



Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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

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One of a number of family trees on display at the 32nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, held in Paris in July. Details about the conference can be found in the editorial on page 2 and in a report by Liz James on page 4.

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AUGUST 2012 MEETING

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 14th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc. will be held on

Wednesday 29 August at 7.30 pm

Lamm Jewish Library of Australia, 306 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South, Victoria 3162

Nominations are being called for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, eight ordinary committee members and a representative of the Makor Jewish Community Library.

Nomination forms are available by contacting admin@ajgs-vic.org.au. Completed forms should be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary, AJGS (Vic), PO Box 189, Glenhuntly, Victoria 3163, or lodged at the Lamm Jewish Library.

For enquiries concerning nominating, telephone (03) 9523 6738.

(Note: only financial members are eligible to stand for election and vote at the meeting.)

The meeting will be followed by a group presentation on the recent International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference held in Paris, France.

All welcome. Members \$4; non-members \$8. Enquiries: admin@ajgs-vic.org.au or (03) 9523 6738.

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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

AJGS (Vic) Inc. website

www.ajgs-vic.org.au

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.

AJGS (Vic) Inc. Committee of Management

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Secretary	Lionel Sharpe OAM
Treasurer	Kurt Friedlaender
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	Liz James
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	Kaye Quittner
	Ian Samuel OAM
	Bubbles Segall
	Max Wald

Makor Library Liaison

Leonie Fleiszig

Australian Jewish Genealogy Internet Discussion Group

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

AJGS (Vic) Inc. membership fees

Individual	\$35
Family	\$40
Concession	\$15

EDITORIAL

Over the past 14 years, I have attended three international Jewish genealogical conferences – Los Angeles, New York and London. In July this year, I experienced my first conference in a non-English speaking city – Paris. France has an estimated Jewish population of 483,500 (in 2010), of which an estimated 310,000 live in Paris. A great city for such a gathering.

France can claim to be the largest Jewish population outside the USA and Israel, and many believed the time had come to encourage an IAJGS conference in Europe. France was the obvious choice. The Cercle de Généalogie Juive offered to undertake this challenge and hired the facilities of the Marriott Hotel and Conference Centre on the Left Bank to stage the four-day event. This was a major undertaking, and the organisers are to be congratulated on the richness and variety in the program.

It was 15 years ago, back in 1997, when France sponsored the 5th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, as it was called at that time. A small group of Australians led by Sophie Caplan of Sydney made the long journey, and the impetus of this event led to the formation of the AJGS in Victoria in 1998. Conferences often act as an inspiration to innovate, motivate and build bridges across continents.

As this year coincided with the Olympic Games in London, it might be expected that this was an ideal year for giving the European Jewish genealogical societies an opportunity to focus on their particular issues and attract non-English speakers to deliver conference papers. Apart from the 2004 conference in Jerusalem, I do not recall past conferences (except Jerusalem) where the opportunity for simultaneous translation at the sessions was available.

The speakers from following European countries gave an overview of the work of their genealogical societies at the first session: Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. This set the stage for four days of the intensive program.

The choice of sessions in the program was overwhelming. There were up to eight parallel sessions spread over three levels in the Conference Centre – lectures and panels (many requiring headphones for simultaneous English translation), meetings of SIG groups, workshops conducted by experts on family tree programs and opportunities to use the resource room for research and, for those wishing to take a break, pre-booked guided tours to locations of Jewish interest in Paris.

Those of us from Ashkenazi background might have anticipated a focus on Sephardi ancestral research, and they were correct. Places mentioned in the titles of the program included Algeria, Tunis, Lebanon, Malta, Tangier and the Sahara.

So I ask myself – was it all worthwhile and what new directions have opened up for me? I need to admit that I had other motives in registering for the July conference in Paris. My French-born wife has a large family in Paris and this was an opportunity to combine a family reunion with my favourite hobby.

The answer to my questions came to me from some of my wife's second generation relatives – women of Sephardi background who have married her cousins who have roots in Poland. They have now given me the task of tracking their own ancestral roots and were fascinated on learning about the conference I was attending.

So start thinking about the next IAJGS conference – Boston, USA , 4 August 2013.

Lionel Sharpe
Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This edition of *Jewish Genealogy Downunder* coincides with the Annual General Meeting of our Society, and I feel it is only appropriate to reflect over the past year.

The past 12 months have been very exciting and busy for us. Apart from our regular activities of assisting people with their family history research, providing hands-on research workshops and informative guest speakers, we've been involved in some major projects behind the scenes.

