

Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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newsletter
of the
Australian
Jewish
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Society
(Vic) Inc.

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AJGS (Vic) Vice President Debbie Jurblum recently returned from Europe, where she helped to introduce her husband, Martin, to new-found family members. With such meetings come new-found photographs, like this one (circa 1950s) that includes Martin's cousins (from left, front) Yves De Kisch and Fira Jurblum/De Kisch, with whom they spent time in Paris and the French countryside. Also pictured (far right) is well-known Zionist leader Marc Jurblum/Jarblum with his wife, Laura Margolis Jarblum, a Jewish refugee worker. For the full story, see page 8.

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JULY 2011 MEETING

The AJGS (VIC) together with the Makor Jewish Community Library invite you to a presentation by

Bernie Kuran

From a little seed, a big tree grows

Tuesday, 19 July 2011 at 7.30 pm

A request coming from a professor at Columbia University in New York was passed on to the AJGS (Vic) by the Jewish Museum of Australia. In essence, the enquirer was asking for assistance to find evidence that his Australian-born maternal grandmother was Jewish. The presentation will demonstrate how, with only a few names, and exploring multiple genealogical and general resources, Bernie was able to develop a substantial branch of his family tree.

Bernie Kuran is a committee member of the AJGS (Vic). He first became interested in family research when he learnt that his wife's family was descended from Jewish convicts in Sydney and free Jewish settlers in Melbourne. His main areas of interest are early Jewish settlers in Australia and 19th century Jewish genealogy in the UK.

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

All welcome. Members \$4; non-members \$8. Enquiries: admin@ajgs-vic.org.au or (03) 9523 6738.

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PO Box 189, Glenhuntly, Victoria 3163

Editor

Lionel Sharpe (+61 3 9523 6738)

Assistant editor

Kaye Quittner (+61 3 9592 9598)

Email

admin@ajgs-vic.org.au

AJGS (Vic) Inc. website

www.ajgs-vic.org.au

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.

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AJGS (Vic) Inc. membership fees

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

EDITORIAL

We recently received from New South Wales the electronic issue of the quarterly eReport of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society.

I am delighted to observe the headline on the front page: "We have reclaimed the original newsletter name of *Kosher Koala*. We will register this for a new ISSN to apply to the electronic format."

This is welcome news as the *Kosher Koala*, which was launched in 1993, is well-known locally and in international genealogical circles. It will be a challenge to its new editor, Robyn Dryen, to continue the excellent work of the recently retired eReport editor, Miriam Shifreen. The May issue has some excellent, high-quality contributions, and we commend the return of the former name of this journal.

In the March issue of *Jewish Genealogy Downunder*, we attempted to encourage our members to share their research efforts with the wider membership by publishing short articles in our newsletter. Our clarion call was noticed and responded to by a few members, and this current issue contains an article by our Vice-President, Debbie Jurblum. Another contribution just received will be held over until the September issue. So if you are still in the contemplation phase, make contact with Kaye or myself to seek some assistance.

We have had little response to our feature on page 9, 'Help us identify the people in this photo'. Two faces in the large debutant group have been identified, and further research has been offered to find the source of the photograph. We still welcome your contributions of interesting photos where identification is being sought.

While on this theme, I bring to your attention a recent lead article in *Avotaynu: The International Review of Genealogy* (Fall 2010), titled 'Photo identification: the process of finding and interpreting clues in a photograph', written by Ava Cohn. She alerts us to the title of her unusual occupation, namely 'photo genealogist'.

As described in her curriculum vitae, 'Ava Cohn specialises in the dating, identification and interpretation of Jewish family photographs and portraits. Cohn combines knowledge of Jewish immigrant and eastern European cultures and traditions along with fashion, family histories and vital records to tell the background stories within photographs'.

In the next issue of this newsletter, I will review some of the growing literature available on understanding and dating old photographs. This is a fascinating, all be it neglected, aspect of genealogical research.

Lionel Sharpe
Editor

Yad Vashem and Google partner to preserve and share Holocaust archives

Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day (26 January 2011), Yad Vashem and Google announced a partnership that will greatly facilitate preservation of and access to the world's largest historical collection on the Holocaust.

The Jerusalem-based archive is devoted to the documentation, research, education and commemoration of the Holocaust. Its photo collection is being made more accessible for people around the world to search the photographs on its website and share their own personal stories and thoughts. The resource will be valuable to those interested in researching the Holocaust, whether to find out more about family members whose stories are collected or out of general interest.

The initiative will not only bring this valuable information to a much wider audience worldwide, but also allow people around the world to contribute, by identifying the stories behind photos and documents, adding their own stories and knowledge to the site.

At first, 130,000 photos from Yad Vashem's archive will be viewable in full resolution online, with the entire Yad Vashem archive being brought online over time. Google has implemented experimental optical OCR technology to carry out the project, making previously difficult-to-locate documents searchable online.

