

Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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

Vol. 2, No. 1, February 2000

AJGS President awarded OAM

Sophie Caplan, OAM, foundation President of the AJGS in NSW was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the recent honours list for her contribution to Jewish history and genealogy. Sophie was the driving force that led to the establishment of Jewish genealogical branches in other States.



Former Victorian Branch foundation chairman, Aubrey Schwarz wrote to her as follows:

"I was thrilled to read your name on the Honour's List yesterday. I well remember your early days; the Workshops you gave in Sydney at the Great when I lived there around 1991-2, and your constant attempts to persuade me to do something here in Melbourne. Well, you eventually succeeded. You recall that meeting at the (now-) Carlton Crest, with a Joe Stosser and myself, and then you gave me Ester Csaky's name, and a few others, then we roped in Ros Collins at Makor Library, and AJGS - Victorian Branch was born! Ephraim Finch kicked it off, and Victoria hasn't looked back since!"

Congratulations Sophie - Kol Hakavod !

Sophie Caplan pictured here with Dr Yale Reisner, Director of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw in 1998 in L.A.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- New Australian Jewish Genealogy Discussion Group.
- A new E- Newsletter for Jewish Genealogists.
- National Archives of Australia release new research guide on records of the Jewish experience in Australia.

Wednesday, 8th March 2000 at 7.30 pm

Beth Weizmann Community Centre, 306 Hawthorn Rd., South Caulfield 3162

Yvonne Hughes

Chair and Secretary of the International Settlers Group

The International Settlers Group is a service group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc. Its aim is to compile and collect genealogical research information on non-British countries and to assist members with their research activities. It holds quarterly meetings and is developing non-British research starter kits which can be purchased eg Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark etc.. Over thirty countries are currently being researched by members.

Wednesday, 8th March 2000 at 7.30 pm

Members \$4.00 Non-members \$8.00

Jewish Genealogy Downunder

Jewish Genealogy Downunder

is published quarterly by the Australian Jewish
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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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<http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy>

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Yvonne Lewis

Chaim Freedman

Robyn Lichter

David and Miki Ochert

Editorial

The other day I received an e-mail from a very excited Victorian member. After some years of searching she had finally found the town of her father's birth from the Israeli State archives.

She could not thank us enough for the encouragement and help given especially the genealogical contacts we were able to give her in Israel.

Perhaps this sharing of knowledge is the greatest rationale for our existence as a genealogical society. This also provides the fuel for committee members to learn and share their knowledge and experience with others.

Our numbers are growing in excess of 100, a rise from 60 from the beginning of 1999. The number of requests for help both locally and overseas from both Jews and non-Jews is also challenging our resources and capacity to think laterally.

Perhaps one of the most interesting requests came from an Argentinian family living in Melbourne who had traced their origins back in Spain to 1850. They believed they were of Jewish descent and attended our last Beginner's Workshop.

A quick check in JewishGen Family Finder came up with 37 hits and a chance two page article in the latest issue of 'Morasha', published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois - 'A Presbyterian Minister discovers her Sephardic Jewish roots', gave them further useful clues for their research.

So if you are feeling despondent about your own research tell us about it. We want to hear about the obstacles as well as the successes. Just a few paragraphs on paper might put you in touch with others with the key to your problem.

To facilitate local research Gary Luke, a committee member in Sydney, has launched an 'Australian Jewish Genealogy discussion group', an internet discussion group something like the JewishGen Discussion Group which is rather overwhelming with 400-500 entries each week. Details are included in this newsletter.

So, keep at it and share, share, share !

Lionel Sharpe
Editor

From Our Readers:

EUREKA - success at last !

