Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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

Melbourne, Australia

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Jewish genealogical societies - are they essential and, if so - why? (See Editorial comment and our President's report page five)

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic)

in association with Makor Jewish Community Library invite you to hear

Associate Professor Martin Delatycki

Director, Bruce Lefroy Centre for Genetic Health Research, Clinical Geneticist
Genetic Health Services Victoria

Genetics and Genealogy

JewishGen recently launched a Family Tree DNA Project. To quote from their website *Genealogy by Genetics*: "When there are no records and the paper trail dead ends, we are offering an opportunity to utilize a revolutionary strategy. This tool places you on the cutting edge of scientific technology and can be your only means of establishing familial connectivity. Using an 12-marker test, relationships can be determined over a period in excess of a few thousand years. If someone has the exact DNA markers as you, you have an extremely high likelihood of sharing a common ancestor with that person, from a time period ranging from a few generations back to about 900 years". Assoc. Prof. Delatycki will discuss genetic illnesses specific to certain Jewish groups and the implications of genetic technology for genealogical research.

Wednesday, 25th July 2006 at 7.30 pm

Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre , 306 Hawthorn Rd, South Caulfield 3162
Bring your friends. 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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Membership fees:
Individual $30.00 (add $10.00 for The Kosher Koala)
Family $35.00 (add $10.00 for the Kosher Koala)
Concession: $15.00 (add $10.00 for the Kosher Koala)

New Members: Arlene Morris, Scott Lanyon

EDITORIAL

An article appeared in the latest issue of the international journal 'Avotaynu' entitled, 'Current State of Jewish Genealogical Societies'. It is written by Avotaynu editor, Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack, who had posted a message on the IAJGS President's Digest some time ago questioning whether genealogical societies had grown in the past year. Rieke Nash, president of our AJGS, NSW society, was one of the few who responded and her report is reproduced in Dr Sach's article.

Over recent years others have raised the issue of the viability of local genealogical societies in the light of the widespread use of the internet. It is suggested that the well known JewishGen website offers a section on FAQs and thus attendance at workshops are no longer essential for the beginner. Numerous websites are also readily available for searching maps, archival collections, histories of localities and the like.

For example just open our own homepage: <www.ajgs.exist.com.au> and you will find hundreds of website suggestions collated by our local President, Les Oberman.

So why join a local genealogical society?' What does one gain by working with others on our research, as against working on our own in the solitary confines of our office or living room?

A number of responses come to mind. First, the internet has created such an overload of information that the infrequent user can easily get confused and miss vital databases.

How many phone calls do we receive where the caller says - 'But I have looked there already! Sometimes the spelling of surnames can present problems and therefore dictionaries of surnames are very useful for exploring alternative spellings. But we cannot all afford a library of very expensive genealogical books. Most genealogical societies acquire a large library over time.

Second, some people often get frustrated and soon give up their research. Membership of a society, which has a regular newsletter and a lecture program, enables an opportunity to share frustrations and problems. There are also international conferences organised by the IAJGS, for example, New York in August. What an opportunity to learn from 'mavens' coming together from around the world of Jewish genealogy. Such conferences are only possible through collective collaboration.

Finally, surely it is mitzvah to assist beginners who are struggling to sort out their scraps of notes and make sense of a bottom drawer full of old documents.

Only an organised society makes possible the contact between an experienced mentor and the perplexed, who scratch their heads and ask, 'Where do I begin?'.

Lionel Sharpe
Editor

The Holocaust: The Search for Victims and Survivors

By Lionel Sharpe

This article first appeared in Centre News, Vol. 28, No.1, April 2006, a publication of the Jewish Holocaust Centre Inc. Melbourne

"When the Nazis rounded us up. they took away our names and gave us numbers. What we are involved with is taking away the numbers and giving them back their names."

So wrote Arthur Kurzweil, author of *From Generation to Generation,* and an outstanding leader in the world of Jewish genealogy. He makes a plea to the current generation to develop a personal connection with the Holocaust. He suggests that we ask such questions as: ' Who was murdered ? Where were they ? What are their names ? How old were they ? Who were in their families ? Where did they die ? How did they die ? What is their relationship to me ?'

With no personal grave on which to place a tombstone, the entry on a family tree chart or in Yad Vashem's Hall of Names, may be the only evidence that those who perished ever existed.

This short article will attempt to overview sources for answering Kurzweil's questions. It aims to encourage those with family connections with those who perished, to embark on a voyage for the recovery of names, dates and family history.

INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

Much progress has been made in the past few decades in making available new documentation and to place it on the internet. Many survivors will recall that, in the post-war years after World War II, the central point for the collection of information was the International Tracing Service (ITS) of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The ITS was located in Arolsen, a town Germany, in 1955 and has remained there since.

The ITS gathered identification on the fate of millions of persons, Jewish and non-Jewish, who were killed or displaced between 1939 and 1945. By 1955, the ITS had created more than 45 million index cards relating to more than 14 million individuals. Those who recall utilising this valuable service will remember that replies often came after many months, if not years, following the initial enquiry. A very frustrating and occasionly, a fruitless search resulted.

In 1955-1957, Yad Vashem, located in Jerusalem, filmed the ITS records of Jewish victims of the Nazi regime allowing visitors to Israel to search these records. Since then many more records have since come to light, especially from the former USSR, so ITS continues to be utilised as a resource for research.

YAD VASHEM

A major breakthrough for Holocaust research occurred in November 2004.
Yad Vashem, the key institution in Israel dedicated to perpetuating the memory of the the victims of the Holocaust, made available the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names on the internet. Overnight letter writing and trips to the Yad Vashem were a thing of the past. The Hall of Names/Pages of Testimony Division had been actively collecting 'pages of testimony' from Jews around the world and now one could search these extensive records from one's living room.

