

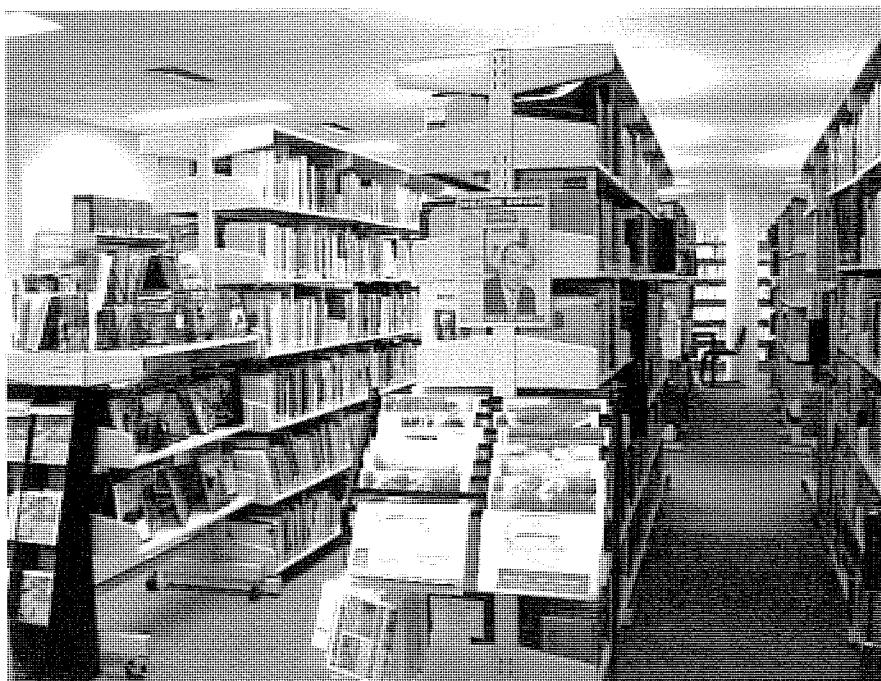
Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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

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Melbourne, Australia

www.ajgs-vic.org.au



The Makor Jewish Community Library is now home to the merged book collection of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (Vic) and Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic). For further information about this extensive collection of research resources, see the article on page 3.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial

by Lionel Sharpe 2

Articles

Makor Library news 3

International visitors coming
to Melbourne 4

2010 conference update 5

Jewish South Africa: an outline 6-7

Philadelphia conference a success 7

Accessing Polish family
history records 8-9

Columns

Postings 10-11

News from Nu? *What's New?* 11

New book: *Promised New Zealand:
Fleeing Nazi Persecution* 11

People looking for people 12

NOVEMBER MEETING

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

Liz James

Elizabeth James and the Second Crusade

on

Tuesday, 24 November 2009 at 7.30 pm

"After finding a mysterious photo album dating back to 1860 and using three popular genealogical websites, it was possible to trace my ancestry to a dynasty of rabbinical scholars who trace their lineage back to the 11th century at the time of the Second Crusade. Even though the 'tree' was well documented and spanned 29 generations, linking the first seven generations to the last 22 generations took many years of research. Fortunately, I had three important documents that provided the information I needed to make this link. Join me in my quest to find out who my medieval ancestors were."

Liz James is honorary secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (Vic) and a committee member of the AJGS (Vic). She is a tenacious researcher who leaves no stone unturned in her quest to discover more about her family history.

Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre

Enquiries: email admin@ajgs-vic.org.au or call (03) 9523 6738. All welcome: members \$4; non-members \$6.

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PO Box 189, Glenhuntly, Victoria 3163

Editor

Lionel Sharpe (+61 3 9523 6738)

Assistant editor

Kaye Quittner (+61 3 9592 9598)

Email

admin@ajgs-vic.org.au

NEW!

AJGS (Vic) Inc. website

www.ajgs-vic.org.au

NEW!

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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Makor Library Liaison

Leonie Fleiszig

Australian Jewish Genealogy Internet Discussion Group

Website: www.ajgs.org.au (online forum)

AJGS (Vic) Inc. membership fees

Individual	\$30
Family	\$35
Concession	\$15

EDITORIAL

Some years ago, the question was raised – do we still need genealogical societies? In past years, they played an essential role in teaching members how to search public records and to collect and share family trees. Except for the very few who still do not use the computer, most family research these days is performed in the comfort of one's home or office. With the phenomenal growth in digitisation of records and immediate access to world-wide databases, many societies were expressing real concern that the traditional genealogical society would become irrelevant.

The planned Second National Conference on Jewish Genealogy, to be held in Melbourne in March next year, is an example of the value of national, regional and local genealogical societies. Such a conference would not be possible without a well-organised local team effort to initiate such an event. A gathering, such as a national conference, generates new ideas, family researchers are challenged to present papers and, in so doing, have an opportunity to share their expertise. Furthermore, new projects are often initiated and the face-to-face contact and subsequent camaraderie generated often flows on for months, and even years.

Those of us who have attended international conferences of the IAJGS in the past have come home invigorated to strengthen our own local AJGS. The highly successful first national conference, held in Canberra last October, was inspired and inaugurated by those who attended similar events in Los Angeles, New York, Salt Lake City, London, Jerusalem and elsewhere. So next March, Melbourne will face the challenge of bringing together, despite the long distances across our continent, like-minded researchers as well as the uninitiated.

The conference venue, the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre, is home to the Makor Jewish Community Library and houses our own extensive collection of monographs, journals and newsletters, microfilms and digitised records. Some may choose to miss out on some sessions and take the opportunity to engage in private research in both the library and a dedicated computer room.