Following a search over two years to find out the birthplace of my late father Alter Peysack Rapaport, I received the information in an immigration document stored in The Israeli State Archives in The British Mandate Section. Can you imagine my great excitement when I obtain the copy document with my father's signature and photo on it. Well, the place of birth is KLIMONTOW in Poland which I hope to visit in May. This significant breakthrough hopefully will lead to finding surviving and unknown relatives. *(Tova lavished praise on AJGS for encouragement and help.)*

Tova Rosenbaum

JRI-Poland (Jewish Research Indexing of Poland)

When thinking of future generations of genealogists, the work that JRI-Poland has done is analogous to a large Library placing indexes from thousands of books into a searchable database. This work has been done by numerous volunteers who were interested in a particular shtetl/city, in my case, Lublin, Bychawa and Siedlce. What then is JRI-Poland ?

JRI volunteers transcribe the indexes and the records that are available from the Mormon microfilms. In some cases the work involves transcribing names from an index of births/marriages/deaths of a particular year, e.g. Lublin B/M/D 1842. Some of these indexes may have fifty names whereas others, may have six or seven hundred.

The task is to work with a spread sheet like Excel and enter the name, parents' names, date, town and whether it is B/M/D record. At other times, the microfilms may not have an index and the task is a laborious one, checking each civil record and trying to decipher names. I helped to transcribe about six years of the Lublin records and am the Co-ordinator of the Bychawa records, of which I have transcribed about 12 years.

It's a labour of love, especially when while transcribing you suddenly see a name that has some meaning to you. I encourage all who can to help with this. See if there are co-ordinators for your town or you may be the first one. JRI has also negotiated with the Polish Public Records Office to have the years 1868-1899 transcribed. This material is in Russian and will take time but what a monumental piece of work !

(Ed.) Even if you are not researching Poland its worth opening :

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl> just to see what has been achieved.

Ester Csaky

esticsa@melbourne.net

My first beginners' workshop

Just a quick note to thank you for introducing me to Jewish genealogy. It's amazing how much information I gained in just a few hours - now I have something to go on. >

Cat Aarons



Gary Luke, AJGS (Sydney) Committee member

**New Australian Jewish
Discussion Group
on the Internet**

A discussion group for Australian Jewish Genealogy has just been initiated. It will be a meeting place for Australian researchers, help with access to records in other States, allow exchange of hints about overseas archives, and assist overseas researchers with Australian connections.

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[It's the first link on the contents page]
Or send a blank email to AJGen-
subscribe@listbot.com
Any enquiries please email
AJGen-owner@listbot.com

Gary Luke
feraltek@zeta.org.au
Sydney, Australia

**SAFE HAVEN : Records of the
Jewish Experience in Australia,
Research Guide, National
Archives of Australia
by Malcolm J. Turnbull**

This new 169 page book in the Research Guide series is an exciting resource for Jewish historians and genealogists. Dr. Malcolm Turnbull, well known for his writings on Australian Jewish history (he is also editor of the AJHS Journal) was commissioned to produce a guide to facilitate access to records pertaining to the Jewish people in Australia since settlement held by the National Archives.

It brings together descriptions of records which deal with such topics as immigration, naturalisation, the position of Jews during periods of war, the participation of Jews in public life and the armed forces, antisemitism, Zionism and Australian responses to the Holocaust.

The Guide contains a number of succinct essays on themes such as the Evian Conference, the Kimberley Scheme, Enemy Aliens and Internees, the Dunera affair and the Armed Services providing a historical backdrop to the listings of records. Dr Turnbull and the National Archives are to be congratulated on this long overdue publication

**AJGS (Vic) Inc.
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

Wed. 17 May 2000

at

**Beth Weizmann
Community Centre
306 Hawthorn Rd
South Caulfield
7.30 pm**

Guest Speaker

Itiel Bereson

Well known educator and historian
and author

will speak on the

**Changing Borders of
Eastern Europe**

Nominations will be called for the Committee of Management of AJGS (Vic) Inc. - Think about it - there will be vacancies for the coming year.

Update on Lodz Polish State Archives Initiative

Just a few months ago, Jewish Records Indexing - Poland (JRI-Poland) announced the initiative to index all the Jewish vital records housed in the Lodz Branch of the Polish State Archives (PSA) and not filmed by the Mormons (LDS). This is the time period when most of our parents, grandparents or great-grandparents lived in Poland. Until now, it has been difficult for most of us to make the connection between our families from the city of Lodz and the records from 1826 to 1877, which were filmed by the LDS.

