Jewish Genealogy Downunder

Quarterly Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc.

Melbourne, Australia

Vol. 6, No. 4, November 2004

Les Oberman, President, and the Committee of Management of the AJGS (Vic) wish all our members a healthy and peaceful New Year for 2005

Inside this Issue

	Page
Editorial	2
Using the Yad VashemDatabase	3-5
25th Annual IAJGS Conference	5
The London Jewish Chronicle Project	6
The Adult March of the Living Program	7
Genealogical Research in Poland	8
Philip Opas - the Opas-Goodman families	9
People Looking for People	10-11
News from thePublic Records Office	12
The Jewish Historical Society Website	12

The Quarterly Magasine from the Netherlands

The AJGS (Vic) in association with Makor Library have pleasure in inviting you to hear

Simon Italiaander

speak on

Jewish Genealogy in the Netherlands

Simon Italiaander is chairman of the Nederlandse Kring voor Joodse Genealogy (Netherlands Society for Jewish Genealogy). His interest in genealogy dates back to the seventies. In 1987 he became one of the NKvJGs early members. In 2000 he joined the Board as treasurer and in 2003 he was elected chairman. From its start in 1987 the NKvJG has grown to a membership wel of over 500. The majority of members is Dutch but a substantial number of members (approx 75) are from other countries, predominantly the USA and Israel, but also the UK and Australia.
The NKvJG publishes a quarterly magazine called 'Misjpoge' which is widely appreciated and is available at the Makor Library. Once every two years the Society prepares a Family Register for the exclusive perusal of its members. It contains information on all the genealogies and family trees compiled by the members.
In addition the Society issues various genealogical publications which can be ordered both by members and non-members via the NKvJG website www.nljewgen.org.

Thursday, 20th January 2005 at 7.30 pm

at Beth WeizmannJewish Community Centre
306 Hawthorn Rd., South Caulfield, 3162

Members $4.00 Non-members $6.00

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Editorial Policy

We welcome contributions from members which will help others further their research. This might include sharing recent findings or the discovery of interesting resources. The Editor has the right to accept or reject any material submitted or edit as might be appropriate. Material appearing in this newsletter may be reprinted by other newsletters as long as proper attribution is given.

'Jewish Genealogy Downunder' is free to all members of AJGS (Vic) Inc.

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Australian Jewish Genealogy Discussion Group on the net:
http://www.ajgs.org.au (On-Line Forum)

Membership fees:
Individual members $30.00 (add $5.00 for The Kosher Koala)
Family rate: $35.00 (add $5.00 for the Kosher Koala)
Concession: $15.00 (add $5.00 for the Kosher Koala)

New Members

We welcome the following members who joined in the last few months:
Debbie Jurblum, Judi Levron, Kaye Quittner, Maurice Smith.

Editorial

My apologies for the delay in this issue of the newsletter. A computer crash in November and other distractions are a reasonable excuse.

Australian Jewish genealogy has come along way since the foundation of the AJGS 13 years ago. First established in Sydney by Sophie Caplan, branches soon followed in States and Territories even if some branches only consisted of a handful of people. The Kosher Koala, as an Australian newsletter, gave space for reports from the branches thus presenting a national perspective to the world genealogical community.

It was the quality of the people elsewhere in Australia, who made a difference. Victoria, after a few years as a branch, decided to go it alone as a separate incorporated society with its own newsletter, 'Jewish Genealogy Downunder'. Western Australia, agreed to amalgamate with their Jewish Historical Society to form the Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of W.A. Inc. and offer their own newsletter, 'Perth Jewish Roots'. South Australian members are thinking of following W.A. with an amalgamation.

Groups developed in Canberra ACT, Quennsland and Central Coast, but the size of the small communities impaired growth.

Along with the development of these societies came the contribution our members were making to world Jewish databases through volunteer participation with JewishGen projects, as well as cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Local initiatives, include the Rookwood Cemetery Project (NSW), the Victorian and NSW death certificate index now on-line, and the indexing on CD of local family trees collected over the years. The estabishment of an Australian Jewish Genealogy Discussion Group by Gary Luke in NSW has facilitated Australian ancestral research worldwide.

All this was a good excuse for a Bar Mitzvah celebration which was held at the North Shore Synagogue on 13th November. Following the orthodox Shabbat service ,Victorian members, Les and Sonya Oberman, Gilda and Russell Feldman and Lionel Sharpe enjoyed meeting some sixty members and friends who gathered for the luncheon which followed.

Lionel Sharpe (Editor)

Using the Yad Vashem Database

By Lionel Sharpe

November 22nd was a significant day for Jewish genealogists when Yad Vashem made available the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names on the internet. This database provides information about more than three million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. To view it open: <http://www.yadvashem.org>

Most of the information has come from Pages of Testimony submitted primarily by relatives to memorialise their families.

