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The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc
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Volume 14 No 3

ISSN 1322-6401

September 2007

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WORKSHOP DATES

**Sunday, September 2
from 9.30 a.m.**

**Monday, September 10
from 10 a.m.**

**Sunday, October 7
from 9.30 a.m.**

**Sunday, November 4
from 9.30 a.m.**

**Monday, November 19
from 10 a.m.**

**Sunday, December 2
from 9.30 a.m.**

**Monday, December 10
from 10 a.m.**

REMEMBRANCE DAY, SUNDAY

**November 11
10.30 a.m.**

THE SPIRITS OF GALLIPOLI

(See pages 5 and 16)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By Rieke Nash

The Society committee continues to strive to meet the challenge of looking after our members. We are now planning a new venture.

Supported by the Board of the ACT Jewish Community in Canberra and the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) in Melbourne we have all decided that it is time for us to get together and so we are planning an inaugural National Conference in Canberra in October, 2008. We envisage that the format will allow for networking, visits to the National Archives, opportunities for Special Interests Groups to meet, problem solving and information on Australian projects. We have decided on the last weekend in October after all the High Holydays and are planning to have a 2-3 day intensive package for those who can only spare an extended weekend away from home, followed by a 4-5 day option which would include guided tours to Canberra's many research facilities and give members personal time to visit Canberra's other attractions. There is a range of motel/apartment accommodation from 3-5 stars readily available close to the Jewish community centre where the conference will be held and registration fees will be reasonable. Based on the response, we expect to be able to negotiate reduced accommodation rates. We hope you will be able to join us and please start thinking about presenting a paper or making a short presentation. We will be calling for expressions of interest in attending before the end of this year.

A number of members have had successes during workshops using our resources or online facility. One new member found a photo of an ancestor's gravestone in Slovakia, another discovered the fate of family in the Warsaw ghetto and another discovered a relative's wife's name and date of marriage from searching the site for British World War I pensions. The relative only served 80 days in 1916 and was then discharged unfit so it was an unlikely place to find records.

Are there implications for genealogy coming from an ageing population where over 50% of the Jewish population will be over 55 and where, in the 2006 Census, the participation rate in the option to save the name-identified information was 56.1% (52.7% in 2001)?

It is time to wish you and your families a very Happy and Successful New Year - Shona Tova.

Rieke Nash,
President

president@ajgs.org.au

EDITORIAL

By Miriam Shifreen

Do you have family that resided in Britain in 1851? Have you researched *The Mid-19th Century Jewish Community of Britain*?

Petra Laidlaw, the editor of this Database, explains the usefulness of this site to genealogists because it collects information from a number of sources and links them together - see page 3. If you find family members and have relevant information, do contact Petra.

Gallipoli holds a special place in the hearts and minds of Australians. At 10.30 a.m. on Sunday November 11, Kim Phillips will deliver an address at the Jewish War Memorial, in Darlinghurst on *The Spirits Of Gallipoli*. Read her article on page 5 and see page 16 for details of her talk.

The Rookwood Jewish Cemetery Trust has opened a website which is a welcome addition to our Society's CD on the Old Jewish Section (1867 - 1906). Find the details on page 6.

You'll be impressed by our Ten Year Member Vernon Kronenberg's *Genealogical Frustrations* on page 7.

Frank Atkinson attended the 27th IAJGS Conference in Salt Lake City. On page 9 he reports on his experiences and successful findings.

At first glance you may think that this issue is just for those of us born in Australia, or with Ancestors from Britain, but rest assured as always there is something for everyone in this issue.

We have a large number of new resources in our Library. Check these out on page 10 and if you see something that you think could help with your research come to our Library on one of the workshop dates listed on the front page.

We have some very interesting new websites for you on page 12.

On page 14 we cover the subject of AJGS Membership Privacy and the security of your personal information.

And be sure to check our Member's Database on page 16. Someone may be researching one of your elusive family names.

This year has flown, and now the Jewish New Year of 5768 is upon us. Hopefully, this will be the year of great discoveries. Chag Samayach (a joyful holiday) and health and happiness to you all.

Miriam Shifreen,
Editor

editor@ajgs.org.au

THE MID-19th CENTURY JEWISH COMMUNITY OF BRITAIN

www.jgsb.org.uk/1851

By Petra Laidlaw

The first fruits of a major database project are now available, at no charge, online. Originally conceived some ten years ago, it draws together contributions from over a hundred family and historical researchers worldwide. A notable number of contributions have come from members of the AJGS.

Coverage

The database tracks the lives of Jews who were living in Britain in 1851. They may have been born only that year, or they may have been born back in the middle of the eighteenth century. They may have died in 1851, or they may have lived on to the middle of the twentieth century. The database in effect spans some 200 years.

Some of the people in the database are famous to this day, like Nathan Adler, Benjamin Disraeli, Karl Marx and Lionel Rothschild. Others were well-known in their time, but have long since retreated into the shadows. And the vast majority, men, women and children, never gained any special prominence. They may have lived unremarkable lives, but they are still worth remembering in a database which covers the great and the good, the bad and the ugly, and a great number of people in between.

They may have lived all their lives in Britain, or they may just have been sojourning there in 1851. As long as they were resident in Britain in 1851, and were Jewish by birth, conversion or presumption, they qualify to be included. And 'Britain' here means the British Isles: it covers not just England, Wales and Scotland, but Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man as well. There were Jews in all these localities in 1851.

It is generally thought that there were about 35,000 Jews in the British Isles in the mid-century. The database now has entries for over 18,000 of them, in other words roughly half of the total. It is therefore well worth the while of anyone interested in people living in Britain at that time to check if they are on the database.

Data content

The aim is to build up, for each entry, a summary biography of their entire life. A full entry will show:

- when and where they were born
- who their parents were

- who they married, and when
- who their children were, and when they were born
- where they were living, at ten-yearly intervals
- what their occupations were, again at ten-yearly intervals
- what their faith affiliations were in early-, mid- and late-life
- when they died, what they died of, and where they were buried.

Not all entries are yet as full as this, and one of the purposes of putting the database on the web at this stage is to encourage people who have more data on people they find there to forward what they have to the database editor. Researchers in Australia, and other emigration destinations, have a particularly important part to play here: often they can supply answers to what happened to people who disappeared from British records later on in the century.

Purposes of the database

1. Historical

The database, with its wide range of contributor interests, has a dual purpose. The primary aim is historical: by aggregating all the mini-biographies of *people*, we can start to build up a biography of the *community*. The Jewish community of mid-nineteenth century Britain has already had extensive attention from historians, but the database approach is likely to shine some light on aspects that other studies have been unable to reach.

A good example would be emigration. Because of the way the database tracks people's movements throughout their lifetimes, it should be able to tell us about the rate of emigration, and whether the rate among the Jewish community was different from the rate among non-Jews. It could tell us if there were differences in the emigration rates of British-born and foreign-born Jews: was there an itchy-feet factor, for instance? And what proportion of the emigrants eventually returned to Britain? Were the emigrants typically young, single males, or married couples with families? Were they mostly unskilled, escaping low opportunities in Britain, or did they tend to be people who had a skill and were hungry for the wide-open prospects of a new land?

These are the sorts of questions that the database should, in principle, be well-placed to answer. The fuller all the entries are, however, the more reliable will be the statistical analysis. Readers of *The Kosher Koala* are strongly encouraged to check if they can help by supplying more data on any of the entries.

2. Genealogical

Apart from its main, historical purpose, the database is designed to offer something unique to genealogists. Much of the data it contains is now widely available on the web, but there are few sites that bring all the data together (from civil registration and synagogue records, from censuses, trade directories, from published works and family papers) on any given person. And probably no other site brings together that range of data on so many people. The search facility, moreover, makes it easy to compare entries for several people sharing the same common name, and quickly to eliminate those that do not seem to fit the bill.

There will still, inevitably, be stubborn errors and duplications in a body of data of this size. But the database boasts high standards of quality control. Only the database editor can input data. When contributors send in their data, the editor will refer any apparent inconsistencies back to them, then ask them to proof-read their entries before they can be finalised. If – as often happens – more than one contributor offers data on someone, any conflicting data are resolved by correspondence before the entry is settled. All this is important: some people have said that they would prefer a more open, ‘wiki’ approach, but it is clear that this would compromise quite seriously the overall reliability and consistency of the data.

While the database is intended to be useful to genealogists as well as historians, it cannot meet everyone’s needs or wishes. It does not, for example, offer a family-tree mapping facility – though the sheer volume of data it contains should be a valuable resource to anyone whose interest is primarily in genealogies. And, while its coverage of half the Jewish community in Britain in 1851 is impressive, many researchers are bound to be disappointed when they find that the people they are interested in have not been included.

What next?

The database is currently closed to new entries. The priority has to be to improve and enrich the existing entries. Any amendments or additions to those entries should be sent to the editor as soon as possible: there is a direct email link from each entry on the website. The website also invites people to send in copies of portraits of any of the entries for posting up on the site, and a small gallery is now being built up.

Amendments to the current entries are being made to the master database held by the editor, but will not be uploaded until it looks as though most of the contributions have come in, probably towards the

end of this calendar year. It is important to recognise, therefore, that quite a number of entries are not yet final: they will be posted up in revised form in a few months’ time.

Once that process is complete, the database will be re-opened to new entries for a limited period, probably about six months. Anyone who has data on someone who was definitely living in Britain in 1851 but is not in the database should send their data to the editor at that stage. With all the work on revising existing entries, the editor cannot handle data for new entries before then, but you are welcome to flag up that you would like to be alerted when the database is re-opened: use the direct email link to the editor from the website.

A collective effort

The database was conceived and designed by the editor, who takes all responsibility for its quality control. But it is the product of the work of many scores of contributors, who have put a great deal of hard grind, inspiration, ingenuity, and no small expense into their work, often over many years. They have all been extraordinarily generous both with their data, and with their time in responding to the editor’s queries. The names of all the contributors (except those who preferred to be anonymous) are listed on the website, and each one of them can take pride in their involvement in this remarkable project.

Petra Laidlaw the creator of this database can be contacted at:
thompsonLaidlaw@btinternet.com

(This project was reported in *The Kosher Koala* in Vol. 9 No. 3, September, 2002)

OUR FAMILY – YOUR ANCESTORS

By Sheila Helprin

Donated to the Society by the author, this is a fine example of documenting a family’s history. Sheila has researched extensively, illustrating the stories with reminiscences, many photos and documents, a bibliography and detailed family trees. In 230 well laid out pages this entertaining publication will be treasured by the families for many years.

In her dedication to the Society, Sheila says:
“Many, many years of research has been spent in gathering these family stories. Although this saga is a very personal one, I hope it will encourage others along the same path so that their own stories will not be forgotten.”

Members of the Society are encouraged to consult this book at our workshops for information, inspiration and enjoyment.

SPIRITS OF GALLIPOLI

www.spirits-of-gallipoli.com

By Kim Phillips

Gallipoli has long lived large in the Australian psyche. We have grown up on tales of heroism and mateship until they have assumed legendary status. But it was not a legend, it was an actuality. There were 9,000 men either killed in action or died from wounds or illnesses received there. We left over 7,000 of our young men buried amongst the steep hills and deep ravines.

Why is Gallipoli important to Australians? Fourteen years prior to the start of World War I, Australia had become an independent nation. The Great War was the first occasion where we, as a united country, sent a volunteer army of our men to fight. We had seen ourselves as the children of Great Britain, but by the time we left Gallipoli's shores we had become an independent nation with the confidence to take our place in the world.

I am working on a project where I am collecting any information that I can on members of the Australian Infantry Forces (AIF) who are either buried or commemorated at Gallipoli. To date I have found photographs of nearly 50% of the men.

I'm also collecting personal notices, obituaries, personal papers, any information that I can. My ultimate aim is to make this information available to all, either through a web site, CD or a book.

If you have any information about anyone who is buried there, I'd be delighted to hear from you. If you are looking for information, I'd be pleased to help if I can.

To date I have found thirty-two Jews buried or commemorated at Gallipoli. They are:

AARONS, Harold
AARONS, Maurice Lewis
BLOCK, Norman Samuel
BLOOM, Julius Sydney
BLOOM, Louis Robert
FINK, Gordon
FUNKENSTEIN, Henry
GABRIEL, Frederick George
GLUCK, Leopold Joel
GOLDRING, Gordon
HAINS, Morris
HARRIS, Charles
HERMAN, Harold Ellis
JACOBS, Henry
JACOBS, Louis William
JUDELL, Elias
LAMBAHIRT, Theodor Hugo
LAZARUS, Isaac
LEVENE, Abraham
LEVEY, Ernest Charles
LEVI, Keith Maurice
LIONE, Ernest Arthur
LYNES, Augustus
LYON, Israel Edward
LYONS, Stanley
MARKS, Alfred
MARKS, Alfred George
MARKS, Lionel Marcus Bernard
MARQUIS, Gordon
MOSS, Edward Elias
NORMAN, Alfred
SHERMAN, Godfrey John
WEINGOTT, Samuel



ROOKWOOD JEWISH CEMETERY TRUST'S NEW WEBSITE

www.rookwoodjewishcemetery.com.au

Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney, has been the main cemetery for Jewish burials for 140 years with more than 27,000 headstones still intact. The manager, the Jewish Cemetery Trust (JCT), has just launched a new website where every burial can be accessed online and without charge.

Apart from providing a service for those with current needs, the website will be of enormous benefit to genealogists, both in Australia and overseas. The basic information provided on each burial includes surname, first name, date of burial (usually the day after the death), age (where known), Hebrew name and location in the cemetery. The Hebrew name can be very valuable for identifying possible family connections. Additional information is sometimes included.

Only 4,000 of the headstones have been photographed so far but the aim of having a permanent record of all inscriptions is continuing.

The website is very well designed with searches resulting in variations to the spellings of surnames. As each search is limited to 25 results, where there is more, the total list can be accessed by restricting the search either by adding a first name or breaking up the years into smaller time spans such as decades.

Where errors are detected in the information on the site, the Trust is happy to be emailed with the correct information.

The location of the graves has been recorded and mapped and is available on the website. There are also detailed maps and instructions for accessing the cemetery by public transport or by car and for finding the Jewish Sections.

Unlike many cemeteries overseas, there are no Jewish Burial Society (*landsmanschaften*) sections and membership of a synagogue is not required for burial in this cemetery.

The AJGS congratulates the JCT for this valuable addition to the resources for researching Australian Jewish families. The CD that the Society created for the Old Section in Rookwood (1867 – 1906) in 2004 will still be a valuable resource as it contains additional information, such as Sydney Morning Herald death notices, some with family names, translations of the Hebrew inscriptions and for some tombstones no longer legible, photos taken in the 1970s showing the original inscriptions. See details on our website.

MARTIN DELATYCKI AND GENETIC DISEASES AMONGST THE JEWISH PEOPLE

On June 18, a very interested group were delighted with the presentation by Associate Professor Martin Delatycki from Melbourne of his specialisation, Genetic Diseases Amongst the Jewish People.

His main aim is for everyone to know that genetic screening is available and for each couple to make an informed decision on whether or not they wish to have the screening.

The screening for Tay-Sachs has reduced the risk for couples and he hopes that with more information available to young people, it will be eliminated.

His presentation discussed other problem areas such as breast and ovarian cancer and colorectal cancer and speculated on the reasons for these concentrations in the community, such as the relatively small Eastern European communities where selection increased some risks but may also have protected them against other fatal diseases, thus concentrating the incidence. He noted that intermarriage between Ashkenazim and Sephardim should reduce these risks.



In Sydney, contact Wolper Jewish Hospital on 9328-6077 for information about their testing programme.

Further reading:

DNA & Tradition, The Genetic Link to the Ancient Hebrews by Rabbi Yakkov Kleiman, 2004, Devora Publishing, Jerusalem ISBN:9781930143890

Rabbi Kleiman was a speaker at the IAJGS Conference in 2004.

Testing DNA for family relationships is becoming more common and recent articles in Avotaynu have commended the company, FamilyTree DNA, for setting up a central repository of community DNA results. See www.familytreedna.com/gene.html

TEN YEAR MEMBER

GENEALOGICAL FRUSTRATIONS

By Vernon Kronenberg

All genealogists operate either with a degree of luck, or under a series of handicaps, often with a degree of both. And Jewish genealogists have particular handicaps that we are all familiar with and do not need to be repeated here in detail. In Vernon's case these include, first and foremost, coming to his family genealogy too late, long after both his parents passed away.

Vernon's mother, born Chaya Ruchla Blumenkopf, was born in Garwolin, Poland, a town whose Jewish records, no less an authority than Stanley Diamond advises, have been irretrievably destroyed. She had several siblings, only one of whom survived the War. Family lore has it that this was the brother who, being a fervent Communist, proverbially put a bottle of iodine in his overcoat pocket and walked from Warsaw to Moscow, starting in September of 1939. Michael changed his name to the less-Jewish sounding Borowy, trained as an engineer and had a major hand in the electrification of the Chinese railway system prior to the Sino-Soviet split in 1956. His three children were not brought up Jewish. Michael himself was purged four times, the last occasion being the notorious anti-Semitic campaign of 1968 led by Prime Minister Gomulka (who himself had a Jewish wife!) as a reaction to the Six Day War.

All traces of this once-large family seem to have disappeared. Despite five years of active - admittedly computer-based - investigation, not a single successful contact has been made, despite the Blumenkopf name being registered with the AJGS and the JewishGen websites. There is one other active Blumenkopf researcher, but Sam Lenger's extensive family and mine have not yet connected, a fact which we both regret.

On Vernon's father's side, things have been only a little better. Abram Ichok Kronenberg was born in Warsaw, married Chaya in 1939 and was divorced from her in India in 1943/4. Exiled to Portuguese India, he married a beautiful Anglo-Indian girl called Freda Freeman. Andrew (Abram) Kronenberg died in Montreal in 1980, too soon for genealogical transmissions and Freda herself knew little of his past. Then in the 1930s Abram had been a Betarnik, a bodyguard for Jabotinsky at Zionist Congresses, and subsequently an emissary to southern European countries, buying boats in Italy and Greece for Aliyah Bet (worth Googling). It is recorded that "Revisionist and Betar groups sent

out several ships, which transported several thousands of immigrants." (The Zionist Century - Concepts - Aliyah. www.jafi.org) Yet none of Abram's exploits is recorded in the substantial 6-volume history of Betar. The Jabotinsky/Betar archives in Tel Aviv seem to be impenetrable and nothing has yet emerged from that source. An example of the perverse frustrations of genealogical research is the fact that in Betar Poland in the 1930s, there were *two* Abraham Kronenbergs. The other chap was operating out of Bilgoraj! And that is how Vernon met his namesake, Professor Jona Kronenberg, an eminent Tel Aviv ear nose and throat surgeon, who came out to Australia a few years ago to give some exhibitions of his surgical techniques for Cochlear implantation under the auspices of that company. Now Jona is one of those people, who has a genealogical table, going back to King David. But it does not include Vernon's family!

Kronenberg is a pretty widespread European name; both Jewish and Christian. But despite both making and receiving extensive enquiries in all sorts of media, only one contact with an established relative has been made. When the Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony (POT) went online there were two pages for the parents of a Kronenberg cousin with whom my dad had been friendly, and indeed of whom I have photographs. The Israel Genealogical Society, who are doing a wonderful job and to whom I am eternally grateful, within 48 hours traced the submitter of these POTs. The lady in question was in her 80s, had married a distant Kronenberg relative, and had dutifully recorded in POTs for a lot of victims. She also, as it turned out, was in the last few weeks of her life which I found out from a granddaughter. This trail also turned cold, but within a year Vernon had enjoyed the hospitality in Israel of this family of very mixed Moroccan/Sabra Polish lineage. Yet another example of the dictum to start genealogical enquiries much earlier!

There is also another Polish Kronenberg line, to which no connection has yet been made and, barring miracles, is ever likely to be made. Samuel Eleazar Kronenberg (1773-1826) founded a powerhouse dynasty which is virtually synonymous with Polish economic development from the 1850s to 1945. These Kronenbergs, allied with other Jewish families, notably the Blochs, financed and built the Polish railroads, coalmines, paper mills, owned the local tobacco monopoly, produced Poland's sugar and most notably, founded the Commercial Bank in 1870, the largest bank in the country. They also owned newspapers, and built palaces in Warsaw (after the War housing the

Polish Foreign Ministry), Brzezic, and Winiec. As well as possessing obvious native skills, the success of this line derived from first, aligning themselves with Russia at a time when it was to play a major part in Polish affairs, and second, converting to Protestantism, thus enabling the ennoblement of successive Baron Kronenbergs. The family divided along religious lines, with the non-Jewish Kronenbergs distancing themselves from the others. With this family line dying out and its fortunes totally lost during the War the whole lot was nationalised after communism took over. In 1998, the Warsaw Jewish Historical Museum mounted a Kronenberg exhibition whose notable feature (never pointed out in the substantial exhibition catalogue) was that the entire show could be fitted into a large suitcase; for the last of the male line had been living in and had died in Los Angeles, and it was his mementos that had been repatriated. The other remaining organisational rump of this family is the Leopold Kronenberg Foundation (can be Googled), an invention of the Citibank group, which took over the old Bank Handlowy when it was re-privatised.

So on Vernon's side the destruction wrought by the Shoah has been most effective and virtually complete. When that happens, if the contemporary knowledge of the remaining relatives is not preserved, it is lost forever. And that is what seems to have happened on his side of the family. By contrast, his wife's family exemplifies the huge benefits both of survival and of having a succession of competent genealogists in the family.

Naomi Kessler (1940 to 2004) was the daughter of Albert Kessler and Hannah Van Cleef. On her mother's side, the first published Auerbach family tree was produced in London in 1957 and goes back to the 1570s. This book, enumerating about 1600 people, was followed by a CD produced by a completely different team of genealogists, in Beersheva, Israel in 2002 and now listing over 8000 descendants. Between these two publications several periodical addendums were issued from a number of hands. And indeed, so large and unwieldy has the entirety of this enterprise become that there are now some specialised offshoots, dealing not only with the major branches of the Auerbach family but also with the substantial limb of the Loeb family.

And genealogists there are a-plenty. As well as the two groups who published each version of the complete Auerbach *stammbaum* (family tree), extensive research in Hamburg, and especially in the famous old Jewish cemetery in Altona, was undertaken by Dr Daniel Cohen, a family member

who was also the Director-General of the Jewish Historical General Archives in Jerusalem. In London research is being conducted by Jonathan Grodzinsky, of kosher bakery fame, and also a relative.

It is the same again on the Kessler side. The first genealogy, *The Descendants of Copel Berger of Cracow*, was published in 1988 by family member Dr Gael Hammer; It is pleasing to see that the younger generation is taking over, for exactly 10 years later the Dr. Hans Kimmel Memorial prize essay was won by Natalie Kessler with her substantial pictorial work entitled *From Roman to Ron: the early years of my grandfather's settlement in Australia*. That is the way to preserve the generations.

Dr Vernon Kronenberg was born in a DP camp in Istanbul and arrived as a 9 year old with his mother in Australia on the *S.S. Cyrenia*, from Genoa in 1949, stateless people on a Red Cross Card. He made his Bar Mitzvah at the North Shore Synagogue under Rev. Katz and was married in the Great Synagogue by Rabbi Israel Porush. Educated in Sydney until 1964 he moved to Canberra with his wife to commence a public service career that lasted until 1996.

Dr Vernon Kronenberg is a retired public servant. He is a member of both AJGS and JewishGen, a RAOGK (Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness) volunteer for research in the ACT, and Treasurer of the ACT Branch of the Australian Jewish Historical Society. In the picture is his granddaughter Natasha Hannah.*

* Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness, a volunteer organisation mainly based in the U.S., where registered City and District volunteers are requested to carry out research by people not in that district. Vernon has photographed the gravestones of Vietnam Veterans for their US friends, and done research in the National Archives in Canberra for people who can't get to them.



SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF THE 27th IAJGS CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, JULY 15-20, 2007

By Frank Atkinson

Approximately 600 of us gathered for the conference lectures, computer lab sessions and film festival.

My own high was meeting Stanley Diamond of Montreal whom I had met over the Internet and helped with some Melbourne family finding. As you know, he has worked wonders in opening up Polish databases, and he lectured on his beta-thalassemia gene mutation. He has researched to incredible lengths to find hundreds of affected relatives. He gave me a copy of his DVD on the film made on this topic, and this is available for loan. Also present was Steve Morse who lectured on explaining the Jewish Calendar, and lectured and ran a lab session on his One-Step website techniques for genealogy. You may know him as Dr Morse, the electrical engineer, who invented the Intel 8086 computer chip that revolutionised the Personal Computer age.

There were many speakers from the Family History Library of the Church of Latter-Day Saints who explained various aspects of their microfilm collections. I spent many hours in their library reading every book on my possible connection to a Jamaican Sephardim and the history of that island and surrounding islands. It is these hard copy books not yet microfilmed and not available here that increases the treasure trove nature of their Library. Also, the Library contains a very large collection of manuscripts and published works on family histories and perhaps one should consider donating one's own family history opus in due time.

Ancestry.com supplied many computers linked to the Internet and freely accessing their databases. This allowed me to find an ancestor listing his Irish Townland! Also the Director showed me how to enter suggested corrections to three indexed entries of my ancestors in British and American censuses. These will be considered by a referee panel and then implemented if accepted.

A keynote address was by Paul Shapiro speaking on the records held by the International Tracing Service (ITS) at Bad Arolsen in Germany. This was also spoken about by Peter Lande. Nazi bureaucracy kept detailed records of every prisoner and, after WWII, all such records when found were centralized at the former SS barracks at Bad Arolsen where the ITS slowly replied to enquiries.

With modern technologies developed, there was a natural desire to have this archive opened and available for everyone. Two months before our conference, the eleven countries controlling the archive met and signed an understanding agreeing to the release. This will require ratification by the respective governments and could occur before the end of 2007. In the meantime, digitalization of the records is progressing but translation of the original languages will not be undertaken. While Shapiro probably did more than most in leading this campaign, unfortunately there has developed a perception that he wants to control access "for a fee" from his Washington based Holocaust Memorial Museum. If we are to truly honour the Holocaust victims and not forget them then this database should be freely available from everyone's computer.

Lectures also covered diseases related with being Jewish, restricted European Jewish censuses, various European and Russian specialties, DNA investigations, and of course the many North American record sites and databases. Syllabus or handbook of the proceedings totals 650 pages with two smaller booklets including a list of registrants and their interests.

2007 CONFERENCE AWARDS

From Nu? What's New?

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Lifetime Achievement Award went to Mathilda Tagger of Jerusalem for her 25 years of devotion to growing resources for Sephardic genealogy. Among her many accomplishments is co-authorship of *Guidebook for Sephardic and Oriental Genealogical Sources in Israel* which was published by Avotaynu.

A second Avotaynu author, Lars Menk of Berlin, was given the Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy Award for his book *A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames*.

Donald Hirschhorn of Florida received an award from Yad Vashem for his "activism, dedication and outstanding volunteer as coordinator for the Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project." Hirschhorn personally coordinated the submission of close to 1,000 Pages of Testimony, and many additional pages have been submitted as a result of his efforts either through the American Society for Yad Vashem, to Israel directly, or via the Internet.

NEXT YEAR IN CHICAGO!

NEW RESOURCES IN OUR LIBRARY

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO JEWISH CEMETERIES

By Nolan Menachemson, Avotaynu, 2007

This book is a mixed bag of information about Jewish burials. The practical parts comprise only about a quarter of its pages while the bulk of the book is a bit like wandering around old glass-fronted cabinets in a 1950s museum, browsing exotic aspects of Jewish burial lore. It has a history of Jewish burials, beginning with Sarah the wife of Abraham and other biblical burial references, passing through medieval superstitions and practices, and ending up with cemeteries whose only remaining presence is through a transcription or photographic proxy on the internet. About a third of the whole book is filled with an annotated list of burials of famous Jews - scientists, intellectuals, political figures, and Talmudic rabbis. A section on 15 famous cemeteries begins with Australia, represented by the Jewish cemetery of Goulburn, NSW, with no reason given for such an obscure choice. The selection of cemeteries doesn't seem to follow any logic, but it does have interesting tales about the districts they served. All the many meandering side-lines are of interest, but they put in question the "practical" part of the title.

The practical parts cover a wide range of topics, and they are well covered - deciphering and translating Hebrew, tables of date conversions, methods of recording including photography and rubbings.

The chapter on symbols wanders in and out of the tapestry of Jewish fable, rabbinic tradition, historic practices, and family and social attitudes. It's an intriguing spread of Jewish cultural morsels which could serve as an introduction to Jewish modes of thought for our members who are removed from Jewish life.

Preservation of tombstones and burial grounds is treated in another chapter with notes about types of stone, vandalism, and negotiation methods to save disused cemeteries from being lost to modern commercial development.

There are a few other guides to reading Jewish tombstones in the AJGS library. The "Guide to Reading Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents" published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain has a much shorter section on Hebrew names & tombstone phrases, dates and symbols. Against the briefer information it has the advantage of being a small A5 booklet, easy to carry during a wander through a cemetery. We published a very

useful single page in Kasher Koala on reading the Hebrew years on tombstones in Vol 2 No 2 of June, 1995.

Reviewed by Gary Luke

JEWISH MIGRATION TO SOUTH AFRICA

The Records of the Poor Jews' Temporary Shelter, 1885-1914, Edited by Aubrey N. Newman, Nicholas J. Evans, J. Graham Smith and Saul W. Issroff, 2006, JPSA, Jewish Publications – South Africa, Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town.

The Poor Jews' Temporary Shelter (PJTS) was established in London during the mass Eastern European Jewish migrations to the West. Its primary purpose was to meet all ships containing migrants who arrived in the Port of London, *to protect them from being despoiled* on arrival and to provide temporary shelter for transmigrants while they were waiting to embark for their further destinations.

This publication is the record of over 24,000 Jews who emigrated to Southern Africa from Imperial Russia between 1896 and 1914 and who were cared for by this organisation.

Details recorded include name, date of arrival and departure from the PJTS, age, place born and the name of the ship taking them to South Africa. For almost 80 per cent of the records, the place of birth was Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania.

Migrants to South Africa who did not use this facility do not appear in the records. As well there are a few years for which the registers have not survived.

The main listing originated from records held in England but the book includes an additional list from documents found in Cape Town which differs from the main document and is worth checking. The main drawback with these records is the lack of full first names with the majority having only initials although the inclusion of age helps with identification, especially for common surnames.

The data is part of a more extensive collection, the Southern Africa Jewish Rootsbank Database, being developed by the Kaplan Centre in Cape Town which aims to research the families who migrated to Southern Africa between 1850-1950 from Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus.

The introductory chapters include a background to the conditions in Europe and London at the time and detailed statistics for the Shelter's activities.

To order, email Janine.Blumberg@uct.ac.za or fax +27 21 650 5151. Cost R200 (USD28 or GBP14).

GRANDEUR AND GLORY OF GALICIA

By Rabbi Meir Wunder, Avotaynu, 2007

This is the first volume in the series on the towns of Eastern Galicia starting with A for Abertyn, and B for Barysh, and Belz, to O for Otnia

For small villages like Barysh there are only a few lines and no photos, for Belz there are photos and two and a half pages of description and for Lvov there are nine pages of photos and information. While Otnia merits only a short description and a photo of the general area from the destroyed hilltop cemetery.

The name of each town is given in English, Hebrew, Russian and Polish. The history and location is given for each town in both English and Hebrew, with mostly at least one photo, usually the synagogue, many of which no longer exist. Some of the photos are in colour, and there are details of what is in each picture.

At the end of the book there is a map of the area, so you can see where your town is. However the place names are in Hebrew so you will need to check your town for the Hebrew spelling.

If your family originated in Galicia this is a wonderful research tool that will add to your family story.

TREASURES OF JEWISH GALICIA – Judaica from the Museum of Ethnography and Crafts in Lvov, Ukraine. Published by Bet Hatefutsoth, the Nahum Goldman Museum of the Jewish Diaspora 1994-95 and edited by Sarah Harel Hoshen.

This book explores the history of Jewish settlement in Galicia, the area between Ruthenia (Ukraine) and Poland, from 14 Century when Jews living in *private* towns owned by the nobility, were granted exclusive rights to practice their religion freely and to engage in commerce and trade without harassment by other urban groups. Particular mention is made of Lvov, as well as the history from the Austro-Hungarian era to the destruction of Galician Jewry during World War 2 and its aftermath.

Over two hundred Jewish communities lived in the area, building beautiful synagogues many of which are depicted in the book together with the implements and torah decorations, from menorahs to textiles and torah pointers (yads).

There are beautiful examples of Jewish Art, ceremonial and secular. At the conclusion of WW 2, the Soviet Government prevented the renewal of Jewish cultural life, thus marking the end of centuries of existence of a community distinguished

by cultural richness and creativity in everyday spiritual life.

This book of 195 pages is especially for those with Galician background particularly Lvov. It has a useful index, and map of Lvov and the surrounding towns. As this book was prepared especially for an exhibition it has an explanatory catalogue of the items depicted. (This book was donated to our library by Sophie Caplan in memory of her maternal Galician ancestors).

Indeed, if your family originated in Galicia, then come to our Library and research both these books which will give you the opportunity to explore the beautiful past of your family heritage.

Reviewed by Miriam Shifreen

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON GERMAN-JEWISH FAMILY RESEARCH AND ON THE RECENT REGIONAL AND LOCAL HISTORY OF THE JEWS, published in 2006 by and available directly from Harrassowitz Verlag, Berlin or through Avotaynu, Inc.

Angelika Ellmann-Krüger and Dietrich Ellmann have compiled the most comprehensive database of sources for German-Jewish genealogical research and published it on CD-ROM.

Taken from more than 32,000 mostly English or German sources, they include books, articles from old and current journals, newspapers and others.

Searches can be done in seven ways: individuals and families; countries and towns; subject headings; corporations; classification codes; words from titles; authors and editors. Each result can be expanded to provide the full details of authors, source, short text content and archive location, such as a library. There is flexibility for searching using partial words as well as character strings. The researcher can choose an index search, basic search (one search term per query) or advanced search (combining two or three per query). Additional features include websites, name changes for various reasons, as well as theme or period searches for historical backgrounds.

WORLDS APART

The Re-migration of South African Jews

By Colin Tatz, Peter Arnold, Gillian Heller
Rosenberg Publishing, 2007

ISBN: 9781877058356

To be launched in September at the Sydney Jewish Museum, this is a study of the translocation from South Africa of the originally Jewish Lithuanian and Latvian families to Australia and New Zealand.

BOOK REVIEWS (continued)

JEWISH ANCESTORS? A GUIDE TO JEWISH GENEALOGY IN POLAND

By Susan Fifer, Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, London, 2007

For the beginner researching their Polish ancestry, the newest publication from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain is a welcome addition to available resources. This booklet covers the most important topics that are needed for an understanding of the subject, giving a broad overview of the history and geography of the region.

This publication as well as other publications from the JGS of Great Britain is available from the Shop at the Sydney Jewish Museum. Tel: 9360-7999

JEWS OF KOPCHEVE

By Dorothy Leivers, Avotaynu, 2006

Documenting an ancestral town where there is no longer a Jewish presence is an ambitious project. Dorothy Leivers has succeeded in drawing together, into a significant memorial, all the information that she has collected over the years about the town of Kopcheve. The history and development of this small town, now known as Kapciamiestis, around 100 km South of Kaunas (Kovno) in Lithuania would have been typical of other small shtetls in the area.

WEBSITES

The Melbourne Burial Society

The Melbourne Chevra Kadisha keeps records of burials. Contact Ephraim Finch (who is very helpful) via their website www.mck.org.au

Lodz Cemetery One Step Search

Steve Morse has done it again! He created a One-Step search engine for the Lodz Cemetery database indexed by Marek Szukalak in Lodz. See Marek's Lodz Foundation website and the Cemetery Plan in English at:

www.jewishlodzcemetery.org/cmentarzEN.html

The url for Steve Morse's One-Step Search is:

[//stevemorse.org/lodz/lodz.html](http://stevemorse.org/lodz/lodz.html)

You need to be careful with exact searches on name. Exact means just that -- the full name must match exactly. So if you enter just the last name, it won't match exactly because the name in the record contains a first name as well. The ability to do exact searches may be modified or removed for this reason.

From Roni Seibel Liebowitz,
Lodz Area Research Group Coordinator (LARG)

Spielberg Jewish Film Archive

The website of the Spielberg Jewish Film Archive's virtual film project, located at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. About 400 films, that depict the history of the Jewish people during the period before the Holocaust, were uploaded. All the films can be viewed, for free, at

[//w3.castup.net/spielberg](http://w3.castup.net/spielberg)

Zimbabwean Jewish Community

Zimbabwe is the current name of the former British colony of South Rhodesia. This site has a wealth of genealogical information regarding Bulawayo. It has 1240 pictures of graves. By comparing Auguste LEVI's epitaph (mentioning 3 daughters and sons-in-law) and Adele MAIER's epitaph (mentioning a sister and no child) it can be inferred that Adele had no descendant. Under the menu "Shuls", look up Bulawayo. You'll find there a list of nearly 600 weddings that took place between 1895 and 1989.

www.zjc.org.il/showpage.php?pageid=1

From the AJGen Discussion Group

Sites about Australian Jewish burial grounds. Pat May, a Hunter Valley heritage researcher, has three Jewish cemeteries on her site - Tamworth, Maitland and Goulburn

www.huntervalleygenealogy.com/cemeteries/jewishtam.php

www.huntervalleygenealogy.com/cemeteries/jewishmait.php

www.huntervalleygenealogy.com/cemeteries/jewishgoulb.php

Another site with Goulburn

www.ozgenonline.com/aust_cemeteries/nsw/goulburn/goulburnjdata.htm which is a sub-page of a general list of NSW cemeteries

www.ozgenonline.com/aust_cemeteries/nsw/FromWestTerrace,Adelaide

www.ozgenonline.com/aust_cemeteries/sa/adelaide/jewishdata.htm

Heritage reports and burials in the first Jewish cemetery in Hobart

[//dhhs.tas.gov.au/agency/pro/walfordterraces/report2.php](http://dhhs.tas.gov.au/agency/pro/walfordterraces/report2.php)

UK National Archives

The United Kingdom National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office – PRO) has a very informative website in which all sorts of questions are answered. For example, information specific to inbound passenger lists and their availability.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/familyhistory/guide/migrantancestors/passengers.htm

WEBSITES (continued)

Corrections to *Where Once We Walked*

Gary Mokotoff has advised that as it is unlikely that there will be another edition published of this invaluable source of European place names, he has established a website where corrections are listed. Changes should be sent to Avotaynu. Corrections are listed at:

www.avotaynu.com/books/WOWWUpdate.htm

Vienna World War I Jewish War Memorial, Virtual Tour *Premiere*

From Celia Male (U.K.)

as posted on JRI-Poland Discussion Group

This free virtual tour of the World War I Vienna Jewish War Memorial has probably not been photographed and displayed systematically before. It is a genealogical treasure house, especially for Galicians who are sadly very well-represented on the plaques. There must be about 1,300 names in all. Why these names have been chosen, out of what must have been 1000s of Jewish casualties, is a bit of a mystery. I have not been able to get a sensible answer. I suspect they are young men and officers who were brought back to hospital in Vienna, where they died.

As this is in Zentralfriedhof Tor 1, I have added a dedication to Mr Walter Pagler on the Map of the Zentralfriedhof. He died recently and did much clearing, restoration and indexing work there, when no-one else was involved. His caravan by Tor 1 was a sight everyone knew. We owe him a lot.

There are also 21 Russian Jewish POWs buried at Tor 1 and I have included them on this site [see photo 24]. Here are the names:

BUNIMOVIC Benjamin; FEJBISCHOWITZ Chaim Tabel; FERZIKOFF Leiser; HERMANN Chanton; JAKUBSCHITZKY Mendelowitsch Michael; JAMPOLSKY Isak Chaim; KARABAN Moritz; KINARSCHANSKY Szulim; KURTAUL Jsak Rabi; LIWSCHITZ Juda Jerscha; LONLEG Srula; MALINSKI Abram; NAGY Moses Michael; NOPARSTEK Nussan; ROSENBERG Hersch Abraham; SETZMANN Meier; SCHADZ Isak; SCHNEIDER Abraham Moses Saloman; SCHWARZBART Jechiel; SILBEROW Aron Baruch; SUCHOLWSKY Boris {Wolf}.

This is the first time these names have been indexed and listed together with their dates of death, ages and grave numbers. As yet, I have no photographs.

Please also look at young Heinz KOCH's [from Saaz, Bohemia] grave - he died on 7 April 1915 aged 22 for his Kaiser, his Vaterland and his

"Judisches Volk" [Photo 23]. This was only 25 years before the Holocaust.

Looking at the site you can use: thumbnail - slide the cursor over each picture to read contents; detail - individual shots that all magnify, so you can read names and annotations; or slide show - all are annotated. In the slide show, you can read the annotation by clicking on the letter *i* in the centre of each slide.

There is a lot of detail and annotation to read. I hope this new work will provide links for some of you:

www.flickr.com/photos/cam37/sets/72157600774064187

Direct link to page of Russian POW names:

www.flickr.com/photos/cam37/1051081613/

Czech Refugees in Great Britain

A database of 13,400 Czech Refugees in Great Britain during World War II is located at [www.geocities.com/czechandslovakthings/WW2_crtf.htm#X\(d\)](http://www.geocities.com/czechandslovakthings/WW2_crtf.htm#X(d)). It includes their names and year of birth.

National Archives Digitisation Service

Changes to requests for digital copies of records found on the Record Search site of the National Archives of Australia are cost based. The new fees for the service are:

\$16.50 for files under 100 pages

\$38.50 for files over 100 pages

www.naa.gov.au/the_collection/digitisation-service.html

Liverpool Hebrew Schools

[//liverpool-schools.co.uk/html/hebrew_school.html](http://liverpool-schools.co.uk/html/hebrew_school.html)

Ringelblum Holdings in the Polish Archives

http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/memory/sub_ringelblum/index.php?va_lang=en&fileid=001

Glossary of Archaic Medical Terms, Diseases and Causes of Death

www.antiquusmorbus.com

Jewish Cemeteries in the Eastern Slovakia

Also has some deportations lists from Vranov

www.cemeteries.wz.cz

United Kingdom Jewish Communities and Records What's New Page

www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/whatsnew.htm

As an affiliate of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, the AJGS recently participated in a Seminar arranged by the Board for its affiliates, on strategies for legal compliance and risk management. Issues of privacy were identified as a principal area of risk for our society. The following is the outcome.

AJGS MEMBERSHIP PRIVACY STATEMENT

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. [AJGS] is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation operated by an elected committee on behalf of its paid membership. AJGS provides services related to genealogy for its members and family historians in general. As part of its business, AJGS collects a range of personal data for and on behalf of its members for the purposes of family history research. We also maintain personal data about members as a statutory requirement for an incorporated society.

Information We Collect About You

When you join AJGS or subscribe to our publications, we may collect personal information about you including:

the information you provide, such as your name, contact details and account information;

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When you visit any website, or download information from it, the Internet Service Provider may record information that is used for statistical purposes and website development.

Use and Disclosure of your Personal Information

We use your personal information to process your membership, provide you with our services and respond to your inquiries.

We may send you periodic mailings with information on our program of events, our publications and membership. If you no longer wish to receive such notices, you may cancel these notifications at any time by contacting us at the addresses given below.

Articles submitted to AJGS for publication in our newsletter, The Kosher Koala, are distributed and archived with that publication. All articles submitted are subject to editing but AJGS is not responsible for any personal information you provide as content.

Personal information you have provided to AJGS will not be shared with any other organisation without your permission.

Web Links

The AJGS website and email notifications may contain links to the websites of other organisations which may be of interest to you. Linked websites are not controlled by AJGS and we are not responsible for their content or information privacy practices.

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Security of your Personal Information

Once any personal information comes into our possession, we will take all reasonable steps to protect that information from misuse and loss and from unauthorised access, modification or disclosure.

Contact Us

You have certain rights to access personal information we hold about you. If you wish to access your personal information, would like more information about our approach to privacy or want to make a complaint about your information privacy, please contact us as follows:

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Sydney, Australia
Website: www.ajgs.org.au

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IAJGS CONFERENCE DATES

Chicago 17 - 22 August, 2008

The Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent
Mile Hotel, the location of the conference is in a
wonderful location, has a spacious lobby, and a
fantastic pastry chef. The room rate is: single and
double \$199 (excluding tax) and an additional
person is \$30 (excluding taxes).

SYDNEY WORKSHOPS

All workshops are usually held at the Rev Katz Library,
North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield, once a
month on Sunday mornings, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30
p.m. See front page for dates.

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DATABASE

Update of the Surnames being researched by our members

September, 2007

Id	Surname	Old name of Town	Current name of Town	Country	Dates
609	BOK	VIENNA	WIEN	AUSTRIA	Up to 1939
593	COHEN		LONDON	ENGLAND	1780-1870
593	COHEN		MELBOURNE	AUSTRALIA	1840+
593	COHEN		SYDNEY	AUSTRALIA	1909-1934
593	COHEN		MELBOURNE	AUSTRALIA	1890-1908
603	COHEN		LONDON	ENGLAND	Up to 1857
603	COHEN		SYDNEY	AUSTRALIA	1857+
603	DAVIS		LONDON	ENGLAND	Up to 1831
603	DAVIS		SYDNEY	AUSTRALIA	1831+
603	DAVIS		GOULBURN	AUSTRALIA	1841+
618	FLEISCHER			CZECH REP	To 1940
618	HESS			CZECH REP	1880-1940
603	JACOB		GOULBURN	AUSTRALIA	1843+
614	JOSEPH	KOVNO	KAUNAS	LITHUANIA	
618	LOWINGER		SURANY	SLOVAKIA	1850-1930
618	MILCH		SURANY	SLOVAKIA	1850-1900
609	PNIAWSKI		PULTUSK	POLAND	Up to 1939
618	POLLAK		KOMARNO	SLOVAKIA	1850-1920
609	ROSENBLATT	VIENNA	WIEN	AUSTRIA	Up to 1938/9
619	RUBIN		DOLINA	UKRAINE	
619	RUBIN		IVANO FRANKIVSK	UKRAINE	
619	RUBIN	BOLCHOWCE	BOLSHOVTSY	UKRAINE	
619	TAINENBERG		BOLSHOVTSY	UKRAINE	
619	TEINBERG		BOLSHOVTSY	UKRAINE	
618	TRAMER			CZECH REP	To 1945
618	TROSZTLER			SLOVAKIA	1850-1920
614	ZELECOVITZ	KOVNO	KAUNAS	LITHUANIA	

THE NSW ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH EX-SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN (NAJEX) and THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

invite you to the

ANNUAL COMMUNAL REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2007 10.30 a.m.

BENEFACTORS' HALL, NSW JEWISH WAR MEMORIAL,
146 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst

Guest speaker

KIM PHILLIPS

will present

“THE SPIRITS OF GALLIPOLI”

Jewish Servicemen who died at Gallipoli

(See page 5)

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