City of Lodz - (PHASE 1: MARRIAGES)

The first step in the Lodz JRI-Poland/PSA Project was to obtain the index pages for the city of Lodz from 1878 to 1898 -- over 50,000 Jewish births, marriages and deaths. All of the indices to these records are being computerized by the JRI-Poland data entry team in Warsaw. We began with marriages, 1878 to 1898, and these 11,652 entries were added to the JRI-Poland on-line database just a few weeks ago.

The impact these indices have had for researchers has been dramatic! Email has been flying up and back from excited genealogists who have finally made long-awaited breakthroughs. One gives me great personal pleasure. That is, our own Michael Tobias, the JRI-Poland database manager who helps make all these mitzvahs happen, found his KROCHMAL maternal great-grandparents' marriage and the birth records of their five children, of which one was the long-sought-after record of his grandfather's birth!

City of Lodz - (PHASE 2: BIRTHS)

Data entry of the Birth indices from 1878 to 1898 was completed last week. Unfortunately, the indices to these 21,643 records can not be added to the JRI-Poland on-line database until the data entry costs funded by JRI-Poland have been recouped.

We need more wide-spread participation to make the city of Lodz PSA project a success. This is very frustrating for all of us who have gained so much insight into our ancestry from just the 11,652 marriage entries already online. And the delay in funding the births has meant that data entry of the 17,026 death indices has had to be put off indefinitely.

Shirley Rotbein Flaum (Lodz JRI-Poland/PSA Coordinator)

Warsaw PSA Project Update

It was a month ago that JRI-Poland announced the acquisition of indices to more than 17,000 Jewish birth, marriage and death records for the City of Warsaw from 1869 to 1898. These records were indexed by the staff of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project at the Jewish Historical Institute, from registers in the Polish State Archives Warsaw Region Branch. It is estimated that the total project will contain approximately 40,000 records.

We have now loaded the Warsaw PSA Surname list on the JRI-Poland website. **If you think you have family who lived in Warsaw it is well worth taking a look at this list.** The list can be found off the JRI-Poland PSA Status Report page:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/psa/psastat1.htm>.

Once you arrive at the page, quickly check the status of the other Poland Archive projects and then scroll all the way down to Warsaw which is at the bottom of the page. Check out the Warsaw status and then click on the link at Warsaw City Phase I. There you will find a treasure of Warsaw surnames. If you find one of your family names, then think of what you will have to look forward once we meet our financial goals and are able to put the first 17,000 names on our database!

Hadassah Lipsius (Warsaw Archive Coordinator)

People Looking For People.

*Spotted by Les Oberman on the Net and
direct requests from searchers.*

From: Ester Csaky
<esticsa@melbourne.net>
Seeking any information on LOUIS
SEIFSTEIN, a prizefighter in the 1940s.

From: Michael Abramson
<Michael.Abramson@med.monash.edu.au>
I have translated the Mohel book that
belonged to my great great grandfather
Rev Simeon Greenbaum, who was assistant
Minister of the East Melbourne Hebrew
Congregation from 1869-92. I would be
interested to learn whether anyone knows the
existence of a photo of Rev. Greenbaum.

From: Barbara Sherman
<sh.educ@bigpond.com>
I am trying to trace information about a
Lazarus Sherman born in Russia, father
Morris Sherman, who migrated to Australia
sometime in the latter part of the 19th
century.

From: Judith Mandelzweig
<shoshana7@yahoo.com>
I recently came across a photograph showing
my father's uncle - a brother to my
grandmother Johanna Sperling (nee
Kognasky ?). The photograph shows Mr. and
Mrs. Sperling, several married children. He
was in Australia all his life, became very
prosperous. Married, 2 sons, and a married
daughter. He probably came to Australia
between 1887-1897, at age 16. The only
other clue so far is that the photo was taken by
Humphrey & Co. Melbourne.
Judith Friedman Mandel.

