

Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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of the
Australian
Jewish
Genealogical
Society
(Vic) Inc.

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Award-winning Australian author Arnold Zable (left) will be joining Israeli ambassador Yuval Rotem (below), along with international genealogists Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus, W. Todd Knowles, Schelly Talalay Dardashti and other expert presenters and panelists at the Second Australian National Conference on Jewish Genealogy in early March. If you haven't yet registered for this exciting conference, be quick because places are limited.



For further information, email ajgs2010@gmail.com, visit www.ajgs-vic.org.au or call Allan Jankie on 0403 040 838.

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Join us in Melbourne on Sunday 7 March and Monday 8 March at the Second Australian National Conference on Jewish Genealogy for your chance to enter a raffle to win a World Deluxe subscription (valued at \$299) to Ancestry.com.au.

And for the duration of the conference, Ancestry.com.au will be offering all attendees the opportunity to undertake free searches across the entire Ancestry collections (some four billion records). Conference attendees can also drop by the Ancestry.com.au table and pick up a flyer for a 20% discount on the current subscription rate. Turn to pages 3 and 4 for more conference news.

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

EDITORIAL

One of the motivating factors which attract family researchers to register for a genealogical conference is the hope of learning about new resources which may assist them to fill the gaps in their family trees and to learn from others who have already explored and conquered new frontiers for their research.

So there is far more to organising a national conference than selecting and inviting interesting and knowledgeable speakers, organising catering and getting out publicity. Most people registering at our forthcoming conference will anticipate coming away with a list of websites, knowledge of the databases, both online and in our CD collection, documents, maps and other aids which they might return to examine over the coming months.

Liz James, honorary secretary of the Australian Jewish Historical Society (Victoria) and a committee member of the AJGS (Vic), has been working behind the scenes for months preparing the resource room for the conference. She has been collecting and selecting useful information, such as Jewish research guidelines for specific countries, digitising databases of Melbourne synagogue records, and compiling photocopies of marriage certificates and a range of other useful material for hands-on research.

In preparation for the conference, Liz is also preparing a *Family Finder* booklet. This is a valuable networking document which will enable delegates to seek out others at the conference who share ancestral names and countries of origin. I recall at previous conferences the excitement when two people discover a common ancestry.

So a big thank you to Liz (pictured below) and others assisting with the resources, to make this conference a productive experience with long-term outcomes.

Lionel Sharpe
Editor



2010 conference update

The Second Australian National Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held from Sunday 7 March to Tuesday 9 March 2010, in Melbourne.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

After many months of planning, the conference organising committee is now finalising a very exciting educational program, preparing the resources for research, ensuring access to databases and negotiating visits to key institutions.

On the first two days, there will be a combination of plenary sessions, with talks by expert presenters, and concurrent sessions that enable the participants to focus on their own areas of interest, such as their ancestral countries of origin and specific genealogical topics.

A draft outline of the conference program, including speakers and their topics, can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. The program outline can also be found on the AJGS (Vic) website, and this will be updated on a regular basis. A four-page colour conference flyer, featuring profiles of all the speakers, is also available via a link on our conference website.

On the third day of the conference, organisers have arranged for participants to join tours of the two Jewish museums in Melbourne, the genealogical section of the State Library of Victoria and the Public Record Office Victoria. Preference for visits can be indicated on the conference registration form.

CONFERENCE WEBSITE

The conference webpage, accessible via the AJGS (Vic) website at www.ajgs-vic.org.au, provides information about the conference, including accommodation options, the latest developments with the conference program, as well as the conference registration form.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

The conference registration form can be downloaded from the AJGS (Vic) website (follow the link to the conference web page), or for a hard copy contact Lionel Sharpe on (03) 9523 6738. Please remember to fill out the form and return it to Allan Jankie at the address mentioned on the form, as soon as possible, as places are limited.

CONFERENCE FAMILY FINDER

To help make connections with others with similar research names and places, the names, email addresses and research interests of all conference registrants will

be published in the *Conference Family Finder* and made available at the conference. The closing day for inclusion in the *Family Finder* is 23 February. (If you do not wish to be included in this publication, email Allan Jankie at ajgs2010@gmail.com by 23 February.)

AVOTAYNU

Conference attendees who have taken the opportunity to order books from Avotaynu can pick up their books when they collect their registration materials for the conference.

COLLECTING REGISTRATION MATERIALS

Attendees will be able to collect their registration materials for the conference at Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre, between 8 am and 8.45 am on the Sunday. All attendees will be provided with their own conference bag that includes the program, the *Family Finder*, resources, a name badge, brochures and other relevant information.

ACCOMMODATION

As previously announced in this newsletter, 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 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.

THE SOCIAL FUNCTION

On the Sunday evening of the conference, a social function will be held at the Glen Eira Town Hall. It will give conference delegates the opportunity to relax, mix with fellow genealogists and enjoy the networking possibilities. This event has been made possible through a Community Grant from the Glen Eira City Council.

Allan Jankie
Conference convener

The conference is proudly supported by



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Second Australian National Conference on Jewish Genealogy

