
Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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

Melbourne, Australia

Vol. 9. No 2 and 3 (May and August) 2007

**Les Oberman, President, and the Committee of Management of the AJGS (Vic) wish
all our Jewish members and friends a Happy New Year
L'Shana Tova Ve Tikatevu**

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Ralph Jhirad addressing the AJGS
July meeting (see p. 4)

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic)

in association with Makor Jewish Community Library invite you to an evening:

Sharing your Family Research Issues

Every year we devote a few meetings where members share their EUREKA moments ("You wouldn't believe it but.....!"). These range from discovering a convict ancestor, finding a previously unknown relative, to finding a new on-line database.

So come and learn how others have tackled their research - the resources they have used - and use this as an opportunity to ask questions about your own research. There is also the opportunity to peruse recently acquired books, newsletters and to talk informally with others.

Wednesday, 29th August 2007 at 7.30 pm

Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre, 306 Hawthorn Rd, South Caulfield 3162
All welcome: Members \$4.00 Non-members \$6.00

Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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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)

EDITORIAL

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AUSTRALIA

This is a combined issue of newsletters covering the period March to August. Everything that could go wrong did so, to prevent the last issue appearing. An overload of other urgent writings and research, occupying my time, is my major excuse. Acquiring a new computer added to the problems.

But now back to business. During the past few months there have been many emails and phone calls between Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne about the feasibility of holding the first national Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Australia.

The suggestion is not a new one as there were rumblings at an international conference a few years ago, urging us to hold the IAJGS conference in Australia.

The greatest obstacle for a truly international conference was considered to be the weather. Summer holidays in Europe and the USA, while we are in the depth of winter, is unlikely to attract a large international audience. So we just sat tight and did nothing for a few years.

This time our thinking is different, as we are talking about national rather than international, though perhaps embracing New Zealand. The suggested location is Canberra, our capital city. Our colleagues in the ACT are very enthusiastic and both Sydney and Melbourne are supportive of the project. A suggested month is October 2008, but nothing is fixed at this stage.

What form it will take is still to be discussed, and wider input will be sought to include the other States. What is critical is to keep conference costs to a minimum and to provide a varied program combining a mixture of lecture/seminar/panel inputs with visits to the National Archives, the National Library, the War Memorial Museum and other historical resources. Already a few well known international personalities have expressed interest in attending, if we go ahead. This will add colour to the occasion. Perhaps even an international keynote speaker could be considered.

We will no doubt be canvassing ideas towards the end of the year and maybe, maybe, we will hold our first grand event for Australian Jewish Genealogy. The opportunity to meet in person the many Australian contributors to the internet discussion groups will be an occasion not to be missed.

Lionel Sharpe
Editor

Researching the Kyezor/ Keysor/Keyser Family

A talk by: Keira Quinn Lockyer



'I have studied many families with whom I am related to. Sometimes you do not know what will discover, sometimes it is not pleasant and you may have to decide what you will reveal or let it rest with the dead - but whatever you do, tell the truth - but if you do not want to do this, leave it out.'

With these words Keira Quinn Lockyer, who lives in Daylesford, Victoria launched into a fascinating talk about her many years of family research. She was speaking at a meeting of the Society on 21 March at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre.

Since giving up work in tourism and hospitality Keira Quinn Lockyer has been researching 19th century personalities and has researched the life of Australian conductor, Gustave Slapoffski with Oxford based historian, Harold Pollins.

Keira has been through a fascinating journey, which started twenty years ago, when she started researching her father's family. Both her parents had a Jewish mother, therefore she had four Jewish grandparents and has since discovered that 64 ggggrandparents were Jewish. Her ancestry comes from both Ireland and Scotland.

She commenced speaking about her father's family. She was particularly fascinated by stories about the potato famine, miners, agricultural labourers. She then started out to research her mother's family.

Keira grew up in Sydney and, although not brought up in a Jewish home, she was surrounded by Jewish relatives and it was a family tradition that every Friday night 'we got together and lit candles but there were no prayers'. Her mother was born in 1913 in Sydney, her grandfather who she knew well, was born in 1884 lived to be 90 years. Keira outlined her research in exploring her KYEZOR ancestry and she aims to publish this story in a book. She soon learned that there were numerous ways to spell this surname - KEYZOR, KEYZER and KEYSOR.

She had made contact with Professor Harold Pollins, an historian from Oxford as well as another researcher in Queensland. From them she learned a great deal about her ggggrandfather, Louis Kyezor, and she learned that her

Kyezor family lived in Cambridge from at least 1791 to 1850. Isaac KYEZOR or KEYZER, son of David, married Hannah LEVY, daughter of Moses before 1792. She said that she did not know anything about the Levy family.

The Kyezors who originally came from Germany, were watchmakers, silversmiths and engravers. She spoke at length about the resources she used to uncover the life and times of Louis who was a watchmaker. From around 1830 to the end of the century the family were in business in such places as Doncaster, London and Norwich.

As an example of her research, Keira said that she found the name Abraham Keyzor of Giles St, extracted from the Jewish Chronicle of 19th October 1849 in a history 'The Norwich Hebrew Congregation 1840-1960: A short history' by Henry Levine. (She has presented a photocopy of this short booklet to the Makor Library.)

She went on - 'Thanks to Harold Pollins and others I know a lot about my ggg grandfather Louis KYEZOR but have been unable to find out much about their time in Cambridge, except for a reference to the birth of a daughter Elizabeth to Isaac and Hannah in 1792'. (This Elizabeth may be the 'Kitty KEISER' who married a Joseph LEVY in 1816.)

From around 1830 to the end of the century the family went into business in such places as Doncaster, London and Norwich. She said that would be interested to know if there is any material on the Jewish Community of Cambridge from the 1780s up to 1849 or if anyone has come across Jewish ancestors in that area during that time.