"We're focused on finding new ways to make our archives accessible and searchable to a global audience," said Avner Shalev, Yad Vashem chairman. "Google is an integral partner in our mission, as they help us to reach new audiences, including young people around the world, enabling them to be active in the discussion about the Holocaust."

"For some time, Google has been working to bring the world's historical and cultural heritage online. The internet offers a great opportunity to preserve and share important materials stored in archives," said Yossi Matias, director of Google's R&D centre in Israel. "We're privileged to be able to work with the world's foremost Holocaust archive on this project."

Established in 1953, Yad Vashem holds a great wealth of testimonies, photographs, diaries and other documentary material.

The announcement is a part of an ongoing partnership between Google and Yad Vashem. Two years ago, Yad Vashem launched a YouTube channel to showcase a series of videos of Holocaust survivor testimonials (see www.youtube.com/yadvashem).

The collections are visible at <http://collections.yadvashem.org/photosarchive/en-us/photos.html>.

JEWISH MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA HISTORICAL WALKS

The following Melbourne walks are scheduled for the coming months:

Sunday 24 July – Melbourne City Centre

Meet under the clocks at Flinders Street Station at 10.15 am.

Visit Melbourne's city landmarks to discover their hidden Jewish histories including Flinders Street Station, Port Phillip Hotel, Cashmore Lake, the city quagmire, Bourke Street Synagogue, the Myer Emporium, the first mikvah, Kozminsky's, the Block Arcade.

Sunday 11 September – Carlton (Lygon Street)

Meet at 185 Faraday Street, Carlton at 10.15 am.

Discover Stone's Synagogue, Monash House, Herzl House, Chevra Kadisha, Smorgon's Butcher Shop, Carlton Hebrew Congregation and much more.

Sunday 16 October – North Carlton

Meet outside the entrance of Lee Street Primary School, Lee Street at 10.15 am.

Home to many working class migrant families and Jewish traders, North Carlton was also the home of the Kadimah Cultural Centre, Peretz Yiddish School, Pose's Pickles and the Tel Aviv Dairy.

Sunday 13 November – Mansions of East Melbourne

Meet at the corner of Clarendon Street and Wellington Parade (Hilton Hotel side) at 10.15 am.

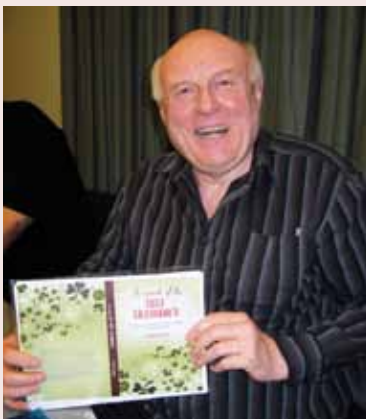
See the former home of Sir John Monash, academic, engineer and war hero; the Freemason's Hospital, former home of Sir Benjamin Benjamin, politician and mayor of Melbourne; Chandos, the site of Cliveden Mansions (now the Hilton Hotel); 'Little Pardon'; Queen Bess Row and more.

Cost: \$15 per person. Bookings essential: 03 8534 3600

NEW MEMBERS

The AJGS (Vic) extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

- Irene Daly
- Sara Elkas
- Halina Zylberman



An award-winning effort

AJGS (Vic) member Vaughan Duggan has won third place in the prestigious Alexander Henderson Award, offered by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc. for original Australian Family History books published in 2010.

Vaughan said the judging panel was quite complementary about the book, *In Search of the Lost Shamrock*, which was published in 2010. "The award was a bit of a bonus for all of our combined efforts in getting it to press and ensuring we leave a legacy for our descendants in the years ahead," he said.

AJGS (Vic) secretary Lionel Sharpe congratulated Vaughan on behalf of the committee. "There must have been some very high-level entries, and your success in getting first place is a credit to years of hard work, expertise and dedication to your project. We wish you mazel tov and continuing success in your family research."

A Pollak breakthrough in Prague

In the northern hemisphere summer of 2010, Daniela Torsh spent eight days working in the National Archives reading room in Prague and made an exciting breakthrough she had never dreamed was possible.

My mother was born Annemarie POLLAK in the First District of Prague in 1916, and I had tried for about 30 years to find out more about her father's family with no success.

The name POLLAK is very common in the Czech Republic, and my mother was a Holocaust survivor who was unable to tell me anything much about her father's family roots. Mum grew up in Prague in close contact with her paternal grandparents, but she knew little about Jacob POLLAK's forbears. I had very little information to go on.

