

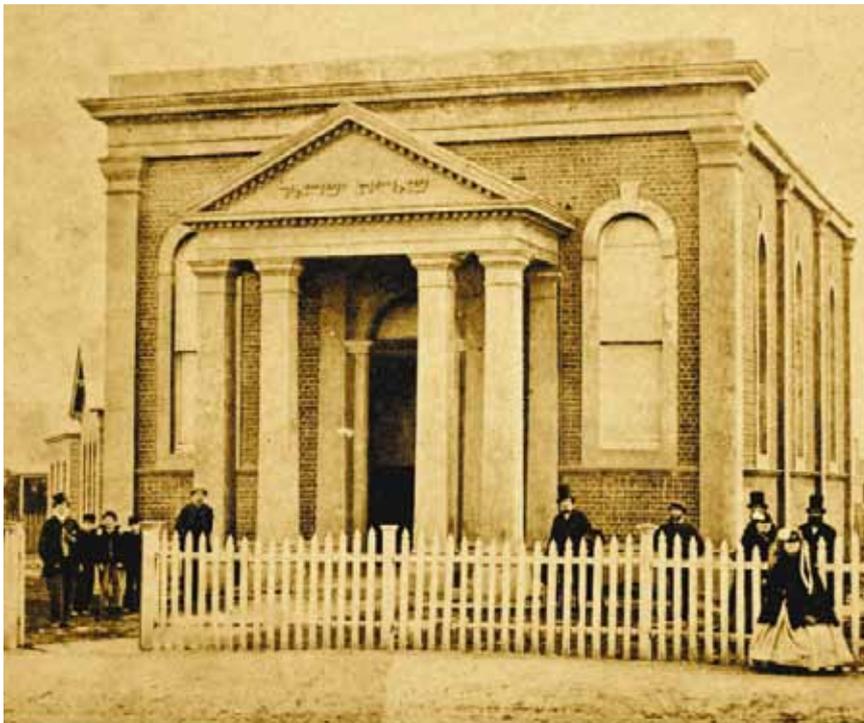
Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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

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www.ajgs-vic.org.au



On 2 and 3 April this year, the Ballarat Hebrew Congregation celebrated 150 years since the laying of its foundation stone in 1861. A full weekend of activities attracted hundreds of descendants as well as interested members of the Jewish community. For more details about this event, see page 7.

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MAY 2011 MEETING

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 4 May 2011 at 7.30 pm

The AJGS (Vic) and the Makor Jewish Community Library also invite you to a panel session

Ask the experts

Following the AGM, there will be an opportunity for members and visitors to engage with 'the experts' to deal with their genealogical road blocks. The audience will be asked to write down their questions on a slip of paper, which in turn will be placed into a box to be drawn out at random. The 'experts' will use online resources as well as suggestions coming from the audience to assist in finding solutions.

Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre, 306 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South, Victoria 3162.
All welcome. Enquiries: admin@ajgs-vic.org.au or (03) 9523 6738.

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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

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Secretary	Lionel Sharpe OAM
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Committee	David Cohen
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	Liz James
	Bernie Kuran
	Kaye Quittner
	Ian Samuel OAM
	Bubbles Segall

Makor Library Liaison

Leonie Fleiszig

Australian Jewish Genealogy Internet Discussion Group

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

AJGS (Vic) Inc. membership fees

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

EDITORIAL

I often ponder why so many of our members are inhibited to commit 'pen to paper' in sharing their genealogical research successes as well as their struggles. Sharing can be a very powerful motivating factor for both the writer and the reader of this newsletter. It also opens up the possibility of linking with others on the same or similar genealogical journey.

Let us explore the self-talk which inhibits the sharing of the fruits of our research.

"No-one will be interested – if I cannot get a meaningful response from my own family why should I believe that strangers will be interested in my ancestry?"

"I am not a good writer – I just write a few sentences, read it aloud to myself and tear it up. It reminds me of trying to write essays during my school days."

"I have discovered so much interesting information about my family in the past few months, I don't know where to start."

"I spend all my time entering names, dates and events in my software. I do not have the creativity to pick up a theme and write a concise summary about how I found what I found."

"I have already started to write bits and pieces about my family history for my grandchildren. One of these days, someone may want to suss out more information. As for publishing it – I'll leave this to others."

If the above represents the thoughts and feelings of the majority of our membership, no wonder we get few contributions to this newsletter.

There are, however, some exceptions. The December 2010 issue featured three contributions:

'My summer journey to Olomouc in search of my Winter family', by Daniela Torsh of Sydney. Daniela is a prolific researcher, writer and public speaker who enjoys sharing her experiences and discoveries. She is a real inspiration to those who are contemplating seeing their efforts in print.

Albert Braunstein, a former AJGS (Vic) committee member, offered us a short piece, 'Rediscovering the Jews of Egypt', the story of his visit to Jewish archives. His article has been spotted by the editor of *Avotaynu* and will be reproduced in that esteemed journal in its next issue. Richard and Heather Louis extol the virtues of a well-known research database in their article, 'The power of Ancestry.com'. We thank all four for their contributions.

So, here is the challenge – write and tell us how the AJGS (Vic) might motivate and assist you to join the ranks of the above contributors to *Jewish Genealogy Downunder*.

Note that preference will be given to articles where the ancestral research links to persons living in Australia or if they provide guidelines for those whose ancestry pre-dates migration to Australia.

**Lionel Sharpe
Editor**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another successful year has gone by and the membership of our society continues to grow. At last count, we have 170 financial members, and in addition we have 160 people who receive through the internet, news of our regular events. Our monthly meetings at Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre are well attended and judging from the number of requests we receive for assistance there appears to be an ever-growing interest in family research.

Our newsletter, *Jewish Genealogy Downunder*, is well received and judging by the requests for an online copy, the full colour issue is proving to be popular.

A number of thanks are due to those who have assisted us in the past year. A special thanks go to the staff at Beth Weizmann who set up the room for our monthly meetings. Thanks also are due to Leonie Fleiszig and the staff of the Makor Jewish Community Library for their help throughout the year in dealing with genealogical enquiries and in cataloguing our books. We look forward to close collaboration in the coming year when the various collections will be moved to the adjacent building where the National Jewish Library of Australia will be housed.