Yad Vashem are to be congratulated for making this database available on the internet. Its meaningfulness can best be summed up in the words one encounters when opening the website:

"I would like someone to remember that there once lived a person named David Berger"

David Berger in his last letter, Vilna, 1941

AJGS (Vic) notified all members by email of a memo received from Nadia Kahan, Director of Reference and Information Services at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem advising us of technical issues in searching for names. They are reproduced here as appendices.

In a special edition of "Nu? What's New?", Vol 5, No.20 on November 18th, Gary Mokotoff reported that Yad vashem wanted the genealogical community to test the system so they would be able to remedy any glitches.

Nadia Kahan reported that they had received more than 2.75 million visitors to the site in the first few weeks and received 12,000 queries.

The basic search permits the user to search by last name, first name and place. The advanced search allows access to most fields including last name, first name, father's first name, mother's first name, date of birth (approx), place of birth, place of residence, spouse's first name, profession, date of death (approx), place of death, submitter's first and last name.

Of interest is that you can even search by the name of the person who submitted the Page of Testimony. You can search using the exact name and there are options for searching synonyms, fuzzy sounding or spelling, or whether you want a soundex search.

Apart from the two million Pages of Testimony names were also taken from other sources such as France,the Klarsfeld deportation lists, Germany (Gedenkbuch books), Greece, Hungary (Nevek project, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Slovakia, Yugoslavia and Mauthausen and Theresienstadt concentration camps.

My personal interest in this site was to search members of my wife's family who had been deported from Drancy in France.

Over the years we had provided missing family details to various databases such as Le Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine in Paris and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

I was interested in two names - **Ze(u)chliner and Szkop.** To my surprise I only got one hit for Zuchliner, an unknown person named Tova Zuchliner had submitted a Page of Testimony in 1955 - this is of great interest to all of us.

But where was my wife's aunt Bajla, who was deported and never returned after the war? I tried Soundex, Fuzzy, submitter's name and anything else I could think of - to no avail.

In 1978 Beate and Serge Klarsfeld produced a monograph - 'Le Memorial de la Deportation des Juifs de France'. It provides lists for some 80 convoys - containing over 75,000 names.

When we first obtained the book we spent days going through each convoy list for the known year of deportation. We did find a name - **Bajla Zrohiner,** born 22 April 1917, deported 21st August 1942, Convoy 22 as well as my wife's grandmother (spelt Zachliner).

When I rechecked the Klarsfeld list and entered 'Zrohiner' I printed out the following entry:
'Bajla Zrohiner was born in Warszawa,, Poland in 1917. This information is based on a list of deportation from France found in the Le Memorial de la deportation des juifs de France, Beate et Serge Klarsfeld, Paris 1978'. Zechliner had been transcribed as 'Zrohiner'.

I then searched for my wife's uncle, **Szmul Szkop** and printed out the entry.
'Szmul Szkop was born in Sziszek, Yugoslavia in 1912. This information is based on a list of deportation from France .....

But Szmul Szkop was born in Warsaw and never ever visited Yugoslavia. At any rate there is no such town as Sziszek. I have written to seek an explanation as to why other more reliable sources for names were

by-passed.

Yad Vashem are now seeking corrections and it is important for future generations of family researchers that incorrect entries are rectified.

A number of people have aired their problems with the database on the JewishGen and SIG discussion groups and I have received a few requests for help. No doubt during those first few weeks one might have expected problems and hopefully they are now ironed out. Please let us know about any issues or interesting findings.

In a Special Edition of Nu? What's New? in November Gary Mokotoff praises the work of Yad Vashem:

"For more than 50 years, Yad Vashem has served as the world's center for remembrance of Jewish victims of the Holocaust and education about the Shoah. The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names is yet another example of this institution's role in memorializing the millions of women, men, and children who perished, this time with a searchable database. Using the latest technology and a team of experts in geography, linguistics, and data systems, Yad Vashem will continue to offer the most comprehensive accounting of the lives and deaths of millions of Holocaust victims, while seeking to collect those as yet unaccounted for."

The following advice has been offered by Nadia Kahan, Director of Reference and Information Services,Yad Vashem.

Appendix 1 - Technical Suggestions

At times, the database has been hard to access because it was overloaded. This is no longer happening. If you have tried getting into the database a few times at different hours and failed, we suggest you check the following points:

-Do you have a version of Explorer above 5.5?
-If you have a firewall, at times turning it off will allow access to the database.
-If you have protection against pop-up ads, canceling this protection will allow access to the database.
-It is not always possible to access the database with Apple computers

Appendix 2 - Corrections

Yes we want them!
Submit corrections through the "correct our deciphering form" from the individual Page of Testimony, on the "more details" page". It saves time and confusion in identifying the Page in question.