Mum took me to Prague in 1983 for the first time since we migrated to Sydney in 1948. In Czechoslovakia, Germany and Switzerland, I met cousins and an uncle for the first time since I was two years old. In Zürich, one of mum's cousins drove us out of the city on an Ausflug (excursion), a trip to a beautiful Swiss, snow-covered valley at Easter time. There was a Black Madonna in a massively over-decorated baroque church, packed with brown-clad monks from the nearby Benedictine abbey as well as hundreds of devout worshippers. As we three sat high up on a mountain-side in a café eating delicious gelato looking down on this amazing sight, cousin Stefan told us a story about his and mum's grandfather's father, which I jotted down on a serviette so I wouldn't forget.

Stefan told us that Jacob's father was a Hebrew teacher who travelled around to various Bohemian towns with his family in tow. Years later, I found out that Jacob's parents were named Isak and Elisabeth POLLAK and that his birth in 1861 was registered in Běštín, a tiny village in the district of Beroun, 50 km south of Prague. The most famous landmark near the town of Beroun is the ancient fairy tale castle of Karlštejn, built in the 14th century by Emperor Charles IV as a royal hideaway and a treasury for the crown jewels.



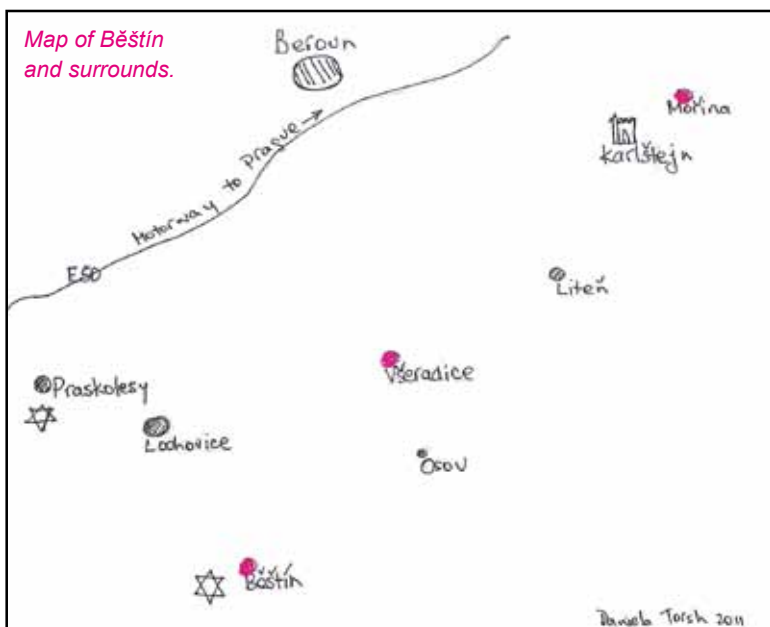
Stefan METZKER, Jacob POLLAK and Olga POHNERT.

In 2008, 25 years after our visit to Switzerland, I travelled to Běštín myself to see if I could find any traces of the POLLAK family of Jacob, Isak and Elisabeth, but the tiny cemetery there had no graves with names I recognised. Neither did the nearby cemetery of Praskolesy, which I just had time to fit in on a fairly wild taxi ride in late March 2008.

While the taxi driver waited, I hurriedly photographed all the POLLAK graves I could in both cemeteries, and after my return by train to Prague I visited the National Archives reading room in Dejvice, where the entire collection of nearly 4000 vital records (births, deaths and marriages) for all of the Jewish communities of the Czech Republic are held. (1)

I met with their curator, senior archivist Dr Lenka Matušiková, and asked for her help. She produced the Familianten Bücher (Familiants Books), the large leather-bound books that recorded the names of the Jews who were permitted by law to live and work on the Estates (Velkostatky in Czech). These Jews were privileged to some extent as they had secure jobs and housing, unlike other Jews who were forced to wander around trying to make a living and only ever residing temporarily until they could find a vacant number in the system that permitted Jews to live in a town, village or city.

This pernicious system, called the Familiantengesetze (familiant laws), was enacted by Kaiser Josef II in Vienna in 1726 to control the



rapidly growing population of Jews in Bohemia and Moravia who were seen as sharp and unwanted competitors with Christians for business and trade. (2)

We did find a Jacob POLLAK in one of the Familiant books who may have been related, but as I knew so little about Jacob, my great grandfather, it was impossible to know whether this second Jacob from an earlier time was an ancestor or not. I then decided to look at all the entries in the vital records (known as Matriky in Czech) that recorded the birth, death or marriage of a POLLAK in the town of Běštín as well as nearby towns in the Beroun region where other relatives may have lived such as Liteň, Osov, Votice, Lochovice, Málkov, Mořina, Neumětely and many others.

I filled notebooks and pages and pages of transcribed POLLAK records and intended to collate them all and upload them to the internet. My thinking was that other researchers may pick up some of these records, and I might find some who were looking in the same geographical area, with a view to combining our research. I also posted on the Austria/Czech SIG, the special interest group of JewishGen. And I listed my POLLAK family on JewishGen's FamilyFinder, thinking that other researchers might be able to help.