Keira's impressive presentation, with its attention to careful well documented research, captured the audience and we look forward to her future publication in anticipation.

Keira published an article about her great uncle in honour of the 90th anniversary of Gallipoli and Lone Pine, in the Australian Historical Society Journal, Vol XVII, Part 4, June 2005 - 'Leonard Keyzor VC - The Quiet Hero'.



Julia Thiels, Phil Lipshut, Lynda Clarke, Maureen O'Neill

The Bene Israel of India



Les Oberman, President with Yael and Ralphy

We had the pleasure of hearing Ralphy Jhirad as our guest speaker, at the July meeting. He gave an interesting overview of the Bene Israel community of India - its history and the contemporary situation of both those still living in India and those who have migrated elsewhere, especially to Israel. Ralphy was on short visit to Australia with his wife Yael, who was born into this community. He managed to fit in a talk amidst his very busy schedule.

Ralphy Jhirad has a long history of involvement in Jewish communal life. He was co-founder of Bene Israel Heritage Museum and Genealogical Research Centre and is a leader of the Indian Jewish community. He has been a President of the Tiphereth Israel Synagogue, National Director of the World ORT Union in India, Chairman of Masorti Olami in India and delegate to World Zionist Organisation. He was winner of Herzl International Award presented during the Centenary of his birth.

His interest in genealogy is more than a hobby. He has designed and developed family tree software at the request of Mr. Nissim Moses, President of the Genealogy Research Centre, and has jointly collected data on over 10,000 Bene Israel community members into one single family tree. Visit: www.beneisraelheritage.com/ftv.htm

Ralphy participated at the International Jewish Genealogy Conference held in Jerusalem a few years ago. During 2007, he visited Israel for 8 weeks and has traced the family genealogy of both his parents. He is currently the Honorary Secretary of the Israeli branch of Friends of Bene Israel Heritage Museum and Genealogical Research Centre.

He commenced his talk giving an introduction of the origins of Jewish settlement in India which is believed to date back to the arrival of a ship in 175B.C.E. with a group of Jews escaping from the Northern Kingdom of Palestine set sail. The tradition says that as they approached the coast a ship

wreck took place off the Konkan coast of India, which is the mainland just across the creek from the islands, that have formed Bombay. Only seven men and seven women survived and they settled where they had climbed ashore at Navgaon, down the coast from Bombay. The oldest known Jewish cemetery is near the place of the shipwreck and it is still maintained today. Today's Bene Israel are believed to be the descendants of these 14 people.

They were welcomed by the local Hindu population and they flourished in a land which has never experienced anti-semitism.

From the original settlers of 14 who survived the shipwreck, the community grew and they emerged as a kind of guild of oil pressers. After they left their first village, Navgaon, they dispersed to other villages and towns in the coast of Konkan becoming the oil producers and oil pressers of their respective villages. After the arrival of the British they spread from the villages of the Konkan to such places as Pen, Panvel, Bombay, Thana, Pune and Ahmedabad in Gujarat State, and a few to Delhi.



The Jews of Cochin settled on the Malabar Coast approx. 1524 while those from Baghdad came around 1832 and settled to do trade in cities such as Bombay, Calcutta and Pune.

He went on to describe this ancient community which has three distinct groups: Bene Israel, Cochini and Baghdadi. All follow the Sephardic order of prayers. Today the communities are spread all over the world including Australia and New Zealand.

During his talk Ralphy pointed to features of the Bene Israel community. They can proudly boast 30 synagogues in India 10 of which are in Bombay. The community numbers 5000 with 3000 in Bombay which has 10 synagogues. The rest are spread out over a number of cities. In all there are 65 locations where one can find a Jewish cemetery.

Shabbat has always been observed on a Saturday and fish without fins and scales were never eaten. Until their association with other Jewish communities they were not aware of the Hanukkah festival and the ninth of Ab fast. These two traditions became part of Jewish tradition after the destruction of the second Temple and therefore it is believed



Ian Samuel with Ralph Jhirad

that the Bene Israel forefathers arrived in India before the destruction of the second temple. On each religious occasion such as marriage; circumcision or death the Bene Israelis used to recite the 'Shema' verse. While the liturgy of the synagogue service follows the Sephardi tradition and melodies of the prayers are different.

From the names of the villages and towns, like Roha, Pen, Pali or Ashtam, they derived their surnames like Rohekar, Penkar, Palkar, Ashtamkar and such others, 'kar' meaning - 'from the village of'. The Jhirad family, which dropped the 'kar', became religious leaders and educators. Ralph was proud that his own son can read the Torah and continues the family tradition of learning.

He spoke about the period of the British Raj when the Jews were highly respected for their enterprise and intelligence. Many members of the Bene Israel became postmasters in the postage service and this caused them to be spread out over many locations, hence the large number of cemeteries. In the post-British period Jews never suffered persecution and their heritage is still protected. He pointed out that the University of Bombay offers Hebrew as a language for study.

There is no Beth Din in India and jurisdiction in religious matters reside with the Chief Sephardi Rabbi in Israel. There is very little intermarriage out of the Jewish communities however, breaking a long tradition, there is intermarriage between the three major Jewish community groups.

In recent decades many have migrated to Israel where the number have grown to about 70,000. Today there are some 62 Bene Israel synagogues spread across Israel. The settlers there have not yet made their presence felt on the political scene but are making a contribution to the economy of Israel.

Ralph said that his mission was to encourage closer appreciation of the Jews of India by supporting tour groups. He himself has been a guide in the past but these days he trains the local guides about Jewish customs and traditions. Because the Bene Israel used to abstain from any work on Saturday (which wasn't an acceptable feature in India) and were called 'Shenwar Teli' meaning, 'Saturday oil pressers'.

