



Perth Jewish Roots

Newsletter of the Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society of Western Australia Inc

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Newsletter Summer Edition

Vol.18 No.4 Nov/Dec 2016

Vol 19. No.1 Jan 2017



Eli Zagoria in 79 battalion in the Israel Defence Force 1949.

**"The tall man on the right is the Dr Rosenberg from Cape Town -
now Dr Kidron who may still be living in Israel"**

Page 4 for Full Story

Society News and Information

Happy New Year and hope you all had a good break and feeling nice and refreshed for the year ahead.

Our Society is not a big one, but you'd never know it, from the wide range of activities and involvements we have, or the popularity of our monthly meetings where guest speakers inform and entertain us with their particular areas of interest or expertise.

Membership

Time to Re-new your Membership for 2017 or become new members. This helps the Society to continue with its Projects, programmes and activities and to be able to present the Newsletters that come through—like this one ! If you have recently changed your postal address, please inform us. See Page 12 for Membership Form.

Donations

Donations are crucial for the future growth of the Society. No matter how large or small, your gift will allow the Society to develop, provide and expand on projects and programmes.

The Archive is slowly growing and the need for books for the Library to expand is needed.
All Donations are Tax Deductible.

Volunteers

Although we have a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers, there are not enough of them. If you have any skills, any time and lots of interest, even for one hour a week, we urge you to volunteer and help the Society, and in this way you provide a valuable service.

Events :

26 October 2016, we had our meeting with Guest Speakers Martin Levit and David Solly Sandler. Their Topic “The Story of 800 South African Volunteers in Israel’s War of Birth”. (See page 4)

November : An Essay Competition being run by our Society in conjunction with Carmel Year 10s for the second year was completed. The Jack Rose Family History Essay Competition was won by Yannai Goldberg.. (See page 7)

An Article on the Essay competition background with Carmel School. (See page 10)

November : 30 November 2016 - “The Forgotten Refugees” movie was shown, with Efi Ram, Iraqi Refugee as Guest Speaker. (See page 11)

In December 2016 , David Solly Sandler wrote an article on Litvak (South African) Aussies. (See page 5)

Also in December, Eli Rabinowitz progressed with a project he has been working on for quite a long time with Lithuanian students. (See page 6)

January 2017

On Tuesday 31 January 2017, launch of WA “Saluting Monash”.
You will need to contact Keith Shilkin for more information. (See page 3)

Also on Tuesday 31 January at the Jewish Centre, 9.30am; 10.00am start. Event is the Holocaust Remembrance Day. A Movie with Simon Wiesenthal showing “I Have Never Forgotten You”. (See page 5)

February 2017

Sunday 26 February, Guest Speaker—Michael Anderson on his ancestors
“My Norman ancestor, William de Grville and his part in the downfall of King Harold in 1066. (See page 3)

March 2017

Sunday 26 March, Guest Speaker Marvin Cohen Topic: on his harrowing journey from Iraq to Australia “Forgotten Refugee”. (See page 11)

April 2017 : National Trust Australian Heritage Festival. Dates 18 April to 21 May 2017
The Society is organising a *Walking Tour of Jewish Northbridge*. Date to be finalised.

August 2017 : National Family History Month
The Society is organising another **Walking Tour of Jewish Northbridge**. Date to be finalised.

Archive Room

We are fortunate in having access to a Room at the Maurice Zeffert Aged Home for an area where we can store our Archives.

Enjoy the following Pages

There is so much going on and so many areas of interest that choosing what would be of interest to everybody was quite a task.

Michelle Urban - Editor

General Sir John Monash

WA “saluting Monash” launch at the Maurice Zeffert Home

Tuesday

31 January 2017

Saluting Monash : The nation wide Project - *the Jerilderie Project* - to have General Sir John Monash post-humously promoted to the rank of Field Marshall will have its Western Australian launch at the Maurice Zeffert Home (MZH) on the 31 January 2017.



The launch is to be hosted by the Saluting Monash Council, whose Chairman is the former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, The Hon. Tim Fischer AC, and is in association with the local General Sir John Monash RSL Sub-branch. This event will be attended by representatives from the Australian military Services, ex-Service personnel and Federal, State and local Government members among others.

The Western Australian launch is to be officially announced in an address to the MZH event to be given by The Honourable Tim Fischer AC.