From: Janice Friedman
<Jansweb@webTV.net>
I have relatives in Australia by the name of
Flander. It is not a common name. I know
that one of them is in computers. His
grandparents were my great grandparents.

From: Joseph Vital
<joseph.vital@attcanada.net>
I'm looking for a part of my family who left
from Botosani, Rumania for Australia around
1945. The family name is VITAL (ISAC?),
Toronto

- Perhaps you can help?

*If you are not on the Internet and wish to
reply - contact the Editor*

From: <dabromowitz@goulstorrs.com>
Seeking relatives of Kofa Yusa Abromowitz
and his two wives, Recha Ringer and Bassa
Meyerowitz, of Shavlan, Lithuania. Among
their children were Menassa, Fanny,
Herschel, and my grandfather David
Abromowitz. A number of my grandfather's
brothers went to South Africa in the 1880s.
He went there first, then came to the US in
the early 1890s and settled at the Jersey
Shore.

From: Judi Alexander
<pjsam@bigpond.com>
I am seeking information about George
ALEXANDER who married Sophia AARON
at The Synagogue, Singers Hill,
Birmingham on 30 June 1852 (Entry of
Marriage No. 109). George was living in
(Great) Alie Street, London in 1852. George
and Sophia ALEXANDER came to Australia
in 1852 and lived the rest of their lives in
Docker Street, Richmond, Victoria. George
died on 30 March 1892. Sophia died on 28
November 1899.

From: Philip Edelstein
<cynphil@bigpond.net.au>
Seeking descendants of the Edelstein family
from Sassmaken, Latvia.

From: Roslyn Samuelson
<RSamuel324@aol.com>
Seeking Morgenstern family. Probably from
Austria, emigrated to England in 1930s.
Husband worked for British Rail during WW
II. Immigrated to Australia after war

From: Ellen Gottfried
<BJG4@Duke.edu>
Looking for Max Solomonski, born
Radziejow, Poland, Holocaust survivor. May
have lived in Sydney.

From: Robert Wrigley
<orical@technet2000.com.au>
Descendants sought : Jonah Joseph WISE
died in 1904. Record shows he died at
Eganstown Blanket Flat which I believe is
near Ballarat.

Jewish Genealogy Downunder

People Looking for People (continued)

From: Isabel Cymerman
<isabelcym@aol.com>

I am looking for Danke Josem nee Grynberg, born in Seidlce, migrated to Australia. Husband - Mark, children Julian and Ruth now in Israel (who was married to Jason Miller.

From: Harold Zvi Rabbie
<hzrabbie@worldnet.att.net>

Simons Vera. Born about 1939 in Amsterdam. Hidden by a non-Jewish family she survived WW2. Arrived in Brisbane in 1953.

From: Valery Ladizhenski
<ladizinv@netvision.net.il>

Proger, Smul-Isaac. Born in Disna, Belarus.

From: Maria Hallewas
<hallewas@alphalink.com.au>

Landmann, Jacob and Alfons from Lerzajsk, Poland. Settled in Sydney during the 1930's.

Van der Sluis family from Meppel, Netherlands.

Arjeh van der Sluis
<vandersluiscdn@ica.net>

From: Cecilia Mordechai
<Cecilia.Mordechai@warnermusic.com>
HALTER or ALTER Family from Safed, Israel

From: Jennifer and Trevor Jacob
<wisdoms@nw.com.au>
JACOB, Fritz from Poland before 1890. Married and lived in Wangaratta.

From: J. Jill Tepper <Tepper847@aol.com>
I am searching for information about the HERBST family from Bobrka, Lvov, and Mikolajow. Beryl Herbst had a wife and five children. All possibly perished in the Holocaust. Sam Herbst (Beryl's brother) able came to New York in the early part of the 1900's.

From: Ryszard Reisner
<reisner@krysia.uni.lodz.pl>
DOMB or DAB family from Poznan, Poland.

