

Australian Jewish Historical Society Inc.



Member of the JCA Family of Communal Organisations



NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP ISSUE

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1. You will no doubt have noticed that this issue of the Newsletter is called a Special Membership Issue, because we have embarked on a drive to recruit new members. Of course you are all Special Members ...otherwise we would have no members at all... but we are anxious to involve you in increasing the membership of the Society by asking your friends and family members to join the Society. How about giving an Annual Subscription to your children as a birthday or Chanukah present? In this way you can ensure that your family remains involved in the history of the Sydney and Australian Jewish community.

Perhaps you might like to pass on to a friend or family member a copy of the Newsletter or a Journal so that he or she can see what the Society does. We have extra copies of most Journals in the office, and a phone call request is all that is required.

Although the membership subscription will probably be increased next year (2003), as a special incentive to new members, if they join before the end of 2002, they will receive a copy of the next Journal (this year's) as part of their 2003 membership. On the back page of this Newsletter is a membership application form, which can be detached for you to pass on. Please do so, as we really need to enrol as many new members as possible.

Many members have heeded our plea to send in their e-mail addresses, and we are very grateful. They will receive meeting notices by e-mail, a

quicker and cheaper form of communication for the Society. Thank-you, and keep them coming in.

2. WHY A SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP ISSUE?

The Society has a printed membership application form which was written some years ago, but has probably not been read by members since their initial application. When asked: "What does the Society do?" it is often difficult to remember accurately all the facets of our work, so here is a repetition of these activities to remind you how important the Society is.

The Australian Jewish Historical Society:

- *Researches, records and preserves the history, growth and development of the Australian Jewish community and its contribution to Australian society.*
- *Publishes a valuable and substantial Journal twice a year with well researched articles on aspects of Australian Jewish history.*
- *Makes its unique archives available to members and researchers, and is invaluable for genealogical research of Australian Jewish families.*
- *Plays an active role in preserving and maintaining historic Jewish sites and buildings.*
- *Encourages students to research family history by sponsoring the annual Hans Kimmel Memorial Essay Competition.*
- *Holds regular lectures and symposia.*

ALMOST ALL ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY DEDICATED, VOLUNTARY MEMBERS.

3. PROFILE... THE PRESIDENT DR. SUZANNE RUTLAND.

Suzanne's parents arrived in Sydney as refugees from Europe in January 1939, and she was born in July 1946. The fascination of Australian Jewish life led to her writing her first book, *Edge of the Diaspora: Two Centuries of Jewish Settlement in Australia*, now just published in the USA, following its third printing, in 2001.

Suzanne first became involved with the Society as a young post-graduate student in 1970, and has been active since then, serving as Sydney editor of the Journal since 1991 and President of the Society since 1996.

Suzanne holds the Chair of Semitic Studies at Sydney University, which next year will become the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, the only department in Australia to offer a full program in these areas including majors in Biblical Studies, Hebrew, both Modern and Classical, Jewish Civilisation and Yiddish. Also offered is a substantial post-graduate program in these areas with coursework masters in Hebrew, Jewish Studies and also Holocaust Studies.

Her latest book is the history of Moriah College, on its 50th Anniversary, to be published next year. She has also contributed a piece on Jewish women in Australia for a new CD Rom, *Encyclopedia of Jewish women being produced in Jerusalem.*) A very busy lady indeed.

Suzanne has a son Benjamin and a daughter Ronit.

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4. RETIREMENT.

When Miriam Solomon retired as Honorary Treasurer at the last Annual General Meeting after twenty years, she did not only give up keeping the accounts of the Society, but in many respects she retired from writing many of the letters to individual members, whether of friendship or of condolence. Miriam has the capacity to hit exactly the right note of personal friendship and caring for her correspondent so that they immediately feel "special". This is delightfully shown in a letter Miriam received from Martin and Susan Pel-Or who live in Netanya, Israel.

Dear Miriam,

Read with interest details of your retirement and the Dinner tended to you by the Society which you richly deserved. I must say that I am going to miss very much our interchange of brief notes, albeit once or twice a year, but they meant very much to me. You always expressed an interest in my family and what was going on here. To me you epitomized what I called the true Jewish Public Servant. You carried out your duties with that unique devotion, dedication and always straight from the heart, qualities difficult to find today. I'm not sure what retirement means in your case, but we wish you, please G-d, many years of a happy, healthy and fruitful retirement. G-d bless!

*Wishing you, your family and the Society a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year,
Martin and Susan Pel-Or.*

And so say all of us.

5. HONOUR ROLLOF JEWISH EXSERVICEMEN.

The National Jewish Memorial Centre in Canberra is dedicated to Australian Jews who gave their lives on active service in the Defence Forces. The Centre is held in trust by the ACT Jewish Community for the benefit of Australian Jewry as a whole.

