

Dear members

Welcome to the September newsletter of AJGS (VIC). I hope you enjoyed the June 2026 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 membership fees as before, having not changed for 10 years. Fee renewal notices have been emailed and we encourage those who have not yet renewed their memberships to do so at their earliest convenience.

We are anticipating some vacancies for the new 2026-2027 committee and would welcome nominations from members. The AGM will be held on October the 25th 2026 from 2.30-4.00 p.m. at the Glen Eira Town Hall. A copy of the nomination form for this year's AGM can be found on page 6.

After the last committee meeting, and in line with many organisations, it was decided to charge for future zoom presentations, beginning with our presentation in late November 2026. Fees will be \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Please include your membership number when booking and if you don't have your membership number, contact the treasurer at treasurer@ajgs-vic.org.au

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 to 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.

A warm welcome to new members:

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

• Michael Abel • Rose Chester • Ben Cohen • Nigel Meinrath • Sam & Aura Lipski • Sara Liyanage	• Mark Ripper • Corrie Zulicki Sinfuego • Anthea Wynn • Klavdia Vainshtein • Philippe Zimet
---	---



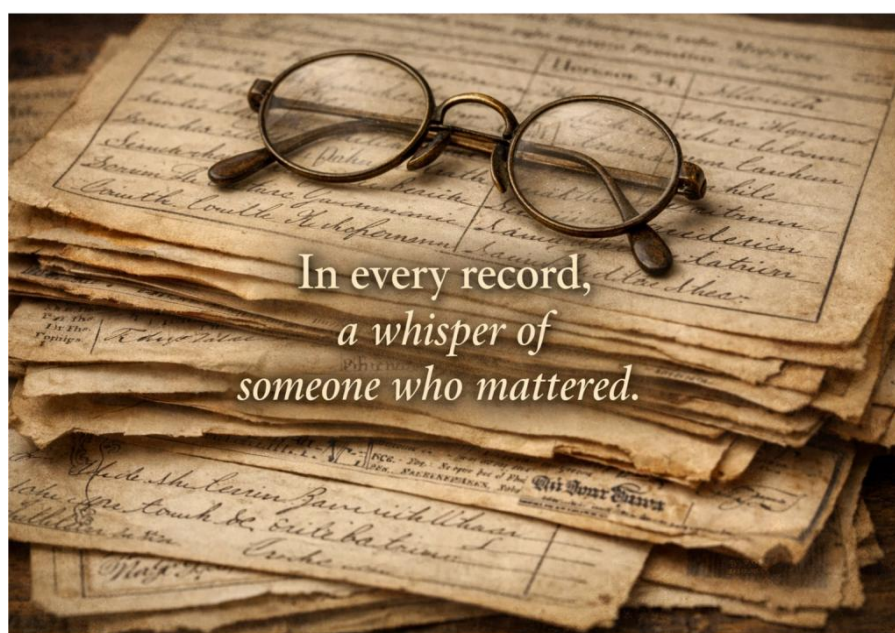


Liz James is a retired teacher-librarian whose interest in Jewish genealogy and history began when she discovered her ancestors came from a connecting network of multiple rabbinical family trees which included and counted amongst the oldest Jewish settlers who lived in Lucca, Italy and then settled in the Rhineland towns of Mainz, Speyer and Worms in Germany and were regarded as the 'fathers of Jewish learning'.

Liz is a committee member of both the Australian Jewish Genealogical (Vic) and Australian Jewish Historical Societies (Vic) and maintains the library collection for both societies.

Liz is also part of a pilot team adding a list of Australian Jewish genealogical resources to a worldwide digital database (DoJR).

Since 2003, Liz has helped hundreds of people solve their family history mysteries and introduced countless children to the joys of genealogical research as part of the School Roots Program making sure they have access to important records kept within the resource collections of both societies. Liz joined the committee of the AJGS VIC in 2005.



Update on Past Events

JUNE 21ST 2026: USING THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

Elise Bath of the Weiner Library, London manages the international tracing service archive and holds a Masters in museum studies, plus a Master of Letters. Elise discussed how to use the International Tracing Service Archives as a resource, explaining how the Wiener Library began pre 1939 and what its role is today. Today, the ITS contains more than 30 million documents.