A second profession emerged, that of wood carvers and he observed on a visit to the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation in South Yarra that the elaborate carvings were similar to those performed by the Bene Israel carvers.

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The latest issue of *AVOTAYNU: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, Summer 2007 has an article by Nissim Moses on the Bene Israel of India. It can be read at the Makor Jewish Community Library in South Caulfield.

The website for further information is:  
[www.beneisraelcentre.com](http://www.beneisraelcentre.com)  
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Jeanette Delatycki and Sonya Oberman



Ziva Fain, Herb Epstein and Yael Jhirad



Barbara and Malcolm Fredman

SHOAH FOUNDATION INSTITUTE VISUAL HISTORY
ARCHIVE AVAILABLE AT MONASH UNIVERSITY

From "The Age" 18 May 2007

Ten years ago, Moshe Fiszman told his story of survival for Steven Spielberg. Now Melbourne has an opportunity to hear it too.

Monash University has secured access to the 52,000 video testimonials of Holocaust survivors who, like Mr Fiszman, recorded their stories during the 1990s for the Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive — the world's largest visual history resource, located at the University of Southern California.

Conducted across 56 countries and in 32 languages, the interviews were the brainchild of Steven Spielberg, who embarked on the project after filming the Oscar-winning Schindler's List in Poland.

The archive allows users to search through the thousands of video files as they would a text book, using key words such as a survivor's name, the names of their relatives, a geographical location or more general phrases.

A search for "Australia" would bring up Mr Fiszman and the 2500 other Australian survivors who took part in the interviews.

His story would cover his pre-war life in his home town of Radon, Poland, his miraculous survival through the death camps of Birkenau and Dachau and his subsequent arrival with his wife in a sleepy, postwar Australia.

One of only three in his extended family of 200 to live through the war, like many stories of survival, Mr Fiszman's involves strength, luck and unimaginable loss.

About the University of Southern California
Visual History Archive

The mission of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute is to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry and the suffering they cause—through the educational use of the Institute's visual history testimonies.

In 1994, after filming Schindler's List, Steven Spielberg established Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation to document the experience of survivors and other witnesses to the Holocaust, including those who aided, rescued, and liberated the survivors. With a collection of nearly 52,000 video testimonies in 32 languages and from 56 countries, the Visual History Archive is the largest in the world, requiring 200 terabytes of storage.

The Shoah Foundation became the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education in 2006. The Institute relies upon partnerships in the United States and around the world to provide public access to the archive and advance scholarship in many fields of inquiry. The Institute and its partners also utilize the archive to develop educational products and programs for use in many countries and languages.

For more information please visit our website at <http://www.usc.edu/vhi>

There is a dedicated computer at the Clayton Campus at Monash University for this archive project. It is advisable to ring to book a time slot for viewing.

VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF JEWISH HISTORY

(From: JewishGen Digest)

Greetings, I would like to tell you what is new in my virtual museum that might be of interest to you:

1. "The Life of Nina Finkelstein: Recollections of a Friend"

This interesting exhibition is a story in photograph and text about Nina Finkelstein, a native of Kovno (Kaunas), who survived the Kovno Ghetto during World War II.

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/finkelstein-nina.htm

2. "Holocaust Memorial of Canada"

This is my third exhibition about Holocaust memorials and features photographs and inscriptions of a number of Holocaust memorials in the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. Included are the English inscriptions as well as the Hebrew inscriptions which have been translated into English.

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/hmc.htm

3. Also there are new exhibitions that describe the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach, Florida and the Holocaust Memorial Park in Brooklyn, New York.

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/hmna-miami-beach.htm

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/hmna-bklyn-hmp.htm

4. Were you aware of all the concentration camp records that are available at the National Archives? I have created a webpage that lists what is available in the Northeast, New York City location. I found for people I have recently interviewed their actual registration cards from Buchenwald. Interestingly, for the inmates who tragically perished at Buchenwald or at other camps they might have been transferred to from Buchenwald, there are often notations on the registration lists as to the location (camp name) and exact date of their death, i.e. whether it took place at Buchenwald or at another location. I was able to learn a date of death of an inmate transferred from Buchenwald to Bergen-Belsen in early 1945 from the actual microfilmed registration list found at NARA. I then contacted the people at Bergen-Belsen who were able to tell me when this person actually arrived there.

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/h-nara-ne-01.htm

5. Various photographs of Holocaust memorials located in countries such as Poland and Belarus have been added to the "Holocaust Memorials of Europe" exhibition.

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/hmc-main.htm

6. Synagogues of Europe: pre-war photos of fourteen synagogues of Poland are now on display at

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/se.htm

7. More family photos from pre-war Poland at

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/pfh-ts-poland.htm

8. Five more future exhibitions have been announced on the "Coming Soon" page at www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/cs.htm

Hopefully, I will be able to add more material of importance to you with time, and it is my great pleasure to do so. Of course, I must depend on folks like yourself for photographs, stories of family life before and during World War II, etc.

As I've already created main index pages for Gesher Galicia and Bialystok area researchers, I will hopefully soon create web pages that will centralize the links to all things on my website of interest to Litvak SIG, Ukrainian SIG and Belarus SIG researchers as well. Please check the Recent Updates page periodically to see what's new and use the Site Map page as an index or table of contents for the entire site.

I'm always glad to be of help. Wishing you all continued success in your genealogical research,

Steve Lasky, New York

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com

Email: steve@museumoffamilyhistory.com

Introducing Your Committee Members



Rodney Eisfelder is a long standing AJGS (Vic) committee member

I can't remember when my interest in genealogy began. As a youth, I was fascinated in the family trees that my father had assembled. While still at university, I used "Who's Who" to obtain the address of some distant cousins. My father wrote to these addresses and received replies from their widows. When I was still in my early twenties, I went to the Mormons with my father and viewed some microfilms that uncovered a few ancestral details. Another spark, a few years later, was the discovery that my brother's fiancée was a distant cousin of my fiancée.