From the inception, there was always the intent that the names of fallen Jewish servicemen and women be honoured within the Centre. The "*Australian Jewry's Book of Honour World War II*" has been displayed open at the appropriate pages.

It is now proposed that the names of those who died on active service be inscribed on Roll of Honour boards in the Foyer of the Centre. This project is a joint effort by the ACT Jewish Community and the Australian Jewish Historical Society (ACT).

The names will be listed in strict alphabetical order of surnames with initials, according to the War in which they died. All would be regarded as equal, irrespective of rank and irrespective of whether they were serving in the Australian Forces or other Imperial Forces.

Lists have been compiled over the last dozen years by Margaret Beadman from the records of the Australian War Memorial, and now they are to be checked for omissions and inaccuracies. The unveiling ceremony is provisionally planned for Remembrance Day 2003 (11/11/03) in Canberra.

If you have the names of family members or friends who made the supreme sacrifice, would you please check their names are on our (Sydney) Society's list, which we shall forward to the Australian Jewish Historical Society ACT.

6. JEWISH PLACE NAMES IN QUEENSLANDby Morris Ochert.

I have compiled a list of place-names in Queensland which have been so named after Jewish folk associated with the locality, or by non-Jews with a fondness for the Old Testament. These latter were for the most part Lutheran who populated areas of south-east Queensland in the early days of settlement.

Blumbergville was named after three Blumberg brothers who opened the first store in what was then an obscure, nameless village in 1885. It is now called "Boonah".

Isaac River. A major river in Central Queensland, discovered and named by explorer Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt in 1845. He wrote that he '*so named it in acknowledgment of the kind support I received from F. Isaacs of Darling Downs.*' He should have written '*Isaac*' and it is so named on official maps. Frederick Isaac was a Jewish squatter on the Darling Downs, the son of a wealthy banker, George Isaac, of Worcester and the nephew of two members of the Parliament of Great Britain.

Jew's Retreat is a settlement about 4 km south-east of Warwick, so named about 1840. A Jewish shepherd had a hut there. He worked on the Canning Downs Run which retains that name. It was his "retreat", that is, his dwelling as well as, legend says, his "*fortified post against marauding aborigines*".

Jew's Folly. In the very early days of the development of Queensland's interior, in an obscure mountainous locality, a Shire official insisted on the construction of a short but very costly road through extremely steep and rugged terrain. His aim was '*to provide access to some gold leases and to open up some sheep grazing country.*' But by the time his rocky road was

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built, it was rendered useless as the limited gold deposits had all been mined and the land was too poor, even for sheep. It can only be assumed that the embarrassed Official was Jewish, or was assumed to be so, for his expensive useless "road to nowhere" became known as "Jew's Folly". A Local Government Bulletin gives neither the name of this man, nor of the Shire, nor a date.

All of the above were named for Jews. The rest, having some fascinating stories, are not authenticated as being named for Jewish people.

Ephraim Island: Named after a timber-getter who used to float logs down the Nerang River, then to be towed to sawmills.

Jacob's Well: Is a rural district on the bank of the Pimpama River about 18 km from Beenleigh. Jacob Gross, a Lutheran, found a sweet-water well there, about 1885, which became the first public water supply in the district.

Jordan River: Tributary of the Alice River, which flows into the Barcoo.

Jericho: Township about 500 km west of Rockhampton. It was so named by Surveyor Hannan because it was the first township site he selected after crossing the Jordan River, just as the biblical Jericho was the first town encountered by the Israelites, under Joshua, after crossing the River Jordan.

Jew's Point: The Mulloway fish has a bony protuberance on the front of its head between the eyes. This is hard, glossy and shiny and has a mottled, greeny-blue, luminous colour resembling an emerald, thus giving rise to the fish's name as a 'Jewel' fish. At the northern end of the Gold Coast area of Southern Queensland is an otherwise nameless fishing spot where the fisherfolk have good catches of these fish, hence it got the name of 'Jews Point'.

Nathan: a suburb in the south of Brisbane, the site of the Griffith University, named after Lt.Col. Sir Matthew Nathan, the fourteenth Governor of Queensland, from 1920. He left Queensland in 1926, and died in England in 1939. **Mount Nathan** on the Gold coast hinterland is also named after him.

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7. The Society has received the following archives, with many thanks, from:

- Rabbi Apple: community newsletters and reports. Videotape *Academy BJE Awareness Video*.
- Pauline Jenkins: Correspondence and receipts from NSW Jewish Community Chest, 1950. (Forerunner of the JCA)
- Monash Country Club: *A Course of History, Monash Country Club, 1931-2001* by Colin Tatz
- Yehuda Feher: documents in connection with his paper on Percy Marks.
- Dennis Bluth asks if anyone knows about a Nathan Mandelson who had a hotel in Goulburn from 1840-1860. Southern Highlands folk?