Jewish Genealogy Downunder will report extensively on the conference, and we urge our readers to register their interest in receiving updates by emailing ajgs2010@gmail.com.

We launched our new website in early November, so please bookmark it in your 'favourites': www.ajgs-vic.org.au. Congratulations to the team who have been constructing this website – Debbie Jurblum, Kaye Quittner and website designer Conrad Truscott.

On behalf of the AJGS (Vic) committee, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to our treasurer, Kurt Friedlaender, who, with assistance from his grandson Joel, maintained and updated notices on our first website at www.ajgs.exist.com.au for more than 10 years. A job well done.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at our national conference on 7, 8 and 9 March 2010.

Lionel Sharpe (Editor)

MAKOR LIBRARY NEWS

From Liz James

As many of you will already be aware, the Australian Jewish Historical Society (Vic) and the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) have recently merged their book collection, making it possible for all of the holdings to be viewed collectively in the Makor Library.

Several months ago, we purchased six filing cabinets and four bookshelves, and the room (situated where the restaurant once was) is now beginning to take shape. We would like to thank Russell and Gilda Feldman for their donation of a vertical file, stationery and books, as well as Kaye Quittner for the computer monitor. Thanks also to Bubbles Segall for generously donating her private collection of books on South African Jews.

Among the resources available in the merged collection are books, newspapers, journals, magazines, periodicals, various country resource folders, microfilms, microfiche, CDs, audio tapes and maps.

Although these items are not for loan, as they must be available at all times for research, visitors to the history/genealogy room are encouraged to use these extensive resources and seek assistance if they feel they need it. The staff at the Makor Library are extremely helpful and happy to show you where all the items are housed.

A computer, with downloads of various searchable genealogical databases, is expected to be available soon.

The most recent additions to the AJHS and AJGS collection include the following:

Jewish refugee passenger lists

Two folders of hardcopy records:

- 1946 to June 1950
- July 1950 to August 1955
- Post-1956
- Summary records and airline passengers

East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation marriages

- 22 April 1857 to 5 June 1917 (February 1884 to October 1888 are unfortunately missing)
- 7 August to 21 June 1949



Melbourne Hebrew Congregation

Marriages:

- 1844 to 1911
- 1912 to 1978

Births:

- 1841 to 1975

Deaths:

- 1864 to 1930

St Kilda Synagogue

Deaths:

- November 1909 to January 1949

Burials in Brighton Cemetery:

- 1909 to 1924

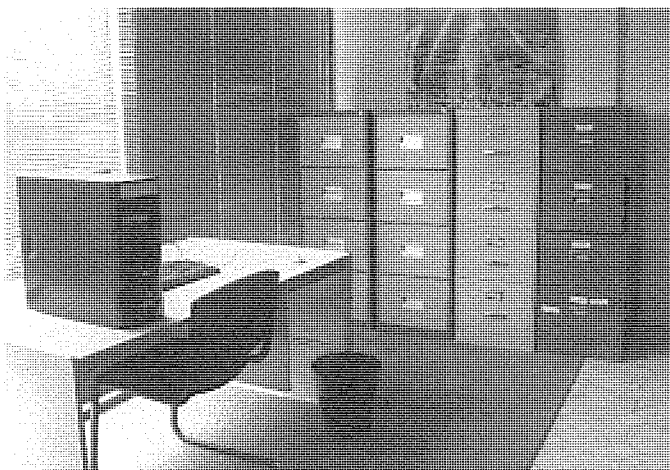
Marriages:

- June 1876 to March 1951

These records are now available for viewing on either microfilm, on CD and in hard copy. (Please note that the microfilm reader can only be used with prior permission.)

We also have a folder listing the AJHS holdings that are currently housed at the State Library of Victoria.

If you need any assistance, contact either Lionel Sharpe (sharpe@aapt.net.au) or Liz James (lizronjames@hotmail.com).



International visitors coming to Melbourne

The Second Australian National Conference on Jewish Genealogy welcomes the following outstanding genealogists as presenters and visitors in Melbourne in March 2010.

Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus

Sallyann is chairman of the Board of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and was one of its founders. She is a recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award, co-founder and co-owner of the genealogical publishing company Avotaynu Inc. and editor of its journal *Avotaynu, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy*.



She has been chair and co-chair of seven international conferences, founder and first president of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, and winner (with Gary Mokotoff) of an award from the Jewish Library Association for her role in developing Jewish genealogy. She is also

author and co-author of several prize-winning books on Jewish genealogical research.

Sallyann will launch the conference with a keynote address, 'Jewish genealogy – past, present and the future', and will speak again on the second day on the topic 'Where we stand with Holocaust research: new frontiers for new initiatives'.

Avotaynu special offer

If you are planning on attending our Second Australian National Conference in Melbourne in March 2010, make sure you don't miss out on the special discounted prices being offered on all Avotaynu catalogue books.

**Place your orders before
10 December 2009 and save.**

For details, see page 5, or visit the conference webpage via the link at www.ajgs-vic.org.au.

Schelly Talalay Dardashti

Schelly is a native New Yorker now living in Tel Aviv. She is a journalist, blogger, online genealogy instructor and speaker who focuses on all aspects of Jewish genealogy.



She writes the top-ranked Jewish genealogy blog *Tracing the Tribe* (<http://tracingthetribel.blogspot.com>) and speaks at both Jewish and general genealogy conferences.

