Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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

Melbourne, Australia

Vol. 7 No. 2, May 2005

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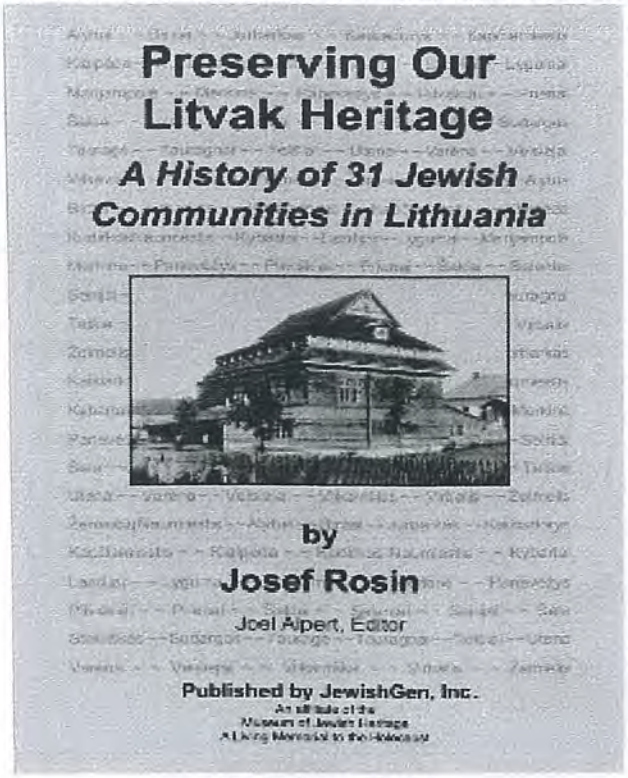

For details see Page 6

The AJGS (Vic) in association with Makor Library invite you
to hear

Simone Beyfus

"A Jewish Connection to Harrods of London "

on

Wednesday, 22nd June 2005 at 7.30 pm

at Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre , 306 Hawthorn Rd, South Caulfield, 3162

Simone Beyfus is a member of our Committee of Management. She will speak about her recent research into her ancestry. Edgar Cohen, son of sponge importers, Israel and Moss Cohen, married into the Beyfus family in London in 1876. Using geneological techniques she was able to uncover the story of how Edgar Cohen became the co-founder of Harrods (the famous department store in London) and assisted the Beyfus family to keep one of their biggest secrets.

Members $4.00 Non-members $6.00

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, 20th July 2005 at 7.30 pm "The OTTOLANGUI / OTTOLENGHI / LANGLEY Ancestors and their Descendants".

Wednesday, 17th August 2005 at 7.30 pm Genealogical Research Holdings in Victoria (Speaker to be confirmed)

Sunday, 25th September 2005 at 2.00pm Beginner's Workshop

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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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Bettye Susskind
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AJGS (Vic.) Inc. http://www.ajgs.exist.com.au

Jewish Genealogy in Australia
AJGS (Aust.) http://www.ajgs.org.au
Email "AJGS Inc." <society@ajgs.org.au>

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)

President's Report 2004/5

My first task in preparing this annual President's report is to thank those members of our Society who have worked hard for yet another successful year in the history of our Society.

Without a doubt our Society would not run without the efforts of our secretary, Lionel Sharpe. Not only does he prepare our quality newsletter "Jewish Genealogy Downunder" but also arranges our meetings, answers many of the enquiries that we receive by e-mail and by letter from "People looking for People".

We also need to thank Kurt Friedlaender, our treasurer, who keeps track of our finances. He also looks after our web-page HYPERLINK "www.ajgs.exist.com.au" and volunteers in working on a data base of Dachau victims.

Gilda and Russell Feldman are doing a magnificent job and we thank them for preparing a database from information included in hard copy family trees which we took over from the Australian Jewish Historical Society (Vic). This database now contains over 25,000 names.

To our vice-president, Enid Yoffa-Elton, we say thank you for seeing that we always have refreshments at our meetings and for publicising our activities.

We have had several workshops this year and thanks to Enid Yoffa-Elton, Rodney Eisfelder, Kurt Friedlaender, Lionel Sharpe they are a successful part of our program. As a Society we have been represented at a number of community functions such as the annual 'In One Voice' community expo in Caulfield Park. These family history expos enable us to give a public face to our activities.

We also wish to thank Leonie Fleiszig and her staff at the Makor Jewish Community Library for looking after our book collection and assisting many members of the public who seek help with their ancestral research.

Special thanks also go to the administrative staff at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre for setting up the rooms for our meetings and looking after security.

I thank the general members of our society who regularly come to our meetings. Without them we wouldn't exist. And finally to all of the International Jewish Genealogical Society volunteers from around the world who transliterate, translate, prepare data bases, helpful articles and give advice that makes our research so much easier, we thank you!

Les Oberman (President)

2005 Annual General Meeting

Ephraim Finch, Executive Director of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha (burial service) was the guest speaker at our 7th annual general meeting held on Wednesday, 25th May at Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre. The unusual title of his talk - **'Collecting Living Records from the Dead'**, opened up a talk about his passion for family history and Jewish genealogy. He has elevated the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha in Inkerman Street, St Kilda into a centre for the collection of family data.

