



The AJGS (Vic) Newsletter, September 2024

Dear members

Welcome to the September newsletter of AJGS (VIC). I hope you enjoyed the June newsletter. Don't forget that if you have any suggestions as to items you would like to see included in future newsletters, please contact Terry Ashton at ajgsvictoria@gmail.com

Who we are

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) Inc (AJGS Vic) is a non-profit society passionate about encouraging and assisting people in researching their Jewish ancestry. We welcome everyone with an interest in this research area, regardless of ethnicity or background, whether you are researching your family history for connections to Jewish heritage or studying this fascinating and important area of history. We provide access to the AJGS (Vic) research library and the expertise of our specialised researchers; we hold regular meetings; provide workshops and events to support members and provide practical assistance for research on such topics as DNA, using JRI Poland and more.

Welcome to new members

AJGS (VIC) extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Kira WHITE

Philip WHITE

My interest in genealogy

BERNIE KURAN, AJGS (VIC) VICE-PRESIDENT

As a first-generation Australian, Bernie had a belief that he would have very little chance of discovering his family's Polish roots beyond the names of his grandparents. The advent of JewishGen and JRI Poland has been invaluable in helping him trace his mother's Polish ancestors back to the late 1700s. His father's line continues to be a work in progress, and this is where he concentrated his current research. Bernie's wife's family tree is huge. His 'journey' has taken him from Jewish convicts in Sydney, early Jewish settlers in Melbourne in the 1840s to the Sephardic community of Amsterdam in the early 1600s and to Jewish London in the 1800s. Recently, he was able to find the connection from Amsterdam back to pre-Inquisition Spain, with branches possibly going back into the first millennium.

Genealogical Updates

- JewishGen is pleased to announce a strengthened partnership between JewishGen, the world's largest digital repository for Jewish family history, and the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA), Israel's largest Jewish Genealogical Society. This collaboration will provide an easy access point for researchers to search

over three million records related to Israel through a single, user-friendly interface, which will alert genealogists when there are potential record matches.

The new integrated search capabilities are accessible via JewishGen's Unified Search (<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/all/>), and directly through IGRA's All Israel Database (<https://www.genealogy.org.il>). This effort is part of an ongoing commitment by both organisations to enhance and expand their Israel-related collections, providing rich and diverse content to the broader worldwide Jewish genealogical community.

- The Genealogical Society of Queensland Bookshop has recently restocked their supply of "My Family History, A ten generation family research record book with pedigree charts." It is available for purchase through their website bookshop with single copies at \$30 each. They also stock individual Pedigree Charts at \$9.90. You can contact them at shop@gsq.org.au

The advertisement features a red header with the logo of the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc. (GSQ) and the text "GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc. Enriching family history". Below this, the text "NEW STOCK NOW AVAILABLE" is written in large, bold, red letters. The main title "MY FAMILY HISTORY" is in orange, followed by the subtitle "A TEN GENERATION FAMILY RESEARCH RECORD BOOK WITH PEDIGREE CHARTS" in black. A red box contains the text "Easy to Use- Pedigree Charts & Book Fully Cross Referenced". A green box states "\$30.00 IN THE BOOKSHOP". The bottom of the ad shows a stack of books, a globe, and a red footer with the website "WWW.GSQ.ORG.AU".

- JewishGen Press is proud to announce the publication of their 193rd title: **What's in a Name? A Young Person's Jewish Genealogy Workbook**

Details: Second edition; 8.5"x11", softcover, 154 pages

Authors: Stephen M. Cohen and Caryn Alter

Layout and cover design: Stephen M. Cohen and Caryn Alter

This workbook will serve as a springboard for teenagers starting their Jewish genealogy journeys. The book's chapters will take junior genealogists back in time and across the globe while highlighting valuable clues found in documents, family stories, gravestones, naming customs, languages, and even traditional Jewish foods. Genealogical information can be recorded on the book's worksheets, making the book a priceless family keepsake when completed. The book, richly illustrated with images of documents and historical treasures, also provides an Appendix with useful websites and vocabulary words.

For young genealogists, just getting started can be overwhelming. As a student text, the format is easily digestible for students. It is a comprehensive tool that includes strategies and historical information for researching Jewish roots. For more information on how to order, please visit [JewishGen Press - What's in a Name](#). To see all JewishGen Press Publications, please visit [JewishGen Press Publications](#)



July 2024, Tamuz - Av 5784

Dear JewishGen Community:

Tisha B'Av will soon be upon us. In this poignant moment we have included excerpts from three Yizkor books that open an historical window onto this day of mourning. Look for **Tisha B'Av** in the Newsletter's **Features** section below.

Ann Rabinowitz, in this month's **Musings Feature**, *Jankel's Shtetl Station*, provides links to websites that have replica shtetls.

JewishGen provides a variety of educational courses. One of them, titled *Immigration Study Group*, was the inspiration for course participant Jay Gordon to write a JewishGen piece, *Esther's Journey*, about how his ancestor travelled to, and settled into, her adopted homeland. Jay's essay can be found in the Newsletter's **Features** section.