A former *Jerusalem Post* Jewish genealogy columnist and YnetNews.com genealogy contributor, her credits include *Jerusalem Post*, *Reform Judaism*, *JTA*, *Avotaynu*, *NGS News*, many North American Jewish newspapers, as well as other publications/media. She also co-founded <http://GenClass.com>, which provides diverse, online and practical genealogy courses.

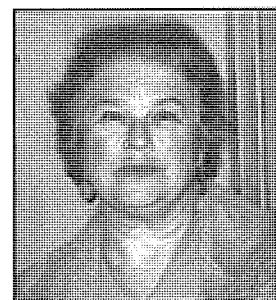
For 20 years, Schelly's research has covered Sephardim and Ashkenazim in Iran, Spain, Belarus, Lithuania, Russia and Galicia. She is a member of several professional organisations.

W. Todd Knowles, AG

A staff member of the British Reference section of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, Todd is an accredited genealogist who specialises in Jewish research. He has presented at conferences around the world, and his articles on various aspects of Jewish research have been widely published. A desire to find out more about the lives of his own Jewish ancestors encouraged Todd to compile the Knowles Collection, a set of records dealing with the Jews of the British Isles. It can be found at www.familysearch.org. Todd and his wife and seven children live in Layton, Utah.

Claire Bruell

Claire Bruell's family has lived in Auckland, New Zealand, since arriving there from Czechoslovakia as refugees in 1939. She has been researching family history since 1987 and has contributed many articles to publications such as *Avotaynu*, *Kosher Koala* (the journal of the AJGS) and *The New Zealand Jewish Chronicle*.



She authored the chapter on researching Jewish genealogy in New Zealand for the *Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy*. Czech Jewish history and Holocaust studies are her particular areas of interest.

2010 conference update

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The conference organising committee has been busy planning an innovative, interactive program that aims to highlight recent advances in genealogical research and focuses on helping the individual's research interests.

Plenary sessions for all attendees are being planned for both Sunday and Monday early mornings and late afternoons. Mid-mornings and afternoons will offer smaller group parallel sessions dealing with specific countries and topics to enable further exploration of currently available resources and techniques.

On Tuesday, several guided tours are being organised for those who may wish to pursue independent research at various institutions, including the State Library of Victoria, the Public Records Office of Victoria and the Jewish Holocaust Museum and Research Centre.

More details about the program, including more about the speakers and their topics, will be available soon via a link on our new conference website.

CONFERENCE WEBSITE

The all-new conference webpage is now 'live'. To access it, go to the new AJGS (Vic) website at www.ajgs-vic.org.au.

Follow the link to the conference webpage, where you will find useful information, including the 'Conference registration form'.

AVOTAYNU

Avotaynu Inc. is offering conference attendees a special conference discount rate for their publications. We are currently taking orders from those who have already registered their interest and we will be shipping the publications to Australia in time to be picked up by purchasers at the conference in March. To meet the shipping deadlines, we will need all orders to be placed (and paid for) by 10 December 2009.

If you are planning to attend the conference and have not yet registered your interest, you would be wise to

do so soon (at ajgs2010@gmail.com), so you can take advantage of these one-off discounted prices, which represent a significant discount from what you would expect to pay if you were ordering directly from Avotaynu.

It is our intention to only import the exact number of books/maps that are ordered by attendees, so please avail yourselves of this great opportunity.

ACCOMMODATION

We are pleased to advise that we have arranged for discounted corporate room rates at our conference hotel:

The Urban Hotel Fitzroy Street, St Kilda

This recently refurbished, four-star hotel is situated at the beach end of Fitzroy Street and set within the vibrant and eclectic area of St Kilda.



The hotel is a short 10-minute car ride away from the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre, or public transport (tram) to the centre is available from St Kilda Junction. Our special conference room rate is \$155 per room (king/queen) without breakfast, or \$170 per room including breakfast.

COMPUTER WORKSHOP

We have arranged for a dedicated computer room to be set up during the conference, and attendees will be able to 'trial' various online sites as well as genealogy computer software. Several experts will be on hand to answer your queries.

COCKTAIL PARTY

On the Sunday evening of the conference, a special conference cocktail party will be held at the Glen Eira Town Hall. It will give conference delegates the opportunity to relax, mix with fellow genealogists and special guests and enjoy the networking possibilities.

Allan Jankie
Conference convener

Second Australian National Conference: Our Jewish Roots

The Second Australian National Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held from Sunday 7 March to Tuesday 9 March 2010, in Melbourne. It will be hosted by the AJGS (Vic) in association with the Makor Library.

The program will feature lectures, panel discussions, special interest group meetings, and visits to Jewish institutions and public resources.

To indicate your 'expression of interest' to attend and receive further information as it becomes available, email ajgs2010@gmail.com or write to AJGS (Vic), PO Box 189, Glenhuntly, Victoria 3163 (phone (03) 9523 6738).

Jewish South Africa: an outline

South African-born Bubbles Segall recently moved to Melbourne after living in the Northern Territory for the past 33 years. Here, she shares some genealogical gems about her country of birth and offers some advice on getting started on your South African genealogy.

My first foray into the wonderful world of genealogy had a slow start in 1967, but progressed at a pace of knots after 1984, when I was introduced to computers.

I was born in Cape Town, South Africa, and grew up in Stellenbosch, a large country town known for its wineries and prestigious university.