To date he has 44,000 records in his computer which have taken him twenty two years to collect. What started out as a few files in a cabinet has now reached a point where he needs a well organised retrieval system for the hard copy documents.

When relatives come to bury their loved ones Ephraim sees this as an opportunity to collect information on the living. Special data forms are available to be filled in by the living. Ephraim sees this as a unique opportunity to clarify the family history, check on the spelling of surnames, obtaining Hebrew names and places of birth, not only for the deceased, but also for the living relatives.

Ephraim is meticulous in standardising the spellings of names using the Avotaynu publications,"Where Once We Walked" for place names aa well as Bieder's two well known Dictionaries of Surnames on the 'Kingdom of Poland' and the 'Russian Empire'. He claims to have become somewhat of an expert on the spelling of Polish and German names but has yet to tackle the Russian language.

The Chevra Kadisha often receives old Machzorim and Siddurim (prayerbooks) belonging to the deceased. These are no longer wanted by the family who may use more recent editions or are no longer interested in orthodoxy. These books are usually buried, according to tradition, in a cemetery. The books often contain on the fly leaf, a Hebrew name, an early address, an insert of a Barmitzvah presentation, an 'in memory of' book plate, Yahrzeit dates (anniversary of a death) and original signatures of the deceased.

He believes that these should be treasured by the family but, if they appear to be of no interest, Ephraim will in some instances retain the book or pass it on to another descendant.

He places great emphasis on the accuracy of the spelling Hebrew names as he believes these are a gift of G-d. There has been instances where the Chevra Kadisha has been called on to provide evidence of a person's lineage for the purpose of a Jewish marriage ceremony. In this way 'living records' obtained through a request for a burial can impact on the future generations.

ELECTIONS

The following committee of management was elected at the Annual General Meeting on 25th May 2005.

President:	Les Oberman
Vice Pres.	Enid Yoffa-Elton
Secretary:	Lionel Sharpe
Treasurer:	Kurt Friedlaender

Committee: Simone Beyfus, Dr David Cohen Rodney Eisfelder, Russell Feldman, Liz James Bettye Susskind, Leonie Fleiszig (Makor Liaison)

Two former members of the committee did not restand - Lewis Coleman and Donna Purchase. They were thanked for their past service to the Society.

Have you joined the

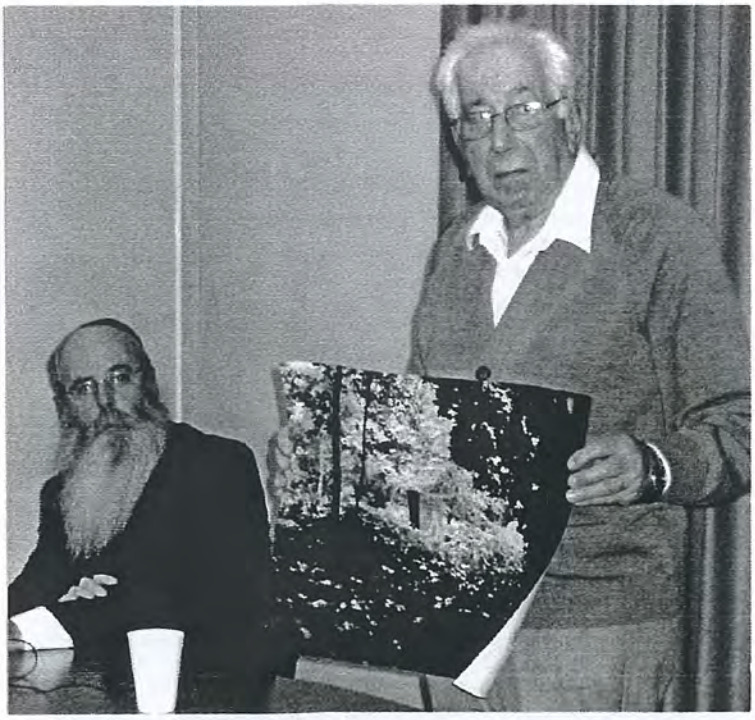
Australian Jewish Genealogy Discussion Group on the net ?

http://www.ajgs.org.au
(Click on On-Line Forum to register)
Seek help for your Australian ancestral research and assist others with their queries.

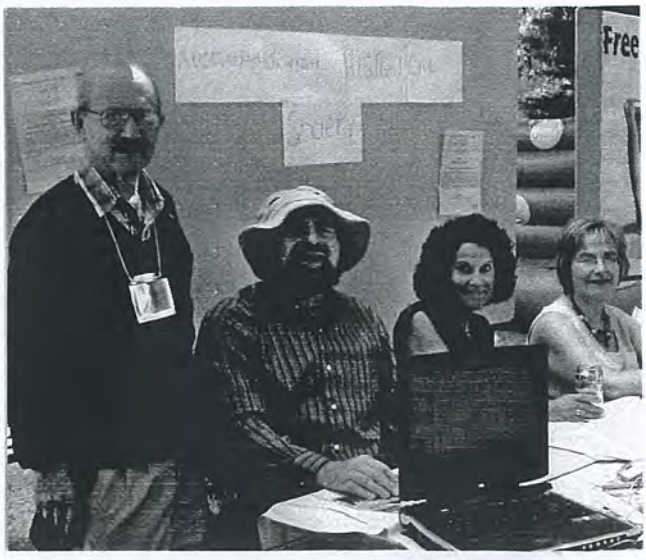
A Chat and refreshments at our Annual General Meeting in May.