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SUNDAY

7 March 2010

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 8 am | Registration |
| 8.55 am | Welcome |
| 9 am | KEYNOTE ADDRESS
<i>Jewish Genealogy: Past, Present and Future</i>
by Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus |
| 10 am | Refreshment break |
| 10.30 am | PLENARY SESSION
<i>The Iberian-Ashkenazi DNA Project</i>
by Schelly Talalay Dardashti |
| 11.30 am | CONCURRENT SESSIONS
<i>Accessing Records in Poland</i>
by Krystyna Duszniak
<i>Lithuania/South Africa</i>
(Special Interest Group)
<i>Sephardic Research</i>
(Special Interest Group) |
| 12.30 pm | Lunch |
| 1.30 pm | CONCURRENT SESSIONS
<i>United Kingdom</i> by W. Todd Knowles
<i>Austria</i> by Daniela Torsh
<i>The New Technology Frontier: Social Networks and Blogging</i>
by Schelly Talalay Dardashti |
| 2.30 pm | CONCURRENT SESSIONS
<i>Early Australian Research</i> by Gary Luke
<i>Germany</i> by Rodney Eisfelder
<i>Belarus</i> by Jenny Buch |
| 3.30 pm | Refreshment break |
| 4 pm | CONCURRENT SESSIONS
<i>Jews in China</i> by Peter Nash
<i>Hungary</i> (Special Interest Group)
<i>The Netherlands</i> (Special Interest Group) |
| 5 pm | CONCURRENT SESSIONS
<i>DNA Research</i> by Martin Delatycki
<i>JRI Poland</i> by Rieke Nash |
| 5.45 pm | Break |
| 6.30 pm | SOCIAL FUNCTION
(GLEN EIRA TOWN HALL)
Supported by a Community Grant from the Glen Eira City Council |

MONDAY

8 March 2010

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 8.15 am | Registration |
| 8.30 am | CONCURRENT SESSIONS
<i>Czech Republic</i> by Daniella Torsh
<i>Writing Family Newsletters</i>
by Bubbles Segall
<i>Beginning Your Genealogy Research</i>
by Lionel Sharpe |
| 9.30 am | Refreshment break |
| 10 am | PLENARY SESSION
<i>Accessing Australian Records</i>
Panel: Kim Burrell (NAA), Anne Burrows (SLV), James McKinnon (PROV) |
| 11.15 am | Break |
| 11.30 am | COMBINED PLENARY SESSION
<i>My Story</i> by Ambassador Yuval Rotem
<i>Writing Our Ancestral Stories</i>
by Arnold Zable |
| 12.35 pm | Lunch |
| 1.45 pm | CONCURRENT SESSIONS
<i>Israel</i> (Special Interest Group)
<i>Preserving Your Records</i>
by Shauna Hicks
<i>Jewish Naming Traditions</i>
by Lionel Sharpe |
| 2.45 pm | PLENARY SESSION
<i>Resources for Holocaust Victim Research</i>
by Dr Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus |
| 3.45 pm | Refreshment break |
| 4.15 pm | CLOSING PLENARY SESSION
To be advised |
| 5 pm | Close |

TUESDAY

9 March 2010

am–pm Visits to museums and libraries

Further details about the conference program, including visits to institutions, will be available soon on the AJGS (Vic) website and at the registration desk during the conference.

Conference attendees should note that the conference program is still at the planning stage and subject to change.

Back to Broken Hill for the synagogue centenary

by Leon Mann

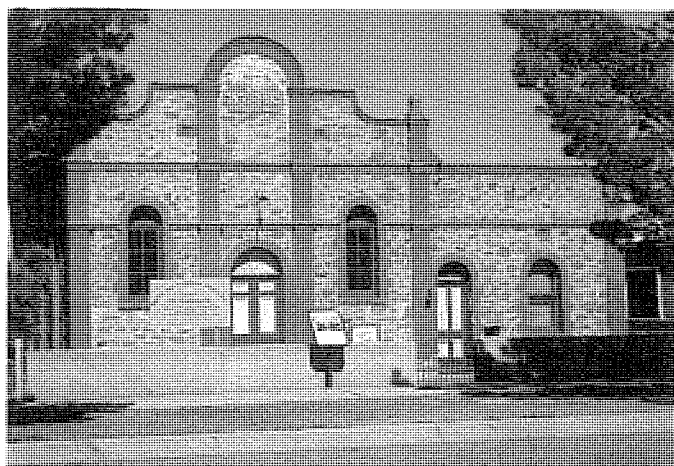
From the beginnings of settlement of Broken Hill (circa 1886), a mining town in far north-west New South Wales, Jews have been part of its colourful and sometimes turbulent history. The first headstones in the Jewish section of the Broken Hill cemetery date from July 1888, the year in which a typhoid epidemic claimed 123 lives in the new town.

While Jewish religious services were held in the Masonic Hall from 1900 when the Jewish community numbered about 150, it was not until 1910 that a synagogue was erected in Broken Hill on land purchased in July 1907 by Abraham Rosenberg, Samuel Dryen Snr and Albert Edelman.

On 30 November 1910, the foundation stone was set in place on the newly erected synagogue. A famous photograph taken on the day shows Rev Z. Mandelbaum, the first minister, and Solomon Saunders, president of the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation, together with members of the synagogue committee at the ceremony. The synagogue was consecrated in 1911, and Rabbi Francis Lyon Cohen of the Great Synagogue, Sydney, attended.

As the Jewish community grew to around 250 in the 1920s and 1930s, the synagogue on Wolfram Street, with its adjoining premises for the minister and family, became a vibrant hub for residents and visitors. During and following the Second World War, Broken Hill's Jews began to leave for Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide and beyond.

The synagogue finally closed its doors in 1962, and the scrolls were transferred to the Yeshiva on Hotham Street, St Kilda, Melbourne. The last Jew of Broken Hill, Alwyn David Edelman,



The synagogue in Wolfram Street, Broken Hill. Built in 1911, it is now the meeting place of the Broken Hill Historical Society Inc.

died in August 2005 and is buried in the Jewish section of the cemetery. Following closure, the synagogue became a private residence. Then, in a stroke of good fortune, the building was heritage listed and then purchased by the Broken Hill Historical Society in 1990.

The society has been dedicated in its efforts to preserve the Jewish origins and significance of the synagogue building. Today, the building has been faithfully restored by the society, which has its premises at the rear of the property.

The name of the congregation appears above the synagogue entrance in Hebrew. The ark, bima and pews are in place. A *Magen David* is painted on the ceiling. And the spirit of the synagogue lives on for visitors who come each month to see the handsome stone building and view the small collection of Judaica, photographs and artifacts.