Some three million names from pages of testimony and other sources, such as deportation lists, Gedenkbuch books and concentration camp lists have been entered on the database.

In 2004 it was reported that there were 2.75 million visitors to the website in the first few weeks of its launch. Such was the demand to search, not only the names of the deceased, but also the name of the individual who lodged the page of testimony.

Viewing the signature of the person who lodged the form has enabled searchers to locate the name and address survivors or their descendants who, in many instances, have turned out to be unknown living close relatives. For example, child of a refugee who fled Germany to South America in 1939 and later settled in Israel, recently found a German refugee relative, now in her eighties, living in Geelong, Victoria.

It is also useful to check out the Pages of Testimony for the names of all those relatives who you believe died in the Holocaust. Recently a member of the Jewish Genealogical Society found his own name among the deceased. A copy of his passport was requested to remove his name.

I myself had been convinced that all members of my own wife's perished family members were entered in the Pages of Testimony database by surviving relatives. Everyone must have thought that someone else had made an entry. However the only records I found were a number mispelt names or incorrect details taken from French deportation lists. This has now been rectified and photographs have been included with the forms sent to Yad Vashem. Visit: www.yadvashem.org/

YIZKOR BOOKS

There are other sources available for Holocaust research. Often overlooked are the Yizkor Books. After World War II survivors from a town or shtetl gathered together writings and photographs about their lost communities. These were published by landsmanshaften or individuals to memorialise their destroyed shtetlach and homes, as well as stories about relatives and friends who perished.

More than 1,200 Yizkor (memorial or remembrance) books have been published. For the genealogist they can provide a valuable source of information about specific individuals. However, most are written in Hebrew or Yiddish, although some have sections in English and this may present difficulties for the Australian born researcher.

In 1994 a group of volunteers started a project 'to unlock the valuable information contained in Yizkor Books so that genealogists and others can learn about their heritage.' The JewishGen Yizkor Book Project is a translation project, available on the JewishGen website, which enables us to read translations of selected parts of Yizkor books. It also offer us the opportunity to search a 'necrology' index of Holocaust victims whose names appear in these books.

A number of Australians have played a role in this Yizkor Book Project. Appreciation was recently extended to Dr Oskar Delatycki in his role as Project Director of the

Navaredok Memorial Book (Novogrudok, Belarus) and to Jenni Buch as the Project Co-ordinator of the Brisk de-Lita: Encyclopedia Shel Galuyot, together with translator, Dr Samuel Chani. Visit: www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/

JEWISHGEN HOLOCAUST DATABASE

Perhaps the most exciting development apart from the Yad Vashem initiative mentioned above, is JewishGen's Holocaust Database incorporating 100 different datasets and containing over one million entries and constantly updated.
Among the datasets is the Lodz Ghetto database base which contains 250,000 names and the Sugihara Passport list containing 2,140 names of Jews saved by the Japanese diplomat in 1940.
Visit: www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/

US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Other valuable resources include the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum which maintains a Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors with a list of over 170,000 survivors and their children in the U.S. and Canada.
Visit:www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry/index.php?content=offerings/

CONCLUSION

These few introductory notes may stimulate some readers to further pursue their searching. It is often said that so many records were destroyed and that 60 years after the end of the war it may be fruitless to search for those who perished. Perhaps, however the real challenge today is to attempt to confirm what might have happened to them and to seek out those who survived and locate their descendants. In the past few years hundreds of volunteers have brought to our computer screens new opportunities for research. We need to lift our hats for their tireless and dedicated efforts. In the words of Kurzweil, thank them for *'taking away the numbers and giving them back their names'.*

Lionel Sharpe is Honorary Secretary of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Victoria)

NEW HOLOCAUST PUBLICATIONS

Gedenkbuch Häftlingen des Konzentrationslagers Bergen-Belsen

(Bergen-Belson memorial book) published by the Stiftung Niedersächsische Gedenkstätten Gedenkstätte Bergen-Belsen. 2 vols, 1,171pp. (Lists 50,000 prisoners held in this concentration camp in Lower Saxony)

Die "Judendeportationen" aus dem Deutschen Reich 1941-1945

(Jewish Deportations from Germany) by Alfred Gottwaldt and Diana Schulle, Berlin: Marix Verlag, 2005. 509 pp. (It attempts to list all the 'Jewish transports' that left the German Reich between October 1941 and end of the war.)

Both publications are reviewed by Peter Landé in Avotaynu, Spring 2006, available at the Makor Jewish Community Library.

GERMANY OPENS HOLOCAUST RECORDS

From The Jerusalem Post, April 18, 2006
By Associated Press Washington

Germany agreed Tuesday to clear the way for the opening of Nazi records on some 17 million Jews and enslaved laborers who were persecuted and slain by the Nazis and their collaborators more than 60 years ago during the Holocaust.

Justice Minister Brigitte Zypries said at a news conference in the US Holocaust Memorial Museum that Germany would work in partnership with the United States to assure the opening of the archives, held in Bad Arolsen, Germany, and allow historians and survivors access to some 30 million to 50 million documents.

Until now, Germany resisted providing access to the archives, citing privacy considerations. "We always put it forward that way in meetings," Zypries said.

But in a meeting Tuesday with Sara Bloomfield, the museum's director, Zypries said Germany had changed its position and would seek immediate revision of an 11-nation accord that governs the archives.

She said that should take no more than six months.

Speaking in German, the minister said, "We now agree to open the data in Bad Arolsen in Germany," she said. "We now assume the data will be safeguarded by those countries that copy the material and use it, and now that we have made this decision, we want to move forward."

In an interview, Bloomfield called the decision "a great step; a really important step." She said, "I will be completely thrilled when I get the material in the archives."

For 60 years, the International Red Cross has used the archived documents to trace missing and dead Jews and forced laborers, who were systematically persecuted by Nazi Germany and its anti-Semitic confederates across central and eastern Europe before and during World War II.