If the Page of Testimony is correct, and we agree that the information was keyed in improperly, we will correct it. If we disagree, we will tell you that we disagree. Note that it will be several months before these corrections appear in the online database, which is only updated periodically.

If the mistake is on the Page of Testimony and not in our transcription, we cannot alter the Page of Testimony which is in and of itself a piece of archival documentation. We suggest submitting a new Page of Testimony. In the case of a minor mistake on a Page of Testimony, which you yourself submitted, we will alter it as per your specific instructions.

Appendix 3 - Finding Submitters

Yad Vashem's goal and mandate in collecting Pages of Testimony and developing the Central Database was to commemorate the victims of the Shoah. Reconnecting family members is a secondary function. Unfortunately, we rarely have information on whether the submitter of a Page of Testimony is still alive, nor on how to contact them today.

To locate a person's current address in Israel:

1. Look for them in the online Israel phone book http://www.144.bezek.com/. The site is in Hebrew. Stephen Morse at http://stevemorse.org/hebrew/bezeq.html has created a utility which allows non-Hebrew speakers to use the Bezeq site.

2. Call or write the Israeli Ministry of Interior. oc_info@moin.gov.il. 972-2-6294666. Generally, the information they can give is the person's current address, or whether the person is deceased. The more you know about the person, the more likely they are to be able to supply you with information. This service is limited to one request per day.

3. Use the various services on the JewishGen website www.jewishgen.org. Note that there are many different services on this website, some of which require registration.

4. Use the service being developed by the Israel Genealogical Society [IGS]. By sending full information to: "Rose Feldman" rosef@post.tau.ac.il who will post it to www.isragen.org.il. In "Projects" on the side bar, there is a category called "Searching for Submitters of Pages of Testimony in Israel".

5. If you know Hebrew, send a letter to the family roots (Shorashim Mishpachtiyim) forum on the Tapuz website http://www.tapuz.co.il/tapuzforum/main/anashim.asp?forum=325&pass=1

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For survivors outside of Israel there are local and online phone books, as well as various Internet services such as Yahoo's People Search http://people.yahoo.com.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum maintains a registry of Holocaust survivors. http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry, which includes survivors primarily, but not exclusively, from North America.

The Yad Vashem Archives and Library include extensive offline, information about survivors, but few of the records go beyond the year 1954. As such, the submitter's information on the Pages of Testimony, is usually more recent than what we are likely to find for you at Yad Vashem. However, you are welcome to contact us. There is a fee for the research and it may take us up to two months to respond. You are also welcome to come to the reading room, where our staff can help you to research the matter yourself. We hope that you will find this information helpful, and that you will succeed in contacting your family members.

Appendix 4 - Individuals who survived who appear in the database.

When dealing with Pages of Testimony this is rare. Verify that the details, such as parents' names, spouse's name, and approximate dates of birth match before contacting us. In the case of material derived from archival lists this is to be expected.

All the archival lists in the database include mostly individuals who perished, but in some cases they include people we know survived, and in this case the fact that they survived is noted in the database.

If someone is not marked as a survivor and you know that they were, please tell us so that it can be noted in the database. In order to maintain the integrity of the database, we require documentation, such as a copy of an identity card or passport, to verify that the individual indeed survived.

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Australian Jewish Discussion Group

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If you are interested in Jewish ancestral research in Australia why not register your email address with the On-Line Forum. You may be able to assist others and you may get a reponse to your own queries.
Visit http://www.ajgs.org.au and click on On-Line Forum

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FRENCH DEPORTATION LISTS

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The monograph 'Le Memorial de la Deportation des Juifs de France' by Serge Klarsfeld, mentioned in this article, contains the names of thousands of Polish born Jews who migrated to France after the first World War. Many researching their Polish Jewish ancestry often overlook this valuable resource. They will find names as well as place of birth in the convoy lists. The mongraph is in the reserve section of the Makor Jewish Community Library. Unfortunately there is no index of names but we do have a microfiche with such an alphabetical index.

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CALL FOR PAPERS
25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

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The Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada, Inc. is proud to host the SILVER IAJGS anniversary conference for Jewish Genealogy. It will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, 10th-15th July 2005 at the Flamingo Hotel.

Papers are being solicitored to be presented at the conference. We will be happy to consider proposals until December 31, 2004. To be considered you must submit a 50-word biography and a 150-word synopsis to <mailto:jgssn2005@yahoo.com>jgssn2005@yahoo.com.

We are looking for topics of wide interest, topics that are new and/or unique, and in areas of interest not covered by other speakers.