The Broken Hill Historical Society has invited the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) to assist in organising two days of events in Broken Hill on 28 and 29 November 2010 to mark the centenary of the synagogue.

The events will include a ceremony in the synagogue, a program of historical talks and personal reminiscences about the Jews of Broken Hill and their contribution to the town, a bus tour of places where Jews lived and worked, a walking tour of central Broken Hill, visits to the Miners' Memorial Arch, art galleries, the Living Desert Sculpture Symposium and the historic town of Silverton, as well as a civic reception by the mayor.

Committees have been formed in Melbourne and Sydney under the umbrella of the AJHS to assist the Broken Hill Historical Society in planning and implementing the two-day event.

Anyone with an interest in Broken Hill is welcome to attend the centenary celebration events. There are flights from Sydney and Adelaide to Broken Hill on Rex regional airlines, as well as a Sydney–Broken Hill train service. Melbourne–Broken Hill is around 12 hours by road via Mildura. Accommodation will be available in comfortable air-conditioned hotels.

Anyone with Broken Hill photos, letters, diaries and other memorabilia of interest for the centenary celebrations and for the historical archives is encouraged to have them copied or loaned for display in the synagogue building and for safekeeping.

For general enquiries, contact Margaret Wise on 0431 153 439. For memorabilia, letters and photos, contact Howard Freeman on 0419 399213, Liz James on 9822 2849 or Lionel Sharpe on 9523 6738.

Genealogy hits the streets of Caulfield

Three billboards have gone up around the Melbourne suburb of Caulfield, announcing the forthcoming Second Australian National Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Could this style of advertising be a world first for genealogy?

Searching for answers in Lünen

Last year, Margot Pogos, a member of the AJGS (Vic), set out on a roots discovery trip to Europe. In this article, she captures the essence of her visit to the birthplace of her father and the place where her grandfather was murdered on Kristallnacht.

Although I grew up in the leafy, green eastern suburbs of Melbourne, some of my earliest childhood memories are of hearing about events that happened to both my mum's and dad's families on *Kristallnacht*.

I learned how my paternal grandfather was taken by Nazis on that night, thrown into the Lippe River (in Lünen, near Dortmund) and drowned. I also learned to understand why mum sometimes called out in her sleep when recalling personal anti-Semitism and how, as a 16 year old, she helped clean up the charred mess that was once her synagogue in Elmshorn (near Hamburg).

When the Yahrzeit candle was lit each year, my older sister Helen and I sensed our parents' heightened recall of the sadness and horrendous baggage they carried from the past.

My quest began in 2008, nearly 30 years after my father had passed away, unexpectedly, aged 58. Within weeks of beginning my research, mum passed away. My knowledge of family history was patchy. Both mum and dad had always been open and honest but didn't want to burden us with events of the past. Over the years, there had been many chances for me to ask questions but I was reluctant to stir up dark memories and often afraid of what the answers might be.

With escalating impatience, I was ready to embark on my roots discovery journey in Germany and wherever else my research would lead me. Helen and mum had visited Elmshorn 10 years earlier. Subsequently, I felt that Helen was custodian of mum's precious memories as together they had walked the paths of mum's childhood. Lünen was to become my obsession.

My initial English language emails to archive offices yielded no reply. The next step was to have them translated into German. I was overjoyed to receive a reply from Fredy Niklowitz, the head archivist in Lünen. By this stage, I had tracked down the only copy in Australia of his book *The History of the Jews in Lünen*. As the remnants of my schoolgirl German were inadequate for me to translate anything of substance, I sought assistance in translating the many entries about my family.

Among the surprises I uncovered in the book were newspaper and anecdotal reports of what happened to the four Jewish citizens who were targeted in Lünen on *Kristallnacht*. My grandfather was drowned, two other men were shot in their homes and another man was badly beaten. Although this fourth victim fled Europe, he subsequently died from his injuries.

I learned that in 1948, two named Nazis went to trial and were found guilty of crimes against humanity. They received 12-year jail sentences. It was reported that they never showed remorse. They even declared that they would not soften the details of their actions as they were proud of what they had done. To my knowledge no one ever notified my father about the trial and the sentence. I wish he had known.

While my plans to travel to Germany were evolving, I received an email from Fredy Niklowitz asking if I could be in Lünen on 7 September 2009, as on that date there was going to be a *Stolperstein* setting for my grandfather and for each of the other three Jewish victims.



Danielle, Iain, Margot, Boris and Helen at 35c Cappenberger Street, where the stumble stone was laid. This is the former family home.

A quick search on Google explained that the German sculptor Gunter Demnig had made it his life's work to place a *Stolperstein* (stumble stone) memorial plaque in front of the last known residence of a victim of the Holocaust. His tally to date is 20,300 in various parts of Europe. The community of Lünen had requested this gesture, with the project being supported by the local traders association, churches and schools.

With this news, my drip feeding of details to Helen suddenly became a deluge. Originally this roots journey was planned to incorporate travels to Germany in addition to Lithuania, Belarus and Poland for my husband Boris's family. Our younger daughter Danielle recognised this as a not-to-be-missed experience, as did Helen and her husband Iain, who now planned to join us.

Boris, Danielle and I arrived in Lünen by train from Berlin. We were travelling from the east en route from Belarus and through Poland as the Russians had done when they marched towards Germany in 1945. Helen and Iain flew in from Melbourne. Meeting up at the hotel on the other side of the world, in a place that had always represented horror for us, was a surreal experience.

That balmy summer evening we all strolled down to the town and along the river bank. To our surprise, on the river's edge was a large architecturally styled plaque and monument for the four victims of *Kristallnacht*. A second monument comprised four bi-coloured metal poles, each with a shaped mirrored orb on top. You look into this and in your reflection decide if you are a good person. We had no prior knowledge of these landmarks of remembrance and no idea that the community remembered the past or even cared about it.