General Sir John Monash is considered to be the greatest of all Australians and was the outstanding military leader on the Western Front during World War I. His exceptional military talents resulted in the great successes of the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) under his command, particularly in their finally breaking the enemy defences thus paving the way for the Allied victory in 1918.

Monash's exceptional and illustrious military record, second to none in Australia's history, has been the motivating factor of the aim of the Saluting Monash Council under Tim Fischer to secure the promotion of Monash to Field Marshall by Remembrance Day on 11th November 2018, the Centenary of the end of the War.

Please respond for inquiries and further information by contacting Keith Shilkin -

0419 908 044 or Email : kshilkin@bigpond.net.au

Keith Shilkin

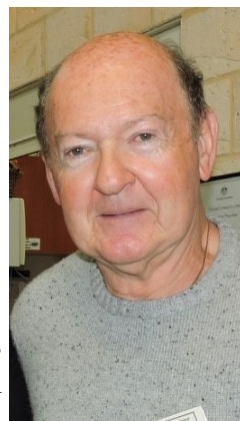
Sunday

26 February 2017

Guest Speaker

Michael Anderson

“How far back in time is it possible to research British and Irish ancestors?”



Michael Anderson, Society Secretary, will talk about this (with lots of pictures!) telling the curious tale of his g-grandmother Elizabeth Janet Goodman, and how through her line he has researched a Norman forbear who played a key role in the defeat of King Harold at Hastings in 1066.

Sunday

26 February 2017

1.30pm for 2.00pm start

At

Noranda Chabad Synagogue (NSHC)

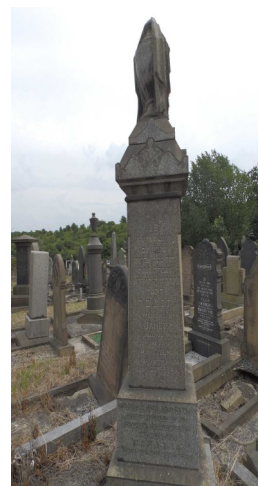
11 Garson Court, Noranda

JHGS-WA Members : \$5.00

Non-Members : \$10.00

RSVP : Michelle on 0418 910 258 or email on jhgs@iinet.net.au

Website : www.jhgsa.org.au





The Story of 800 South African Volunteers in Israel's War of Birth

Two very knowledgeable presenters, Martin Levit and David Solly Sandler, combined forces to present a highly informative talk to the Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society of Western Australia (JHGS-WA) on Sunday 30th October, at the Noranda Chabad Synagogue (NSHC) in Noranda. Martin introduced the presentation by showing two videos on the subject, one of which included an emotional address given by Yzhak Rabin. Footage of the veteran Machalniks remembering their experiences in 1947-1948 was also shown.

In 1947-1948, Jewish organisations put out requests for Jewish ex-servicemen and women to come to the fledgling state and fight to defend it. Approx 4,500 volunteers came from many countries. Of these 810 were from South Africa, which was the largest contingent of all, per capita. Of these, 150 were aviators which was to comprise 30% of Israel's air force and air crew. Martin discussed the significant roles of certain individual volunteers, particularly airmen such as Harry 'Smoky' Simon who eventually settled in Israel and whose descendants are still serving in the defence forces there. Other names mentioned were Butch Ben Yok (Milton Butch Bottger), and Theatre Sister Ray Brunton, a very dedicated nurse who delivered the first Jewish child to be born in Beer Sheba in over 2000 years !

David Solly Sandler also had many interesting points to make. He said that many South African Jews were 'Litvaks' (ie originating from Lithuania) and as such they held very strong Zionist convictions, propelling many to volunteer to fight for Israel. South African Jews from other origins were not so strongly Zionist. Volunteer air crew underwent training at a secret base in Germiston, to which the South African government turned a blind eye.