Our preference is for lecturers who have done extensive on-line or in person research in the following areas: Eastern Europe, South America and Israel. Other areas of interest that will be considered are Emigration/Immigration records, specifically from Hamburg, Bremen, Rotterdam and Liverpool. Methodology and little used or little known resources will also be considered for presentation at the conference.
If you have any questions as to subject matter of your presentation please contact Carole Montello at <mailto:carmont7@cox.net>carmont7@cox.net

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A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia

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This book provides information about some 25,000 different surnames used by Jews in Galicia. For each name, the author, Alexander Beider, describes the districts within Galicia where the surname appeared, the origin of the meaning of the name (etymology), and the variants found. It also includes a history of Jewish names in Galicia, basic etymological analysis, spelling and variation of surnames and analysis of surnames in various provinces of eastern Europe. An extensive bibliography is provided. Additional information can be found at http://www.avotaynu.com/books/djsg.htm. This includes a complete list of surnames and a sample page from the book.

The Jewish Chronicle: Personal Announcements 1900-1909 Project

Reporting on a talk by Miriam Pollak

Miriam Pollak, one of the founding members of the AJGS in Victoria, came down from Sydney to talk to us on October 13th about her project, which has now been produced on a CD.

Miriam gave us some background to her involvement in the project. She said that the Jewish Chronicle was founded in 1841 in London and is the oldest continuously published Jewish newspaper in the world. It contains thousands of personal announcements - births, engagements, marriages, death, barmitzvahs, wedding anniversaries and the like.

She told us that in the late 1980s she became interested in her family history. She got much help from such well known genealogists as Dr Anthony Joseph of England and Beverley Davis, who was the then secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Victoria. She recalls Beverley informing her that the State Library of Victoria held a collection of microfilms of the Jewish Chronicle.

Visiting the library in 1992 she discovered "gems just sitting there waiting to be picked up". She said: "I kept on going back to the library and looking again to see if I could find any information about my own family and enjoyed looking at other people's announcements in the meantime."

Learning that there was no index to these announcements she was encouraged by Beverley Davis to create one herself.

At first she was sceptical about her ability to carry out this task but after discussing the idea with her husband she purchased a database software - Microsoft Access version 1.0. As she recalls "I have to admit that I didn't have a clue about what I was doing, but I was having fun."

She had heard that historian, Doreen Berger, was working on the years 1870-1880 so she decided to start from the beginning of the twentieth century. "Little did I realise what an enormous task I had set myself". She started to input data from 1900 which took a whole year - "but the feeling of elation was tremendous".

Feeling frustrated by the mere size of the database she decided to modify her methodology. Off she went to the State Library to copy another year's worth of

entries, namely 1901. While more satisfied with another year of hard work she still felt she could improve the end product.

She decided to return to the University to update her work skills. She put the project on hold while attending full-time study for the Bachelor of Business in Information Management and Library Studies at RMIT. She then decided to continue the project in her spare time.

At last she knew the the kind of software she required (InMagic) - a "fat-file" database - but very expensive for a mature-age student!

By good fortune the Jewish Museum of Australia had purchased but not downloaded this software which they had obtained, and happily transferred the license to her for her sole use. This was a major breakthrough which has led to the production of a CD covering the period 1900-1909.

The database contains 31,500 entries and is made up of 15 fields. Each of these fields can be searched either alone, or in a combination of other fields using Boolean logic. In Boolean logic, three kinds of words are added to the combination of fields - in this case, the words, AND, OR and NOT.

Miriam expressed appreciation to all those who had assisted her along the way. The audience had the opportunity to call out names which were brought up on a full screen. Great excitement was expressed when she was able to hit a bulls-eye.

The CD (for PC users only) is available for sale.
Contact: Miriam Pollak,
Jewish Chronicle Project,
3 Walkers Drive, Lane Cove, NSW, 2066

(I wish to acknowledge extensive use of notes prepared by Miriam for the IAJGS Conference in preparation of this report. Lionel Sharpe)

THE ADULT 'MARCH OF THE LIVING' PROGRAM

" THE MARCH OF THE LIVING is an international, educational program that brings Jewish teens from all over the world to Poland on Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, to march from Auschwitz to Birkenau, the largest concentration camp complex built during World War II, and then to Israel to observe Yom HaZikaron, Israel Memorial Day, and Yom Ha'Atzmaut,Israel Independence Day."

The aim of the Adult March of the Living, Australia is for adults of all ages to honour the memory of those who were murdered and suffered in the Holocaust and to learn the importance of struggling against racism and intolerance.

Pauline Rockman, Coordinator of the Australian 'Adult March of the Living', together with Lena Fiszman, addressed the Victorian Society at a meeting held on September 1st at Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre.

Both had accompanied a contingent of sixty Australian Jews age from 19 to 84 years to Poland and Israel in April 2004.