JULY 19TH 2026: ASK THE GENEALOGISTS

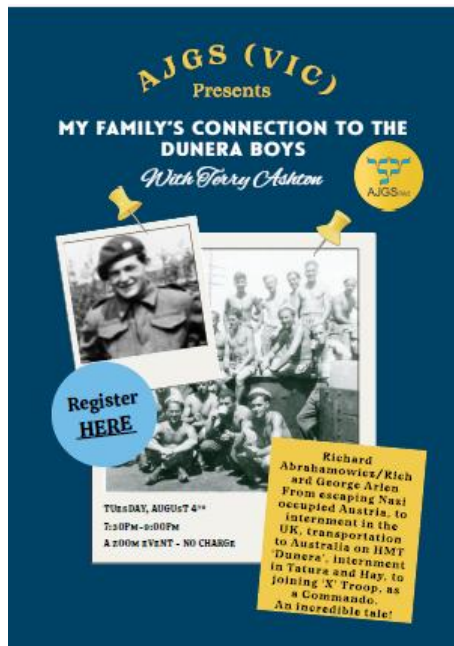
This was an opportunity to help members' genealogical research and for members of the committee to try and solve genealogical queries. A number of attendees who had hit 'brick walls' with their research, were helped. Queries included:

- One member still seeking her half-sister, whose mother saw her just before the war was advised to upload her DNA with companies other than MyHeritage and to contact the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.
- Two members were looking for further information about Poland, particularly Lodz and Bialystok. They were advised to continue their research with JRI and JewishGen.
- Another two people, one with family from Galicia and one with family from Lodz wanted help in finding appropriate sites.
- Other members were looking for family business addresses in Poland; seeking family from Lodz; an uncle who perished in the Holocaust; seeking Irish Sephardi forbears.



AUGUST 4TH, 2026: A FAMILY CONNECTION TO THE DUNERA BOYS

Terry Ashton, AJGS (VIC) Secretary, discussed via zoom, her recent discovery of finding a family connection to the Dunera boys. Richard Abrahamowicz a.k.a. Richard George Arlen, escaped Nazi occupied Austria, fleeing to the UK only to be interned before being shipped to Australia on the infamous HMT 'Dunera.' Richard then found himself interned in Tatura and Hay, before eventually returning to England where he later joined the Jewish 'X' Troop as a Commando and sadly dying on the beaches of Normandy just after the 'D' landing in 1944.



Forthcoming Presentations: Please register at <https://www.trybooking.com/>

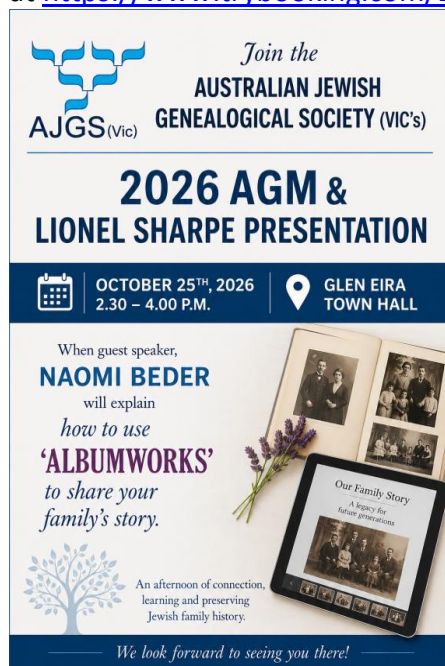
Sunday, September the 6th 202: Introducing Family Infographics with Daniel Horowitz

Join the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (VIC)'s zoom presentation on Sunday, September the 6th, 7.30- 8.50 p.m. with Daniel Horowitz from "My Heritage" speaking on *Introducing Family Infographics*. This is a free event and registration details can be found at <https://www.trybooking.com/DOJMM>



Sunday, October the 25th 2026: 2026 AGM & Lionel Sharpe Presentation

Join the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (VIC) 2026 AGM & Lionel Sharpe Presentation when guest speaker, Naomi Beder will explain how to use 'Albumworks' to share your family's story. This is a free event and registration details can be found at <https://www.trybooking.com/DPKXH>



Join the
**AUSTRALIAN JEWISH
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (VIC's)**

**2026 AGM &
LIONEL SHARPE PRESENTATION**

**OCTOBER 25TH, 2026
2.30 - 4.00 P.M.** **GLEN EIRA
TOWN HALL**

When guest speaker,
NAOMI BEDER
will explain
how to use
'ALBUMWORKS'
to share your
family's story.

