Jewish Genealogy Downunder

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

Melbourne, Australia

Vol. 3 No. 1, February/March 2001

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Victoria)Inc.
in association with the Makor Library Jewish Community Library
invite you to the

3rd Annual General Meeting of the Society

Wednesday, 16th May 2001 at 7.30 pm
at Beth Weizmann Community Centre, 306 Hawthorn Rd., South Caulfield
to be followed by our guest speaker

EPHRAIM FINCH

Executive Director of the Melbourne Chevra Kadisha

"The Chevra Kadisha - An invaluable resource for genealogical research"

Ephraim Finch was the first speaker to address the Society when it formed as a Branch of the AJGS in 1995. He is devoted to the collection of family data and has amassed thousands of detailed genealogical records from families burying their loved ones. His own personal family research demonstrates his dedication to our work.

Members: No entrance fee. Non members: $4.00

RESEARCHING YOUR ANCESTORS

A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS AND OTHERS

Sunday 6th May 2001, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm
Beth Weizmann Community Centre, 306 Hawthorn Rd., South Caulfield

This workshop aims to help those who wish to learn about vital records (births, deaths and marriages), shipping lists, naturalisation applications, overseas data bases, how to search the JewishGen Family Finder and other databases on the Net, surname dictionaries, how to search for towns and shtetls and more.
Les Oberman will give a demonstration on the use of the Internet for those wishing to learn about new sites.
Members of the committee will provide individual assistance when requested.
Members $4.00 Non-members $8.00

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Jewish Genealogy Month

Jewish genealogists meet at the Australian Association of Jewish Studies Conference in Sydney, February 2001

Jewish Genealogy Downunder is published quarterly by the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc. (Melbourne)

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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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Australian Jewish Genealogy Discussion Group on the net:
http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy/

Membership:

Individual members $30.00 (add $5.00 for The Kosher Koala)
Family rate: $35.00 (add $5.00 for the Kosher Koala)
Concession: $15.00 (add $5.00 for the Kosher Koala)

New Members

We welcome the following members who joined in the last few months:

Esther Broome, Ziva Fine, Leonard Levin

Editorial

My apologies for the delay in getting out this issue. Semester 1 teaching and two trips to Sydney are all plausible excuses. The May issue will certainly be out on time.

I attended tthe 13th Annual Conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies held at Shalom College, University of New South Wales. 11-12th February. This conference was held in association with the Association of Holocaust Survivors and Descendents and the AJGS. This offered an opportunity to meet with a few colleagues from Sydney and a very valuable discussion session took place chaired by Peter Nash, sharing information on Holocaust research, how to assist beginners and useful databases.

Sophie Caplan OAM (AJGS Pres.) presented a paper on a survivor story and I was acknowleged for assistance given to a South Australian researcher on Australian Lutherans and the Jews.

A few weeks later I returned to Sydney and visited for the first time, the Archive of Australian Judaica at the Fisher Library of the University of Sydney.
This archive holds an amazing collection of material relating to Jewish life in Australia since its early beginnings in 1788. Almost drowning in stacks of boxes, books, journals and fading documents I met Sr. Marianne Dacy (who has just been awarded a PhD) the sole keeper of this treasure chest. Its value to genealogists cannot be underestimated and a return visit will be a high priority.

Even more exciting was my visit with Rieke Nash, retired AJGS Secretary, to the archives of NSW Jewish Care. It had been believed that all the post-war personal Jewish migration records has been destroyed or lost. Not so - they had been stored in the roof section of one of the buildings used by the organisation in good condition. The AJGS now wishes to undertake the task of preparing this material for future research. Another excuse for me to visit to Sydney.

A number of us from Melbourne and Sydney are planning to attend the International Conference in London in July (see Page 6). If you are making the trip could you please let us know. It will be a great experience despite the exchange rate on the Australian dollar.

Our Annual General Meeting is to be held on May 16th. There will be some vacancies on the Committee of Management. Do think seriously about coming on board - new ideas and fresh energy are always welcome.

Lionel Sharpe (Editor)

From Our Readers:

Internees Index

Dear Editor
I thought I should let you know of some interesting information that I came across lately that maybe of use to your members or for your list of websites.

You may of course already be aware of this but the Public Records Office, Kew, London hold a record known as the Internees Index. This info includes all the people interned on arrival in England between 1939-1942(?) from Hungary, Austria, Germany etc. Nearly all of them Jewish of course. Most of those people were then sent to Internment camps in Australia.

