



# The Kosher Koala

Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rieke Nash

The latest 2001 Australian Census figures indicate that 42% of Australians "use a computer at home". Since the proportion using email must be less than this, it is very impressive that out of our membership of 155, 79% have email. We have all experienced the value of the Internet for our research and this statistic is not unusual in genealogical circles. The added benefit for the Society is that we are now able to contact most of our members economically by email. Please let us know when you are on-line.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics also announced that about half the population agreed that their Census information could be microfilmed and available in one hundred years' time for researchers and descendants. In the past all forms were destroyed. This is a victory for the genealogists, including Nick Vine Hall, who worked hard to have the census information retained.

Census data published in the Australian Jewish News indicated that 0.44% (83,993) of the population stated their religion as "Judaism", a statistic that is usually an under-estimate of the Jewish community for various reasons. The actual figure is probably over 100,000. For example the figure for Perth gives the Jewish population as 4871 whereas local sources believe it is closer to 6000.

For those with an interest in genealogy it is not surprising to see the range of birthplaces given for the Jewish community. (See the Table on page 9) For our members to research their ancestral roots, our library has a wide geographical range of resources.

The Jewish News article shows that the numbers born in England, Austria, Poland, Germany, Hungary and Russia have decreased since the 1996 census (as would be expected with the ageing of the post-war migrants) while the increase in the migrants of South African origin indicates that the Society should be stocking up on resources for Lithuania.

On a personal note, Peter and I were in the UK for their 2001 Census but, sadly our B&B in Kew didn't list us on their form!

A Happy and Prosperous New Year from us all.

לשנה טובה

Rieke Nash  
President

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## EDITORIAL

By Miriam Shifreen

Great news for our Newsletter! Sallyann Sack, Editor of the prestigious magazine *Avotaynu* saw the first episode of Peter Nash's article in the June KK and has requested permission to print Peter's three articles in the summer edition. Congratulations Peter, and thank you for offering this series to us first, so that the *Kosher Koala* can share your triumph.

Peter's second instalment *Who was Marion's Elusive Grandfather?* appears in this issue and all will be finally revealed in December proving Peter's statement, *When you throw a pebble into a pond, you can never know where the ripples will flow.*

In a recent edition of the Australian Jewish News, Ms Tracey Segel, writer of family histories, is quoted as saying: *Everyone has a story, no matter how ordinary or extra-ordinary a person may feel their life to be. These stories are what makes you who you are and where you come from. They are valuable both to you and your family.*

So how do you start? Perhaps you want to write about the famous or infamous ne'er-do-well in your family, or your favourite aunt, but don't know how to get started, then see Noeline Kyle's *Writing Your Family History*, and I know you'll soon be sending me more fascinating stories than I've room to print.

For those of you with Australian ancestry, Gary Luke has information on the *Great Synagogue Records At The Mitchell Library*. For those whose forebears came from England, Laurence Harris, tells us about a project to electronically record information about the UK Jewish communities from the mid-17th Century. Petra Laidlaw is gathering information about Jewish people whose names appear in the 1851 United Kingdom Census and Kathryn Michael is looking for Levys in the 1881 U.K. Census. Here's your chance to become involved in one of these projects.

This month in *Who's Who Around Australia* we are starting with the President and Vice President of the Victorian Society and our stalwart and hardworking State and group representatives.

לשנה טובה

May this New Year bring success in your research.

Miriam Shifreen

Editor

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## NAVIGATING BERLIN RESOURCES TO SOLVE A FAMILY PUZZLE (Part 2)

### *Who was Marion's Elusive Grandfather?*

**By Peter Nash**

With the discovery of my cousin Marion FISHER née NACHEMSTEIN in London in 1994<sup>1</sup> I began to create a tree for that particular NACHEMSTEIN branch based on the known facts that Marion gave me initially - which was very little. She knew the names of her paternal grandmother (but not her grandfather), her parents and two brothers, all of whom were already deceased, one being an infant and buried in the Weissensee Cemetery in Berlin. The feeling of "where do I start" was with me as I could not just go to a Public Registry Office and request BMD records.

I started by looking more critically at other data already collected for "NACHEMSTEIN", for example, my daughter and son-in-law visited the Weissensee Cemetery in 1992 and found the names of five NACHEMSTEINS buried there, only two of whom I felt I knew exactly who they were.

Fortunately I went to Berlin in 1995 and also to the Weissensee Cemetery which in itself is a remarkable site. It was consecrated in 1880 and has records for 100,000 burials, with a high percentage of tombstones still standing and decipherable - despite the heavy destruction of Berlin by the end of World War 2 in 1945. However, most of the tombstones are only inscribed in German and not additionally in Hebrew depriving an opportunity to confirm the often all-important Hebrew name of the deceased and his or her father.

On the positive side is the availability of the *Beerdigungs-Anmeldung* (Request for Burial) which may contain key information, such as the name of the informant and the relationship to the deceased, also the deceased's date and place of birth, occupation and last known address. Many who make a special visit to the Weissensee are unaware of this additional piece of potential information. Thus I was able to establish that Marion's father Max NACHEMSTEIN was the informant for the burial request for three NACHEMSTEINS (out of the five) for whom I did not know the connection.

Two of these were Max's siblings, one being Joseph (older, who died in 1917) and the other I read as Milli (a younger female sibling who also died in 1917). It was much later that I looked again more carefully at Milli's Registration of Death and Request for Burial and realised I had mis-read the first letter of the name, written in the old Gothic

script which meant the name was actually Willi - a male. I detected this from the given occupation which was "Schneider" (male tailor) and not "Schneiderin" (female tailor). So the Request for Burial helped to correct my initial error.

The third NACHEMSTEIN was Werner Joseph who was Max's infant son and who died in 1920, that is a brother that Marion never knew as he died before she was born.

It is interesting too that the traditional naming pattern following the death of a family member was used, as Werner's middle name was Joseph after his uncle Joseph who died in 1917 just prior to Werner's birth. Max obviously went through a sad period losing two brothers in their 20's and 30's and an infant son.

I also learned from Marion that her father Max had three sisters, Else, Malli and Nanny. So within a relatively short time I built up Marion's family tree - and without even looking at vital records, which in any case is extremely difficult, if not impossible in Germany for records less than 120 years old as they are covered by their *Datenschutz* (privacy law).

But all the time I was trying to find the answer to: who was Marion's grandfather?

In 1996 we began subscribing to the JewishGen Discussion Group and I picked up on a message that highlighted a Berlin based professional research firm, named PROGENEA (email: [progenea@aol.com](mailto:progenea@aol.com)). I always considered only ever using to-pay-for genealogy services as an absolute last resort. So I filed the contact details for PROGENEA.

