

MINUTES

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (VIC)

March 29th 2023, 7.30 pm

Venue: [98 Carlingford St, Caulfield South VIC 3162, Australia](#)

Apologies: Aaron Blicblau, Ian Samuel, Rene Eisner

Present: Allan Jankie, Heshy Adelst, Max Wald, Bernie Kuran, Helen Gardner, Liz James, Rodney Eisfelder, Terry Ashton

Minutes of Last Meeting – January 31st 2023 No issues arising from the last minutes

Issues discussed:

Rodney:

Future meetings/talks-one speaker's meeting planned so far. Helen proposed that Bernie Kingsmith be approached but Liz felt that he might be better suited to speak to the AJHS members.

Helen also suggested her husband, Paul, and Michael Tobias, be approached to see if they would like to speak jointly at a Zoom meeting possibly in early September, perhaps September 3rd or the 10th, before the Yomtovim. The format would probably be two short presentations followed by a Q & A. Helen will pursue this.



It was also suggested that Yefim Kogan's research on Moldova could be presented at a Zoom meeting, during the Winter months.

Terry will contact the Jewish Gen Lithuanian group to see if a Zoom talk can be presented on the recent additions to ALD. Could we also consider getting someone from JRI Poland to do a zoom talk on how to access/use the 1929 Polish Business Directory Project, for our members? (This is a late addition to the minutes which was not mentioned at the meeting-Max has expressed an interest in presenting this)

- the society rooms and future accommodation-thanks to Liz, Rodney, Heshy and Rene for all their efforts re moving and setting up the new rooms. It seems we are 'stuck' until we can find a better landlord or a better location. Can charitable trusts be approached to help with our annual rent?

Allan suggested we should hold off asking for donations and instead look to ask for a bigger amount that would cover us for multiple years so as to not have to keep going back year after year.

- As some of the locks have been damaged, the issue was raised as to whether or not we can put new locks on our doors in the Lamm library? We would also want 2 sets of keys for these locks. Also 1 key should work for all doors.
- It was suggested that we keep 'our eyes open' for a school/shule which might have the space for our items. Could we consider approaching 'Spirit Grow/the Ark/ TBI?' Bernie will also talk to Gary Peer to see if he can help.
- The point was also raised that we were never considered as tenants but rather we were part of the Makor library, so Sam's comments re our 'tenancy status' are a 'fable.' Our presence in the Makor library goes back to about 2010/2011.

- IJGS zoom interviews- Eli Rabinowitz wants to interview Bernie and Rodney on a video interface for the conference

- 'In One Voice' debrief-Overall it was a successful day. There were 4 people on the table, plus Rene. No names or emails were taken; it is possible though that there will be some new members. Quite a few people came to look at the 'name' books. Heshy proposed that we develop an NFC or QR code to open our website and or Facebook

page. Heshy will investigate this and come back to our next meeting with some information. Can we develop a 'showbag' for next year's event?

- Roots Projects debrief-Liz reported that this went very well, though there were a few interesting moments with some students.

Rene:

- Square or Paypal-we are accepting the use of the Square. We could use it for possible donations and memberships.
- website: how to load up DoJR details. Files should go under DoJR
- finance and resource room- now that we are settled in the rooms, Allan suggested sending out a letter to our members explaining that we have moved and why. He also suggested that if any member would like to contribute to our costs, then that would be appreciated. Rene could draft a letter and circulate it to the committee for feedback.

Helen:

- DoJR Report-a database is being worked on. We still need volunteers to help. Helen Stein is working on it as is Kadimah. Helen will approach Bnei Brith.

DoJR REPORT

Evie and I met with Rachel Chrapot from Kadimah and several members of her team on Feb 6th as planned. Kadimah is in the process of reinventing itself and reorganising their catalogue. If we come back in a year, they may have more information to share. It was agreed that Kadimah would supply DoJR with descriptions of records they currently know about, however despite a follow up email and phone call, nothing has been obtained yet. For further follow up.

The next organisations to be approached would be B'nai B'rith and UJEB, both to be contacted by Helen. Once we have some feedback from Kadimah and see what we get and what form it is in, we will consider tackling more than one organisation at a time, with different organisations at different stages in the process.

Once we have visited about 5 organisations, we expect to know enough about useful ways of approaching organisations and any difficulties and issues raised. We could then begin work on a training program for the small list of volunteers who have expressed interest in helping with interviews.

Helen Stein in the US is working on a small data base we could use to keep track of people and organisations as they move through the process.

A few issues pertaining to digitisation have been raised with Marlis, to be discussed at our meeting on Friday 17th March

Terry:

- rescheduling morning/afternoon tea for Bubbles-it was decided to acknowledge Bubbles' contribution at our next speaker's talk on 28-5-23. There will be some additional food.

Heshy:

- Facebook-we continue to attract new people to FB. The Roots Project garnered a lot of attention

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

SPEAKER	DATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marvin Bude is happy to speak to the society about his Genealogical research at the Glen Eira Town Hall 	28-5-2023

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- We wish Rene a full and speedy recovery
- Allan's half-brother is visiting for Pesach and on April 26th, the ABC is presenting a feature on the brothers on 'The 7/30 report' as well as on 'Traces.' It was suggested that the programs should be mentioned on our FB page as well as emailing our members.
- GedMatch-Allan and Bernie are 4th cousins!
- Helen-Bernadette Pollack, a friend of Helen's, accidentally joined AJGS (NSW) as a member. She wants to be 'with us'. Can the money be returned to her as she would prefer to belong to our society?
- Max had a Zoom Meeting with Peter Phillipson, Gary Luke (AJHS), Avram Groll & Nolan Altman, (JewishGen) to discuss MOU regarding all Jewish burials data in Australia, including Rookwood Cemetery, finally appearing on JOWBR. General agreement was reached
- Rodney told us of new members who have joined and Terry has sent them letters of welcome.
- AJHS are paying 50% of our rent for the Lamm library.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 3/5/23 at Bernie's home.

MEETING ENDED AT: 9.20