While I was always naturally interested in the history of my birth country, it was not until I took on the role of editor of the *Southern African Jewish Genealogy Newsletter* (SA-SIG) in 2003 that I acquired much of my knowledge. My five-year stint in this role proved to be a wonderful and worthwhile experience. I found out much about South African Jewish communities, history, geography, traditions and culture and came into contact with some amazing people.

I migrated to Australia towards the end of 1974, living in Sydney in my first year. In 1976, I moved to the Northern Territory, where I spent 33 years employed as a nurse and community development officer, working in both urban settings and remote Aboriginal communities.

I retired a few years ago, and after so many years of rural and remote living, I decided I wanted a taste of city life. Melbourne was my choice, and I am thoroughly enjoying the change. Part of this enjoyment has no doubt been due to a closer involvement with the AJGS (Vic), and so I am pleased to be able to share my knowledge of South Africa and genealogical experiences with those of you who may be interested in researching your South African roots.

South African origins

Almost all Jewish people living in South Africa today, and many Jewish South Africans who have taken up residency in Australia in recent years, are the descendants of those who fled the Pale of Settlement, a part of eastern Russia, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This area covered much of present-day Lithuania, Belarus, Poland, Ukraine and parts of Western Russia. The great majority of people who fled,



Bubbles Segall and her beloved Lorikeet, Charlie, are both now happily settled in Melbourne and enjoying the thrill of inner city life.

my grandparents among them, were from shtetls in Lithuania (*Litvaks*).

Why South Africa?

Many left the Pale between 1870 and 1914 to escape both extreme poverty and discrimination, which included harsh laws governing where they could live and what occupations they could pursue. They chose to settle in more liberal and democratic countries such as the United States, Canada, England, South Africa, Turkish-ruled Palestine and Argentina. Many of the migrants who chose to go to South Africa either had relatives already living there who were willing to pay for their travel or were joining other landsman (a person from the same or a neighbouring shtetl) who had already settled there. South Africa offered Jewish migrants not only opportunities to earn a living but also religious freedom.

Early occupations

Most of the newly arriving Litvaks landed by ship in Cape Town. Many ventured into the interior, where they set up small trading stores or worked as tailors and carpenters and in other trades, acquired in the old country. Some, like my grandparents, took out loans and started small businesses. Others travelled to Johannesburg and joined the 1880s gold rush.

Many worked as *smouse* (pronounced 'smosa'), the traditional name for South African itinerant hawkers. Also known locally as 'greeners', they travelled from farm to farm selling their wares, a common occupation for Jews who were new arrivals to the country. They bought covered wagons and stocked them with goods they thought the farmers would need. Eventually, they settled in towns and cities, opened general stores and other shops and became involved in establishing Jewish congregations and institutions.

The AJGS (VIC) extends a warm welcome to its new members:

- Michael Adler
- Frankie Blei
- Elane Zelcer

Later years

Over the years, people living in country communities gradually moved to the larger cities. Many were motivated to move their families because of concerns about limited prospective Jewish partners for their children, the need for Jewish day school education, and the likelihood of improved opportunities for tertiary education and employment.

In more recent years, thousands of Jews have emigrated from South Africa to Australia, the language, culture and climate being comparable. Their reasons for leaving are many and varied, but include the increasing crime rate in South Africa and a flagging economy, along with a desire to re-unite with family members who had emigrated in earlier years.

Places where substantial Jewish communities already existed, such as Perth, Melbourne and Sydney, have been the most popular destinations. However, I have come across quite a few South Africans who, like me, settled in the outback and country towns.

Starting your South African genealogy

The best place to start is the Southern Africa Jewish Genealogy Special Interest (SA-SIG) website at www.jewishgen.org/safrica/index.htm, which brings together Jewish genealogy researchers with a common interest in Southern Africa. Here you will find links to lists covering a wide range of subjects, for example Cape Colony Jewish Naturalisation Registers (1903–1907), information about immigration registers, the Gardens Shul (Cape Town) Death Registers, links to the

National Archives of South Africa and many more. It is an interesting website to browse through, and you will be surprised at what you come across.

One website I use frequently is the SA Jewish Rootsbank Database. It was created by the South African Centre for Jewish Migration and Genealogy Studies (part of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Institute for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town). The primary aim of the project is to research the estimated 15,000 core families who migrated to Southern Africa between 1850 and 1950 from England, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus.

Research focuses on where the families originated from, patterns of migration to South Africa, where families first settled, communities they established, growth of families and subsequent movements and emigration. Aspects such as passenger arrival lists, naturalisation lists, community records, and records of marriages, births and deaths can be found at this excellent site.

By using this site, I was able to find details of my maternal grandfather's arrival in South Africa. I was also able to find a long lost relative in the cemetery section. New information is always being added to this site, so it is worth checking on a regular basis.

If you require any assistance researching your Southern African roots, I am happy to steer you in the right direction. I can be contacted at bubblessegall@gmail.com.

Good luck with your research!

In her next article, Bubbles will provide more detailed information about archival resources and useful websites.

Philadelphia conference a great success

A message from the conveners

Thanks to everyone who came to the 29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy and to those of you who told us at the conference and/or have written telling us how much you enjoyed the experience! We are truly gratified that you joined us and that you benefited from the learning, sharing and networking that are so important to those of us devoted to family research.

In co-hosting this conference, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia (JGSGP) worked extremely well together and we are much indebted to many individuals who have so generously given their time and efforts.

