

Australian Jewish Historical Society Inc.



Member of the JCA Family of Communal Organisations



NEWSLETTER

**Address: Mandelbaum House
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**Issue No 44 (June 1998)
ISSN-0816-714-1**

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AJHS DIAMOND JUBILEE LUNCHEON: 23 August 1998

On Sunday, 23 August at 1 pm a Luncheon will be held at the Great Synagogue to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

The luncheon will also be an opportunity to recognise Helen Bersten for twenty years of outstanding achievement and dedication as our honorary archivist.

All members are invited to attend and help celebrate these occasions.

1. CONGRATULATIONS

1. To our President Suzanne Rutland and Vice President Sophie Caplan on the successful completion of the History of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies.

Mr Carr, Premier of NSW, will launch the publication in June. It is expected that all NSW and ACT members of the AJHS will receive a copy of the publication.

2. To our ACT members, Sue and Mervyn Doobov, on receiving OAMs for their dedicated service to the ACT Jewish Community. Sue and Mervyn now live in Israel.

2. ARCHIVES

2.1. Received with thanks from:

- Margaret Gutman: Programme from 1941 Gala Children's Concert produced by NSW Board of Jewish Education.
- Albert Speers: information and photographs concerning family of Felix Mitchell especially relating to kiddush cup presented by his Uncle David Mitchell at his circumcision.
- Susan Greenberg: programmes from the Jewish Youth Theatre 1930s-1940s. Also the constitution of the Jewish Cultural Home, 21 Macquarie Place, Sydney.
- Bruce Le Bransky: article on Shanghai Jews relating to an exhibition of the Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne. Also a photocopy of the will of the Rev. Israel Goldreich.
- Arquivo Historico Judaico Brasileiro: *Comunidade Judaica em Sao Paulo: Dialogos nos anos 40. The Jewish community in Sao Paulo. Dialogues during the forties.*
- Alex Ferson: magazines from 2MBS FM with programmes prepared by the late Ida Ferson 1979-1997.
- Harold Pollins: list of deceased Australian Jewish servicemen from WWI.
- Bill Hornadge: *Australia's Forgotten History*, (Chapter on Maurice Laserson).
- Sophie Caplan: programmes and other ephemera.
- Nate Zusman: pamphlets on anti-semitism. Also papers from the Sydney Council to Combat Fascism and Anti-Semitism.
- Lew Rischin: list of burials at Southport Jewish cemetery and Allambie Gardens cemetery, Queensland.
- Henry Cowan: typescript of biography of B.L. Monasch in English translation.

(The Society notes with regret the recent death of Geoffrey Serle, biographer of Sir John Monash)

- Eric Riddler: Booklet on Lewis Lyons.

- Lillian Finniston from her daughter and son-in-law Gillian and Gary Bullock *Pioneer Families and Settlement in the Wellington (NSW) District* published by the Wellington Historical Society. Louise Rosenberg writes: no history of Wellington, NSW, would be complete without extensive references to J.B. Montefiore and Mocatta families and Joseph Aarons. Our Journal deals in detail with the contributions made by Jewish settlers in Wellington District. It is also gratifying to find other historical societies recording the stories of our co-religionists from the 1820s through to the 1870s and the present time. The book is a valuable addition to our library.

2.2. Purchased:

Pioneer register and spouse supplement

Glen Palmer: *Reluctant Refuge*.

3. THE ROUVRAY PAPERS

Our member Mrs Verna Rouvray is a keen genealogist who, over a number of years has engaged in correspondence with other family historians. This exchange of valuable information will benefit members with interests in families such as SLOMAN/SOLOMON, HARRIS, MOSES/MOSS, NATHAN, LEVY/LEVEY, MARKS, COHEN, CONWAY, PHILLIPS etc.

We are most grateful to Verna for allowing us to access her research and interested members are invited to view the papers at Mandelbaum House.

4. COMPUTER

The Society expresses its gratitude to member Kim Phillips for her generous donation of a computer.

5. MARY MACKILLOP AND SOLOMON COTTAGE, NORTH SYDNEY (FROM LOUISE ROSENBERG)

In March an interesting event took place at 9 Mount Street, North Sydney, to which members of our Society were cordially invited. These were Dr Kevin G. Smith and Louise Rosenberg (the AJHS Honorary Historian). The occasion was the opening of a cottage as part of the Mary MacKillop Memorial Museum. The cottage is for nuns of the Josephite Order to hold conferences.

The cottage is a permanent tribute to a man who in 1871-72 extended the hand of friendship to Mother Mary MacKillop and some 20 of her young Sisters of the newly formed order of St Joseph, when they were ex-communicated and rendered homeless by Bishop Sheil.