See the President's Report Page 2

THE JEWS OF DORMAGEN and ZONS (GERMANY)



During question time following Ephraim Finch's talk at the AGM on 25 May, Judy Levron (pictured on the right), a member of the Society, spoke briefly about her visit to Germany last year where she discovered the tombstone of her great grandmother in a cemetery in Zons. Here in the photo she is presenting a beautiful photograph of a tombstone taken in the Dormagen cemetery to the AJGS. Judy was given a book by a local historian featuring a photo of her ggrandmother and which gives information about 'Dormager und Zonser Jugen' . The story of her discovery of the cemetery and the coincidental meeting of the historian will be told in the next JGD. A listing of names with date and place of birth of Dormagener Jews 1933-1939 can be found on page 31-34. There are some multiple entries for Elkan, Dahl, Gottschalk, Katz, Herz, Willner. Synagogue lists include additional names - Meyer, Franken, Platz, Furst, Schwarz, Kaufman, Lichtenstein, Loewendahl, Jonas, Schmeger, Wallach.
Photocopies of the lists can be obtained from AJGS (Vic) and, if you are able to read German,the book can be made available.



Enid Yoffa-Elton, Les Oberman and Kurt Friedlaender at the AJGS display

Lionel Sharpe, Harvey Cohen, Liz James and Rhona Rosenberg at the Australian Jewish Historical Society display

'IN ONE VOICE - CONCERT IN THE PARK' - an annual event in March at the Caulfield Park which attracts thousands of visitors. The AJGS dealt with over 100 enquiries about ancestral research.

New book at Makor Library

Preserving Our Litvak Heritage - A History of 31 Jewish Communities in Lithuania

by Josef Rosin

An encyclopedic collection of archival material, public records, personal memoirs and over 500 photographs, this 736 page book by Josef Rosin is a detailed history of 31 **Litvak** Jewish communities. It is a testament to the cultural richness, town personalities, welfare institutions and educational system which contributed to once vibrant communities almost totally destroyed at the hands of the Nazis. For researchers who have not yet learned their place of ancestral Litvak origins, this book may well provide that important clue. With an introduction by one of the preeminent contemporary international scholars of the history of Eastern European Jewish Communities, Professor Dov Levin, this book has exceptional value.

Alytus, Birzai, Jurbarkas, Kaisiadorys, Kapciamiestis, Klaipeda, Kudirkos Naumiestis, Kybartai, Lazdijai, Lygumai, Marijampole, Merkine, Panevezys, Pilviskiai, Prienai, Sakiai, Salantai, Seirijai, Seta, Stakliskes, Sudargas, Taurage, Tauragnai, Telsiai, Utena, Varena, Veisiejai, Vilkaviskis, Virbalis, Zeimelis, Zemaiciu Naumiestis

You can order this book through JewishGenMall
http://www.jewishgenmall.org/

OTTOLANGUI OTTOLENGHI LANGLEY

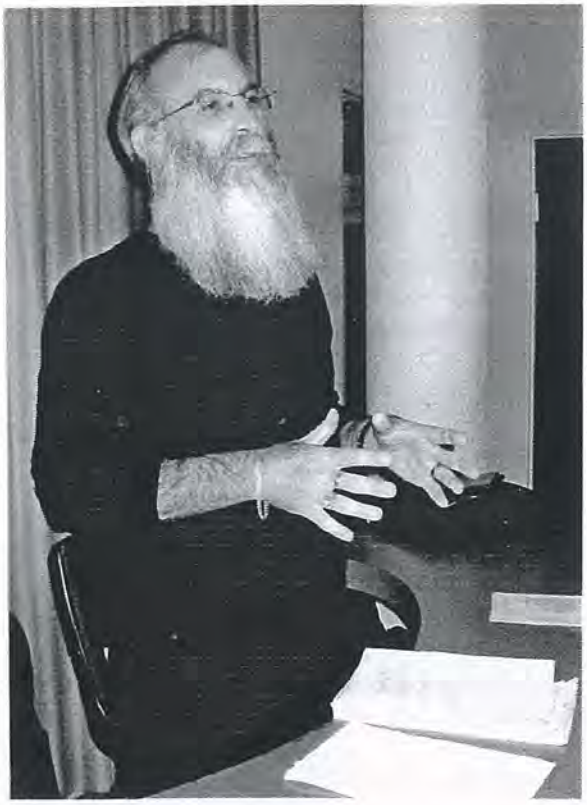
FAMILY REUNION : Tues, JUNE 28th, 2 0 0 5

Welcome to the members of the Ottolangui/ Ottolenghi/Langley families. Our morning begins at the Melbourne General Cemetery where Rabbi John Levi will conduct a memorial service and reconsecrate the newly renovated graves of Moses and Emma Ottolangui. (See full story in the next issue of the Kosher Koala.)