The archives have remained off-limits over the decades to historians and the public. Zypries and Bloomfield credited France and Poland with being especially helpful in trying to resolve the dispute. However, the German minister said, "The ICRC has not been particularly helpful."

See PAGE 12 - Nu? What's New? Special Edition

President's Report

At the outset in my annual report I, on behalf of our membership, wish to thank our honorary secretary, Lionel Sharpe, for the fantastic job he does for our society. He has enabled us to run regular monthly meetings and produces our respected newsletter, 'Jewish Genealogy Downunder'. I also wish to thank our honorary treasurer, Kurt Friedlaender, for the capable way he handles our finances and for acting as the webmaster for our website <www.ajgs.exist.com.au>.

At our monthly meetings held at Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre we have had good attendances particularly when a member has spoken about his or her own family research. I would encourage more members to consider giving a presentation on their own research. We thank those who has given carefully presented papers and set an example to all of us. We also thank our Vice-President Enid Yoffa-Elton assisted by Bettye Susskind for arranging supper at our meetings. We do occasionally hold meetings where members are invited to report on work in progress and again we encourage you to speak, even for a few minutes.

Special thanks also to Dov who handles all our room bookings and arranges for the setting up of the meeting room. His interest in our work and willing co-operation is very much appreciated. We also thank the security staff who gatekeep the office during our meetings.

We thank the staff at Makor Jewish Community Library, who catalogue, shelve and look after our book collection and we especially thank Leonie Fleiszig and her staff for acting as our front office in dealing with and passing on enquiries from visitors to the library and from phone callers.

We receive daily from overseas and locally many genealogical enquiries which are attended to by members of our committee and we thank the committee for their support over the last year. We are especially indebted to the enormous time and effort put in by Gilda and Russell Feldman, for building a database with the tens of thousands of names found on old hard copy family trees. These prove invaluable in answering many of the enquiries we receive.

We are also indebted to Rodney Eisfelder for providing expert assistance to persons searching for living relatives. Rodney has an amazing number of databases relevant to Australian ancestral research.

We have again participated in open days arranged by the LDS and other groups and see these events as an opportunity to interface with other genealogical societies and the general public.

For many years we have conducted Sunday afternoon workshops but have now decided not run these workshop sessions due to the lack of interest by the membership and wider community. I would hope that we could run workshops in the future so that we can entice members of the general Jewish public to take an interest in their own family history not only for themselves but for the sake of their children and grandchildren.

On a positive note I am pleased to observe that some of our Jewish day schools are interested in seeking our assistance for the Year 7 'Roots Project'. We now have a set of guidelines prepared to help school students. To promote an interest in family research among Jewish students we recently donated copies of Arthur Kurzweil's 'From Generation to Generation' to all the Jewish secondary school libraries.

We were pleased to hear that two of our members, Debbie Jurblum and Phil Lipshut will be attending the 26th IAJGS International Conference in New York 13th-18th August and we wish the conference much success.

Finally I wish to thank our interstate colleagues in NSW, S.A. and W.A. for their co-operation and frequent communication with our Society and we wish them much success in their endeavours

Leslie Oberman
President

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Library

ANNUAL APPEAL 2006

Makor Library aims to provide a comprehensive information service on Jewish topics and issues to the general public.

With its policy of impartiality, non-alignment and inclusiveness Makor is the only such library in Australia. It plays an important role in dispelling misconceptions and promoting tolerance in Australian society.

Makor houses the genealogical resource collection of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Victoria) and purchases many books relevant to family research. Open Monday to Thursday and Sunday pm enables AJGS members and the general public to utilise these resources.

The Telethon Appeal is Makor's major fundraising effort. It is the life-blood of the Library, vital for us to continue providing our services to the community.

The 2006 Appeal will take place between 16 and 23 July.

You can make a pledge any time. Please call the library on **9272 5611** or post your donation to Makor Library, 306 Hawthorn Rd., South Caulfield, 3162. Your donation is **fully tax deductible.** If you wish to volunteer your time to assist with the Appeal please let us know and we will roster you.

The Sanders Story: A Family Saga

Researched, compiled and transcribed by
Derrick Lewis

Derrick Lewis lives in Hout Bay, South Africa and emailed us the full text of his ancestral research. He writes: *'Typical of many other families, this Sanders Story is one of the "wandering Jew", with Wulf Sanders traveling the world in search of riches and establishing a secure home for his family'.*

'Our story begins in Courland, now known as the provinces of Kurzeme and Zemgale, of modern day Latvia. Courland was bordered by the Baltic Sea to the west, Lithuania to the south and the Daugava River to the north. Courland was never part of the Pale of Settlement and it is interesting to note that mostly German and not Yiddish, was the spoken language of the Jewish community. (My Grandparents understood, but never spoke Yiddish). It is here, in the historic capital, Mitau (now known as Jelgava) that my Great Grandfather, Wulf Sanders was born in 1842.'

At the conclusion of a lenthy and well researched history a few sentences caught the editor's eye. Lewis writes:

'Our story is of course far from over, there are still many missing facts. What of the ten years the Sanders family lived in Melbourne? All we have are birth certificates. We now know that the original surname was Sander. We know the names of Wulf's siblings. What happened to them? And so it goes on!'. History is in the making everyday. We are what we are today, because of what happened in the past. Hopefully my attempt to get all the facts together will be continued by the younger generation! Every family has a story to tell. Lets hear about it!

This is an extract referring to Australia.

'Wulf decided not to return to Europe, but rather to investigate the possibilities and opportunities the British Colonies of The Cape and Australia had to offer. So just after the birth of Henry (aka Harry), Wulf set sail for the Cape Colony, leaving his young family behind. His intention was, that should he find suitable business opportunities and a place to set up a home, he would bring his family out to join him.

