

a ghetto' and curbs women's advancement versus the contention that leadership roles within the Council have served as a stepping-stone to empowerment within the broader Jewish community), opportunities to lead ('the whole premise of a voluntary organisation rests on the assumption that there are people with time to devote to the non-profit sector'), and leadership style. Where previous commentators have tended to concentrate on the 'acceptable side' of such dedicated individuals as Reading or Fink, for instance, Newton stresses that toughness, discipline, singlemindedness, even ruthlessness, have been essential to successful leadership. 'It would appear that most of the presidents referred to as capable of "getting things done" were also those who could be accused of being arrogant or overbearing in their manner', she concludes.

Well-written, well-researched and imaginatively argued, *Making a Difference* is a useful organisational history in its own right and an important exploration of issues surrounding women and power within the Australian Jewish community.

Malcolm J. Turnbull

IN SURE DWELLINGS: A JOURNEY FROM EXPULSION TO ASSIMILATION

Margot F. Salom (Adelaide: Seaview Press, 2000; xiii + 293pp)

Sometime chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, president of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation in 1874 and president (for twenty years) of the local Hebrew Philanthropic Society, Maurice Salom (1832—1903) served five years with the Downer government and was a leading South Australian identity of his day. He was profiled by his grand-daughter, Margot Salom, in this Journal several years ago. In the present volume Ms Salom goes further, using his life and career as the pivot for her research into his (and her) Sephardi ancestry. She intersperses biographical data and useful background summaries of the evolution of the Sephardic diaspora with evocative descriptions of her extensive genealogical detective work. At the outset, she cites the irony of her family's complete and rapid assimilation into the broader Australian population, after centuries of survival — against the odds — within an often inhospitable diaspora, as the chief impetus for the book.

In sure dwellings fits comfortably into that sub-genre of family histories in which the author's account of her quest for ancestors is at least as interesting as the facts she unearths. (In this regard, it compares — not unfavourably — with Germaine Greer's fascinating *Daddy we hardly knew you*). For Salom, tracing her forebears' journey from mediæval Spain to mid-nineteenth century Adelaide has entailed travel back and forth between London, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Safed, Amsterdam, Charleston (South Carolina), Spain and Northern Italy. Along the way she has managed to unearth or collate information on such colourful individuals as the sagacious Rabbi Abraham ben Isaac Shalom of Catalonia, Dr Selomoh Salem of Adrianapole, Chazan Mordecai Salom (of the Bevis Marks synagogue), Rabbi Abraham Shalom (a Moroccan Kabbalist) and Rachel D'Azevedo (a pioneer opponent of slavery).

Boasting clear maps and charts and comprehensive bibliography and end-notes, *In sure dwellings* is an engagingly written and highly readable mix of historical fact, informed speculation and enterprising genealogical investigation.

Malcolm J. Turnbull

SURVIVING THE CAMPS: UNITY IN ADVERSITY DURING THE HOLOCAUST

Paul R. Bartrop (Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 2000; xiii + 211pp)

Although this book falls outside the scope of this Journal, I feel it warrants a brief review because of (a) its interest for many of our readers, and (b) its author's prominence in the field of Australian Jewish studies. Dr Bartrop is perhaps best known to us for his in-depth research into government policy on interwar and post-war Jewish immigration to Australia, as well as the major study *Australia and the Holocaust*. In the present volume, he draws expertly on published accounts by survivors to counter myths that staying alive in the camps entailed compliance with Nazi dictates or the taking on of Nazi characteristics. Challenging long-accepted views of Bruno Bettelheim, *et al*, as to the essential passivity of the concentration camp experience, he concludes that survival was, most often, 'a collective act'. 'Concentration camp prisoners survived not only by the grace of the SS, or by Allied Victory and liberation, but also by their own means', he argues, underlining the fundamental importance of the social networks which emerged in the camps.

Volume 23 in *Studies in the Shoah*, a series of monographs by leading international authorities, *Surviving the Camps* is a distinguished piece of scholarship and an important contribution by an Australian historian to the field of Holocaust studies.

Malcolm J. Turnbull

AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY VOL 15, 1940 - 1980. Kem-Pie

John Ritchie, ed. (Melbourne University Press, 2000; xxx + 611pp)

Volume 15 of the prestigious *ADB* is the third of four volumes devoted to prominent or notable individuals who died within the time-frame 1940–80. They range from a 21 year-old national serviceman who died in action in Vietnam to a 103 year-old librarian. There are 682 entries by 543 authors, profiles which (according to the editorial team): 'throw light on the complexity of the human situation, and on the greatness and the littleness of moral response and actual behaviour which this can evoke.' Entries likely to be of interest to readers of this Journal are:

Ballerina and choreographer Helene Kirsova (by Sally O'Neill & Martha Rutledge); Communist journalist Egon Kisch (by Carolyn Rasmussen); Sydney communal leader Louis Klein (by Suzanne D. Rutland); furniture craftsman Shulim Krimper (by Terence Lane); Karl Langer, architect and town-planner