Within the file are subfiles- Internees who married English citizens-Internees returned to the U.K from Australia- Internees at Liberty in U.K. etc.Some of the very relevent files to Australians are not yet released for the public but will at some stage become so.They have a website in which you can go through the catalogue and this file is within the "Home Office" records,"Aliens Department" . Class references always begin therefore with "HO" followed by the number1,2,3, etc.etc. Internees at Liberty for example are under "HO 396"

I dont know if this info relevent but it was to me in my research.
The website of the Public Records Office, Kew, London is: http://www.pro.gov.uk
Rebecca Spalding <Beccaj@primus.com.au>

Genealogical Research in NEW YORK

Dear Editor,
I am able to do NEW YORK CITY research in the five boroughs - Manhattan or New York, Bronx, Brooklyn or Kings, Queens and Richmond or Staten Island.
I look up the following records: birth, marriage, death certificates, passenger listings, US and New York State Census records, directories, and birth, death and marriage indexes (for dates you cannot get certificates for without proving a relationship)
The charge is $15.00 for a vital record and $10 for all others. There is no fee if I do not find the record, but if I do I ask for payment by check or money order in US dollars before sending the records found.

If anyone has any questions or would like to discuss this further please give them my e-mail address.
Diane Jacobs
NEW YORK
<kingart@ix.netcom.com>

(Ed. Diane is a good friend of Enid Yoffa-Elton, a member of our Society who is currently in New York.)

RESEARCH IN RUSSIA

Dear Editor,
I am a British/American dual citizen. My father is from Czechoslovakia and my mother from England (but I was born in Israel and my brother in America). To complicate things further for the next generation, my brother has married a Belgian, and I am engaged to a Russian.

Since coming to Moscow two years ago, I have been asked several times to help my friends in America find their "long-lost" relatives in Russia. I have learned to do this fairly quickly and efficiently, so that I am now in a position to help many others locate or get in touch with their Russian relatives. I have been thinking of starting an agency that would provide the following services:

1) Locating relatives throughout the Russian Federation,
2) Establishing contact with relatives,
3) Genealogical searches (by subcontract with local genealogists),
4) Translating correspondence,
5) Arranging visits (including full travel and tourist services, interpreters, accommodation, etc.),
6) Any other services that would assist the reuniting of families.

I can indeed provide references for work that I have done for other people.

My charges will vary depending on a number of factors, including: the kind of information provided, the cities and archives involved, and the cost of subcontracts, where professional genealogists are required. By avoiding the racket of folks who see foreigners as hard-currency bushes just waiting to be picked, I can obtain genealogical research from professional archivists at considerably lower cost. I also intend to operate on the following principle: no fee without results. That is, unless I actually succeed in finding the requested information, I will not charge a kopeck.

The charge for locating and establishing contact with living relatives will depend on the kind of information provided. I read Cyrillic. My degrees are in Russian literature, and I have worked as a translator for the World Bank in Moscow.

Best regards from Moscow,
Daniel Kohn
Leasing International Network, Moscow, Russia
danyakohn@yahoo.com

[I have not checked out Daniel's references. I do have a list of his suggested charges which I will forward on request. (Editor)]

A FAMILY REUNION

A chance for Luck - Networking - Internet - Fun
Ottolangui/Ottolenghi/Langley Families

A get together of our families occurred in Melbourne in December 2000. Some forty people came, met and exchanged their own family histories and gazed over various families trees [including a 4 metre one] and information posted on the family web site.

In the early 1980's I discovered my own ancestor Rachel Ottolangui [who came on the ship " John & Lucy" at the age of 20 to Melbourne in 1858 from London seeking a new life] . Fortunately, I mentioned this to Beverley Davis [Australian Jewish Historical Society of Victoria] and via her network, she prepared 6 pages of family trees in 1984.

Then in late 1999 Howard Hoffman and Bobbie Dunn of USA and Bryan Langley - Israel, created the Family website www.ottolenghi.org and it has created much interest.

Shortly after the site launch, Howard Hoffman contacted me and since then, many family members have come to meet their cyber cousins.

This get together was a cyber "spin off", so was the discovery of Italian roots compared to once thought Spanish/Portuguese origin. Family members still live in Italy today.

The founders, may be in jest, have suggested a future world wide family re-union in Italy.