En route, Wulf was surprised to hear that his ship had by-passed Cape Town and was well on its way to Melbourne, Australia! *On arrival in Melbourne, Wulf found suitable lodgings and saw that he could indeed make a good living selling wares to the outlying sheep stations. He wrote to Lena instructing her to join him as soon as was possible.*

Lena made the necessary arrangements and with her baby, who was now seven months old left London for Melbourne on the 21st March, 1871 on Money Wigram & Company's Steam Ship "Somersetshire" They embarked at Gravesend and arrived at Plymouth on the 23rd March, to pick up the balance of passengers. A total of 154 passengers were on the voyage.

The ship the S.S. Somersetshire was originally launched in 1867, was the first compound engine equipped steam ship on the overseas London – Australia passage. Weighing 2,342 gross tons, of iron construction with a single screw engine and a speed of 9 knots, the voyage to Australia took 76 days!

Off the coast of Victoria, Australia, the ship's cook came down with small pox. As a precaution the ship was put into quarantine off Kangaroo Island. Eventually after the quarantine period was over, the Somersetshire arrived at the port of Melbourne on the 5th June, 1871. It was now 10 months since Wulf had seen his family

The Sanders family set up home at 5 Rathdowne Terrace, in the suburb of Carlton, Melbourne. Wulf traded as a commercial traveler, calling on farmers and outlying villages.

A year later, Lena gave birth to her second child, on the 11th March, 1872, their first baby daughter named Annie. The following year, on the 2nd October, 1873, another son, named Moses, was born. By the time their fourth child, another daughter, named Bella, was born, on the 30th April, 1875, Wulf had prospered sufficiently to own is own shop as his occupation stated on Bella's birth certificate is given as "store keeper". Street directories of the day show that Wulf's store was situated on Swanston Street, Melbourne.

On the 26th March, 1877 another son was born, named Lazarus (aka Lazie), named after Wulf's father, Laser Sander, who died earlier that year in Riga. The following year on the 30th November, 1878, their son Samuel was born.

By this time the Sanders family had now moved from Carlton to the then upmarket suburb of Sandridge, "situated on Hobson's bay, about 1.25 miles from the city centre and 2.5 miles by road. The streets of the town are wide and laid out at right angles. Sandridge is well drained and lighted and the foot-paths are mostly either flagged or asphalted."

The family, who were now living in St. Kilda, were growing and on the surface all seemed well. However, the sad news was received that Wulf's mother was

dying. Lena had not met her in-laws and was missing her family in Poland. My Grandmother was under the impression that her parents were not happy with the lack of "Jewish life and culture" in Melbourne and so the decision was made to sell up, pack up and move all the way back to Latvia! It appears that Wulf had forgotten what the restricted life was like in Courland.

With the opening of the Suez Canal, the voyage to Russia was shortened considerably. In 1881 the Sanders family said farewell to Australia, their home for the past ten years and set off via the Suez Canal and the Black Sea for Riga. *While en route, sailing across the Black Sea, another baby was born to Lena! On the 15th March, 1881, Minna, known as Minnie, was born, Lena's 7th child. As an adult, Minnie battled to obtain a passport as she could not give a fixed place of her birth.*

Arriving back in Riga, where the remaining Sanders family were now living, Wulf must have been given an emotional and hero's welcome. It was 18 years since Wulf had left for America, a young 20 year old and now was returning, a successful businessman, with a wife and seven children!

Wulf and his family remained in Riga for two years. We are not sure if Lena traveled to Poland to see her parents in Suwalki. However, Wulf found the corruption and anti Semitism in Riga to be far worse than he realized. He longed for the open lifestyle of Australia and although Lena had given birth to another baby, a son named Max, on the 12th January, 1882, it was decided that the family would travel to London were Wulf set up Lena and her eight children with suitable lodgings at 26 Stewart Street, Spitalfields.

Wulf, leaving his wife and children behind, boarded the Union Steamship "Danube" for Cape Town. The Danube sailed from Southhampton on the 3rd March, 1882 with 233 passengers on board, arriving 25 days later in Cape Town on the 28th March, 1882. He found accommodation at 26 Hout Street, Cape Town.

Cape Town was love at first sight for Wulf. He decided not to continue to Australia and immediately wrote to Lena giving his change of plans. Wulf made application to the authorities to allow Lena and the children to join him in Cape Town.'

For the full article or feedback: Derrick Lewis can be contacted: <garlik@mweb.co.za>

PROV Second Instalment of Outward Passenger Lists Index now Online

The Public Records Office of Victoria has announced that their index now spans from 1852-1861. This index is extracted from original passenger lists of ships departing from Victorian ports. Visit: www.prov.vic.gov.au/access/online.htm

GERMAN MILITARY RECORDS

I have recently found a resource for German Military information. My grandfather fought in World War 1 in a certain German Regiment. The resource (see below) was able to tell me where and when this Regiment fought in WW1 which I was then able to relate to a war injury record I had previously obtained.
I wrote in English and had a reply in English with in two weeks. I had in fact forgotten all about the enquiry, so it came as a terrific surprise. These are the details:
Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt Abteilung
Ausbildung, Information und Fachstudien (AIF)
Bereich III
Zeppelinstraße 127/8
14471 Potsdam
Tel.: 0331-9714-532
Bw: 90-8529-532 E-Mail: julianfinke@bundeswehr.org

Geoff Kaiser, Melbourne

JEWISH FAMILIES RESIDING IN BELARUS CITIES AND SMALL TOWNS IN THE 18th-20th CENTURIES

I am pleased to inform you that we have created a new Belarusian Jewish information resource web site:

http://www.freewebs.com/belarussianjewsfamilytrees

The information presented is the findings of my many years of historical research and Belarusian and Ukrainian archive investigation. The information presented here is free. I will be very glad to receive your suggestions and issues.
With kind regards,

Eduard Rabinovich, Russia <jewishcensus@mail.ru>

Editor's Note: I have checked out this site. It contains an excellent map and other valuable information such as a description of the Jewish Population census in Belarus after its incorporation into Russia and a comprehensive list of 19th century Belarusian provinces and districts (Gubernia and uezd)

Still thinking about attending the 26th Annual IAJGS Conference in New York ?