The next morning we finally met Fredy and his wife, Petra. They wanted to show us the town as it is now and explain what it was like 70 years ago. They also wanted to take us to the Jewish cemetery in nearby Dortmund. There we placed stones on the shared gravesite of my grandfather and the two Jewish citizens who were fatally shot in Lünen on *Kristallnacht*.

I was surprised to hear that few family members of Holocaust victims had visited Lünen. We suspect that some may have visited while keeping their presence unannounced. Our visit was seen as an important event in a city that is still aware of moving on from its past.

At the Town Hall, there was an afternoon tea reception attended by full council during which we signed the city visitor's book and received a presentation by the mayor. We snacked on beer and biscuits while enjoying panoramic views of this attractive city. The Lippe river looked so calm and serene, contrary to the sinister image in my mind.

Late afternoon we arrived at 35c Cappenberger Street, where my father and his parents had lived after being forced from their previous family home. A crowd representing a cross-section of the community had already assembled there. We were approached by a throng of journalists and photographers, private citizens, councilors, church representatives and business people, all wanting to welcome us and know our thoughts and feelings. We were deeply moved that our visit was so important to some of the people of Lünen, in particular a lady named Helga who laid a long-stemmed red rose on each of the stumble stones. After the official ceremony, a small crowd followed us to the Lippe river where Danielle released the rose for her great grandfather.

Front page news the next day reported our visit and showed pictures of the four memorial stumble stones in honour of the four victims of *Kristallnacht* in Lünen. Danielle, Helen and I enjoyed a long, leisurely morning tea with a journalist and photographer from the major press. They showed enormous interest in hearing our stories and photographing us with our collection of family photos. The following day the major press featured details of our story as front page news alongside an article about The Beatles.



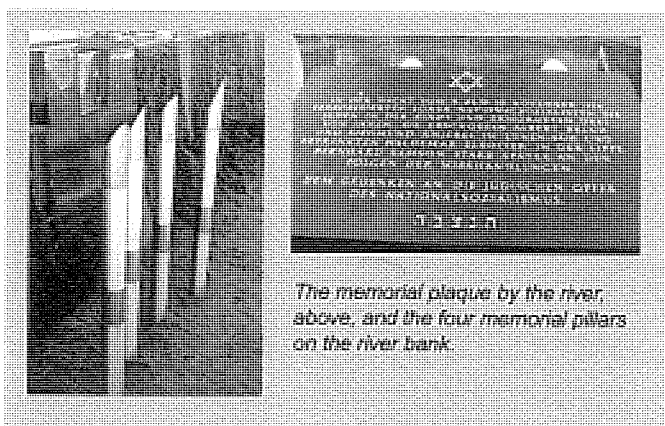
Helen, Danielle and Margot in front of the memorial at the river.



Our few days in Lünen passed very quickly. With the Stolperstein events and our minor celebrity status, I had run out of time to study the archives and search for answers to the many questions I had pondered. In my mind, I had pictured filling in lots of boxes on the family tree for relatives I was yet to discover. Most of these boxes remain blank, waiting for more devoted research.

Boris, Danielle and I farewelled Helen and Iain and then headed north for a short trip to Norderney in the Fresian Islands. I felt far from comfortable seeing large groups of very elderly Germans lazing in the sun in this German holiday playground. It was tempting, but hardly appropriate, to approach and ask '... and where were you 70 years ago'?

Returning to our roots discovery schedule, it was time to travel to Elmshorn to meet up with Helen and Iain again and wonder what lay ahead for the next few days. Our time in Elmshorn was, as expected, full of emotion, revelation, history and discovery. That is the essence of my next story.



The memorial plaque by the river, above, and the four memorial pillars on the river bank.

A Holocaust geographic 'how to' for genealogists

In a recent article for the IAJGS newsletter 'Echo', Peter Lande, from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, explained some of the overlooked resources at the USHMM, Yad Vashem and ITS and how they can be accessed by genealogists searching for Holocaust information.

Genealogists searching for Holocaust information are accustomed to searching databases for family names of interest. They consult data provided by the many genealogical Special Interest Groups such as JRI Poland and, of course, they may also search libraries for locality specific sources such as Yizkor books or general histories of a community.

They can utilise useful online sources such as Footnote.com, Ancestry.com, etc. However, with the exception of JewishGen's Holocaust Database at www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/, which can be searched by town, none focus solely on Holocaust data.

What I find, however, is that few researchers are aware of three major geographic online Holocaust-focused sources, which, in themselves, do not yield family names, but rather lead the researcher to extremely valuable sources of information.

I refer to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's (USHMM) Name List Catalog, Yad Vashem's Shoah-Related Lists Database and the International Tracing Service's (ITS) Inventory Search or Inventar. Each is described below.

USHMM Name List Catalog

This is the Holocaust Museum's ongoing attempt to identify and describe all sources of information containing Holocaust related name lists, whether in book, memoir, archival file, internet resource or any other format, even if the resource is not held at the museum. To reach this catalog, go to www.ushmm.org/, then 'Research', then 'Survivors Registry', then 'Research Tools', or go to <http://resources.ushmm.org/Holocaust-Names/List-Catalog/search>.