David Sonenberg (Melbourne)
sonky@bigpond.com

From the Australian Jewish Genealogy Discussion Group

The National Library of Australia has produced a select bibliography of material in the National Library of Australia relating to Jewish life in Australia. It can be accessed at:
http://www.nla.gov.au/guides/jewishlife.html
As well, the Archive of Australian Judaica at the University of Sydney can be found at

http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/judaica/
Jeremy Hodes
Cairns, Australia
jeremy.hodes@detir.qld.gov.au

Additional Hamburg Passengers on list online

From: JRI-Poland" <jri-pl@lyris.jewishgen.org>

I thought that those of you who had ancestors who left Europe via Hamburg might want to know that the list of Hamburg passengers has been expanded. In addition to the list for 1890, the list of those who left via Hamburg in 1891 has now been completed and there are partial lists for 1892, 1893 and 1894.
Good luck in your searches.

"http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm">Hamburg passengers</A> or go to:
http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/start.htm
Barbara Adelman Seidman
BARBARU@aol.com

Australian Databases

Dear Editor,
I have the new Family Tree of the Jewish People 2000. I also have the following CD roms :

Pioneers Index	Victoria 1836-1888
Federation Index	Victoria 1889 - 1901
Edwardian Index	Victoria 1902 - 1913
Great War Index	Victoria 1914 - 1920
Inquest Index	Victoria 1840 -1985
Death Index	Sth Australia1842 -1915
Pioneers Index	Queensland 1829 - 1889
Death Index	Victoria1921 -1985

Should you or any member of the Society wish to borrow any of these, you are more than welcome.
Henry Leighton
seadog@alphalink.com.au

(Ed.Thank you Henry, for this generous offer.)

Have you subscribed to the Australian Jewish Genealogy Discussion Group ?

Yes, it is FREE!

Gary Luke of Sydney formed this group last year to allow exchange of hints, access to records interstate, assist overseas researchers and so on.
For information:
http://www.zeta.org.au/~feraltek/genealogy/
or send a blank e-mail to:
AJGen-subscribe@listbot.com

GENEALOGY INSTITUTE OPENS AT CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY IN NEW YORK CITY

All JGS members are welcome to visit, write, or call the new Center for Jewish History Genealogy Institute, located in New York City. The Center for Jewish History embodies the unique partnership of five major institutions of Jewish scholarship, history and art: American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

The Center serves the worldwide academic and general communities with combined holdings of approximately 100 million archival documents, a half million books, and thousands of photographs, artifacts, paintings and textiles-the largest repository documenting the Jewish experience outside of Israel.

The five partner institutions have always served individuals interested in exploring their "roots." Now together at the Center for Jewish History, they are working with the Jewish genealogy community to serve family history researchers at every level, and the Center Genealogy Institute (CGI) has been formed to carry out this critical aspect of the Center's mission.

The CGI is developing educational and reference services for family historians, with the long-term goal of helping to integrate knowledge of family history into Jewish life and making it a fundamental part of Jewish literacy. Rachel Fisher, director of the Genealogy Institute, earned a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a dissertation on Jewish genealogy.

A comprehensive collection of genealogy reference works also is being built. (The Genealogy Institute gladly accepts donations of reference books; anyone wishing to donate family histories, photographs and primary documents should contact the appropriate partner institution.)

The collection includes general genealogy reference works, archival directories, archival inventories, translation guides, gazetteers, maps and historical atlases. Many of these works, as well as its complete collection of newsletters from genealogical societies, have been donated by the Jewish Genealogical Society of New York. Dr. Fisher also hopes to add a complete collection of SIG newsletters.

The Center's reading room, adjacent to the Genealogy Institute, holds open stacks with a wealth of reference material, including biographical dictionaries, Holocaust reference works, encyclopedias and printed indexes. In addition, the public computers at the Center offer complete Internet access. Ancestry.com and other electronic resources soon will be accessible from the Center's computers free of charge.

The CGI collection also includes the inventory of Jewish records microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, created by Nancy Goodstein and donated to the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies at the Salt Lake City summer conference. The IAJGS then generously donated the inventory to the Center.

Even more exciting, the Genealogy Institute is administering a microfilm loan agreement with the Family History Library in Salt Lake City-family researchers can order microfilmed vital records and study the films in the up-to-date facilities at the Center. With all these resources, it is virtually impossible to leave the Center without having learned something useful.

Currently, the first group of Genealogy Institute volunteers, a group with diverse and deep family history research experience, is helping to answer inquiries the CGI receives by letter and e-mail and to serve patrons in person. Volunteers also have begun the research for a series of fact sheets on the genealogical resources at the Center, and on the questions most frequently asked by patrons. For example, one day when a researcher comes to the Center to trace a relative who was a WWII refugee, he or she will receive a fact sheet on the refugee assistance organizations whose records are held at YIVO, AJHS, and LBI. All fact sheets are brief and to-the-point, and serve to educate researchers so they can consult the partner reference staff appropriately.