I never cease to be amazed at the combined knowledge of our committee on matters of Jewish genealogy. Over the course of the year, we've had many varied requests for assistance from people seeking information, and between them Lionel Sharpe, Debbie Jurblum, Rodney Eisfelder, Liz James, Ian Samuel, Bernie Kuran, Kaye Quittner, Bubbles Segall and Max Wald have managed to deal with most enquiries.

Our tombstone photograph database project has continued on under the auspices of our IT specialist Rodney, and I'm pleased to report that we're nearing the completion of the Browns Road cemetery part of this project.

Under the management of Ian and Liz, we've expanded our Marriages Database Project, and we're well on our way to having nearly all of early Jewish marriages in Victoria indexed. Liz and her group of transcribers, assisted by new committee member Max Wald, have done an amazing job to date. Once again, Rodney is arranging the transfer of that data to a searchable database.

Members of our committee, Lionel Sharpe, Liz James and Ian Samuel, attended the recent international conference on Jewish genealogy held in Paris and reports of this event can be found in this newsletter.

During the year, we were fortunate to have a visit from Daniel Horowitz, representing MyHeritage. He provided a presentation on Jewish genealogy research in Israel. Other presenters during the year included Bernie Kuran, 'From a little seed a big tree may grow', Rodney Eisfelder on 'Digitised newspapers as a resource for family research', Lionel Sharpe on 'Dating 19th century photographs',



Bubbles Segall on 'South African research' and, finally, I spoke on 'Polish family history records'. A number of hands-on workshops were held over the past year assisted by members of the committee.

Earlier this year, we moved into our new 'home' in the refurbished Lamm Jewish Library of Australia. Without Liz's organisational skills and the assistance from her husband Ron, this move would never have taken place. Our Resource Room (pictured above) is now open every Sunday between 2 pm and 5 pm, so feel free to pop in and use our facilities. We thank the staff of the Makor Library and the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre for their cooperation on this move and setting up the rooms for our meetings.

Then there is the marvellous job being done by our newsletter team of Lionel Sharpe and Kaye Quittner.

Finally, I would like to thank Kurt Friedlaender, our retiring treasurer, for his long service to our society. Kurt joined the committee many years ago and has attended to the finances of our society ever since. His contribution is greatly valued, and he will be missed.

Allan Jankie
President

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Marion Davis
- Varda Eisikovich
- Mark Feldschuh
- Eli Fryher
- Robert Lentin
- Lilly Rozen
- Alison Wiesenfeld

We are pleased to announce that the collections of the **Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) and Australian Jewish Historical Society (Vic)** housed in the Lamm Jewish Library of Australia will now be open **Sundays from 2 pm to 5 pm.**

AJGS (Vic) committee members will be on hand to assist members with their enquiries.

All welcome

For access on Mondays to Thursdays, contact Allan Jankie (allanjankie@gmail.com) or Lionel Sharpe (sharpe@aapt.net.au) to make an appointment.

Conference report: Paris, 2012

The 32nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy was held in Paris in July. For me, it was a chance to hear experts speaking on topics that had never been explored in such depth before, especially in the area of Sephardic genealogy.

Armed with headphones that made me feel like I was at the United Nations, I was able to attend an English-French bilingual conference which had simultaneous translations of the lectures for most of the talks.

There were more than 250 lectures, as well as exhibitions, workshops, vendor displays and films. The resource room gave us free access to numerous databases, and throughout the week there were organised tours for those who had the time to venture out.

I attended the Jewish walking tour of the Marais, which also included a stop at the Mémorial de la Shoah. On our last day in Paris, I also went to an exhibition at the Hotel de Ville organised to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the raid on the Velodrome d'Hiver. The exhibition traced the harrowing fate of Jewish children during the war. Coincidentally, the event was held in the same place where my ancestor, Rabbi Meir ben Baruch, the Maharam of Rothenburg, was an eyewitness to the tragic public burning of 24 wagonloads of Talmudic manuscripts on Friday, 17 June 1244.

Highlights of the conference are too numerous to mention, but those I found particularly interesting for my research were the GerSIG, UK SIG and Austria Czech SIG meetings, the talks on Bohemia and Moravia and the numerous talks on genetics and DNA.

As a result of one of the lectures on the 'DNA of the Jews of Frankfurt', I am trying to round up a few of my cousins who have direct male 'Y' ancestors that match the same surnames of some of the major families of the Frankfurt Jewish Judengasse.

Further to this, I have been contacted to submit my autosomal and X raw data matches as part of a study to trace the ancestors of the Guggenheim family, which are believed to be part of the Heilprin/Heilbronn/Helpern family whose origins were in Heilbronn, Germany, and whose earlier ancestors included R. Judah ben Meir ha-Kohen (Sir Léontin), and his line via Rashi and down to R. Isaac of Dampierre.