This will bring you to Holocaust Name Lists Catalog Search. You can search by country, or even by name of author of relevant books, though I would not recommend either since such searches would be too broad. If you enter the name of a town and click the box just below the search field you will get information regardless of how the locality

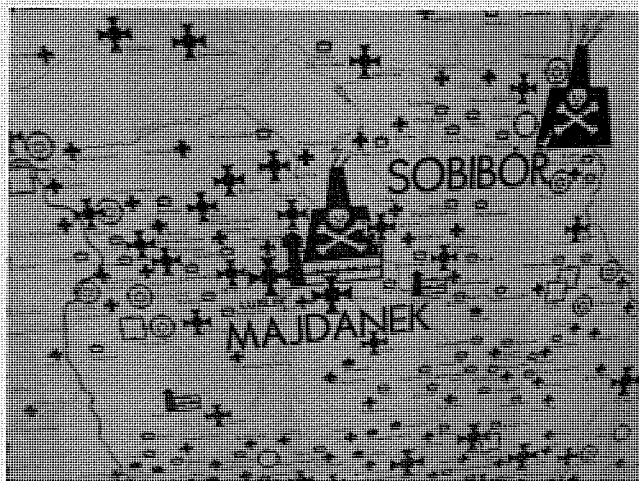


Rieka Nash (left) of Sydney researching records at the ITS archives in Bad Arolsen, Germany, in 2008.

was filed, eg Kovno, Kaunas, Kovne or Kauen. To take another example, if you type in Warsaw you will get 322 entries, Warschau 30 entries, and Warszawa 585 entries, but if you check the box you will be able to identify all the sources of information, regardless of spelling.

What you will NOT find are names themselves. What you will find is a notation by each entry such as NL = Name List, which indicates that the names in that source are included in the museum's Name Search Catalog, CC = Claims Conference, which means that the source was identified by Claims Conference restitution claims researchers, or YV, which means that the list is held at Yad Vashem. The extent of the information on each source varies considerably, but, while all identify sources of information on names, none includes the name lists themselves. The Survivors Registry at the USHMM welcomes additions/corrections/comments to the information contained in this source.

While not directly relevant, it may be useful to clarify Name Search at the USHMM. This is similar but also very different from the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem. It includes both victims and survivors and Jews and non-Jews. While there are currently 5,967,092 name entries taken from 378 different sources in this database, this figure is misleading, since an individual's name may appear in several documents and there is no attempt to link the listings. Therefore, there is no way of knowing how many persons are identified in this database. Finally, and unfortunately, unlike the Hall of Names, the USHMM public version of Name Search, which you can access at



www.ushmm.org/namesearch/, contains only a tenth of the number of names contained in the version used at the museum to answer inquiries. This is true since, in many cases, the providers and institutions from which the bulk of the information came insist that it not be made available on the web.

Yad Vashem

To reach Yad Vashem's Shoah-Related Lists Database, simply go to www.yadvashem.org and near the bottom of the page you will see Shoah-Related Lists Database. Alternatively, you can go directly there by going to www.yadvashem.org/lwp/workplace/listoflists. Somewhat different from the USHMM list, the material is organised by the current name of the locality, but you will get there even if you type in the old name, eg Breslau will take you to Wroclaw.

Whether you type in Nürnberg, Nuremberg or Nuernberg you will end up with the same information. As is the case with the USHMM finding aid, one can search by name of camp, eg Flossenbürg. There is provision to comment on/add to existing listings.

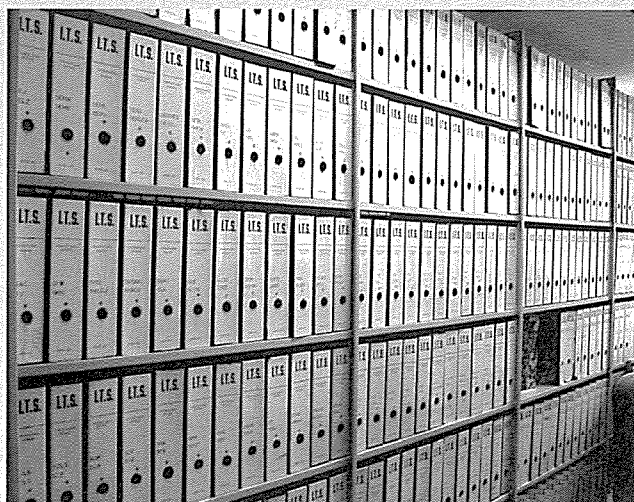
As is the case with USHMM, Yad Vashem includes references both to its own holdings and those of other institutions. Yad Vashem offers a unique advantage in that in many cases when one clicks a document reference the actual text appears. As is the case for the USHMM, the fact that a document/source has been identified does not mean that any or all of the names in the relevant documents have been added to the Hall of Names/Name Search. There is also a significant difference in that the Hall of Names is intended to identify Jews who perished in the Holocaust, while Name Search lists all those who perished or survived, regardless of religion. The Yad Vashem approach has the disadvantage that if a list/individual listing does not indicate religion, the names are not included.

International Tracing Service (ITS) Inventar

ITS holdings of documents are undoubtedly larger than those of the USHMM or Yad Vashem and the number of unique persons identified in the documents held there are far more numerous. The ITS estimates that it has roughly 50 million name citations, identifying about 17 million persons, Jews and non-Jews, survivors and victims. For reasons which would take too long to describe here, one can generalise that the collection is rich in Western European and postwar documents, but weak in Eastern European holdings.

The Inventar (inventory or finding aid) is much less useful than those of either the USHMM or Yad Vashem. The purpose of the ITS throughout its history was never to collect the history of the Holocaust but rather to identify the fate of all those who had perished or survived. As a result, the ITS until recently did not have a historian or archivist, but rather simply collected documents in order to extract the names which appeared in them. Accordingly, the description of the documents was primitive. In addition to its home location in Bad Arolsen, Germany, copies of this massive collection are being shared with the USHMM, Yad Vashem, the Institute of National Memory in Warsaw, the National Archives of Belgium and the Centre de Documentation et de Recherche sur la Résistance in Luxembourg. The transfer process is gradual and may not be completed until 2011.

The Inventar is available on the web either through the ITS website at www.its-arolsen.org or through the USHMM



at <http://resources.ushmm.org/itsinventory/home.php>. Originally in German, thanks to the efforts of the USHMM, it is now also available in English. A fundamental difference exists when entering location searches in the Inventar. When one types in the name of a locality (not possible on a country level), all Inventar descriptions where that place name has been entered appear. There is no linkage between different spellings of a town's name so that, for example, there are 237 'hits' for Warsaw and 429 for Warschau, and 75 'hits' for Cologne and 104 for Köln and no way to meld these different sources.

