

Jewish Genealogy Downunder

Quarterly
newsletter
of the
Australian
Jewish
Genealogical
Society
(Vic) Inc.

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www.ajgs.exist.com.au



Internationally renowned genealogist **Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus** will be keynote speaker at the Second National Australian conference on Jewish genealogy, to be held in Melbourne in March 2010.

Sallyann, who lives in Washington DC, is a past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and the editor of the well-known journal *Avotaynu*. Her latest project is the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy, for which she is a co-founding chairperson. See page 4 for details about registering your interest in the conference.

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AUGUST MEETING

Accessing Polish Family History Records

Come and listen to well-known consultant

Krystyna Duszniak

Krystyna will present an overview of the new databases and resources and demonstrate how accessible Polish-Jewish research has become, due to the greater accessibility of Polish archives. She will also speak about the recent flood in applications for Polish passports and how this leads by necessity to historical excavation.

Wednesday 26 August 2009, 7.30 pm

Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre

Members \$4; non-members \$6. Enquiries: ajgs@exist.com.au

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Editorial policy

We welcome contributions from members which will help others further their research. This might include sharing recent findings or the discovery of interesting resources. The editor has the right to accept or reject any material submitted or edit as might be appropriate. Material appearing in this newsletter may be reprinted by other newsletters as long as proper attribution is given.

Jewish Genealogy Downunder is free to all members of AJGS (Vic) Inc.

AJGS (Vic) Inc. Committee of Management

| | |
|----------------|--|
| President | Allan Jankie |
| Vice-president | Debbie Jurblum |
| Secretary | Lionel Sharpe OAM |
| Treasurer | Kurt Friedlaender |
| Committee | David Cohen Rodney Eisfelder Russell Feldman Liz James Phil Lipshut Kaye Quittner Ian Samuel OAM Enid Yoffa-Elton |

Makor Library Liaison

Leonie Fleiszig

Australian Jewish Genealogy Internet Discussion Group

Website: www.ajgs.org.au (online forum)

Membership fees

| | |
|------------|------|
| Individual | \$30 |
| Family | \$35 |
| Concession | \$15 |

EDITORIAL

This issue of *Jewish Genealogy Downunder* introduces the first change in format after 10 years of publication. Kaye Quittner, a new member of the Committee of Management, has volunteered to be assistant editor and lends her editing and computer skills to enhance the presentation of the newsletter. We welcome her contribution to this important avenue of communication, and she will be working in close collaboration with me on future issues.

The newly launched online AJGS e-Report is now sent to NSW members and other subscribers. This online newsletter, which replaces the well-known *Kosher Koala*, has been produced by our NSW colleagues and edited by Miriam Shifreen. We wish them well with this new venture and await their assessment of the feedback from members. For the link to the April 2009 issue, visit www.ajgs.org.au and click on 'e-Report'.

We have a new president. The Committee of Management welcomes Allan Jankie in his dual role as the new president of AJGS (Vic) and as the convener of the forthcoming conference in Melbourne. Allan has a special interest in Polish records and we wish him much success as our second president succeeding the late Les Oberman.

The conference is a major challenge for a number of reasons. Perhaps the most difficult one is the fact that our members have diverse research interests, ranging from early Australian settlement records to finding recorded evidence of those who perished in the Holocaust. Some people registering at the conference may just wish to broaden their general knowledge of the ever-growing databases that are coming online every month and to learn from the experience of advanced researchers.

Others, on the other hand, will attend the conference and see it as an opportunity to network and share the company of interstate and local members. Then, of course, there will be raw beginners who are looking for inspiration and guidance to launch into their ancestral research and meet others sharing the same family ancestry.

Getting the balance right to meet the needs of this diverse groups of registrants will be a challenge for the organising committee. We invite readers of this newsletter to tell us about their expectations and to contribute suggestions and ideas. As arrangements are confirmed, we will share them with our readers.

This newsletter is also an opportunity for you to share your successes, tell others of your excitement in discovering new relatives and reveal your frustrations. Some people utilise the Discussion Groups such as AJGen Online Forum, which can be found at www.ajgs.org.au, but if you are a bit unsure of your writing skills, just get your thoughts down on paper and we will tidy them up for you.

Lionel Sharpe (Editor)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The AGM in May saw my election as the new president of the AJGS (Vic) and Debbie Jurblum as our new vice-president. I also welcome the re-election of all former office bearers and committee members and look forward to the challenge of leading the society over the coming year and working with an enthusiastic team.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank former vice-president Enid Yoffa Elton and honorary secretary Lionel Sharpe for stepping in after the untimely passing of our late president, Les Oberman.

I wish to thank Lionel, who stepped in as an interim chairman until the May elections. I also wish to thank Enid for her services as vice-president to the society since its inception, and we all wish her a safe trip to the IAJGS Conference in Philadelphia in August.