I get a big kick out of helping people connect to their family. I usually do this through one of the databases that I have accumulated, including the Victorian Death Index (1921-1985), various refugee arrival databases, the Shanghai census, and the Jewish News, "hatched, matched and dispatched" database that I have been accumulating since 1997.

Through my genealogical odyssey, there have been many highlights. Several of them came during our trip to Europe for the IAJGS seminar in London six years ago. A cousin of my mother showed me an old family tree that disclosed that my 3-greats-grandmother had died in the same town as my grandfather was born. A few weeks later, when we visited my grandfather's birthplace, I was able to obtain a copy of her death certificate. This gave her birthplace and helped to link me to an enormous family tree stretching back to the early seventeenth century.

Later on the same trip, I was able to see the Matrikel file of my great-great-grandfather and to touch his signature, his mother's signature, his wife's signature, and the signatures of her father and grandfather.

Because many, if not most Jewish surnames are less than two hundred years old, the discovery of name adoption records is always significant, as it provides a bridge between "conventional" and "patronymic" records. While going through the birth records of Geldern in the Rhineland on an LDS microfilm, I was staggered to find the "lost" name adoptions of that town, including the paragraph in which my 3-greats-grandfather Levi Phillipe (Leib ben Jonah Voos) became Philippe Kaufmann on the 18th October 1808.

Those are just a few of the highlights of my quest.

Rodney Eisfelder

<http://eisfelderr.customer.netspace.net.au/genealogy.html>

Debbie Jurblum recently joined the AJGS(Vic) committee

My interest in family research started on the simplest level at the age of 18 years when my maternal grandmother sat myself and my Auntie down and made us write down the family tree as she remembered it. I kept up the births, deaths and marriages through the years and in the 1990's I started looking on JewishGen and contacting family for more information.

In 1996 my father died suddenly at the age of 63. He was always restricted when spending time with me and tried to give me his version of the journey his family took during the war from Bielsko Biala, Poland where he was born to Melbourne.



We never had enough time to write it down. He also tried to give me what he knew of the family tree knowing that I had a very large tree (very small by genealogists measures) on my maternal side. He always said that he had the most knowledge of family and the journey as all other relatives from his side of the family were much younger than him.

His death was the first death of all the people I know of his generation and an enormous shock and loss to my family. This made my job of keeping the family tree an incredibly enormous, and nearly an impossible mission, to find all the family that he could not find on his paternal side. There was a mix up or change of names which is making my search even harder. I also had to piece together his maternal side from a tree which was quickly noted down by hand.

I had also at this time started looking for my husbands family tree as I was constantly told that there was only the four immediate members of his family that survived. So I pieced together the names of those who perished and distant cousins living (one of which was a first cousin to my father-in-law) and where they were living. My search has just become a mission of love now.

I feel I am just starting in this area. I love my research so much that I try to get others interested and help those that ask me for tutoring and showing them how to load their family on their family tree software. My foray into public speaking came last year when Phil Lipshut and I spoke at a meeting of the Victorian society about our experiences at the International Jewish Genealogy Conference in New York in August last year. Phil and I thoroughly enjoyed planning the presentation and speaking to the audience.

I have had several exciting moments in my research. The biggest discovery was finding out, while on a trip to Israel visiting what my father-in-law thought was very distant

(continued)

family (they turned out to be his first cousins), that we had another family of distant cousins in Buenos Aires, Argentina. That was amazing and so exciting.

So I sent them a letter with a family tree and my email address and received an email 21 days later. Two weeks after that we talked on the phone. I have sent the details to some of the Israeli family who have been travelling in South America and they have been to see them. I have since had photos sent constantly including one of his parents from the late 1800's. They think my researching and connecting has been wonderful.

While searching on JewishGen I have taken my maternal grandmother's paternal family from four ggrandparents, of which the last we were not sure of, to a confirmation. I have added the 3rd and 4th ggrandparents wives details of parents and maiden names. I also found her maternal family and children who died at birth or a young age. At the moment I think I may have found my maternal grandfathers maternal grandmother!

Debbie Jurblum

NEW RECORDS ON THE JEWISHGEN DATABASE

JewishGen is pleased to announce the addition of half a million new records to the JewishGen Holocaust Database

* Jewish Refugees in Tashkent:

Data on 152,000 Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union who were evacuated to Tashkent and other localities in Uzbekistan in 1941-1942.

* Claims Conference - Hungary:

List of over 135,000 Hungarian Jews collected by the Conference on Jewish Material claims Against Germany, whose names appear in records held in the Central Zionist Archives and Yad Vashem.

* Claims Conference - Romania

List of over 140,000 Romanian Jews, collected by the Conference on Jewish Material claims Against Germany, whose names appear in records held in the Central Zionist Archives and Yad Vashem.

* Flossenbergs Prisoner Lists:

Data on over 18,334 prisoners interned in the Flossenbergs Concentration Camp in Germany. The prisoners include Jews from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

* Polish medical questionnaires:

Data on 2,000 Jewish medical personnel in Galicia and surrounding areas in 1940-42 collected during the German occupation, containing, in some cases, extensive information about family, occupation, and education.

* Who Perished on the Struma?

Data on more than 700 Jewish refugees attempting to get to Palestine who perished when the Struma sank.

* Hungarian Jewish Survivors in Buchenwald: Data on 707 Hungarian Jewish survivors from Buchenwald concentration camp.

* The Twentieth Train: Records of 567 deportees who boarded a transport train ambushed on the way to Auschwitz in 1943.