Thanks to the following for their work before and during the conference: Jan Meisels Allen, Fred Blum, Hal Bookbinder, Harry Boonin, Michael Brenner, Evan Fishman, Stacia Freidman, Mark Halpern, Mark Heckman, Daniel Horowitz, Bill Israel, David Kleiman, Kahlile Mehr, Stanley Merves, Jim and Cindy Meyers,

Selma Neubauer, Mike Posnick, Joan Rosen, Shelda and Stan Sandler, Steve Schechter, Lois Sernoff, Joel Spector, Renee Steinig, Jackye Sullins, Jeff Vasser, Pamela Weisberger and to the many who volunteered time helping on-site.

We also thank the Sheraton Hotel staff, our meeting planners Bonnie Wallsh and Nadine Fox, all the speakers, exhibitors, Beth and Ben from E-show who made registration a breeze, the registration workers from PhillyTemps and the security personnel.

Finally, we wish to express our deep appreciation to all those who so generously helped make the conference a success through financial contributions.

With very best wishes for your continued family research.

**Anne Feder Lee (IAJGS) and David Mink (JGSGP)
Philly 2009 co-chairs**

Note: The AJGS (Vic) was represented at the conference by Enid Yoffa-Elton.

Accessing Polish family history records



Melbourne's Jewish community is well known for its high percentage of Jews of Polish background, especially those who survived the Holocaust.

So when the AJGS (Vic) invited Krystyna Duszniak – a Melbourne researcher, lecturer and consultant in the field of Polish genealogy – to speak at its August meeting of members, it's little wonder that it attracted a very large audience.

Krystyna (pictured above) has many years of experience researching Polish archives and maintains professional links with researchers in Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania and the United States. Her consultancy, known as Lost Histories (www.losthistories.com), specialises in researching Polish family trees and obtaining birth certificates and other documentation from Poland.

Outlining the reasons for her interest in researching Polish history, Krystyna related how she was introduced to this area of research more than 10 years ago when she was asked to assist Associate Professor Mark Baker, author of the prize-winning memoir *The Fiftieth Gate*, with some of the research for his book.

Another point of interest in genealogy came from her late father, a Polish Catholic, who passed away recently at the age of 95. Her father's life-long passion for Polish history inspired her to pursue her own studies in this area. She then turned her focus towards breaching the gap between Polish Catholic

and Polish Jewish history, and this led to her participation in a Polish-Jewish second generation dialogue group, which meets from time to time to discuss issues between the two communities.

She related that more and more Polish Catholics who had severed their ancestral ties were now approaching her to learn more about their past and trace their relatives in Poland.

She then went on to discuss the enormous changes and improved opportunities for Polish Jewish research that have emerged in the past 10 years as a result of the internet. She reminded the audience that "this has come about tragically from the impetus of the Holocaust, to research those who have perished so that they will not be forgotten" and that "surviving documents are important reminders which preserve the memories of lost families".

As a result of this tragedy, Poland has gone to great lengths to make its archives one of the most accessible in the world. She pointed out that in most other countries, researchers are required to prove their identity and connection to the record requested. In the case of Polish archives, if you know what you want (and arrive with the assistance of a translator if you do not speak Polish), most archives are very sympathetic to Jewish requests for Holocaust records.

Krystyna then outlined the following databases available to the researcher.

1. The Head Office of the State Archives

www.archiwa.gov.pl/

This new database, which was previously inaccessible, is available in both Polish and English and well worth visiting. Krystyna pointed out that birth, death and marriage records are only accessible if they are more than 100 years old. Types of records that can be found here are ID cards, residential record books, police reports and local government reports. She recommended that if you are writing to request copies of documents, try to send a translation of the request in Polish.

For those wishing to write, the new address of the head office of the State Archives is 00-950 Warsaw, Rakowiecka Street, 2D. Telephone +48 22 565 46 00.

2. Polish Civil Records Offices

www.archiwa.gov.pl/

All towns in Poland have their own birth, death and marriage records, and this can create difficulties. Krystyna suggested that if your ancestors lived in a small village, you should look at a map and see what main towns are closest to that village. It is possible that people registered their events at the nearest registry office. She also pointed out that in the past 12 months, some people have reported difficulties in getting documents from civil records offices without proof of a familial relationship.

3. Other sources worth exploring

- The Institute of National Remembrance: Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation

www.ipn.gov.pl/portal/en/

This archive deals with crimes committed towards the Polish population (including against Jews). For example, it is possible to find a copy of a Polish passport of a person with a criminal record. Post-war records held by the institute could also be of great interest.

- Karta

www.karta.org.pl/

The Karta foundation aims to document the recent history of Poland and Eastern Europe. This site provides information about Polish citizens who were arrested by the Soviets (for example, arrest cards are available online).

- ZIH – Jewish Historical Institute

www.jewishinstitute.org.pl/en/archiwum/index/0.0.html

After the war, the Jewish Historical Institute kept a database of survivors. Although the institute's staff are very overworked and under-resourced, Krystyna explained, many of the records are now online on other sites. The institute also holds records of lost Jewish communities, including Rabbinical records. She said it was important to note that Jewish records pre-dating 1832 are rarely found in the Polish State Archives, hence ZIH has become an important resource.

- Polish Town Council Offices (Urzedz Miasta I Gminy)

Warsaw University and the National Library of Poland have catalogues online and hold periodicals and newspapers.

The Warsaw Archives (Archiwum Akt Zaburzanskich) holds records from former Polish territories in the Ukraine. She noted that JRI-Poland is now entering these records, including others that are not readily accessible.

- JRI-Poland

This well-known database is searchable on the JewishGen website at www.jewishgen.org. It currently provides an index to 3.2 million birth, marriage and death records for 500 Polish cities and towns all generated by volunteers. This database will continue to grow as records become available within the 100-year rule. She noted that you cannot currently order records directly from this website, but this might change.