A second education course we focus on is the intermediate DNA course, *Analysing Your Genetic Genealogy Results*, taught by Dr. Lawrence Fagan, PhD.

The JewishGen Press announces the publication of two books — *An American Tale*, and *What's in a Name?* — its 192nd and 193rd in its publication series. Do look over the description of these two books; you may find them worthwhile reading.

There are several new databases prepared by JOWBR, and by the Latvia, Romania, and Ukraine Research Divisions. These new data sources may be the open gate to new family discoveries. JOWBR has acquired Jewish Military records that need to be transcribed. Any Volunteers?

Romania, in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has obtained emigration records.

Latvia and Ukraine Research Divisions have continued in expanding their databases; Latvia has new material on Internal Passports; and Ukraine has added vital records — 100,000 — consistent with its previous monthly productions.

The Museum of Jewish Heritage is currently showing an exhibit—*Courage to Act: Rescue in Denmark*—telling the history of courageous Danish citizens defying the Nazis by safely transporting its Jewish citizens to Sweden just as the Germans were about to deport them to the camps.

Lance Ackerfeld, the Director of Special Projects for Yizkor Books, reports that six Yizkor book translations have been **completed**, and that twenty-four other projects' translations have advanced toward completion.

FEATURES



Musings of a Jewish Genealogist: Jankel's Shtetl Station by Ann Rabinowitz

Ann tells us about replicas of shtetls, one located at Kfar Hassidim, in Israel, and the other is an exhibit in the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, in Warsaw. [Read More](#)



Praying in a synagogue on Tisha B'Av

Yizkor Book Spotlight: Tisha B'Av by Bruce Drake

As **Tisha B'Av** approaches, Bruce Drake offers three vignettes of how this sad day is mourned in three shtetls [Read More](#)



Guest Essay: *Esther's Journey*
by Jay Gordon

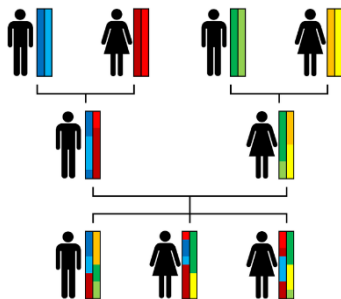
Jay Gordon participated in one of JewishGen's Education courses — *Immigration Study Group*. As part of that experience, he wrote an essay based on the methods and sources that he learned during the course. [Read More](#)

PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Museum of Jewish Heritage
Courage to Act: Rescue in Denmark
by Sophia Swettenham
Marketing & Communications Coordinator

The museum has an interesting exhibit focusing on the rescue of Danish Jews by Danish citizens, in defiance of the Nazi attempt to deport Jews to the camps. [Read More](#)



Analysing Your Genetic Genealogy Results
by Lawrence Fagan, PhD

In his intermediate DNA course, Dr. Fagan continues to teach us about DNA and genealogy. [Read More](#)



JOWBR
Jewish Military Record Transcription Project
by Eric Feinstein

JOWBR has accumulated a large cadre of military projects and they are seeking a new group of volunteers to help transcribe them.

[Read More](#)

JEWISHGEN RESEARCH DIVISION & PROJECT UPDATES



Latvia & Estonia Research Division Internal Passports & Birth records by Arlene Beare, Co-Director Latvia & Estonia Research Division

A valuable resource, many Internal Passports and Internal Passport Issuance Books have been added to the JewishGen Latvia Database.

[Read More](#)



Romania Research Division Emigration Lists, 1947 - 1948 & Vital Records by Michael Moritz, Director

Thanks to a new partnership with the **Archives of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, the Romanian RD has been able to index many emigration lists. [Read More](#)



Ukraine Research Division More than 100,000 Records Added by Phyllis Berenson, Director

The Ukraine Research Division continues to upload thousands of vital and census records for Ukrainian shtetls. The Ukraine RD has a new comprehensive spreadsheet cataloguing the records that have been uploaded since this project began. [Read More](#)



Yizkor Book Project Summary July 2024 Updates by Lance Ackerfeld, Director of Special Projects Yizkor Books

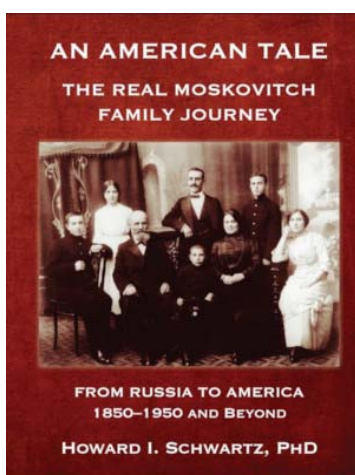
The Yizkor Book Project creates a continuous memorial to the Holocaust, to our communities, and to our people who were annihilated during that time. The many books that

have been translated into English and other languages provides unique information about our ancestors and their lives before World War Two.

July saw the completion of six translation projects. In addition, translation progress has been made for twenty-four existing projects.