Time: 10.45 a.m. - Melbourne General Cemetery, (Map 43 Ref. H2) College Crescent Parkville, CARLTON
Jewish Section B; Plots 216 & 217
(Rotunda at intersection of 2nd & South Avenues)
The Evening Function (7.30p.m-10-30p.m.) will be held at the Prahran Town Hall (Mel Ref. Maps 2L –H:11)
Corner Greville and Chapel Streets, Prahan
The cost to cover renovation of the graves and evening function (including refreshments) will be $40.00 per person.
For catering purposes, please R.S.V.P. by JUNE 15th. 2005.
Please make cheques payable to Ron James
P.O. Box 8420, Armadale 3143 Vic.
mailto:rejames@iinet.net.au rejames@iinet.net.au
Phone. 03 9822 2849

A large attendance at our AGM listening to Ephraim Finch, Director of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha

PHILLIP SAME and his St.Kilda Synagogue Project



Phillip Same, a member of the St. KIlda Hebrew Congregation, addressed the Society on Wednesday 16 March 2005.

At his wedding in 1974 at the St. Kilda Synagogue, the Rabbi commented that this marriage was the first at which he had officiated, where all four grandparents were Australian born. He commented that in the Melbourne Jewish community this is a rare event.

He went on to outline his family research into the Same family (Shuelwicz/Samelowitz) who were farmers in Palestine and migrated to Perth, Western Australia early in the 20th century. Other families in his research were the Rosins, the Komesaroff/ Komersarook (Komisaruk) family, Zhmood family. Using records from the National Archives he was ablé to check on stories handed down in the family. Chaim Freedman's 'The Unbroken Chain' is also a valuable source of information on the family.

After an animated discussion where members of the audience shared information about his family history Phillip Same went on to outline some ideas he has for a kind of genealogical project for the St. Kilda synagogue. Sitting in Shule one day he observed numerous members who representated many old established families such a Michaelis, Rosengartens, Southwicks, Sackvilles, Cohens, Slutzkins etc and realised how interconnected they all are. His dream is to prepare a Synagogue book revealing the connection between these families

[The St. Kilda Hebrew Congregation was established in 1872 to become the third orthodox synagogue for Melbourne's Jewish community which emerged soon after settlement in the 1840s. It has had only five Rabbis in its long existence including Rabbi Jacob Danglow, who was inducted in 1905 and who served for fifty years. The congregation was largely supported by families of German and English origin and many of their descendants remained loyal to the Shule despite the proliferation of new synagogues since 1945.
In 2004 the Synagogue Building was Heritage listed thus acknowledging its unique architecture and importance to Melbourne's historical past]

JEWISH GENEALOGY YEARBOOK ON-LINE

The on-line version of the Yearbook has been posted to the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Society website.
You can access it by going to the www.iajgs.org website and selecting RESOURCES and then JEWISH GENEALOGY YEARBOOK 2005, or by clicking on the following link: http://iajgs.org/Yearbook-Index. htm. Each of the pages is in PDF format and so you will need the Adobe Acrobat reader to access.
Hal Bookbinder, President, IAJGS

It is really worth looking at! *(Editor)*

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE OF VICTORIA
Wills and Probates

From Wednesday April 20th 2005, there will be a change to the format of the numbers used to identify and order Wills and Probates on Archives@Victoria.

The leading zeroes will no longer be dropped from the three digits following the forward slash / in the number identifying the Will or Probate. For example:

Instead of entering 123/45, you will now enter 123/045.
Instead of entering 123/4, you will now enter 123/004.
Instead of entering 1234/56, you will now enter 1234/056.

Note that there will be no change to the way 90% of wills and probates are identified - 123/456 will still be 123/456. This change only affects identifying numbers where the part following the "/" is between 0 and 99
inclusive. This amendment will provide consistency for all users, both new and existing, when searching the Wills and Probates holdings online at PROV.

Jeanette Inglis, ARMA
MANAGER RECORDS ACCESS
Public Record Office Victoria
Email: jeanette.inglis@dvc.vic.gov.au

Making Australia Home Service

The Editor JGD,
Thank you for your inquiry about the National Archives of Australia Making Australia Home service.
'Making Australia Home' is a personalised service which enables migrants and their families to access information about their arrival and settlement in Australia. This information is contained in various immigration records held by the National Archives of Australia.
In response to a Making Australia Home request, the Archives will undertake a search of the collection and advise the client of records relating to the migrant named in their request. Copies of requested records are housed in a keepsake folder, together with a citation sheet, an information leaflet on the types of immigration records held by the National Archives and a photo order form.
More details about the Making Australia Home service are given in the brochure which also includes an order form. Please supply me with your postal details and I will forward you the brochure.
Yours sincerely,
Nick Culjak, Reference Officer
National Reference Service
National Archives of Australia
PO Box 7425
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610
E-mail: <ref@naa.gov.au >Ph: 1300 886 881