Then in 1997, prompted by an article on the German-Jewish records held by the Mormons, I requested and scanned a micro-film at a local LDS Centre for my ancestral town of Lessen, formerly in West Prussia but now called Lasin in Poland. This film was difficult to interpret: there was no index, some writing (German) was illegible and the left and right hand sides of the original register were not on one frame nor were they consecutively filmed together. But to my surprised delight I found the birth of my great-grandfather Leiser NACHEMSTEIN together with the names of five siblings: Wolf Levin, Nathan, Rahel, Salomon and Hana - so three brothers and two sisters. I also now had the names of their parents - my great-great grandparents Isaak and Marie née SCHIER. It was a great thrill for me taking my lineage back to about 1810. I knew all about Nathan's family but nothing about the others<sup>2</sup>. But I also knew there was a sixth sibling Joseph because his tombstone at the



Weissensee luckily did have his father's Hebrew name, namely Izhak<sup>3</sup>.

So I narrowed the name of Marion's grandfather down to a choice between Wolf Levin and Salomon.

After going down several blind alleys I decided in 2000 to put my search dilemma to PROGENEA adding that I would like to know what costs would be incurred. Very soon I got a reply with a counter query. Next I was fed twelve names of Nachemsteins who had at some time lived in Berlin together with a date and place of birth. This unexpected response both delighted me - especially as two names were 'new' - and puzzled me, as my name and those of my parents were not among the twelve names. Marion's name was on the list but not her brother. I also did not get any clue as to Marion's grandfather's name, which was my objective. No mention was made of any costs to be incurred.

Later I learned that a lot of PROGENEA's information came from the files of the Offices of the *Oberfinanz Präsident* (OFP) which recorded the Nazi victim's assets prior to deportation to the camps. I queried PROGENEA on the two unfamiliar names and after further email exchanges soon worked out the connection with one of them from other documentation that I had not looked at for a long time. The other name was Marie GABRIEL née Nachemstein born 1883 in Lessen! I wondered if this could be Max's sister Malli, the name given to me by Marion - after all, errors are common or perhaps Malli was a nickname.

I decided to ask PROGENEA further about Marie Gabriel (hoping for a clue to her father's name) and was told she died in December 1928 and that her husband's name was Abraham. Brief answers - but to the point! I thought she was probably buried in the Weissensee and so I faxed the *Centrum Judaicum* in Berlin knowing they have a film of all the burials at Weissensee. They in turn sent me a copy of the Request for Burial which confirmed that the informant was her husband Abraham (not her father) and an address which I confirmed as current in the reproduced 1931 Edition of the Berlin Jewish Addressbook<sup>4</sup>. I also found from the Berlin *Gedenkbuch* (Memorial Book of Holocaust Victims)<sup>1</sup> that Abraham was deported to Minsk where he died in 1942.

I put to PROGENEA the thought "I wonder if Abraham and Marie Gabriel had children". I quickly got a response suggesting I should write to a Probate Office in Berlin as there was a 1928 Will for Marie and Abraham Gabriel with a given File Number. I really marvelled at the access to

information from PROGENEA - and all without cost. I used a solicitor friend in Berlin to get a copy of the Will. I thought surely this would ensure my getting a copy of the Will - but to no avail as Germany's Datenschutz (privacy laws) only allow access if there is a possible direct descendant's claim to an Estate or for Restitution on the grounds of Nazi War Crimes.

I also wrote to the *Landesverwaltungsamt Berlin* (United Restitution Office) asking them if they would forward a letter from me to any of Abraham's heirs in case a claim for restitution against the Nazi actions was made by any of their children. I had been successful earlier in tracing another descendant of a relative with the help of this Restitution Office. The response suggested I write a letter - in English, so 'reading between the lines' it was 'positive' that a descendant existed and apparently in an English speaking country. But I never got a response from any descendants, leaving me wondering if the descendant emigrated to England - or of course to the United States, Australia, etc.

And the name of Marion's grandfather that would confirm our true connection ...that still eluded me.

#### Endnotes :

1. see author's article in *Kosher Koala* Vol 9 No. 2, June 2002
2. *ibid* Vol 4 No.2, June 1997 - how I found Nathan's family
3. *ibid* Vol 1 No.3 August 1994 - finding Joseph and his family
4. *Jüdisches Adressbuch für Gross-Berlin*, Ausgabe 1931, Publisher: arani-Verlag GmbH, Berlin 1994: ISBN 3-7605-8653-8

#### Contact Addresses :

Weissensee Cemetery: Friedhofsverwaltung, Jüdische Gemeinde zu Berlin, Herbert-Baum-Strasse 45, 13088 Berlin, Germany

Centrum Judaicum: Oranienburger Strasse 28/30, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Probate Office Berlin: Amtsgericht Berlin-Mitte, Nachlassabteilung, Littenstr. 11-17, 10179 Berlin, Germany

General Restitution Office: Landesverwaltungsamt Berlin, Abteilung III, Entschädigungsbehörde, Potsdamer Strasse 186, 10783 Berlin, Germany

*Peter Nash (formerly Nachemstein), is a child Holocaust survivor from Berlin and found refuge in Shanghai from 1939 to 1949. He is a founding member of the Society and has researched widely the available resources for tracing the former Jewish communities of China.*

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## WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

By Noeline Kyle

We all - well, most of us - dream of writing our family history and having it published one day. For some of us, the second part of the dream will remain just that - a dream. But that doesn't mean that we don't write our family history. It does not have to be in book form. After all, in fiction we have novels and we have short stories. So here are a few tips to get you started.

### Beginning writing.

How do we start? Good question! Sometimes we just have to put pen to paper or hands to the keyboard. We can join a creative writing group, go to workshops/seminars, and share writing with colleagues. But in the end we have to write. And rewrite, and rewrite. Writing is hard work.

### Writing Your Life Story:

Have you started to write your life story yet? Look at some of the family histories in your local library. Look at the covers, paper, size, illustrations etc. and the printing quality. Look at books on self-publishing which are usually in your local libraries e.g. - *Publish it Yourself* by John Stacpoole, and *Self Publishing Made Simple - the Ultimate Australian guide* by Euan Mitchell are the recommended ones.

You still can't work out how to or where to start your book? Forget the book. Write some short stories about various members of the family. These can later be amalgamated into your book. Here are some exercises my group recently tackled.

\* Write a page or two about a favourite ancestor in your family. Answering these questions might help you arrange your ideas.

Where did you meet your character? Did you always know about this person through family memory or did you find him/her through family research?