They both spoke about their personal experience and showed a short video taken during the journey. Some 47 hours of footage were filmed and it is anticipated that a documentary will be produced in the near future. Amelia Klein, a PhD student working from the Australian Holocaust Museum and Research Centre in Melbourne, was the guide for the group.

Pauline spoke about her own ambivalence when visiting Poland in 2003 for the first time as her own life had been shaped by the Holocaust. This had prepared her emotionally for this second visit. She outlined the structure of the program which commenced with pre-departure sessions for information and bonding of the group and ended with debriefing of feelings, reactions and learning outcomes.

A lively discussion took place at the meeting about Jewish reactions to visiting Poland, the kind of reception they received from Polish citizens, residual anti-semitism in Poland, dialogue between Polish students and Jews, changing attitudes among young Poles and the impact of the visit to Israel celebrating Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

Pauline suggested a number of websites for those wishing to explore the program further.

Photos taken at the 2004 Australian march can be seen at:

http://www.dosinc.org.au/AMOTL/index.html

The website for the Virtual March of the Living 2004 can be found at:

http://www.motl.org/virtualMarches/virtualMarches_AU2004.htm

Included are photographs taken by well known photographer Emmanuel Santos.

Next year it is anticipated that 18,000 will attend from all over the world, being the 60th anniversary of the end of World War 11.
There will be a shorter visit in in Poland and more time in Israel.

Information about the forthcoming march to be held in May 2005 can be found at:

http://www.dosinc.org.au/Adult%20March%20of%20the%20Living%202005.html

Genealogical Research in Poland

A talk by Lena Fiszman

Following Pauline Rockman's presentation (see page 7) Lena Fiszman, who also went on the 2004 Adult March of the Living, described herself as the 'resident genealogist' for the group. Lena is a very experienced researcher and was well prepared before going on this, her second trip to Poland.

Eleven years ago she visited with her parents and had walked the streets of Krakow where her mother lived as a child before the war. She had also done extensive work on the JewishGen (www.jewishgen.org/) website and had located a distant cousin who had done twenty years of research on her mother's father's family. She had also studied the various name dictionaries and place directories so that she knew exactly what she was looking for prior to this trip.

Her research had enabled her to find documents going back to her ggg grandparents. She has her own family tree website.

She emphasized the importance of contacting the relevant archives in Poland before one departs so that the material would be ready on arrival. For example she had made contact with Dr Yale Reisner of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, funded by the Lauder Foundation before departure.

On arrival a disc was awaiting her with Krakow Ghetto registration cards providing photos and data on twenty members of her family. She spoke highly of the role of Dr Reisner and his enthusiasm to assist. There are 14,000 such registration cards with photos but they do not include children under14 years as their photos were not taken.

She spoke about Family Registers and their value. The information in them is not on the internet as they are in a large book in the original hand writing in the synagogue records. She went to Radom, her father's town and visited the archives and found the relevant registers.

Lena pointed to the difference between finding names and actually visiting the shtetls of her family - "Just looking at names is one thing but cleaning a tombstone gives a sense of connection and and a chance to honour them."

A personal highlight of the trip occurred on arrival in Israel where the group had flown to celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

The Yad Vashem database was briefly available on the internet long before its official launch in November

2004. Searching it, Lena had discovered cousins living in Israel. Her mother had four sisters and unbeknown to the family in Australia one sister had survived the war, migrated to Israel, and had registered her missing family at the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem. She passed away some years ago.

By good fortune the address and phone number of the aunt appeared on the Page of Testimony. Seeing this Lena phoned her mother - "Mum sit down - you are not going to believe this.....". A phone call was made..... and waiting at the airport on her arrival in Israel were two cousins whom she was meeting for the first time.

Concluding her talk Lena said: 'This trip to me revealed the availability of amazing material - its never ending and the information gained has expanded it one level further - my next quest is to go earlier than the 1800s".

Committee members with Miriam Pollak on October 13th
Rodney Eisfelder, Les Oberman, Miriam Pollak, Enid Yoffa-Elton, Kurt Friedlaender and Lionel Sharpe

Dr Philip Opas, Q.C. O.B.E. talks about his family research

Well known barrister and octogenarian, Dr Philip Opas, presented an interesting overview of his research into the Opas and Goodman families and acknowledged the assistance he had received from Dr David Cohen about the Goodman family.

He was speaking to a meeting of the AJGS on 17th November at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre. His family arrived in Australia from England during the Victorian gold rush in the 1850s. They now date back seven generations. His own father and mother, Joseph Henry Opas and Sarah Rebecca Goodman married here in 1916.

Dr Opas first became interested in genealogy when he became a foundation member of the Council of the National Heritage Foundation. He later succeeded Sir Rupert Hamer as its President. The Foundation became involved in a project to collect and collate family and individual records from churches and other repositories into a single database for searching. Most were handwritten, often faded and illegible and the idea was to bring together all Victorian records and expand the project nationally.