An afternoon of connection,
learning and preserving
Jewish family history.

We look forward to seeing you there!

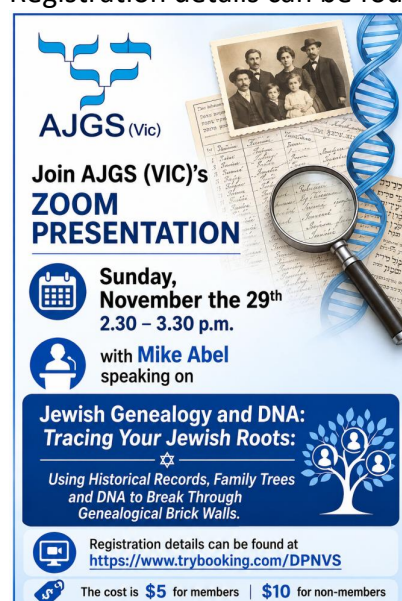
Sunday, November the 29th 2026: Mike Abel speaking on Jewish Genealogy and DNA

Join the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (VIC)'s zoom presentation on Sunday, November the 29th 2.30- 3.30 p.m. with Mike Abel speaking on *Jewish Genealogy and DNA: Tracing Your Jewish Roots: Using Historical Records, Family Trees and DNA to Break Through Genealogical Brick Walls.*

Michael Abel has been researching his family history for more than 30 years, building extensive family trees and connecting with relatives across countries and generations and is the author of *Jewish Genealogy and DNA: Tracing Your Jewish Roots Using Historical Records, Family Trees, DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy.*

The cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Members should include their membership number. If you don't have your number, please contact the treasurer at treasurer@ajgs-vic.org.au

Registration details can be found at <https://www.trybooking.com/DPNVS>



AJGS (Vic)

Join AJGS (VIC)'s
**ZOOM
PRESENTATION**

**Sunday,
November the 29th
2.30 - 3.30 p.m.**

with **Mike Abel**
speaking on

**Jewish Genealogy and DNA:
Tracing Your Jewish Roots:**
★
*Using Historical Records, Family Trees
and DNA to Break Through
Genealogical Brick Walls.*

Registration details can be found at
<https://www.trybooking.com/DPNVS>

The cost is **\$5** for members | **\$10** for non-members



**AUSTRALIAN JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY [Vic]
INC.**

**29th Annual General Meeting on October 25th 2026
Election of Office Bearers and Committee of Management**

NOMINATION FORM

Nominations are being called for the following positions for the Committee of Management:

- President
- Vice President
- Honorary Secretary
- Honorary Treasurer
- Ten ordinary members

Nomination forms should be returned to the Honorary Secretary, Australian Jewish Genealogy Society [Vic], PO Box 2536, Caulfield Junction, 3161 or by email to ajgsvictoria@gmail.com by **October 18th 2026**.

Weand [Print name] [Print name]

[Proposer's signature]

[Seconder's signature]

..... hereby nominate

for the position of _____

I _____ accept this nomination and give my consent to act in the above position.

[Signature of nominee]

Date

The Annual General Meeting will commence at 2.30 p.m. on **October 25th 2026** at the Glen Eira Town Hall

Note: Only financial members are eligible to stand for election and vote at the meeting.

2027 46th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

An Important Update on The Future of Conferences — And Why We're Excited About It



Our community is built on stories. Stories of families who crossed oceans, rebuilt lives, and carried their histories forward against tremendous odds. It's that spirit of resilience, of doing what it takes to keep going, that guides everything we do at IAJGS. And it's that spirit that shapes the news I want to share with you today.