This winter inaugurated the CGI's educational workshops. The Jewish Genealogical Society of New York has moved into an office right next door to the CGI, and there will be many opportunities for creative collaboration.

Contact Information:
Center Genealogy Institute
Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011
(212) 294-8324
GI@cjh.org

LONDON 2001
http://www.jewishgen.org/london2001

21st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy 8-13 July 2001

Styling itself "London2001", the 21st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy takes place 8-13th July 2001 at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Hyde Park Corner.

With a platform of 150 speakers drawn from all five continents, it is the most ambitious Jewish genealogical event ever to be hosted in Europe, and promises a varied and stimulating programme to suit all-comers, beginner and expert alike.

An exciting schedule of lectures, seminars, panel discussions and beginner workshops will offer a choice of five sessions at any one time. Topics cover most parts of the globe, with special coverage of UK Jewish communities, and day-long seminars on select themes. As an example: "Migration and Transmigration" or "Genetics and Genealogy". Archivists from Eastern and Western Europe will be available for personal consultations, as will staffed resource and computer rooms for on-the-spot research with help at hand.

There will be guided tours to London's major resources - the archives, the libraries, the museums, the linchpins of genealogical research, and tours to places of Jewish interest and to favourite tourist sites for non-participating partners or anyone suffering a surfeit of genealogy. Post-Conference add-on tours to a variety of European destinations linked to Conference topics are being organised by ShtetlSchleppers of the US, or there are opportunities for delegates to visit London's many attractions.
For anyone wishing to stay at the Conference hotel there are advantageous rates at less than half the normal seasonal rate.

For a full list of speakers and a registration form please visit our Website.

<Info.london2001@talk21.com>

Sally Roter

TORONTO CONFERENCE - 2002

It is with great pleasure that the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) announces that it has completed contractual arrangements to hold the 22nd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in downtown Toronto, August 4-9, 2002.

With approximately 200 members, the JGS of Toronto is one of seven Jewish Genealogical Societies in Canada and is part of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and its over 60 member organisations.

Metropolitan Toronto with over 4.0 million people in the metropolitan area and vicinity, Toronto is one of the truly great convention cities in the world.

Arrangements are already underway to make major attractions available to Conference participants. Special travel packages and tour are being negotiated with airlines and tour operators. The JGS of Toronto expects to announce a number of major sponsorship arrangements with significant benefits to Conference attendees.

The Robarts Library of the University of Toronto contains one of the largest collections of Yizkor books, maps and other useful genealogical resources in North America. The Toronto Reference Library and the Toronto JGS's collection at the North York Branch of the Library will all be available during the Conference. Plans are underway to make available the significant resources of the Canadian National Archives of interest to genealogists.

As the only international conference dedicated solely to Jewish genealogy and the only conference supported by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and its member organisations, Toronto 2002 will be place to be and share with Jewish genealogists from around the world. Toronto's large, diverse and vibrant Jewish community is planning to be actively involved in and support the efforts of Conference attendees. A number of major announcements and surprises will be released after the upcoming London 2001 Conference.
Gert Rogers, Conference Chair

From: "JRI-Poland" <jri-pl@lyris.jewishgen.org>

Attention Lublin Researchers

The Jewish Records Indexing Poland - Project is proud to announce that 902 new records for Lublin (city) marriages for the period of 1876-1885 have just been added to the JRI-Poland database. These marriages include brides AND grooms and very importantly... they list the parents of the wedding couple! As avid researchers, you know that this is extraordinary good fortune for us genealogists! (It also means that these records were more expensive to computerize!)

Many of the 47,000 records in the JRI-Poland database for the city of Lublin include Jews who actually lived in the surrounding towns, so if your family came from the Lublin Area and not the town of Lublin itself... be sure to check the records... and when you find valuable data in these records... please give generously to this important project!

There are another 12,176 Lublin records ready to be added... except that they cannot and will not be added until we raise the funds to pay for them!

Lublin is the first of the 80 towns represented in the Lublin Branch of the PSA to be computerized. Lublin is the most ambitious project of the 80 towns, and we estimate that it will cost $7,500 US to accomplish this task. To date, we have raised $3440... Donations of any size are appreciated, but contributors of $100 or more will receive an EXCEL-spreadsheet of the data for their own personal use as soon as it is available.