Earlier this year, the AJGS (Vic) offered to organise the second national conference in Melbourne in March 2010. I was appointed to convene the organising committee, and already some 19 of us are working on sub-committees. We are pleased to have been joined by three interstate representatives.

The way things are shaping up, this will be a memorable event. If you have not done so already, you are invited to register your interest.

Phil Lipshut and his conference program committee have been hard at work discussing, debating and planning an exciting program for next year's national conference. There will be some exciting news coming out over the next few months, with some major announcements to be made.

Apart from holding some general meetings that have been both informative and entertaining, we have been busy with a number of ongoing projects that are progressing well.

Since the Beverley Davis Cemetery Database came online recently, there has been a great deal of activity updating the database of burials. Members of our society, together with members of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS), have now photographed thousands of headstones at the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha cemetery, Browns Road entrance, in Springvale.

Our special thanks go to Gilda and Russell Feldman, who have taken on the task of coordinating this work.

We also thank all those who have been participating over the past few months with their digital cameras, sometimes braving the cold and the rain.

Ian Samuel has been liaising with the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha, and in time there will be an integration of the cemetery records and the photos. You will hear more about this in coming months.

In the last newsletter, we reported that the AJHS and the AJGS (Vic) were granted space in the Makor Library, and we have amalgamated the resource collection of both societies. This move has made possible public access to books which in the past have been locked in cases at the Jewish Museum of Australia.

We owe a special thanks to Liz James, who is also honorary secretary of the AJHS, for getting the new 'space' at the Makor Library ready for use. Liz, with a great deal of assistance from her husband, Ron, have spent countless hours unpacking, cleaning, sorting, stacking and tidying up the area.

Lionel Sharpe and Kaye Quittner have commenced a new project producing an index of images of well-known Australian Jewish people. This is a huge task and one that will be an ongoing project (see the article on page 7 of this issue).

I wish to thank Leonie Fleiszig and the staff at the Makor Library for their cooperation in looking after our members' needs, assisting with the location of our resources into the expanded space in the library and referring members of the public for help with their research. We look forward to working with the Makor team in planning the national conference next year.

Finally, a *mazel tov* to Lionel Sharpe on his recent OAM award, and a thank you to all the members of the committee and other members who have made an enormous contribution to the work of the society.

I look forward to catching up with all our members at our future meetings.

Allan Jankie
President, AJGS (Vic) Inc.

The AJGS (VIC) extends a warm welcome to its new members:

Helen Lewers
Margot Pogos
Frank Lippa

Congratulations

Lionel

As many members will already be aware, our very own AJGS (Vic) secretary, Lionel Sharpe, has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in this year's Queen's Birthday honours.

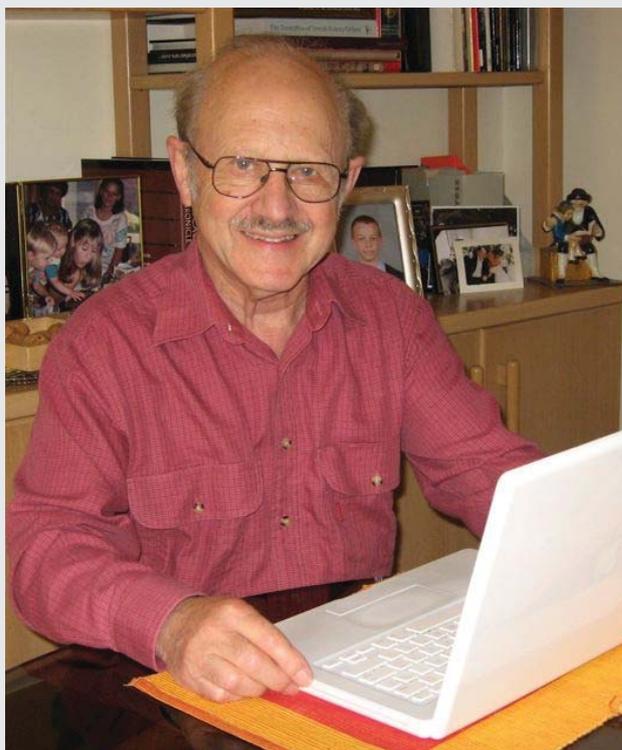
Lionel was recognised for his service to the community, particularly through social welfare and Jewish organisations.

Of course, those of us at AJGS (Vic) who know Lionel well are not surprised. He has devoted many years of service to the society and has worked tirelessly and creatively to benefit both members and the organisation.

Lionel first became interested in genealogy after helping his daughter with a family history project for school. He joined the Victorian Branch of the AJGS as chairman in 1996, becoming president of AJGS (Vic) Inc. in 1998 and then secretary and editor of this newsletter in 1999. He is also a current committee member of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (Victoria) and board member of the Makor Jewish Community Library.

A qualified former social worker and psychologist, Lionel serves and has served in executive roles on a wide range of other committees, including the Melbourne Jewish Orphan and Children's Aid Society and the Jewish Day Schools Integration Program, which provides support to pupils with disabilities. In 2007, Lionel received a Community Recognition Award from the Jewish Community Council of Victoria.