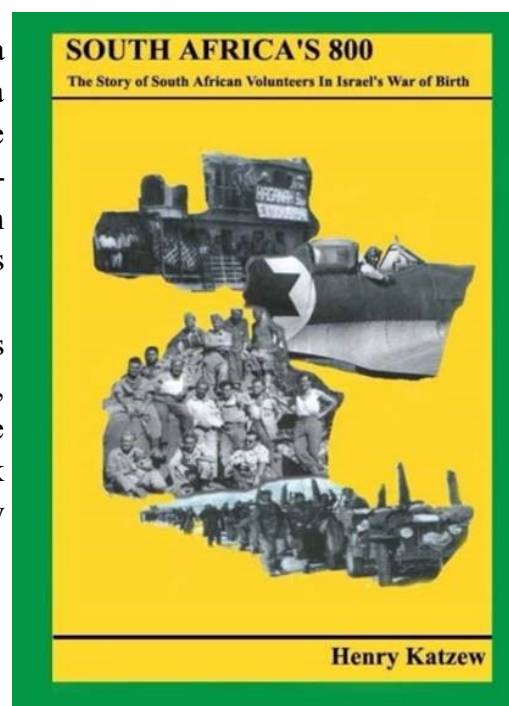
By 1948 there were 5,000 volunteers undergoing training in South Africa. Ben Gurion himself praised the significant role of South African trained pilots in the war of independence. This was despite the British trying to prevent aircraft being sent to Israel for the defence of the country. The South African volunteers 'created something out of nothing', and were instrumental in the establishment of the Israeli Air Force and Medical Corps. David gave details of many of the volunteers, including Eli Zagoria who more recently lives in Perth.

David said a number of volunteers were from the Arcadia Jewish Orphanage in Johannesburg, about which he has done a considerable amount of research and published his work. He said 24 ex-Arcadia orphans volunteered to fight for Israel 1947-1948, of whom two were killed in the war. A total of 87 South African Jews have died fighting for Israel in the various wars which have beset it.

The event was well attended and the number of questions asked indicated that the topic roused the interest of the audience, many of whom originated in South Africa. The story of the South African volunteers (Machalniks) is told in the book "South Africa's 800", which can be obtained from David Solly Sandler on : sedsand@iinet.net.au

Copies of both full Talks are available, please contact : Michelle on 0418 910 258 or email : jhgs@iinet.net.au

by Jonathan Wolf



Litvak (South African) Aussies

by David Solly Sandler

For a very long time I've been trying to ascertain the percentage of Jews with South African (Litvak) ¹ ancestry now living in Australia and, after much discussion with many people, I come to the conclusion that we will soon reach the point where over 50% of Jewish children starting school in Australia will have Litvak ancestry. As you will see below this is already so in Perth with an estimated 70 and Sydney with 57%.

While the number of South African born Jews enumerated in the 2011 Australian Census is 13,035 (13.4% of the total number of Jews in Australia), the census numbers do not tell us of those enumerated as Australian-born with a South African-born parent.

After 45 years -one and a half generations of living in Australia (1970-2015) - and after taking into account a 150% generational increase, ² we have an increase of 2.25 times (1.5 x 1.5). As there are many other factors coming into play and, to be conservative, let's call this increase two times.

We thus conclude that the percentage of Jews with South African (Litvak) ancestry now living in Australia is about 40% (13.4% x 3) with 57% in NSW (Sydney), 24% in VIC (Melbourne) and say 70% in WA (Perth). ³

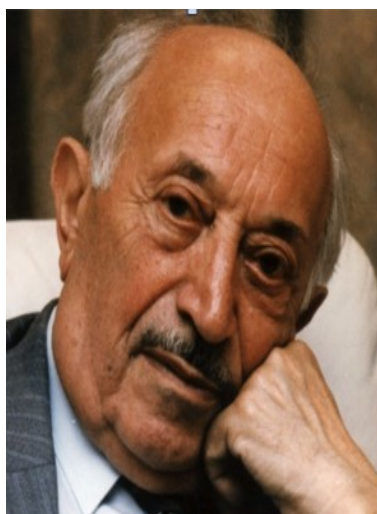
Now that we have this information the question is "What do we do with it"

A friend commented "So yes the Litvak gene is spreading but so are the genes of others." And he added, "I just revel in the fact that the Jews are a family of 15million and yet we can be found in most places and would be welcomed in any shul."