Dr Opas spoke about the 'World Book of Opas' which is a registry all all the Opas families in the world. The names have been drawn from 220 million records world-wide. There are 256 Opas's in the world - 99 in the USA, 33 in Canada, 38 in the UK, 73 in germany and 13 in Australia. Concerning the latter he only knew of 6 and realised that there were duplications.

He remarked that he was lucky to have a simple name like Opas as it did not get transformed like so many other Jewish names. He believes it probably was a town name adopted by accident when the family entered England.

He went to give some family history in country Victoria and NSW and discussed in detail the offences and court cases of some of the more colourful members of the Opas family. He said that these characters were of more interest to him as a criminal barrister than some of those family members who obeyed the law.

He showed family photos taken in Delegate and Bombala of the family stores and gave a colourful description of life in these remote places.

Of great interest to the audience during question time was his account of the famous Ronald Ryan murder case in Victoria which culminated in the last hanging in Victoria.

An Unclaimed Swiss Bank Account

Harry Barr with Les Oberman (President)

At a recent meeting of the AJGS, Harry Barr, one of our members was invited to speak briefly about an experience he had concerning a Swiss Bank account. Over four years ago he saw an announcement that unclaimed monies could be applied for from the Swiss Banks. He and some family members had immigrated to Melbourne just before World War 11 but most of the family perished. On the off chance he sent his family information to the claims office in New York believing it unlikely that a his family, from a shtetl background in Poland, would open a Swiss bank account. To his great surprise he has just received a cheque - there were no other claimants. He was wondering whether others had such luck.

People looking for People

The following notices are published as a community service to our readers and others. They come to us via discussion groups on the net or by direct mail and email contact with the Society.

GANZ

I am researching the history of an automotive designer called Joseph Ganz who lived in St Kilda in the 1960s. From my information Mr. Ganz was Jewish and escaped Germany in 1937 or 1938 to Switzerland and after WWII to Paris and then Australia where he worked for the Holden company. I know he died in 1967 at age 68 in St Kilda.
My research is mainly about his automotive designs for the Volkswagen in the 1920s and 1930s in Germany. He had a lot of influence on the Volkswagen concept and design, but because he was Jewish he had to escape the Nazis and his work is mainly forgotten. I hope to locate relatives of Mr. Ganz to give me more details.
Paul Schilperoord, The Netherlands
info@octopusdesign.nl

RUE VEL RUJ

We would like to enlist your assistance in locating a Polish-Jewish family last heard from in the mid-'60s when they lived in East St. Kilda. We are looking for Michuel RUE Vel RUJ, born 1922, son of David and Malka (née GNOTT), or his heirs. He lived in the town of Pyzdry, Poland and there he had property. He left his property in the hands of a trustee when he emigrated to Australia (in 1948). Last known address (c. 1965) was 12 Westbury St., East St. Kilda. He had a brother-in-law named A. DANN at 24 McLachlan St. in Horsham and a close relative named Abram CHOJNACKI in Melbourne
Yale J. Reisner, The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project at the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland (Warsaw)
<laudergen@jewish.org.pl>

BREGMAN

The Red Cross International Tracing Service is seeking Maya Bregman, born in 1933 (approx) in the former USSR. There was a brother, Anatoly Bregman.
Any information welcome. Quote 49781. Phone Melbourne office 03 83277883

GANZ

Seeking Arie or Leib Ganz, post-warimmigrants. Rafi Aharonisrael <rafi_ah@inter.net.il>

KUTY

Pesach Mor (Moskovitch) age 80 would like to contact Galicia Kuty, a landsman from his hometown, regardinga book he has published
Jack Olenski <metrodiam@kew.hotkey.net.au>

LEVY

My grandfather Ivan Levy was born in Melbourne 1877. His parents were Simeon and Herman Levy and Henrietta, (nee Simeon). Herman Levy was born in Szamocin, Poland. ca 1844 and is buried at the Fawkner Cemetery which I visited recently. Herman Levy and Henrietta Simeon married in Melbourne at Eugene House 397 Albert Rd. in 1873.
Children of Herman and Henrietta Levy were:
Reginald, Rudolph Bismark Simeon, Ivan Molke Lessor, Oscar Ferdinand Les, Ilma Elka Murray.
I am keen to contact any descendants.
Teresa Levy, New Zealand, levy222@yahoo.co.nz