From: John Lazarus
<john.kiwi.iwik.@worldnet.att.net>
Benjamin Lazarus born 1880, died 26 March 1952, wife Gertrude, b. Russia 1883, died 17 June 1961 (Melbourne).

New Australian Jewish Discussion Group on the Internet

A discussion group for Australian Jewish Genealogy has begun. It can become a meeting place for Australian researchers, help with access to records in other States, allow exchange of hints about overseas archives, and assist overseas researchers with Australian connections.

Information & subscription via

<http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy/>

[It's the first link on the contents page]

Or send a blank email to AJGen-

subscribe@listbot.com

Any enquiries please email

AJGen-owner@listbot.com

Gary Luke

feraltek@zeta.org.au

Sydney, Australia

New ROOTS Directory - Manchester, England

The Manchester Jewish Telegraph has a column called Roots. It is aimed for people seeking relatives in and around the Manchester area. They have recently gone online see:

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

The following requests for help were in a January issue - Deborah Peskin, Boris Friedman, Howard Coupland, Aubrey Erstling, Family of Emanuel Mannheim, Bessy Baker, Max Kahan, Miriam Margolyes, Michael Kam, Paul Silverstone, Scott Noar, Harry Stein, Family of Rebecca Lazarus, Banus Family, Jacob Kirsner, Pomerantz, Asher Asherman, Carl Gorden. Rifkind Family, Sam Gaberiel, Simon Solomon, C.W. Hikey Linda Schulein, Merideth Ciddor.

They have now a dedicated email address.

roots@jewish-telegraph.com

Michael Cohen, the sub editor, is dealing with requests. Write to Mike Cohen at Jewish Telegraph, 11 Park Hill, Bury Old Road, Prestwich, Manchester.M25 0HH



Dr Martin Delatycki at our February meeting

New Book for Research in England

"The Jewish Victorian: Genealogical Information from the Jewish Newspapers 1871-80" by Doreen Berger

I am writing to inform fellow genealogists with Anglo-Jewish links that **"The Jewish Victorian"**, a recently published 600 page reference book, covers all births, marriages, deaths and condolence notices, plus obituaries and individual news item for the years 1871-80 from three Jewish newspapers, including the Jewish Chronicle. All the information is cross referenced. In addition, another volume is in progress covering the 1860s. There are many American references in this book. The publisher can be contacted at <BOYDPUBS@aol.com> for further information.

Doreen Berger

Membership Fees now due

Almost two thirds of 1999 members have renewed their membership. A notice was included in the last mailout of the Koshier Koala. We do appreciate your support.

Active start for the New Year

Our first meeting for the year 2000 attracted nearly sixty people on Wednesday, February 9th at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre. Dr. Martin Delatycki, a Medical Geneticist, who works for the Victorian Clinical Genetics Services at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne spoke on 'Genetic Disorders among Jewish People'. Martin leads the Tay Sachs Disease Prevention Project for Victoria and has just completed his PhD thesis in genetics. The invitation to ask him to speak came out of recent research where it was shown that genealogists are able to assist geneticists.

The Society is held a 'Beginner's Workshop' on Sunday, February 20th at 2.00 pm and a meeting will be held at Beth Weizmann on Wednesday, March 8th at 7.30 pm where Yvonne Hughes, Chairman and Secretary of the International Settlers Group, a service group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, will speak about the work of the Group.

We again have a stand at the "In One Voice - Concert in the Park" which is an annual event attracting thousands of people in Caulfield Park. This year it will be held on Sunday March 19th. Last year over 200 enquiries were dealt with. We would appreciate assistance from experienced researchers at the display table. Even one hour would help especially in the afternoon.

Note our new URL

<http://www.melbourne.net/csaky/AJGSmainpage.htm>

however, <http://www.melbourne.net/csaky/> will still take you to the home page which links correctly to the society's home page..

BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP

Sunday April 16th at 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Beth Weizmann Community Centre

By popular demand we are holding another workshop in April. Les Oberman will give a demonstration on the use of the Internet for searching. Reference books and maps will be available for the more advanced.