NOTES :

1. Litvak ancestry encompasses Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, part of Belarus and also part of Eastern Poland - all that was part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.
The percentages quoted of South African Jews that are Litvak range between 80% and 90% but in reality, after 135 years (1880-2016) of Jewish settlement and the marriages of Litvak and Non-Litvak Jews, you will be very hard pressed to find a South African Jew without any Litvak ancestors and so, for the purpose of this exercise, I assume 100% of South African Jews have Litvak ancestry. Also it should be noted that most South African Jews would have other ancestry.
2. This percentage of Jews in Australia with Litvak ancestry increases by 150% every generation assuming half the South African Jews married Aussie Jews, and assuming two children per couple. (Increase per generation : 50% of 1=5 plus 50% of 2=1 total 1.5 or 150%).
I understand 2.3 is the Aussie average of children per couple.
3. The percentage of South African-born Jews (from David Graham adjusted 2011 Australian Census) is 19% in NSW (Sydney); 8% in VIC (Melbourne) and 28% in WA (Perth).

The Maccabean—16 Dec 2016



Holocaust Remembrance Day Tuesday 31st January 2017 at 9.30 am for 10.00 am start Movie "I Have Never Forgotten You"

JHGS-WA with NCJWA WA, the Holocaust Institute and UNAA WA are planning to mark the Holocaust Remembrance Day on Tuesday 31st January at the Jewish Centre (upstairs).

We will be screening the movie about the Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal "*I Have Never Forgotten You*"

"Wiesenthal's work is recognised for continuing to shed light on the in-justices and horrors of the Holocaust, for calling on governmental intervention in the capture of war criminals and for being a driven, often times singular, investigative force.

Wiesenthal's tenacity and unflagging passion for tracking down perpetrators inspired survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides to believe that justice can and will prevail, even with passage of time."

Display of books and DVDs on the Holocaust and Light refreshments will be served.

Please contact JHGS-WA on jhgs@iinet.net.au for borrowing after this event.

Enquiries : NCJW WA : wa@ncjwa.org.au or esteingiesser@gmail.com

From Perth to Lithuania : Maoz Tzur sung in Perth, heard in Keidan

Phoebe Roth (AJN)
and Eli Rabinowitz (The Maccabean)



When was the last time *Maoz Tzur* was heard in Keidan, Lithuania, sung by a Jewish kid? Maybe 75 years ago!

When Laima Ardaviciene, the English teacher at Atzalyno Gymnazija in Kedainiai Lithuania, asked Perth-based genealogist Eli Rabinowitz whether he could give a talk on Chanukah via Skype to her students, he came up with the idea of enlisting the assistance of Rabbi Shalom White and doing it at the Chabad Shul in Noranda and also asked talented Dylan Kotkis (15) to join them and share his beautiful singing voice.

Due to the time difference between Perth and Kedainiai, 1pm (7pm here) was the best time for Laima and her students. As a *minyan* was taking place in the sanctuary at the same time, we held our meeting in the Shul's library. Photos were taken and videos clips recorded at both the Kedainiai and Perth ends, which Eli synchronised and edited to tell the story.

Rabbi White, Dylan and Eli spoke about the festival and Dylan took the Lithuanian students on a tour of the shul. Dylan sang *Maoz Tzur* for them. It was a special moment, enjoyed and appreciated by the Lithuanian kids.

Eli Rabinowitz established ties with this particular school a few years ago, and has been in regular contact since, including having visited the school in Kedainiai three times. He has ancestry in Kedainiai, though the connection was made by chance over the internet. He said the experience was invaluable on both ends. Rather than learning about Judaism from a book, Kotkis was a 'young person they could relate to'.

Rabinowitz added that there are no Jews living in Kedainiai today, but the students are very much aware of the Jewish population that once made up half of the town. "Here is a new generation and they feel they want to have a better world. They don't want to have a world of war and discrimination."

Eli has anticipated that there will be a good response from this article which has been featured in the Australian Jewish News, and that he will encourage more schools and young Jewish people in Australia and South Africa to engage with Lithuanian Tolerance Education schools. Laima's students have asked that Dylan Kotkis be part of another session at Purim, the next Jewish festival.

Eli will be giving talks in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa in three weeks time and will use the opportunity to continue to promote this initiative. He will also be holding meetings with Herzlia and the King David Schools as well as the Holocaust & Genocide Centre in Johannesburg. On his return to Australia, will be meeting with Moriah College in Sydney and the Sydney Jewish Museum.