* Bergen-Belsen to Philippeville, Algeria (UNRRA Camp):

Data on 200 Jews who arrived at the UNRRA refugee camp in Philippeville, Algeria in 1945 as part of a prisoner exchange. Most held passports from countries in North and South America.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have made these possible, especially Joyce Field, project coordinators Nolan Altman and Mike Kalt, and to Peter Lande, Rabbi Shalom Bronstein, and Samuel Aroni.

The JewishGen Holocaust Database is a collection of over 100 datasets, containing 1.6 million entries about Holocaust victims and survivors. It can be searched at

< <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust> >.

Warren Blatt, JewishGen Editor-in-Chief

<wblatt@jewishgen.org>

Nechama's List is now online

Nancy Goldberg Hilton (formerly Nancy Goodstein) is happy to announce that the full text of Nechama's List, an update of Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalog, is now available online at the following web site: www.nechamaslist.com

Nechama's List includes 635 new specifically Jewish records added to the Family History Library Catalog between the dates of January 8, 2001 to November 8, 2006. It thus adds to the listing done previously for IAJGS and available online at

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/FHLC/>

It is available online free of charge for any researcher who would like to access it. Anyone who wants to order the microfilms identified should go to their local Family History center.

We very much thank Nancy for all her work that is of such great benefit to us.

Anne Feder Lee, IAJGS President

Note: The CD is available at the Makor Jewish Community Library

UK JEWISH ANCESTRY

There is now a new fabulous online search tool, for use when searching for our UK Jewish ancestors. It is hosted by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain and is called:

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN MID-19th CENTURY BRITAIN©

It has been created by JGSGB member, Petra Laidlaw, who welcomes enquiries and additional information, photos, etc.

http://www.jgs.gb.org.uk/1851/An_1851_Study1.asp?cmd=reset

One can search the data base without being a member of the JGSGB.

Around 18,000 entries are recorded, approximately half of the estimated Jewish population of the UK in 1851.

Quoting from the web site:

"The core information, available on most but not all entries, is where and when the person was born; who their parents were; who they married and when; who their children were and when they were born; where they were living in 1851 and their occupation in 1851."

Overall, a great opportunity to advance your early 19th century UK family discoveries.

Terry Newman, Sydney, Australia



Dr Charles Coppel, Naomi Barnett, Kiera Lockyer

JEWISHGEN ONLINE WORLDWIDE BURIAL REGISTRY (JOWBR).

JewishGen is pleased to announce the addition of over 187,000 records and over 10,000 tombstone images to the (JOWBR).

The database now contains over 800,000 records in 1,810 cemeteries and landsmanschaft plots.

Additions were made to the records of the following countries: Belarus, Canada, Egypt, England, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands Antilles, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, Syria, Ukraine, and United States.

Significant contributions were made by the following persons and organizations. While all contributors are acknowledged and appreciated, we are pointing out the following for their extraordinary efforts.

Carolynne Veffer (JGS Toronto) - 13 Toronto (8,000 records)

Bruno Segal - Botosani, Romania (~13,200 records).

Terry Lasky - 11 Colorado cemeteries (~17,700)

Susan Melnick (Rauh Jewish Archives) -

9 Pennsylvania cemeteries (>5,300 records)

Rabbi Ed Cohen - 185 Connecticut, 31 western Massachusetts and 8 Rhode Island cemeteries (90,000)

Gilda Kurtzman - Significant additions - Israeli cemeteries

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the efforts of Nolan Altman, JOWBR Technical Coordinator; Michael Tobias and Warren Blatt, JewishGen's amazing technical team; and the encouragement of Susan King, JewishGen's founder and Managing Director. We also want to thank the team of volunteer translators that worked on 16 cemeteries. Finally, without the donations of photographs and burial records by hundreds of individuals and organizations, this project would not be possible. Our thanks and appreciation to all.

The JOWBR database is searchable at

< <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery> >.

Please contact me or Nolan Altman, < nta@pipeline.com >, about the donation of additional material to JOWBR.

Joyce Field

JewishGen Vice President, Data Acquisition

IAJGS AWARDS

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) **Lifetime Achievement Award** went to **Mathilda Tagger** of Jerusalem for her 25 years of devotion to growing resources for Sephardic genealogy. Among her many accomplishment is co-authorship of *Guidebook for Sephardic and Oriental Genealogical Sources in Israel* which was published by Avotaynu. A second Avotaynu author, **Lars Menk** of Berlin, was given the Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy Award for his book *A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames*. **Donald Hirschhorn** of Florida received an award from Yad Vashem for his "activism, dedication and outstanding volunteer as coordinator for the Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project." Hirschhorn personally coordinated the submission of close to 1,000 Pages of Testimony, and many additional pages have been submitted as a result of his efforts either through the American Society for Yad Vashem, to Israel directly, or via the Internet.

Genealogist's Resource for Interpreting Causes of Death

Although "modern" death certificates now do not include cause of death for privacy reasons, many of the older ones do, but interpreting the cause can sometimes be elusive. Antiquus Morbus is an interesting web site that provides definitions of archaic medical terms, along with their old and modern definitions. that we genners come across from time to time. This site helps decipher the causes of death found on mortality lists, certificates of death, and church death records from the 19th century and earlier.

It provides modern-day equivalents of old terminology, ie: Falling Sickness is Epilepsy, but also provides supplemental information on many of the terms found, such as when and where such terminology was found. Many terms include descriptions of the causes of the medical condition which might give insights to understanding your ancestor's life style and last days.