Members \$4.00 Non members \$8.00

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**Nu? What's New? News About Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu**  
**(Gary Mokotoff, Editor)**  
~~~~~

The following items have been reproduced from this new E-Newsletter with permission from the editor.

The Genealogy Work Station of the Future

We are all well aware of the impact the Internet revolution has had on genealogical research. The ability to communicate rapidly with people worldwide and the creation of online databases that give access to information from your PC at home are just two of its benefits.

The next revolution is just around the corner--Internet access to digitized **documents**. They say that all the United States censuses--from 1790 to 1920--are in the process of being digitized and are expected to be on the Internet by the end of the year (access undoubtedly for a fee). From your home you will be able to research these documents -- documents, not extractions or indexes.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. Not only will there be access to more and more documents, but the manner in which you operate at a research facility is going to change. The genealogy work station of the future will consist of a monitor, mouse, keyboard, compact microfilm reader and printer. You will search the facility's catalog and display the results on the monitor.

If the record group is on the Internet, a click of a button located on the monitor will cause the document to be retrieved from the Internet and displayed on the monitor. If you want a copy of the document, there will be two options. Click the Print button and the image on the monitor is printed. Click the Save button and the image is saved on a disk you brought with you to take home (most likely a writable CD). If the document is part of a local digitized collection, it will be transparent to you. A click of the mouse will bring up the document on the monitor from the in-house computer.

If the document is on still being preserved the old-fashioned way--on microfilm--you will retrieve the microfilm from a cabinet, place it in the reader and the image will be displayed on the monitor, not on a microfilm table. Again, click the Print button and the microfilm image on the monitor is printed. Click the save button and the image is saved on a writable CD. Is this all a futuristic dream? No. Some institutions are anticipating the digitizing revolution and are budgeting this type of environment for initial installation in the next 2-3 years.

From: Nu? What's New, News About Jewish Genealogy, A Biweekly E-Newsletter
To subscribe to the Internet newsletter, go to <http://www.incor.com/avotaynu.htm>

New Genealogical Software: DoroTree

If there are computer nerds reading this newsletter, take some advice; never develop a genealogical software program. It is a David-and-Goliath situation. You are competing against such giants as Family Tree Maker and Ultimate Family Tree.

A group of Israeli Davids have decided to take on the Goliaths and have just developed a new Jewish genealogical software package called **DoroTree** ("dorot" means "generations" in Hebrew). There is a trial version that can be downloaded from the Internet at <http://www.dorotree.com>. One unusual feature of the software is that as you key in dates in the Roman alphabet on the left side of the screen, they are converted to the Hebrew dates on the right side. It also converts given names, a mixed blessing. For Israelis, who transliterate their given names into the Roman alphabet, it saves the step of having to key in the given name twice, once in each alphabet. For those of us in the Diaspora, it can create confusion. My wife's name is Ruth, which was translated into Hebrew to the name of the biblical Ruth. But my wife's Hebrew name is Rachel Leah.

Jewish Genealogy Downunder **A Full House at Recent Meetings**