If you have not contributed to this project, please consider a donation now, and if you have already given, please consider making an additional contribution! All donations should be mailed to:
Jewish Records Indexing - Poland
c/o Sheila Salo, Treasurer
5607 Greenleaf Road, Cheverly, MD 20785 USA

Contributions can only be accepted in US Dollars unless you use a VISA credit card. Your VISA will be charged in your local currency; however, please identify the amount of the contribution in US Dollars.
Print out the form at: http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/visa.htm by clicking on the VISA Card and fax or mail it to Sheila.
Please write to me with any questions you may have regarding Lublin or this project.

Robinn Magid
Kensington, California
Lublin Archives Project Coordinator
Jewish Records Indexing - Poland Project
RobinnM@aol.com

Announcing! Lodz Street Names Project

A New JewishGen Research Division Project!

Before World War II, the city of Lodz had the second largest Jewish population of any city in Europe - over 200,000 - and the Lodz ghetto was the second largest Polish ghetto in existence. Many of us with roots in Lodz, or with family incarcerated in the Lodz ghetto from many surrounding areas, are now able to trace the addresses where our ancestors once lived.

This has been made possible through the extensive business directories or ghetto records now available, or perhaps through your own family records. Over the past century, many of the street names in Lodz have changed at least once, if not up to five times. We now have the opportunity to purchase an index of all the street name changes in Lodz over the past 86 years!

What is the Lodz Street Name Index?

The Lodz Street Name Index was created by a noted professional researcher living in Lodz. The index includes more than 550 Lodz streets and the changes in their names at six points in time: 1913, 1925, 1933, 1939 (including the Lodz ghetto), 1945 and 1989 (after the fall of Communism).

For example, perhaps you found your family's business address on "Aleksandrowska Street" in 1929. The index will tell you that street is known today as "Limanowskiego Street." If you are tracing someone who lived in the Lodz ghetto on "Baluter Ring," the index will tell you that street is now known as "Rynek Balucki." See a sample of the street name index at: http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Lodz/street.htm

The Lodz Street Name Index will be available online at the JewishGen web site once funding for this project is completed. How do I contribute? The budget for this important project is US $800. This is a bargain, considering the amount of information that will become available. If you would like to see this index become available to you and other researchers, please consider a donation today. To make a donation, access: http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGenerosity/Research.html
Regards,
Shirley Rotbein Flaum
Email: Seflaum@aol.com

Visit the JRI-Poland web site at
http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/

January issue of AVOTAYNU: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy, now at Makor Library

The Winter issue of AVOTAYNU, an over- sized 92-page issue, is our annual human interest issue which includes a number of articles about personal experiences of genealogical research.

My favorite human interest article is by Carol Baird, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, who returned to the German town where her grandmother was born at the invitation of the citizens of the town. The story includes a picture of her renewing her wedding vows in the synagogue where her grandparents were married.

Another Holocaust-related article describes how a British Jewish genealogist was able to determine that not all of his Belgian relatives were murdered in the Holocaust; one 8-year- old cousin was hidden and survived. How he was able to rapidly find his cousin, now living in Canada, is a tribute to the networking that exists today within the Jewish genealogical community.

When AVOTAYNU editor Sallyann Amdur Sack attended a conference in Israel last year, she was invited by the director of the International Tracing Service in Arolsen, Germany, to visit its facilities. ITS is the principal repository of Holocaust records about individuals--both victims and survivors. When she was invited to speak last October in Hamburg, Germany, at a conference that recognized the city's major role as a European port of emigration, she took the opportunity to visit the ITS facilities. She reports in this issue of AVOTAYNU about both the Hamburg symposium and the ITS visit.

Under the banner "Salt Lake City Success Syndrome" a number of people who attended the annual conference last year held in Salt Lake City describe how records at the Family History Library led to breakthroughs in their research.

Gary Mokotoff, Editor
To subscribe to AVOTAYNU, go to
http://www.avotaynu.com/journal.htm.

This latest issue of Avotaynu contains a short article by Lionel Sharpe [AJGS (Vic) Secretary],

'An Old Photograph Gives Up Its Secrets'. It outlines how he discovered that an unknown family group photograph which was sent to his great-grandmother in Melbourne from Prussia in the 19th century, was the family of a Canadian Jew living in Toronto.

From : **Nu? What's New? News About Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu, Vol. 2, No. 2 - January 28, 2001**
To be added or removed from this mailing list, go on the Internet to http://www.incor.com/avotaynu.htm

Pushing Back the Brick Wall

Jewish genealogists with Eastern European ancestry hit a brick wall in tracing their roots at about the year 1800 for two reasons:

(1) prior to that date Jews did not have hereditary surnames; therefore, if there are any records of that time, ancestors are identified only by their given names and perhaps their patronymics; and

(2) for many years the evidence was that there were few records prior to 1800 that identified Jews by name.