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies' Conference in New York, August 13-18, has an unprecedented large contingent of speakers coming from Poland.

Attendees at past conferences will recognize speakers Yale Reisner and Anna Przybyszewska Drozd from the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project in Warsaw. Anna will be speaking on "Untapped Polish Resources" and Yale's lecture title is "The Ones That Got Away: Polish Jews who Left the Fold."

Dr. Eleonora Bergman, an author and vice-director of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw will be lecturing on the archival holdings of her institute. Anna Wiernicka, who works in the Institute of Archeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Science, will be speaking on "Polish Notary Documentation." My own personal research has benefited greatly from the information that I have uncovered in Polish Notary documentation.

Also represented is the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Rabbi Michael Schudrich. Rabbi Schudrich will be part of a panel discussing , "The Documentation, Protection and Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries in Central and Eastern Europe."

There are many more lectures that will be of interest to those researching their Polish roots. Check out the conference website for the list of speakers and their topics.

Go to **<http://www.jgsny2006.org>** to register.
See you there!
Hadassah Lipsius, New York Conference Co-Chair

Jewish Genealogy Group Forming in Spain

More than 500 years after the Jews were given proffered baptisms (submit to baptism or leave the country), a Jewish genealogy group is forming in Spain. The Jewish community of Barcelona invited American Dr. Jeffrey S. Malka to speak to the group last month about Sephardic genealogy and discuss with them the formation of a genealogy group.
Malka is the author of *Sephardic Genealogy: Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World*. Visit:
http://www.orthohelp.com/geneal/sefardim.htm.
His book *Sephardic Genealogy* won the Outstanding Reference Work of the Association of Jewish Libraries in 2002. Information about the book can be found at http://www.avotaynu.com/books/sephardic.htm.
From: Nu? What'sNew? June 2006

Steve Morse Does It Again !

I see that Steve Morse has added several new foreign-alphabet tools to his one-step website. These are in the "Dealing with Characters in Foreign Alphabets" section. The new tools include translating (real translations, not transliterations) words from Hebrew to English and vice versa, transliterating between English and Greek in both directions, and a virtual keyboard that lets you type any character in any Latin-based alphabet (example, the slashed L in Polish).

The one-step website is at http://stevemorse.org

Diane Jacobs, Somerset, NJ., USA

New Book: History of the Jews of Schneidemühl: 1641 to the Holocaust

More and more genealogists are taking their desire to publish a family history book one level higher by publishing a town history book. This is especially true if there is no Yizkor (Holocaust memorial) book for the town. In 2002, Avotaynu published *Between Galicia and Hungary: The Jews of Stropkov* by Melody Amsel. Now Avotaynu is publishing *Jews of Schneidemühl: 1641 to the Holocaust* by Peter Cullman. (Schneidemühl, is Pi?a, Poland, today.)

Cullman spent fifteen years compiling a history of town. The result is a portrayal not only of the Jewish minority, but also the community in which it resided. The book begins by describing the slow growth of this tiny Polish town and the arrival of Jews in the 16th century. The reader is provided a detailed account of the changing nature of this community against a background of the major European historical events to the Holocaust.

As a result of his painstaking research, the author was able to trace the fate of most members of the Jewish community as it existed in the 1930s, many of whom would emigrate in time and others who ultimately perished in the Holocaust.

What is unusual in the book are the detailed person-by-person chronologies of many as they were deported, sent to various towns, labor camps and hospices, and their ultimate fate.

An annotated Jewish burial register, 1854-1940, lists the names of more than 900 persons. Today, nothing remains of Jewish Schneidemühl, but the book brings to life what once was a small but vibrant and notable Jewish community.

The book is 408 pages, hardcover and costs US$46.00 plus shipping. Ordering information plus the complete Table of Contents can be found at:

http://www.avotaynu.com/books/cullman.htm.

Have you joined ?
The Australian Jewish Genealogy Discussion Group on the internet
Visit: http://www.ajgs.org.au
(Click on the On-Line Forum to register - its free)
Share your problems with others and help others to solve their problems.

Deane Road Cemetery, Liverpool, UK

In the 19th century, a community of Jewish philanthropists belonging to the Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation changed the face of Liverpool's economy. Amongst these men and women were mayors, entrepreneurs, clerics, artists, medics and musicians. Their combined resourcefulness and wealth added significantly to the development of Liverpool as one of the most thriving cities of the Victorian age.

Today, their graves stand desolate, obscured by trees, choked by poisonous plants, vandalised with graffiti and surrounded by refuse. Deane Road Cemetery, their final resting place, has been derelict for a century. These men and women gave generously to the community in terms of their time, wealth and status. Now, it's time to pay them back.

Help us give them back their dignity by restoring Deane Road Cemetery to a place fit for some of the greatest characters in Liverpool's history! Deane Road cemetery website:
http://www.geocities.com/shmuelbennachum
I am pleased to inform you that the Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation has established a PayPal account, enabling those of you who wish to make a donation to do so. If you would like to donate to the clearance and restoration work at Deane Road cemetery, please visit:
http://www.princesroadsynagogue.org/donation.htm I would appreciate it if you could accompany your donation with an e-mail or letter to the (street or e-mail) address given on that page, stating that your donation is to be used solely for the Deane Rd project.
Many thanks, in advance, for your generosity towards a project in which we all have a vested interest.