Lionel has also had a fulfilling academic career. He was founding coordinator of two courses related to drug dependence and addiction studies and was appointed senior associate at RMIT after a 20-year stint teaching social work. From 1999 until 2007, he taught 'Australian Jewry: History and Society' at Monash University and is currently an adjunct research associate at its School of Historical Studies.



After receiving news of his OAM award, Lionel Sharpe continues to do what he does best – helping others solve their genealogical puzzles.

Lionel is the author of two books – *From Exclusion to Inclusion: A Unique Program for Jewish Day School Education* (2000) and *A History of Giving: The Melbourne Hebrew Ladies from 1857: The Story of the Melbourne Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society* (2007).

Lionel has been interviewed by a number of media outlets, and reports of his award have appeared in the *Australian Jewish News* and the *Caulfield Glen Eira Leader*, as well as on the University of Melbourne website and in several international genealogical newsletters.

The AJGS (Vic) committee extends its congratulations to Lionel for this most recent recognition of his extraordinary energy and commitment to the community.

Liz James and Kaye Quittner

Second Australian National Conference: Our Jewish Roots

The Second Australian National Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held from Sunday 7 March to Tuesday 9 March 2010, in Melbourne. It will be hosted by the AJGS (Vic) in association with the Makor Library.

The program will feature lectures, panel discussions, special interest group meetings, and visits to Jewish institutions and public resources.

To indicate your 'expression of interest' to attend and receive further information as it becomes available, email ajgs2010@gmail.com or write to AJGS (Vic), PO Box 189, Glenhuntly, Victoria 3163 (phone (03) 9523 6738).

Q&A

Liz James recently interviewed Lionel Sharpe about his interest in genealogy.

Your passion for genealogy is what we are keen to learn about. When did you first become interested in genealogy?

My interest in genealogy was initiated in 1968 when I assisted my daughter, Monique, with a school family history project. I drove her around to interview some of my elderly relatives, and after she completed her assignment I continued to collect the names of deceased relatives. I had no idea how to organise the material pre computer times, so I approached Beverley Davis, then secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (Vic), who willingly typed out descendant charts for each branch of the family.

In 1996, I read a notice in the Jewish press that there was to be a lecture on Jewish genealogy by a Sydney genealogist, Sophie Caplan. I attended this meeting (in fact I still have the four pages of notes I took) and ever since that evening I became hooked.

I soon read the early 1994 edition of Arthur Kurzweil's *From Generation to Generation* and this sealed my genealogical destiny.

What advice do you give people who are interested in tracing their genealogy?

First, before starting out, it is a good idea to seek out others who have already researched and documented a branch of your family ancestry. This can save you time and energy and you will not be starting from scratch.

Second, join a genealogical society and attend talks and workshops as you can. It's amazing how others can give you great suggestions based on their own experience and teach you some short cuts.

Third, keep a record of your sources where you have found your information. Sometimes contradictory facts come to light, such as different birthdates. It is important to be able to backtrack to all your original sources of information.

What has been your favourite project?

Some years ago, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum asked me to develop a database of post-war Jewish refugee arrivals to Australia. I photocopied all the Jewish passenger lists sent to the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society between 1945 and 1954. The USHMM then financed the digitisation of the lists on a searchable database. This project is still ongoing. Our Sydney colleagues are digitising immigration records held by Jewish Care Inc. for that same period. Many of these records are in a poor state. We will eventually amalgamate the two databases.

What changes have you noticed in the way people do research now compared with, say, 15 years ago?

No doubt the computer is the key technological tool for research today. I recall the days when I used the microfiche readers at the State Library of Victoria and the Public Records Office. So much time was consumed travelling to these locations – often to seek just a few items of information.

I think there is a greater awareness today about recording oral histories and the importance of writing and publishing autobiographies. In years gone by, many were reluctant to speak about the past, and people like myself did not question and record family information. I now regret these lost opportunities.

What one book on genealogy have you used the most?

The book I have used most is *Where Once We Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust*. I have my own copy by the telephone to assist people with the spelling and location of towns. A close second is Rabbi Dr John Levi's, *These Are the Names: Jewish Settlers in Australia 1788–1850*, which is invaluable for searching early arrivals to Australia.

What one website on genealogy have you used the most?

My usual starting point is www.jewishgen.org, as it is the main gateway to Jewish genealogical research. A close second is the National Archives of Australia website at www.naa.gov.au because it contains immigration and naturalisation documentation relating to the ancestry of those who were born overseas and migrated here.

Who is the most fascinating speaker you have heard talk on genealogy?

Yale Reisner, director of the Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project (Eastern Europe), at an international conference in Los Angeles in 1988. He opened my eyes to the importance of preserving Eastern European records.

What are your genealogical goals for the next 12 months?

My own family history, which has been on the back burner for many years. But I say this every year.