Israel Genealogical Society Online Project

The Israel Genealogical Society [IGS] is pleased to announce that the IGS Consolidated Surname Index is now online and searchable. Go to
http://www.isragen.org.il/NROS/Research/Aides.html
You can search through the 20,000 surnames mentioned in the more than 100,000 records databased by our volunteers. The searchable index will enable you to find out in which databases the surname is mentioned and how frequently. This web tool is a useful complement to the "Projects CD" that was especially created for the July 2004 conference in Jerusalem. An index search can be made using exact spelling or using the Daitch-Mokotoff soundex.
We'd like once again to thank all the volunteers who saw this project through to fruition!
Jean-Pierre Stroweis, Israel Genealogical Society, Jerusalem
<stroweis@zahav.net.il > http://www.isragen.org.il

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR'S RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our newest project is very ambitious: We are working to type over 300 pages of radio announcements made by Holocaust survivors in Poland just after the War --announcements in which survivors gave information on themselves and on family members elsewhere in Poland and in other countries. If you are thinking of volunteering to type, here is a sample to consider:
http://www.benkazez.com/dan/-Help/0519-HoloRadio.jpg
Please let me know if you'd like to volunteer. You would only need to type a few pages of names--with nothing to translate.
Dan Kazez <dkazez@wittenberg.edu>
http://www.benkazez.com/dan/talman/

A Guide to Reading Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents

The author of this new guide, Rosemary Wenzerul (Member of Council/Chairman, JGSGB Education Committee) said:
"When researching a Jewish family, it is extremely likely that you will come across various items and documents written in Hebrew.

A Guide to Reading Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents is designed specifically to help those people (whether Jewish or non-Jewish) who have difficulty in reading or understanding Hebrew. The idea is to compare the Hebrew on a document, photograph, inscription etc with the information shown in the Guide. For example, you may not be able to read the Hebrew inscription on a relative's grave. By referring to the sections in this Guide, this will be easily achieved. All the Hebrew in the book has English explanation, translation and transliteration.

Reasons behind some of the inscriptions and Jewish customs both in the home and in the Synagogue have also been included in order to help researchers understand the religious side of their roots.

The Guide includes the Hebrew alphabet, Hebrew vowels, numerical values, Jewish calendar, conversion tables, formula to convert a Jewish year to a Gregorian year, how to read headstones, symbols on headstones and their meanings, frequently used Hebrew words with abbreviations found on tombstones, Hebrew given boys' and girls' names, Hebrew letters which are liable to be misread, glossary of Yiddish terms, examples of Hebrew documents/inscriptions, many photographs and more.
It is available from: JGSGB Publications,
PO Box 180, St. Albans, Herts. AL2 3WH, England, U.K. or via our web-site: www.jgsgb.org.uk
Jewish Ancestor Series, A Guide to Reading Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents by Rosemary Wenzerul (56 pages p/b) Price: £4.50 plus p&p

SUNDERLAND COMMUNITY database (UK) is online at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/Community/sunderland.htm>

Future International Conferences

The Board of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies has selected Salt Lake City for the location of our 2007 IAJGS International Conference. The target dates are July 15 - 20, 2007. Looking beyond 2005 in Las Vegas, 2006 in New York and 2007 in Salt Lake City, the IAJGS board will be soliciting bids from our member organizations to serve as the local host for future conferences from 2008 - 2012.

Gleanings from Nu? What's New?
To be added to this mailing list, go to the Internet site http://www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm.

Consolidated Jewish Surname Index Updated

A major update has been made to Avotaynu's Consolidated Jewish Surname Index located at http://www.avotaynu.com/csi/csi-home.html .

CJSI is a database of databases. It is an index to 42 different sources of information about 700,000 (mostly) Jewish surnames. These databases combined represent more than 7.3 million records. Using CJSI means it is unnecessary to search each source separately to determine if there is information about a surname of interest. CJSI identifies which of these databases reference the surname. Links are provided to other web sites that either have the databases or information about how to access the data. Most of the sources are online; others are published in books or on microfiche.

Some of the most important surname databases for Jewish research are included. They are:

JewishGen Family Finder
Family Tree of the Jewish People
Jewish Records Indexing - Poland
All-<country> Databases of JewishGen including Belarus, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Scandinavia, UK
The surnames in books including:
A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire
A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland
A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia
A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames
Dictionary of Sephardic Surnames
Sourcebook for Jewish Genealogies and Family Histories
First American Jewish Families
Ancient Ashkenazic Surnames: Jewish Surnames from Prague
Eliyahu's Branches: The Descendants of the Vilna Gaon and His Family

CJSI has some special features to enhance it usefulness. The index is presented in Daitch-Mokotoff soundex order rather than alphabetically. This means that many spelling variants of a surname appear on consecutive lines. An advanced search feature allows mixing exact matching and soundexing of the letters of the surname lowering the incidence of false positives (the procedure is described at the Internet site).
(From Nu? What's New? Vol 6, No 8.)