A year went by and none of the people who saw my postings on JewishGen turned out to be related to me. I began to type up my POLLAK notes but never had enough time to finish that project or upload any of my notes to the web.

In the meantime, I continued with my research and travel, often to the Czech Republic, and worked on other branches of my family tree.

In 2009, at the National Archives in Prague, I made a fateful decision and purchased the seven volumes of the 1793 Bohemian Census and mailed them to myself in Sydney. I had a vague idea that the census could help me find my family. The parcel lost its way and somehow went to England and even America. But months later, and in another form of packaging altogether, it turned up the day I came home from the very first Australian National Conference on Jewish Genealogy, held in Canberra. I had given the books up for lost and was quite flabbergasted when they appeared on my front verandah in a very large, clear plastic bag with the mail tag I had filled out in Prague and stamps that showed its incredible journey around the world.

My own eager efforts to find my POLLAK family in these volumes proved hopeless. The town of Běštín in the Berounský Kraj (the Beroun Region) in the third volume of the 1793 census listed a Bernard

POLLAK, but I knew of no-one in my family with that name. I also attempted to search the 1793 Bohemian Census for any traces of my LEDERER family or the SCHULHOF branch and others. It was a bust.

Disappointed, I put the seven large books of the census away in my study. Not long afterwards, I mentioned to Peter and Rieke Nash from the Jewish Genealogy Society in Sydney that I would like to donate the census to the AJGS's Reverend Katz library in Lindfield. They had a better idea. How about I give a talk and prepare something that would help others to use the census to find their families?

It seemed like a good idea at the time, so on 18 October 2009 I gave a presentation on how to use the census and produced a finding aid for it (3). In my talk, I explained that the 1793 census publication was in fact the publication of three separate censuses all done around the same period. Two were collected in Prague (1792 and 1794), and the



Above: Stones in the Běštín cemetery. Below: Běštín burial hall. Photos by Daniela Torsh.



biggest count was of the Jewish families who lived in Bohemia outside the city of Prague in 1793. (4)

What was extraordinary about these books was that they seemed to be the only copies of the Bohemian census available in Australia, and very few researchers here had heard of their publication or seen or used them. (I later discovered that a few experienced researchers overseas had written about the 1793 census and that copies were available in libraries in America and England, but not in Germany or France.)

In my talk, I gave a bit of history about the Familianten laws and explained that all of the censuses were conducted in German – the language of the Hapsburgs. The editorial text in these books, however, is written in Czech. This is because the transcription of the original material was done by students at the Prague Charles University under the supervision of Dr Ivana Ebelová, an academic who teaches archive studies. Dr Matušíková, from the National Archives, was a consultant on the project.

Dr Ebelová and her students continue to transcribe more of the series of five Jewish censuses that began in the 1720s and continued until 1811 (5). She decided to start with the 1793 census as it contained more data than the others. So far, the first two volumes of the 1783 census have also been published.

What I tried to show in my 2009 talk was how one could combine the data in the census with other sources to construct a fuller picture of a Jewish family in the Czech Republic historically.

* * * * *

My wonderful POLLAK breakthrough came the following year when I was in Prague again and used the 1793 and 1783 censuses in conjunction with other sources to make a leap back to 1754! After days of working at the archives on other questions, I had a Eureka moment. What if I took my

own good advice and combined the census data with the vital records and the so-called police registrations (Policejní přihlášky) in Prague, available on an online database on the National Archives website, to find out more about my POLLAK forbears? It worked!

In volume 3 of the 1793 Bohemian Census, I found my fourth great grandfather Isak POLLAK belonging to Všeradice, a town to the north of Běštín. From this ancestor and his wife Sara, I was able to construct a family tree that led me to his third son Enoch (born around 1774), and his wife Sara, to their third son Elias, who married Sara NEUMANN of Mořina in 1814. Elias and Sara were the parents of my great, great grandfather Isak POLLAK (born 1816 and registered in Mořina) who had a second son, Jacob of Běštín. This Jacob was my great grandfather!

What is important to mention here is that I first spent a few days in the archives tracking down the birth and death records for Isak and Elisabeth POLLAK (Jacob's parents). When I found the record of Isak's birth in 1816 in Mořina, it suddenly hit me that this date was not too far away from 1793 when the Bohemian census was done and that I might be able to find Isak's parents in the census in the town of Mořina, close to both Všeradice and Běštín.