Saul Marks <saulmarks@hotmail.com>

The magnificent Greek revival archway at the entrance to the Deane Road cemetery

BIALYSTOK YIZKOR BOOK TRANSLATION

I am very pleased to announce a new JewishGen Yizkor Book Translation Project for Bialystok. This project is more than your typical Yizkor Book project. All Bialystok researchers are interested in the history of their ancestral town and the environment in which our ancestors lived.

We are fortunate to have access to the two volume work of Abram Shmul Hershberg -- Pinkos Bialystok. This work is a scholarly definitive history of the Jewish Community of Bialystok from its beginnings to the mid 1930s. This work has up to now been available only to those who could read Yiddish.

BialyGen is sponsoring a JewishGen Yizkor Book project to translate the entire two volumes from Yiddish to English. BialyGen has already arranged to translate the Table of Contents for both Volumes. The detail translation of the Tables of Contents can be found at the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project website at **http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/Bialystok/Bialystok.html.**

As you will see, the Table of Contents is very detailed and provides names of noteworthy Bialystokers who are part of the history of this very Jewish city. This work is a fully researched and documented scholarly history of our ancestral town. A quick perusal of the Table of Contents shows the value of this work to family historians.

The two volume set covers 960 pages and it is expected to cost about $32,000 to complete the full translation. Bialystokers interested in contributing to this project can identify the Chapter and/or Section to apply your donation. For the process for contributing and selecting the section for your contribution go to: **http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/bialygen/Pinkos.htm.**
Please help us complete this translation project.
Mark Halpern, BIALYGen Coordinator

THE GALITZIANERS: THE JEWS OF GALICIA, 1772-1918

Suzan Wynne's first book, Finding Your Roots in Galicia: A Resource Guide, was first published in 1998 and is now out of print. This new book is much more about the geopolitical context within which our ancestors lived their daily lives. It contains a timeline of key political social, legal and economic events affecting Jews, the impact of the Jewish self-governing system mandated by the Austrian government (kahal), the impact of marriage laws on genealogical research, updated demographic information etc.
The book is published by Wheatmark and can be ordered by contacting accounts@wheatmark.com
US$34.95, plus shipping to Aust.,$29.75. Total US $64.70

A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Latvia and Estonia

Written by Arlene Beare

This is the eighth publication in the Jewish Ancestors series published by the JGSGB. The intention is to provide an insight into Jewish genealogy in the former Russian Empire with special reference to the laws governing Jews in the Baltic countries of Latvia and Estonia. Subjects include a brief history of Latvia, information on archival research inside and outside Latvia, conscription, emigration, the Holocaust in Latvia including Rumbula memorial, cemeteries, museums and libraries.

The internet section has been updated with useful URLs and details of databases on the net. There is a short guided tour of what Jewish sites to see when visiting Riga and includes a number of maps and coloured pictures. A listing of Jewish Firms in Riga in 1891 has many names and addresses.

The Estonian section includes a short history of the Country, archives and resources, Holocaust, Jewish schools and education, bibliography and references. Part of a list of birth records for Werro and Yuriev will be of interest.

(144 pages) Price: £6.75 (UK) - £8.95 (Overseas) prices include postage. Published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain - July 2006
Pay via web-site <www.jgsgb.org.uk>
JGSGB Publications, PO Box 180, St. Albans, Herts. AL2 3WH. England. U.K.
E-mail: publications@jgsgb.org.uk

Australia features in SHEMOT

'Shemot', the outstanding journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, features Australian research in two recent issues.

In the December 2005 issue, Harold Pollins and Keira Quinn Lockyer write about their research on 'The Slapoffski families of Oxford and Australia'.
(Both researchers have written about the life of Louis Kyezor, the Australian awarded a VC in World War 1.)

The June 2006 issue features an article by NSW AJGS President, Rieke Nash. In 'Polish records unravelled' Rieke writes about her family research using records from the Poland (JRI-Poland) Project.
Rieke was a contributor to the project indexing the Wyszkow records and hence received an Excel file with all the entries. This proved to be a goldmine.

The journal *'Shemot' is available at the Makor Jewish Community Library in Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield*

Need assistance with translation ?

Introducing Viewmate

ViewMate, A JewishGen tool to help with translations of your graphic files, photos, letters, documents, book pages, maps, etc.

Do you have a need for analysis or translations of book titles, letters or gravestone photos? Do you have questions about old family photos, maps or book pages? ViewMate is JewishGen's newest tool, designed to supplement the written query, and help you to solve graphic riddles. Here is an example of how it works. Follow along now with Jack, our demonstrator.

Jack finds an unidentified family photo with an inscription on the back, written in what appears to be Hebrew script.

He scans it on his home computer system, creating a graphic file.

Then he goes to the ViewMate (VM) website. Using the easy upload feature, he uploads his graphic file to VM. Jack soon receives an e-mail confirmation with a file number.

He then posts a notice to the JewishGen Discussion Group (or SIG of his choice) stating that he has uploaded a photo to VM. He requests someone knowledgeable in Hebrew to visit the VM website, view his graphic (File No. X) and translate it for him.

An eager reader will be quick to provide feedback. Eager reader responds with translation. Riddle solved. Jack adds new info to his tree.

1- Scan on your home computer system.

2- Upload to ViewMate.

3- Request feedback.

You are invited to visit us today to make use of this newest JewishGen tool. The site has FAQ and full instructions. ViewMate website: http://www.jewishgen.org/viewmate

DO IT YOURSELF

For those who prefer to tackle a translation by themselves there are a few useful guide books by Shea, J.D. and Hoffman, W.F. :

- Following the Paper Trail: A Multilingual Translation Guide, Avotaynu, 1994
- In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide - Russian (2002)
- In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide - Polish (2002)

(These books are available at the Makor Library)

Spring Issue of AVOTAYNU

The Spring issue is unusual in a number of ways. It is four pages larger than normal –72 pages instead of 68 – and contains an unusual number of long articles.