A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire Out of Print

The landmark work of Alexander Beider, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire*, is now out of print. A revised edition is planned for 2006. Originally published in 1993, it has sold more than 3,000 copies.
The revised edition will be written by Dr. Beider, who is now a 42-year old scholar with a doctorate in history from the Sorbonne, and is considered by many to be the world's foremost scholar on Eastern European Jewish surnames. His doctoral thesis is the introductory portion of his book, *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names*.
Dr. Beider has established his reputation with the publishing of four books on the subject as well as papers in scholarly journals.

Databases on Amsterdam Jewry

The Dutch Jewish Genealogical Data Base of the Center for Research on Dutch Jewry now has eight databases specific to Amsterdam. The main site is located at http://dutchjewry.huji.ac.il, and the Amsterdam data can be found at http://www.dutch-jewry.org/Mokum/mokum_e.html. A search engine is included. The Amsterdam databases are:
<> 1. An inventory of Ashkenazi-Jewish inhabitants of Amsterdam in the 18th century.
2. Trouwen in Mokum. 15,278 Jewish Marriages in Amsterdam 1598-1811. Based on the book by the same name.
3. Marketing permits. Archives of marketing permits. 16448 marketing permits from 1912-1954.
4. 6,389 Portuguese marriages from the year 1664-1926.
5. 19,642 burial permits from 1834-1935.
6. 10,697 family names adoptions from 1812-1835.
7. 22,336 burial details from 1834-1954.
8. 12,139 marriages from 1830-1937.
(From Nu? What's New? Vol 6, No.6)

A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames

A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames is now available from Avotaynu.
The 824-page book identifies more than 13,000 German-Jewish surnames from the pre-World War I Germany. From Baden-Württemberg in the south to Schleswig-Holstein in the north. From Westfalen in the west to East Prussia in the east. In addition to providing the etymology and variants of each name, it identifies when and where in Germany the name appeared. Sample pages from the book, its table of contents, and ordering information can be found at http://www.avotaynu.com/books/menk.htm.

Spring Issue of the journal 'AVOTAYNU'

The Spring issue of AVOTAYNU is now in the mail. There are two very interesting articles about Jewish surnames; one by Alexander Beider and the other by Lars Menk. Among the other articles in the Spring issue are:
- Russian Exit Passports: Documentation of Emigrants from the Russian Empire
- Major Sephardic Internet Site: Les Fleurs de l'Orient
- The State of Organized Jewish Genealogy
- New Acquisitions at U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Our Visit to Karpata-Rus
- Escape into Spain: Hispanic Way Station on the Road to Freedom

Complete Program for Las Vegas Conference Now Online

The complete program for the 25th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is now online at http://www.jewishgen.org/lv2005/planner.htm.
There are from four to seven concurrent sessions Monday through Thursday. As in past conferences, lectures start at 8:15 a.m. and continue to 10:00 p.m. with planned luncheons and a dinner break.
You can register at:
http://www.jewishgen.org/lv2005/regist.htm.
The conference runs from July 10-15 and is at the Flamingo Hilton Hotel, Las Vegas.

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.

STEIF/ELLIOT/GILFIX

The Office of the Public Advocate are seeking information about the following persons. Rose Steif of Toronto, Canada believed to be deceased, her daughter Eva Elliot, who is believed to have spent some time in China, Jona (Gnoa?) Gilfix, who is believed to have been a teacher in Natanya, Canada. The matter concerns beneficiaries of a will.
Please contact Ruth Merrick if you have any knowledge of these people.
ruth.merrick@justice.vic.gov.au

BENJAMIN/SOLOMON

I am a family historian and writer interested in a number of Jewish families who settled in Sydney and Melbourne.
I am the great niece of Leonard Keyzor/Keysor VC (my piece on him will be in the AJHS June Journal) and a cousin of the late Kenn Brodziak, the theatrical entrepreneur who brought the Beatles to Australia. I am also related to the families of Alfred Joseph-Fanny Collins and Henry Joseph-Rose Brand of Sydney.
Currently I am researching the Melbourne families of brothers Lawrence Benjamin, and his wife Elizabeth Solomon, and Samuel Benjamin and his wife Fanny Marks. The brothers, sons of a Mark Benjamin of London, arrived in Australia in 1852. Do you know if anyone in Melbourne is researching this family ? I would appreciate any contacts and am always happy to exchange information.
Keira Quinn Lockyer keira@netcon.net.au
(03) 5429 1060

ISAACS FAMILY REUNION

While I live in the United States, my ancestors came from Holland in the early 1800's and then moved to London, England. One member of the family, Jacob Myer Isaacs, then went to Sydney, Australia in 1840 to work as a rabbi, before returning to London about two decades later.
I have found some family members who continued to live in Australia and New Zealand, but suspect there are more that I don't know about.
For more information on the family, please see the web site: http://www.isaacs-salant-familytree.org/
In addition, I want to spread the word that the Isaacs family is organizing an intercontinental family reunion in July 15-17, 2005 in Cambridge, England. We think that up to 40 family members may attend. I hope to expand the family tree and extend invitations to any living relatives in either country.
John Isaacs
Council for a Livable World
322 4th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
<jdi@clm.org>

