

Dear members

Welcome to the second newsletter of AJGS (VIC) for 2025. I hope you enjoyed the March 2025 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 a new committee member

AJGS (VIC) welcomes Yolande McNicoll to the AJGS (VIC) committee.

“Yolande McNicoll is a Melbourne-born historian with experience in research and teaching. She brings techniques from history and languages to her genealogical work.

Yolande has researched her family history since 2012. The family stories told by her grandmother provided a window on her family, who settled at Geelong in 1852.

Yolande's family history research has focussed on Melbourne, Geelong, England, the Channel Islands and Prussian-dominated Poland, with side quests to Cooma, Goulburn, Mildura, New York, Brazil and the Netherlands.

Her current line of enquiry traces ancestors who remained in Europe and their relationship with their Australian family. Yolande would love to identify her eighteenth-century connections to Lviv. She looks forward to the day when she can concentrate on the specific archival and language skills required.”



1. Argentina Releases Trove of Declassified Nazi and Dictatorship Documents

The Buenos Aires Herald reported that on April 29, the Argentinian National Archives (AGN) made available a series of 1,850 declassified documents including information on Nazi criminals in Argentina, previously unseen. This information details pieces of information on prominent Nazi criminals who escaped to Argentina following World War II, including Adolf Eichmann, Erich Priebke and Josef Mengele.

Argentinian President Javier Milei ordered the declassification. This followed a request from the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, a letter from the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Charles Grassley, which "requested the Argentine president's assistance and support with the Committee's ongoing investigation into previously undisclosed and unknown Nazi assets at Credit Suisse and its predecessor banks."

While much of the information had been previously released by former Argentinian President Carlos Menem in 1992, it was only available for viewing in a specially designated room at the AGN. Now, anyone around the world can review the documents digitally.

The documents are available in both Spanish and English at:

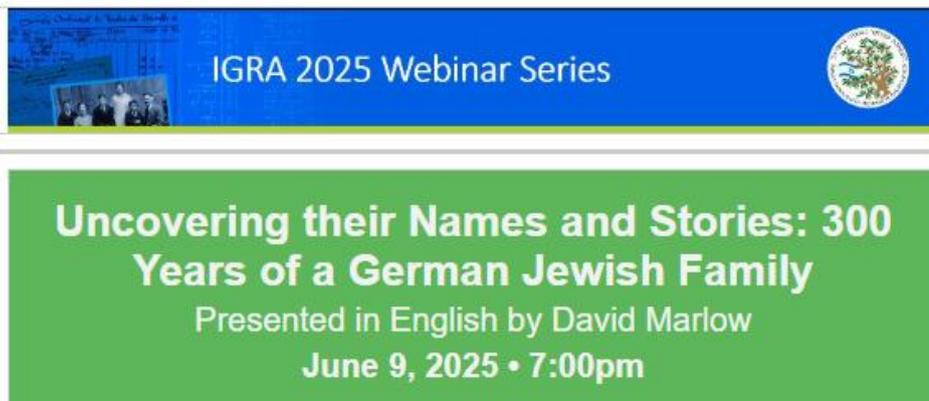
<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/interior/archivo-general-de-la-nacion/documentacion-sobre-el-nazismo>

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

2. Join David Marlow, author of "Uncovering the Names and Stories: 300 Years of a German Jewish Family," presenting his findings via IGRA.

If you missed David's talk at the Lamm Library on May 22nd, here is a chance to hear him.

Please note it is 7. 00 p.m., Israeli time. Log onto <https://genealogy.org.il/videos/webinars/> and note the link to the talk in the left hand side of the screen.



David Marlow's German-Jewish parents arrived in Australia in 1939-1940 as refugees. Growing up, David knew little about their lives in Germany or even the names of some grandparents. Through extensive research, he uncovered over three centuries of German-Jewish ancestral history. David's investigation spanned multiple continents, utilizing online resources and collaborating with dedicated archivists. The research revealed relatives across Israel, USA, The Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Brazil, and Australia. Notable discoveries included twenty relatives who served in the German Army in WWI, one who fought in the American Civil War, and tragically, over 110 relatives murdered in the Holocaust.

The family's story encompasses 300 years of Jewish life in German-speaking lands, touching on Protected Jews, urbanization, assimilation, antisemitism, Kristallnacht, the Kindertransport, deportations, and the Dunera story. The presentation will share valuable research strategies for those exploring German-Jewish ancestry.

About the Speaker:

David Marlow, author of "Uncovering the Names and Stories: 300 Years of a German Jewish Family" (JewishGen Press, May 2025), is the son of German Jewish refugees who escaped Nazi Germany

before the war. Based in Melbourne, Australia, he embarked on extensive family history research after his parents' deaths, traveling across Germany to visit 34 towns and cities where his ancestors lived. His journey encompassed archives, museums, libraries, cemeteries, synagogues, and former ancestral homes.