<http://elirab.me/my-bond-with-atzalyno-gimnazija-a-school-in-kedainiai-2/>

Eli Rabinowitz blog: <https://about.me/elirab>



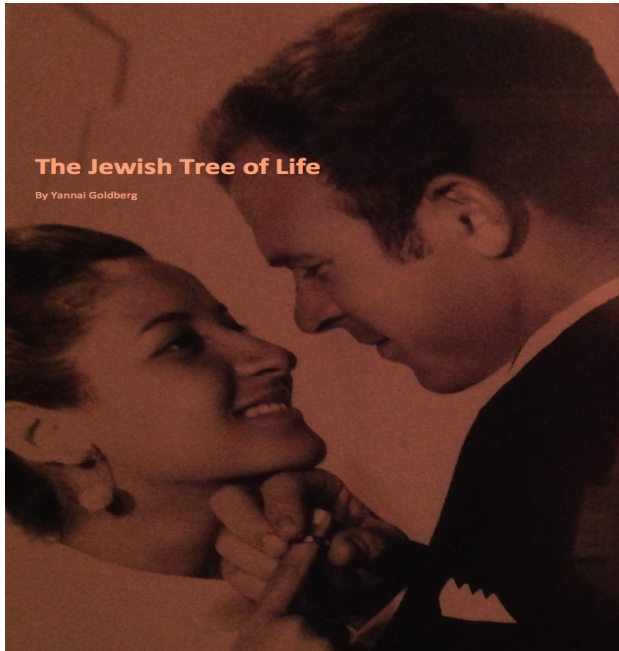
Writes and manages 76 KehilaLinks (Jewish websites) for JewishGen. Includes sites in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belarus, Germany, Russia, China, South Africa and Australia. His blog is called "tangential travel and Jewish Life". He also posts on many social media sites, and arranges customised Litvak heritage tours for small groups. His heritage story has been published on Virtual Shtetl, Museum of History of Polish Jews and Avotaynu : [http://www.avotaynuonline.com/2016/12/personal-journeys-finding-mr-katz/?ct=t\(Weekly Avotaynu Digest4 2 2015\)](http://www.avotaynuonline.com/2016/12/personal-journeys-finding-mr-katz/?ct=t(Weekly+Avotaynu+Digest+2+2015))



37th IAJS International Conference
Jewish Genealogy
23 - 28 July 2017
Walt Disney World Swan Resort in
Orlando Florida



Planning on going to this year 's IAJS Conference or wish to know when next one is being held in 2018 go to their website for more information : <http://iajgs2017.org/>



The Jewish Tree of Life

By Yannai Goldberg

Life in today's world is arguably the polar opposite of life in our ancestors' worlds. Our continuums are separated by decades of societal advancement and retrogression. Much has improved during this time, with the invention of computers, the internet and smartphones gracing our existence. On the other hand much has regressed during this time, with the consequences of modern society's environment-eroding behaviours.

Living in the high speed of today's world, it is not easy to make the time to pursue our family history. However, despite the difficulty in connection to our roots, it is a vital part of helping us understand who we are, and this in turn, helps us navigate life in modern society.

It is easy to only see the external tree of your life; the bit that grows out of the ground. But if you look deeper, under the surrounding soil, it is possible to discover your roots. Our roots may not be visible, but they are very much there, holding us tall and strong. We are who we are because of this system of roots that underpins our lives. Without the sacrifices and hardships our ancestors endured, our trees would not stand half as tall, or strong or fruitful. This essay explores the roots of my father's family and connects them to my life today. This essay discusses not only the physical events of their lives, but also the emotional story of my roots.

The Story of my modern ancestry begins in Rangoon, the former capital of Burma (now Myanmar). My grandmother, Rebecca Meyer, was born on 4 July 1950 to her parents Nissim and Sarah. Nissim was a tall, stubborn Iraqi Jew who fought in the Second World War with over two and half million other volunteer soldiers. This took place during the British colonisation of India, a time both prosperous and devastating for the nation. After the war ended, Nissim moved to Rangoon where he met and fell in love with a beautiful young Burmese maiden named Sarah. The two got married and started a family.

Nissim later met a Burmese lady by the name of Sally. Her parents had been killed by the Japanese bombings. After obtaining permission from Sarah, Nissim took Sally as his second wife, a practice that was acceptable in Judaism in those days. Sally gave birth to eight of Nissim's children, and Sarah to nine more. Of their 17 children, two never lived past child-hood. This demonstrates the fragility of life during this time. One of the surviving children was Rebecca, my grandmother.