- JewishGen's Holocaust database

www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/

This database has two million entries from 150 component datasets.

- Czestochowa-Radomsko area research group

www.benkazez.com/dan/crag/

Based on professional research and volunteer typing, CRARG locates and transcribes Holocaust survivor lists and death lists from around Poland, with more than 300,000 records so far completed. Visit the website at www.benkazez.com/dan/crag/search.php for free access to this material.

Military records are available from the following organisations:

- Hoover Institute at Stanford University

www.hoover.org/hila/collections/19287934.html

The Polish collection is by far the richest and most comprehensive of the Hoover Institute's East European collections. It is also the largest and the most important research collection on 20th-century Poland outside the country itself.

- Veterans' Collections in the UK

www.polishforums.com/poland-genealogy-6/a-list-names-was-anders-army-5336/

Email: polishasstdisoff@northolt.raf.mod.uk

- Central Polish Military Archives

www.caw.wp.mil.pl/strona_gl.htm

Other websites worth exploring include:

- International Tracing Service (ITS), located at Bad Arolsen, Germany.

Tracing enquiries can be sent to: www.its-arolsen.org/en/humanitarian_requests/application_forms/index.html

- Yad Vashem

www.yadvashem.org/

- National Archives of Australia

www.naa.gov.au

- Ancestry.com

Krystyna, who was now running short of time, mentioned some unusual sources where people have found copies of passports. After the war, Jews who had found their way to Sweden and Italy before migrating elsewhere may have given copies to the relevant authorities.

In conclusion, she emphasised how all this family research was contributing to an understanding of Jewish history in the context of Polish history.



AJGS (Vic) vice-president Debbie Jurblum thanks Krystyna Duszniak for her informative presentation to a large audience at the society's August meeting.

KIELCE-RADOM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

On behalf of the board of Jewish Records Indexing – Poland and the management of the Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group, I am pleased to make the following announcement.

1. After many years of providing outstanding contributions to in-depth research of this area of Poland, the *Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group Journal* ceased publication of its hard copy journal in 2004. During and since that time, the indices published in the journal to many of the towns were transferred to Jewish Records Indexing – Poland and became available in the JRI-Poland online searchable database.

By virtue of the new agreement, the full extracts for tens of thousands of records from all towns, originally published in the *Kielce-Radom SIG Journal*, as well as thousands more extracts that had not yet been published, will be integrated into the JRI-Poland database and will be freely available and searchable online. These extracts were made from the records in the LDS microfilms of Polish-Jewish records.

2. The Kielce-Radom SIG web pages have now been integrated into the JRI-Poland website, and all information related to the K-R SIG data is now available through a thumbnail link at the bottom of the JRI-Poland home page at www.jri-poland.org.

3. All editions of the *Kielce-Radom SIG Journal* have been scanned and are now online on the JRI-Poland website. These journals may be freely downloaded as searchable PDF files.

4. To benefit past subscribers to the *Kielce-Radom SIG Journal* and all researchers with an interest in the towns in the former Kielce and Radom Gubernia, and as part of the closing of its accounts, the management of the K-R SIG have made a generous grant to JRI-Poland to be used for the funding of records from these areas.

The grant funds have enabled JRI-Poland to complete the funding for the following towns originally indexed under the JRI-Poland/Polish State Archives project. The data for these towns is now searchable online.

Bodzentyn BMD 1885–1904, Checiny BMD 1885–1903, Daleszyce BMD 1897–1904, Grojec BMD 1878–1902, Konskie BMD 1885–1904, Ksiaz Wielki B 1869–1871, 1887–1899, M 1862–1880, D 1869–1871, 1897–1899 (includes some Krakow Archives data), Lopuszno BMD 1874–1904, Miechow BMD 1870–1903 (includes some Krakow Archives data), Mogielnica BMD 1878–1901, Radom Books of Residents Radoszyce BMD 1885–1904, Warka BMD 1878–1901, 1903, Wloszczowa BD 1824–1903, M 1823–1903, Wolanow BMD 1878–1903.

I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Warren Blatt, founding editor of the journal, and Kielce-Radom, SIG Advisory Group members Debra Braverman and Carol Isaak, who made the decision to entrust JRI-Poland with their valuable work.

At the same time, I would like to offer special thanks to Hadassah Lipsius and Meira Puterman, who had the major task of adapting the K-R SIG web pages (and PDF links) to the JRI-Poland website and to JRI-Poland database manager Michael Tobias, who processed all the new data so quickly for this special launch.

From Stanley Diamond

POSTED ON BRITISH-JEWRY DISCUSSION GROUP

Directory of the Jews of the UK

For those of you who had family in the United Kingdom and its colonial possessions in 1894, see my latest article on the JewishGen Blog. It describes the 1894 'A Commercial Directory of the Jews of the United Kingdom' and how this resource may be utilised to the best advantage by researchers.

You should also look in this resource for your family names, even if you do not think you had relatives in the United Kingdom. You may be surprised to find family branches in this compendium that you did not know about. For instance, it has rabbinical names as well as synagogue names, addresses and officers. Visit www.jewishgen.blogspot.com.