A prominent Jewish community leader, Marlow served as Executive Director of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria and writes regularly for J-Wire online news service. He holds positions with the Australian Jewish Historical Society Victoria and the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society Victoria, and is a member of the Genealogy Society of Hamburg. His academic background includes an MBA and degrees from the University of Melbourne and Monash University in Economic History, Economics, and Banking and Finance.

3. DOCUMENTATION OF JEWISH RECORDS WORLDWIDE (DOJR)

The project known as the Documentation of Jewish Records Worldwide (DoJR) is run by the L'Dor V'Dor Foundation and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

The Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (Vic) is an affiliate of this global project and over the last few years and with a dedicated team of volunteers, led by Dr Helen Gardner, it has documented over 5,000 records for just Victoria alone. To read more about this project go to <https://thejewishindependent.com.au/this-ambitious-treasure-trove-could-help-us-know-our-ancestors>

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.

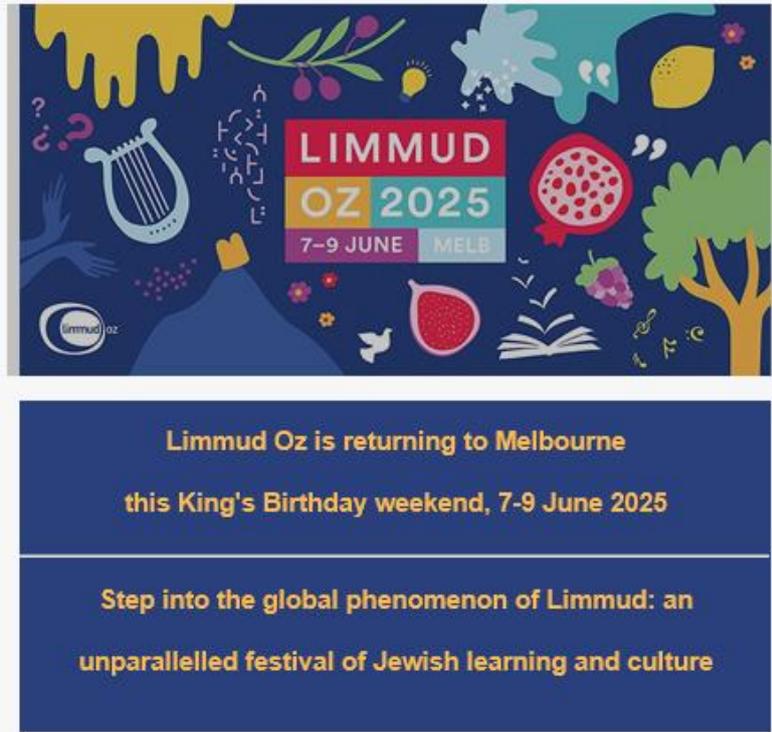
For more information check out the [IAJGS 2025 Conference Discussion Facebook Group](#); [Join our mailing list](#) to receive more information or contact info@iajgs2025.org with questions.

5. IGRA HAS ADDED THREE NEW DATABASES

IGRA has added three new databases and updated three others, adding over 49,712 new listings, many of them with images. With a variety of subjects, from immigration to

military, from the Ottoman period to the Israel times after the British mandate, the following preview will give you a good idea about our latest additions. Find your family records in the [search engine](https://genealogy.org.il/AID/). <https://genealogy.org.il/AID/>
 Before viewing and searching the databases, please register for free on the IGRA website: <http://genealogy.org.il/>