This past year we entered into an agreement with the Church of the Latter-day Saints whereby the Makor Jewish Community Library was appointed as a licensed repository for their microfilms. We will be making a formal announcement setting out procedures for ordering and viewing films when we move into the new building. We also wish to thank the Genealogical Society of Victoria for their donation of an un-used microfilm reader, which supplements the existing one we acquired from the Australian Jewish Historical Society some years ago.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of our committee for their efforts during the past 12 months. Special thanks go to our *JGD* editors, to all those involved in the photographing and digitising of cemetery records, and to all those who assist our members and others with their research problems.

Allan Jankie
AJGS (Vic) President

The following meetings were held over the past 12 months:

Jack Aghion: A Sephardi Family Story – Retracing Their Journey Through History.
Itiel Bereson: The Changing Borders of Eastern Europe.
Vaughan Duggan: Preparing to Publish a Family History.
Panel: The IAJGS Conference in Los Angeles.
Panel: Sharing Your Family Research Issues.
Panel: Making Effective Use of JewishGen Using the Internet.
Panel: An Introduction to JewishGen.
Doug Elms: Introducing VicGUM.

The AJGS (Vic) extends a warm welcome to new members: Anne Mansell; John Tescher; Pauline Sher; and Sonya Solomon.

NOTICES

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 13th Annual General Meeting of the society will take place on

Wednesday, 4 May 2011, at 7.30 pm

at

Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre,
306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, Victoria 3162

Nominations are being called for the following positions on the Committee of Management:

President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer
A representative of the Makor Jewish Community Library
Eight ordinary members of the committee

(Note: only financial members are eligible to stand for election and vote at the meeting)

Nomination forms are available by contacting:
admin@ajgs-vic.org.au

Completed forms should be forwarded to:

Honorary Secretary, AJGS (Vic), PO Box 189,
Glenhuntly, Victoria 3163

Lionel Sharpe, Honorary Secretary

Congratulations New South Wales

AJGS celebrates its 20th anniversary

This year, the AJGS celebrates 20 years of activity in the pursuit of Jewish genealogy and family history research in Australia.

Founded by Sophie Caplan OAM in 1991, the NSW society took the initiative and encouraged other Australian states and territories to set up branches of the Sydney-based AJGS. Over the years, Adelaide, Victoria, Perth and the ACT formed their own independent groups. In recent years, two national conferences have been held, the first in Canberra, and last year it was held in Melbourne.

The first Australian genealogical newsletter, *The Kosher Koala* (now the e-Report), was launched in September 1993. Its editor, Sophie Caplan, explained the naming of the newsletter in her first editorial, having discovered that available Hebrew names were already taken elsewhere. She wrote: "... so we decided to walk a different track, an Australian bush track, with a name reflecting that we are Australians, we are Jewish, and that we live up a familiar gum tree, a menorah with pungent eucalyptus leaves".

Several of the original founders are still active in the AJGS. They include Rieke Nash, who succeeded Sophie Caplan as president in 2002.

We wish the president and the Committee of Management many more years of successful work.

Mameloshn – How Yiddish made a home in Melbourne

A new major exhibition that focuses on Melbourne's Yiddish world has opened at the Jewish Museum of Australia in St Kilda and will run until 11 March 2012.

Mameloshn, which translates as 'mother tongue', documents the journey of diverse Eastern European Jews who came to Melbourne to recreate their lives in the years leading up to and immediately following World War Two.

The exhibition is curated by Anna Epstein in direct consultation with a Yiddish advisory committee including Melbourne writer Arnold Zable, historian and academic Andrew Markus and Klezmer musician Freydi Mrocki.

Anna says *Mameloshn* is a stimulating historic journey through time and place: "A story of migration and integration, it is at once a universal and distinct social history tale exhibited in a new and dynamic way."

More than 50% of the exhibition comes from the museum's permanent collection, Anna says, and many objects have never been exhibited before.

The museum's director, Rebecca Forgasz, says the exhibition documents the establishment of a huge proportion of the Melbourne Jewish community – how they got here, how they established themselves and how they struggled and thrived as a minority community.

"Australia has absorbed and integrated immigrant communities from all over the world," she says. "We enjoy a rich multicultural life flavoured by the customs and traditions of hundreds of nationalities and religions in Victoria alone. This is one of those stories, but it is our story."

Anna says Melbourne was the destination of most Yiddish-speaking migrants to Australia: "In this far-away country *ek velt* – at the ends of the earth – they did their best to recreate much of their old way of life, and Melbourne emerged as a vibrant centre of Yiddish culture, particularly in the suburbs of Carlton and St Kilda."

Designed by Simon Castricum from Melbourne architecture firm ARM, the exhibition is intended to be a sensory experience.

"The idea was to alter the space," Anna says, "to make it feel like you were literally walking down the gas (street) and standing among some of the characters. Using graffiti-inspired stencilling, the people are drawn over historic photographs and applied as huge

wall stickers – lifting past imagery into a modern scene we are exploring where the language is today.

"Rather than just displaying text on walls in an exhibition about language, there are large cubes printed with Yiddish words and their translations, soundscapes and iPads with stories for all ages – so that visitors can actually engage and interact with the language in a participatory way. It is an emotional story, and we wanted visitors to be moved and inspired as they traversed the space."

As Arnold Zable describes: "The story of Yiddish in Melbourne is epic, with larger-than-life characters, fiery idealists, activists and dreamers, survivors and resisters, and arduous journeys from all corners of the globe. And all for Yiddish, a language of the people, a deeply expressive hybrid, synthesised from centuries of wanderings, an intimate mother tongue, rich with the salt of the earth."

Anna says the generation who lived and breathed the language and culture are passing on, and *Mameloshn* is partly a tribute to them. "Their children, immersed in Yiddish culture, but whose mother tongue is English face the task of holding onto Yiddish," she says. "It felt like the perfect time to tell the story."

This year is also the centenary celebration of the establishment of Kadimah, Melbourne's Yiddish Cultural Centre, which used to be the epicentre of Yiddish life in Melbourne. The centre, its people and activities are a focus of the exhibition, says Anna.

Mameloshn provides an insight into how Melbourne's appetite for art, politics, food, music and theatre has evolved into what it is today – with Yiddish culture playing a very important role in Melbourne's cultural birth.

Further information can be found on the Jewish Museum of Australia website, or email info@jewishmuseum.com.au or telephone (03) 8534 3600.



The *Mameloshn* exhibition features a display of photographs and names of members of the Yiddish-speaking community who have contributed to the arts, literature, teaching, the stage and business. The AJGS (Vic) is assisting the Jewish Museum of Australia in gathering short biographical information of these individuals. If you believe you know of others who deserved to be added to this display, forward their name, along with a brief biography and (if available) a photograph, to the Jewish Museum of Australia, 26 Alma Road, St Kilda 3182. The photograph above (not part of the exhibition) of Acland Street in St Kilda, a popular meeting place for members of the Yiddish-speaking community, was taken by Lionel Sharpe in the 1980s. It has been reproduced in a book titled *Australia and New Zealand Jewish Year Book* (B'nai B'rith, 1985).