On the other side of the world in Poland at much the same time, young Leon Goldberg was born, just before the Second World War. He was a boy when the German army invaded during the Third Reich, under the control of Adolf Hitler. When the Jews were required to register themselves, Leon pleaded with his parents not to do it. Leon had a sixth sense and saw the writing on the wall; something his parents did not see, and he was unable to convince them. He was more and more troubled by the developing events, and one day, on his return from running an errand for his mother, he saw his father being packed into a German trailer by the Nazi soldiers as he turned the corner to get home. His father caught his eye and silently motioned with his finger to his lips for Leon to be quiet and stay away. His mother was next to be shoved in. Then the trailer was locked and driven away. Leon was forced to watch, helpless. He knew in that moment, pulse racing in his head, that he would never see his parents again.

Leon fled the Nazis for the whole war, somehow surviving life in the forest, the danger of the towns and villages, and the seasons turning. He then joined the UN and was sent to a base in Germany.

There he met a young Jewish-German nurse named Ruth.



They fell in love and married under the Chuppah. On 24 October 1947, their first child was born-my grandfather, Yaakov (Jack) Goldberg. They lived in Germany until Jack was one year old, waiting for a place on a boat bound for Israel.

Also at the age of one, my grandmother Rebecca, and her family moved to Calcutta, India. There she studied at the Jewish Girls School until grade 8. She loved her life in India, and her family was very prosperous. Her favourite day of the week was Sunday, when the family would go to the horse races, or boating on the river, or flying kites in the gardens. Anti-Semitism was rare in India. Calcutta boasted five synagogues and a significant Jewish community. Nissim owned a rolling shutter factory and employed over 300 workers.

However, her father Nissim was a Zionist and dreamt of Israel. He was prepared to give up their life in India to move his family to Israel, so they could live in the land of his ancestors, surrounded by other Jews and to give his children a Jewish life. Nissim made the decision to send three of his eldest children ahead of the family, while he tidied his affairs in India. David (18), my grandmother Rebecca (14) and Jonathan (14) made Aliyah to Israel, funded by the Jewish Agency. They began their journey by train to Bombay, followed by a plane trip to Iran where they would stay for three days before continuing to Israel. This was possible because of Iran's close relationship at the time with Israel (Iran was the first country after Turkey to recognise Israel as an ally). Rebecca encountered no problems in Iran before taking her final flight to Tel-Aviv.



My grandmother, Rebecca, stands in the fourth row, and is the second student from the left. She is situated between two blonde girls. This photo was taken at a point in her life when she had been separated from her family for an extended period of time. Her smile demonstrates her native optimism and ability to take any situation and enhance it.

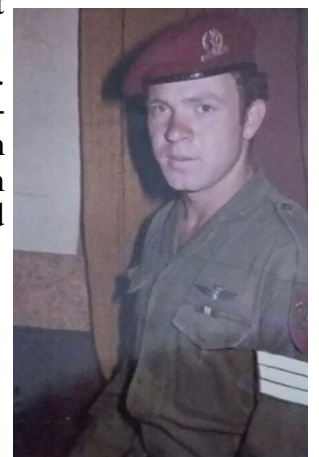
Upon arrival, the siblings were separated. David was sent to the religious Kibbutz Lavi, and Rebecca and Jonathan were placed in a religious Jewish school in Haifa. Here they studied until the arrival of the rest of the family, five years later in 1969. Rebecca describes the first year away from her family as "very difficult", because the whole situation was unexpected". Additionally, she couldn't speak Hebrew, which created a language barrier between her and other Israelis. Rebecca overcame these incredible challenges because of her dedication to the land of Israel, an idea which is relatable through all generations of Zionists.

They decided to move to Kibbutz Menarah, an English-speaking village which suited immigrants who had lived in Europe and spoke English. On the journey to the kibbutz, Leon met a man and they talked. He told the man about his dream and how he wanted to create something new. The man told him that if he walked down the hill they were standing on, he would see a new settlement that was just being built. Leon decided to go and see for himself. This settlement was Moshav Dishon. Leon knew immediately that he had found the place to build the dream he had for his family. My grandfather Jack was seven years old. Jack was a mischievous and popular among his peers. He loved music and drama, and was a talented actor. At the age of 15 he was taken out of school to help his parents work the land. He did not have the opportunity to finish his education or develop his talents as an actor, musician and performer. The situation at home was difficult. Money was scarce and Jack worked in the tobacco fields. They built the Moshav from the ground up with their hands. There were no roads or transportation to the Moshav, so they travelled by donkey. Jack was never bitter about his lost opportunities. He always says that "everyone in my generation sacrificed a lot for Israel. I am not special or different to everyone in Israel at that time".

