



The AJGS (Vic) Newsletter, March 2025

Dear members

Welcome to the first newsletter of AJGS (VIC) for 2025. I hope you enjoyed the December 2024 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

With the help of our donors, AJGS-(Vic) is keeping the membership fees as before, having not changed for 10 years. Fee renewal notices have been emailed to members.

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, Andrew Gelbart and Martin Artenstein

My interest in genealogy: Heshy Adelst, Committee member

Heshy was born in Melbourne and is a proud husband and father of three children. His family comes from Singapore, Iraq and India, England, Ireland, Poland and Canada, Growing up Heshy would ask his parents, where are all the cousins? The answer was always - overseas in Canada and the USA etc, which sparked a flame in him to find everyone. Heshy has done a lot of research and his family tree goes back to the late 1700s with about 1000 people who are blood-related.

Heshy uses Facebook and various genealogical websites to help with his research and is in the process of making a book on each grandparent and their families.

Heshy has been an AJGS-VIC committee member since 2017, and manages the society's social media content

Genealogical Updates for you to peruse

1. IN ONE VOICE FESTIVAL: March 16th, 2025

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (VIC) will be taking part in the In One Voice Festival, the largest Jewish communal event in the Southern Hemisphere, to be held at Selwyn St, Elsternwick. We look forward to seeing you there.

2. GSQ-Brisbane AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE: March 21st-24th 2025 (see the December 2024 newsletter for details)

February Update - Conference Newsletter, 11 February 2025

We have several things that we would like you to review.

Regrettably we must replace two of our speakers in the Program.

- Anna Shnukal who was scheduled speak at 9:30am on Sunday 23rd March in the East Room and has now been replaced by Fiona Brooker whose topic is “They Came as Crew”.
- In addition, Simon Davies has been unable to travel to Australia from England due to a medical emergency and has been replaced by Jenny Joyce at 2pm on Saturday 22nd March in the Central Room. Jenny’s topic is “Why did they leave”.

GSQ Membership Discount Offer: The Genealogical Society of Queensland is offering a 10% discount on its annual membership for any registered conference attendee who signs up as a member between 20th– 31st March 2025. Details will be in the Conference program.

Emergency Telephone Number: There will be an Emergency Telephone number available in the Conference Office from Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd March. It is: [0429 847 729](tel:0429847729)

Conference Dinner Table allocation: The Conference Committee has asked the Speakers and Ambassadors to agree to allocation around the Conference Dinner venue which is almost fully subscribed. Attendees will be able to choose the table they wish to be seated at by registering at the GSQ Information desk prominently positioned in the Atrium. Table registrations will open at Morning Tea on Friday 21st and close at Afternoon Tea on Saturday 22nd.

Research Day If it is your intention to avail yourself of GSQ’s offer of exclusive research access to conference attendees, please ensure that you advise Kim Davis volunteer@gsq.org.au as soon as possible.



25 Stackpole Street Wishart, QLD 4122
PO Box 1467, Carindale Qld 4152
www.connections2025.org.au
convenor@connections2025.org.au

Brisbane | 21 – 24 March 2025

3. DUNERA: STORIES OF INTERNMENT: on until the 4th of May 2025

A free exhibition at the State Library of NSW on *Dunera: Stories of Internment*, is on display. Please check their website for more information as well as their opening hours.

The State Library of NSW is staging the world's largest exhibition dedicated to a forgotten chapter in Australia's history, with 200 extraordinary artworks, sketchbooks and diaries from inside Australian internment camps. The State Library has spent years collecting artwork and other material related to what is commonly referred to as the 'Dunera', named for the ship that brought more than 2500 boys and men to Australia during the Second World War. These men who had fled Nazi persecution to Britain were suddenly classified as enemy aliens, and sent to camps in Hay, Orange and Tatura.

4. 2025 IAJGS Conference- August 10th -14th 2025

Join the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) and the [Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society](#) August 10th -14th, 2025 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for an exceptional and unique Conference experience!

The conference Theme is "And We Settled Here... The Jewish Journey." For details about the selected themes, download the full list [here](#).