A focus on Hungary

Daniela Torsh attended the Second Australian National Conference on Jewish Genealogy, held in Melbourne last year. Daniela was invited to moderate a popular session on Hungary. The following is an edited and recently updated extract of her session notes, which she has generously offered to share with JGD readers.

Conference session notes

The editor of the Jewish genealogy magazine *Avotaynu*, Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus, who was a guest of the conference, opened discussion with the remark that all Hungarian research is organised by region. This means if you are searching for births, deaths or marriages information, you need to know where the person you are searching for was born, married and died. The records may be held at the National Archives in Budapest or Bratislava or in a local or regional archive in Hungary or Slovakia, or even Romania.

She told us of a good reference book: *History of Hungarian Jewry*, by Braham Randolph. (*Nazi's Last Victims: The Holocaust in Hungary*, Wayne State University Press, 1998, and *The Holocaust in Hungary: Fifty Years Later*, by Braham and Attila Pók, Columbia University Press, 1997).

Sallyann also mentioned for pre-Trianon Hungary (1) the Jordan Auslander book, *Genealogical Gazetteer of the Kingdom of Hungary*, Avotaynu, New Jersey, 2005. This book is held at the Makor Library, Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre in Caulfield, and at the Reverend Katz Library at North Shore Synagogue in Lindfield, Sydney. It contains a listing of the towns in 1877, then in the Kingdom of Hungary. The listing describes the county and the district for the town, alternative names, the current name and country and population by religion.

Before 1840, says Auslander, the Roman Catholic Church was responsible for all Vital Records for all faiths. The book has a short history of Hungary, which I found useful, and a map showing the various counties.

Someone at the conference session asked if there were cemetery records for Kobanya. No-one knew the answer to this, but Sallyann suggested using the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF), located on the JewishGen website at www.Jewishgen.org.

There is also a special interest group (SIG) devoted to Hungary on JewishGen. You can join it for free and post questions such as this to the discussion group. The email address is h-sig@lyris.jewishgen.org.

Conference attendee and AJGS member Albert Braunstein mentioned another book: *Jewish Budapest*, published by the Central European University about 10 years ago.

Sallyann mentioned 'fetchbook' as an alternative useful website to amazon.com. The URL is www.fetchbook.info.

She also said the Jewish community in Budapest is doing an inventory of cemeteries.

Conference attendee David Laufer informed us that pre-1895, all Vital Records (BDM) were kept by the various religions but after 1895 they were kept in the civil records.

He told us that Sam Schleman is the coordinator of the transcripts of the LDS (Mormon) records, and he plans to upload these to the JewishGen website. Already completed are Budapest Jewish birth and marriage records pre-1895; the death records are still being transcribed.

The Hungarian Special Interest Group (H-SIG) on JewishGen covers the pre-Trianon geographic area of Hungary. This includes modern-day Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, parts of Croatia and Yugoslavia, the Transylvania part of Romania

and the Burgenland part of Austria. Much of the work done on behalf of H-SIG is included on its All Hungarian Database on JewishGen.

Sallyann said there was a problem with the name changes project of Jewish Hungarian dictionary.

The Mormons (aka Church of the Latter Day Saints) filmed all the Hungarian records in the 1950s. You can find these on their website at www.familysearch.org.

In Israel, the Centre for the Archives and History of the Jewish People (CAHJP) has begun to collect Vital Records. Visit Jerusalem: <http://sites.huji.ac.il/archives>.

The Tel Aviv University has a Diaspora Research Institute.

Sallyann pointed out that you can use the Yad Vashem database to search for all the people in a town, for example put in 'Holic' and you'll get all the Holic deportations. Then you search the Pages of Testimony and you can get in touch with other researchers interested in the same town (see www.yadvashem.org).

Sallyann recommends Batya Unterschatz, the former head of Jewish Agency's Search Bureau for Missing Relatives in Israel. Batya is available to do research for a fee. Email BATYAL2@012.net.il.

Sallyann also recommended Professor Ladislau Gyemant to do research in Romania and Hungary. He is at the University of Cluj-Napoca in Romania. He will research Transylvania too. Email gyemant@zortec.ro.

If you join both the Romanian and the Hungarian SIGs on JewishGen, you can post your queries and get help from other researchers working in similar areas.

Sallyann also mentioned Valery.Bazarov@HIAS.org for people searching.

And she mentioned the Hidden Children Foundation in New York City.

Conference afterthoughts

After I got home from the conference in March, I found a little book on my shelves: *Walks in the Jewish Quarter*, edited by Varnai Vera (Vince Books, 2006). It is in Hungarian and English.

It's a useful, small-format book for visitors, with entries on synagogues, memorials, shops and gastronomy, as well as maps and an index. It includes lots of lovely photos too. I used it when I visited Budapest in 2006 to meet a cousin of my mother.

In 2008, I visited Israel for the first time, and my cousin Yehoshuah took me to the Memorial Museum of Hungarian Speaking Jewry at Haatzmaut Square in Safed (Sfat). It has an extensive archive and a growing collection of artefacts and items including documents, books, paintings, Judaica and a lot of other material donated by Hungarians. I recognised some embroidery in a glass case at the museum on display. It was identical to a beautiful round tablecloth left to me by my parents. The minute I saw it I realised it must have come from my paternal grandmother, Ida WINTER, whose father, Isidor, was born in a small town near Holic in Slovakia. When he was born in Koppany in 1839, it was part of the Hungarian Monarchy.

The executive director of the Hungarian Museum in Israel is Ronny Lustig, and Professor Hanna Yablonka is chair of the board. They publish a newsletter and are also seeking donations. The postal address is PO Box 1168, Safed 13111, Israel. Telephone +972 4 692 5881, fax +972 4 692 3880, visit www.hjm.org.il or email museum@hjm.org.il.

Lindsay's helpful links

After the conference in Melbourne, AJGS member Lindsay Broughton sent me the following helpful links:

"The first is the one for Hungarian name changes I referred to in the Hungarian discussion at the conference: <http://kt.lib.pte.hu/cgi-bin/kt.cgi?konyvtar/kt04112203/tartalom.html>."