If your death certificate comes from the "old country," in a foreign language, the web site provides lists of archaic medical terms, diseases, and causes of death in English, German, French, Polish and a few other languages. It even lists the medical terms in the original Latin terminology. This and several thousand more archaic medical terms can be found on Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms at <http://www.antiquusmorbus.com>. Joan Parker, Immediate Past President, JGS of Greater Miami, Inc. From: IAJGS Leadership Forum, June 2007

LODZ CEMETERY DATABASE

Steve Morse has done it again! He created a One-Step search engine for the Lodz Cemetery database indexed by Marek Szukalak in Lodz. See Marek's Lodz Foundation website and the Cemetery Plan in English at:

<http://www.jewishlodz.cemetery.org/cmentarzEN.html>

The url for Steve Morse's One-Step Search is:

<http://stevemorse.org/lodz/lodz.html>

You need to be careful with exact searches on name. Exact means just that -- the full name must match exactly. So if you enter just the last name, it won't match exactly because the name in the record contains a first name as well. The ability to do exact searches may be modified or removed for this reason.

Roni Seibel Liebowitz,

Lodz Area Research Group Coordinator

KNOWLES COLLECTION

FamilySearch announce the addition of three new resources to aid with Jewish genealogical research. The announcement came at the 27th International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies meeting in Salt Lake City. The new resources include:

Knowles Collection. The Knowles Collection contains information for thousands of Jews from the British Isles. Building on the work of the late **Isobel Mordy**, the collection links individuals into family groups. More names are added continuously.

Finding Jewish Records. In-depth guide to tracing Jewish ancestors from the U.S. to Europe between 1850 to 1930. Follow the steps to identify a birthplace or place of origin.

Jewish Genealogy Research Outline (revised). Helpful guide to records and research strategies focusing on Jewish family history.

http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp?page=home/welcome/site_resources

Hyman Sarasohn, Elizabeth, NJ, USA

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.

SCHLEISS / TELL / COFFEE

For the past 9 years I have been searching for Irene COFFEE, born 1911. By sheer chance a friend in Tasmania has found a NSW marriage registration which fits 100%:

Marriage 1955: Eduard SCHLEISS and Irene LOUISE V. COFFEE.

From National Archives records we know that Edouard was born 15 August 1908, nationality Swiss.

The marriage document appears in the Registry twice - once with the name SCHLEISS, the second with the name TELL - both are Swiss family names. I now know that Irene died, using the family name TELL - not SCHLEISS. We still have no idea where Irene was buried, whether or not she had any children.

We do not know when / why there was this name switch from SCHLEISS to TELL nor where the husband Eduard died or was buried. We also know nothing about the whereabouts of the brother Nikolaus SCHLEISS.

David Lewin, UK, <davidlewin@btinternet.com>

CYGIELMAN

I'm wondering if anyone has experience looking for a Sugihara visa holder in Kobe, Japan. I am trying to trace Nusym Rafal CYGIELMAN who received a visa August 2, 1940 from Mr. Sugihara and who I believe was the son of Wigdor Judka Cygielman and Sara Kimelfeld, born in Lublin, Poland in 1906.

Robinn Magid, Kensington, California

<RobinnM@aol.com>

GARBEL/ZEWIN

I am looking for information relating to my late mother. I believe she had a sister-in-law by the name of Frida Garbel, nee Zewin, born in Vilna. She arrived on the SS Protea age 31, in 1951. I would like to make contact with any members of Frida's family, Lev Raphael <levraphael@comcast.net>

KAYE/KLEBINSKY

My great uncle was Sam Kaye the youngest son of Betsy and Chaim Klebinsky. His siblings were Golda (my grandmother), Isabel, Morry, Kelvin and Rose.

Family members living in the UK would like to contact Sam or other family members in Australia.

Claire Franklen <Claire.franklin@gmail.com>

SAKLUF/SACALOFF/SWERDLOW

Some of my relatives went to Australia in the early 1900s. My great-grandfather was Myer Sacaloff and his son was Jacob. Other relatives were Swerdlow.

Any help will be appreciated.

Gail Sackloff <Gail.sackloff@target.com>

PEOPLE FROM CHELM

Wishing to make contact with persons who lived in Chelm in Poland. Reb Chodos <Rebe12@bigpond.com>

RAIZNER

I would like to find relative or descendants of Rafael Raysner (or Raizner). He immigrated to Melbourne from Bialystock, Poland in 1945 or 1946. We know that he was married and had one daughter. He died in 1953. Rafael Raysner wrote a book "Der Umkum fon Bialystoker Yedentum 1939-1945", in Yiddish. He was the uncle of my mother and we would like to get touch with any descendants. Hannah Sivan, Israel, <hannah.sivan@gmail.com>

KACEN

Looking for the following people in Caulfield, Melbourne.

David N. S. Katzenellenbogen, born on November 12, 1913, shortened his name to KACEN, married 1) Mina, 2) ?, 3) Nelly, having two sons.

1. Zvi Kacen, born on March 12, 1945, an engineer.

2. Shalom Kacen, born on September 25, 1950.

Dr. Neil Rosenstein <neil@tali.com>

EPSTEIN

I am searching for our family members (Moshe and Golda Epstein) who settled in Melbourne back around 1900.

Ephraim Epstein, Rehovot, Israel <epsteins@bezeqint.net>

NOSCOVITCH / HARRIS

I am trying to trace a branch of my family who emigrated to Australia in 1948. My grandmother was born Marie NOSCOVITCH in London in 1900 who had a brother Morrie. Over time the family adopted the surname HARRIS. My grandmother and her husband (David Danziger) were both killed in the London blitz in 1940 and my mother Helen Danziger lost contact with her mother's family. Morrie HARRIS had a wife Yetta (aka Hettie) (nee Levy) travelled from London to Sydney on the SS Ranchi in 1948 together with their son Ivor who was born in Nottingham, England in 1945. Ivor also had a much older sister named Hazel.