The terrific thing about the 1793 census – as I told the AJGS members in my 2009 talk – is that there are excellent, comprehensive indices listing both family names and town names. So one can look up Mořina, for instance, and it's not difficult to check all the family names listed in the census for that town. So when I did just that following my own prescription bingo, I was able to find that Isak's parents were Elias and Sara nee NEUMANN, both registered in Mořina. The bonus was that Elias's occupation was given as Flusshauspachter (sic) (leaseholder of potash works) and Fleischer (a butcher), and I also got the names of Isak's siblings (Herman, Jakob and Abraham) and the dates of their births.



The National Archives reading room in Dejvice, where the entire collection of nearly 4000 vital records (births, deaths and marriages) for all of the Jewish communities of the Czech Republic are available to be viewed on microfilm.

Photo by Daniela Torsh.



Jacob
Pollak.

I must note here that my search was enhanced by the online database published by the Czech National Archives of the Jews who registered with the police in Prague in the obligatory residence records around the turn of the 20th century (Konscripce in Czech). You can find them at www.nacr.cz/C-fondy/digi_policejni_prihlasky.aspx. The National Archives has been slowly digitising these records for some six years now, and they are nearly completed (6). One can search names and birth dates in this database. It was when they uploaded the Ps early in 2010 that I suddenly found the names of my great grandfather Jacob's siblings (Marie, Adolf, Sofie, Emilie, Anna, Theresia, Eleanora, Lotti) and the dates and places they were born. This information was something I had wanted for many years, and it definitely confirmed the story by cousin Stefan METZKER (now deceased) that Jacob's father was a wandering Hebrew teacher. All of his nine children were born on a circuit in and around Běštín in the Beroun and the Tábor districts.

The Prague police records gave me Isak and Elisabeth's birth dates and places, which allowed me to search in the National Archives HBMA collection (Hebrejske Matriky) for their birth records, which included details such as time of birth, address, parents' names and witnesses. It took me a few days of searching, but I was able to find their birth records on 22 June, six days after I began work in the reading room in Dejvice. I quickly found their death records as well, and I was pleasantly surprised to see that when Elisabeth died in Prague in 1890 she was described as a rabbi's widow! That was news to me. No-one in the family had ever said we had a rabbi in the family. I was delighted and rather proud

too. That pleasure was tempered by finding out from Jewish historian Daniel Polakovič at the Jewish Museum a few days later that their graves in Prague had been destroyed during the Communist era, when a huge television tower was built on top of the Jewish cemetery!

A few days later I could draw the entire family tree for seven generations – after more than 30 years of research. I am hoping to visit Všeradice (7) and Mořina on my next visit to the Czech Republic to see for myself if I can find any traces of my POLLAK family in those cemeteries.

Notes

(1) See article by Dr Lenka Matušiková in *Avotaynu*, Volume XXIV, No 3, Fall 2008. The Matriky are large volumes that contain hundreds of entries for births, deaths and marriages. Each entry usually contains details such as names of parents, the number of the house where the vital event occurs, names of witnesses, doctors, rabbis, midwives, and times of births and deaths. These records were mandated by law to be kept by the Jewish communities up until the Second World War.

(2) A talk, titled 'Tolerance and the stranger', by Daniela Torsh to the AJGS on 18 October 2009 in Sydney.

(3) I made a 40-minute film on DVD of the talk, available free from danielat1@bigpond.com.

(4) For more information on the censuses and why they were conducted, see the recent article by Julius Müller in *Avotaynu*, Volume XXVII, No. 1, Spring 2011, page 19.

(5) The censuses for the whole Czech population began in 1859/1860 and were undertaken every 10 years. According to Dr Matušiková, they have proven to be very important for places where Jewish vital events registers are not preserved. Private communication 26/10/10.

(6) The National Archives, under the direction of Dr Matušiková, is now digitising the Jewish vital records. These will become available in 2012 on the Moravian Land Archives website at www.mza.cz.

(7) Všeradice is where Isak was born but burials are actually in Liteň.

by Daniela Torsh <danielat1@bigpond.com>

With thanks to Katarina Steiner for translation assistance, and to Irene Nuria Daly for her support.



Hillside view from the country cemetery at Praskolesy, near Beroun. Photo by Daniela Torsh.

In search of my husband's missing family

by **Debbie Jurblum**

How often do we hear from the children of Holocaust survivors the words: "No family survived"? In the early years of my marriage, I would hear these very words from my husband, Martin, and his parents on many occasions.

While I felt fortunate to be part of a large family, I was all too aware that Martin had grown up with only his parents, Moishe and Judy, and his sister, Helen. Martin had not grown up surrounded by grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins.

When I was 18, a few years before I married Martin, my grandmother, with great foresight, had invited me and my aunt to sit with her and write down all that she knew about her family tree. It was at this time that I first developed an interest in genealogy, and I began to add information about current generations to this basic tree.

Then, many years later, around 1994, and because Martin kept mentioning how small his family was, I decided to research his family history, as well as the earlier generations of my side of the family. Not only did I want to find out if there were relatives beyond Martin's immediate family that he could connect with, I also wanted to make sure that our three children knew who their ancestors were on their father's side of the family.