- Journeys to the Midwest and Beyond
- Wide World of Experience
- Citizenship
- Cultural Heritage
- Methodology and Archives
- Tools and Technology
- Starters

The 2025 International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies **Film Festival** will feature over thirty rare and historically significant Jewish-themed films, shorts, and television programs spanning the very first films of the early 20th century to the modern era. Fiction, documentary, and experimental selections represent the breadth and diversity of the Jewish experience cutting across major themes of immigration, the Holocaust, and North American westward expansion. A highlight of the festival will feature a screening of the 4K restoration of Joan Micklin Silver's 1975 [Hester Street](#), celebrating the 50th anniversary of this landmark in feminist and American independent filmmaking. You can watch a [trailer](#) for the movie [here](#). The Festival is being curated by [Steve Carr](#), Director of the Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

We also plan to highlight the renowned [Lincoln Collection](#) at the Allen County Public Library with experts and special programming.

Want more information? There are several options to ask questions and to find out more.

- [Register here](#) for a **Virtual Information Session on Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time.**
- View a [video](#) of our 2025 IAJGS Conference Information Session (31:23)
- Check out the [IAJGS 2025 Conference Discussion Facebook Group](#)
- [Join our mailing list](#) to receive more information.
- Contact info@iajgs2025.org with questions

For questions about this 2025 Conference website, contact webmaster@iajgs2025.org.

5. **New Databases on IGRA's Website**

The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) has added two new databases and updated three others, adding over 18,000 new listings. There are now over 3 million records available in the databases. With each release IGRA provides a variety of records to the collection. In order to release new records quickly, IGRA posts some records in their original form without transliteration. An in-depth description of the release is available at <https://genealogy.org.il/new-databases-released-in-december-2024/>

1849 Petitions to Montefiore from Safed and Tiberius – update 608 listings, University College London

1917-1964 Students at the Alliance Schools in Morocco – update 2,764 listings
Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People at the National Library of Israel

1948-1952 Medical Practitioners – update 3,586 listings
Israel State Archives

1949 War Loan (Milveh Milchamah) Engineers – update 164 listings
Israel State Archives

Name Changes 1972 – update 11,178 names
National Library of Israel, law libraries and offices, and partially on the Internet

Before viewing and searching the databases, please register for free on the IGRA website: <http://genealogy.org.il/> The IGRA databases are now searchable to all registrants. The search results page is also available to all registrants. Additional details regarding most databases are only available to paid IGRA members. Certain exceptions exist due to requests of the specific archives.

6. **Important News For Piotrkow Trybunalski Researchers**

JRI-Poland has recently acquired digital images of all surviving vital records for Piotrków Trybunalski from 1826-1942 from the Łódź and Piotrków branches of the Polish State Archives and commissioned professionals in Poland to extract them into English. The Piotrków Trybunalski database now includes 56,558 fully extracted record entries (note: because of Polish laws protecting personal data, birth entries are only available up to 1923.) This is a dramatic increase on the basic indices which are currently available online.

Because of the huge amount of data in this project, the cost to extract the records was US\$17,800. To meet these costs and enable JRI-Poland to make the data available online, complete with links to available digital images of the original records, the support of all Piotrków Trybunalski researchers, is needed.

If you would like to obtain advance access to the data for your family before it goes online, you are asked to make a minimum Qualifying Contribution of US\$200 & hope you will consider donating more than the minimum to enable JRI-Poland to meet the town target. See: [Town Explorer | JRI-Poland](#). Researchers who previously qualified for the original

Piotrków Trybunalski indexing project can top up their initial donations to reach the minimum Qualifying Contribution level.

As a Qualifying Contributor, you will receive an Excel file with all available 1826-1942 entries for your surnames of interest in the Piotrków Trybunalski records.

Contributions can be made by cheque, bank draft, money order, or credit card – please see <https://tinyurl.com/JRI-Poland-donate-PT>. Please mark your contribution “For the Piotrków Trybunalski Town Fund.”

Please email Naomi at naomi.leon@jri-poland.org for further information, Naomi Leon, JRI-Poland Area Coordinator and Town Leader Piotrków Trybunalski

7. What to Expect from FamilySearch in 2025

Here is a glimpse of some of FamilySearch’s 2025 plans.

More Genealogy Records

FamilySearch has worked with archivists from more than 160 countries to help make genealogical records more accessible online. In 2025, FamilySearch will make significant strides to expand record collections for [France](#), [Germany](#), [Honduras](#), [Italy](#), Palau, and the [Philippines](#).