At the age of 18, Jack was conscripted to the Israel Defence Force (IDF). From 1966-1969 he fought as a paratrooper. His army career included the notable Six-Day War where he fought in Gaza. He later spent time in Jordan fighting Palestinian terrorists. There were no peace agreements between Jordan and Israel, so Jack and his unit entered Jordan in the cover of night and returned to Israel before the sun rose.



My grandfather, Jack aged 18, when he served in the Paratroopers in the late 1960s.



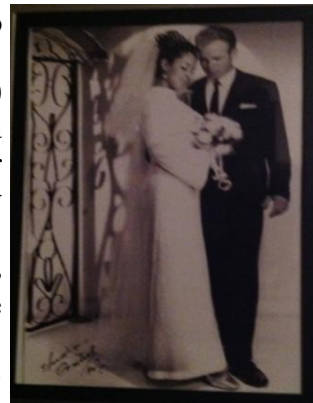


My grandmother Rebecca finished school at the age of 18. She was exempt from enforced army service because of her attendance at a religious school. Rebecca was invited to her friend Ysraeda's house for the weekend. During her stay they went to the Kineret. That same weekend, Jack had a free weekend from the army. Down by the lake in 1970, my grandparents Jack and Rebecca met and fell in love.

They got married that year and moved to Moshav Dishon. They started their life and a family. The Moshav provided them with a house and 20 acres of fields to cultivate. They worked the land and grew apple, pear, peach and plum trees. They later obtained a commercial chicken coop, which they

quickly filled with thousands of chickens.

Jack wanted to return to combat as a border policeman. He was deployed to the Lebanese border in Israel's north for 10 years where he fought during the First Lebanon War and took part in many missions in Sidon. The Israeli border police played a vital role in protecting the Christian citizens of Lebanon.



Jack stands second from the left, in the top row. During his service with the border police he made many close friends. Sadly, many border police were killed during combat against terrorist organisations.

After this, he continued his service as a border policeman for another 19 years. His total service in the border police was 29 years. During this time he was placed in Jerusalem, Afula and many other places throughout Israel.

Jack's brave service was motivated primarily by his Zionist passion for the Land of Israel. He wanted to serve his country as best he could. This took a toll on Rebecca who held the responsibility of raising their family and looking after their land.

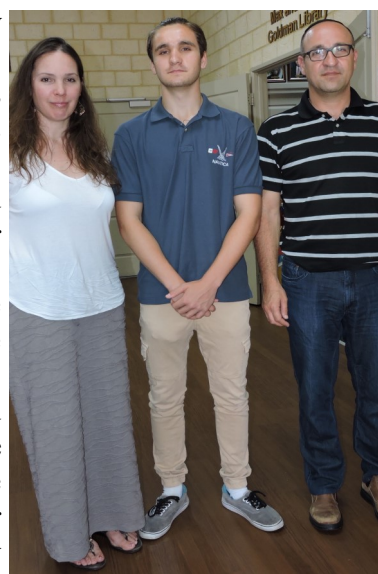
On 29 June 1973, my father Doron Goldberg was born to Jack and Rebecca in Moshav Dishon, the third of four children. As a child he enjoyed the vibrant nature of the Moshav and explored the surrounding areas with his friends. At 18, my father was conscripted to

the IDF. He joined a special unit in the Golani Brigade and carried out missions behind enemy lines in Lebanon and faced the threats posed to Israel by various terrorist organisations such as Hezbollah. After the army he worked and travelled abroad.

While overseas he met my mother, Pauline Margeot. After they married, they moved to South Africa where my sister Kessem was born. A few years later they moved to Israel, where I was born. A few years after that, my family moved to New Zealand where my remaining siblings were born, making four of us.

The story of my ancestors is one of bravery, courage, strength and determination. They survived the hardships of life with tenacity but never complained. Life today presents me with a different set of struggles. I think of my family before me and it makes me feel stronger. I like to think I have a little bit of all my ancestors in me; little bits that are tangible and that connect me to them.