It was also great to meet up with the members of the Schweizerische Vereinigung für Jüdische Genealogie (SVJG), of which I am also a member.

One word perhaps summed up the feeling one had from the overload of information at one stage of the conference, and this word was uttered on the third day while attending a lecture on 'The Jewish Collection on Ancestry.com'. The possibilities for seeking out our Jewish ancestors seemed endless. Suddenly,



Above, from left, Sherry Landa (British-Jewry website), with Australian conference attendees Liz James, Lionel Sharpe, Phil Lipshut and Ian Samuel.

Below: The conference venue, located on the Left Bank in Paris.



from the back of the room came a little exasperated reply, 'Oy'. Immediately, no matter what language the audience mainly conversed in, it was that one word that summarised the way we were all feeling and everyone simultaneously burst into laughter. From that point on we were all united as one.

Why did I attend the conference? There is only so much one can do by email, so to meet the people you only know by email is a definite bonus. There are few opportunities in Australia to hear from so many experts on such a vast range of topics. The motivation for attending these conferences is that you have the opportunity to hear from researchers who have studied the topics and are leaders in their field and see the material first hand. You also get the chance to meet other researchers you recognise by reputation and through their articles and books, and you are able to speak to other like-minded people who can help you fast track your research that you simply cannot do as effectively from your study chair at home.

Perhaps I'll see you in Boston in 2013, Salt Lake City in 2014 and Israel in 2015!

Liz James



Above: Bruno Bloch, President, Cercle de Généalogie Juive.

Left: The conference bookshop run by The Cercle de Généalogie Juive.



Above: Australians enjoy lunch (left row, from back), Ian Samuel, Sara Elkin, Kym Morris (right row, from back) Kim Phillips, Liz James, Phil Lipshut and Vernon Kronenberg.



Above: From left, Ron James, Ian Samuel, Phil Lipshut and Liz James on a walking tour of the Marais, which also included a stop at the Mémorial de la Shoah.



Above: Roundtable on Jewish genealogy in Europe. Panelists included Michael Goldstein (IAJGS), Bruno Bloch (France), Louis H. Cohen (Netherlands), Daniel Dratwa (Belgium), Thomas Fürth (Sweden), René Loeb (Switzerland), Laurent Moysse (Luxembourg), Mark Nicholls (UK), Laurence Harris (UK) and Gerhard Buck (Germany).

Australians registered at the conference: Sara Elkas (Vic), Liz James (Vic), Jack and Maureen Jellins (NSW), Vernon Kronenberg (ACT), Phil Lipshut (Vic), Colleen Nichols (NSW), Ronalyn Nichols (NSW), Ian Samuel (Vic), Nicholas Schoulal (NSW), and Lionel Sharpe (Vic).

Tagging along but not registered: Ros Goldman (Vic), Ron James (Vic), Kym Morris (NSW), Kim Phillips (NSW), and Annita Sharpe (Vic).

C'étaient Des Enfants: The Deportation and Rescue of Jewish Children in Paris – A Unique Exhibition in Paris

Those who attended the 32nd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Paris in July and wandered down the famous Rue de Rivoli would have encountered huge bill boards advertising a unique exhibition.

This exhibition is currently taking place in the City Hall of Paris (Hotel De Ville) between June and October 2012, and there is no entry charge.

This is the very first to deal with the arrest by the French police of 4051 Jewish children aged from two to sixteen between 16 and 17 July 1942.

Tragically, these children were rounded up among 13,152 Parisians who were arrested and taken to the Velodrome d'Hiver, more commonly known as the Vel d'Hiv.

They were then sent to the camps of Drancy, Beaune-la-Rolande and Pithiviers before their long train journeys to Auschwitz. Few escaped and survived this ordeal, others died of starvation or were gassed on arrival.



Two recent films, shown in Australian cinemas, dealt with this event – 'Sarah's Key' and 'The Round-Up'.

Genealogical information about the deportees can be found in the new publication of Serge Klarsfeld, reported on page 7 of this newsletter.

Lionel Sharpe



A priest's journey to find the truth

Father Patrick Desbois, a Catholic priest and President of Yahad-In Unum Association, addressed the banquet at the Marriott Hotel.

Some 900 delegates and their partners attended the IAJGS Conference banquet.

Father Desbois has published a book outlining his work in identifying and examining all the sites in the Ukraine where Jews were exterminated, often with the complicity of the local population.

The book is titled *The Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest's Journey to Uncover the Truth Behind the Murder of 1.5 Million Jews*.