Moreover, if a place name appears anywhere in the description; ie if a book about Warsaw was published in or was acquired from Berlin, it is indexed under both place names. The information in each citation is limited, usually consisting of a very brief description, the number of pages in the document and number of names which are included. There is, of course, also a reference citation but no visible link to the document itself. The names which were extracted from these sources have been collected in various databases such as the Central Names Index but, at this time, neither the documents nor the names are available on the web. (Speaking from personal experience, I must stress that these databases are extremely complex, or even convoluted, and locating an individual name often requires expert help.) If one finds any citation which might be of interest, one would have to visit one of the institutions where the material is held or write to these institutions and request copies, without knowing whether they are of real interest.

Unfortunately, there has been considerable confusion as to the 'rules' governing access to ITS material. Under the international agreement which 'opened' ITS and made copies available to a single institution in each member country, there are neither restrictions on third party access to ITS documents at these institutions nor limitations on how a researcher may utilise copies of such material he or she has acquired.

Finally, the above is not an attempt to rank the three sources. Each has its own advantages and disadvantages and a patient researcher should examine all three. It is my hope that the above information will prove useful for all researchers.

By Peter Lande
November 2009
pdlande@starpower.net

This article was reprinted with the kind permission of Peter Lande. It was first published in the November 2009 issue of 'Echo' (<http://iajgs.org/echo/echo.htm>), the online newsletter of the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies (IAJGS).

POSTINGS

30TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

Registration is now open!

Go to www.jgsla2010.com and click on the 'Registration' tab to begin, or go directly to www.goeshow.com/jgsla/IAJGS/2010/Registration.cfm.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles looks forward to welcoming you to Los Angeles from 11–16 July for an extraordinary series of presentations by renowned scholars, archivists and research specialists from around the world.

We'll also be offering enlightening films, methodology workshops, evening musical and dramatic performances, and opportunities to network and schmooze with a friendly, global community of Jewish genealogists.

Our resource room will be staffed by representatives from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Shoah Foundation, the Steven Spielberg Visual History Archive, the Jewish Genealogy Learning Center in Warsaw, and Yad Vashem, ready to provide you with one-one-one assistance with your research.

Right now you can sign up for SIG lunches and dinners. Breakfast-with-the-Experts, Midnight with the Mavens, computer lab and tour schedules coming soon. JW Marriott reservations are also now open.

Anyone planning to arrive early can join us for two pre-conference dinners, with speakers and a special Shabbat-friendly learning session on Kabbalah with author Arthur Kurzweil on Saturday afternoon, 10 July.

At the gala IAJGS awards banquet on Thursday 15 July, Canadian singer Mitch Smolkin will perform *Rexite on the Radio: Live from the Golden Age of New York's Yiddish Broadcasts*. He'll croon the songs of the 'Yiddish Frank Sinatra', accompanied by Russian concert pianist Nina Shapilksy. You'll experience classic Yiddish tunes, along with the great Broadway hits of the 20th century as they were heard on thousands of radios across the country (in Yiddish!). You'll never listen to Oklahoma the same way again.

The full conference program and schedule will be announced in March, but until then there will be sneak previews and coming attractions on our website and via our 'Announcements newsletter'. Sign up for the newsletter www.jgsla2010.com/about/sign-up-for-the-announcements-newsletter/.

And remember to also subscribe to our newly-opened JewishGen discussion group, Los Angeles 2010 at www.lyris.jewishgen.org/listmanager.

See you this summer in the US!

Pamela Weisberger
Program Chair IAJGS 2010 Los Angeles
info@jgsla2010.com
www.jgsla2010.com

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

- Andy Hegedus
- Pam Spiegel
- Hannah Sweetman

GROUP TRIP TO LITHUANIA, LATVIA, BELARUS

Howard Margol and Peggy Mosinger Freedman are currently organising their 17th group trip to Lithuania, to take place from 22 June to 2 July 2010.

If you would like to see the places where your ancestors lived in Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus, as well as research the records of their lives, this promises to be the trip of a lifetime.

The tour will include visits to the various Lithuanian archives, synagogues, ghettos and Holocaust sites; meetings with Jewish leaders; sight-seeing with guides and interpreters; as well as two days to visit and spend time in a shtetl or shtetlach of interest.

All meals are included (except for one dinner and two lunches), the finest hotels (new and modern), modern buses, and much more. Howard and Peggy are very familiar with the archives and archivists, Lithuania and the main places of Jewish interest.

The trip is sponsored by the American Fund for Lithuanian-Latvian Jews, Inc. Any profit from the trip will be donated to the Jewish soup kitchen in Vilnius, Lithuania.

For details and a full itinerary of the trip, contact Howard Margol or Peggy Freedman via email at litvaktrip@gmail.com or visit the website at www.litvaktrip.peggyspage.org.

GENEALOGICAL AND HERALDIC SCIENCES CONGRESS 2010

It's only 226 days to the start of the XXIXth International Congress of the Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences, being held in Stuttgart, Germany, from 12 to 17 September, 2010. We expect a large number of guests, so you are advised to reserve your place as soon as possible.

Visit www.congress2010.info to find out more about the congress and the city of Stuttgart. To book or register online, follow the 'Registration' menu item. (Note that the early bird rebate will end soon.)

From Dr Rolf Sutter and Harald Heimbach

Aftermath: Holocaust survivors in Australia

Holocaust and Genocide Studies conference 14–15 March 2010

The Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation will host its inaugural Holocaust and Genocide Studies conference at Monash University's Caulfield campus in March 2010.