HOLLANDER/MARMOR/WOLKOWITZ

Harry and Oscar Hollander are the sons of Isaak or Isaac Hollander and Rachel Hollander-Knepel. Rachel was married to Isaak and they divorced sometimes in the late 40's or early 50's. She married a certain Marmor and both emigrated to Australia in 1950 with their son Jack (who carries the name Hollander.
Harry and Oscar Hollander lived with their father and my aunt Sacha Wolfowitz in Brussels until 1952 and they emigrated to Australia in 1952.
It is Harry Hollander that I found lately.
He recalls that the couple Hollander-Wolfowitz immigrated later in the 50's. He said they were married and immigrated under the name of Hollander. Harry who was born in 1930 lived together with his brother Oscar with the couple from 1950? to 1952.
Evelyne Haendel, Belgium
evelyne.haendel@skynet.be

WIESS

Enna Wiess, a medical student from Slovakia who survived Auschwitz is being sought by a family physician living on a kibbutz in Israel.
Bella Sharp-Collins (Jewish Care) Sydney, 02 93028012

PALLIS

I understand that many years ago some relatives moved to Melbourne. I believe that they were sisters whose surname was "Pallis". I wonder if there is any residual family.
Brian W Prince, UK, <brian@sbpk.co.uk>

BENARI

I am researching my great grandfather
Albert Benari (1820-1886) who migrated to Victoria 1852 and was naturalised in 1855 (I have ordered the record). He settled in Germantown, (changed to Grovedale in 1915) and was the owner of the Grovedale Hotel, originally named Benari's Hotel. Any leads will be appreciated.
Barbara Powell, Halls Head, Western Australia
aussiebarbara2000@yahoo.com.au

SOLOMON

I am posting this message on behalf of Tess Cooper who lives on King Island. (Her father, Walter Solomon had lived in Queenscliff and after WW1 married and moved to Sydney.)
She is researching her grandfather, Henry Maurice Solomon who died in 1882 at the age of 60 and is buried at the old Ballarat Cemetery in Victoria.
Newman Rosenthal writes in 'Formula for Survival', - H.M. Solomon was appointed headmaster of the Ballarat Hebrew School in 1874 and that some years earlier he had come from Sydney to Melbourne where he had taught in the school conducted by the Melbourne Congregation. Rosenthal also mentions that Henry's father, N.H. Solomon was one of the founders of the London Jewish Free School and a descendant of Rabbi Mordecai Jaffe, the 16th century codifier of Jewish Rabbinical Law.
Tess would like to contact anyone who can fill her in on H.M. Solomon's arrival and stay in Sydney before moving to Ballarat. We will pass messages to her.
Tess Cooper, King Island <ajgs@exist.com.au>

BAUSK in Latvia

I am working on a memorial project for Bausk, Latvia. Before World War 11 bausk had about 770 Jewish inhabitants, only a small fraction of whom managed to leave before the invasion. Today it is a city without Jews. I would like to hear from anyone interested in joining the project.
Evelyn Waldstein, Israel < evewa@post.tau.ac.il>

STRITZOWER

My mother, Rosa Shaw, 92, who lives in Israel, has not had any news from her childhood friend Schifra Stritzower since last year. (She was a well known author and anthropologist who travelled in India and wrote about exotic Jewish communities.) She waqs last living in Balaclava.
Simon Shaw, London, <simon@pjzeitlin.com>

DAMAST/DYM

I recently found that I have some distant cousins who migrated to Melbourne after WWII. The family names are Damast and/or Dym? I know there is a Lola Dym who was/is a pharmacist in Melbourne. The Damast who migrated was Elias Szulum. He may or may not be alive but there are children still there from what's I've been told.
(Editor: A check of shipping records revealed:
DAMAST, Salomon, age 27, Nina age ,26 and Baruch, age 2 arrived on the SS Partizanka arriving 1949 .Their sponsor was O. Dym.
DYM Adela (nee Damast) born 1912.
Lonia born1941; Regina born1947
DYM Osiasz , born1907; Adela [also known as DAMAST] age 36; Lonia age 6; Regina age 10 months arrived SS AL SUDAN , March 1948)
Leon Gold <LJG218@worldnet.att.net>

KALSON/ SHAPIRO/ LERNER

I am seeking relatives who lived in the Sydney area 1920-30. Annie Kalson born 1878 had three daughters: Cherie married to Bob Reid (1933), Hetty married David Shapiro, and Dora married Max Lerner (1935). Other family members were Harry Kalson and Florrie Kalson who died in 1977.
Philip Kalson, Israel, <philip@kalsonfamily.com>

KATZ/ HUBLER/ LEHRER

I am searching for a Mr Katz on behalf of Ruth Freyer from Vienna who plans to vivit Australia.
He would be approximately 80 plus today. He left Austria about 1938 for Australia where he became responsible for the synchronisation of traffic lights.
He is related to Helene Hubler (nee Lehrer).
Tom Tenenbaum, <jassef@yahoo.com>

ROSENBERG

I am seeking Essex Rosenberg who I last heard from in 1971. I was employed by Lewis Stores in Cape Town where his father was a director. Rosenberg Sr immigrated to Australia. An aunt and uncle David Hope live in Toronto.
Aldridge Dunn, Canada, Phone 1 416 850 1172