With the increased sophistication of Jewish genealogical research, this brick wall is being pushed back at least a century. Because Eastern European Jews historically name their children after deceased ancestors, a number of more advanced researchers have been able to analyze 18th-century documents and identify their family based solely on given names.
(See *"Tackling the Lack of Surnames in18th-Century Russian Records"* by Len Yodaiken in the Fall 1999 issue of AVOTAYNU.)

The Fall 2000 issue of AVOTAYNU addressed the second obstacle, lack of documents, by noting that Polish nobility records contain information about the population on their lands, including Jews. (See *"Can Jewish Genealogists Successfully Research 18th-Century Poland?"* by Sallyann Amdur Sack).

The region covered is Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania which today comprises portions of Belarus, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine. Researchers should first determine which nobleman owned his/her ancestor's town and then find out where the private archives is now located. There is a good chance that these records will include censuses and lists of Jews who lived on the noble's lands and in his towns.

To assist in the research, Avotaynu has published on the Internet all known holdings of the private archives of Polish magnates at:
http://www.avotaynu.com/magnates.htm.

For example, if your ancestors lived under the rule of the Mierzejewski family, their private archives is at the Academy of Sciences in Vilnius. The Sambirs'kyi family archives is at the State Historical Archive in Kiev. One researcher found censuses in the Czartoryski family archives in Krakow that included entries on the Ba'al Shem Tov (1700-1760), the founder of Hassidism, in the Besht's hometown of Medzhibozh!

More from Avotaynu's on-line newsletters

Milestones in Jewish Genealogical Research

Nu ? What's Nu ? now has more than 4,500 subscribers. "Nu?" is rapidly becoming the most popular subscribed list in Jewish genealogy. Our intent is to provide fresh news in summary form; we do not plan to include articles in this e-zine. If additional information is available, rather than incorporate it into "Nu?", we will point to an Internet site or some past issue of AVOTAYNU that has the information.

The **JewishGen Family Finder** now exceeds 50,000 contributors and is approaching **250,000 records**. JGFF is a listing of ancestral surnames and towns being researched by Jewish genealogists throughout the world. Its purpose is to identify other genealogists researching a surname and/or town of interest to the inquirer.

About 60% of the entries represent the five most common ancestral countries of Jewish genealogists: Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Germany. Another 12% of the entries are for towns in the U.S. Possibly the most popular database at JewishGen, **JGFF has some 100,000 searches per month**. There have been secondary uses for the information.

A child survivor of the Holocaust, knowing he had distant relatives somewhere in the world, used it to locate his family. His family was my wife's family and further genealogical research demonstrated he was my wife's second cousin. His grandfather was a heretofore unknown brother of my wife's grandfather. JGFF is located at **http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff.**

Ancestry.com now has more than one billion searchable records at its Internet site: **http://www.ancestry.com.**
The **one billion records** are divided among approximately 3,000 databases, which include such data as the Social Security Death Index and U.S. Federal Census images. While a number of the site's databases are for paid subscribers only, the site also makes available nearly half of its content free to all site visitors. *Gary Mokotoff (Editor)*

Plans for "Migration from the Russian Empire" on CD-ROM

Genealogy.com will make available an index of Russian immigrants arriving at the port of New York on CD-ROM. It will cover the period 1850-1898 and includes some 461,000 entries. Presently in book form, six volumes of indexes covering the time period 1875-June 1891. That is the good news. The bad news is that the CD will not be available for at least six months due to production commitments at Genealogy.com.

Family History Library Judaica Index Now Available

An index to all known Jewish items at the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake City is now available on the Internet at: http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/fhlc/

A CD version is available from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. Both versions include a full-word search engine that will identify any collection whose description includes the key word(s) being searched. For example, searching with the key words "displaced persons" identified eight record groups at the Library with information about post-Holocaust refugees.

The index was made available in printed form at the 20th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy held in Salt Lake City last summer. Persons who previewed the database were amazed at the number of heretofore unknown Jewish records available at the Library. As an example, there is a book containing an alphabetical list of persons sent to Siberian work camps from Lithuania, 1941-1952. It identifies the I.D. number, name, father's name, birth year, date sent, date released or died, and name of camp to which the person was sent. In the nearly two decades that I have visited the Library, I have noticed only five Yizkor books. They actually have 25 Yizkor books.
Gary Mokotoff (Editor)

Internet access is free. Prior to May 1, 2001, the CD can be purchased for $20 plus $3 S/H in U.S. and Canada - $5 S/H to other countries. After April 30, 2001, the price will be $25 plus S/H. The CD is PC and Mac compatible. When you install the system, it places the entire database on your hard drive so that you do not have to use the CD after installation.
To order, send a check, made payable to IAJGS, to:
Marilyn Natchez, IAJGS
Treasurer; PO Box 251683; West Bloomfield, MI 48325-1683.
You can pay by VISA or MasterCard to Marilyn at the mailing address above or to her e-mail address, MRNatchez@aol.com.