Part of the large crowd listening to Enid Yoffa-Elton in December speaking about genealogical research in Poland



Sixty people listened to a fascinating talk in February by Dr Martin Delatycki, a Medical Geneticist, talk about Genetic diseases among Askenazic Jews. He pointed out that Tay Sachs Disease causes 1:2500 Ashkenazi Jewish babies to die before their 5th birthday. He said that simple blood test can show if you are at risk of having a child with Tay Sachs Disease and asked the audience to spread the message.

Explore Jewish Life past and present in Eastern Europe

The Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal are arranging a mission to visit Vilna, Riga and Israel from Monday, May 1 to Friday, May 12, 2000. Yom Hashoah in Vilna and Yom Ha'atzmaut in Israel. For details contact UIA office on 9272 5533.

SALT LAKE CITY - UPDATE ON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Three major overseas speakers will speak during the **International Conference on Jewish Genealogy** in Salt Lake City, Utah July 9-14.

Alexandre Beider, author of the important and award-winning *Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland and Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire*, as well as a monograph surnames in the old cemetery in Prague, is well-known to us from previous conferences. Sasha is getting a second Ph.D., this time in Judaic Studies from the Sorbonne in Paris. His dissertation will be on Jewish Given Names--their meanings, origins, derivations and permutations. It will be published in a book, together with an accompanying dictionary, late in 2000. We will hear the first public presentation of it. Beider is coming from Paris.

Archivist and historian **Vlad Soshnikov**, director of RAGAS [the Russian-American Genealogical Archival Service] has been compiling inventories and obtaining Jewish genealogical records from former Soviet Archives for the past nine years. Vlad also is working on a doctorate (on the history of the Russian Orthodox Church) and in the process has uncovered original decrees pertaining to the Jews. His major talk will be on 19th century Russian decrees that established records useful to Jewish genealogists. Vlad will also deliver individual lectures on the current situation for archival research in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Soshnikov comes from Moscow.

New to our conferences will be **Angelikka Ellmann-Krueger** from Berlin. The author of an important monograph on genealogical library research in Germany, Ellmann-Krueger is working on a major bibliography on German-Jewish family research that will be issued as a CD. The database currently has 22,500 title of books and articles, and includes 9,000 individual names and 4,000 localities. Ellmann-Krueger will speak twice on *Basics and Practical Steps for Jewish Family Research in German and Rarely-Used Sources for Jewish Family Research in Germany*.

This is an opportunity of a lifetime to overcome that brick wall you may have encountered in your family research. BE THERE! For the latest information and online registration: <http://iajgs.org/slcy2k> (*Application forms are also available from AJGS (Victoria)*).

Howard Margol, President, IAJGS and Fred Davis (IAJGS Board - Conference Liaison)



THANK YOU RIEKE

Rieke Nash, Vice President and Secretary of the AJGS Inc in NSW is taking a well earned break from the genealogical activities. Apart from preparing the *Kosher Koala* for publication until very recently she has maintained the records for the Australian membership, done countless hours of research for members, entered ancestral names on JGFF and liaised via the Internet with the branches of the AJGS. She gave every support when Victoria became independent.

Rieke has attended the past two International Conferences and with Peter, her husband (also a keen genealogist), she attended the Melbourne conference in December.