The IAJGS Board has made the decision to reschedule our upcoming conferences:

- **The 2026 Virtual Conference has been moved to April 4–6, 2027**
- **The 2027 In-Person Conference has been moved to 2028**



August 2026

Dear JewishGen Community:

Eighty-three years ago, this past Spring, Warsaw Ghetto Jews rose up against their Nazi oppressors. During the twenty-seven-day fight, a hidden record of the uprising was created by the resistance fighters so the world would learn what happened there.

On September 15th, the *Museum of Jewish Heritage* and the *Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute* in Warsaw will closely examine a new exhibition that memorializes this act of Jewish resistance.

JewishGen's *Discussion Group* is a wonderful resource for genealogists, often containing solutions to genealogical roadblocks that researchers are facing. This publication also provides historical background to genealogically-related events, such as a recent intense discussion of whether "greenhorns" had their family names

"Americanised" upon arrival at Ellis Island (the text of this heated debate can be read on the Discussion Group website (<https://groups.jewishgen.org/g/main>)).

The **Newsletter signup** is in the footer of nearly every page on the JewishGen website. The **Discussion Group option** is in the top menu of the website, under the "Connect" dropdown menu; **pick Discussion Group**.

The *Sub-Carpathia* and the *Ukraine Research Divisions* provide us with updates (96,000 and 100,247 records, respectively) to their current data collection efforts. So, too, does the staff of the *Yizkor Book Project*, led by Lance Ackerfeld, provide us with a progress report on their translation efforts.

Nolan Altman, Director of Data Acquisition, announces that with the current additions, the *JOWBR Burial Registry*, has attained an astounding 7.2 million records.

This month the *JewishGen Press* announces the publication of three memorial books for *Jeziery and its surroundings*; for *Radikhov, Lopatyn and vicinity*; and for *Vitebsk*.

Shanah Tovah!

Richie Baum, Newsletter Editor



Blowing the shofar

Yizkor Book Spotlight: *The Shofar Blower*

The Shofar Blower explores the art and meaning behind the blasts that are heard from the start of Elul through the Rosh Hashanah service.

[Read More](#)

Musings of a Jewish Genealogist

Passport Notation Tidbits by Ann Rabinowitz

I happened upon a passport application which proved to be quite interesting for the information it provided.

[Read More](#)

PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Museum of Jewish Heritage: Will These Words Reach You? The Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Curatorial Talk by Zuzanna Schnepf-Kořacz,
Sara Softness, and Dr. Tamar Rabinowitz

A clandestine group of Jews committed themselves to
recording Jewish life as it unfolded under Nazi
rule. [Read More](#)



JewishGen Press:
Seeking Old Photos
Koprywnica, Poland

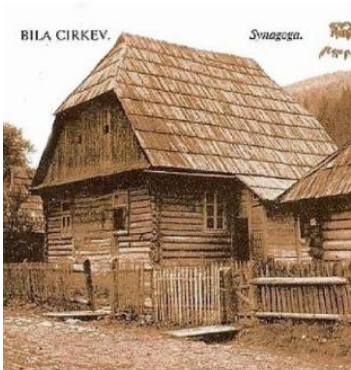
Do you have old family photos from when your
relatives lived in Koprywnica, Poland
(Pokshivnitsa)? Photos are needed to illustrate the
cover of the soon to be published *Memorial Book*
of Koprywnica that gives an idea of Jewish daily life
in Koprywnica (Pokshivnitsa), c.1870-1938. [Read](#)
[More](#)



Museum of Jewish Heritage:
Virtual Programs and Book Talks

Experience a "Virtual Walking Tour of Buenos Aires,
Argentina"; Enjoy virtual Book Talks of *A Promised Land*
and *The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum*. [Read More](#)

JEWISHGEN RESEARCH DIVISION & PROJECT UPDATES



Sub-Carpathia Research Division: August 2026
Update - by Lara Diamond, Director

Over **96,000** records have been added to our *Sub-*
Carpathia Vital Records and *1921 Karpatalja*
Subcarpathia Census collections. [Read More](#)



**Ukraine Research Division:
More Records Added
by Phyllis Berenson, Director**

100,247 historical records added from 1851 - 1917 for Fastov, Ostrov, Vasilkov, Polovets, Litin, Salnitsa, Sinyava, Vinnitsa, Novokonstantinov, Pilyava, Veprik, Odessa, Zhitomir, Trushki, and Mezhirov.