Why is this person important to you? Is it a grandparent you remember with fondness, a woman who battled specific odds, man/woman who was famous or someone who simply captures your imagination in some other way from the long past?

We almost always know something about what a personality in our family history looked like, even if only through our imagination. But try to imagine what they thought about, what their attitudes to life/work/relationships/hopes/dreams were and include these also.

\* Write about a problem ancestor. We all have these - we can't find their birth/marriage/death

record, they changed their name, they 'swam' to Australia.

\* Try to imagine the *childhood* of one or more of your ancestors. There are books on childhood in Australia and Europe and even medieval times - consult your local library and research their times. If this is too daunting, write about your own childhood from your child's eye. Very few books have been written about children, by children, who often have a very different view of the world to that of adults. What did you think of the world around when you were small?

\* If you have a convict ancestor, write his/her story - what was the crime, what was the punishment, what was their life like once they arrived in Australia and if they became free, after their release? What do you think contemporary society thought of their history? What do you think of it?

### Updating Our Writing:

How do we do this as we find new information? Well, there is no easy answer to that one. However, if we plan beforehand what it is we are writing, if we have a deadline or a cut off point ... then the updates might become more manageable. Another point here - we can never write everything there is to know about our family or the people in it. You are the writer. You set the limits (either through dates, time, geography, themes) and the task becomes more manageable.

### Editing:

What is it and how do we go about it? We can pay an editor to look at our work, ask a valued colleague/friend to read it, and/or we can re-read or re-write our work. One good preliminary way to check if it sounds interesting/sensible is to read it out loud - not just silently to yourself but aloud, to yourself or to an audience of family/friends. This way you can pick up on things you may have left out which are maybe better put in, and repetitions become obvious.

If you negotiate for someone to read your work, you should be careful to ask them what they can do and also ensure you tell them what you want them to do. Do you want proof reading for grammar, punctuation, consistency? Do you want them to look further at style, storyline, characters, historical accuracy, tense/form, referencing, bibliography, indexing, only parts of the book, paragraphs/ sentence structure, etc ... ? Do you want them to judge your writing and your history? Do you want an editor or a manuscript assessor?

If you have access to the Internet, there are various sites you can browse to give you tips on writing.

(continued on page 10)



## GREAT SYNAGOGUE RECORDS AT THE MITCHELL LIBRARY

By Gary Luke

The Mitchell Library holds a large collection of records of the early Synagogues of central Sydney. The registers of births, deaths and marriages have been microfilmed, and are available at the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Most of the registers of vital events up to about the early 1870s were used as the source for the official NSW Registry Office certificates, and are indexed on fiche and the "Pioneers" CD. A large number of entries in the indexes are incorrect, so it is worthwhile checking the films of the original registers.

A number of other records and registers among the collection have information which can give clues about an ancestor's involvement with the Synagogue. Among these are seat applications, building fund subscriptions, Pesach matzoh orders, and copy letter books. The following listing and description of a few of the items was compiled while looking for traces of my Steenbhom ancestors and mishpocha, who arrived here in the 1850s.

A complete list of the collection is available at the Mitchell Library, but their descriptions are a bit brief, and do not always include all the separate record types within a single register.

These records can only be viewed with written permission from the Great Synagogue. The general catalogue number is MSS 3740, followed by a box number. For many of the records which have been microfilmed, the library has a card index to look up the film number for a particular box. In the following descriptions film numbers have been included in the reference where they exist.

### York Street Synagogue

- *Building Fund Subscriptions ~ 1841 [Box 97]*

*Notes:* Names and amounts, both pledged and paid. A few pages are groups from Hobart Town, Launceston & Goulburn. At the end of the book are four lists of recipients of notices to pay, with date.

- *Seat Applications ~*

1846, 1854-56 [Box 87; Film CY4145, Items 1&3]  
1863-66 [Box 88x; Film CY4145, Items 1-3]

*Notes:* Both books have indexes. First book has hand ruled pages with date of application, cost, seat location, and special notes (eg. "Mrs Tolano wants seat next to Mrs Phillips".) Second book has (1) committee decision about a fixed application form and prices, (2) index, & (3) application forms.

- *Cash Book ~ 1844-46, 1858-60 [Box 97]*  
*Expenses ~ 21 Oct 1844 to 10 Sep 1846*

*Notes:* Name, purpose, & amount paid out.

*Offerings in Memory of Victims of the Dunbar*

*Notes:* Two pages, names without amounts.

*Revenue ~ 1 Oct 1858 to Jan 1860*

*Notes:* Name, purpose, & amount paid - offerings, fines, seat rental, charges for ceremonies and registration of births, burials, & marriages. (Continued to 1864 in next item.)

- *Cash Receipts Book, 1858-64 [Box 98]*  
*Contributions for Repose of Souls ~ 1860-61*  
*Notes:* Two pages, memorial offerings.

*Refusal of Mitzvot and Fines ~ 1857-58*

*Notes:* Two pages, list of non-attendance when called up for reading on Shabbat, etc, dates & amount of fine.

*Revenue ~ 4 Feb 1860 to Dec 1864*

*Notes:* Continued from Revenue 1858-60.

- *Offerings Book ~ 1850s [Box 82]*

*Notes:* "Book" of light card pages, about 6"x 6"x ½" thick. Pages have punched holes in a grid. Names are written down the left side of the grid, (alphabetical index tabs). Amounts and organisations are marked at the top of the grid. Writing is not allowed on Shabbat, so when a donation was offered, a piece of string was tied through the holes to mark the amount offered, and sometimes the purpose. Amounts range in steps from a half crown to five guineas. Organisations were the Orphan Society, Philanthropic Society, Hebrew School, Sabbath School, & Dorcas Society.

- *Correspondence ~*

1846-1859 [Box 102, Film CY4090, Item 1]

1859-1860 [Box 104, Film CY4090, Item 3]

1860-1865 [Box 105, Film CY4091, Item 2]

1865-1871 [Box 108, Film CY4097, Item 1]

*Notes:* Copy book of outwards letters. All have indexes at the front.

### Macquarie Street Synagogue

The first two items are both in one book [Box 97]

- *Offerings Book ~ 17 Sep 1860 to 3 Jun 1865*

*Notes:* Names and amounts offered during services, with date & Pasha.

- *Barmitzvah ~ 11 Aug 1860 to 14 Jun 1870*

*Notes:* At end of book. Name, date, Pasha, & comment about reading ability, for 36 boys.

- *Subscribers ~ March 1865 [Box 97]*

*Notes:* Small forms stuck in a book, showing name, address & subscription amount.