Rieke's house in Sydney has become a den of Jewish genealogy - files, files and more files! Its going to take a great deal of will power for her to take that long awaited break. Don't worry Rieke, we will leave you alone.

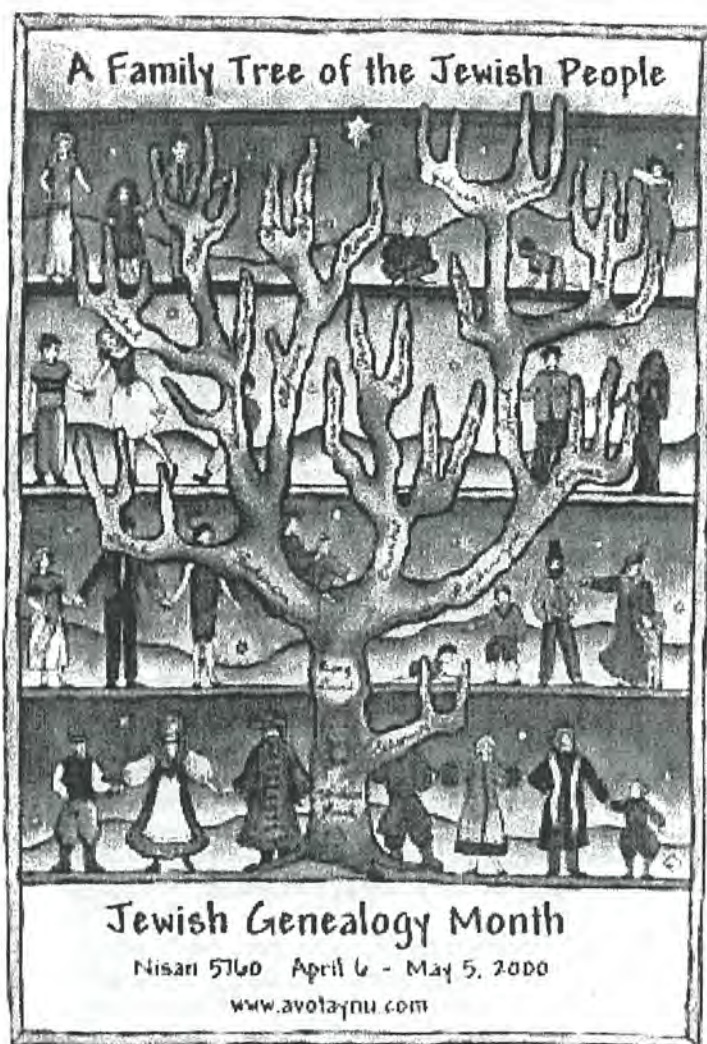
The Launceston Lyons

On a recent visit to Melbourne from Townsville, Father Terry Lyons proudly presented us with a monograph he has written about Joshua Lyons and his wives, Priscilla Sutton and Esther Brody (nee Nathan). This 43 page booklet outlines his research in tracing his own ancestry over nearly two centuries.

This is a rich contribution to the story of the Jews of Tasmania and their descendants.

Jewish Genealogy Month

April 6-May 5, 2000 (Nisan 5760)



Jewish Genealogy Month

Avotaynu has declared the month of Nisan 5760 (April 6-May 5)--the Passover season--as "Jewish Genealogy Month." In association with this event, we have created a poster that will be distributed to Jewish genealogical societies for posting in synagogues and other Jewish institutions in their area. Individuals who would like to receive copies of the poster can send \$5.00 to cover postage and handling to Avotaynu's offices at 155 N. Washington Ave., Bergenfield, NJ 07621.

The poster was created by the graphic artist, Caroline Guillot, of the French Jewish genealogical society, Gen Ami. It depicts a family tree starting with Abraham and Sarah and branching out to the four main branches of the Jewish People: Ashkenazim, Sephardim, Oriental and Ethiopian. The main branches then continue to create subbranches.

Tracing your family roots is more than finding out who are your ancestors. You must read about Jewish and world history; in the process, you learn much about Jewish customs, Jewish culture,

and the Jewish religion. Pursuing genealogy makes you feel much more Jewish. In his book *Will We Have Jewish Grandchildren?*, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of England, says that the way to combat today's rampant intermarriage and assimilation is to provide our children with a good Jewish education. Doing family history and learning the details of our grandparents' and great-grandparents' lives is one element of that good Jewish education.

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"A Mountain of Records"



REGISTER ON-LINE AND SAVE! VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR CONFERENCE DETAILS.

<http://iajgs.org/slcy2k>

Outstanding Programs

David E. Rencher, Director of Library Services at the Family History Library, will offer us insight into innovations we can expect in the new millennium, during his keynote address.

Many of the top specialists from the FHL as well as our international experts in Jewish genealogy will present programming geared to assist you in your research. Over 80 programs are scheduled.

Want to learn more about the "how-tos" in a small group setting?—Check out our new "breakfast tutorials" and "small group tutorials! Reserve your place at our special luncheons.

Remarkable Resources

If you have never done research at the Family History Library in SLC, you are in for a real treat! The information is all at your fingertips. . . Accomplish more in four days than you would at your local Family History Center.

The Family History Library has more Jewish records on microfilm than at any other place in the world!

Special arrangements are being made for us to have maximum access to the Jewish records.

Network with fellow genealogists, Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and "Birds-of-a-Feather."



**Hosted by the
International Association of
Jewish Genealogical Societies**

FOR REGISTRATION MATERIALS OR QUESTIONS:

**International Conference on Jewish Genealogy
P.O. Box 99
Bergenfield, NJ 07621**

**Phone: (201) 387-2892 Fax: (201) 387-2855
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