He has devoted his life to confronting anti-Semitism and furthering Catholic-Jewish relations.

Serge Klarsfeld publishes 'colossal' work on Jews deported from France

Renowned Paris-based Holocaust researcher Serge Klarsfeld addressed a large audience at the IAJGS conference, held in Paris in July 2012, on the research he undertook to produce the second edition of his landmark book, Memorial to Jews Deported from France. The following review of the book was originally published on the website of the Aladdin Project.

Serge Klarsfeld's 'colossal' work – the result of 15 years of research – brings together families, often deported separately, and catalogues "with as much precision as possible" this immense human tragedy. Around 75,500 Jews were deported out of the 320,000 living in France at the beginning of the Occupation. About 2500 survived.



The book complements the first memorial published in 1978 by the lawyer and historian under the aegis of the Association of Sons and Daughters of Jews Deported from France, which "is carrying out its pioneering role to inform families about the fate of their loved ones" and "enable them to find closure to their grief," said Mr Klarsfeld. But the book contained "many errors and shortcomings, which is understandable because we were publishing, convey by convey, alphabetical lists of those who were deported, often of foreign origin, with names difficult to spell". Often, too, dates of birth were missing.

"Many families were split up and then deported, as was the case with 3000 mothers from the camps in the non-occupied zone: they were deported in August 1942 and their children arrived in Auschwitz three weeks later. They were left to die of despair, only five of them survived, but there is not a single witness testimony about this terrible fact," lamented Mr Klarsfeld.

To draw up as precisely as possible the human toll of the immense tragedy that was the Final Solution and to fight against oblivion, it was necessary to go further than the memorial published in 1978, he explained.

With different archives becoming accessible (Drancy camp, Paris police headquarters, camps in the non-occupied zones of Pithiviers or Beaune-la-Rolande, departmental archives), his documentation became enriched over the years and allowed him to publish, in 1994, the *Memorial to Jewish Children Deported from France*, listing 11,400 forenames, family names, dates and places of birth and addresses and, where possible, photos of the children.

This memorial had a tremendous impact, Mr Klarsfeld said, especially as former president Jacques Chirac recognised in 1995 the role of the French State

in the deportation of French Jews: thousands of commemorative plaques are affixed to schools in France. "It gave another life to those children: they were not thrown into the dustbin of history but again become subjects of history," said Mr Klarsfeld, himself saved from deportation as a child through the sacrifice of his father, Arno Klarsfeld, who allowed himself to be arrested once he had hidden his family inside a closet in his apartment. "We had to do the same for adults, bringing together families, thanks to the address of the place of arrest."

For 15 years, Mr Klarsfeld tirelessly ploughed departmental archives, put together or parsed nuggets of information and photocopied thousands of documents, particularly from the southern camps of Gurs, Rivesaltes, Les Mille, among others. The task was daunting, as there were many homonyms, "over 1200 Levys, for example," he said. "What could one do?"

The permanent collection of "this immense mass of documents" allowed him to fill gaps in marital status or addresses of the victims. "It's a tool of great richness for historians," said Mr Klarsfeld, confiding that this work required from him "a deep commitment to justice, for memory and for history".

The Aladdin Project is an independent, international non-government organisation based in Paris. The 20 personalities on its Board are from different countries, cultures and religions, united in the belief that the power of knowledge and education and the primacy of history and moral values can vanquish the chasms created by ignorance, prejudice, hate and competing memories.

The Aladdin Project website is at www.projetaladin.org/en/en-16.html.

Why have family newsletters?

Bubbles Segall has been publishing a newsletter for her extended Lurie family since 2004. Here she describes the benefits of keeping in touch with family who live in different parts of the world and offers tips to those interested in doing the same.

Communication is so important in families. Today, with most families scattered all over the world, newsletters are a great way to keep in touch. Family newsletters don't have to be complicated, but there are a few things to consider.

Aim

Deciding what to write about is the first step. What do you hope to achieve? Here are some of the things I wanted to accomplish with my newsletter.

- Keep in touch with family members.
- Preserve stories and information that would otherwise be lost.
- Share information, stories and accomplishments with family members.
- Share and preserve photos of significant events (births, weddings, bar/batmitzvahs, graduations and so on).
- Keep family information together in the one place.
- Leave a paper trail for future generations.
- Learn about my family's history, traditions, origins and culture.
- An avenue for family members to pass on stories which would otherwise not be told.

Publishing format and frequency

How often you publish a newsletter will depend on the time you have to devote to such a project, how much information you have to share, and your chosen method of production (and therefore cost).