PLEASE NOTE: This CD is now available for research at the Makor Library in South Caulfield.

A NEW JEWISHGEN DATABASE - YIZKOR BOOK NECROLOGY DATABASE

JewishGen is pleased to announce this major new database which indexes the names of persons in the necrologies -- the lists of Holocaust martyrs -- published in the Yizkor Books which have been translated as part of the JewishGen Yizkor Book Translation Project.

The database currently contains over 90,000 entries from the necrologies of 110 different Yizkor Books. Many of these entries are for family groups; therefore the 90,000 entries in this database represent well over 200,000 individuals.

While most of these necrologies have already been available on the JewishGen web site, the JewishGen Yizkor Book Necrology Database allows the surnames to be searched via Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex. Because most of these names were transliterated from Hebrew and Yiddish, the spellings of the surnames may not be as you are used to seeing them in Latin-alphabet sources, so therefore standard internet searches would not find them. The Soundex search capabilities of this new database solves this problem.

The JewishGen Yizkor Book Necrology Database can be found at http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/yizkor The database is an index of names; it directs researchers back to the online translation of the Yizkor Book itself, where more complete information may be available, at:
http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/translations.html

If the necrology in your ancestral town's Yizkor Book is not yet part of this database, please consider transcribing it, and submitting it to the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project, so that it can then be added to this ongoing effort. The Yizkor Book Project's donation procedures can be found at
http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/donation/
As an added bonus, the names from the Necrology Database are also searchable from the respective JewishGen "All Country" databases. For example, the names from the necrologies in Yizkor Books for towns now in Belarus are also searchable via the "All Belarus Database" as well as from the Necrology Database, etc. This is part of JewishGen's ongoing database integration efforts.

The Necrology database was created by a team of volunteers, working under the supervision of Ernie Fine, who extracted the names from the necrologies in the individual Yizkor Books and input them into Excel spreadsheets, which were then imported into the database.

JewishGen would like to thank the Necrology Database Project Manager, Ernie Fine, for his hard work and diligent efforts in making this database a reality. Thanks also go to John Berman, the Yizkor Book Database Manager, for his work in updating the bibliographic database to accommodate the links to the online translations; to Michael Tobias, our database guru, for his magic in constructing this new interface; to Joyce Field, the Yizkor Book Project Manager; and of course to all those who have transliterated and submitted necrologies to the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project. Please visit the new JewishGen Yizkor Book Necrology Database.
http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/yizkor
Warren Blatt, JewishGen Webmaster,
Boston, MA < wblatt@jewishgen.org >

A TRIP TO LITHUANIA AND NEARBY AREAS

Due to the interest expressed, I am organizing another trip to Lithuania - June 28, 2001 to July 8, 2001. You can arrive in London in time for the International Conference. This will be the eighth group trip I have organized and led to Lithuania.

Included - visits to the various Archives, synagogues, ghettos, holocaust sites, meetings with Jewish leaders, sight-seeing, guide/interpreters, and two/three days to visit and spend time in your shtetl, or shtetlach of interest. All meals (except 1 dinner and 2 lunches) are included, the finest hotels (new and modern), modern bus with onboard toilet, and much more. I am very familiar with the Archives, the archivists, Lithuania and the main places of Jewish interest.

I do not organize these group trips as a profit-making endeavor. Everything is done "at cost" but in a deluxe manner. My main object is to encourage Jews to go back to their roots, to encourage them to research their ancestors, and to enable them to see the rebirth of Judaism taking place in Lithuania. IMPORTANT: My previous trip participants can be contacted if references are desired.

For details and a full itinerary of the trip, contact Howard Margol,
4430 Mt. Paran Pkwy. NW. Atlanta, GA 30327-3747. Tel. (404) 261-8662.
E-mail <homargol@aol.com>

People Looking for People

The following messages have been received via personal communications, the Australian Genealogy Discussion Group and Jewishgen Discussion Group.