The lead article, by H. Daniel Wagner of Israel, focuses on genealogy as an academic discipline. In the article, Dr. Wagner coins two new terms that may become commonplace in our vocabulary in the future: microgenealogy and macrogenealogy.

Microgenealogy is what we all have been doing all along; that portion of genealogy that focuses on the immediate needs of the researcher. Macrogenealogy, he notes "involves issues and tools relevant to genealogy as a whole, such as the development of improved mathematical models for the study of human migration or of backward or forward population growth, generic tools to facilitate merging and comparing databases, or genetic research techniques designed to trace the ancestors of homo sapiens."

Dr. Wagner will be speaking at the first academic symposium on Jewish genealogy to be held in Jerusalem this September. The symposium is sponsored by the newly founded International Institute on Jewish Genealogy.

Another major and large article, by Chaim Freedman, demonstrates that the commonly accepted ancestry of the Maharal of Prague back to King David is faulty. But there is hope because Freedman demonstrates that this distinguished rabbi and scholar was descended from King David thorough another line.

Carole Vogel addresses the problem too common for Jewish genealogists. How do you reconstruct a tree showing that portion of your family that was murdered in the Holocaust? Using her own personal research, she shows the wealth of resources available that permitted her to accomplish the task.

Finally, Stephen Denker provides a lengthy article on the history of the Jews of Cuba using his own family as a case study.

You can subscribe to AVOTAYNU at http://www.avotaynu.com/journal.htm.

AUSTRALIAN CENSUS 2006 TUESDAY 8 AUGUST

Articles in the last issue of Jewish Genealogy Downunder have explained why we should respond in the coming census to the question relating to religion (Question 19) and the question relating to retaining your completed form - (Question 60.

Remember to discuss the issue with your relatives and friends

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.

ABRAHAMS
I am searching for information about - and descendents of - Laurence Abrahams, brother of Louis the artist, who ran a cigar shop on Park St, South Yarra, late 1800s early 1900s.
I believe Lawrence had grandsons William, Kevin, Peter and Robert, most of whom probably had Melbourne born families this past 50 years. Please be in touch if you know of this family.
Dr Ariel Green (02) 9999 0108 <treesprite@ozemail.com.au>

PEARL / MARGALIT
I am trying to find the descendants of my grandfather's cousin - Fay Pearl, who was born in Safed Palestine.
Her parents were Pinhas and Miriam Margalit. Her children were (are?)- Samuel, Wally, Rachel, Lilly (Goldfinger) and David. My genealogy site contains a partial family tree of the family:
http://www.geocities.com/ohle74/Levi2_FT.html
I would be very thankful for any help or information.
Ohad Levi-Zaloscer, Israel <ohlevi74@yahoo.com>

AHRENFELD
AHRENFELD, Bonita b.c.1868 in Victoria, died 3 September 1938 at Rydalmere, NSW, age 70 – D/C stated that her parents were William ROBERTSON and Bessie HINES and her husbands name was John. There were two children – John b.c. 1908 and Reginald b.c.1913. She had married 1886 (age 18) to Jack BRANSCOMB (no issue) and (at age 25) 1893 to John AHRENFELD, possibly in Victoria.

LAZARUS, Isaac m. 1876 Lucy (Lucie) AHRENFELD (b. 1860) in Melbourne. There were four children – Unnamed b. 1877, Jacques b, 1879, Edward Percy b. 1880 and Jeanette b. 1882 – the year Lucy died.
Mardi <mardi1924@yahoo.co.au>

BOOKNICK/BUDNIK/ and TARRAN/TARAN and EGLOVITCH
Helping out a friend who heard an old family story that part of his Eastern European family "might" have ended up in Australia back in the early 1900s and on.
Pamela Weisberger" <pweisberger@hotmail.com>

BEN -AHARON
I would like to re-establish contact with Rami Ben-Aharon. I served with him in the Golani Brigade of theIDF and believe he lives in MelbourneMordechai Pelta, San Francisco, USA <mdpelta@yahoo.com>

SANDERS
My Great Grandparents, Wulf and Lena Sanders, lived in Melbourne during the years 1871 to 1881, I have all the birth certificates of their children that were born in Melbourne during those years. However, I have no records of the Sanders' family being members of a Melbourne Shul at that time.
Derrick Lewis, Hout Bay, South Africa<garlik@mweb.co.za>
(See story Page 8)

HANNACH
My sister-in-law is searching for her childhood friend, Eva Hannach, who was born ca 1936 and lived in Magdeburg, Germany. Eva and her father Kurt, and her mother, nee Schuetzer migrated to Australia from France in 1946.
Astrid Riedel, Germany, <Avriedel@aol.com>

KUENSTLER
The Jewish line of my aunt's family (Albert Neufeld) emigrated to Australia in 1938/39. Albert Neufeld's daughter Anna married one Stefan (Istvan) Onto. They were divorced, and Anna then remarried a man called Isak Kuenstler who died in 1981, Anna died in 1988. We believe they lived in Randwick, NSW.
BRs, Franz , Austria) <f.higher@utanet.at>

TRAEGER
I am looking for Marion/Maryane nee Traeger who lived in the Kew area (Vic.) in the 1970s.
David Cohen <davidcohen52@bigpond.com.au>

DE SAXE
I have been researching the DE SAXE family. I have a George DE SAXE who married Jane Ann FOX in 1854 in Melbourne. George was born abt 1827 Andalucia, Gibraltar, Spain and Jane was born about 1835 Islington London England. I cannot find when George came to Australia. Many of the DE SAXE in Australia became Dentists. Anyone researching this family?
Kirsten Hawkes, Kariong, NSW <kirstenh@iprimus.com.au