What keeps your genealogical passions alive?

The greatest pleasure I experience from my interest in genealogy is reuniting families, especially the descendants of those whose forebears perished in the Holocaust. This has been described by Arthur Kurzweil as *Mitzvah* work.

A family reunion

From Hebron to Melbourne

On 7 February 2009, about 150 people got together at Chabad in Malvern for a reunion. Their common link was a woman who lived in the nineteenth century in Hebron, Palestine. Her name was Menucha Rochel Slonim. She was a granddaughter of Shneur Zalman of Liadi, the first Lubavitcher Rebbe.

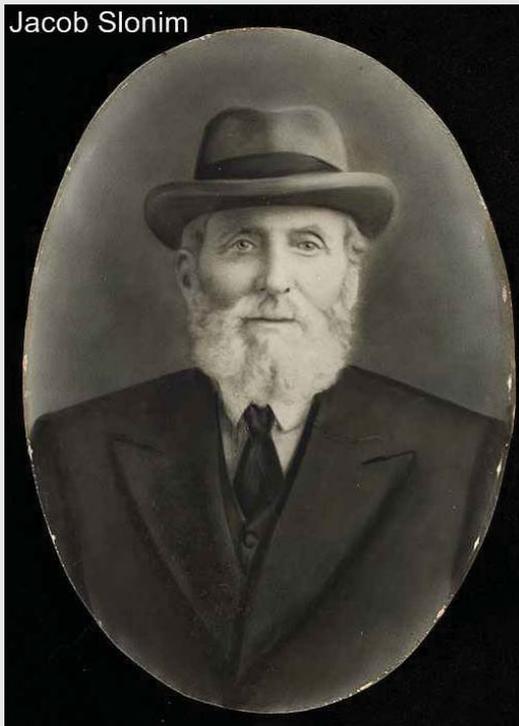
On 29 April, community identity Ian Samuel and Australian actor and producer Pip Mushin – two great grandsons of Jacob Slonim and two of the organisers of the reunion – spoke to the AJGS (Vic) about the reunion and how it was organised.



Ian Samuel (above) described how it was originally thought that there were only two main branches of the family in Melbourne – those descendants of Jacob and Gittel Slonim and the descendants of Rabbi Yitzchak Dovid Groner. These numbers increased as it was discovered that there were other descendants of Menucha Rochel Slonim, including the Erskine family living in Mildura who had migrated from Hebron in the 1950s.

Menucha Rochel Slonim, the granddaughter of the founder of the Lubavitcher Chabad, came to Hebron with her husband, Yaakov Kuly Slonim, in the 1820s, where the family lived and prospered until the massacre in 1929.

Jacob Slonim



Jacob Slonim came to Melbourne with his family at the turn of the nineteenth century, with various other branches of the family coming in later years.

The second main group to come was the family of Rabbi Yitzchak Dovid Groner, who became the leader of the Chabad movement in Australia.

The talks were illustrated with family photos of various members of the family that had been collected by Ian Samuel and David Schmidt, who had married another of Jacob Slonim's great grandchildren. The presentation led to many interesting family stories.



*Pip Mushin,
actor
and film
producer*



The descendants of Menucha Rochel Slonim, and their partners.

AJGS (Vic) to build new image index

The AJGS (Vic) committee has begun a new project to index photographs and other images of notable Australian Jewish people.

The index, to be known as the Photographic and Image Index of the Australian Jewish People, will record the location of photographs, illustrations, paintings and drawings of well-known individuals associated with the Jewish community. The index will be built and maintained using a searchable database.

The project will initially focus on images that would normally be found in the public domain and in locations as diverse as books, internet sites, newspapers, libraries, archives, museums, art galleries, synagogues, universities and public halls.

The database will enable members of the public, including historians, genealogists, researchers and the media, to discover if an image of a person exists, or to locate an image that might have otherwise taken months to find.

AJGS (Vic) receives a lot of queries from all kinds of organisations and from people around Australia looking for photographs or images of people connected with the Jewish community for various reasons and purposes.

For example, they could be researching a public figure, or they could be writing a book about a particular topic.

Although the actual images will not be stored in the database, enquirers will be able to search on a range



Images of prominent Australians, page 42, From Where We Have Come (Jewish Museum of Australia, 2001).

of fields, including a person's name and profession or role, and quickly determine the nature of an existing photograph or image, as well as its source and location.

The index may also ultimately include photographs and images in private collections that have been donated to libraries or archives for the purpose of public access. It is expected that the evolving image index will be accessible via the AJGS (Vic) website early next year.

For further information, or to make suggestions of images and their sources to be included in the index, contact Lionel Sharpe (sharpe@aapt.net.au) or Kaye Quittner (kayequittner@optusnet.com.au).

Useful Australian records for Jewish genealogical research – a panel presentation

For many years, the AJGS (Vic) has placed a major emphasis on ancestral databases from the countries of origin of our settler forebears. This meeting, held in June at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre, was a first, because the presentation focused entirely on utilising Australian records for family history research.