MICHAELOVITZ
I am trying to trace Rhoda Michaelovitz of Manchester UK, who as a teenager emigrated to Australia in the 1950's.
John Rothwell
<stephenrothwell@wernethavenue.freeserve.co.uk>

BETTER
I am wondering if anyone knows of a man by the name of Eric Better from Melbourne. His name appeared in a JewishGen posting dated 1995 that a cousin of mine from Helsinki sent me recently. He is part of the SANDHAUS/ BAND/ HORNUNG families.
Dianne Hornung (Melbourne) dhornung@bigpond.net.au

COLLINS
On behalf of George Sackheim of Chicago, Illinois, USA, I am searching for any children or grandchildren of Dr.Samuel Collins who passed away in 1984. Dr. Collins, wife Sarah, passed away in 1988. They resided in Perth, Western Australia.
If these names are familiar, please contact Diane Terry (Adelaide) at jterry@picknowl.com.au

GOLDMAN
I am e-mailing you in the hope that someone may be able to help me find my uncle Avram or Nussam Goldman. I learned about 8 years ago that one of my mother's brothers survived World War 11. This came from a very reliable source who actually was with him when they came back from Russia to Poland to their hometown of Miedzyrezec Podl.

There was a possibility that he (Avram) had gone to France.

In searching the Red Cross records of Arolsen in Israel I came across an entry which I am now pursuing. There was an entry made that a Avram Goldman with his family made an application in 1951 to leave France and asking to go to Australia.

According to my own family research he was either born in Miedzyezec Podl. (this is where the family lived prior to World War 11) or the cities of Mordy of Losice which is not far from each other. He was born between 1896 and 1909 (again not verified). In France an Avram Goldman lived in Paris at 17 Palestine Street.

The family consisted of his sisters, Chana, Henia Ruchla, Golda, Suraliba (who is my mother and brothers Nuske and Hershel. The mother's name was Esteri Gitli Woda Goldman and the father (Swelvco or Zelig) Goldman.
Gert.Rogers@sympatico.ca
Gert Rogers 237 Melita Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6G 2A1

LEWIS
I'm searching for a family named LEWIS that moved from Glasgow, Scotland to Australia some ten years ago or so. I do not know where in Australia they settled.

The familyfather was Steven LEWIS, son of Mark LEWIS (previously LUDZKER) and his wife Sylvia KATZEFF. Steven was probably born in the mid 1940's and died some years after arrival in Australia. Steven had at least one son named Adam LEWIS, that still lives in Australia. Back in Scotland (don't know if they still live there), Steven had two siblings, David and Yvonne.
Adam Katzeff, Malmoe, Sweden
adam.katzeff@mail.bip.net

Descendants of Jews from SZCZUCZYN
I am currently working on a major exhibit on the Jews of Szczuczyn, Poland, that will take place January - April, 2002, then tour other places. It will start at the new Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. We know that "Stuchiners" went to Australia before and after World War II. We have collected over 300 pictures of Szczuczyn (pronounced "Shtutchin") from many countries. We are trying to get the word out in Australia, can you help?

There will also be a book published. It will be about 85% pictures and will give people a good idea of how their ancestors in Poland/Russia lived.
An account by survivors of the Holocaust from Szczuczyn can be found at:

http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/szczuczyn

We are looking for that went to Australia are Golding sisters, Eliazer Keyman and Chaim Sheynberg.

Mike Marvins <marvins@pdq.net>

(Editors note : Descendants of the Golding family have been located in Melbourne and have provided both photos and overseas contacts. Mike is thrilled!)

Jewish Genealogy Month

March 25 - April 23 (Nisan 5761)

Jewish Genealogy Month

Avotaynu has declared the month of Nisan 5761 (March 25 - April 23)--the Passover season--as "Jewish Genealogy Month." In association with this event, we have created a poster that will be distributed to Jewish genealogical societies free of charge for posting in synagogues and other Jewish institutions in their area. Individuals who would like to receive copies of the poster can send $6.00 to cover postage and handling ($11.00 outside North America) to Avotaynu's offices at 155 N. Washington Ave., Bergenfield, NJ 07621.

The poster was created by the graphic artist, Caroline Guillot, of the French Jewish genealogical society, Gen Ami. Its theme is "Bringing Back the Names," reminding us that family history research brings back the long-forgotten names of distant ancestors.

Tracing your family roots is more than finding out who are your ancestors. You must read about Jewish and world history; in the process, you learn much about Jewish customs, Jewish culture, and the Jewish religion. Pursuing genealogy makes you feel much more Jewish. In his book *Will We Have Jewish Grandchildren?* , Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of England, says that the way to combat today's rampant intermarriage and assimilation is to provide our children with a good Jewish education. Doing family history and learning the details of our grandparents' and great-grandparents' lives is one element of that good Jewish education.