David Lewis, London, <david@dmlewis.co.uk>

Early Jewish Photographers

I am co-authoring with Mike Butcher of Bendigo on the early Jewish photographers of Australia. This is the provisional list of photographers I have prepared:

Louis Godfrey Alexander, Percy Louis Alexander (son of above) Jacob Audet, Henry Walter Barnett, Isidor Cohen, Charles Collins, Aaron Flegeltaub, Joseph Hyam Flohn Solomon Flohm, Alexander Fox, George Barron Goodman Frank Haes, Behr Raphael Lewin, Morris Moss, Isaac Polack William Vazie Simons, Saul Solomon

Possible: David Mendelssohn, Meyer Milewsky

I welcome additional names anyone may know of. While we are mostly interested in the 19th century I would be interested to know of any photographers active in the early 20th century or any active in New Zealand. I am already in touch with a number of family of the above and I am always happy to share my findings. Marcel Safier (Photographic Historian)

<msafier@ozemail.com.au>

MEYER / KOPSCH

Anna Meyer, born 4 Dec. 1892 in Hamburg, was married to Julius Kopsch. Julius, conductor of the Berlin Symphony, was not Jewish. When Hitler came to power, he divorced Anna. Anna went to Australia in 1937. In 1947 was living at: c/o Mrs. Prerauer, 776 New South Head Road, Rose Bay, Sydney N.S.W. Any help in tracking her whereabouts after 1947, would be appreciated.

David Blank <rmjb@netvision.net.il>

SUCCESS STORY

Hello Lionel,

The results of your posting were soon to come - at first contacted me was another ex-Deuteluam from Melbourne, born around the same area where Mira was living. A week or so later on, Mira herself responded and sent me an e-mail. She has now been reunited with her first cousin living here in Israel, who I tracked down and by doing so solved another mystery. Both of them didn't know of each other's existence and are in their late 70s. In addition, Mira is now also in the process of being acquainted with additional first cousins she's got, and as a result, that elderly cousin might do so as well as he was even more "ignorant" as to his family. I should also note that these e-mails came to me as a surprise, after I put the subject on the sideline and one day woke to find surprising e-mails in my inbox.

Thank you for helping elderly people close a circle in their life, and advancing my genealogical research.

Regards, Shaul

SEARCHING LOST RELATIVES - AN ISRAEL RADIO PROGRAM

Zalman Grinblat

The Israeli radio has a daily segment called "The Department for Searching Lost Relatives". This program was originally aired after the 2nd World War to help Israelis who survived, find lost relatives. It has now been reinstated and has over 150 daily requests for searches, only 4-5 are aired every day. You can listen to this program live on the Israeli radio website for Reshet Bet <http://bet.iba.org.il/> click top left "bet live". The program is aired Sunday-Thursday at 2:45 PM Israel time in Hebrew.

On today's program a man whose name is Alex, is looking for descendants of Zalman/Solomon GRINBLAT. Zalman was born around 1880-1890 and lived in Warsaw. On August 1st 1914 (01.08.1914) he was taken prisoner of war by the Germans. It is not known if he was a soldier or civilian. He was eventually released and returned to Warsaw. If anyone has heard of Zalman GRINBLAT or any of his family, they can contact the program at mador2@gmail.com

Finding Lost Relatives, POB 33069 Jerusalem, Israel

Merav Schejtman, Jerusalem, Israel

[<mmschejtman@socialjustice.org.il>](mailto:mmschejtman@socialjustice.org.il)

ZEWIN

Frieda Zewin was, I believe, a camp survivor whose records list her as Frieda Garbel nee Zewin. My mother was Lidja Garbel, nee Kliatschko. It's all a bit confusing, which is why I am hoping to find descendants of Frieda Zewin who might be able to tell me something about her war years and pre-war identity.

(Frieda Zewin, born 8 April 1919, arrived on the SS Propea departing Genoa, 21 February 1951. She was sponsored by the Sydney Jewish Welfare Society. She gave her occupation - machinist.)

Lev Raphael [<levraphael@comcast.net>](mailto:levraphael@comcast.net)

GOLDSTEIN

I am a folklorist and author and currently on the hunt for any information about a family of musicians, the Goldsteins who, I believe, came to Australia in the 1940s. They first went to China where they were successful and then moved to Australia during World War II either Melbourne or Sydney. I am hoping the musicians continued to perform, even if only for the community.

I am interested in stories and of any other singers and musicians who came to Australia in the 30s, 40s, and 50s.

Any leads would be appreciated.

Warren Fahey, [<www.warrenfahey.com>](http://www.warrenfahey.com)

GINSBURG

Seeking information about Sophia Ginsburg arrived in Australia on the SS Cyrenia at age 53 years, on 4th July 1949 from Genoa. She was Stateless (Russian) born 27 September 1896.

Paula Bloch, NSW, [<pbloch@bigpond.net.au>](mailto:pbloch@bigpond.net.au)

PALESTRANT / SOBELMAN/ ROSENBERG/ ISSACK/ ISRAEL-MENASSE

This was sent to me and I am forwarding to as many people as I think might be able to assist.

Message from a Holocaust Survivor

I am a 72 year old Holocaust survivor. Now that all my daughters and some of my grandchildren are married and, thank G-d, having lived to defy the Nazi plot by having a large family who lives in Israel, I feel a need to seek a final closure to my life history.

I was a young child during the war, and I don't remember much from that period. In spite of carrying out an in-depth and protracted research, there are still many holes in my story - the story of a little girl who lost almost all her family. True, one of many, but for me they were my entire world and all that encompasses it.