KAYE

I am trying to trace my cousin Alan Kaye and his wife Sheryll. The last I saw of them was at Moshav Neve Ilan, their family home in Jerusalem where we stayed when my son Gavyn was Barmitzvah at the Khotel. That was 1983. Since then, I believe Alan and his family, who became extremely orthodox, have moved to Australia to be part of a small orthodox community there. His sons, too, followed their father's orthodoxy, and I believe attended Yeshiva in England.
Alan's original family name was Kirschenbaum, changed by my uncle David before Alan was born (he would be about 60 - a year or two younger than me). The family Kaye moved from Stamford Hill, London, to Johannesburg; then from there to Israel. My Uncle David died some years ago (after my mother, his sister), and left his wife, my aunt Peggy, in Tel Aviv.
Alan Fresco <alan.fresco@btinternet.com

ZEWKO

My mother has been wanting to find her best friend from years back for quite some time and after a lot of Internet searches and dead ends we are back to square one.
She would now be in her 50's (age) and I am unsure of where she is living, although she used to live in Elwood, St Kilda in her younger days.... we have narrowed it down to Australia, USA or Israel.
We are unsure weather she marries or had children but her maiden name is/was ESTHER ZEWKO, born 1946. She did a little bit of modelling and acting for some small movies which comes up in Internet search results but I am unable to find anything else.
Nicole Rodgerson < nicolerodgerson@optusnet.com.au>

RUDNICKI

We are a Law Offices working for many years on Restitution of Properties belonged to Jewish people who lost their assets during persecution of the NS regime.
During our work we have come to an information about Maria Liana-Liliana Rudnicki nee Koli (Kolin- Kohn) who was born on 16.12.1923 and lived on the year 1960 in Coburg, Melbourne , 8 Vincent Street and then in Nice France.
We could not fine Mrs. Rudnicki in France and would like to ask you if you have any information about the children of Mrs. Rudnicki who might have been born in Melbourne.
Ruth Keinan, Attorney at Law (Israeli Bar)
von Trott zu Solz Lammek Rechtsanwälte
Kurfürstendamm 32, 10719 Berlin
rkeinan@vontrott-lammek.de
Tel.: +49-(0)30-59 00 33 00
Fax: +49-(0)30-59 00 33 0-99
(Our records indicate that that Maria Liana Kohn departed from Marseilles, France on the SS Eridan on 20th November 1944 migrating to Melbourne .)

ZIFFER
I am seeking information about Idy Ziffer. I have been able to identify a lost cousin of second degree to my father. With the name I had got from the papers provided to me by the Archives I googled and found the Idy (Yehuda) Ziffer is mentioned on the site of the Box Hill chess club. In addition there is a g young lady in the same chess club by the name, Rocheleh Ziffer, maybe the daughter of Idy.
Idy has a 94 years old uncle in Israel by the name of Zvi, the brother of his father, Michael.
I would be most grateful if you could help me to contact Idy.
Eyal Ziffer, Tel Aviv, Israel <Ziffer@013.net>
Tel: 972-3-6477481
Fax: 972-153-3-6477481

BERGER/ELTIS/MICHAEL
Bernhard Berger was born on 23 Jan 1899 in Vendersheim/ Oppenheim. The family lived in Dresden/Heidenau. He worked as a Travel advisor for a travel agency by the name of Krupke & Oestreicher, on Bismarckplatz 12 in Dresden.
His wife was Gertrud nee SCHWENKE. They had 2 sons: Rolf was born on 25 Feb.1927 in Krefeld in Dresden. Fred Werner was born on 15 June 1930, also in Dresden.
Bernhard BERGER was deported to Buchenwald on the night of the Pogroms (Kristalnacht) in Dresden. After his release he was probably sentenced to do forced labour. It is possible but not known - that the sons were sent to England on one of the Kindertransports.
Bernhard BERGER was to be deported to Theresienstadt on 16.02.1945, but managed to flee into hiding in Dresden three days earlier, having escaped in the confusion caused by the bombing of Dresden. It is known that he found shelter with a number of families.
At the end of the war he possibly with his wife was in the DP (Displaced Persons) Camp of Schlachtensee.
The family emigrated to Australia. Australian records show two entries for this family, one in 1939 the other in 1946. in the 1954 1961 set an Applicant named Max ELTIS acted as Nominee for them. In 1939 it had been a Manny MICHAEL.
David Lewin, UK, <davidlewin@btinternet.com>
Search & Unite attempt to help locate people who, despite the passage of so many years since World War II, may still exist "out there". We also assist in the process of re-possession of property in the Czech Republic. See our Web page at http://remember.org/unite/