FamilySearch will continue to publish the millions of [oral genealogies](#) it has gathered by conducting in-person interviews with tribal leaders from 25 African countries. It will also be expanding this effort to other oral genealogy cultures on other continents. FamilySearch uses its tree and search technology to build searchable family tree databases from the oral genealogies gathered, making them searchable online for the first time ever. Users will be able to search by tribe, village, or surname and get instant access to audio recordings and lineages that were captured during the interviews.

FamilySearch Artificial Intelligence

FamilySearch has been busy building its artificial intelligence (AI) technology to read old handwriting in more languages and improve its ability to suggest lineage-linked data from records. All these opportunities will create greater search capabilities and more family discoveries for more FamilySearch patrons worldwide.

Full-text Search

At RootsTech 2024, FamilySearch provided a sneak peek at how its AI is unlocking incredible discoveries hidden in unindexed, handwritten historical records that have never been searchable before now. Leveraging its state-of-the-art AI-powered handwriting recognition technology, FamilySearch can convert an image of historical text into a machine-readable text format that gives patrons the ability to search the full text of a record—before it has been indexed by online volunteers. [FamilySearch Full-text Search](#) will introduce more exciting advancements to the [record search experience](#) in 2025, adding full-text search capability to many more record collections. Interested patrons can test [Full-text Search](#) now in [FamilySearch Labs](#).

FamilySearch Get Involved and Computer-Assisted Indexing

FamilySearch AI will expand computer-assisted indexing algorithms to index more historical genealogical records than ever before—and more quickly. FamilySearch’s [Get Involved](#) web and mobile app will make it easier and even more fun for volunteers to refine the work of the handwriting recognition AI, yielding unprecedented volumes of searchable records and new ancestor discoveries.

More Digital Books

FamilySearch will continue to work with societies and libraries to digitize historical genealogical books accessible for free online in its [Digital Library](#). These digitized publications are full-text searchable and include genealogy books, family histories, local histories, maps, yearbooks, and more. It currently has over 600,000 digitized, searchable books and serials.

Exciting New Tree Features

The [FamilySearch Family Tree](#) will become even more collaborative in 2025 with the fully-launched, time-saving, [Family Groups](#) feature. Patrons will be able to create private groups of living family members who have a FamilySearch account to efficiently share collective family history information—photos, stories, sources, and memories. Group participants won’t have to re-enter their living information to join the collaborative efforts. Patrons’ life’s work and family legacy will then be preserved for future generations

Together by FamilySearch

FamilySearch’s fun new mobile and web app, [Together](#), is the perfect way to capture the most important moments in life and build stronger family connections as families make, share, and remember unforgettable memories together. The content is suitable for all ages, young and old. Patrons can create their life story as they experience it, or later as they find themselves reminiscing. Patrons can also create family groups and invite select family members to help capture impactful life stories, memorable family events, traditions, favourite foods, hobbies, interests, friends, holidays, vacations, and so on. The built-in prompts are generous—remaining relevant throughout different life stages. Download Together by FamilySearch today on Google Play and the App Store.

RootsTech 2025—A World Family Celebration

[RootsTech](#) is FamilySearch’s popular global online family history event that is enhanced by a vibrant in-person experience in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 6–8, 2025. Millions of participants will enjoy hundreds of classes, localized experiences, and interacting with presenters, exhibitors, and other virtual and in-person attendees through an e-chat feature online and in the mobile app.