The conference will explore the aftermath of the Holocaust as it was experienced in Australia and New Zealand by Holocaust survivors, their families and the Australian Jewish community.

Conference co-sponsors include the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Melbourne; the Sydney Jewish Museum; the Diana Zborowski Center for the Study of the Aftermath of the Shoah, Yad Vashem; the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Institute; and the Joint Distribution Committee.

For further information, visit www.arts.monash.edu.au/acjc.

PARIS CIVIL RECORDS ONLINE

I was quite excited to read in the JewishGen digest of 15 December that the archives of Paris are now online at http://canadp-archivesenligne.paris.fr/archives_etat_civil/.

The decennial indexes and the actual records of birth, death and marriage from 1860 to 1902 can be viewed for each of the 20 Arrondissements of Paris, together with an index of surviving pre-1860 records.

I had known that my four-greats-grandfather Abraham Levy had gone to live in Paris. According to his daughter's death certificate, he was still living there in 1861. As he had such a common name, I did not expect that I would ever be able to find him. Surely there must be many Abraham Levys. It would cost a fortune to hire a researcher to find and buy the death certificates of each of them.

But using this new website, it only took me about four hours to go through the 1860–1872 decennial index for the first 16 Arrondissements, scanning all the LEVI and LEVY deaths, identifying 10 people called Abraham Levy, viewing the death certificates of the 10 namesakes and ruling out all of them, except the last.

The information given in the decennial index is just the name and date of registration. The information in the death certificate varies, but it usually includes the place of birth and age, as well as the address, occupation and name of spouse, and the names, addresses, ages and occupations of witnesses.

In the case of my ancestor, the record gave the names of both his first and second wife, as well as the names of his parents, leaving no doubt that I had found the right needle in the haystack.

From Rodney Eisfelder (Melbourne)

FROM AVOTAYNU

Nu? What's New?

The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy

Volume 11, Number 1, 3 January 2010

Anglo-Jewish sites

If your family has deep English roots, the website at www.synagoguescribes.com has an index to more than 16,000 birth, circumcision, marriage and burial records, from London's synagogues, 1785–1865.

The database includes:

- Great Synagogue, London marriages 1791–1859
- Great Synagogue, London births 1791–1795 and 1801–1813
- Great Synagogue, London Burials 1774–1810
- Hambro Synagogue, London marriages 1797–1837
- New Synagogue, London marriages 1791–1823 and 1837–1842
- New Synagogue London ketubot (marriage contracts)
- New Synagogue, London births 1771–1864
- Western Synagogue marriages
- Circumcision records 1794–1815
- Circumcision Register of Myer Solomons
- Circumcision Register of Asher Ash
- Circumcision Records of Rabbi Ash of Dover 1765–1818
- Circumcision Register Edinburgh (Joshua ben Solomon) 1832–1838
- Circumcisions at the Western Synagogue

Another Anglo-Jewish database of more than 10,000 Jewish burials can be found at www.cemeteryscribes.com.

Gary Mokotoff, Editor

AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

Some of your readers may be interested in the following information regarding Australian Newspapers online.

More issues of *The Argus* have been added and some years of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Other issues are also online.

1. Sydney Morning Herald

The first digitised issues of the *Sydney Morning Herald* are now available. We have started from the first issue in 1831 and are making our way forwards to 1954.

The first 20 years (18,000 pages) are now available as follows:

- Sydney Herald 1831–1842
- Sydney Morning Herald 1842–1852

Issues from 1852 to 1954 will be made available each week from now on through to early 2010. In early 2010, the *Sunday Herald* from 1949 to 1953 will also become available.

We would like to acknowledge the financial contribution of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, which has provided \$1 million towards the digitisation of this title.

2. The Argus (Melbourne)

The *Argus* (and its previous title the *Melbourne Argus*) from 1846 to 1945 are now completed and available. The remaining 10 years (1945 to 1954) of the *Argus* will be made available in 2010 (mid to end of year).

To access the Australian Newspapers online service, go to <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/>.

From Julie Hempenstall, Victoria

POLISH BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The 1929 Polish Business Directory has been digitised by Jewish Records Indexing – Poland and subsequently posted on the web as a joint project of JRI–Poland and JewishGen; you can browse it and search by town at www.jewishgen.org/Jri-pl/bizdir/bd1929.htm. JRI–Poland and JewishGen are now considering a new joint project to make the information even more valuable to researchers.

The directory has entries for more than 30,000 towns, including many thousands of towns which are today part of Belarus and the Ukraine. But viewing the pages is not enough; we would like to create a database so that all genealogists can enter a surname and view every entry for that surname in all the towns. For that, we need a project manager who can organise, recruit, train and manage hundreds of volunteers throughout the world.

The scope is relatively manageable as the pages are already online, and each entry is already available in print form in Latin characters. We anticipate only four to five fields per entry (surname/business name, first name, occupation, town), but there are a copious number of entries. The completed database will become part of, and searchable on, both the JRI–Poland and JewishGen All-Poland databases.

Do you want to 'give back' to those genealogists who have helped you along the way? Do you have 10 hours a week for the next year or so? Are you well organised, feel comfortable with Excel and willing to manage volunteers? If so, email Phyllis Kramer, VP Education, JewishGen Inc at PhyllisKramer1@att.net.

*Howard Fink, JRI–Poland
1929 Polish Business Directory coordinator*

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.

BERCOV, BENNETT

I am writing a private family history about my paternal grandparents Max and Sadie Bercov (later known as Bennett).

They lived in Melbourne with my father and his three brothers from 1916 until Max died in 1930. Sadie and her sons remained in Melbourne, except for my father, who joined the armed services in 1932. Their addresses were 207a Brighton Road and 266 Glen Eira Road.

Max was buried at Brighton General Cemetery in 1930 by Rabbi Jacob Danglow. I recently learned that Sadie played the piano and organ for Melbourne Hebrew Congregation around 1950 and that she was buried in 1958 next to Max. Max Bercov (Menashe ben Yaakov-Shimmon ben Menashe Halevy) changed the family name to Bennett in 1920.