## Great Synagogue

*Pesach Orders, Country & Intercolonial ~ 1892-95*

*Pesach Orders, Sydney and Country ~ 1897-1902*

*1892-95 [Box 97], 1897-1902 [Box 98] Notes:*

Names, addresses & quantities of goods ordered - matzoh, meal, cakes, almonds. The 1897-1902

book is mainly Sydney. A couple of years have a separate list of cash sales, with names & amounts.

*Student Attendance ~ 1922-24 [Box 98]*

*Notes:* Attendance of children at weekly classes, showing amount charged for each attendance. Includes annual trial balance.

After perusing all the above what did I discover about my family? Mainly trivia that helps to build a character portrait, along with a couple of minor informative items.

Aaron Steenbhom paid for seat rental for a year in advance on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1859. This has now become the earliest documented event of his life in Australia. He applied on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1859 to be married to Miss Rachel Symons, and was sent a reply the next day that the necessary arrangements will be made. He donated £1/10/- on the 12<sup>th</sup> November, and on the next day paid fees for his marriage ceremony (£2/2/-), the Ketuba (£1/1/-), and registration (5/-). He was married on the 16<sup>th</sup>. His name appears last in the "S" section in the offerings book with the punched holes, but from other records I don't think he was a regular Synagogue goer.

In mid March 1862 he complained about the quality of manufacture of matzohs. The board of management asked other members, and replied in April that no-one else found them unsatisfactory.

In July he was advised that he should pay for his seats or use the free seats at the western end of the Synagogue. In September 1866 he was further advised that, due to the irregularity of his payments, his seat is considered vacant. A new seat will not be allocated unless 50% in advance is received, as well as a portion of the £8/6/- still owing. In 1897 he purchased 5/10d worth of Pesach goods for cash.

In later letters of the Great Synagogue, Solomon, Aaron's eldest son, resigned from being the paid auditor of the Great Synagogue in 1912, and owed £18/3/6 for seats in September 1914. Aaron and Miriam Steenbhom attended classes irregularly between July and November 1923. They were daughters of Jacob, Aaron's second youngest son.

*Gary Luke is hoping to discover why his great-great-grandmother received 5 - a week from the Jewish Philanthropic Society before mid-1860, when she had £200.*

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## HISTORIC AND GENEALOGICAL RECORDS OF UK JEWISH COMMUNITIES (JCR-UK) PROJECT

The aim of the Jewish Communities and Records UK (JCR-UK) project is to record, in electronic format, genealogical and other historical information about the UK Jewish Communities from the mid 17th-Century to the present day, and to make this information freely available via the Internet. The project will develop an integrated searchable database using records from a variety of sources including:

- Birth, circumcision, marriage and burial records.
- Synagogue membership lists
- School pupil lists
- Trade directories
- Immigration records
- Jewish Charity records (including donation lists)
- Newspaper records.

The database is expected to cover about 500 Jewish communities, many of which, unfortunately, do not exist any more.

We shall be working closely with a number of UK archives and Jewish Communal organisations to identify relevant sources of data. The records will be indexed, and where appropriate transcribed or captured as digital images.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain will be responsible for co-ordinating the data gathering, indexing and transcription of the records. JewishGen will provide the technical infrastructure and know-how for the project.

The first phase of this project will be the launch of JCR-UK Discussion Group, a free e-mail based discussion forum for those researching their Jewish ancestors who lived in the UK, and for those interested in a particular UK Jewish community or congregation. We shall be discussing records available in the UK and research techniques, sharing information and answering questions. To join this discussion group use the Special Interest Group sign-up page at

<http://www.jewishgen.org/listserv/sigs.htm>

and look for United Kingdom: Jewish Communities and Records.

The second phase will be a website and the release of the first batch of records into the searchable database, which is expected to occur in Autumn/Winter 2002. John Berman, formulated the idea and is the JCR-UK project manager.

[enquiries@jgsgb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@jgsgb.org.uk) and [www.jgsgb.org.uk](http://www.jgsgb.org.uk)

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## JEWES IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 1851

By Petra Laidlaw

Have you researched anyone who was living in Great Britain in 1851? If so, they would qualify for inclusion in a major database project, and I would like to hear from you.

The project seeks to record as much as possible about the lives of as many as possible of the Jews living in England, Wales and Scotland in 1851. It has been estimated that there were 30-35,000 living there at the time, and the database has already captured details on some 10 per cent of that number. Although complete coverage must be unattainable, the higher the numbers the more representative the sample is likely to be – and the more worthwhile for others to search.

### *Purposes of the database*

As this implies, the database has two main purposes and two main audiences, and it is structured accordingly. The first is demographic and social-historical. In time the database ought to be able to tell us a great deal about the living patterns of mid-19th century Anglo-Jewry – migration patterns, occupational advancement, family size, mortality, adherence to or attrition from the Jewish faith, and much more.

The second purpose is genealogical. As it grows, the database will become more and more useful for anyone researching Jews who were living in mid-19th century Britain. They should be able to find out who each person's parents were, their spouse(s) and children, their occupations, addresses, where they were buried, and more.

The one qualification for inclusion in the database is that the subject must have been living in Great Britain in 1851. They might already then be 90 years old, or only nine days. The details collected on them may therefore stretch right back into the 18th century, or well forward into the 20th.

Why then the insistence on 1851? It is partly a question of manageability. The total number of Jews in Britain in the mid-19th century – the 30-35,000 figure quoted above – is much easier to handle than the number at the end of the century, which was of the order of 250,000. Given that so many, in either generation, had identical names, similar occupations and similar addresses, it is important to use a clear reference point like a census to avoid double-counting; and the 1851 census was the first to be reasonably reliable and detailed.

Manageability apart, the mid-century population is historically interesting. Britain in 1851 had seen a

slow trickle of mainly economic-migrant Jews (mainly from Prussia and Western Poland) over the past 150 years; and maybe a couple of hundred joined them each year. The new arrivals, especially in the 18th century, generally had to start at the bottom of the heap. Life was tough, and they had to operate at the margins of society, not infrequently resorting to petty crime. Thus was born the stereotype that Dickens immortalised long after its sell-by date in the character of Fagin.

By the mid-19th century, much of the Jewish population in Britain was second- or even third-generation. They were settled and upwardly mobile, and strongly committed to assimilation. The influx of refugees from persecutions and pogroms in Eastern Europe in the late 19th century stamped a quite different character on Anglo-Jewry, with much more of a mission to preserve their Jewish identity. In time they over-shadowed the earlier migrant communities, but the earlier communities remain of interest in their own right as a study in the rise of migrant fortunes.