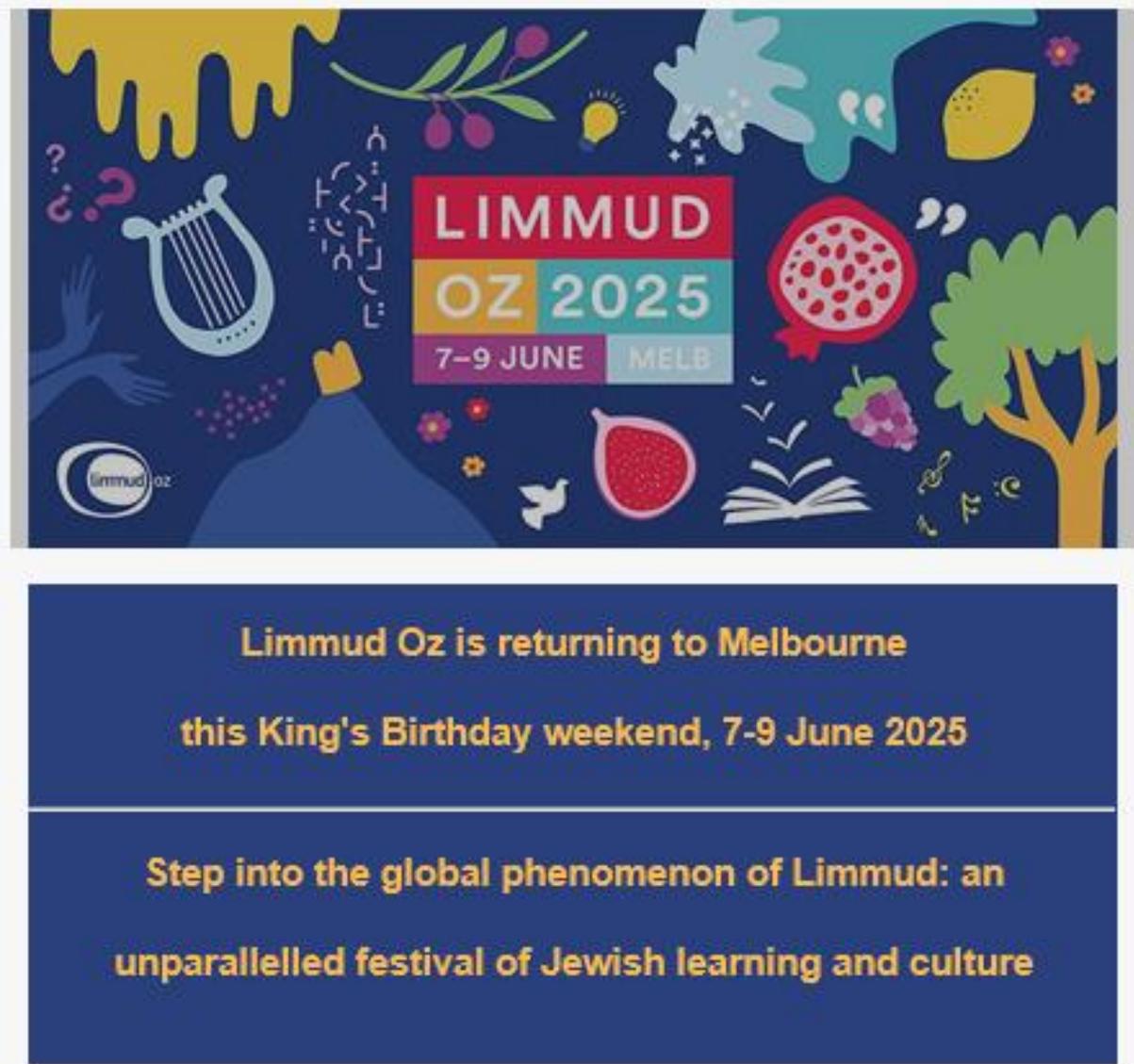
Updates to the website’s search algorithms will take you on a suggested journey of content based on your language and search queries. RootsTech is also a wonderful way to meet new relatives worldwide, make new family discoveries, learn helpful tips for expanding your family tree, explore innovative new products and services, and be inspired by wonderful keynotes and speakers.

The online event is completely free, and the in-person Salt Lake City event is only \$129 for the 3-day event at the Salt Palace Convention Centre, or \$79 for a 1-day pass. Registration is now open, and patrons can begin creating their personal session schedule at RootsTech.org later this month.

FamilySearch Labs

Individuals who love keeping up with the pulse of what's new and upcoming will want to visit FamilySearch Labs regularly. Some of the new experiences and features coming in 2025 are already available in Labs for user testing. Interested users can inquire to be early testers of these experiences to help FamilySearch maximize their effectiveness

8. Save the date for Limmud Oz, 2025



The graphic features a dark blue background with various colorful icons representing Jewish culture and learning, such as a harp, a menorah, a pomegranate, a tree, and an open book. In the center, a red and white banner reads "LIMMUD OZ 2025" and "7-9 JUNE MELB". Below this, a dark blue box contains the text: "Limmud Oz is returning to Melbourne this King's Birthday weekend, 7-9 June 2025". At the bottom, another dark blue box contains the text: "Step into the global phenomenon of Limmud: an unparalleled festival of Jewish learning and culture".