[Read More](#)

JEWISHGEN PRESS



An American Tale by Howard I. Schwartz, PhD

Unearthing the lost story of his maternal family, the author, a historian by training, discovers the amazing journey his mother's family undertook from Tsarist Russia to America. [Read More](#)

Upcoming Events-please add these to your diaries:

Sunday, August 25th 2024, 2.30-4.30 p.m, Glen Eira Town Hall

AJGS will help with your genealogical research. Come with your questions/brick walls etc. and let us try and solve your genealogical queries. Please remember to bring your laptops/IPads etc. This event is free for all attendees.

September 8th, Zoom event, 7.30 p.m. AEST

David Mendoza, is a genealogist living in London & president of the Sephardic Genealogical Society and co-hosts the weekly Sephardic World lectures on Sephardic history and genealogy. Starting at 7.30 p.m., David will speak via Zoom from London on how to research Sephardi ancestors.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82925854409?pwd=csYXjHabgZNn7mgkwY6uaKebdobHIj.1>

Meeting ID: 829 2585 4409

Passcode: 868895

October 27th @ 2.30-4.30 p.m, Glen Eira Town Hall - AJGS' annual AGM

Our AGM will be followed by guest speaker, Erica Cervini discussing the research into her latest book, 'Reading the Silence of my great grandmother: The role of life writing in locating the hidden life of a Jewish woman.'

Erica Cervini teaches media writing at the University of Melbourne and is an award-winning education journalist. She was awarded her PhD on her Jewish family history in 2019 and has written about her research for the *Guardian* and is a regular contributor to *Eureka Street*. She has delivered talks on family history for community groups and delivered papers at Australian Historical Association conferences about Jewish history. The AHA has awarded Erica three prizes for her work. In 2021, she was one of three judges of the Family History ACT (The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra) short story family history award. In 2024, she had a major piece on Victoria's first private reformatory for Protestant girls published in the Public Record Office Victoria's journal, *Provenance*. Please join us for what will be an informative afternoon.

November 24th @ 2.30-4.30 p.m, Glen Eira Town Hall

Terry Ashton will speak about her recent trip to Poland, in search of her Polish ancestors.

December 8th @ 2.30-4.30 p.m, Glen Eira Town Hall

Bubbles Segall will discuss setting up a free family website using Tribal Pages.

The Australasian Conference - Connections 2025

The Australasian Conference - Connections 2025 - will be in Brisbane over four days in March 2025. Hosted by the Genealogical Society of Queensland, the conference combines the 17th Australian Conference on Genealogy and Heraldry and 5th History Queensland State Conference. Visit our website for more details - www.connections2025.org.au

Update on Past Events

Sunday, June 16th 2024, 2.30- 4.30 p.m, Glen Eira Town Hall

- ❖ On June 16th, Max Wald & Allan Jankie discussed the various ways as to how to go about researching Polish records. They outlined the various online resources available for researchers. A question and answer session followed this discussion. It was an interesting meeting and attendees were well engaged with many interesting queries.



- ❖ About 28 participants attended a combined AJHS/AJGS zoom meeting on the 11th of July, led by Jeff Schneider, Web Developer and Collections Specialist of the AJHS. Jeff provided a detailed demonstration on how to access the vast burial, marriage, archival and many other records that the AJHS holds. Here is the link to this talk which is on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Edl5X-6VIQ4>

Resources and Links: To help with your genealogical research, here are some general genealogical sites. Each newsletter, will provide different genealogical resources.

General Sites

Ancestry Family Trees

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/1030/>

Avotaynu surname search

<https://www.avotaynu.com/csi/csi-result.html?page=original>

Billion Graves

<https://billiongraves.com/search>

Cyndi's List – Jewish Genealogy

<https://www.cyndislist.com/jewish/>

Family Search (tree search)

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/tree/name>

Family Tree of the Jewish People

<https://www.jewishgen.org/gedcom>

Find a Grave

<https://www.findagrave.com/>

Genealogy Indexer – old directories, phone books etc

<https://genealogyindexer.org/>

JewishGen Gazetteer

<https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/>

JewishGen Unified Search

<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/all/>

JOWBR – JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Register

<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/>

Kehila Links (Jewish Community Sites)

<https://kehalalinks.jewishgen.org/>

My Heritage Family Trees

<https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-1/myheritage-family-trees>

The Centre for Jewish History – in New York

<https://new.cjh.org/>

Please visit our website at <https://ajgs-vic.org.au/> where past presentations will help with your research.

And A Final Note

- ❖ In mid-September, I leave on an 18 day trip to Poland to discover and learn more about my Polish roots. I will visit Warsaw, Kalisz, Blaszki, Kossaki, Lomza, Lodz, Zdunska Wola and Krakow. I look forward to sharing my experiences with you in late November. Please see "Upcoming Events."

- ❖ The yomtovim will be here before you know it, so on behalf of the AJGS (VIC) committee, we wish you and your families, a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.

Stay in touch with us via any of the following:

Email: ajgsvictoria@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.ajgs-vic.org.au/>

Facebook: [Australian Jewish Genealogical Society-VIC](#)

Ms Terry Ashton
Honorary Secretary
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