Many people now produce e-newsletters only and email them as a PDF to family members because of the cost savings, but printing and posting a hard-copy version of your newsletter to those who do not have email is a good idea.

Distribution list

Create a distribution list by starting with your immediate family and close relatives. Once the news gets out, you are going to have people coming out of the woodwork who want to receive copies. However, there will be some family members who are not interested in receiving copies or participating in providing information. It is best to build your distribution list either by word-of-mouth or send a copy of the newsletter to everyone you think will be interested, asking them to respond if they wish to continue receiving future issues.

Naming your newsletter

Give your newsletter a catchy name. Think of names that are quirky, unusual and easy to remember. Some examples are Wolpe Words; Cooper Connections; Barnett Beat; Feldman Family; Cohen Capers; Newman

News; Milnick Mishpocha; Chafkin Chronicles. My family newsletter is called *Lurie Links*.

Blended family newsletters

Decide whether you want your newsletter to cover your maternal and paternal families, and even your spouse's family.

What information should be included?

As well as the usual family events, such as weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and graduations, you could consider:

- family traditions, stories about your ancestors
- roots projects prepared by school children
- articles on the origins of family surnames
- genealogical and historical research outcomes, and
- discovery of new family members.

Valuable information can be found in old letters, from old diary entries, entries in autograph books, obituaries or relevant articles from old newspapers.

Tips

Here are some tips to consider if you decide to start producing a family newsletter.

- If there is anyone in your family who shares your passion for genealogy, consider asking them to proof read your newsletters before they are distributed.
- Ensure that the newsletters are interesting and not too long. If you have trouble shortening the content, ask someone for help.
- Make sure you put names to photographs and define the relationships of everyone mentioned in the newsletter.
- Ensure that your information about family members is correct. If you are not sure, ask an appropriate person.
- If you are distributing your newsletter via email, use the BCC facility, as not everyone wants their email addresses available for all to read, even if they are other family members!
- If you bold surnames, your newsletter will be easier to read.
- Ask for feedback from family members, and if you receive feedback consider publishing it in your next newsletter.
- Don't include anything that might cause friction among family members. Remember that you want your family members to feel comfortable sharing their information.
- Include birth names and married names.
- Remember that it is important to document the source of any information provided in your newsletter. There are

Worth sharing

This is a recently discovered image of Mordecai Moses, the fourth great grandfather of my wife, Justine. He was also known as Marcus Warschauer.

The image, on a glass plate, is believed to have been taken about 1855. It was found only last year, and belongs to one of his descendants.

Mordecai is listed in Rabbi John S. Levi's *These are the Names: Jewish Lives in Australia 1788–1850*, and included are the following notes on him.

He was born in Poland in 1775, and his family moved to London some time before 1807.

In 1835, at the age of 60, he was charged with forging Polish bank notes and sentenced to 14 years in the colonies.

After arriving in Australia, the Colonial Secretary examined him and noted: "He is a native of Poland and has but a very superficial knowledge of the English language – the last 16 years of his life have been spent as a reader in a synagogue. I do not consider the man fit for private assignment."

Mordecai was granted an allowance of ten shillings a week by the synagogue in 1838 to become sexton. The same year, his former service of assignment was cancelled by the Colonial Secretary. Grateful, Mordecai wrote to the synagogue: "My mind and my time shall be devoted to our House of God established in this distant clime".

Mordecai received a conditional pardon in 1844. In 1842, he was appointed sexton of the York Street congregation



and a reader of the synagogue. In 1850, he was granted a certificate of freedom. He retired as sexton in 1857.

He died in 1860 and was buried at Rockwood cemetery. His second wife, Abigail, who had pre-deceased him, was reinterred alongside him.

Three years ago, The Friends of Rookwood in New South Wales approached the Australian Jewish Historical Society in Sydney with funds to improve any deteriorating gravestones. They chose to re-do Mordecai's and Abigail's stones.

Bernie Kuran

two types of sources in genealogical research – primary sources and secondary sources. Primary sources are documents and records created at the time of the event (for example births, marriages, deaths, census), and secondary sources are documents and records not created at the time of the event (for example information from old letters, oral interviews). Stating this kind of information adds credibility to your work.

Privacy

Some family members have requested permission to upload information from newsletters onto the web. Encourage them to respect family members' right to privacy.

Useful web pages

Create a family newsletter:

<http://genealogy.about.com/od/publishing/a/newsletter.htm>

How to create a family newsletter:

www.ehow.com/how_2046162_create-family-newsletter.html

Bubbles Segall

A current AJGS (Vic) committee member, Bubbles presented a paper on publishing family newsletters at the 2010 Second Australia National Conference on Jewish Genealogy, held in Melbourne in March 2010.

"Your family is only the bare framework of your family history. Without the stories, legends, tales and episodes of your cousins and ancestors, all you will have is a dry collection of names and dates."

Eli Wiesel, *A Jew Today*.

POSTINGS

DO YOU EVER LEAVE SOMEONE OFF YOUR TREE?

This question was posed on the JewishGen Discussion Group recently. It elicited some interesting responses, as follows:

A cousin who had a daughter from a bad marriage, then remarried and had two more. She doesn't want the first husband listed, with the daughter listed with the second husband who in fact raised her. My private database reflects the truth. Anything published does it her way.

I treat adopted children as any other child, with the relationship reflecting the adoption status. Leaving people off is another matter. The only time I have ever left anyone off was many years ago in the beginning stages of my research where I have a cousin who married three times, and divorced three times and never had any kids. Those three husbands are not reflected at all. Otherwise you can't pick and choose who to include.

Your family is your family, larcenous, adulterous, felonious. You may not want to invite Jack the Ripper to your next family reunion – that is a different matter – but his family did nothing to be left out (at least some of them are presumably innocent, or at least less guilty). Divorced spouses with no kids are another matter, as they only include or exclude themselves, but I would include them because it gives a fuller picture of your relative's life. The big question is publishing information to all.

One genner wrote: "If we are conducting genealogical research, the research necessarily, and by definition, must only be concerned with genetic relationships."

Genealogy is the story of your life and your family not molecular biology, not, by definition concerned with genetic relationships. You are falling for the DNA testers' ploys. Genealogy is not kidney transplants, but it involves in-laws, adoptees, everybody in your family and affecting your family.

Just to play the devil's advocate ...

Most of us here are seriously committed to researching and documenting our families. We feel that it's important, and that it may even be appreciated by future generations, even if our own families often view us as harmless eccentrics bitten by a strange bug.

But we need to keep in mind that not everybody shares our passion. (Just think back to the last time someone asked you about the family tree and inadvertently triggered a flood of names and dates. The eyes usually glaze over by about the second or third minute, right?)

Outside of this 'hobby' (obsession?), personal information including their name, date of birth, and relationships are not things that normal people want published. Often stuffed under the heading of 'privacy', it also has to do with precautions against identity theft and other criminal activity, as well as genuine privacy.

When a person asks not to be listed, I can understand the disappointment of the family genealogy addict, but I can't see any reasonable way to refuse. (It's okay to argue and try to convince, but the decision is ultimately theirs.) To do otherwise is a gross violation of their wishes and their right to privacy, which trumps any hobby, no matter how passionate.

Readers are invited to express their views on this question.

CZECH VITAL RECORDS

The latest word from Dr Lenka Matusikova is that the second part of the digitised birth, marriage and death records for the Jewish communities of Bohemia and Moravia are now online and available at www.badatelna.cz/fond/1073.

Lenka's message to me: "I would like to confirm that the second part of digitised registers is now available (inv. num. 1009–2006). We will accept and discuss all comments coming from users of digitised registers. Please take into account that it is the large collection of registers (about 250,000 scans), some of them are very old and with the short information only. Most of them are duplicates not bound together carefully, and we will eliminate the problems step by step. Also it is necessary to inform all users that registers of births of the period 1913–1949, marriages 1938–1949 and deaths 1937–1949 are still closed to the public and the scans are not available on website. They were digitised and will be opened in the future."

Have fun everyone with this incredible resource.

It looks like the new records at <http://www.badatelna.cz/fond/1073> take us to page 22/30 and the town of Susice.

Unfortunately, Prague is at the end and so we're still waiting for that goldmine to become available.

Randy Schoenberg <randols@bslaw.net>
Los Angeles, CA

GENEALOGY SA

Genealogy SA (South Australia) has just released the following searchable online databases on its website at www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html:

- Newspaper Birth Notices Index from 1960 onwards
- Newspaper Death Notices Index from 1972 onwards
- South Australia Cemeteries Index
- Birth Registration Certificates Index 1842–1928
- Death Registration Certificates Index 1842–1972
- Marriage Registration Certificates Index 1842–1937

Genealogy SA states: "If you find a record of a person that you are researching, we may have more information available about that person, so please contact us or submit a research request to find out how we can assist you further with your search."

Liz James, AJGS (Vic)



Giving you choices

A Jewish funeral in keeping with Jewish custom and tradition, your practices and beliefs.

Pre-arranged or pre-paid funeral options.