Andrew Bennett, Oregon, USA <afbennett@peak.org>

BERLIN

I am assisting with an enquiry about a Russian-born jeweller, Paul Berlin, who left Russia on the outbreak of the Russian Revolution and escaped to England.

National Archive records indicate that he arrived in Melbourne in 1926. It is believed that he was very well known in the jewellery trade and may have had a small shop/workshop in Latrobe Street, Melbourne at one stage and lived in Toorak.

He died 29 June 1971, and his tombstone was erected by Gilda Berlin. Any information about him will be appreciated by the enquirer.

Lionel Sharpe, Melbourne <sharpe@aapt.net.au>

COHEN

The Glenroy Returned Servicemen's League wish to give the family of Lou Cohen some medals he was awarded in World War 2.

VAJEX has passed on some information from their records: Lou Cohen, VX27679. Born: London, Middlesex, 3 November 1909. Enlisted in AIF on 1 July 1940 and discharged 21 June 1946. Rank: Private. 2/2nd Australian Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. He may have lived in North Fitzroy and enlisted in Caulfield.

If anyone has information about his family, email admin@ajgs-vic.org.au or telephone +61 3 9523 6738.

FELDMAN

I know that my grandfather, Leon Feldman, arrived in Melbourne in February 1908. From then on we have no further information.

An entry in the Victorian Post Office directory for 1909 contains the entry 'Feldman cigarette mnfr, Eastern Arcade Melbourne', and one for 1910 reads 'Feldman and Chain, 345 King Street, West Melbourne'.

Jeannette Rohald <jrohald@bigpond.com>

FURSTENBERG

I am writing an article about a German family, Hans, Ilse and Felix Fu(e)rstenberg, who emigrated to Australia in 1940-41.

Hans was of Jewish descent and Ilse was Mennonite. Hans was an engineer and a *Patentanwalt* in Berlin. They left Germany in 1938 because of anti-Semitism. I know something about their escape to the Netherlands, Denmark, and then Belgium before they left for Australia.

However, I know very little about their life in Australia. I know they settled in the Melbourne area and that when Hans and Ilse died. I would very much like to know what they did in Australia and if their son, Felix, who was almost 18 when he and his mother arrived in Australia, might still be alive. He was born in 1923.

Gerlof D. Homan <grhoman@verizon.net>

(Editor's note: Hans arrived in Australia in January 1940 and Ilse and Felix in 1941.)

ISAACS

I am researching the family of my uncle who is not Jewish, but his forebears were. They came to Australia between 1850 and 1857 from New York.

His father's name was Abraham Benjamin Isaacs, born about 1825 in England. He lived in Tanner Street, Richmond, and died on 9 December 1902. His wife, Frances Levi, was born about 1826 and died on 9 December 1894. Their children included Lewis, Reuben, Benjamin, Rebecca, Solomon, George, Jacob, Phillip, Rachel and Sarah.

I believe the family all settled in Victoria. Abraham and Frances are buried at Melbourne General Cemetery. Any guidance would be much appreciated.

Jo Kotylak, Melbourne <joko@tadaust.org.au>

JOSEPH

I am researching my mother's side of the family. She was born Rachael Elizabeth Joseph on 12 March 1910, either in Sydney or Melbourne, and died in 1998.

My mother's mother was Sadie Joseph, who died in Sydney in 1981. Sadie had several brothers and sisters living in Melbourne.

Mum spent time in Melbourne during World War 2 and was close to one of her cousins, Yetta, who I remember visited us in Sydney when I was young.

Peter Lupton <peter.lupton@icc.gov.au>

SAMBOR

I have been researching my family for over 33 years but it has been only in the last 10 years that I have been able to make some serious progress.

This past summer, I visited the Galician city of Sambor with a small group of people who grew up in Poland and who were either survivors themselves or the children of survivors. During this visit, I met someone who grew up in the apartment building that my relatives lived in. She told me about a family who lived there (21 Sobieskiego Street) before and after the war and that they left for Australia.

I am hoping someone might have some information about this family.

Carol Sage-Silverstein <carolsagerobin@yahoo.com>

SOLOMON

I am looking for information about Cyril Asher Solomon, born 1886, son of Rebecca (Shappere) and Benjamin Henry Solomon.

He was born in New Zealand and lived some of his life in Dannevirke. His father died in 1901 under tragic circumstances, and some time after his mother and two sisters, Vera Solomon and Eve (who married Phillip Finkelstein), moved to Melbourne.

I believe the family was quite musical. One brother, John Victor Solomon, lived in Wellington and the other brother, Hubert Phillip Solomon, was killed in World War 1. The mother was a sister of Phillip Shappere who had a jewellery business (Duggin and Shappere) in Melbourne. They were possibly connected with the Progressive Jewish Congregation.

Jon Nathan, Israel <nathan@012.net.il>

TRAUB

I am a German journalist researching the fate of Alfred Traub from Berlin. I would like to add a so-called 'Stolperstein' (a small brick memorial stone) with his name to the pavement in front of the house where he and his parents lived until their deportation in 1942 and 1943.

In some Nazi documents, I learned that Alfred Traub's brother, Edmund Traub, emigrated to Australia. He was born 31 October 1894, probably in Hungary, and arrived in Sydney with Pierre Loti on 5 October 1938.

I would like to know if there are friends of the family who could give me additional information about Edmund and Adelheid Traub and also photos.

Wolf Thieme, Germany <WolfThieme@t-online.de>

(Editor's note: Edmund and his wife, Adelheid, are both deceased and buried in Adelaide. Adelheid passed away at the age of 98 years in 2000 and was a very respected Jewish communal worker. Members of the AJGS in SA have given us some recollections about this couple.)