- Marcelle Tanner: copies of publicity material and articles relating to the Rose and Tanner Clowns (Harold and Rose Tanner) as well as the Little Big Four (Tanner boys Max, Harold, Fred and Gordon)
- Mrs. Catherine Gluck: copies of papers and documents relating to the lives of her brother Frederick Lamberger and herself in Europe and Australia.

Carrington Hotel, Katoomba.

We have received a letter from Paul Innes, Historian and guide at this historic hotel in the Blue Mountains. He is interested in hearing anecdotes from anyone who had a connection with the hotel. He can be contacted at the Hotel or by phone: 4782 1111.

American Jewish History

Your Society receives regular journals from the American Jewish Historical Society and has a collection of books on American Jewish History which are labelled the Balkind Collection as the nucleus was a donation from America in honour of Jill Balkind. We have recently received notice of a new publication about the Jews of Norfolk, Virginia by Irwin M. Berent. As our library books are not available for loan, anyone who wishes to purchase a personal copy should contact the Society.

8. OBITUARY. HAZEL HOLLANDER (21ST Dec. 1906 – 22ND May 2002)

Hazel Hollander died peacefully at her home in Gordon in her ninety-sixth year. She was the only and adored child of Luke and Ella May Hollander (nee Brodziak) and the grand-daughter of Jacob and Ann Hollander (nee Goldberg); and Adolphus Myer and Kate Brodziak (nee Millingen).

Hazel was born and reared in the Potts Point area of Sydney. Many of the extended Hollander family lived together in Maramanah, now the site of the El Alamein Fountain at Kings Cross. Hazel's parents never owned their own home, but lived in rented flats or quite often in guest houses, which was not unusual in the 1920's and provided wonderful opportunities for social interaction with other families. Hazel lived at one time in "Pomeroy" (in Macleay Street), "Cairo" (on the site of the Chevron Hotel), and "Bellevue Gardens" (at the bottom of Bayswater Road).

Being a delicate child, Hazel's education was spasmodic, initially at Arford House and then two years at Ascham, finishing when she was 13 years old. She was unhappy at Ascham as she always felt different from the other girls as, being Jewish, she did not go to school prayers. Sometimes she had a tutor as her doctor considered school bad for her health.

When Hazel was sixteen Luke took the three of them by ship to England, a journey of *seven weeks*. Hazel was recovering from an appendicectomy and was frequently seasick. She did not enjoy England, except for the London theatre. After three months in the south of France to perfect her French, she was relieved to return home and be rid of seasickness.

Luke Hollander had a bill-posting business with his contracts primarily coming from JC Williamson. Thus their lives were entwined with the theatre and theatre personalities. Hazel's diary of 1928 describes daily visits to the pictures, polo, cricket, playing and watching tennis, Randwick races, hairdressing and manicure appointments, lunches at Jones' (D.J.'s), morning and afternoon teas at the Hotel Australia and evenings of theatre, ballet, Romano's and Princes' (early nightclubs), and when at home, poker games, bridge and radio plays.

However this lifestyle for Hazel and her mother came to an abrupt end when Luke died suddenly from an accident in 1934, leaving a meagre estate. Hazel had to earn an instant living and she had to do so without qualifications. (*This was the height of the Great Depression .. Ed.*) Her first job was knitting, initially twin-sets for friends, then fancy jumpers for an exclusive shop in St. James' Building. She could knit one a week and earn 30/- per jumper.

As well, she began her acting career with Doris Fitton at the Independent Theatre and as a radio actress. She had parts in numerous 2UW, 3KZ and 3UZ radio plays, in the radio serial *Dad and Dave* and was best known for her role as Nora in *Martin's Corner*. After thirty years in radio, up to the early days of television, Hazel had a theatre recruitment agency and continued until her retirement.

When Luke died, Hazel and her mother moved to a flat in Werona Avenue, Gordon, opposite the railway station, where she lived until she died there on the morning of Wednesday, 22nd May 2002. Hazel was a vital, wonderful woman, a good friend and mentor to young actors, and is greatly missed by all those she befriended.

(Alison A. Davis OAM.)



Hazel Hollander, at 16.



Hazel Hollander, at 90.

THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete details below and return with
your subscription to:

The Hon. Treasurer
The Australian Jewish Historical Society Inc.
Level 2, Mandelbaum House
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Annual membership is from January to December
and entitles you to two Journals and four
Newsletters per year

The Society's rooms are open Tuesdays and
Thursdays

Telephone/Facsimile (02) 9518 7596

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