A panel comprising four members of the AJGS (Vic) committee, Rodney Eisfelder, Lionel Sharpe, Phil Lipshut and Liz James (above, right) volunteered to give joint a presentation exploring a wide range of local resources.



These included major Commonwealth and state-based archives, such as the National Archives of Australia (www.naa.gov.au), public records offices, registry offices for births, deaths and marriages, national, state and local library collections, as well as cemetery records. Specific Jewish records referred to included the Chevra Kadisha records, synagogue records pertaining to marriages, births, deaths and Yahrzeit and membership lists.

Also highlighted was family history research published in historical books telling the story of the development of Jewish communities, especially rural communities, as well as the histories of Jewish communal institutions. The Jewish press, especially early issues, are now searchable on a microfilm reader at the Makor Jewish Community Library.



This is a valuable resource for family history, especially the personal announcements of marriages, family events, and birth and death notices.

It was pointed out that 28 historic Australian newspapers, such as the now defunct Melbourne *Argus* (1848–1954), are slowly being digitised and becoming accessible online. These can be searched on the National Library of Australia website (<http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/titles>).

Lionel Sharpe gave a brief general overview of the wide range of available resources and their location. Rodney Eisfelder presented some interesting case studies including a careful examination of the records relating to the famous founder of the nationwide Myer stores. He demonstrated that, based on the contradictory evidence he had seen, the exact year of the birth of Sidney Myer – formerly Simcha Baeovski (Sidney) Myer – still required clarification.

Liz James (left) spoke about the resources of the combined collection of the Australian Jewish Historical Society and the AJGS (Vic), which are housed at the State Library of Victoria and at the Makor Jewish Community Library in Caulfield South. She pointed to a number of very useful books with direct relevance to family history.

Phil Lipshut focused on early newspaper accounts of a number of his ancestors, including David Lipshut who got caught up in a divorce case in Adelaide in 1898. The article was found in *The West Australian* newspaper.

The presentation and discussion went on for two hours, with many questions from the audience.

BOOK REVIEW

From Iberia to Van Diemen's Land: A Cohen Family Odyssey

**By Pam Zopf and Geoff Court
Self-published, Melbourne, 2008**

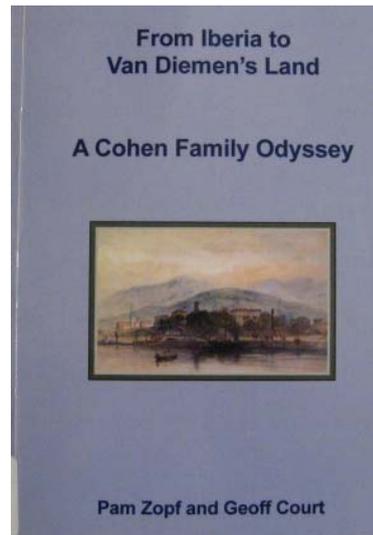
The appearance of this well-written, self-published, 287-page family history, barely two years after its genesis, came as a surprise to a few of us who are often called upon to assist those who are planning to research and write about their Jewish origins.

Pam Zopf and Geoff Court have produced a remarkable and well-researched monograph containing more than 40 colour photographs, numerous ancestral charts, court reports, selected articles from nineteenth-century Australian newspapers and extracts from published historical accounts of early events.

The book documents the background of Benjamin Cohen, who was a member of the Spanish and Portuguese Sephardi community in London. The Jewish community in England was re-established after 1655 when the Jews were re-admitted to England after centuries of expulsion.

In the author's introduction, Geoff Court writes about an incident in February 2007 when he and Lorraine (nee Cohen) were visiting a bookshop in Frankston, 39 kilometres from the city of Melbourne. Lorraine happened to notice a book, *These Are the Names*, by Rabbi Dr John Levi, which provides numerous short biographies of Jewish arrivals into Australia between 1788 and 1850.

He writes: "Lorraine flicked to the back of the book and found an entry for Isaac and Elizabeth Cohen (who she knew were her great great grandparents) and started to read. She excitedly called to me and said, 'This is my family'. Then the big surprise came – Isaac's father was given as 'Benjamin', a convict, and this Lorraine did not know."



Court then goes on to unfold the events that followed – a couple of weeks of research into Tasmanian convict records, followed by a telephone call to Pam Zopf, then checking out a website on the internet and "Lorraine was reading a 140-page document from Pam containing much about a part of her family that she had previously not known".

Benjamin Cohen, a confectioner, had been arrested and tried at the Old Bailey for receiving stolen goods in 1835. He was found guilty, sentenced to 14 years and transported to Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) in 1836.

The authors frame the 'Cohen Odyssey' in the context of the history of Jewish persecution and immigration dating back to the 1400s. They draw from selected writings of the famous historian, Howard M. Sacher, as well as the records of the Spanish Portuguese Bevis Marks Synagogue in London and other sources. It was mainly through the Bevis Marks records that much about the family ancestry was uncovered.