**Please call Rhonda Nirens JP on
(03) 9883 6237 (24 hours, seven days).**

NU? WHAT'S NEW? THE E-ZINE OF JEWISH GENEALOGY FROM AVOTAYNU

Paris conference a great success

Congratulations to the Cercle de Généalogie Juive for the excellent 32nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. C'était un beau travail!

The society stated that there were 850 attendees from 30 countries. This would be a record – I believe – for an IAJGS conference outside North America. Many of the speakers lecturing on standard subjects were from Europe and not heard at US-based conferences. This gave a fresh approach to the subjects. The bilingual lectures, French/English, were no obstacle. The translators were excellent and the wireless headsets did the job comfortably.

I listened to a number of lectures presented in French with no difficulty. The quality and uniqueness of the conference demonstrates that IAJGS should plan a European-based conference at least every 10 years.

Gary Mokotoff, Editor

Jeffrey S. Malka receives IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award

Jeffrey S. Malka received the annual Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. Malka, a retired professor of orthopedic surgery, is one of the pioneers of contemporary Sephardic genealogical research.

Among his accomplishments, he is creator of the SephardicGen Internet site, creator of JewishGen's SephardicSIG website, and author of the prize-winning book *Sephardic Genealogy: Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World* published by Avotaynu.

The award stated: "This award honors your pioneering work in Sephardic genealogical studies. You have provided focus, resources and leadership to the study of Sephardic genealogy. Your writing, websites and lectures have opened doors for researchers by making both methodology and information accessible to all. You have reminded the entire Jewish genealogy community of our diversity. You have served on many committees of Jewish genealogy organizations at the local and international level. High standards and your generosity in sharing your time and knowledge underscore every one of your many accomplishments."

Other IAJGS awards

IAJGS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Project was given to Logan Kleinwaks: "Your exceptional creation and management of the Genealogy Indexer is a unique innovation in the field of Jewish Genealogy ...".

The award for Outstanding Program or Project Award was given to JewishGen's ViewMate Project. "Conceived and initiated by Bernard Kouchel, this innovative and widely used tool helps researchers understand genealogy-related documents, photographs and artifacts ...".

The award for Outstanding Publication by an IAJGS Member Association went to Great Britain Jewish Genealogical Society for their journal *Shemot*.

IGRA INAGURATES NEW VERSION OF ITS BETA SEARCH ENGINE

The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) has announced a new version of its Beta Search Engine for the All Israel Database (AID), allowing users to search names in Hebrew or Latin letters.

All databases include the transliteration of the names. Double names are split into separate fields. The search engine checks all fields that are names. At this time, it searches each field, however a search for 'Moshe Cohen' will bring up all mentions of 'Moshe' and all mentions of 'Cohen'. The search is done for the exact spelling you type in. You will notice (on the search results page) that there is a number on the left side. Clicking on the number will take you to the individual record. First and last names and the name of the database appear in both Hebrew and English. The rest of the information is in the language of the database. The accompanying scans of the documents are not attached yet to the records.

While we are in a time of transition (our new search engine is currently being developed), we have added five new databases and have had to temporarily remove access to three others.

The new databases are:

Rehavia Address Book June 1935

This address book was found in the collection of the Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Center. It was published by the Rehavia Mutual Benefit Society Committee. It includes people's names, addresses and occupations.

Members in Agricultural Organizations in Petah

Tikvah 1931–1936: A list of 1802 members in agricultural organisations during these years. The collection of documents is from the Oded Yarkoni Petah Tikva History Archive .

List of Candidates for the First Knesset (Constituent

Assembly) 1949: A list of 1282 candidates for the first Knesset published in *Yalkut HaPirsumim* (the official publication of the government of Israel) on 19 January 1949.

Practical Nurses 1951–1952: A list of 169 practical nurses, where they studied and when they passed their exam. The list is a composite of a number of lists published in *Yalkut HaPirsumim*.

List of Persons Authorised to Act as Lawyers in Civil

Courts in 1956: A list of 1544 authorised lawyers for the civil courts published in *Yalkut HaPirsumim* on various dates in 1956.

You can now search through 41,000 entries. Many more databases will be added in the coming weeks. Still others are being prepared.

IGRA welcomes volunteers from anywhere in the world to help on these projects. You need to have Excel and know how to use it. Please contact us at webmaster@genealogy.org.il and specify if you can read and type Hebrew and/or English and if you know how to transliterate from one language to the other.

Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA)
<http://genealogy.org.il>

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.

CZESNER

I am searching for Miriam and Malka Czesner, who are both listed with the Holocaust Memorial Museum as having arrived in Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane after 1946. Before 1946, they were Holocaust survivors, and then they went to Sweden, and then to Australia. I believe I am related to them.

Aaron Biterman, USA
Genealogykid20 <genealogykid20@aol.com>

JACOBS/GOMM

My great grandfather, Samuel Jacobs, was from England and married Fanny Matilda Gomm in 1849 in Hobart, Tasmania. From there they moved to Melbourne. I don't know the year they moved, but a daughter, Sarah Hannah Jacobs, was born in St Kilda on 20 September 1859. I know they attended the synagogue in St Kilda. I am wondering if anyone has any information relating to this family. I don't have any photos of Samuel Jacobs, but I do know he moved to New Zealand and resided in Hokitika.

Lucille Hartshorne <lucille.lifecoach@bigpond.com>

PABIANICE LANDSMANSHAFT

We are looking for a contact in Melbourne, Australia.

The contact form on the <http://pabianice.com.au/history.html> site fails when we try to use it. The site has a wonderful photo of the pre-WWII Pabianice Synagogue before it was destroyed by the Nazis. We want to help a Holocaust survivor in the US to get copyright approval to use this photo.

If anyone knows how to get in touch with the Pabianice Landsmanshaft group from Melbourne, Australia, or knows about getting copyright approval for this old photo, please send an email to BobbyL99@yahoo.com.

Bob and Diane Lazaar
Diane Lazaar <aspiringhippie@att.net>
Lodz Area Research Group

CRAWCOUR

There are two people mentioned in an Australian diary from the 1880s, which I have transcribed. Mr Lewis, married to Rosa Lewis nee Dunn, is described as a Jewish broker, and I wondered if this was so or not. The Lewises were described as attending a dinner party where they were chaperoning two young ladies. One, described as the 'beautiful Miss Croker' may be my grandmother Crawcour's cousin, Rebecca Crawcour, as she was apparently often referred to as the 'beautiful Miss C' and the young writer may have misheard. She was born about 1862 and died in 1966; I have a photo of Granny, Elizabeth Emily Crawcour, at about 1888, and she was certainly lovely. These cousins were contemporaries, both born in the 1860s and both in their late 90s when they died, but one in Melbourne and the other in London. I am related to all the Australian/South African/American and British Crawcours from our original Samuel Krakow(er), apothecary-dentist from Poland in the 18th century. That's quite an achievement, ggg grandfather.

Shirley (Hinkly) <shirley@hinkly.net>

RUBINSTEIN/ROBERTS

An acknowledgement

I am delighted to be able to tell you that I have found the surviving RUBINSTEIN/ROBERTS families and wish to thank you most sincerely for the part you have played to make this possible.

I have amassed 108 emails concerning this search and I am sending this message to 140 different email addresses. There were also many phone calls and, would you believe it, even snail mail!

The bulk of the emails were, of course, in Australia and France, but the search at times diverted to the USA, to Israel, to Austria and elsewhere. With your help, we are now in a position in which one of the innumerable iniquities perpetrated in World War 2 can be put to rest. It is only a pinprick in the sum total of the horrors of those times, nevertheless, it is something.

No search which I conduct can be solved without the help of total strangers across the world who give – some more, some less – of themselves and of their knowledge. Each bit of such support and guidance puts another piece of the jigsaw into place, so that in time a picture emerges, the start of a family tree can be assembled, another search avenue opens. I say that particularly to people who feel they really did not do much. Naturally, without the power of the internet such searches would be almost impossible. I can never get over the fact that in these days in which we all think that "they all want to cheat us" there are so many that are prepared to help, to give of themselves, just because some stranger like me has asked for it.

So, thank you so much for the part which you have played, and be well.

David Lewin
156 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8JJ England

Search and Unite attempt to help locate people who, despite the passage of so many years since World War II, may still exist 'out there'. We also assist in the process of re-possession of property in the Czech Republic. See our website at <http://remember.org/unite>.

FINISTERSTOCK

A book publisher is seeking contact with the descendants of Deborah Finferstock, who was murdered at Newstead near Castlemaine, Victoria, and buried on 7 April 1859 in the Jewish section of the Melbourne General Cemetery, Carlton.

The Hebrew inscription on the headstone reads: "Wife of Emanuel (Menachem) Finferstock from the city of Reisha in the country of Galitzia". Her Hebrew name was Devora bat Morenu Rav Zvi Grinfeld.

Enquiries should be directed to Lionel Sharpe at admin@ajgs-vic.org.au.

KOPOLOVICH

I am looking for my cousin, Orah (nee Kopolovich), born in Israel in the early 1950s to Moshe and Leah Kopolovich.

Moshe and Leah, originally from Czechoslovakia, lived in Netanya in the 1940s.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who may know about this family.

Varda Eisikovich <varda105@hotmail.com>