The story reads thus: in December 1868 the Institute of the Sisters of St Joseph gathered in Adelaide from their city and country convents for their Christmas Retreat. It was on this occasion that they first experienced the kindness and practical support of the well-known Jewish Parliamentarian, the Hon. Emanuel Solomon. He voluntarily

came forward and offered to Mary MacKillop a row of cottages, rent free for as long as they needed them.

Years later, in 1902, Mother MacKillop wrote of his kindness “a house in Rosetta Terrace was kindly lent for the purpose by the Hon. E Solomon. The kindness shown by the Jewish community has been remarkable, but then, ST Joseph was a Jew”.

It will be remembered from our own AJHS records that Emanuel Solomon, born in London in 1800, was convicted together with his brother, Vaiben, at Durham on 4 August 1817 for having broken into a dwelling house and stealing coats and other clothing. The 2 young men were sentenced to 7 years transportation. They arrived in NSW aboard “Lady Castlereagh” in April 1818. The brothers were later sent to Newcastle.

Emanuel married Mary Ann Wilson in 1826 and when she died childless he married Celia Smith. Upon her death his third wife was Catherine Abrahams who was nanny to the children by Celia Smith. Emanuel and Catherine were married in Adelaide in 1852. One of the descendants of Emanuel’s second marriage is Dr Kevin G. Smith and he and his wife, Raymonde, were invited to the opening of the Emanuel Solomon Cottage.

The story of Mary MacKillop’s association with Emanuel Solomon was picked up again during the period of Mary’s ex-communication (22 September 1871 to 23 February 1872). The newly formed Institute of the Sisters of St Joseph was thrown into confusion when 47 young Sisters in Adelaide were left homeless whilst those in country areas were left uncertain and insecure.

As soon as Emanuel learned of the Sister’s plight he again offered them the use of one of his houses in Flinders Street, rent free, for as long as they might need. The Sisters dressed in secular clothes moved into the house continuing to live their rule of life even to receiving postulants (candidates for admission into the order).

Today’s Josephite Sisters feel it appropriate that the Solomon Cottage perpetuates their gratitude to the man who came to their aid when they needed it most. Solomon Cottage is part of the complex which holds the Mary MacKillop Museum, wherein a delightful diorama depicts Emanuel Solomon explaining why he felt impelled to assist the Sisters of St Joseph back in the 1870s. He died on 3 October 1873.

6. FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- Australian Jewish Genealogical Society July 28th, 7.30 pm at Sydney Jewish Museum. Peter Lane presents lists of names from the Holocaust.
- Australian Jewish Historical Society on August 23rd 1pm at the Great Synagogue, our 60th birthday luncheon. (see front page of this issue)

7. NCJW: SHEPPARTON REUNION

The National Council of Jewish Women, Dimona Group in Victoria, is holding a "Shepparton Reunion" to commemorate the first settlement in the area. The function will be held on 21 June at 2pm at NCJW House, Caulfield. They are seeking photographs and other memorabilia for the display.

Apparently an old shed on the original property is still standing and the property owner will not allow it to be demolished as he considers it a consecrated site.

8. MAITLAND PLANS

Immediate past President, Dennis Bluth, advises that an exhibition at Elizabeth Bay House on *Architecture in the Hunter* features the architecture of JW Pender who designed the Maitland Synagogue in 1879. On display is a coloured plan of the Synagogue with the signature of Morris Benjamin. The AJHS has a black and white copy of this plan.

9. JEWISH MANUSCRIPTS

Rabbi Ackman from Melbourne has contacted the Society to ask if anyone has unpublished Jewish manuscripts in English or Hebrew. He has already published 8 books of such items and is seeking material for another book. His fax in Melbourne is (03) 9523 1213.

10. EDGE OF THE DIASPORA

There are still copies available of the second edition at the Society's office.

11. SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

Members are asked to pay their membership dues as soon as possible. Members are reminded that the Society is still seeking someone who would be able to assist our Honorary Treasurer in her tasks.

Donations to the Library of the AJHS are tax deductible.

12. CORRECTIONS:

The correct name of the donor of the Weingott diaries is Mrs. Hames. We apologise for the previous errors.

The portraits at the Great Synagogue referred to in the article by Alan Landis are of Moses Joseph and his wife Rosetta and of Isaac Levey and his wife Dinah.

Bruce Le Bransky (Newsletter Editor)

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome and should be sent C/- of the Honorary Archivist, Mandelbaum House.