

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Member of the JCA Family of Communal Organisations



NEWSLETTER

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1. THE A.J.H.S. KEEPS ABREAST OF THE TIMES.

Members will be pleased to know that we now have our own website, thanks to an arrangement with AJHS (VIC) Inc and Harvey Cohen, the webmaster, in particular. The address is: www.ajhs.info and follow the links to NSW or VIC. This means that members can access our collection online to see what files the Society holds, what are its aims, and how it operates. It is good to see our Society joining the thousands of organizations with their own websites, and to realise that, even though we are historical, we are nevertheless modern in the use of this technology. Congratulations to all those who have worked to establish this website.

2. THE JEWISH COMMUNAL APPEAL (N.S.W.) AND THE AJHS.

Many members do not realise how much we as a Society are indebted to the JCA for its continued support and funding over the years. While the membership money you pay annually helps us to pay for the printing and postage of the two Journals and the four Newsletters you receive each year, there are still many other expenses which are recurrent to any society. In addition we have the need for a continued source of funding for our archival conservation, a never-ending but vitally important aspect of our existence. Not to mention the need to maintain and upkeep our library, especially when new works appear and we consider them important for our reference library, which is accessible to all members and researchers alike. So if you receive an invitation from the Jewish Communal Appeal to donate to the 2005 Appeal, please remember that we are indebted to them for the preservation and conservation of our archives (through our Library Fund).

Incidentally, donations to the Women's Appeal can be earmarked directly to the AJHS, if you so desire, thereby assuring us of your good intentions!

3. HOW THE ARCHIVES ARE USED.

Many of our members do not know how the archives of the AJHS are used, but on any Tuesday or Thursday, (when the office is open), you would be surprised how often the telephone rings with people wanting to use our archives for their own personal research, either of their family or of some event. Our archivist, Helen Bersten answers each person in as much detail as she can on the phone, often inviting them to visit the office themselves. Much of her time is taken up with these enquiries, as well as managerial matters often to the extent that her own archival work has to accumulate to “next time” ... and this after 26 years. There is no way the Society could function without her expert help and experience. But now Helen wants to ease off in her efforts for us, and urgently needs others to be trained in various aspects of the work. It can be done, if the spirit is willing and with goodwill and an intelligent approach. PLEASE consider whether you have a few weekday hours to spare to help Helen, and especially if you are a trained Archivist or librarian! There must be someone out there who would love to do this work.

Incidentally, if you want to make enquiries or appointments, PLEASE do not ring up on the first Tuesday of the month between 10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m., as that is when the Committee meets, and the phones cannot be attended to.

4. PROFILE ... PHILIP MOSES.

Philip was born in Sydney and has lived in the Eastern Suburbs for his entire life. He was educated at Scots College and obtained an Economics degree from Sydney University. His family has been for many years members of the Great Synagogue, and both Philip and his father, the late Braham Moses, were Barmitzvah there and married there. Philip's sons were also Barmitzvah at the Great.

The family has always been interested in family history, as his grandfather, Phillip Moses joined the Society in 1939, its first year of operation. His great uncle, Claude, who lived in New Zealand, joined in 1943 and was for many years the New Zealand correspondent. Philip's father, Braham Moses, joined the Society in 1948, maintaining the family tradition and interest in archives. Members of the Meinrath family, who are descended from his grandfather's aunt Caroline Emanuel (nee Moses) are also members of the Society and have made contributions to the Society's archives. In addition to this the brothers of his grandmother Esther Moses (nee Boas) have also contributed.

Philip was told at a very young age that he was a fifth generation Australian and his great great grandfather Solomon Moses came to Australia in 1832, married in 1835, this being the third Jewish marriage in the Colony. So it was inevitable that Philip would join the Society and use its resources to learn more about his family. Since joining the Society in 2003, he has been tracing the descendants of Solomon Moses and now has details of several hundred. In 2004, Philip joined the Committee of the AJHS and has undertaken the task of putting the thousands of handwritten index cards of the archives on to a computer database. He would appreciate the assistance of anyone interested in helping in this enormous task. The office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the company is very congenial.

5. THANK YOU.

Last month we celebrated the Golden Wedding (50 years) of our President, Sophie Caplan and her husband Leslie. In lieu of gifts, friends and family were invited to make donations to the AJHS, or any Jewish society of their choice. A very large sum was given on this occasion to our Library Fund, and we are very grateful to both the donors, and the Caplans in whose honour the donations were made. Thank-you to all concerned.

6. AN APOLOGY.

When I listed the names of our new Committee in the last Newsletter, I inadvertently omitted the name of **Louise Rosenberg**, our Honorary Historian, who was for many years our Honorary Secretary, and the backbone of the Society. My sincerest apologies to Louise for the omission.

7. WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE A.J.H.S. THIS QUARTER.

(a) The next talk in our current series on the theme of **Jewish Minorities in our Midst** will be given by Ms Racheline Barda, whose subject will be

EGYPTIAN JEWS IN AUSTRALIA.

You will be surprised to hear how many Australian Jews were born or brought up in Egypt, and how many have made a wonderful contribution to Australian Jewish life. Ms Barda herself is an example.

The talk will be given at the (Jewish) Council of the Ageing Jack Kryger Centre, 29 Rowe Street, Woollahra, (the back of Bondi Junction) at 3.00 pm on

SUNDAY 19TH JUNE 2005. Discussion and afternoon tea will follow the talk.

(b) There was a recent Stamp Exhibition, entitled *Pacific Explorer*, at Darling Harbour (21-24th April) which included in its Court of Honour a display of material on Gallipoli. One of the contributors to this Court of Honour was our Treasurer, Russell Stern, a long time philatelist of renown.

8. FROM THE ARCHIVES --

Received with thanks:

From the estate of the late Sydney Levine: *The Australian YMCA, with the Jewish soldier of the Australian Imperial Force* by Harold Boas, 1919.

Volunteers

Welcome to our new volunteer John Temple who is helping on a Thursday attempting to catch up with the cataloguing backlog created by Helen Bersten taking over a lot of admin work as office manager. John is wrestling wonderfully with the documents and

photocopies, joining Noela Symonds on serials and Stella Marshall on photographs. Our newest Thursday recruit is Jack Klarnet, who has begun adding to the database which Philip Moses is working on. We hope Jack will also become a regular.

Jewish Cricketers

Alan Clark, secretary of the Shoalhaven Historical Society, is interested in Jewish Test and first-class cricketers. The names he has mentioned are Julien Wiener, M. Klinger and Jonathan Moss with the possibility of Henry Moses. Any information or further names are welcome.

Rosenstrasse

Palace Films are releasing a German film called Rosenstrasse on June 2nd. It is directed by the highly acclaimed Margarethe Von Trotta and is about a young woman's journey to Berlin to uncover the truth about her mother's childhood. Based on true events, Rosenstrasse is a street in Berlin where hundreds of women gathered in 1943 to demonstrate against the deportation of their Jewish husbands who were imprisoned at the Jewish Welfare Office. It is a moving story of friendship, solidarity and unconditional love.

*This Newsletter has been sponsored by Committee Member Sarah Vorchheimer in honour of the births of her granddaughters:
Amelie (Natanya) Vorchheimer, daughter of David and Rebecca Vorchheimer, of Melbourne, in July 2004,
Golda Rachel Vorchheimer, daughter of Jacob (Yanki) and Nechama Vorchheimer, of New York, in October 2004.*

Judith Shapira, Newsletter Editor

Contributions to the Newsletter are most welcome. They should be sent to the Newsletter Editor, AJHS, Mandelbaum House, 385 Abercrombie St., Darlington, NSW 2008.