1851, moreover, is an interesting date in itself. It was the date of the Great Exhibition, trumpeting the glories of the British Empire. It was also the year in which Henry Mayhew's *London Labour and the London Poor* was first published, waking the conscience of the Victorian middle classes to the shocking conditions in which the majority of the population had to live. It was the year, also, of the unique religious census, which counted churchgoing throughout the country, and synagogue-attendance, on the chosen "census Sabbath". And it was near the high-point of the campaign for Jewish emancipation in Parliament. In short, it offers a very rich context for the study.

### *What data are required?*

The minimum requirement for anyone to be included is their name and address at the time of the 1851 census. This however is only the beginning. The aim of the database is to build up a picture of each such person throughout their lifetimes: where they were born, who their parents were, when they were married, who their children were, where they lived in each decade of their lives, what their occupations were decade by decade, where they worshipped, when they died, how they died and how they were buried.

This sort of picture would be very hard to build up if it were not for the community of family historians who, between them, already have such data to hand on many of the people who qualify for inclusion. So far, nearly 50 genealogists have contributed data on an average of 70 people each. In practice, some of these have given a great wealth



of detail on just a few individuals, and others have given just outline data on many. Some others, wonderfully, have been able to contribute rich data on great numbers of people! Whatever it is that anyone can offer, though, it all builds up.

#### *What will be done with the data?*

Once a contributor's data have been entered in the database, and any queries arising out of that stage resolved, the contributor will receive a print-out to check: accuracy is very important. This is being done in batches, and the first set of contributors' print-outs will be going to them shortly. Once all the necessary amendments have been made – probably about April/May 2003 – summary details on each individual in the database will be posted on the Web, probably on the website of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.

[www.jgsgb.org.uk](http://www.jgsgb.org.uk)

The intention is to make the full database available, for a very modest price, on CD-ROM (or if more appropriate DVD), though that will be rather further down the track. Much more work remains to be done to fill out details on individuals about whom only skeletal data are currently to hand; and if the database is to have demographic validity, it also needs to have a larger sample. The work will concentrate on both of these aims over the next year or so.

Once the sample is large enough – and the underlying data reliable enough – to start drawing broad statistical conclusions, I expect to publish that analysis in hard copy; and, if it is feasible, to make a hard copy version also of the database itself, or certainly its main contents.

#### *How can you contribute?*

One of the things the database is already throwing up is the number of 1851 Jews who later emigrated, be it to Australia, United States, Canada, South Africa or elsewhere. Some contributors based in the UK have been able to supply such data, but most of it has come from contributors in the countries concerned. The grapevine has already supplied some very valuable material from Australians!

The more emigrant data I can get, though, the better, and it is certainly not too late for readers of the *Kosher Koala* to contribute if they have not already done so. If you have data on anyone who was Jewish and living in Great Britain in 1851, please either email me at

[thompsonlaidlaw@aol.com](mailto:thompsonlaidlaw@aol.com),

or write by conventional mail

C/- The Editor, *Kosher Koala*,

P.O. Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595.

I will then send you the form to fill in on each individual, along with instructions.

If you are wondering how *Jewish* is to be defined for these purposes, the answer is, very broadly. It is impossible to know, from this distance, how any of the individuals concerned would have defined themselves, or how others might have seen them. Given, however, that one of the things the demographic analysis is intended to measure, is the rate of attrition from the Jewish faith, I am just as interested in people who were nominally born Jewish but married out or converted to another faith, as in people who clearly maintained their Jewish affiliation throughout their lives.

#### *Access to the data*

I am not in a position at the moment to answer queries from people hoping to look up forebears or other individuals in the database, though as set out above the intention is to publish outline data on the Web within the next year, and fuller details thereafter.

Strict confidentiality protocols will be observed. The identities of contributors will *not* be published on the database itself, though all contributors who consent to this will have their names prominent in a published acknowledgments page. Any contributors who have an interest in an individual about whom another contributor has also submitted data will be put in contact with them, *provided both parties agree*. The level of access that any contributor can agree to will be clarified with them at the time that they are sent a print-out proof to check.

Please get in touch if you can contribute!

*Petra Laidlaw is a member of the JGS of Great Britain.*

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### **President's Report (continued from page 2)**

## **AUSTRALIAN 2001 CENSUS RESULTS**

### **Birthplace of the Jewish Population**

	No.	%
Australia	38,941	46
South Africa	10,472	13
Israel	3,886	5
England	3,885	5
Poland	3,843	4
Russian Federation	2,928	3
Hungary	1,732	2
USA	1,590	2
Germany	1,571	2
New Zealand	786	1
Austria	721	1
Other	13,636	16

(Source: Australian Jewish News)



## MORE ANGLO-JEWISH PROJECTS

By Kathryn Michael

Another member of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, Kathryn Michael, has been compiling some useful databases that should be of interest to members with an Anglo-Jewish background. If you find a relative in the recently published book *The Jewish Victorian*, then let Kathryn know about it.

### 1. An index to the discovery of relatives in the *Jewish Victorian*

The book, *The Jewish Victorian*, compiled by Doreen Berger is a valuable resource if your family was living in the UK between 1871 and 1880. The Jewish press of the time has been indexed and cross-referenced. If your family was in the newspapers for any reason, whether it was a birth, marriage, death announcement or because something happened to them to make them newsworthy, then they will be there. Not only have the names in the book been indexed but you can also, because of the cross-referencing, work out the connections to other families through inter marriage. My indexing is being produced so that we can link up people that are working on the same trees. It is working quite well so far. **Any researcher who finds a relative in this book should contact me.** I will put them in contact with others researching the same family. (AJGS has a copy of the book in the Sydney library).

### 2. LEVY in London 1881 and before

For fifteen years I have been putting off my own LEVY research but, when last year I found a friend of mine that I'd known for over twenty years was a cousin, I decided to start this project. We share the same LEVY ancestor born in 1808 in London. I was from the oldest son and she from the second. Only eight more to go! This is a project to try to sort out the LEVY families that were in London at the time of the 1881 census and before. I have been indexing and cross referencing LEVY births, marriages, Jewish Chronicle, *Jewish Victorian*, 1881 census, etc. I have so far built a collection of over 150 different LEVY trees. For about one hundred of these trees I am in contact with at least one person on the tree, who is, in most cases, the family researcher. There is still a lot of work to do. Obviously when I find information that the researcher doesn't have I update them. Also when I find two or more people researching the same family I put them in contact. As in the case of a lot of UK families, most of these trees now have branches worldwide.