I knew that Martin's father had a very distant cousin in Israel from his maternal side but we knew nothing about his paternal, or JURBLUM, family. Martin's father gave me some basic information going back a couple of generations, but that was all. Martin's mother also had distant family on her maternal side in New York. Early in

our marriage, they mentioned these people so seldom that we would forget they were around.

In 1996, after my father passed away suddenly, I realised how important it was to record valuable information about Martin's family while his parents were still around.

Moishe told us that he was born in Warsaw, where his family lived. As a young man, he had enlisted in the Polish army, which he eventually abandoned and fled to Israel. His brother Albert (Abraham Israel), who had been living in France before the Second World War, had survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald camps and had eventually made his way back to France. Albert had lost his first wife and their son, but he had remarried and adopted his second wife's children. In Israel, Moishe met Martin's mother-to-be, Judy, who had lost her entire family at the age of 14 after being smuggled out of Kutty, Poland (now Ukraine).

After the war, Albert located and contacted Moishe in Israel and brought him to Paris. Then Moishe and Judy, and their first child, Helen, made their way to Australia, where their son, Martin, was born. Unfortunately, Albert Jurblum died a few years later, leaving only four in the family.

In 2001, Martin's father sadly passed away, and unfortunately I had not been successful in finding out any more information about his ancestors other than what he had told me. The only other information we found was in 2004. While in Israel, I found out that Moishe's 'distant cousin in Israel' on his maternal side was in fact his first cousin.

Jurblum is not a common name, so you would think it would be an easy name to research, however there



Martin Jurblum with Janice Bloom Weber, outside the Paris apartment building where their cousin Marc Jurblum/ Jarblum once lived.

was not much information on the internet at this time. In 2007, I did find (on Facebook) a 'Yarblum' in Israel. (We are still trying to work out if we are connected.)

In April 2008, I had the chance to travel to Poland, Germany and Switzerland and was with one of the first groups of Jewish genealogists to visit the International Tracing Service at Bad Arolsen in Germany. It was the perfect opportunity to research more about the JURBLUM side of the family. I only knew of Moishe and Albert and their father, Yitzchok Meier, and his father, Mordechai. Fortunately, I was able to view Moishe's and Albert's TD (tracing/document) file and Albert's Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camp records.

After Bad Arolsen, I visited the Refugee Archives in Zurich, Switzerland. I had previously been in contact with Uriel Gast, the only Jewish person working at the archives, to ask him to search for some information on my mother's and father's family, as they had all been refugees in Switzerland.

After I arrived home, Uriel Gast passed on my name to a researcher who specialises in refugees in Switzerland, who suggested that I also look at the Geneva and the Bern archives. Although I was primarily searching for my side of the family, this gave me the idea to search for the name Jurblum. As a result, I had a small file on 'Jurblum/Jarblum' sent to me. The file included the name 'Marc Jurblum/Mordko Jarblum'. I didn't know if he was connected to Martin's family, however it was the first time that I had come across the name Jurblum anywhere other than Martin's immediate family. It also confirmed to me that Jurblum and Jarblum were the same name. Also, those documents indicated that a 'Boruch Jarblum' was Marc's father.

I did a search on his name on the internet and found out that Marc Jarblum was a well-known Zionist leader who was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1887. He was acquainted with Lenin, and was a friend of both the French politician Leon Blum (three times French prime minister) and Ben Gurion. Marc was a leader of the Federation of Jewish Societies of France (La Fédération des Sociétés Juives de France), an organisation of Jews of eastern European origin living in France, and a prominent member of the Socialist Party. During the war, he had fled to Switzerland as had been well known to the Nazis. He had also lived in Israel and he died there in 1972 (a street in Tel Aviv is named for him). Despite all this information, I still had no way of knowing if either of these Jarblum/Jurblums were connected to Martin's family.

I entered my family surnames and their cities in the JewishGen Family Finder. In June 2009, I received an email from a Janice Bloom Weber, asking me about my Jurblum family. I was astonished. She said she had found me on the internet and that her grandfather was Abraham



Above: Nelly De Kisch, Fira De Kisch, Janice Bloom Weber and Debbie Jurblum examine the family tree.

Below: Nelly De Kisch, Fira De Kisch, Martin Jurblum and Janice Bloom Weber in Paris.



Jarblum and that he had changed his name to Bloom. He had made his way from Warsaw to London before the Second World War, and then to the USA. Some of their family members had also changed their name, to Blaine. This confirmed to me that there would have been no way I could have ever found them, and that it was pure luck that Janice had found me. And she also agreed with me that Jarblum and Jurblum were the same name.