The authors are to be congratulated on this superb contribution to both Australian family history and early Jewish settlers in Australia, in particular, Tasmania.

Lionel Sharpe



The logo in its original format.

Our new logo

We hope that members of the AJGS (Vic) have noticed our stunning new logo, appearing for the first time on the front cover of *Jewish Genealogy Downunder*.

Thank you to Debbie Jurblum, who has displayed her artistic talents in designing a logo that we believe succeeds so well in reflecting the values and aims of the society. As one person commented: "It looks like a menorah, Hebrew letters and a family tree all at the same time!"

Thanks also to Helen Jankie, for putting the finishing touches on the logo with her suggestions of placement and colour (blue and cyan). A wonderful team effort!



Debbie Jurblum

Posted by Sam Schleman
<samara99@verizon.net>

H-SIG Digest
All-Hungarian Database

I am pleased to announce that the All-Hungarian Database (AHD) has been updated with about 105,000 new vital records. The database now contains around 800,000 records, including 180,000 birth, 45,000 death and 25,000 marriage records.

Included among the new records are vital records for Bezi, Budapest, Csenger, Eger, Erdotelek, Erk, Eperejes, Fuzesabony, Gyomora, Gyongyos, Hodasz, Jarmi, Kassa, Kemcse, Kisleta, Koszeg, Mateszalka, Miskolc, Moson, Sztrapko, Szeged, Szobrance, and Vag Besztercze. Of these, Budapest, Gyongyos, Miskolc and Szeged are still ongoing efforts.

The AHD now includes more than 20,000 records from Miskolc and 60,000 records from Budapest. A considerable number of people contributed their time, effort and skill to preserving our heritage for all of us. We are all in their debt.

Posted by Gene Dershewitz
<geneder@wvi.com>

New ShtetLinks Project – Basavilbaso, Argentina

I would like to invite you to visit the new ShtetLinks website for Basavilbaso, Argentina.

This settlement, also known as Lucienville, was established by Baron Maurice de Hirsch and the Jewish Colonization Association in the 1890s. Many families from Kherson and Bessarabia (southern Ukraine and Moldova) emigrated there and started a new life in this largely agricultural community. The first agricultural cooperative in South America was established in this settlement.

The information included on the website has been the life work of Yehuda Mathov. Over the past 25 years, he has collected information on more than 6000 residents of the Basavilbaso shtetl.

Please feel free to explore and hopefully contribute your memories to this new ShtetLinks project. You can go directly to the website at www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/basavilbaso/.

Posted by Helen Hill, Western Australia
<bloomhill@iprimus.com.au>

Juedische Familien-Forschung
GERMAN RECORDS

The entire series of *Judische Familien-Forschung* (*Bulletin of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Germany*) 1924–1938 has been microfilmed by the Mormons and can be read (must first be ordered) at their Family History Centres. There are two sets of microfiche: FHL INTL – 6001495 and 6001496. For further details, go to www.familysearch.org/.

Posted by Daniela Torsh
<danielat1@bigpond.com>

Austria-Czech SIG Digest
Visiting the Czech national archives

For those of you who want to visit the National Archives in Prague, I thought it may be helpful to explain where they are and when they are open and how to get there by public transport. I was in Prague last year and visited the new National Archive building in Chodovec. It is really worth a look.

There are actually three different archives at Chodovec but they are all adjoining, though in separate buildings, and the staff were very helpful to me. The National Archives, the Prague City Archives and the Prague Regional Archives are all at Chodovec in new buildings.

The most important thing is to write before you go and arrange to meet a staff member who can help you. There are not many staff who speak English, but many speak German.

However, if you write ahead it will be easier to specify what you are looking for and they will find the relevant files and have them ready for you to look at. You can use a digital camera to copy any material at no charge. Using the archives is also no charge. They do charge for making photocopies though. You must take a passport as ID.

The archives address is Archivni 4, 149 01 Praha 4-Chodovec. Telephone number is +420 974 847 247, and the fax is +420 974 847 216.

Opening hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 am to 6 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am to 4 pm, and Fridays, 9 am to 12 noon. Email contact is at na7@mvcz.cz.

Please note that these archives have a lot of very useful material including files on Jewish businesses that were 'Aryanised' and details such as when the business was first registered and under what name. You can find very helpful Year Books for Prague, Bohemia and Moravia that list addresses and business names, as well as private names and addresses from the turn of the 20th century up to the war.

But these archives are not the ones that hold the 3,000 volumes known as 'Matriky', which contain the Jewish vital records – births, deaths and marriages. These are held at another building of the National Archives in Dejvice – Praha 6.

The same goes for access to the reading room. Take your passport for ID. Write ahead to Dr Lenka Matusikova, who is the custodian of these Matriky records and tell her what you want to research. Her email address is Lenka.matusikova@nacrz.cz.