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this King's Birthday weekend, 7-9 June 2025

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9. What's in a Name? -Resource

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A new resource for young genealogists

HOW to decipher what is written on a Jewish headstone is an essential skill for genealogists everywhere.

Stephen M. Cohen and Caryn Alter's book *What's in a Name? A Young Person's Jewish Genealogy Workbook* helps youthful explorers unlock this information and aims to motivate them to learn about their families by investigating "secret codes, history, genetics and science".

Susan Rosin, from JewishGen Press Publications, said, "Knowing our past is a gift we give to future generations, and this workbook will serve as a springboard for teens."

The book's chapters will take young 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.

Eli Rabinowitz, founder of WE ARE HERE! Foundation and former director at International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, said, "This is a much needed and invaluable resource for any student wishing to embark on studying the field of Jewish genealogy and is a must in any educator's library."



Authors Stephen M. Cohen (left) and Caryn Alter (right) with Eli Rabinowitz (centre right).

A copy of the 154-page second edition *What's in a Name* can be ordered online at: jewishaen.org/vizkor/vbio/YBIP/WhatsinAName.html

10. The Wiener Holocaust Library

The Wiener Holocaust Library

Based in London, The Wiener Holocaust Library is one of the world's leading and most extensive archives on the Holocaust, the Nazi era and genocide. The library's unique collection of over one million items includes published and unpublished works, press cuttings, photographs and eyewitness testimonies.

The Wiener is home to hundreds of thousands of documents, letters, photographs, press cuttings, books, pamphlets, periodicals and unpublished manuscripts and memoirs, posters, artworks, and eyewitness testimonies. <https://www.whlcollections.org/index/>

"Wiener Digital Collections enables online access to some of our most important collections, including documents used in evidence at the Nuremberg Trials, the family papers of Jewish refugees, photos taken at the Litzmannstadt Ghetto, JCIO reports, and responses to Nazism and fascism in Germany, Britain and beyond.

The library's founder, Dr Alfred Wiener recognised the Nazi threat early on and campaigned against Nazism in the 1920s and 1930s. After fleeing Germany for Amsterdam in 1933, he founded the Jewish Central Information Office (JCIO) at the request of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Anglo-Jewish Association, collecting information about Nazi persecution. He brought his collection to Britain shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, where it became known as 'Dr Wiener's Library'.

The Wiener Library has announced new digital archive is now live to see: <https://wienerholocaustlibrary.org/>

Upcoming Events, 2025: Please note our change of venue for some talks which will be at the Lamm library. Check the library's website at www.ljla.org.au for details, as some of our presentations will be in conjunction with the Lamm Library.

SPEAKER	DATE
Resources for Genealogical Research in Israel-Ronny Golan will give an overview of genealogical resources in Israel – both online and offline.	March 19, 2025 at 7 PM AEST-Zoom presentation
David Marlow will speak on 'Uncovering Their Names and Stories: 300+ Years of a German-Jewish Family 1697-2024'	May 20 th 2025, 6.30 p.m., Lamm Library

Update on Past Events

February 11th, 2025 - Our first presentation for 2025 was held at the Lamm Library where approximately 40 attendees heard Leon Mann and Danny Mann-Segal speak about how their relatives Moritz and Henny, were saved during the Holocaust and meeting the descendants who saved them.



Resources and Links: The Lamm Jewish Library of Australia has over 46,000 books and includes the collections of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) and the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

To help with your genealogical research, here are some genealogical sites, relevant to the Holocaust.

Arolsen Archives

<https://arolsen-archives.org>

Auschwitz-Birkenau prisoner database

<https://www.auschwitz.org/en/museum/auschwitz-prisoners/>

German Gedenkbuch

<http://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/>

JewishGen's Holocaust Database

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

Melbourne Holocaust Museum

<https://mhm.org.au/>

Theresienstadt Ghetto Database

<https://www.holocaust.cz/en/main-2/>

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)

<https://www.ushmm.org/>

Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names

<https://yvng.yadvashem.org/>

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

And A Final Note

- ❖ Pesach will be here very soon, so on behalf of the AJGS (VIC) committee, we wish you and your families, a happy Pesach.

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
Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (VIC)