From Ann Rabinowitz <annrab@bellsouth.net>

Researching the Jews of Ireland

If you are researching Jewish ancestors who migrated to Ireland or you are interested in the history of Jewish Ireland, and certainly if you are planning a visit to Ireland, this is an outstanding website: www.jewishireland.org/history.html.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH GENEALOGY

Help support a dynamic institution that in its brief existence already has been the catalyst for such benefits to Jewish genealogy as the Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching System, Sephardic DNA and Migration project, inventorying the Paul Jacobi Collection of 400 prominent Ashkenazic lineages, the Proposed Standard for Names, Dates and Places in a Genealogical Database, and a system for Integrating Genealogical Datasets.

Visit the IIJG website at <http://iijg.org> and read about these developments, as well as other ongoing and proposed projects.

Have you visited footnote.com?

Footnote.com offers history researchers, genealogists, family historians and others the opportunity to view more than 60 million digitised historical images online.

Although these documents relate largely to the United States, many of the never-before-seen historic documents will be of particular interest to AJGS (Vic) members.

Of special note is a database of rare Holocaust records. To access these records, go to the World War II 1935–1950 category, then click on Holocaust Collection, which will bring up 11 further categories, including World War II Captured German Records and Mauthausen Death Books.

Footnote.com, which went live in January 2007, offers visitors to its website millions of digitised documents and historical records that were previously inaccessible.

From Nu? What's New?

Volume 10, Number 18, September 2009

Summer issue of Avotaynu

The Summer issue of *Avotaynu* will go to the printer shortly, a bit late due to commitments during the summer. Two of the 11 articles in the issue are worth previewing. About once every five years, *Avotaynu* editor Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus likes to measure how far Jewish genealogy has progressed and where it is heading.

In the lead article in the issue, Neville Lamdan, director of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy, writes that our discipline is moving forward in two directions that I call the 'genealogical hobbyist' path and the 'family historian' path. The genealogical hobbyist path is the compilation of facts about one's ancestors and collateral relatives. The family history path is performing the research using accepted scientific methods and standards for doing research and historiography. The family history path will eventually lead to the establishment of a family history curriculum at accredited universities, with bachelor and advanced degrees in the discipline.

The other article worth highlighting (actually all the articles are of the quality that has given *Avotaynu* the high reputation it has earned in the past 25 years) is a hilarious treatise that pokes fun at the very things that family historians take seriously.

It is written by a cousin of Professor H. Daniel Wagner. Wagner is a family historian (as opposed to a genealogical hobbyist). The cousin, a professional poker player, complains that: "Daniel is the rational type. He conducts his genealogical quest in a systematic fashion. He then publishes his work in journals and recently has even proposed that genealogy could be studied as a scientific activity, as an academic discipline."

He then counters: "But my life experience tells me otherwise. You see, I make a living as a professional poker player ... My motto: Never plan your searches; always prepare for the unexpected find; anticipate the surprise. If you are really good at this, you may even provoke the stunning breakthrough – with intuition and sheer luck as your most important tools!"

In essence, use the techniques of a good poker player. He then gives case studies of how he broke down genealogical brick walls that his cousin Daniel could not conquer by using his own methodology: prepare for the unexpected find; anticipate the surprise; provoke the stunning breakthrough. It is a must read.

If you do not subscribe to *Avotaynu*, you can do so at www.avotaynu.com/journal.htm.

Frequency and geographic distribution of surnames by country

A posting to JewishGen noted sites that show, pictorially, the geographic distribution of surnames in five European countries. It might be of value in locating people with a certain surname in a country where you did not know the surname existed. For example, it notes that there are no Mokotows living in Poland anymore, but there is one Mokotowski. I am aware of this person, and how this Christian acquired a Jewish surname is one of the articles at www.avotaynu.com/books/EveryFamily.htm published by Avotaynu.

The countries are:

- Netherlands: www.meertens.knaw.nl/nfd/index.php?taal=eng
- Poland: www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/
- Germany: www.verwandt.de/karten/
- Switzerland: www.verwandt.ch/karten/
- Austria: www.verwandt.at/karten/

Using Google, similar maps were located for other countries:

- UK: www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk/
- US: www.dynastree.com/maps
- Canada: www.dynastree.ca
- The world (actually the US, Canada, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, India, Japan and most of Europe but not Finland, Greece, Portugal, Czech and Slovak republics, the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia): www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames/

This site was reported in Volume 9, Number 21, September 14, 2008 of *Nu? What's New?*

From Gary Mokotoff

Promised New Zealand: Fleeing Nazi Persecution

By Freya Klier

Translated by Jenny Rawlings
Otago University Press (2009)

Promised New Zealand is the true tale of Jewish citizens who fled Nazi terror in Europe for a safe haven on the opposite side of the world: New Zealand.

For 24 European Jews, it is New Zealand – the country furthest from Germany – that will be their refuge. First published as *Gelobtes Neuseeland*, author and film maker Freya Klier skillfully weaves together their stories. From doctors and entrepreneurs to children and world famous minds, their stories could scarcely be more varied and yet they have one common link – the desire to maintain as much distance from Germany as possible throughout their lives.

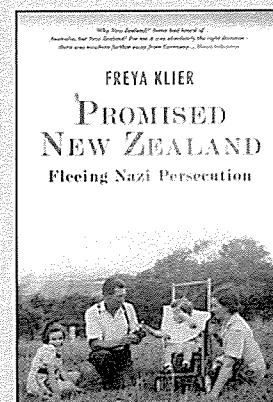
The Viennese philosopher, Karl Popper, is saved by travelling across the oceans to New Zealand, and German

author Karl Wolfskehl and youthful Peter Munz likewise. The journey brings others to this land from diverse places, even from Dr Mengele's experiment rooms at Auschwitz.