### 3. Spanish & Portuguese Cemetery, Hoop Lane, London NW11

I am in the process of indexing this cemetery that opened in 1897. If somebody were to phone the offices to ask for plot details, they would be given just that. I am also including names, dates, the inscriptions and eventually the Hebrew details. It is a big project and a long way to go. If I know somebody is researching a particular name, when I find such a name I pass on the find. If I find two or more people researching the same name or people I put them in contact.

*Kathryn Michael is a member of the JGS of Great Britain. Her email is [kathryn@michaels99.freemove.co.uk](mailto:kathryn@michaels99.freemove.co.uk)*

**NOTE:** Miriam Pollak, a Sydney member of AJGS has been indexing BMD from the Jewish Chronicle, London from the year 1900. She is currently up to 1906. See Kosher Koala article in September, 2001.

### KINDERTRANSPORT CHILDREN RESCUED BY THE LATE RABBI DR. SOLOMON SCHONFIELD

Retired, Jerusalem-based Rabbi Emanuel Fischer (an ex-kindertransport refugee) is planning to create a complete record of names and dates - including descendants - of the children who were rescued by the late Rabbi Dr. Solomon Schonfield in 1939 in London. It will then be placed in a database.

Emanuel Fischer's aim is to present it to the late Rabbi's children in London as an appreciation. If you were or have information on members of your families and friends who were part of the kindertransports and are willing to and can help out with Rabbi Fischer's quest, the address in Israel is P.O. Box 18279 Jerusalem 91182 Israel

### WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

(continued from page 5)

My web page is

<http://www.writingfamilyhistory.com>

Check also -

The Australian Society of Authors

<http://www.asauthors.org>

The Qld. Writers Centre

<http://www.gwc.asn.au>

The NSW Writers Centre

<http://www.nswwriterscentre.org.au>

as they list manuscript editors and assessors.

*Noeline Kyle is the convenor of the Queensland Family History Society's Writing Group. This article is published with the permission of the writer and editors of the QFHS's Magazine*



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATES

### NSW NEWS

By Rieke Nash

Sunday morning workshops are continuing to be useful for many members who usually solve at least one small research problem from either the Society's resources or through a suggestion from another member. If you can't make Sunday mornings let us know and we will arrange another convenient time.

On Sunday 18 August, Tinny Lenthen, the librarian at the Sydney Jewish Museum informed a large group of members about the holdings of this valuable Holocaust library. Most of our members would benefit from a visit to this reference library which is open during the week and on Sundays.

At this meeting the Society presented Sophie Caplan with an Illuminated Address, a specially created work of art, to commemorate her founding and presidency of this Society. See the photo of the event on the back page. We also gave Sophie a supply of cards with a copy of the work on the front for her personal correspondence. The Victorian group sent a message of appreciation.

In recognition of their contributions to the Society, Sophie and Leslie have received a Life Family Membership. We are also very happy to be able to congratulate Leslie on his 70th Birthday. May he enjoy many more years with his family.

*Enquiries: Australian*

*Jewish Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595*

*Tel: 9427-6075*

*Email: society@ajgs.org.au*

*Website: www.ajgs.org.au*

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### REPORT FROM VICTORIA

By Lionel Sharpe

Les and Sonya Oberman, Enid Yoffa-Elton and Lauren Jaffe from Victoria attended the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Toronto in August. Lauren presented a paper.

At our meeting on Wednesday 10th July at 7.30 pm. Graham Fary, Manager of 'Family Tree Printing' of Maryborough, Victoria, discussed the use of computer programs for the generation of family trees, various formats for presenting data, photo restoration techniques, preparing of poster size photos for displays as well as printing banners almost thirty feet in length.

Itiel Bereson, well known Melbourne educator, historian and writer, will speak on the topic: The

Changing Borders of Eastern Europe: Implications for Genealogists, on Wednesday, 28th August at 7.30 pm. He will give an overview of these changes illustrated with maps and interesting historical stories.

The next meeting after this will be held on Wednesday, 25th September at 7.30 pm where our delegates to the IAJGS conference in Toronto will share their experiences. The next Beginners' Workshop will be held on Sunday 6th October at 2.00 pm. All meetings are held at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre.

The President and Committee of Management of AJGS(Vic) wish our colleagues in other States and territories L'Shanah Tovah and Well over the Fast.

*Enquiries: Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738*

*ajgs@exist.com.au*

*Les Oberman (03)9571 8251*

*oberman@tmxmelb.mhs.oz.au*

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### REPORT FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By Jeanie Susman

On June 25th a group of members and visitors met at the home of the President, Marjorie Luno, to hear our guest speaker, Myer Solomon, tell the fascinating story of his family, in particular his father, Nathan. Nathan arrived in Australia as a young man having been born in Russia. Myer explained that he never knew his date of birth because records were not kept in that part of the country at that time. He became a prominent and successful Jewish businessman in Adelaide in the early part of last century. The account of his life was told in a most interesting and informative way, and all enjoyed the humorous comments which frequently appeared. Obviously, it was a very happy and lively household with a family of five daughters and one son, Myer.

One of our members, Keith Bailey, now tapes the guest speakers, thus establishing a valuable record for the resource and reference collection.

Prior to the talk, as is our practice, a short business meeting was held. A number of issues, which will be addressed in the near future, were raised. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our AGM could not be held earlier in the year. However, it has been organised for August 25th, so will be reported in a future issue of the Kosher Koala.

*The South Australian Branch contact is:*

*Marjorie Luno, President,*

*AJGS (SA), c - Beit Shalom Synagogue,*

*P.O. Box 47, Stepney. S.A. 5069*

*Email to Hon. Secretary: Jeanie Susman*

*E-mail: chatsworth@picknowl.com.au*



## WHO'S WHO AROUND AUSTRALIA

### Why Do I Study My Family History?

By Leslie Oberman, Victorian President

Kaddish: prayer recited in memory of a dead relative. It is not a prayer for the dead, but a promise of the living.

Genealogy: the study and tracing of family histories.

I am an amateur genealogist now in memory of my dead relatives! My grandfather Michael OBERMAN is buried in the cemetery in Rosh Pina in the Upper Galilee in Israel, but where was he, his sister Esther and his father Israel OBERMAN and his mother Batya born?

My great grand-father Israel OBERMAN was married to a Batya/Basha GOLDNER who also is buried in Rosh Pina. We understand she was born in Romania, but, we have no proof of this yet. Israel and Batya had two children Michael and Esther. Israel died and Batya married a Nahum KALISKER who already had three children from his late wife.

I am 75 years of age, my late wife Margaret passed away more than thirteen years ago. I have now been married to Sonya for some 12 years. I have three sons and six grandchildren. Sonya has four daughters and six grandchildren. I am making sure that my children and grandchildren know the history of their families.

In 1949 I was a member of Kibbutz Kfar Hanasi, a kilometre or two from Rosh Pina. Did I bother to research my family at that time? No! The generation who could have given me answers that I am asking today, are no longer living. My father David passed away in 1968. I didn't ask him questions about our family history when he was alive. Now its too late.

#### Lesson: Ask The Questions Now!

Leslie Oberman B.A., F.I.E.S. (Aust. & N.Z.),  
M.I.E.S. (N.A.), F.G.A.A., Amateur Genealogist.  
3/1274 Glen Huntly Road, Carnegie 3163, Victoria,  
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#### Lionel Sharpe – Victorian Secretary

I first began to dabble in genealogy many years ago when my daughter asked for my help with a family tree project for school. She interviewed elderly relatives and we searched the local cemeteries. Over the years I kept adding pieces of information gathered from the personal announcements in the



Jewish press and other sources. It became such an unholy mess that I asked Beverley Davis, then secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Melbourne, to assist. She kindly sorted it all out on her typewriter.

In March 1996 I attended a meeting of the newly formed Victorian Branch of the AJGS where Sophie Caplan had flown down from Sydney to speak about genealogy. I was immediately hooked and at the first AGM the following month, I was elected chairman of the Branch replacing Aubrey Schwarz, the founding chairman.

Little did I realise that over the next few years I would participate in an incorporation of the Branch, the launch of our own newsletter 'Jewish Genealogy Downunder' and attend three international conferences.

In 1999 I was invited to teach Australian Jewish history in the Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University. Thus I have been able to blend the search for ancestry in the context of the growth and development of our Jewish communities.

As Secretary of the AJGS (Vic) I now enjoy answering the many requests for help which I receive from all over the world especially, where families and individuals can be finally reunited.

Lionel Sharpe (03)9523 6738 [ajgs@exist.com.au](mailto:ajgs@exist.com.au)

#### Sylvia Deutsch – Our Canberra, (Australian Capital Territory) Representative

History - any history - has always fascinated me: family history is just one aspect. The child of Holocaust survivors from Czechoslovakia, I see 20th century European history encapsulated in my parents' experiences and memories, from the dying days of the Hapsburg era through to post-World War II immigration to Australia. My father was born in Banska Bystrica (but his father was born in Papa, Hungary) and my mother in Zilina. I am fortunate that my parents have always shared their stories and that they still possess many family photos and artefacts. My mother took my son and myself back to Slovakia four years ago - a moving experience, heavy with family memories.

Thankfully both my parents have recorded their histories, including the Shoah Foundation.

I am not actively doing genealogical research, but I believe it is important to have an AJGS presence in





the national capital. My involvement began through supporting founding president Sophie Caplan in extending the Society's activities beyond Sydney in the mid-1990s, rather than any intense interest on my part, and I have been coordinating AJGS activities in Canberra ever since.

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### **Beulah Gross**

#### **Our Representative on the Central Coast of NSW and a Ten Year Member**

My interest in family history began when I was a child in South Africa. My maternal grandmother would tell me, over and over again, stories about her family and her own life in Lithuania before she emigrated to South Africa. She embellished these stories with photos and postcards which she gave me before she died and which I brought with me when I emigrated to Australia with my husband, Rachi and our two children, Simon and Ruth, in 1975. Many years later, I embarked on researching and writing my maternal family history with my mother and her siblings' help, an activity which took seven years to complete. During this period I found many hitherto unknown family members most of whom I still correspond with and many of whom I have met. I have also updated this with a family newsletter and am planning another one in the near future.

Sophie Caplan and Rieke Nash introduced me to the AJGS in early 1992 and I have been a member ever since. I have been the Central Coast representative for many years but, to my shame, don't do very much as there are not many members up here. However, we have had a couple of interesting workshops at my home and I hope to have more in the future. I have written several articles concerning my genealogical research for Koshers Koala and will probably write more when I can. Due to time and distance constraints it is very difficult attending meetings and seminars but my interest in the organisation remains strong and I am always willing to help with anything where possible.

Last year I had published a Jewish Diabetic Cookbook which took about three years to complete.

I am very active in Rotary as Programme Officer and Youth Services Director and conduct and attend various classes in the local U3A (University of the Third Age). However, my interest in genealogy is very dear to my heart and I'm continually on the lookout for more family contacts and may well embark on my paternal family history one day. I certainly have a lot of material on hand.  
rachi@ozemail.com.au

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### **Marjorie Luno**

#### **President: South Australian Branch**

I have done little in the way of research, mainly because I inherited a great deal that had already been done by others. However on close inspection I began to find errors and things that didn't quite add up. Having been drawn into the Sth Australian branch of AJGS by the then president Hilde Hines (a most diligent researcher) through Koshers Koala I began to find family contacts who were able to fill in gaps and I was able to do the same for others. This opened up a whole new world of pen and Internet friends.



My maternal grandfather Abraham Tobias Boas was the first Rabbi in South Australia. Of Dutch origin his family is well documented in Dutch Records from 17th Century. He arrived in South Australia in 1870 and soon after married Elizabeth Solomon, a descendant of Moss Solomon. Moss was the oldest brother of the notorious Emanuel and Vaiben brothers, transported in 1817 for stealing clothing from a farmer. Moss my great-great-great-grandfather arrived in Sydney from London in 1833. The Solomon family grew to enormous proportions within a couple of generations, often with cousin marrying cousin.

I possess a Solomon family tree prepared in 1976 by my cousin David Krantz of Perth that measures approximately three metres long by one metre wide starting with Solomon Solomon, born London circa 1700.

---

### **Morris S Ochert OAM**

#### **Our Queensland Representative**

Morris has represented us in Queensland for many years. He has carried out considerable research in Jewish genealogy appertaining to Queensland. This is closely associated with the research and writing which he does for the Australian Jewish Historical Society, of which he is a Fellow. He feels that Jewish genealogy and history are completely intertwined. He is greatly assisted by Carol Stirk in an administrative role.

Apart from those activities, Morris is an Honorary Life Member of the Board of the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation, of which he is the Heritage Officer,





and he has been active in the major rejuvenation of that 116-year-old precinct. He has served the Brisbane Chevra Kadisha, the JNF, the UIA, the State Zionist Council and the Friends of the Hebrew University for over a half century.

The Commonwealth Government recently published his book on his experiences at sea in World War II, as a part of their archive on that War.

Morris is a retired Professional Engineer. He and his wife, Miriam, have children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Carol Stirk (née Davis)**  
**Volunteer, Brisbane Branch,**

I was born in London, England and, in 1992, arrived in Brisbane via New Zealand, South Africa and Sydney.

Back in the 1980s, I remember interviewing an aunt and drawing up a rough draft of my mother's family tree. It wasn't until 1997 that I came across this long-forgotten family tree and, with the assistance of computer technology, Brother's Keeper, and my parents, compiled an electronic database. I then emailed a cousin in England and asked him (roped him in?) to speak to our relatives in the UK, who were able to fill in a lot of missing information on my father's side of the family.

I have gone on from there – albeit slowly – by joining the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (AJGS), the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain (JGSGb) and the Queensland Family History Society (QFHS), using the various resources held by these Societies, subscribing to various Jewish genealogical email lists, as well as hiring Charles Tucker (UK) to research the London Synagogue Marriage and Burial records. I have also become a good friend of Morris S Ochert OAM (who lives not far from me), not only assisting him in his position as Brisbane representative of the AJGS, but also typing and editing the many manuscripts he has written, and being the “go-between” when electronic correspondence is required. As a volunteer in this way, I have learned a great deal.

I am unable, however, to obtain any positive documentation about my family's Russian/Polish background and origins and will eventually hire a professional genealogist to research those archives for me. Names and towns of interest are:

**Forstein** (name changed to Foster) Poland,  
London, England  
**Goldchi(C)K**  
Bialystok, Poland, London, England



**Isaacs**

Grodno, Belarus, London, England

**Jacobowitz (name changed to Jacobs)**

Grodno, Belarus, London, England

**Melondovitch (name changed to Davis)**

Vilnius, Lithuania, London, England

**Shamerofski**

Lithuania, London, England

**Sribnik**

Riga, Latvia, London, England

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**DOES YOUR FAMILY TRACE ITS  
ROOTS BACK TO SAFED?**

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**By Diane Shteinman**

If you are interested in reconnecting to your family roots in Safed, Israel now is the time! The Safed Foundation will assist you by searching the city's historical records, including censuses and cemetery records. The services provided by the Safed Foundation are free of charge. Contact by fax: 972-4-682-1221 or by email [binny@safed.found.org.il](mailto:binny@safed.found.org.il) for more information.

Safed (Tsfat, Zfat) – this ancient Galilee city was the most important and influential Centre for Jewish Law and Kabbala in the 16th century. Generations of tzaddikim, mystics, artists, and lovers of nature have found inspiration among the cobblestoned streets, ancient synagogues and mountain views of Safed, leaving an indelible mark on Jewish history and culture.

*Diane Shteinman is a long-standing member of the Society*

A number of former Russian Jewish families had settled in Safed and later emigrated to Australia in the 1920s when economic conditions were hard in Eretz Israel. They settled in Melbourne, Sydney but mostly in Perth.

*Sophie Caplan.OAM*

*Previous President and Editor*

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**JRI-POLAND RECEIVES CASH FROM  
AUSTRALIA...BUT WHO SENT IT?**

Our treasurer received an envelope from Australia with a generous contribution of US dollars in CASH!!! But, there is no return address on the envelope and there was no cover note included. And to make matters more intriguing, the post mark is illegible.

JRI-Poland would naturally like to assign the funds to the town project for which they are intended. So, if you are the generous contributor, please get in touch with me. Of course, you will have to indicate the amount sent as confirmation.

*Stanley Diamond, Project Coordinator,  
Jewish Records Indexing - Poland  
[smsdiamond@aol.com](mailto:smsdiamond@aol.com)*



## Office Bearers of the Society

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Vice-President *David Laufer*  
Treasurer *Gary Luke*  
Secretary *Jeannette Tsoulos*  
Resources Librarian *Jeannette Tsoulos*  
Membership Chairman *David Laufer*  
Minutes Secretary *David Laufer*  
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West Australia Representative *Michelle Urban*

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Web site: [www.ajgs.org.au](http://www.ajgs.org.au)

## 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.

## INTERNATIONAL JGS CONFERENCES

Washington D.C., U.S.A. 2003  
Jerusalem, Israel 2004

Articles and material may be submitted to the Editor at: P.O.Box 42 Lane Cove NSW 1595, Sydney, Australia

Editor [editor@ajgs.org.au](mailto:editor@ajgs.org.au)

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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New South Wales

John Temple

Kevin Walter

United States of America

Esther Adler

Victoria

Dr Oskar Delatycki

Lauren Joffe

Helen Mahemoff

Eric Katz

## Nancy Goodstein-Hilton

from the Church of the Latter Day Saints and author of the CD issued by the IAJGS Records in the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, will explain the process of locating the Jewish Records held in their Family History Library.

**Sunday October 27 at 2 pm at Waverley Library, Denison Street, Bondi Junction**

On Sunday 10 November at 3 pm at the Rev. Katz Library, North Shore Synagogue, Treatts Road, Lindfield. AJGS member

## John Stanhope

will describe the Overseas Resources which are held at the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) in Sydney. John is a volunteer in that library and is very familiar with their holdings.



## Presentation of Illuminated Address to Sophie Caplan by Rieke Nash



### **SOPHIE CAPLAN** **Order of Australia Medal**

**..... a soft feminine centre**

#### **The Pomegranate**

- The pomegranate (*rimmon*) is a popular motif in Israel today but it was recorded in Biblical times. According to a recent Sydney Morning Herald item it was one of seven species of plants that sustained the Israelites in the Holy Land. The foods were figs, dates, olives, grapes, wheat, barley and pomegranates. The pomegranate was an adornment on the hem of the robe of the high priest, Aaron, and decorated the pillars of the Temple. Its significance lies in its numerous seeds and decorative fruit which are associated with good deeds, fertility and life.

“be fruitful and multiply”

What more could a genealogist want?

**..... surrounded by a firm, strong border of significant achievements represented by**

#### **The Trees**

For the love and devotion she has given to her immediate family, to her relatives all over the world and to the ancestors who inspired her love of genealogy

#### **The Books**

For the hundreds (thousands?) of books that she has read, given away and bought for others

#### **The Menorah and Koala, the logo of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society**

For her creation and presidency of the Society

#### **The Rock of Masada**

For her dedication to education and in particular to the founding of Masada College

#### **The Magen David, Lions and Menorah**

For a long time member and historian of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies, and a supporter of Leslie in his time as a leader of the Jewish community

#### **The Globe, the logo of Avotaynu**

For services to the International Review of Jewish Genealogy as a contributing editor and to the International Jewish genealogy world

#### **The Golden Wattle**

A proud Australian