"Another link is to a database for the Kozma Utca Jewish cemetery in Budapest. The database also includes entries for some other Jewish cemeteries outside Budapest – it's searchable. Because of the Hungarian naming conventions (ie Mrs John Smith nee Jane Doe), it is also possible (though not in all cases) to find a burial plot if you know a woman's maiden name, and it's especially useful if her husband's name is relatively common. I tend to use the second field 'Search in all the data name' to catch more possibilities: www.oroklet.hu/bent.php?nyelv=1."

Lindsay also told me about a newspaper, *Pester Lloyd*, being digitised by the Austrian National Library in Vienna as part of the ANNO newspaper project. Lindsay has found a lot of death notices for her family and my family there: <http://anno.onb.ac.at/>.

Lindsay says she has found it useful because some of her Slovakian people moved to Budapest. Also, though most of the death notices are for people in Budapest, there are those for people who came from other towns such as Fiume, Vienna and Bratislava, as well as other towns in Slovakia, Romania and Hungary.

She also sent me this URL for Budapest businesses in 1900: www.bparchiv.hu/cgi-bin/lakas/lakas.pl.

Finally, Lindsay also recommends the LDS website for their Hungarian data as follows: "I don't know if you know about an LDS site where they're putting up scanned items of genealogical interest from around the world. In relation to Hungary, they have funeral notices 1840–1990 (I think they have about 50,000 items from Hungary covering the old Austro-Hungarian Empire) and the Budapest civil registrations 1895–1972. They also have items for Slovakia and the Czech Republic. They're adding items all the time."

See <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html>.

Albert Braunstein's hints

Albert Braunstein, another AJGS member from Melbourne, sent me the following list of books on Hungarian Jewry:

In the Land of Hagar: The Jews of Hungary: History, Society and Culture

Edited by Anna Szalai, the book's pages abound with examples from religious thinkers, social critics, scholars, journalists, physicians, visionaries, interpreters of Halacha, political militants, artistic figures, composers, musicians, and so on.

Publisher: Ministry of Defence Publishing House (2002)

Jewish Budapest: Monuments, Rites, Histories

Edited by Geza Komoroczy, Kinga Frojimovics, Viktoria Pusztai and Andrea Strbik, this history of the Jews in Budapest provides an account of their culture and ritual customs and looks at each of the 'Jewish quarters' of the city. It pays special attention to the usage of the Hebrew language and Jewish scholarship and also to the integration of the Jews into society.

Publisher: Central European University Press (1999)

The Jews of Hungary: History, Culture, Psychology

Authored by Raphael Pata, this English language book chronicles the eight centuries during which the Jews have lived and worked in Hungary. It reveals the richness of their history in the Carpathian Basin from Roman times through to the present.

Publisher: Wayne State University Press (1996)



Budapest Synagogue. Photo by Daniela Torsh.

Wine and Thorns in Tokay Valley: Jewish Life in Hungary – The History of Abaujszanto

Author Zahava Szász Stessel, a survivor of Auschwitz, spent her childhood in the small winemaking town of Abaujszanto, where Jews comprised a seventh of the population. This study examines the history of these Jews from 1738 to 1950. Stessel has travelled worldwide to interview survivors. She also unearthed some rare written materials, including a history of one of the town's educational institutions.

Publisher: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press (1995)

Archival research in Slovakia

If your family came from Slovakia, parts of which were formerly Hungary, I have a list of archives there sent to me by Shaul Sharoni from Israel which could be helpful. As it is a large Excel file, I can email it to you if you write and ask me for it. Shaul has email addresses for some of the Slovak archives but not all. However, there are fax numbers and postal addresses and you can write and ask them to research your family name for you.

Shaul recommends: "Write a formal letter to the archive director, specifying the exact names, places and range of years you'd like them to research. Remember, they'll charge you about EUR 20 per research hour according to a set tariff list (this is what they charge for 'demanding research' – ask for the full list). In light of this, make sure to state a financial limit, otherwise they'll research as much as they see fit to provide you with the answers you're looking for. Moreover, always ask for an invoice and research report by email, although they're also obliged to send a research report by mail. If necessary, use Google to translate your application into Slovak."

Since I edited these notes in September 2010, I have obtained a very good book on the Jews of Moravia written by Michael Laurence Miller from the Central University in Budapest – *Rabbis and Revolution: The Jews of Moravia in the Age of Emancipation*, Stanford University Press, California, 2011. It details the emigration of Jews between Hungary – today Slovakia – and Moravia in the Czech Republic. It also includes information about anti-Jewish violence in Hungary, the 1848 Revolution, the Hasidim and abolition of the Jew tax.

Thanks to Lindsay Broughton, David Laufer, Albert Braunstein and Shaul Sharoni for their corrections and additional materials, which I have edited in some cases.

These notes were prepared by Daniela Torsh, 6 April 2010 and edited 13 September 2010 and 24 April 2011. Please send any corrections or additions to Danielat1@bigpond.com.

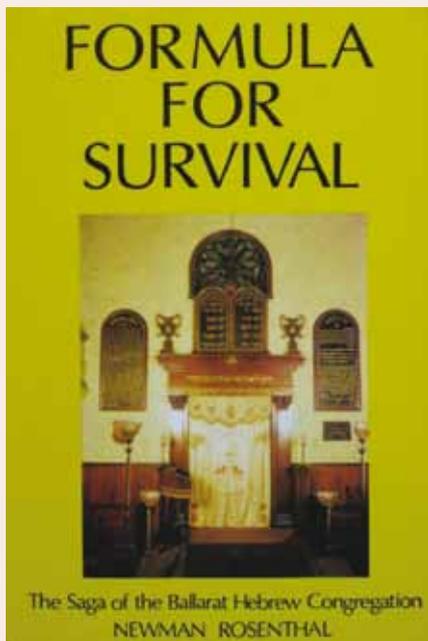
Footnote

(1) Pre-Trianon Hungary refers to the much larger Hungary, ruled by a king in a dual monarchy with the Habsburgs in Vienna. The Trianon Palace at Versailles is where the carve-up of Europe occurred at the end of the First World War. Hungary was reduced in size by one-third, as it was on the losing side with Austria and Germany.

In the news and on the move ...

The Ballarat Hebrew Congregation celebrates 150 years

As early as 1853, a Jewish community was established in Ballarat (Victoria) just two years after gold was discovered in the surrounding area. The sudden influx of immigrants resulted in the emergence of a Jewish community which quickly grew and the need was recognised to build a permanent synagogue.



A timber structure was built in 1855, however the land was soon requisitioned by the Town Council and a larger stone building was constructed and consecrated in 1861. By this stage, the Jewish population, according to the census, had grown to 241 men, women and children.

On 2 and 3 April this year, the synagogue celebrated 150 years since the laying of the foundation stone, and today it claims to be the oldest synagogue still in use in mainland Australia, after Hobart in Tasmania.

A full weekend of activities, which included separate services held by the Orthodox and Progressive Judaism communities of Melbourne, attracted hundreds of descendants as well as interested members of the Jewish community.

Adelaide meeting attracts a record crowd

On 13 February, the Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of South Australia held its largest meeting ever.

More than 50 people gathered to hear Rabbi David Kopstein speak about the long line of rabbis in his family as well as the history of his family, in his talk 'Khazars, friendly czars, inquisitors and TV stars: one family's journey through the last millennium'.

The meeting was held in the Rose Harrison Hall at Beit Shalom, the Progressive Synagogue in Adelaide.

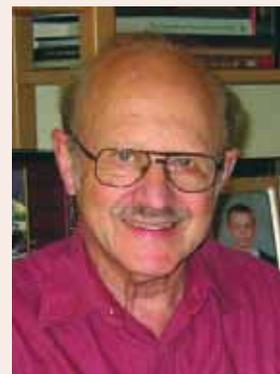
David and his wife, Rabbi Patti Kopstein, were for several years the rabbis at Beit Shalom. They are now retired and spend about three months in Adelaide each Australian summer.

There were four rabbis at the meeting, surely a record for Adelaide without a conference being held. As well as David and Patti Kopstein, Rabbi Shoshana Kominsky of Beit Shalom and Rabbi Friedler of the Adelaide Hebrew (Orthodox) Congregation were present.

Margot Bailey, Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of South Australia

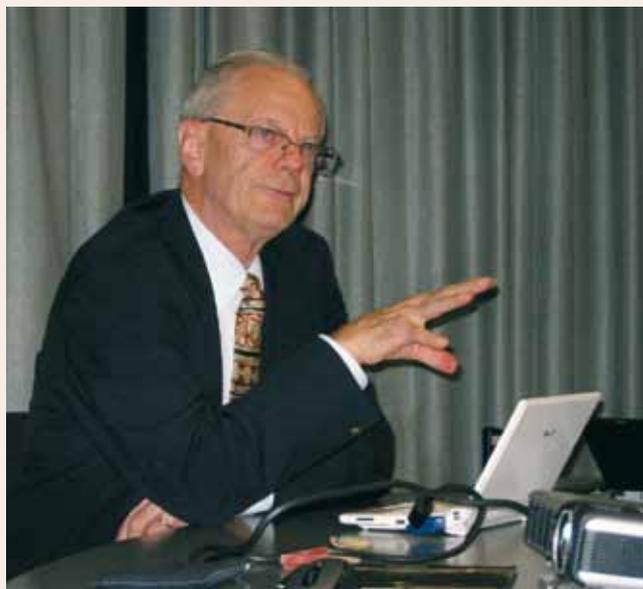
Guest speaker at the GSV

Lionel Sharpe, secretary of the AJGS (Vic), was guest speaker on 7 April at a monthly lunchtime meeting of the Genealogical Society of Victoria in Collins Street, Melbourne.



He spoke on the topic 'Early Jewish settlers in Victoria', giving an overview of the early arrival of Jews at Port Phillip District, where the first Jewish religious service in Melbourne took place in 1840.

He talked about the impact on Jewish migration following the discovery of gold in the colony of Victoria in 1851 and outlined demographic details of the early Jewish settlers who headed for the prosperous rural towns, especially Ballarat and Bendigo on the goldfields.



VicGUM shares its genealogical know-how

Doug Elms, a committee member of VicGUM (Genealogists Using Microcomputers), gave a fascinating two-hour online presentation at the March meeting of the AJGS (Vic), held at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre.

Doug has been actively researching his family history for some 25 years and has managed to trace ancestors back to the 1600s. Following an overview of the work of VicGUM, Doug focused on a presentation of Family Tree Maker. The audience readily participated by raising issues and sharing ideas.

He also spoke about the advantages of joining VicGUM, an association of family researchers with some 600 members around Australia. Its aims include assisting members with information about hardware and software packages and liaising with other Australasian genealogical computer groups with a view to providing compatible data exchange formats.

For further information on VicGUM, visit www.vicgum.asn.au.

Exploring JewishGen's FAMILY TREE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

with Allan Jankie

The Family Tree of the Jewish People searchable database (FTJP) is another wonderful genealogical tool provided by JewishGen. It can be found at www.jewishgen.org/gedcom/ or under 'databases' on the main JewishGen web page.

FTJP invites researchers from all over the world to enter their own names of interest and see if others have submitted family trees containing those names.

When you enter the website, you will find the welcome page (Figure 1), which gives you two options:

- SEARCH Search the database
- UPLOAD Submit your own family tree

To search or upload your family tree to the database, you need to register with JewishGen (it is free to register).

To do a search, just click on the tab and the search parameter page comes up (Figure 2).

Like most searchable databases on JewishGen, this one gives a number of options when searching surnames and towns. Generally, I use the 'sounds like' option as researchers tend to use a range of spellings.

In this example, I am searching for the name JANKIELEWICZ, one of my paternal branches.

My JANKIELEWICZ ancestors came from the city of Lodz in Poland, but I've been unable to find them in records from there, so I decided not to specify a town but rather to ask for all researchers who've put the name of 'Aron' (my paternal grandfather) as the given name. I could choose to view the results in a variety of ways (see the drop-down list) but I prefer to look at them in alphabetical order.

The 'Aron' search produces a list of nine positive results (Figure 3).

The first three results use quite a different spelling of the JANKIELEWICZ surname (remember I did a soundex search) so I'll look at them later.

The fourth result turns out to be my grandfather, and this information has been submitted by one of my distant relatives to whom I've sent information in the past.

The fifth result is very interesting. It is for an 'Aron Ajzyk JANKLEWICZ', born in Piotrkow in 1831 and died in Piotrkow in 1889. My grandfather was Aron Isaac JANKIELEWIZ, born in 1901, so this person cannot be him, but the names are too similar to ignore. The database allows you to follow ancestors and descendants up/down the tree (Figure 4), so I can see that none of the names on this submitted tree are the same as mine. But I am still intrigued about this person who has the same name as my grandfather but who died some 12 years prior to my grandfather's birth. Could this be an ancestor of my grandfather?