Promised New Zealand is a significant piece of world history, interweaving historical background on the politics of the period with vital stories that need to be told before they are lost to subsequent generations. It is the first English-language translation of this important work and the first time it has been published outside of Germany.

Release date: 2 December 2009

www.otago.ac.nz/press/booksauthors/forthcoming.html.



PEOPLE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE

The following notices are published as a community service to our readers. They come to us via internet discussion groups or by mail and email contact with the society.

BERTOLDINI

I am looking for descendants of Herta Bertoldini. I have an old address in Jackson Street, St Kilda. I have recently been in Vienna and was given some papers which may be of interest to her family. If anyone knows of her or her whereabouts, please contact me.

Ron Bower <ruebin7@optusnet.com.au>

NEWMAN

I am trying to obtain information and/or trace any descendants of Lawrence Newman, my great-grandfather's brother, who was born in Nottingham, England, on 14 January 1858. He was the son of Abraham and Paulina Newman.

According to a family story, he emigrated to Australia, where he married and fathered several daughters – perhaps as many as 12 or 13 – but no sons. I have tried to locate him in various sources, including the JewishGen Family Finder and the 1881 census for England and Wales, but without success.

This would suggest that he had emigrated somewhere by this date. I have also looked in various Australian records, again, without success, although it is difficult to carry out accurate research in these records without knowing precisely where in Australia he lived (or even in which state).

Jonathan Newman, Leeds, England
<Primpark@ntlworld.com>

MAITLAND JEWISH CEMETERY

I am currently working on a project to collect and exhibit the stories of the people buried in the Maitland Jewish Cemetery. These will accompany an exhibition of paintings by Hanna Kay, created in response to the cemetery and commissioned by the Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

As a way to document and share the research already done by others as well as by our project, there is an online database at <http://hfrc.une.edu.au/heritagefutures/maitland>. It is very much a work in progress. Suggestions and corrections are welcome.

Hanna's exhibition (with catalogue and video), called *Undertow*, will be travelling from November this year. When it is held at Maitland in May next year, the 'history' component of the exhibition will be added. Visit the website at www.hannakay.com.

Janis Wilton <jwilton@une.edu.au>

MEYER

I would like to make contact with my uncle, David Michael Meyer, who would be 70 years old. He is the son of Nathan Meyer, who died on 17 April 1978 and was buried at the Brown's Road MCK cemetery. The family migrated from England in 1965 and at one stage, lived in Alma Road, St Kilda. Any information would be appreciated

Jacob Baker, Birmingham, UK
<bakerjacob32@yahoo.co.uk>

NOBLE

My father's anglicised name was Louis Noble. He was born around 1902 in London. He arrived in Australia as an assisted immigrant around 1928. He came with his father, David (originally from Poland), two other brothers, Charles and Marc, and a sister, Sapphire. They resided at Pine Avenue, Elwood.

A watch finds its resting place

Four months ago, the society received a request from a resident of the beachside town of Torquay, Victoria. He wrote: 'My son recently located a wrist watch at a second-hand market which has an inscription on the rear: 428545 L. Grinblat, RAAF. Victorian BMD records indicate that Leslie Grinblat was the son of Samuel and Sophie Grinblat and that Leslie died in Malvern in 1980. He does not appear to have married, at least in Victoria. If there are any descendants who would like this memento or if you would like it for your society, we would be happy to forward it by post'.

Liz James, a committee member of the society, contacted Ian Grinblat, the nephew of Leslie (Laizer) Grinblat, and he in turn wrote back to the enquirer about his connection to the watch. Leslie turned out to be Ian's uncle and his godfather. The watch was given to Leslie by his parents Samuel Isaac (Shmuel Yitzhak) Grinblat and Sophie (Sheindel) Zhmood, most certainly as a memento on his enlistment.

Ian Grinblat, himself a keen historian and genealogist, after receiving the watch, wrote: 'Your father sent me the watch in July and I was most pleased to receive it – as I explained in my email to your father, it is a precious link to my grandparents whose gift it was, and to my uncle, who was also my godfather. In his letter of enclosure, your father told me that when you learned some of the watch's history, you asked him to ensure that it went to family. Thank you for your sensitivity in rescuing what might easily have become a piece of junk and then taking the further trouble to look for family members'.

The men of the family were tailors by trade and established a ladies tailoring business in Royal Arcade, Melbourne. I do not know their original trading name, but it later changed to L & C Noble Pty Ltd, also known as Louis and Charles Noble Pty Ltd. I am eager to find any records that will lead me to their original family name, and await your assistance with anticipation.

Janie O'Brien (nee Noble), Cairns, Queensland
<janieo.brien.x3@gmail.com>

DESCENDANTS OF THE VILNA GAON

I am in the process of updating my database of descendants of the Vilna Gaon and his siblings, published in my book, *Eliyahu's Branches: The Descendants of the Vilna Gaon and His Family* (Avotaynu, 1997). In the light of material received from many families and with resource to archival records that were not available when my book was published, I have much to re-assess. I invite those whose families appear in my book to send updates of children born since its publication 12 years ago, and corrections. I would also like to hear from all families who hold a tradition of a relationship with the Gaon. Please send family trees in a gedcom file if possible.

Chaim Freedman, Israel <chaimjan@zahav.net.il>

LUNNA

I am looking for descendants of people who once lived in the Polish town of Lunna, who reside in Australia. Lunna is located in north-western Belarus bordering Poland and Lithuania. Lunna once belonged to the Russian Empire before World War One.

Ruth Marcus, Israel <rotem100@yahoo.com>