Janice, a passionate genealogist for several years, set out in earnest to find out if her family and Martin's family were connected. She sent me photos of matseivahs (tomb stones) from Warsaw, and I asked Rabbi Mendi Groner (Melbourne) to translate them. Slowly, and after many emails between two excited women, we worked out that Martin's father (Moishe) and Janice's father (Elliot) were most likely cousins. Moishe's grandfather was Mordechai and Elliot's great grandfather was Mordechai. There were two people named Mordechai listed on JRI-Poland, but only one had a birth date that

was close to the birth date of Moishe's grandfather and Janice's great, great grandfather. This Mordechai's father was listed as Meier, and I knew that Yitzchok's middle name was Meier. Through Moishe, I also knew that all the Jurblums were from Warsaw, and Janice's family were also all from Warsaw. This was such an exciting breakthrough.

As Janice explained to me: "On your tree, you had Mordechai as Yitzchok's father. Mordechai is Boruch's father on my tree. When I found Boruch and Mordechai's gravestone, Meier was listed as Mordechai's father and I believe Martin's father or grandfather had Meier as a middle name. That is two sources tying us together."

I asked Janice if there was a chance that she could make it to the IAJGS conference in Los Angeles (in 2010) so we could meet. Janice said she would aim to.

Several weeks before the conference, I emailed her to find out if she was going to Los Angeles, but circumstances, including a six-week visit from her parents, prevented her from attending. I was so disappointed. Martin, who was coming with me to the conference, was excited as he was off to Milwaukee on business and Janice had organised to take her parents on a one-hour drive to Milwaukee to have dinner with him. Meeting Martin after his trip was so exciting, even if he was not quite so convinced. He said it was a lovely meeting and that Elliot, his second cousin, did remind him a little of his dad, Moishe.

After returning home from the conference, Janice emailed me to tell me more about her Jarblum family. She mentioned her grandfather's siblings, which included a Marc Jarblum/Jarblum, the name that I had seen on the Geneva archive documents! If Marc was Janice's great uncle, and Martin's Mordechai and Janice's Mordechai was the same person, then Marc would also be a cousin to Martin.

Janice said that although she always knew Marc was her great uncle, she had not had any success in finding her great uncle's family. So, in order to help, I sent all the documentation that I had about him to Janice, which helped her add more information to her tree.

Several months ago, I mentioned to Janice that we were going to London for a function in May. To our surprise, Janice and her husband, Warren, were going to be in London at about the same time, so we agreed to meet in Paris to try to contact Marc's family. After many emails back and forth, and some amazing research by Janice, she was able to contact Marc's grandson Yves De Kisch.



Above: Martin Jurblum and Janice Bloom Weber (standing), with Yves De Kisch and Marie-Anne De Kisch at Chateau Montvilliers.

Below: Marc Jarblum with Ben Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel. Photo courtesy of Yves De Kisch.





Yves arranged for us to meet with his mother (Marc's daughter), Fira De Kisch (nee Jarblum), now 96 years old, and his sister Nelly De Kisch at Marc's original Paris apartment, where Fira still lives. Nelly, a teacher, was delightful and welcoming, and Fira was lovely, and although she does not speak English she was very alert and helpful, while Nelly translated.

Fira and Nelly went over our family tree and started filling in information that we didn't have, including birth, marriage and death dates. To our surprise, though, they also told us about four uncles (Moishe's first cousins) that we did not know existed! They only had information on descendants of two of the uncles, but were aware of the other two. So our cousin Marc was not one of three brothers, but one of seven! They had the address of one cousin and the email address of the other, so when we receive these, we will have more exciting research to do. We took many photos, and I took a video of the time we spent together. We were doing our research, meeting our wonderful cousins and eating French *macaron* in Marc Jurblum/Jarblum's apartment! Who would have believed it.

A few days later, we met Marc's grandson Yves and his wife, Marie-Anne, an academic whose speciality is

Shakespearian English, at their home in the Hamlet of Montvilliers, about 1.5 hours south of Paris. Yves is a retired professor of archaeology and current mayor of the town of Escrennes, which we drove through to get to their home. We hired a car for our journey, and when we arrived at their house, we found that they lived in an old 15th century 'petit chateau', the Chateau Montvilliers (pictured). We were welcomed with champagne and a wonderful homemade lunch. This really was an occasion to celebrate.

We had already emailed our family photos, both old and new, to them ahead of our arrival, and I had emailed them all the Swiss archival documents relating to Marc Jurblum/Jarblum. We took photos of their old family photos and had the most wonderful day, during which we collected more information that we did not have. We did not want to leave, and I must say that I think that they were also sorry that we had to go. Unfortunately, we had to return our hire car, so we left just after 6 pm. The weather was as magnificent as the day itself. On our ride back to Paris, we were all a-buzz.

Although Martin has always been supportive of my genealogical pursuits, he had no personal interest in it – until now. I'm so proud to have given my husband a family tree that has grown from just five people to hundreds of wonderful family members, both past and present.