As with other JewishGen databases, there is the ability to email the person who submitted the data. I do this and it turns out to be someone I had communicated with three years ago. He tells me that since we last communicated

he has found out more information, and before too long we have established that my great grandfather, Chaim David JANKIELEWICZ, and his grandfather, Szmul JANKLEWICZ, were brothers, both sons of this Aron Ajzyk JANKLEWICZ. My grandfather had apparently been named after him.

I also learned that the family had come from the town of Piotrkow to Lodz, and sure enough the missing birth/death/marriage records that I had been unsuccessful in finding in Lodz turned up in the Piotrkow archives.

The point I am trying to make is that I check FTJP every three to four months because of this very scenario. There are new researchers registering all the time. I now also ensure that I go back to researchers I ignored previously because I thought, at that time, that the towns they listed were not relevant to my ancestors.

FIGURE 1

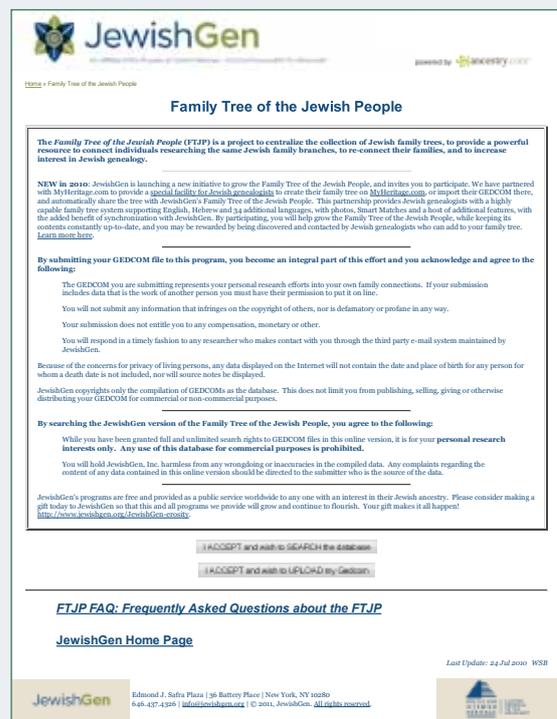
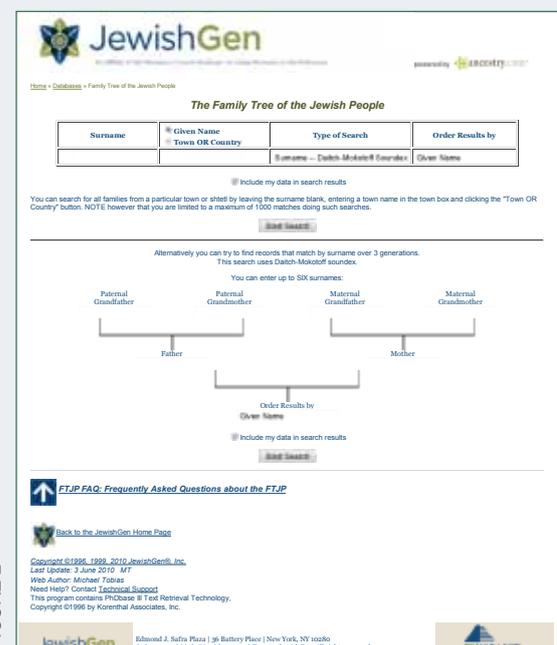


FIGURE 2



Help us identify the people in this photo



Jewish Genealogy Downunder is offering a new service to its readers. If you would like help identifying unknown family members or friends in a family photograph, send us a high-resolution copy of the photograph and we will publish it. Hopefully, someone out there will recognise them and send us their names.

This photograph, of a group of debutantes, was taken circa 1920. If you recognise any of the women in this photo, email Lionel Sharpe <admin@ajgs-vic.org.au> or telephone (03) 9523 6738.

JewishGen
An affiliate of the Federation of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

powered by **ancestry.com**

Home > Databases > The Family Tree of the Jewish People

You're closer to your Jewish family story than ever before. **ancestry.com** Discover

Family Tree of the Jewish People

Your own entries will be highlighted like this

Searching for Surname **JANKIELEWICZ + aron**
(D-M code 165874 or 465874)
Total hits: 9
Run on Monday 25 April 2011 at 03:47:04

Name	Born	Died	Father + Mother	Code	Up
JANKIELEWICH, Aaron (Arysz)	1890	1921	Lipe Abram + Haya Clara Jankilevich Gitman	3633	26 J
JANKIELEWICH, Aron				28726	02 J
JANKIELEWICH, Aron				154904	9 N
JANKIELEWICZ, Aron				13399	26 D
JANKLEWICZ, Aron Ajzyk	1831	1889	Icek + Gitel Taube	35025	20 J
JANKLEWITZ, Erin Ashleigh			Clive Rowland + Lara Dorfman	36732	18 J
JANKIELEWICH, Irene (Chiki) X			Gregorio (Golo) + Paulina Jankilevich Nee Lifchik	3633	26
YONKELOWITZ, Irene Lois	1932	1994	Morris + Bessie Mowsovich	44088	31 A
JANKLEWITZ, Jude Aaron			Sean + Rachel Oshry	36732	18 J

FIGURE 3

JewishGen
An affiliate of the Federation of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

powered by **ancestry.com**

Home > Databases > The Family Tree of the Jewish People

Family Display: Aron Ajzyk JANKLEWICZ

Contact the Person who submitted this data by email

Paternal Grandfather: **Paternal Grandmother:** **Maternal Grandfather:** **Maternal Grandmother:**

Father:
Icek JANKLEWICZ
Born: 1797
Died: 19 Feb 1853, Piotrków, Poland

Mother:
GitelTAUBE
Born: 1803

Aron Ajzyk JANKLEWICZ
Born: 1831, Piotrków, Poland
Died: 17 Mar 1889, Piotrków, Poland

Spouse: Machla SIMSIA
Born: Abt 1832
Married: 18 Nov 1851, Rozprza, Poland

Children:
Szymul JANKLEWICZ Born: 17 Aug 1854, Piotrków, Poland. Married: 11 Apr 1893, Piotrków, Poland. Died: AfT 1927.

