors go back to the 1770's in Poland.

Sy spent six years on the New York Times as an editor, then three years as a freelance journalist in Vienna and Berlin covering Eastern Europe, including the Prague Spring of 1968. In 1970 he became the NBC bureau chief in Israel and supervised coverage of the October war. He returned to the U.S. in 1973 and spent the next 24 years on

NBC's main news programs and news magazines, during which time he travelled the world producing news stories.

Cyndie is an amateur photographer and was a news and features producer for ABC, Lifetime and NBC from 1980 until 1997. Their slide show talk took us to only a few stops on the route of their travels. They had driven 14,000 kilometers in their own car, through southern Poland, Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania and Eastern Germany.

The following Sunday afternoon, November 2nd, we had the pleasure of hosting a meeting with Dr. Neil Rosenstein and his wife Mavis. He spoke on the topic *Insights into Rabbinic Genealogy*. This meeting was preceded by a short workshop with Les Oberman using the internet for genealogical research.

Dr. Rosenstein is well known author of many works on Jewish genealogy. His magnum opus was the two-volume, *The Unbroken Chain* and he has accumulated a vast matrix of material on Jewish genealogy, especially in the field of rabbinical dynasties. He presented a talk using illustrations of family trees to demonstrate how mis-reading of names and family myths throw doubts on some ancestral claims.

The final meeting for the year will be held on December 10 at 7.30pm. at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre. Ken Haymes will speak on the work of the State Trustees.

We have been invited to join the Australian Jewish Historical Society, Vic. who are organising two identical boat trips along the Maribyrnong River on Sunday, 7 December and Sunday, 14 December. This two-hour cruise explores the forgotten sites of some early Jewish settlers in the Port Phillip Colony. Dr Howard Freeman, President of the AJHS (Vic) provides a commentary entitled: *From Levien's Punt to Solomon's Ford*.

We are currently working on the materials placed in our care by the Australian Jewish Historical Society and have listed some 100 family trees and family histories. Volunteers are currently working to put the material on a database. We are particularly grateful to Anne Budlender who has produced an index of 1000 death certificates which were purchased by Prof. Bill Rubinstein some years ago for a study on the occupational status of Jews in NSW and Victoria. These are a random sample of names covering 100 years and the index can be inspected on our website: www.ajgs.exist.com.au.

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REPORT FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By Jeanie Susman

Our last meeting for the year was held in November and was very well attended. Sy and Cyndie Pearlman, a much-travelled couple from the United States, were our guests. They are now very involved in researching their ancestry in Eastern Europe, Poland and the Ukraine, and told of their many experiences as they motored extensively around these areas.



Adelaide Group who attended the meeting

Plans are in hand for a most interesting and varied program in 2004. Details will be available after our first meeting in the New Year, when discussions will continue on the proposal, to form a combined genealogical and historical society. Already interest is being shown in this particular project. In the meantime, we send our very best wishes to you all for the coming year.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN REPORT

By Michelle Urban

Our Society has changed its name and has incorporated with the Western Australian Jewish Historical Society in June. because the W.A.J.H.S. already existed and we had been working with them under that name. We will be holding the 1st AGM under this name next February.

We were fortunate to be able to listen to a wonderful in-depth, entertaining and historical presentation by Dr Jack Hoffman OAM MB.BS on *The Earliest Jewish Doctors in Western Australia 1829-1920.*

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DR NEIL ROSENSTEIN: OUR GUEST SPEAKER on RABBINICAL GENEALOGY

By Jeannette Tsoulos

Sophie Caplan arranged for Dr Rosenstein to speak to us on Rabbinical genealogy, a subject on which he has written a number of books, three of which we have in our library.

Having discovered Rabbis of the well-known Katzenellenbogen family in his ancestry, Dr Rosenstein has researched not only his own family connections but those of other descendants of these Rabbis. Among the thousands of descendants he has found are Felix Mendelssohn, Helena Rubinstein, Martin Buber and Karl Marx.

Researching since the 1960s in South Africa, long before the advantages of internet, Dr Rosenstein's persistence and ingenuity paid off as he tracked down books and manuscripts hundreds of years old, with names, dates and relationships of rabbinical families clearly set out. His advice is always to go to original sources, as family traditions and myths are unreliable and can perpetuate mistakes. Original sources he quoted included archival sources, which are becoming more accessible by the day; books, in libraries or in private hands, especially if they contain inscriptions; epitaphs of Rabbis, as they will often extol their ancestry in detail; inscriptions on tombstones, Sefer Torahs, Ark coverings, and even goblets and yods, in honour of a particular Rabbi. Police records of births can be taken as reliable.

When two sources contradict each other, look for a third. Mistakes have happened in almost every major Rabbinical genealogy, whether through misreading a name, confusing two or more people of the same name, misinterpreting a phrase, or assuming descent from a son when it was from a daughter, as happened in the Rosenstein family. Our speaker uncovered many of these mistakes, long accepted as fact, in the course of his researches. The moral was, always go back to original sources.

The confusion in three different sources over his grandfather's birth date was solved by consulting the Gregorian Calendar, which was in use at the time. He left us with a useful piece of knowledge on reading Rabbinical tombstones: He died "at the age of bravery" means 80 years, and "at the age of fullness" is 70.

This lively and interesting presentation warned aspiring genealogists to be extremely sceptical and check everything, a lesson we should take to heart.

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

Office Bearers of the Society

President	<i>Rieke Nash</i>
Treasurer	<i>Gary Luke</i>
Secretary	<i>Jeannette Tsoulos</i>
Resources Librarian	<i>Jeannette Tsoulos</i>
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INTERNATIONAL JGS CONFERENCES

**24th INTERNATIONAL JEWISH
GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE**
Renaissance Hotel, Jerusalem, Israel
July 4 – 9, 2004

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jerusalem2004>

LAS VEGAS – 2005

THE HOROWITZ FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

The Horowitz Families Reunion and Conference will take place on July 11-12, 2004, in Tel Aviv, just after the closing of the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem to enable everyone to attend each event. The timetable and agenda will be announced later. See announcements at our website at:
<http://www.geocities.com/horowitzassociation>

Shlomo Gurevich
The Horowitz Families Association
Hoshaya, Israel
mailto:shl2gur@yahoo.com

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New South Wales

Peter Arnold

Michelle Meyer

Victoria

Sylvie Jonas, Hanna and Ben Hirsh

Queensland

Chris Strakosch

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 Sydney, Australia
Or by email: editor@ajgs.org.au

The Editor has the right to accept or reject or publish in revised form as might be appropriate.

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*A TRIBUTE and THANK YOU TO OUR 10 YEAR and over
MEMBERS*

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Sophie Caplan OAM
Stuart Shaw
Terry Newman
Anthony Joseph
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David Itzkowic
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VOLUNTEER FOR 2004!

It worked for the Olympics.

It works for Charities.

The AJGS needs your help.

We had a big 2003, thanks to the help of volunteers. There is even more that can be achieved in 2004.

The smallest amount of your time and assistance in any way will be greatly appreciated and will make the difference.

Ask how YOU can help your Society in 2004.

ABCTV HISTORY DETECTIVES

This is a new one hour, primetime program looking for intriguing stories that involve several steps of investigation in order to resolve a mystery or a question. They may be about a family, an object, a place, a crime or an event. Mainly about Australia, they may have links overseas.

They'll provide an opportunity to look at a period of time and will either have a conclusion or raise new questions about something we thought we know about.

Do you have a story about your family or anything else suitable?

Please contact:

DEB MASTERS

masters.deborah@abc.net.au

**HISTORY DETECTIVES ABCTV
Contact 8333 4415**