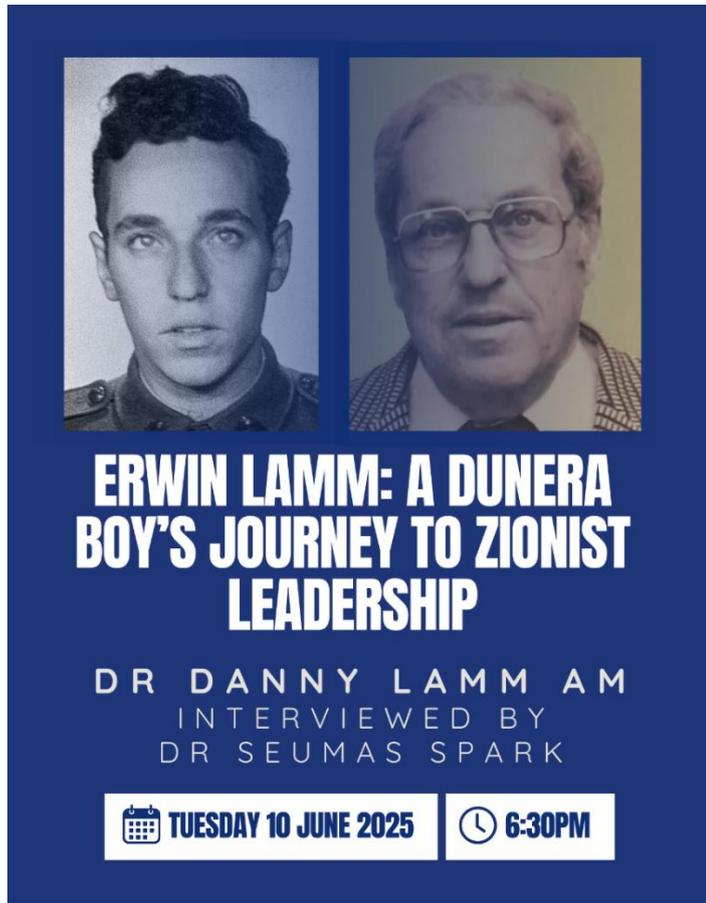
6. Save the date for Limmud Oz, 2025



Upcoming AJGS-VIC Events, 2025:

SPEAKER	DATE
Logan Kleinwaks will speak on the benefits of using Genealogy Indexer. Logan is Jewish Gen's Research Director for Danzig/Gdańsk; a former Board Member of Geshher Galicia and creator of online genealogy research tools such as Genealogy Indexer	<u>Sunday, June 15th 10.00 a.m.</u> (AEST), via Zoom. Zoom details will be emailed to members closer to the date.
Thomas Macentee will speak on "Translating, Transcribing and Summarizing Documents Using AI"	<u>Sunday, 20 July 2025 11:00 am</u> (AEST), via Zoom. Zoom details will be emailed to members closer to the date.
Zvika Oren- will speak on "Tombstones-The Stories They Tell." Zvika is experienced in various areas of genealogy research, such as searching records and deciphering documents and tombstones.	<u>Sunday, August 17th 12.30 p.m.</u> (AEST). via Zoom. Zoom details will be emailed to members closer to the date.

The following non AJGS-VIC talks may of interest to members:



ERWIN LAMM: A DUNERA BOY'S JOURNEY TO ZIONIST LEADERSHIP

DR DANNY LAMM AM
INTERVIEWED BY
DR SEUMAS SPARK

TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2025 6:30PM

Tickets:
<https://www.trybooking.com/DAWJK>



Erwin's talk will be held at the Lamm Library

- 12/6/2025 - "Ferryman, The life and death work of Ephraim Finch" book launch at the Glen Eira Town Hall, 6.30 -8.00 p.m. There is no fee. Book through TryBooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1397421>.

Update on Past Events

David Marlow - 'Uncovering Their Names and Stories: 300+ Years of a German-Jewish Family 1697-2024'

On May the 22nd at the Lamm Library, David Marlow addressed an audience of about 40 attendees, describing his research uncovering over 300 years of his family history back to 1697. He described his research trip visiting 34 towns and cities, 23 cemeteries, 19 synagogues /sites, 18 museum and libraries and 2 concentration camps. This research was collated and completed with the publication this year of his book with over 400 pages published by JewishGen giving detailed maps, photos and chapters with even more details of the resources and contacts he utilized on his journey.



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 Israel:

Central Archives of history of the Jewish People

<https://www.nli.org.il/en/discover/archives/cahjp/communities-list>

Chevra Kadisha

<https://gravez.me/en/>

Encyclopedia of Founders & Builders of Israel (up till 1947)

<https://www.tidhar.tourolib.org/>

Genealogy Indexer Yizkor books

<https://genealogyindexer.org/>

Historical Jewish Press (worldwide)

<https://www.nli.org.il/en/discover/newspapers/jpress>

IGRA-Israel Genealogy Research Assoc

<https://genealogy.org.il/>

Institute for the Study of Professions

<https://www.pac.ac.il/en/>

Israel Film Archives

<https://ifc.org.il/en/>

Israel State Archives- immigration, citizenship

<https://catalog.archives.gov.il/en/>

Izkor -Ministry of Defence Fallen Soldiers

<https://www.izkor.gov.il/en/>

Montefiore Censuses

<https://www.montefioreendowment.org.uk/census-search/>

Mount of Olives

<https://mountofolives.co.il/en/>

National Library of Israel

<https://www.nli.org.il/en/discover/archives>

Trumpeldor

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Trumpeldor_Cemetery

Zionist Archives

<http://www.zionistarchives.org.il/en/>

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

And A Final Note

- ❖ Shavuot will be here very soon, so on behalf of the AJGS (VIC) committee, we wish you and your families, a happy Shavuot and enjoy the blintzes, cheesecakes and other delicious edibles.

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)