WAJSENBERG

I am searching Wajsenberg family who lived in Poland, brother of my grandfather, Icchok Meir Wajsenberg who was a yiddish writer.
Mark Wajsenberg, Israel,
<mark306@bezeqint.net>

KATZ

The Australian Red Cross would like to locate Aranka Katz who was born in Oct 1929. Her parents names were Frida Stern and Salamon Katz.
Bella Sharp-Collins (Jewish Care) Sydney
02 93028012

HERLING

Melanie Glueck (Shapiro), neice of Karl and Sam Herling, would like to locate her cousin Heinz Herling, originally of Vienna. Heinz, formerly of 818 Tongshan Road, has supposedly settled in Australia.
Linda Warshaw <lwarshaw@uptusline.net>

ROSENBERG

I would like to get in touch with Marie-Jose Hengebaert (born 1935) and her husband, Isaac Rosenberg or their descendants. They immigrated to Australia approx 1966.
Isabel Rozenberg, NSW, (02) 93634431

ROSENTHAL

I am looking for relatives of my grandfather, Shmil Rosenthal (1860-1940) from Bogdan, Czechoslovakia and my father, Ari (1908-1996 who immigrated to Israel from Czechoslovakia in 1949.
Tali Poleg <tali@drorism.com>

From: rEsearch -

News from Public Record Office Victoria

Saturday Openings, January - March 2005

The Victorian Archives Centre Reading Room is open on the second and last Saturday of each month, excepting long weekends. Saturday openings for January to March are 8 January, 29 January, 12 February, and 26 February.
There are no Saturday openings for March 2005.

Provenance - Now Available Online

The 2004 issue of Provenance, the journal of Public Record Office Victoria is now available online.

Articles appearing in the new issue are:
'Death, Decency and the Dead-House: The City Morgue in Colonial Melbourne', by Andrew Brown-May Simon Cooke; 'Keeping Order: Motor-Car Regulation and the Defeat of Victoria's 1905 Motor-Car Bill', by Rick Clapton; and
'Home Truths - Stories from the Nineteenth-Century Castlemaine Police Courts', by Heather Holst.

Provenance is a free, scholarly referred journal that is now published only online. We are also calling for papers to be submitted for the 2005 issue, and a brief for authors is available on the Provenance web page.

To read or download Provenance, free of charge, visit PROV's website
http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/provenance
The first two issues of Provenance are available online and in print (copies may be collected, at no charge, from VAC during office hours).

Seminars 2005

Archival Support Program, February - November 2005
The Archival Support Program is a joint initiative of PROV, and the Australian Society of Archivists, supported by the National Archives of Australia. Brochures are available from PROV reading rooms and online at
http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/events/patrn.htm

Seminar Series, February - June 2005

The PROV Seminar Series February - June 2005 covers a variety of topics including education records, research at VAC using PROV and NAA records, building and plan records and immigration records. Brochures are available from PROV reading rooms and online at
http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/events/patrn.htm

What's New

New Zealand - Online Indexes

The index to inward passengers from New Zealand ports, 1852-1923 (which includes the names of all passengers who sailed from New Zealand to Victorian ports in the period specified), and the first part of the index to passengers who departed Victorian ports in the period 1852-56 have recently been made available online.

The online indexes available from PROV's website now cover all unassisted passenger arrivals from British, New Zealand and other foreign ports, for the period 1852-1923, all British assisted immigrants for the period 1839-71 and those who departed Victoria from 1852-56

Volunteers Wanted

PROV needs new volunteers to help with indexing the Outward Passenger Lists or with other upcoming projects.

Training will include a basic knowledge of the two principles of archival methodology (original order and provenance), introduction to PROV and work site training for each volunteer project.

The Australian Jewish Historical Society - Victoria New Website

The AJHS now has an interesting website which will be further developed over time.

<http://www.ajhs.info>

The AJHS - Vic. was founded in 1949 although the NSW society had been established eleven years earlier in 1938. The Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal is a first class publication published alternatively by NSW and Vic.

If you wish to join the Victorian Society contact:
Rhona Rosenberg,
Honorary Secretary,
PO Box 608, Carnegie, Vic. 3163
rrosenberg@distance.vic.edu.au

Accessing the AJHS Archives

The archival holdings are now located in the Australian Manuscript Section of the State Library of Victoria. They consist of 107 separate collections, all sorted and indexed over many years by the former AJHS Archivist Beverley Davis. To access the collection ring the staff on (03) 8664 7007 between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm weekdays.

The extensive library is located at the Jewish Museum of Australia. Items in the collection are not available for loan but can be inspected by appointment. Ring (03) 9534 0083