And the amazing coincidence is that 28 years ago – well before genealogy took over my life – Martin and I had our first son. We named him Marc Jurblum!

The sign for the street in Israel that has been named for Marc Jurblum/Jarblum.



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.

SOLOMON

My father was born in Ramsgate, England, as Isador Solomon. His father was buried as Philip Solomon in Adelaide but the ancestral family name was Zolner.

My father's mother was Lisa Kolker. Lisa's sister, Rosalind, lived in England but had no children. There were other siblings but their names are not known.

My mother's mother was Celia Levi, born March 1900. Her father was Israel Gedalia Halevi. My mother's father was Albert Nathaneal Nathan. Celia and Albert were married in London. I know names of some siblings who migrated to Melbourne. Any information on my family will be appreciated.

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

PIRANI

I am currently researching Henry Cohen Pirani or Aron Cohen (born Gibraltar 1818, died 1894), who emigrated from England to Melbourne, where he married Louisa Levy (born London circa 1835) in 1856. Pirani settled briefly in Bendigo, before moving to Greymouth, New Zealand. He died in Napier, New Zealand. Louisa Pirani (Levy) returned to Australia. She died there in 1901.

We are trying to locate images of Henry Pirani and members of the Pirani family. We would be grateful if you could assist us in any way.

Wayne Marriott, Manager Arts and Culture
Whakatane Museum and Gallery
<wayne.marriott@whakatane.govt.nz>

KATZ

I am searching for any information concerning Rachela (Ruth) Katz whose name appears on a passenger list of refugees migrating to Melbourne in 1951. It states that she was 15 years old but no other information. The name and age match those of my lost sister: Rachela Katz, born 1934 in Poland. Her last known address in 1941 was Bialystok, Poland. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

(Editor's note: The National Archives of Australia lists other persons with the surname Katz on the same ship. Her application for naturalisation indicates that she preferred to be known as Ruth. Please respond if you are acquainted with Ruth Katz who arrived in Sydney in March 1951 on the SS *Protea* together or a brother (Jacob) Jack, aged 11 years.)

Wilfred Kay, USA <billrkay@comcast.net>

LEITNER

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is looking for information on Miriam Leitner (a survivor from Slovakia) who was registered with the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society on arrival in this country. The name of her contact or sponsor was O. Blatt and the address given was 33 Hazel Street with no town name listed. She was born in Hajdusowa (then in Slovakia) in 1923. A childhood friend would like to make contact.

Michlean Amir, Reference Coordinator, Holocaust Victims and Survivors Resource Center, USHMM, Washington DC
<mamir@ushmm.org>

KOBYRNSKI

The State Trustees are administering the estate of Jan Kobrynski, who died in Melbourne, Australia, in 1997. We need to determine who his heirs are.

He was from Grodno, Belarus/Poland, and immigrated to Australia from Sweden in 1951, after spending a couple of years in Stockholm.

We are trying to establish what happened to his family members. His parents were Wolf and Cyla Kobrynski. Information provided by the Jewish community in Stockholm indicates that his immediate family did not survive the Second World War.

We also know that he had an uncle, Meer Kobrynski (born 31 December 1893). He married Szenja/Sheina (nee Markel), who had a son, Mordchay/Moniek (born 1926) and who died in Paris in 1994.

Other relatives or connections that have been mentioned in various records include Esther Kobrynski (possibly a cousin), Henie (possibly Kobrynski), Sina Pollack, Harry Goldberg and Joseph Lapidus.

Adelaide Tapper <adelaide.tapper@statetrustees.com.au>
Senior Genealogical Researcher, Client Services
State Trustees

REMEMBER ME?

A project to identify World War Two orphans

Last March, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum launched a project, 'Remember Me?', an international campaign that will engage the public by asking them to help them identify 1100 children who were orphaned, displaced or separated from their families during the Holocaust and the Second World War.

The 'Remember Me?' project aims to raise public awareness about these young victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution. The museum's marketing team is enlisting the public's help in piecing together information about the children's wartime and postwar experiences, and facilitating renewed connections among these young survivors, their families and other individuals involved in their care during and after the war.

The 'Remember Me?' campaign also aims to increase awareness about the museum's Survivors and Victims Resource Center and the services it provides to Holocaust survivors, their families and other victims of Nazi persecution.

The 'Remember Me?' website (at www.ushmm.org/rememberme) features a gallery of images and makes it easy for the public to submit information they might have about the children pictured there. As the museum learns more about each individual, the website will be updated. The pictures, which come from the museum and other institutions, were taken after the war by relief agencies to support efforts to reunite the children with their families.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum invites you to visit the site and share it with your friends and family using the social media tools provided.

Lorna J. Miles, Chief Marketing Officer