The archives are at Statni ustredni archiv v Praze, tr Milady Horakove 133, 166 21 Praha 6 – Dejvice, Czech Republic.

*Some family trees have beautiful leaves,
and some have just a bunch of nuts.
Remember, it is the nuts that make the tree
worth the shaking.*

Basic Jewish Genealogy

JewishGen is offering a Basic Jewish Genealogy course, consisting of eight lessons, twice weekly, which you can take online or download at your own pace.

It will cover genealogy formats, assembling trees, organising information, Jewish naming conventions, internet genealogy resources, and lessons on JewishGen's website and databases. It will also offer tips on how to best use your computer and the internet, as well as an online forum, where students can post their ancestral information, documents and photos, and pick up suggestions from the instructor and fellow students.

The course costs \$60, but if you have made a \$100 donation to JewishGen's general fund within the past 12 months, you may qualify to enrol at no additional charge.

For more information, visit www.jewishgen.org/education or email Jewishgen-Education@lyris.jewishgen.org.

Genealogical Society of Victoria courses

GSV is offering two courses to help you develop your skills in Australian and English genealogical research:

Beginning Australian Family History

Mondays, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
August 10, 24 and September 7, 21, 2009

Beginning English Family History

Mondays, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
August 17, 31 and September 14, 28, 2009

Cost: GSV members \$40, non-members \$50.
Venue: Level B1, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne.

For enquiries, contact (03) 9662 4455, email gsv@gsv.org.au, or visit www.gsv.org.au.

Hospitality Exchange Program

The AJGS (Vic) has been invited to participate in the Hospitality Exchange program.

Its goals are to:

- provide members of your Jewish genealogy society (JGS) and others with an opportunity to see life in other countries from the perspective of residents, and
- provide the chance to build person-to-person contacts with members of other communities.

The program is coordinated by Samuel R. Brown (PhD) and currently includes participants from synagogues around the world. It is now being expanded to include Jewish genealogy societies.

Participating societies should be willing to

- host someone from an outside JGS or synagogue, including room and board, free of charge, and
- have someone who is willing to stay as a guest, at no cost for room or board, with a member of the outside JGS or synagogue.

The suggested length of stay is three to seven days but may be extended by mutual consent. All travel should take place within a year of the guest's visit. Members who serve as hosts will have first priority for being a guest with someone from another JGS or synagogue.

For further information about the program, visit the website at www.hospitalityexchanges.org.

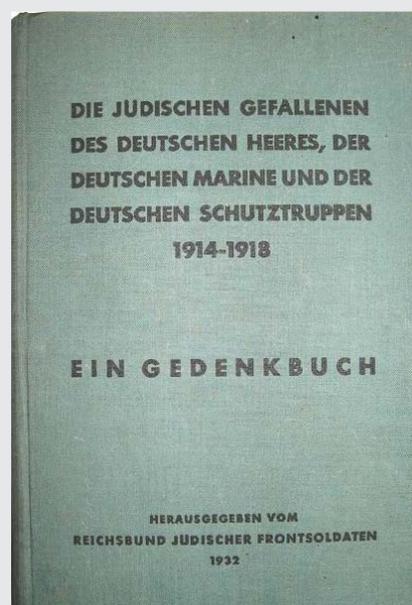
German Jews who fought in World War One

Die Jüdischen Gefallen, or *The Jewish Roll of Honour*, was published by The Reich Association of Jewish Combat Veterans in 1932, under the direction of Dr Leo Lowenstein, Captain of the Reserves, Retired.

The book has been online via Google for the last three years at www.denkmalprojekt.org/Verlustlisten/rjf_wk1.htm. It is a register of identified German Jewish servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice for their German fatherland in World War One.

The names are presented in alphabetical order, along with date, military unit and rank, and notice of loss. Alternatively, there is an alphabetical listing of soldiers by their city or town of origin. The website also includes inscriptions from war memorials of the German and Austrian armies.

Another site worth looking at is the newspaper, *Allgemeine Zeitung des Judentums*. It displays the names of Jewish soldiers (and their rank and place of enlistment) who were awarded the Iron Cross, either first or second class. The newspaper was published weekly, and lists generally appeared twice a month, sometimes more often. See www.compactmemory.de/.



PEOPLE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE

The following notices are published as a community service to our readers. They come to us via internet discussion groups or by mail and email contact with the society.

ADOLF SIEGMUND GUTMANN

Having had no replies to my initial enquiry on this subject, I am trying again with more information to see if I can stir a memory. I am interested in any information leading to descendants of the following family: Adolph Siegmund Gutmann (born 1888 Ballarat, died 1959 St Kilda). His father was I. H. (Hermann) Gutmann (died before 1933) and mother was Catherine Julia Watt Gutmann (nee Carlington) (born 1855 Adelaide, died 2 August 1933 aged 78 in Prahan, married 1884 Ballarat, reg 2117).