Book Club discussion featuring *The Maiden of Ludmir: A Jewish Holy Woman and Her World* by Nathaniel Deutsch (Author) and Janusz Bardach (Contributor). [Read More](#)



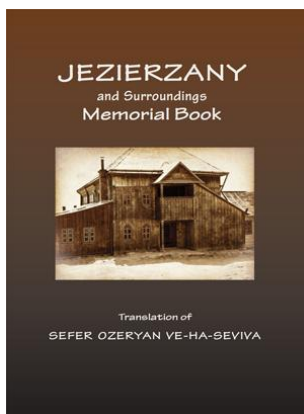
**Yizkor Book Project:
July 2026 Summary
by Lance Ackerfeld,
Director of Special Projects**

During July, we successfully uploaded the final sections of no less than three Yizkor book translation projects. [Read More](#)



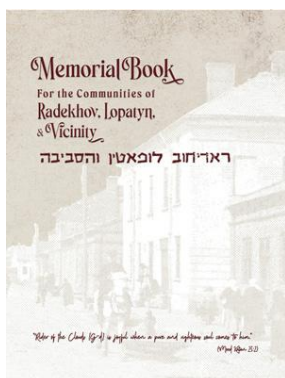
**JOWBR Burial Registry:
More than 7.2 Million Records
by Nolan Altman,
Director of JOWBR Data Acquisition
& Coordinator of Holocaust Database**

The current update adds approximately **214,000** new records and **30,000** new photos, giving us an astounding 7.2 million records. [Read More](#)



Jezierzany and Surroundings Memorial Book
Original Yizkor Book Editor: M. A. Tenenblatt

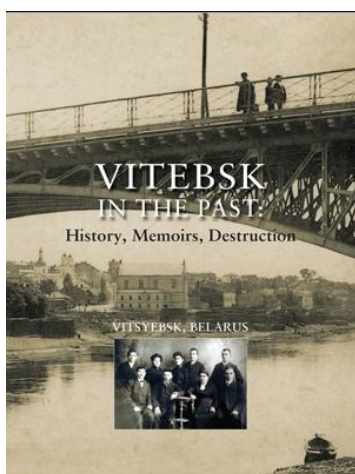
For generations and despite many hardships over its long history, Jezierzany was home to a vibrant Jewish population whose religious, cultural and communal life shaped the character of the town. [Read More](#)



Memorial Book of Radikhov, Lopatyn and Vicinity
Original Yizkor Book Editor: G. Kressel

The weekly fair was the main event in the city. Jewish merchants and shopkeepers brought their wares and Gentiles brought produce from their farms including grain, poultry and eggs.

[Read More](#)



Vitebsk in the Past; History, Memoirs, Destruction
Original Yizkor Book Editors: G. Aronson, J. Lestschinsky, & A. Kihn

Vitebsk, the birthplace of Marc Chagall, appears in many of his paintings, often with the depiction of a fiddler on the roof of a house, but Vitebsk was hardly the shtetl of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

[Read More](#)

Yizkor Book Updates

This past month, 22 existing projects were updated:

- [Babruysk, Belarus](#) (Memorial book of the community of Bobruisk and its surroundings)
- [Będzin, Poland](#) (A Memorial to the Jewish Community of Bendin)
- [Bielsk-Podlaski, Poland](#) (Bielsk-Podliask; Book in the Holy Memory of the Bielsk Podliask Jews Whose Lives Were Taken During the Holocaust Between 1939 and 1944)
- [Grabowiec, Poland](#) (Memorial Book Grabowitz)
- [Grójec, Poland](#) (Grizer Scroll)
- [Indura, Belarus](#) (Amdur, my hometown)
- [Kamen'-Kashirskiy, Ukraine](#) (Kamen Kashirskiy Book)