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FIGURE 4

The Melbourne Chevra Kadisha: A Century of Devoted Work, 1909–2009

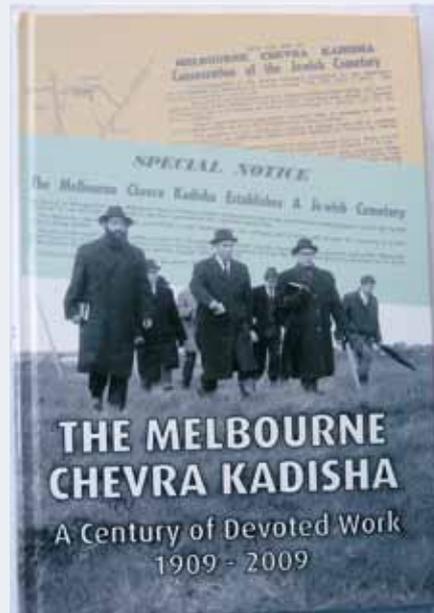
Published by the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha,
St Kilda, Victoria, 2011

A published history of this vital century-old Jewish organisation is long overdue, and Yossi Aron is to be congratulated on his meticulous research in writing a history of the origins and development of the first Melbourne burial society, which was founded in 1909.

Funeral arrangements in the very early years of Jewish settlement, in the 1840s, were the responsibility of the three foundation congregations, namely the Jewish Congregational Society, founded in 1841 and the forerunner to the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation (the Bourke Street Shule), the East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation and the St Kilda Hebrew Congregation. It took many years for the formation of a Jewish burial society that would serve the whole community.

To research the early years, the author drew much of his material from the weekly newspaper the *Jewish Herald* (from 1920 known as the *Australian Jewish Herald*). It was the custom in the early years for this paper to print in full the annual reports and even the proceedings of the annual general meetings. The author also acknowledges the *Australian Jewish News* for its archives post mid-1930s and the holdings of the Australian Jewish Historical Society lodged at the State Library of Victoria.

Yossi Aron is well placed to write a history of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha. He has written extensively on Victorian Jewish institutions, and his publications include *The Enduring Remnant: The First 150 Years of the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation, 1841–1991* (with J. Arndt) and *One Hundred Years of Jewish Education: The Role of the United Jewish Education Board, 1895–1995*.



He brings to this new publication an insight into Jewish communal politics, tension between the early congregations who, for example, designated their own compartments at the Fawkner Cemetery, and an understanding of the motivation in the colourful personalities who dominated decision making, in particular in financial contributions, charity burials and maintaining the highest standards in the Orthodox burial traditions.

This story of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha reflects the story of the Melbourne Jewish community where inter-congregational politics often stood in the way of the establishment of an independent burial society. Such matters as financial responsibility of the congregations for the maintenance of the Metaher House at the Melbourne General Cemetery and meeting the costs of charity funerals created tension.

Interwoven in the story is the slow process of creating independent Jewish cemeteries rather than purchasing land in existing public cemeteries. The first such cemetery was the Adass Cemetery in 1957, and some years later in 1964 the Springvale cemetery (pictured below) was established.



Of interest to the genealogist is the biographical background material (Appendices 1–6) about the lives of some of the key figures discussed in the book, including Joseph Waxman (1863–1945), Israel Segal (1891–1968), Hirsch de Vahl Stone (1901–1980), Herschel Davis (1922–2002), Joseph Miller (1908–2002) and Moshe Kantor (1914–1992).

Appendix 7 is devoted to an article by Ruth Rosenberg, 'Life affirming attitudes to death', which appeared in the *Australian Jewish News*, March 2000.

The book will be cherished by the immediate families and the descendants of the numerous Tahara volunteers, both male and female, who are mentioned in its pages.

by Lionel Sharpe

From: NU? WHAT'S NEW?

The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu

Yad Vashem expands Shoah Victims' Names Database

When the Shoah Victims' Names Database went online in 2007, it consisted entirely of the nearly three million Pages of Testimony contributed since 1955. The question arose as to how to document the millions of other Jews murdered in the Holocaust. One solution Yad Vashem has taken is to add to the database other victims' lists such as the 'Gedenkbuch', which identifies more than 170,000 German Jews murdered in the Holocaust. They are also using victims' lists from yizkor books.

Other new sources being used are those where it is known that the vast majority of the people (generally more than 90%) were victims. Examples are deportation lists, ghetto lists and concentration camp inmates. These groups have created the problem that the database now has a small number of survivors. Yad Vashem is aware of this matter and has created a Survivor Form located at <http://tinyurl.com/4skjewv>. If you discover a survivor in the database, submit the Survivor Form, and, to expedite the process, include documentation that the person survived (such as a picture passport, obituary or Social Security Death Index entry). When received, Yad Vashem goes through a process of validating that the person survived and then marks the individual in the database as a survivor and removes the record from public view in the Shoah Victims' Names Database. The record remains in the database.

Free online genealogy research courses

FamilySearch, the genealogy arm of the Mormon Church, now has 140 online genealogy research courses available at no charge. Some focus on research in specific countries, others focus on basic tools and techniques for anyone just getting started in family history research, as well as courses for intermediate and advanced researchers.

Most courses are 30 minutes in length. FamilySearch notes that some advantages of an online course are that you can fast forward through the presentation or presentation slides or stop and later pick up where you left off.

Last year, I listened to the first Russian course, given by Daniel Schlyter, and it was a good overview of the history and geography of Russia. The second course, also given by Schlyter, is about records and resources. The Library is reaching out to the professional genealogy community asking for volunteers to provide additional lectures.

The number of lectures available by category are Australia (3), England (9), Germany (2), Ireland (5), Italy (1), Mexico (3), New Zealand (1), Poland (3), Professional Genealogy and Accreditation (25), Reading Handwritten Records (32), Research Principles and Tools (18), Russian (2), United States (32). The detailed list can be found at <https://www.familysearch.org/learn/researchcourses>.

Australian lectures include the following topics, sponsored by Allan D. Murrin:

1. Australia BDM Civil Registration Index (23 mins).
2. New South Wales Early Church Records 1788–1886 (21 mins).
3. Using the New South Wales Birth, Death, Marriage Index (26 mins).

The Handwritten Records series includes Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Latin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Scandinavian, Gothic and Spanish.

IJG calls for research proposals

The International Institute for Jewish Genealogy (IJG) has issued its annual 'Call for research proposals' for original research in the field of Jewish genealogy to be carried out in the 2011–2012 academic year. Successful applicants will be awarded grants of up to \$10,000.

Deadline for proposals is 31 May 2011. Those meeting strict standards of academic excellence will be judged by the extent to which they broaden the horizons of Jewish genealogical research and/or create innovative tools or technologies to assist Jewish genealogists and family historians in their work.

Additional information, including instructions for submitting applications, can be found on the institute's website at www.ijg.org under 'RESEARCH'/Research Grants'. Successful applicants will be announced on 1 September 2011.

Gary Mokotoff <nuwhatsnew@earthlink.net>

CONFERENCE NEWS

31st IAJGS CONFERENCE NEWS**Attend the Gala event:
fun and affordable**

The Gala event is set to be one of the major highlights of the 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. It is being held on Thursday evening, 18 August, in the beautiful Grand Hyatt Ballroom.

Formerly known as 'The Conference Banquet', this event has been transformed into one with a lower-key yet greater networking potential. Bowing to comments, we've also scaled down the cost to a more realistic \$65 per person conference.

- Excellent kosher food, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and substantial, scrumptious fare at a variety of buffet stations and cash bars.
- A casual atmosphere that will allow you to meet, mix, mingle and network and share your fabulous genealogical finds from the week.
- Plenty of seating for chatting and relaxing (we've done away with reserved seating, so that mingling – an important goal of attending IAJGS conferences – would be easier).
- The pleasure of honouring and applauding our outstanding IAJGS Achievement Awardees of the year.
- For your listening pleasure: the world-renowned Robyn Helzner Trio will captivate us with their charming wit and evocative melodies sung in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, Russian and English from Jewish communities in five corners of the world.

The conference program is now also available online, so be sure to take a look at the wonderfully diverse, incredibly rich program we have planned.

Early bird discounts for the conference are available until 30 April, so register now at www.dc2011.org (the fee for attending the Gala event will remain at \$65 per person).

See you at the conference!

Marlene Katz Bishow, Vic Cohen and Sue Isman
DC2011 conference co-chairs

If you are planning on attending this year's IAJGS conference in Washington and are interested in connecting with fellow Australians attending the event, contact Liz James, lizronjames@hotmail.com.



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.

BACHER

I am searching for more information about the Bacher family of Rumania, later London, England. My paternal grandmother, Rebecca Bacher Plen, was the daughter of Samuel Wolf Bacher. She had a sister who we have managed to trace as Sarah Bacher Smilowitz.

We have reason to believe that Sarah either went to live in Australia or that some of her progeny went to Australia. Many years ago, a man called Victor from Sydney made contact with us, but how do you look for a man called Victor when you want him?

If anyone can give us any assistance or advice, I can be contacted on colplen@iafrica.com.

Colin Plen
PO Box 642, Milnerton, Cape Town, South Africa

GOLDBERG

I am looking for the descendants of Omri and Avril Goldberg from South Africa. Their family, Ryan, Samantha and David, I believe, came to settle in Australia. If anyone has their details, please contact me by email.

Liz James, Melbourne <lizronjames@hotmail.com>

HELLER

The Heller family arrived in Sydney between 1938 and 1950. The family names are Arwine (Erwin) and Pia or Fia, and their children Michael Heller (born 1938) and Joseph Heller (born 10 April 1941). I wish to be put in contact with this family.

Tzameret Avivi, Israel <tzmtomy@012.net.il>

MAITLAND CEMETERY

I would like to contact anyone who is a direct descendant of people buried at the Maitland Jewish cemetery. The list of known burials is online at www.ajhs.com.au/JewishBurials.htm#maitland.

Gary Luke, Sydney <gary@feraltek.com.au>

PHILLIPS

I am wondering if anyone can help me find the final resting place of my great grandfather. His name is Phillip Phillips (Jewish name of Yehoshua), born in Sydney in 1837 to Emanuel and Hannah Phillips, married in 1862 to Susan Cohen, went to New Zealand in 1863 and returned to Melbourne in 1871. Susan died in 1872 and is buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery. There are several reports of him living in Fitzroy with the family in the early 1880s, and then nothing. I have searched all the BDM files in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland, as well as New Zealand, to no avail.

This is the last remaining query in my search to find the resting places of my 2x g grandfathers. Where the grave has no marking, we are having a plaque made up to honour them and their journey to Australia.

Roger Powell
roger@whitespacesmarketing.com

SOLOMON

My father, Isador Solomon, was born in Ramsgate, England. His father was buried as Philip Solomon in Adelaide, but the family name was Zolner. My father's mother was Lisa Kolker. I have some details of her siblings. Rosalind Kolker, Lisa's sister, lived in England and had no children. There were other siblings.

My mother's mother was Celia Levi, born March 1900. I have information about her family and a copy of her parents' marriage certificate. Celia's mother's first name was Rachel and her father was Israel Gedalia Halevi. My mother's father was Albert Nathanael Nathan. Celia and Albert were married in London. I have a copy of the marriage certificate and know the names of some of the siblings. Gerald and Roslyn migrated to Melbourne. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows more about any of these names.

Janet Levi-Cohen <janet.levicohen@gmail.com>

POSTINGS

AUSTRALIAN and NZ DIGITISED RECORDS

Australian newspapers, books, journals, photographs, letters, and more have been digitised and can be accessed free at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>, which is part of the National Library of Australia.

New Zealand newspapers and periodicals from 1839–1945 have been digitised and are online, free, at [paperspast: http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast](http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast). This collection is part of the National Library of New Zealand.

Jan Meisels Allen, IAJGS Director

FREE WEBINAR – THE GOOGLE GENEALOGIST

The Utah Genealogical Association is offering through their virtual society, free and open to the public, a webinar on 'The Google Genealogist'. First presented on 21 April, it has been recorded and is available for viewing on the society's website.

It covers the latest tools from Google and how you can use them in your research. Learn about products like Picasa, Alerts, Sites, Books, Video, Maps and much more that can help you save time and money as you utilise the internet. The presenter is Devin Ashby from FamilySearch. To sign up, go to www.infouga.org/index.php?option=virtual.

HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

The Historical Jewish Press website of the National Library and Tel Aviv University have just uploaded the archives of three additional newspapers from Eretz Israel.

- Haskafa 1896–1908
- Habazeleth 1893–1911, and
- Maariv 1948–

All three newspapers are in Hebrew. Visit the website at www.jpress.org.il/cross-section/allpub-en.asp.

Rose Feldman, IGS webmistress (www.isragen.org.il)

ISRAEL

New English Phone Book of Israel

Israel Phone Book (www.israelpb.com) is a new tool that can help you find your relatives in Israel. It allows you to search through all of the phone numbers in Israel in English, and includes many variations of spelling for first and last names.

It is my hope that the site will prove to be a valuable genealogical resource and help reconnect many families.

Shaun Waksman, Tel Aviv <shaunwaksman@gmail.com>