Regarding I. H. Gutmann, I wonder if he was the Ivan Gutmann who managed Bunge (Australia) in 1930, and whose wife lived in St Georges Road, Toorak, before 1933.

Dennis <wri@rushworthp-12.vic.edu.au>

DOROTHEA SCHNABL

I am doing this search on behalf of a cousin who lives in New York, because apparently nothing has been heard of Dorothea ('Dot') Schnabl since she lived in Melbourne in 1978.

She came to Australia around 1939–1940, escaping from Germany with her husband, Hans Schnabl, through whom we are distantly related. We know he died many years ago, and a cousin of mine was in touch with Dorothea the last time in 1978 at the address: 14 Alva Avenue, Park Orchards 3114 (Melbourne). This is all she remembers. This cousin would like to get in touch with her again if she is still alive. She should be in her late eighties, or into her nineties by now.

Trudie Bluestone <trudiebluestone@hotmail.com>

SOLOMON

I am endeavoring to piece together my mother's family tree, without a great deal of success. The problem is as follows. My grandfather came to Australia from the UK and South Africa. My grandmother came the same way, although in both instances later.

I believe she travelled to South Africa as a single woman and married my grandfather in either Capetown or Johannesburg, then, after all the children were born and he had migrated to Sydney, Australia, she again followed, around 1908.

Their names were Isaac Solomon and Pauline Solomon (nee Pizer). I have death certificates for both of them. They were both buried at Rookwood Cemetery in the Jewish Section, he on 25 July 1932, she on 17 July 1940. Both funerals were performed by directors associated with the Chevra Kadisha (S. Young and Selig Horwitz respectively).

The children born to the marriage were Nathan Reuben, Josephine Julia, Louis Aaron, Louise, Evelyn and Henrietta, and all were born in South Africa. I can find on official records where Louis Aaron died in 1979, and nothing relating to his parents.

My mother (Louise) often spoke of their trip out here and of her parents having come from Manchester and Leeds or Birmingham. I would be most appreciative of any help you may be able to render.

David Robertson <zrobertson@tadaust.org.au>

ALBERT GEORGE JACOB

I am searching for information on my grandfather (born 1874, Yorkshire, England), who, with my grandmother, had nine children in Australia and New Zealand. The only records I have are four birth certificates – two from New Zealand and two from NSW.

The first is for Harold Evan George Jacob, born 24 December 1906 in Sydney. There were three children prior to George. Joseph died at birth; Myrtle M. (born 1900; not sure where) and Albert W. (born 1902; not sure where).

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AGM elections

Elections were held at the Annual General Meeting of the AJGS (Vic) on Monday, 18 May 2009, at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre. The following office bearers and committee were elected to serve for the coming 12 months.

President: Allan Jankie

Vice-president: Debbie Jurblum

Treasurer: Kurt Friedlaender

Secretary: Lionel Sharpe

Committee of Management members: David Cohen, Rodney Eisfelder, Russell Feldman, Liz James, Phil Lipshut, Kaye Quittner, Ian Samuel, Enid Yoffa-Elton and Leonie Fleiszig (Makor Library Liaison)

Second National Australian Conference on Jewish Genealogy convener: Allan Jankie

Special meeting

A special meeting of the AJGS (Vic) Inc. was held on Thursday 25 June at 7.30 pm to incorporate some minor amendments to its constitution.

At its inception, the society had adopted the Model Rules of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 Sec 22(3) Schedule 5, Victoria.

Amendments related to the use of electronic transmission of notices for special meetings and the size and composition of the Committee of Management.

The most significant amendment, when registered, will now read: 'at least three ordinary members and no more than nine, including a nominated representative from the Makor Jewish Community Library, each of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the association in each year.' This was passed unanimously.

The second is for Alma Constance Jacob (born New Zealand, 21 July 1911) – my mother. The third is for Norman Wilfred Jacob (born 21 January 1914, New Zealand). The fourth is for Cecil Lawrence Jacob (born 15 July 1915, Sydney). There is also a Gladys Irene (born 1909 in Sydney), but they will not provide a birth certificate for me.

I have no idea when my grandfather died. My grandmother's maiden name was Bott and she was born in Sydney. Her first marriage name was Dorrington. I believe my grandparents were not married, as getting a divorce in those days was practically impossible.

My grandfather put his place of birth as Leeds, Yorkshire, England. I was told he was of the Jewish faith, and he worked mainly on ships.

Allan Glazier <aglazier6@bigpond.com>

NEMIROWSKI

My name is Ariel, I am 39 years old, living with my wife in the Negev, Israel. I am looking for any contact to my grandfather from my father's side. His name is S. (Simon or Shimon) Nemirowski. He immigrated to Australia about 70 years ago, when my father was a child.

He tried to contact my father's family, but this all we know. We don't know what happened to him after that and if he tried to contact us again. The last address mentioned in his letter is GPO Office Box 1842Q, Melbourne.

Ariel Meriot, Israel <ams@bgu.ac.il>