- [Koło, Poland](#) (Book of Kolo; 500 Years of Yiddish Kolo)
- [Kosiv, Ukraine](#) (Memorial Book of Kosow-Kosow Huculski)
- [Koprzywnica, Poland](#) (Memorial book of Koprzywnica)
- [Lida, Belarus](#) (Book of Lida)
- [Luninyets, Belarus](#) (Memorial book of Luniniec / Kozhanhorodok)
- [Luts'k, Ukraine](#) (Memorial Book of Lutsk)
- [Mińsk Mazowiecki, Poland](#) (Memorial Book in Memory of the destroyed Jewish Community of Minsk-Mazowiecki) [French]
- [Mir, Belarus](#) (Mir Memorial Book)
- [Otaci, Moldova](#) (Memorial for Ataky: A Memorial Book for a Jewish Community in Bessarabia)
- [Różan, Poland](#) (Rozhan Memorial Book)
- [Skierniewice, Poland](#) (The Book of Skierniewice)
- [Strzegowo, Poland](#) (Memorial Book of Strzegowo)
- [Terebovlya, Ukraine](#) (Jewish Communities of Trembowla, Strusow, Janow and Vicinity)
- [Wadowice, Poland](#) (Memorial Book of the Communities Wadowice, Andrychow, Kalwarja, Myslenice, Sucha)
- [Zabłudów, Poland](#) (Zabludow Yizkor Book)
- **New Book** [Białystok, Poland](#) (yizkor - A Remembrance Book of Jewish Białystok) [Polish]

Lance Ackerfeld, Director of Special Projects - Yizkor Books, JewishGen.org/lackerfeld@jewishgen.org

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](#)

A Final Note

The High Holydays will be here very soon, so on behalf of the AJGS (VIC) committee, we wish you 'Shana Tovah' and well over the fast and may the coming year bring health, happiness and good fortune to you and your families.

Ms Terry Ashton

Honorary Secretary, Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (VIC)





AJGS-VIC
invites you
— VIA ZOOM —
TO JOIN



DANIEL HOROWITZ
from MyHeritage

SPEAKING ON
USING AI TOOLS
for
APPLICATIONS TO GENEALOGY

DISCOVER • ENHANCE • UNCOVER
The power of AI in your family history journey.

 **SEPTEMBER 6TH** |  **7.30 – 8.50 P.M.**
AEST

THIS IS A FREE EVENT

 Register at
<https://www.trybooking.com/DOJMM>




Join the
**AUSTRALIAN JEWISH
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (VIC's)**

**2026 AGM &
LIONEL SHARPE PRESENTATION**

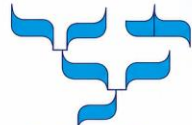
 **OCTOBER 25TH, 2026**
2.30 – 4.00 P.M. |  **GLEN EIRA
TOWN HALL**

When guest speaker,
NAOMI BEDER
will explain
how to use
'ALBUMWORKS'
to share your
family's story.



An afternoon of connection,
learning and preserving
Jewish family history.

We look forward to seeing you there!



AJGS (Vic)

Join AJGS (VIC)'s
**ZOOM
PRESENTATION**

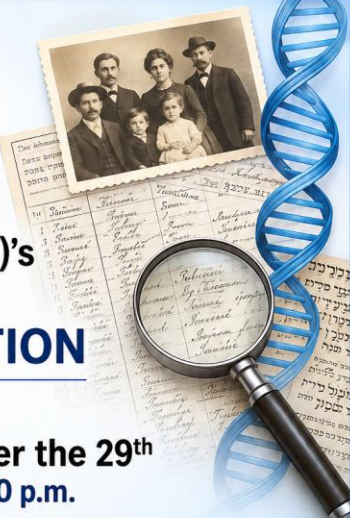
 **Sunday,
November the 29th**
2.30 – 3.30 p.m.

 with **Mike Abel**
speaking on

**Jewish Genealogy and DNA:
Tracing Your Jewish Roots:**

✡

*Using Historical Records, Family Trees
and DNA to Break Through
Genealogical Brick Walls.*



 Registration details can be found at
<https://www.trybooking.com/DPNVS>

 The cost is **\$5** for members | **\$10** for non-members