MARGULES/ GUTERMAN/ DANCYGIER
Chava (Ewa) MARGULES (maiden name) has recently discovered her identity. With the help of Jewish Records Indexing Poland, Chava learned that she was born in Sosnowiec, Poland in 1942 and was given by her mother to be hidden, into a non-Jewish Polish family.
After WW2 Chava spent time in an orphanage in Fublaines - France. Eventually Chava was adopted by a wonderful American family, she was raised in the United States, married, and with her own family unit came to live in Israel some 30 years ago.
Chava now knows that her parents were:-
Abram MARGULES born 1904 in Sosnowiec, (son of Mordka Josek MARGULES born 1871 in Dzialoszyce - and Ester Rywka DANCYGIER born 1873 in Szczekociny.) - and Leja Sara GUTERMAN born 1915 in Dabrowa Gornica, (daughter of Jankiel Josek GUTERMAN born 1853 Zarnowiec, Olkusz and Sura DANCYGIER born 1877 in Szczekociny.)
Chava knows that her parents were married in 1932 ? and strongly believes she must have had siblings.
Chava's Grandmothers, Ester Rywka and Sura DANCYGIER were sisters. It appears that Sura was married twice, her first husband bearing the surname of KAISER. Chava would like to know if there any children from this union.
Abram MARGULES had a brother Pinkus born 1898, who in 1922 married Sura Laja PALIWODA, daughter of Jochym (Khaim) and Chana (nee DAFNER) from Strzemieszyce. Known is that they had 3 children but there may have been more. His son Leiser Ansel was born in 1922 but died in 1935; his other siblings were David & Raizel. It is not known what happened to them.
Leja (Leah) GUTERMAN had 2 elder sibling twins - Abram and Breindla. Abram born 1913 died 1917, but what happened to Breindla? Were there other siblings? Are there descendants?
It is also known that after the war years a Sima WOLBERG/BINDER was searching for her cousin Chava/Eva MARGULES. Did you know Sima WOLBERG/BINDER?
Patricia Wilson (Israel) **wilsonettes@hotmail.com**

GERMANY APPROVES RELEASE OF INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE RECORDS

Nu? What's New?
The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy
Gary Mokotoff, Editor

Volume 7, Number 5 | April 18, 2006

SPECIAL EDITION

Germany Approves Release of ITS Records

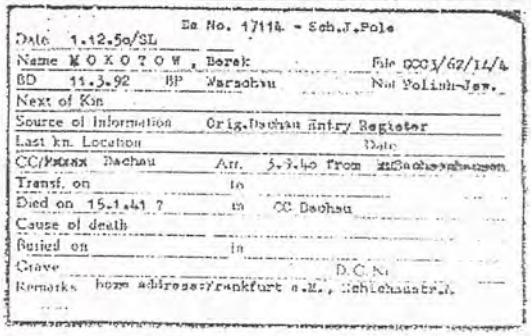
Germany announced today that they now favor opening the record collection of the International Tracing Service (ITS) located in Arolsen, Germany. The agreement would permit the eleven countries that make up the ITS committee to copy the ITS material and make it available through their national archives in accordance with national laws. This decision will be formally approved at the May 17 meeting of the ITS Council and then ratified by member countries. Even before formal approval, work will begin to get the material ready for copying, particularly the large part which has already been digitized. The new German position was approved by the German cabinet last week and was announced at a news conference at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum by German Justice Minister Brigitte Zypries.

Until now, Germany resisted public access to the records citing privacy considerations. The member countries can now obtain copies of the records and make them available to the public based on each countries privacy laws. Ironically this will be least useful for German scholars since German law is far more restrictive than the laws of other countries.

The Associated Press version of the new conference can be read at http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/N/NAZI_ARCHIVES?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2006-04-18-12-58-58

The holdings of the International Tracing Service are one of the most valuable sources of information about the fate of people, both victims and survivors, caught up in the Holocaust. Their records place an individual at a specific place and time during the Holocaust period. They claim to have 40 million such pieces of information. Their sources, to name a few, are deportation lists, concentration camp death lists, ghetto records and post-war refugee records.

Shown to the right is one of the millions of index cards in the ITS collection. It is for a Berek Mokotow and gives his birth date (11 March 1892), birth place (Warchau--Warsaw, Poland), that he arrived at Dachau concentration camp on 3 September 1940 from Sachsenhausen concentration camp and probably died on 15 January 1941 at Dachau. It even gives his home address in Frankfurt, Germany. Also provided is the source of the information (Dachau Entry Register) and a reference number to locate the original document.



Ba No. 17114 - Sch.J.Pole
Date 1.12.5o/SL
Name M O K O T O W , Berek File 0003/62/11/4
BD 11.3.92 BP Warschau Nat Polish-Jew.
Next of Kin
Source of Information Orig.Dachau Entry Register
Last kn. Location Date
CC/Xxxxx Dachau Arr. 3.9.4o from Sachsenhausen
Transf. on to
Died on 15.1.41 ? in CC Dachau
Cause of death
Buried on in
Grave D.C.No.
Remarks home address:Frankfurt a.M., Mehlemastr.1.

Tel Aviv Chevra Kadisha Provides Online Death Records

The Tel Aviv Chevra Kadisha (Burial Society) has placed online information about persons buried in the six cemeteries in the Tel Aviv area. Included is the name of the decedent, given name of father, date of death (both Hebrew and secular) and name of cemetery.

The site is located at http://www.kadisha.biz/. It is completely in Hebrew. To search for an individual or generic surname search, you must type the information in Hebrew. If you do not have a Hebrew keyboard use the Stephen P. Morse English to Hebrew transliteration program located at http://stevemorse.org/hebrew/eng2heb.html.

The Chevra Kadisha site is shut down on Shabat and holy days.

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