I am looking for people who crossed with me the border from France to Switzerland via Anemasse on October 20th 1943. Once in Switzerland, I arrived at Croppets, apparently the place where all children who crossed the border were gathered and looked after by the OSE. From there I was transferred to the 'Henry Dunant' orphanage centre in Geneva. The children who crossed with me should be today in their 70s.

Please try to remember. Do you know a neighbour, a distant relative, a friend of your mother/grandmother, or someone else who was there or might know someone who was? These women, if still alive, can be anywhere in the world now, and their family names have probably changed since. The names of those I am searching for are:

Palestrant Lizette, daughter of David and Hanna, born 29th of Oct, 1936 in Poland.

Sobelman Suzanne daughter of Albert and Celine, born 18th of April, 1936, Paris.

Rosenberg Liba born 26th of April, Poland, and her brother Paul, born on the 20th of February, 1935, in Paris to Wolf (Zeev) and Rivka (Rebecca).

Issack Mylan (I'm not sure which is his surname) born the 26th of May, 1937, in Milano. Son of Herbert and Hinda.

Dora Israel-Menasse (I'm not sure which is her maiden name) and her children - Robert, born in 1929, and Fortuni, born in 1940.

For any details, please contact me: Jenny

was.jenny@gmail.com

BERNSTEIN

I live in Jerusalem and I am searching for a distant relative of mine who was living in Melbourne in 1946 called Szymon Bernstein. I was wondering if you can help me with locating him or his children.

Yair Rubinstein [<yairub1@yahoo.com>](mailto:yairub1@yahoo.com)

DORN

Hans Dorn was born May 2, 1889 in Passau, Germany and his wife, Christine nee Burkhardt was born 27 August 1901 in Augsburg, Germany. They escaped Germany and migrated to Australia. Hans was interned in June 1940 and released in September 1941 following his appeal. Their son, Johannes, if still living would be in his late 70s.

Peta Ganderton [<paulg1@iinet.net.au>](mailto:paulg1@iinet.net.au)

VIENNA ARCHIVES UNCOVERED

*From the New York Times, June 2, 2007
by Marjorie Backman*

'A Nation's Lost Holocaust History, Now on Display'

When Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien, or Jewish Community Vienna, decided to sell a vacant building in the summer of 2000, two employees were sent to look for any archival material that might have been left behind.

What they found exceeded any historian's dream: Stacked floor to ceiling in two rooms of one apartment sat some 800 dusty boxes containing, among other things, about half a million pages of detailed records of the community during the Holocaust archives not known to have survived.

"Opening each box was extremely exciting," said Lothar Höbling, the chief archivist and one of the discoverers. "Eight hundred excitements."

Now, after seven years of quiet work reordering, preserving and microfilming the archives - a joint project of Jewish Community Vienna and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington - the documents are about to be officially unveiled with a presentation at the museum on Thursday, followed by an exhibition, opening on July 3, at the Jewish Museum Vienna.

When combined with community records stretching back to the 17th century that had been shipped to Israel in the 1950s, the Vienna cache makes up one of the largest Holocaust archives of any Jewish community, some two million pages. With it historians will be better able to understand how the Holocaust unfolded and provide a window into the daily life of Vienna's Jews. The archives of Jewish Community Vienna, the representative body of the city's Jews, will also be of great help to families in uncovering exactly what happened to their relatives.

"For most of the last six decades, people believed that one could not study the action of Jews in the Holocaust period because the Nazis systematically destroyed the records of Jewish communities and organizations," said Paul Shapiro, director of the Holocaust museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. "Most Holocaust scholarship has been written based on the documentary record created by the perpetrators of the Holocaust."

The Vienna archives, in their entirety, are believed to be the largest collection of material about a Jewish community in the German-speaking world, Ingo Zechner, director of the Vienna group's Holocaust Victims' Information and Support Center, said. Indeed, Vienna once had the third-largest Jewish population in Europe.

A survey of Vienna's pre-Holocaust records illustrates the community's diversity: Jewish cultural organizations, welfare societies, chess clubs, groups of Jewish soldiers from World War I, Zionist groups - even monarchist clubs are represented Mr. Zechner said. A 1927 letter from Sigmund Freud declared his 1926 income of 50,000 Austrian schillings and the tax he expected to pay the group.

Some of Vienna's Holocaust-era files can already be viewed on microfilm at the Holocaust museum in Washington and at the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Israel. And, according to plans arranged with Simon Wiesenthal before his death, a proposed Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies will unite under one roof Mr. Wiesenthal's Nazi-hunting files with the Jewish Community files and will serve as a research institute for visiting scholars and a showcase for themed exhibitions.

After the Nazis annexed Austria in 1938, they began disbanding virtually all Jewish groups. Two months later the Nazis reinstated Jewish Community Vienna, Mr. Zechner said, enlisting it to help carry out their initial plan, which was for Jews to depart Austria after paying fees and leaving behind most of their property.

Discovered within the Vienna apartment were card indexes, produced by the community's emigration office, with the names of 118,000 Jews from families that had sought its assistance to emigrate in 1938 and 1939. These indexes were the key to sorting through thousands of emigration questionnaires already stored in Jerusalem.

The questionnaire, filled out by the head of a household, solicited four pages of detail about family and economic status, references and contacts abroad - pertinent information for those seeking visas.

"A Jewish community official would make a house visit and describe the living conditions," Anatol Steck of the Holocaust museum said. In many cases it is now possible to trace every administrative step, from someone's first contact at the emigration office to when the family boarded a train or a ship, Mr. Zechner said.

The archive also contains thousands of letters, many related to emigration issues. "They would assist families in working through the bureaucratic maze of getting out of the country," Mr. Shapiro said. "They also made a calculation of which families needed cash."

LDS Speaker at our June Meeting



Jenny Harkness gave a very informative on-line presentation explaining the Family History Centre's website of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) on 19th June, at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre.