



The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

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EDITORIAL

It is raining and it's cold and it's Shavuot, the Festival of the Giving of the Law to Moses and of the First Fruits and early harvest. The only disadvantage of living in our southern hemisphere is that the symbolism associated with our religious festivals is topsy-turvy: dairy products when it's cold, and latkes (potato pancakes) in summer.

Our Annual General Meeting was in March and we now have a new treasurer, Gary Luke, and a new membership chairman, Greta James, while Terry Newman and Philip Baynash have retired. We still have no honorary Secretary, but would welcome a new one even now.

Helen Bersten spoke to us of some unusual

genealogical problems brought to her, and it is always pleasing to see a sizeable crowd of members at the AGM.

Your committee has been unable to think of any suitable speakers for more frequent talks and would be very glad if our members knew of an interesting genealogical topic or speaker, or if they themselves were prepared to give us a talk about their research or their successes. Indeed we would welcome some interesting articles for this newsletter in September.

We have an interesting speaker from Canada lined up for Sunday 14th October, but the exact time and venue are still to be announced. The speaker is David Montefiore Jacobs of Vancouver, whose whole ancestry is Jewish Australian (Continued on page 4)

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SYDNEY WORKSHOPS 2001

All workshops are usually held at the Rev Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Lindfield, on Sundays, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

July 1	October 7
August 5	November 4
**September 2	December 2

****A special workshop on German Jewish genealogy** will be held on September 2, with an expert on the reading of printed and handwritten documents using the Gothic alphabet. So come along! **An event not to be missed!**

APOLOGIES to any member who came to the regular workshop on Sunday 3rd June and was told by the security guard at the car park entrance that the library was closed. It was not closed, but we had to park elsewhere.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Victoria

Michelle Barbor-Hallett
Saville Bransby
Esther Broome
Ziva Fain

Leonard Levin
Rachel Lissek
Fr. Terry Lyons
Geoffrey Partos

Janine Lesser

New South Wales

Carol Dor
Kerry Hilton
Paula Kendall

Miriam Pollack
Fae Annette Rosenthal
Peter Taft

DAVID MONTEFIORE JACOBS

of Vancouver, Canada

Is our guest speaker for
Sunday 14th October,

time and venue to be announced.

A Canadian, whose Jewish Australian ancestry goes back to convicts Theodore Krakouer and his wife, Betty Israel, who came from England to Western Australia:

INTERNATIONAL JGS CONFERENCES

London, England July 8-13, 2001

Toronto Canada August 4-9, 2002

ON THE INTERNET

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
<http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy/ajgs>

THE HOME OF JEWISH GENEALOGY

<http://www.jewishgen.org>

SEPHARDICSIG: SEPHARDIC GENEALOGY AT JEWISHGEN,

<http://www.jewishgen.org/sephardicsig>

PLEASE NOTE: **Closing Dates For**
Submission of Articles for Koshar Koala are:
15th August for the September issue
15th November for the December issue

HOW TO CHOOSE GENEALOGICAL SOFTWARE

By Phillip Baynash

This article discusses how to select a Genealogical Software package. It is **not** a review of various packages. The best way to review and compare packages is to see them demonstrated on a computer and a workshop devoted to Genealogical Software packages will be arranged in Sydney in the near future.

Genealogical software is such a boon and such an essential aid to recording, managing and presenting your family history information that it is difficult to understand why anyone would choose to do it all manually. Benefits include that it:

- imposes a recording standardisation and discipline because the availability of information boxes on the data entry screen encourages the collection and entry of information.
- enables the creation and recreation of lists and charts at the press of a button after a new item of information has been included.
- makes communication of your information with others so much easier.

There is no one perfect system and many genealogists find they have to use several systems to get all the facilities they want. Each has its strengths and weaknesses and in the end it depends on your requirements and what features appeal to you.

Basic Purposes

You must first decide what you want of your system. This could be to:

- record basic information and family relationships.
- review and refer to information on the screen.
- print out listings and charts.
- exchange information with family etc.
- generate “books” and other reports.

Is the system to be the sole repository of all genealogical information? Is its main purpose to display information or to produce reports and charts.

What issues should you consider?

- What items can you record – standard and optional? Is burial information one of the standard items? Is there scope to record bar/bat mitzvah information?
- How large are the fields? Is there enough room for a complex name or place

description or will you be forced to use drastic abbreviations?

- Can you change the field names? It is all very well to be able to record date and place information about a bar mitzvah, but are you saddled with a field name that says “Christening”?
- Can you add fields? You might want to record causes of death or hereditary diseases. Will the package let you do this?
- Can you have multiple occurrences of an event? Can you record multiple occurrences of residence, occupation or education identified by date or are you limited to entering the latest one or having to select the most important one?
- Can you record/attach photos, video images and audio records?
- Does the package offer facilities for recording research projects? Does it handle correspondence?
- What is the quality of the display? Is there enough information on the main display? Can you see details of the current couple and parents and children without moving to another screen layout?
- What reports and charts are available?
- Can reports and charts be tailored?
- Does it offer GEDCOM data exchange facilities? GEDCOM is a standardised system for moving data between different packages. It is important because you may need to use more than one package to get the results you want and also because it is quite likely that you may outgrow your first package and want to move on to something more sophisticated.
- What flavour do you want? There are two Jewish packages – *DoroTaree* and *Ilanot*. There are several Australian-oriented systems – *Relatively Yours*, *Ezitree* and *My Family History*.

There are a number of books on selecting Genealogical Software. SAG publishes “Computers for Genealogy” which is worthwhile and inexpensive.

The following web sites deal with selection of packages.

<http://www.gensoftsb.com/>

<http://www.mumford.ab.ca/reportcard/index.htm>

Software sources

These include:

- Mail order firms both in Australia and overseas. Gould Books in Adelaide publish
(continued on page 11)

By Joyce Field

JewishGen is more than pleased, it is overjoyed to announce its newest web site. This new site is SephardicSIG: Sephardic Genealogy at JewishGen, <http://www.jewishgen.org/sephardicsig>.

It is hosted by Jeffrey S. Malka. Sefard Forum: E-mail Discussion Group For Researchers Of SephardicGenealogy, the SIG's companion mail list, will continue to be coordinated by Bernard Kouchel. If you are not already a subscriber, see details at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/infocfiles/SefardForum.htm>.

JewishGen has long wanted an important Sephardic web site like Jeff's "Resources for Sephardic genealogy," so when he agreed to move his award-winning site (Jewish Agency Top 10 and Britannica 2 Stars) to JewishGen, you can imagine our elation.

Recently retired, Jeff has been busy redesigning his site for weeks in preparation for the JewishGen launch. His goal of expanding Sephardic research opportunities meshes with JewishGen's objectives. JewishGen recognizes that there are no boundaries in the Jewish family and that developing new sites enhance everyone's understanding and appreciation of Jewish history and its magnificent diversity. Jeff's belief that the Sephardic definition should include both Ladino- and non-Ladino-speaking Jews, as well as Mizrahim and other non-Ashkenazi Jews the world over, will bring to JewishGen a wealth of new material from which we will all benefit. If we grasp that Sephardic Jews were 90% of all Jewry through the 12th Century, we can see how Sephardic research can expand our horizons.

Susan King said in a welcoming message to Jeff: "Many of us have Sephardic roots that we were not aware of it until we began our research. Please know that we welcome you and look forward to a long-standing relationship that will benefit the JewishGen community and allow us to expand and broaden our knowledge and understanding of our Sephardic heritage!!!"

I am sure that all of you are as excited as we are. We extend a hearty welcome to Jeff Malka and look forward to new horizons for Sephardic research.

Joyce Field
JewishGen V.P. Research
jfield@nlci.com

and goes back to convicts from England to Western Australia: Theodore Krakouer and his wife, Betty Israel.

Speaking of Jewish convicts there is a new and interesting exhibition at the A.M. Rosenblum Museum which is part of Great Synagogue at 166 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. This is "Waves of Immigration," depicting the story of Jewish immigration to Australia via five families which arrived in different eras and which are still part of the Australian scene and of the Jewish community. The first family is that of convict Abraham Reuben which still has descendants in Sydney and in Brisbane, including Ron Reuben and his children, and the Golovskys and the Silvertons. Then there are the descendants of Charles Aaron of India, which include the first Jews in Sydney's North Shore, the late beloved Aaron Aaron who fought the cause for Sephardi immigrants in the 1950's *White Australia* policy, and his brother Reuben Aaron who founded Sydney's Sephardi Synagogue. There is also the family of Elias Green, formerly Gruenbaum, whose descendants include Israel Green of the Great synagogue and the Founder of Central Synagogue, all cousins to David Ben Gurion, first Prime Minister of modern Israel.

The first copies of the CD-ROM "Family Tree of the Jewish People" have been received by those members who ordered them at \$42 each. We hope to publish next time an account of its usefulness.

On 2nd September our usual workshop will be replaced by a special morning focusing on German Jewish genealogical research with books on Germany from our library and from the personal libraries of several members available for perusal. Professor Konrad Kwiet will give a talk on the history of Jews in Germany and Sophie Caplan will speak on the usefulness of books published by Christian-Jewish Friendship Societies in Germany in the last three decades.

Several members from Sydney and Melbourne will be attending the International Jewish Genealogical Conference in London from 8 - 13 July, with some members already in England. In our September issue we will bring you a report on the Conferences.

It is now definite that the 2002 Conference will take place in Toronto, Canada.

All the Best
Sophie Caplan, Editor

**THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FROM THE
NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc.
Sunday 25th March 2001.**

By Sophie Caplan

I would like to welcome all present: members and spouses, present and past committee members, and our guest speaker for tonight, Helen Bersten, my colleague from the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

Our total paid membership at present stands at 143, down from last December. At least two of our members have died during the year 2000, Barbara Curthoys of Sydney and Ralph Kaiser of Adelaide. Some Members pay later in the year, and unfortunately not everyone who has joined us for a year or two renews their membership. Also some members omit to inform us of their change of address and, despite our best efforts to find them again through Telstra, or our local contacts, they stay lost.

Most of our members reside in NSW, but we have small groups in Perth, where the group is also affiliated with the W.A. branch of the Australian Jewish Historical Society; or in Adelaide, where the group is now 12-13 strong and where the leadership has recently changed and been reinvigorated. Majorie Luno, a descendant of the famous Rabbi Boaz, has now assumed the chairmanship of the group, succeeding Hilde Hines, and Jeanie Susman has become the honorary secretary and Resources Chairman, and there is also a new treasurer following on the death of Ralph Kaiser. Michelle Urban, the chairman of the Perth group, had brief stays in Sydney in mid-December and last week, when each time Miriam Shifreen and I entertained her at a meal, and answered her queries.

The Canberra group is chaired by Sylvia Deutsch, and the Brisbane group by Morris Ochert, in each case, as with Hilde Hines, people who are deeply involved in their local Jewish community, with many communal responsibilities apart from our Society, which makes them very knowledgeable and valuable to us, but also greatly overworked, and thus sometimes unable to do a great deal for our Society.

In Victoria the Society has now been independent for several years, and thriving. The President is Leslie Oberman, and Lionel Sharpe is the Honorary Secretary and Research Officer. In Melbourne they have the advantage of a larger base of Jewish population and of committee members who live within a radius of five to ten minutes' travel from each other's homes. They continue to subscribe to the "Kosher Koala" which is sent to them in bulk and distributed by them, and we co-operate in that I inform them of prospective speakers who can also

come to Melbourne. They also produce their own quarterly "Jewish Genealogy Down Under", which is excellent, though different in format and in emphasis.

We suffer from the fact that our membership is geographically widely spread, and that therefore our members have much greater distances to travel for any lecture, workshop, or committee meeting.

This year we held twelve workshops, one every month including January, when we had never held one before. It was a success in numbers, though we did not attract the teachers and others who usually find it hard to attend in term time. Our workshops this past year have been opened by David Landor, with many other committees members attending to help.

In May 2000 we were not invited to participate in SAG's SHOWCASE, as they rotated their invitation to other genealogical groups, and "Chanukah in the Park" did not take place in view of community security concerns. As we generally pick up some new members at these occasions, this was a matter for regret.

We did participate at the Australian Association for Jewish Studies conference held at Shalom College on 11th and 12th February, with Gary Luke, Rieke and Peter Nash, Lionel Sharp, and an expert in Polish Archives from Melbourne, all presenting a joint session. Unfortunately, apart from the session with the keynote speaker, Professor Yehuda Bauer, the conference was not well attended, though many sessions were excellent.

In this past year we held a number of lectures by suitable guest speakers. Two were held in conjunction with the Sydney Jewish Museum in its theatre. One was our own Peter Nash on "Escape To and From Shanghai", a talk enriched by his own childhood experiences and in July 2000 Professor Yomtov Assis of the Hebrew University who was visiting Sydney spoke on "Sephardi Culture After the Expulsion from Spain and from Portugal". Our third speaker spoke in this hall in late November. He was Robert Heyman, of the USA embassy in Canberra, who is presently one of our members, on "How To Use the USA Census and other US Government Archives in Jewish Genealogy".

I can already announce our speaker for Sunday 14th October 2001, David Montefiore Jacobs, a witty and knowledgeable man with Australian Jewish convict roots, from Vancouver, Canada, on "Aaron Hart's Children, Jewish Genealogical Research in Canada". We had arranged this lecture at the Sydney Jewish Museum, but with the recent sudden change of Museum Director this is being renegotiated and may take place in this hall. Please note the date and watch the "Kosher Koala" for the time and place.

Recently I gave a talk on "The Importance of Family History and Genealogy" to the Jewish Council on the Ageing, and this triggered such interest that I suggested a follow-up invitation to Gary Luke on the topic of genealogical websites, which they immediately followed up. I doubt whether this will result in many new older members, but it awoke their interest. I have also recently given a well-received talk to a Sephardi group at the Sephardi Synagogue on "The Origins of the Sephardim of France and of England".

The major book on how to do Jewish Genealogy around the world, to which Peter Nash contributed a chapter on Shanghai, and I, one on Jewish immigration waves to Australia, developments of Jewish communities, books and archives touching Jews in Australia, and which was due to come out early in 2000, has been held up by the lateness of some leading contributors.

We have continued to purchase major books on diverse topics connected with Jewish genealogy, which are listed in the "Kosher Koala" shortly after acquisition, and we continue to receive the journals of the Victorian Society and overseas Jewish genealogical societies. One major concern is how few of our members avail themselves of the regular monthly workshops which are free to members and therefore miss out on using the wealth of resources which we hold.

Another major concern is the rising cost of mailing overseas copies of the *Kosher Koala* to all overseas Jewish genealogical societies. I have explained the problem and how we are endeavouring to solve it in a major article in the last edition of the *Kosher Koala*.

Last year we only produced three issues of the *Kosher Koala*, in lieu of the usual four per annum, due to my participation as a volunteer in the Olympic Games, and a major illness of a close family member immediately afterwards.

The major problem we are now facing is the loss of two of our hardworking committee members after our election to-night. They gave us ample notice of this over one year ago and we do have two people ready and able to step into their committee roles. But only one of them is a new committee member, the other having held a minor portfolio for several years. So unless there is a new nomination of which I have not heard, or a nomination by a volunteer from the floor tonight, there is one person less on the committee as from to-night. We have lacked an honorary secretary since last year's retirement of Reike Nash, so we do urgently need a few extra committee workers. Not all the jobs on the committee are arduous, but work shared by a greater number is lesser, and we need to keep up the numbers in order to service our members. We cannot continue to be a voluntary service organisation without more volunteer workers. All

of us who have worked for several years will need replacements in the not too distant future. If we do not get proper replacements it is possible that this organisation will have to fold.

In the last year David Laufer has been Vice-president; Jeanette Tsoulos was Resources Librarian; Terry Newman was Treasurer, Philip Baynash was Membership Chairman; David Laufer was Minutes Secretary, and other committee members were Bernard Freedman, Gary Luke, and Kim Philips. And I was President and editor of the *Kosher Koala*.

To-night David Laufer is stepping down as vice-president, though keeping his other responsibilities as Minutes Secretary at which he has excelled. Terry Newman is stepping down as Treasurer and Philip Baynash as Membership Chairman. We shall miss them both, as they have done excellent jobs on the committee and in their particular areas of responsibility and we have become good friends, Philip also making his home available for committee meetings in alternate months. Terry joined the committee at its inception in November 1991 and has been a stalwart in several roles. Philip has done a wonderful job of his duties. All the committee members have been of great help to me in my role as president.

Other members who for various reasons did not join the committee, have nevertheless filled important roles in the Society. Stuart Shaw, a previous Treasurer and Membership Chairman, has received our Society e-mail and faithfully faxed it to me once a week. Sometimes as much as forty pages! Miriam Shifreen has been a tower of strength as editorial committee member and publisher of the *Kosher Koala* and deserves my warm thanks and the appreciation of the whole Society. She was taught by Reike Nash and well taught, and she has been a most gifted pupil. I would also like to thank Glenda Goldberg and her mother, Sybil Goldberg who all the past year have helped with wrapping and preparing the *Kosher Koala* for postage.

Officially Rieke Nash, who stepped down from this committee last year, has not had a job with us. Unofficially Rieke in her usual unassuming and hard-working manner has supported Miriam in composing the pages of the "Kosher Koala", in printing the postage labels, in preparing and posting the AGM notices and nomination forms. Rieke is an organiser par excellence, and she has continued to monitor everything. Rieke, we appreciate everything you have done and continue to do, and we wish you and Peter 'Nisia Tova' for your planned extended overseas trip. May all your plans and dreams for this trip work out and may you both make more startling and rewarding genealogical discoveries. And may you come back reinvigorated to join us again officially at the AGM in 2002.

Sophie Caplan, President

CANBERRA CORNER

By Sylvia Deutsch

Three genealogical workshops have been scheduled this year, as follows:

- Sunday 3 June
- Sunday 9 September
- Sunday 11 November

All sessions will be from 1.30-3.00 pm in the library at the National Jewish Memorial Centre, National Circuit, Forrest (corner of Canberra Ave.). These provide an opportunity for accessing the growing holdings and networking with other researchers. Future arrangements will be reviewed on the basis of demand this year.

A lecture on Jewish genealogy will be delivered to the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra by Sylvia Deutsch with Dr. Vernon Kronenberg also speaking on Jewish genealogy on the Internet, on Tuesday 7 August at 8.00pm. Thank you to AGJS president Sophie Caplan for help with preparation of this presentation.

Sylvia Deutsch - tel/fax: 02-6248-6196
or email: deutand@ozemail.com.au

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (Vic) Inc.

Report from Lionel Sharpe

Our usual monthly meeting at Beth Weizmann held on March 28th, featured Sue Macbeth of Macbeth Genealogical Services, Hampton, Victoria. 'MACBETHS' is a very well known genealogical service in Australia which provides a large range of products including software, books and other services such as searches relating to unclaimed estates, compensation claims and the like. It initiated the very first genealogical newsletter in Australia. Sue gave an overview of their products and outlined the approaches used for tracing beneficiaries of estates and restitution monies.

Popular and well known Melbourne identity Ephraim Finch was the guest speaker at the 3rd Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, May 16. Ephraim is the Executive Director of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha and was the first speaker to address the Society when it formed as a Branch of the AJGS in 1995.

He is amassing detailed genealogical records from families burying their loved ones and made a special plea to collect data from the living so that families will know the Hebrew names and other important information long before a funeral takes place. His topic was: "The Chevra Kadisha - An invaluable resource for genealogical research".

Elections were held and the following positions were filled on the committee of management.

President: Les Oberman
Vice-President: Enid Yoffa-Elton
Secretary: Lionel Sharpe
Treasurer: Kurt Friedlaender
Members: Dr David Cohen
Lewis Coleman
Ester Csaky
Leonie Fleiszig (Makor Liaison)
Bettye Susskind

Special thanks was extended to Lionel Sharpe who continues to edit the newsletter - 'Jewish Genealogy Downunder' and to the staff at Makor Jewish Community Library, for their work in looking after the resource collection. Thanks were also extended to retiring committee members, Penny Blankfield, Rodney Eisfelder and Gerald Shapiro.

Further meetings are planned for Wednesday, June 27 and July 25 and a Workshop on July 8.

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See our home page on:

www.melbourne.net/csaky/AJGSmainpage.htm

QUEENSLAND REPORT

By Morris S. Ochert OAM

In the period under review, I have been occupied with further research on three Queensland Jewish families of a century ago. They are:

- *the Dinte family.* H.B.Dinte donated to the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation, the famous silver and gold Yad with the diamonds set in it – the famous LEFT-HANDED YAD.
- *The Karnofsky family.* Myer Karnofsky brought with him a Sefer Torah from England to Australia. He settled in the Kangaroo Valley and used the Torah when he held services there. After his death, his niece kept it safely. When the Gold Coast Hebrew Congregation, was founded, her children donated it to the Synagogue.
- *The Heiser family.* The central figure was the lady with the exciting name of Dorothy Ivy *Struckoil* Heiser. The reason for that name has to do with the discovery of GOLD, not OIL.

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THE GREAT GALICIAN INDEXING RACE IS ON

By Stanley Diamond

It's what Galician researchers have been waiting for -- news of the next phase of the Jewish Records Indexing - Poland / AGAD Archives project. We are pleased to make that announcement now but it may not be what you were expecting!

With the enthusiastic support of the AGAD Archives branch of the Polish State Archives, JRI-Poland is launching a unique competition, the 'Great Galician Indexing Race.'

First, some background:

There are 2010 Jewish vital record registers for 90 towns in the AGAD Archives. The indexing of the records for the thirteen towns in Phase 1 (Tarnopol Area) is expected to be complete by the end of April 2001.

Initially, the plan was to index the records on an area by area basis. However, many researchers have approached JRI-Poland with a specific interest in one or more towns and some have volunteered to become Town Leaders for the fundraising needed.

In addition, past experience indicates that there will be towns for which there will be fewer researchers to support the indexing efforts, and therefore, raising funds to index the records for these towns will take much longer. Under 'area by area' indexing, these records would be left hanging, perhaps for an extended time.

Then, early in January it was learned that AGAD had taken possession of 65 additional registers (from the Warsaw Civil Records Office.) Not only are there later records for 39 towns (see updated table of available records), but for the first time, there are records for the towns of Zavalov (Zawalow) and Ivano Frankovo (Janow). Under the area by area plan, indexing of new registers for completed areas could be indefinitely delayed.

As a result, JRI-Poland sought to develop a system to simplify and expedite the entire AGAD archives project - the Great Galician Indexing Race.

The goal of the Great Galician Indexing Race is to challenge researchers to ensure that their town's records are indexed as soon as possible.

It's simple... indexing of a town's records will start as soon as 75% of the specific fundraising target for that town has been reached. When a town reaches the 50% mark, it will be added to the list of the NEXT towns to be indexed. (See details below as to how this works.)

The fundraising target is an estimate of the cost to

index the town's records, based on a detailed inventory of the available records for the town. The AGAD Archives is participating by preparing these inventories as quickly as possible.

As of March 5th, inventories have been completed for 32 of the 90 towns (includes the 11 towns in Area 1 - Tarnopol) and the years and the number of records available for indexing is detailed in the table below.

JRI-Poland is pleased to announce that Mark Halpern, Archive Coordinator for the initial AGAD project (Tarnopol area #1) has agreed to take on the major task of coordinating the phase 2 "Great Galician Indexing Competition."

If you want to help JRI-Poland get the records for your town indexed, read all about the role of Town Leader and then contact Mark Halpern at Willie46@aol.com. Your name and email address will be inserted beside the Town Name in the table on the AGAD Archives page on the JRI-Poland web site: www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/agad

Town Leaders who successfully lead the fundraising for their town's records will be eligible to receive an Excel file with all the indices to all the records for their town.

Researchers contributing the qualifying donation - or more - will also be eligible to receive the full Excel file for that town. Qualifying donations will be determined (by JRI-Poland and the Archive Coordinator) as a percentage of the fundraising target for each town.

The 'rules' of the competition:

1. A town name will be added to the indexing list after 50% of the funds have been received.
2. Indexing will NOT start on the town until 75% of the funds have been received. If the 75% mark has not been reached and it is that town's turn for indexing, it will be jumped by the next town on the list! It will maintain its second place position but can be jumped each time the town behind it reaches 75%.
3. Large towns for which the fundraising target exceeds \$3000 may be divided into two or more 'indexing units' based on type of record and/or group of years. Each unit will be considered a 'separate town' for the purpose of this competition. The indexing unit will be determined by the Town Leader in consultation with qualifying contributors but indexing will typically start with marriage records - if available.
4. If no town has reached the 75% fundraising mark, JRI-Poland will decide which, if any town, will be next to be indexed.
5. The town's indices will be added to the database once 100% of the funds have been received.

However, the Town Leader and qualifying contributors will have access to Excel file for that town for their own personal research.

So, if you want to see the indices to your town's records, now is the time to volunteer to be Town Leader or, if you wish, just send in your donation. Send your contributions or address your questions concerning donations to:

Jewish Records Indexing, Inc.
c/o Sheila Salo, Treasurer
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Your cheques should indicate the town name for which the money is being donated. If your contribution is not for a specific town, please indicate "general indexing."

Visa contributions may also be telephoned to Sheila Salo. (Only between the hours of 8:00 am - 8:00 pm EDT/EST, please).

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to Jewish Records Indexing - Poland are tax-deductible in the U.S. to the extent permitted by law

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PREPARING YOUR FAMILY RECORDS FOR THE LONDON CONFERENCE

By Roberta Wagner Berman

Bring your family information up-to-date. Go through your stacks of papers, notes and backs of envelopes that have family information written on them that you haven't yet recorded on your family group charts, pedigree charts and/or genealogy software program and record that information.

Once you've done bringing your charts up-to-date study them and decide what information you still need. Keeping in mind the libraries and archives of London, and the books and records that are available, go through your records carefully and decide what you will look for at each research site.

Set a research goal. This can as simple as "I'm going to find grandpa's birth record." You may have more than one goal. Make a to-do list based on your goal or goals and list them in order.

What should you take with you?

1. To-do list.
2. Family information-enough information to recognize your family. Have this in some sort of

order - index cards, fact sheets, pedigree charts, descendant charts, family group sheets - what works best for you.

3. Alphabetical list of surnames and places (with spelling variations) for use in checking indexes. Also code names and places by the Daitch/Mokotov Soundex system.

4. Map of your ancestral town and the surroundings

5. Spiral notebook or legal pad in folder - no loose papers! Keep your research notes separate from the notes you take at lectures. A spiral notebook with two sections is good for this. If you get a notebook that has an envelope or pocket you can use it for the papers that you will be collecting.

6. Magnifying glass, pens, pencils - some archives and libraries don't allow pens be used so always have pencils with you. And erasers.

7. Tape recorders (?) - At most of the conference I have attended, the lectures were taped professionally and the quality was superior to the portable recorder I had with me. At some of the conferences taping by participants was not allowed. However, you may want to bring one anyway. Even professional tape recorders sometimes have problems, and more importantly you may discover a long-lost cousin living in London or attending the conference and you will want to record your conversation

8. Camera and film. You will want to have a pictorial record of the new friends you make at the conference. And don't forget that long-lost cousin you will find.

Recording your information at a research site.-

The first entry (on your legal pad or in your notebook) is the date. Then the name of the research site, followed by the name of the record or book, and the film number, catalogue number, call number, page number, etc. Your notation must include enough information so that anyone else looking at your notes will be able to go directly to your source and find exactly what you found. If you keep your research notes in an orderly fashion, they can go directly into your research log when you get home. Some people bring the last two or three pages of their research log with them and record their notes directly onto the research log.

Be prepared to put faces to names you have seen in articles, on Jewishgen or have been corresponding with and to meet hundreds of kindred souls and genealogy addicts who want nothing more than to be able to talk genealogy at meals, over a cup of tea, in the lobby, on a bus, and at research sites non-stop from Sunday to Friday.

YOUR MEMORIES, OUR HISTORY - HOME VIDEO AND MOVIES AT SCREENSOUND AUSTRALIA.

ScreenSound Australia, the National Screen and Sound Archive, is collecting Australian home movies. And not just the funny ones!

ScreenSound aims to document the lifestyles, cultures and traditions of all Australians by collecting a representative sample of domestic and amateur film and video. We collect amateur films of events that are important, either to Australia's history, or, the people who shot the film. This can mean anything from Olympic runners to school races, parades, rallies, natural disasters, holidays, ceremonies and celebrations of all kinds.

The scope of home movie making is as limitless as the people who make them. Some are shot on film, some on video. Some are records of special events like weddings, some are scripted like mini-movies, some are made for time-capsules. The wonderful thing about home movies is their ability to show everyday life, just the way it is.

Many people don't realise that ScreenSound also collects contemporary material - we're not just interested in the 'old' films. This is because ScreenSound is itself like a big time-capsule - we need to collect the film and video today, so that it will be preserved for tomorrow.

Please help the National Collection of Screen and Sound to be a truly representative one - a collection that will represent the Jewish - Australian community as strongly as any other, and preserve the customs, lifestyles and memories of multicultural Australians for generations to come.

How can you help?

You can donate home movies or videos to the National Collection at ScreenSound Australia, or you can lend us a video to make a copy, if you don't want to part with precious memories.

To make a donation or query, please contact:

Stephanie Boyle,
ScreenSound Australia
McCoy Circuit, Acton ACT 2601
(GPO Box 2002, Canberra 2601)
Tel: 02 6248 2178,
Fax: 02 6248 2167,
Email: stephanie.boyle@screensound.gov.au

We will accept reverse charge calls, and can cover postage or freight charges.

If you are dropping us a line, please include your name and contact details, and

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OVER 600 GENEALOGICAL BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The latest word from JewishGen, Inc. is that their new on-line shopping mall found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jewishgenmall> now contains over 600 books. Titles are found in such diverse categories as Genealogy How-To, Dictionaries and Language Study, Holocaust, Passengers, Ports and Ships, as well as Biography/ Memoir and Travel. Under History (including countries and regions) material can be found on almost every country and the mall managers are always searching for more.

To give you an idea of the scope of the mall, when you take a look at Passengers, Ports and Ships you'll find 84 titles. Under Sephardic, there are currently 37 books. Travel, which contains books seldom found on the average bookshelf, presently contains 18 books, including everything from A Travel Guide to Jewish Russia and Ukraine to United States Jewish Travel Guide.

Thinking about brushing up on your Hebrew or even learning Yiddish? Take a look at Dictionaries and Language Study. You'll find lots of options. If you prefer, you can learn via a CD-Rom. Just click on Software. While you're there, consider using Doro-Tree as your genealogical program. It permits the use of Hebrew and Yiddish unlike any other family tree program. Your purchases support JewishGen so they can continue to support your research efforts.

*Sandy and Don Hirschhorn
Managers, JewishGen Mall*

NEW BOOK IN OUR LIBRARY

THE BOOK OF DESTINY, TOLEDOT CHARLAP by Arthur F. Menton, published in Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. in 1996, and its companion *ANCILLA TO TOLEDOT CHARLAP* also by Arthur Menton, published in 1999 in the same place, are large books of genealogical information with Family trees, photos, charts, and Family stories about a large group of connected families with a claim of descending from King David. These families are mainly from the Pale of Settlement, Lithuania, Byelorussia, and Ukraine, and many emigrated to USA, Canada or Israel, but also some like Talia Goldberg and Nate Zusman live in Sydney. Originally descended from Charlap there are also other large clans represented - Adler, Atlas, Beinisch, Bekier, Berkovitz, Blumberg, Braun/Brown, Budovitch, Cohen, Danovitz, Fefferkrantz, Sier, the Rudzakis in South Caulfield, Pasternak, Smolarczyk, Weinstein, and many many others. A treasure trove if your family is connected.

Donated to the Society Library in Sydney by Sophie Caplan

REPORT FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

By Helen Twersky-Steiner

On Tuesday May 1st, members met at the home of our President, Marjorie Luno.

The Guest Speaker was Catherine Freriks, the Tracing Officer for the Australian Red Cross (S.A.). She is the sole officer in South Australia and has been involved with the Red Cross for thirty years.

In discussing the Red Cross Tracing Service, she explained their brief is to re-establish contact between relatives separated as a result of war, internal conflict or natural disaster. It does not however, include genealogical research. In South Australia there are some 400 open files. Their legal base is Geneva. They have no real government authority but are under the governance of International Humanitarian Law.

Catherine then continued with an outline of the history of the Red Cross, pointing out it came into being in 1859 at the Battle of Solferino when Jean Henri Durant a Swiss humanitarian, witnessed nearly 40,000 casualties. The International Red Cross was officially formed in 1863.

In 1870 at the time of the Franco/Prussian War, one thousand letters per day were transferred. During World War I, the Red Cross Tracing Service, formerly only military, became military and civilian and held over 7 million files. The emphasis is now on Afghanistan.

There are about 175 nations affiliated with the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Magen David Adom is not affiliated because of its refusal to change its logo to the Red Cross. Although the Red Crescent of the Moslem Countries and the Red Lion of Iran are acceptable in lieu of the Red Cross logo.

The Red Cross operates by transmitting messages between countries. It had databases formed in World War II, - Ruanda, Occupied Territories/West Bank and Yugoslavia are now included. There are certain difficulties - sometimes the method of identification is a 'Book of bodies' or people may have changed their name.

The International Tracing Service started in 1946. The cost of transfer to West Germany was met by the West German Government. There are times when compromise has to be made to be able to stay in a country, e.g. Iraq.

Access to prisoners of war is different from other individuals, and the Red Cross ensures that they do not influenced refugee status of individuals.

*Enquiries should be addressed to :
The South Australian Branch contact is :
Marjorie Luno, President ,
AJGS (S.A. Branch), c/- Beit Shalom Synagogue,
P.O. Box 47, Stepney. SA 5069*

GENEALOGICAL SOFTWARE

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- a particularly good catalogue. They can be contacted at:

P O Box 126, Gumeracha, SA
5233
(08) 8389-1611
orders@gould.com.au
www.gould.com.au

- Computer shops such as Harvey Norman (preferably the larger shops) and Electronics Boutique. They tend to stock a limited range which includes both high quality titles and very basic packages not really worth considering. I doubt whether the average computer shop would have the knowledge and ability to offer good advice. Their prices are often quite competitive and they are worthwhile considering **after** you have reviewed your choices.
- Small dealers such as Phil Young at Ancestral Computer Co in Glebe (9692-9322) and the SAG shop in Kent Street in the city (9247-3953). They often able to offer informed and meaningful advice.
- The Internet and particularly Cyndi's List (at www.cyndislist.com/) is the best source of both information and systems. Cyndi's List is an unbelievable structured site containing over 90,000 links arranged under titles such as:
 - Census Tools & Information
 - Citing Sources
 - Jewish
 - Immigration & Naturalisation.

(Phillip Baynash recently retired as our membership chairman after several years. His knowledge of computers and the internet is profound. Ed.)

Memories, History and Home Videos

(continued from page 10)

- What is the format of your donation (e.g. 8mm film? VHS?) How many reels/cassettes?
- When and where was it shot? Who is in it?
- What is the condition of the material (Have you viewed it lately?)

For more information on-ScreenSound Australia, check our website:

[Http://www.screensound.gov.au](http://www.screensound.gov.au)

USING THE ELLIS ISLAND DATABASE FROM AUSTRALIA

By Stephen Mednick

I thought I'd post details of my experiences using the new Ellis Island Database.

First of all, one needs to be very, very patient in trying to get into the system. Be prepared to see a screen that says:

Thank you for your interest in the American Family Immigration History Center at ellislandrecords.org

Due to an extraordinary number of visitors, we must limit access to the site.

Please keep trying, or check back later.

Don't despair, simply click the "Back" button on your browser and retry. The experience is not unlike trying to speed-dial into a radio station to try and win a prize. However, I think I'm a bit more fortunate than most, given that I'm here in Australia and 14 hours ahead of NY. My attempts to access the database were more successful around 7.00-8.00pm Sydney time which is around 5.00-6.00 am NY time.

I was interested in finding any MEDNICKs that might have gone from Kamenets-Podolski (or surrounds) in Ukraine to the USA. For my first attempt I entered the name MEDNICK and when I finally did a get response back I was a bit despondent in that I only got 8 "hits"! I figured there had to be something wrong here as there are far more MEDNICKs in the US than I could ever imagine. By the way, when you do eventually get a response, the system brings up "Exact Matches", "Close Matches" and "Alternate spellings" for the name you entered. When I entered "MEDNICK" I got no "alternate spellings" and 4 "close matches".

I then tried an alternate spelling of the name and entered "MIEDN". This was a bit more successful, I got no "exact matches" but I did get 33 "close matches" and 4 "alternate spellings". For all the names that came back I did a screen print to print out the page.

My next attempt was to use the spelling of "MEDNIK". This one really did the trick and I got 173 "exact matches" and 31 "close matches". Painfully I did a screen print of the names that appeared on each of the pages that I scrolled through.

One entry caught my eye and that was for a "Schaje MEDNIK" which gave a residence of "Kam Podolski, Russia". The entry said he arrived in 1904 aged 28. Clicking on the passenger record for this person gave me all his details including the fact that he

(Continued in the next column)



FOREBEARS

AUSTRALIAN FAMILY FINDER

00086 RODERICK CORRIE, L.M.B. 24, MATRAVILLE, 2036 N.S.W., seeking information on children of Louis or Lewis and Mary COHEN of Tasmania, Albert Henry COHEN (1832-1934), William L. COHEN of Bellevue Hill Sydney, Mrs Lewis JACOBS (Melb.), Mrs Meyer RINTEL (Melb.), Mrs Lionel J. RODD (Sydney?), Mrs Phillip FRANKEL (Brisbane), and possibly another son, E.G. MADDOX COHEN, and their descendants.

00087 RUDY PHILLIP <PHILLIPP@YORKU.CA> seeking childhood friend of wife EVA, from provincial Hungary, later Neufchatel, Switzerland, born KLARI KELEDI, now 69 years old, who speaks Hungarian, English, French and German. She came to Australia circa 1950 and had an older sister

00088 SALLY S. MANN, Editor *Morashah*, JGS Illinois, P.O.Box 515, Northbrook, IL 600065 - 0515, USA seeks relatives named CUKIERBRAUN or ZUKIERBRAUN (= brown sugar) who came to Australia from Poland, or their descendants.

Using the Ellis Island Database from Australia

(Continued from previous column)

was married and the name of the ship he arrived on and the port from where the ship departed. At this point you can also click on the "ship" entry and you'll get the full history of the ship your ancestor arrived on along with a photo if one is available.

So, after much frustration, I did manage to navigate the system. The only mystery remaining for me now is where are the details of the Schaje MEDNIK's family? Did he arrive on his own and his family follow on later? If so, how come I didn't see any entries that seemed to match his family.

Anyway, I wish everyone good luck with their research using the database and my advice is be patient and persevere!

Stephen Mednick
smednick@css.au.com

Researching:
MEDNICK (Kalius, UKR & London, ENG)
SACHS/SACKS (Kalius, UKR & London, ENG)

(N.B. The digitized records will only cover the period from January 1892 to December 1924 and will include only about 71% of the passenger arrivals during that period. Plans call for a future expansion of the project to include additional passenger years and records. Gary Luke)