RUBIN
I am looking for descendents of ? RUBIN from Minsk, Russia. He was the son of Wolf Rubin and emigrated to Australia probably in the late 1800's. My great-grandfather, Jacob Rubin, emigrated from Minsk to the United States in 1881. He lived first in New York and then moved to Kansas City, Missouri, USA where he married and had 6 children. His brother, ? Rubin, went to Australia. One of the brother's descendents worked for Walt Disney Enterprises in the 1950's and came to Kansas City to meet the relatives. However, I do not know what last name the descendents have. Sandra Rubin Berg,Overland Park, Kansas USA.<sberg@kc.rr.com>

STRAUSS
I am looking for the children of "Buddy" Strauss. Buddy's family emigrated from the United States to Sydney where they lived for many years. Buddy eventually returned to the US but his children stayed in Australia. Their great-grandmother was Helen Strauss from New York who was my great-aunt.
Sandra Rubin Berg, Kansas USA. <sberg@kc.rr.com>

TRAGER /ROSHKOVSKY/ NOVELLO
Following the last request in our newsletter the enquirer has more information
I am stuck and I hope somebody can help me.
I have been trying to find family related to Cholem (Charles) and Sarah Trager who arrived in Australia from Odessa/Russia in 1913. Cholem was born in 1860 in Uman and was a butcher by profession. In the meantime I discovered the marital names of the daughters I am looking for descendants of Olga Roshkovsky (nee Trager) and married to Ivan or James Roshkovsky. She arrived to Australia from Russia in 1913.
I am also interested in descendants of her sister Rose Novello. Both sisters lived in Brisbane.
Marianne Trager, The Netherlands <m.trager@chello.nl>

NEUFELD/ SCHLESINGER/ ONTO
My wife's grandfather was Ludwig Neufeld, born 4 April 1873. Ludwig's brother was Albert Neufeld, born 22 April 1886 in Vienna. He married on 3 September 1911 to Hani Schlesinger, born 8 May 1885. Albert died in Australia prior to 1975. They had a daughter, Anna, born 25 June 1912, who married Istvan ONTO from Budapest on 25 July 1937. Any information will be appreciated.
Engelbert Higer,
Kirchenstrasse 93,
5580 Tasweg, Austria

SESSLER
My name is Martin Sessler an I live since 1970 in Israel. My uncle left before the Shoah in Austria and established with his two sons Egon and Kurt Sessler in Melbourne. My father, Josef Sessler emigrated in 1938 to Switzerland, and died there in 1976. I know from my father, that one of the two Sesslers, Kurt or Egon has a daughter and her name is Wendy. I would be glad to establish contact with my cousin's daughter and if you could help me I would be very gratful.
Martin Sessler, Kibbutz Magen, 85465 Doar Na Negev Israel

ZILBERG
The Australian Red Cross International Tracing Service are seeking Mart Zilberg, born in Odessa, Ukraine, approx 1940 His parents are Fira and Mikhail. His last known address was in McKinnon.
Please ring 03 83277883 if you have any information.

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What is the Difference Between First Cousins Once Removed and Second Cousins etc ?

By Joan Parker

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This article appeared in the Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami in December 2003. [The AJGS (Vic) receives a number of overseas newsletters on a reciprocal basis.] This article should stimulate the brain cells!

Frequently this question is asked and usually answered with the bit about sharing common ancestor grandparents, great-great grandparents, and the eyes glaze over, i.e.: FIRST COUSINS share one set of grandparents in common, while THIRD COUSINS share great-great grandparents in common and so on down the lineage. Having said that, however...

Many people tend to mix up the terms **"first cousin once removed"** with **"second cousin"**. The two are not the same nor are they interchangeable. So where is a very easy way to know who's who and who is "removed"?

Let us say you have a first cousin who has children. Those children are your first cousins once removed, because your cousin is your first cousin and the children are removed by one generation down the line.

Now time passes and this first cousin's children have kids of his/her own --becoming your first cousins twice removed, because now they have two generations down the line. So any direct descendants of your first cousin is your first cousin x-amount generations removed, adding one number of each new generation.

The children of your first cousin and your children are second cousins, because they are the children of first cousins. But at the same time remember his/her kids are still your first cousins once removed as I wrote earlier.

When the word "removed" is used to describe a cousin relationship, it indicates that the two people are from different generations. Once removed indicates a difference of one generation. Twice removed indicates a difference of two generations, and so forth.

To reiterate: Let's compare you again with your first cousin. You both share a grandparent, often two grandparents. However, your cousin's child also shares the same ancestry - but at a difference of one generation. That child is "removed" from your "cousinship" by one generation. Hence, as written above, that child is your first cousin once removed. Likewise, the grandchild of your first cousin is your first cousin twice removed (two generations removed from being a first cousin).

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Learn about the Story of Jewish Settlement in Australia.

Have you visited the new website of the Australian Jewish Historical Society? - Harvey Cohen has done a magnificent job putting it together. This educational site provdes links to timelines and historical facts and our early settlers. For researchers there is also an Index to the AJHS Journal. Visit these two sites:

AJHS <http://www.ajhs.info/>

AJHS Journal - Cumulative Alphabetical Index Vol. 1 - XIV
< http://www.ajhs.info/journal/cum_index.htm>

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