I was born on my grandfather, Jack's birthday. I love music and performing like his father, my great-grandfather, Leon. I can relate emotionally to what my grandmother, Rebecca went through when she moved to Israel and had to start a new life, having gone through a similar process when I moved to Australia at the age of 12. I like to think that my tree is not made up of just me, and that my roots are not just those of my family. My tree is my ancestry and my roots are the Jewish people. I feel the deep Zionist and passion my ancestors felt towards Israel. It is more than just knowing their stories. I can feel what has been passed down generation after generation for over 2000 years.



JHGS-WA has Yannai's original copy with references listed.

2016 Jack Rose Family History Essay Competition

The Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of WA Inc. (JHGSWA), in conjunction with Carmel school, have just concluded this year's Family History Essay Competition for Year 10 students. The prize-giving took place at Carmel School on 11th November 2016. The three winning essay writers, Yannai Goldberg, Ruth Karotkin and Brad Hershowitz read out their family history essays to the Society on 27th November.

The essays were well researched, beautifully written and confidently presented to the Society by the three students.

Each essay was of great interest to members of JHGSWA and visitors. They told of their ancestors' trials and tribulations, their failures, successes and migrations in search of safety and a better life, all of which captured the essence of Jewish experience, both good and bad, over the last few generations.

JHGS-WA hopes, by means of these annual essay competitions run with Carmel School, to encourage young genealogical story-tellers to dig deep into their family histories and develop a lifelong interest in family history. We are very grateful to Mr Jack Rose, Ms Karen Lenny and also an anonymous donor, for their generosity for donating the three prizes this year.



Jonathan Wolf-Co-ordinator; Ken Rose; Jack Rose (Major Donor); Ruth Karotkin; Brad Hershowitz; Yannai Goldberg



To find out more about what the Society does, have a look at our website on <http://jhgsa.org.au>



Brad Ruth Hershowitz; Ruth Karotkin; Yannai Goldberg



Cherie Russell, Head of Humanities & Social Sciences; Michael Raston, History Teacher; Shula Lazarus, Principal Carmel School



Allan; Brad & Lauren Hershowitz with David; Ruth and Jessica Karotkin



Pauline; Yannai & Doron Goldberg

“Forgotten Refugees”



Leon Schneider (Habonim Dror-Schaliach;
Michelle Urban (JHGS-WA); Efi Ram (refugee
from Iran); and Ester Steingieser (NCJW)

November 30th is the official day the State of Israel marks for the first time (2014) as the national day of commemoration for Jewish refugees from Arab lands and Iran. The date has a special meaning—it is the day after November 29th, the day in 1947 that the United Nations General Assembly approved the partition plan for the Palestine Mandate and the creation of a Jewish state.

November 30th, the day after the decision, is the day the Arabs started their concerted attacks on the Jews.

When the ‘refugee issue’ is discussed within the context of the Middle East, people invariably refer to Palestinian refugees, not Jews displaced from Arab countries. Neither the mass violations of human rights nor the displacement of Jews from Arab countries has ever been adequately addressed by the international community.

Along with nearly 600,000 Arabs who left Palestine during War of Independence of Israel, more than 850,000 Jews were forced to emigrate from Algeria, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

Entire communities that preceded the advent of Islam in over a thousand years and posed no threat to political power, forced to leave their native countries, leaving behind a rich history and virtually all its properties.

Over half the current population of the State of Israel are these people and their descendants. To date, the UN has done nothing; not one dollar was spent as these refugees were absorbed and became successful citizens of Israel. In the meantime, 650,000 Palestinian refugees became “victims” and remain wards of the UN into third generation.

On the 30th November JHGS-WA together with NCJW WA and Habonim Dror held a special screening of “The Forgotten Refugees” at the Jewish Centre. Leon Schneider gave an Introduction to the movie and Efi Ram gave a personal testimony.

“The Maccabean”

For borrowing books or DVDs contact Michelle on : 0418 910 258 or email : jhgs@iinet.net.au.

“Forgotten Refugee”

From Iraq to Australia

A Story of Strength, Courage and Survival

Sunday 26th March 2017

Guest Speaker - Marvin Cohen

Marvin Cohen is an Iraqi Jew with a remarkable story of survival. As a Jewish child growing up in Iraq, Marvin endured the imprisonment by a brutal regime and the horrendous murder of most of his family.

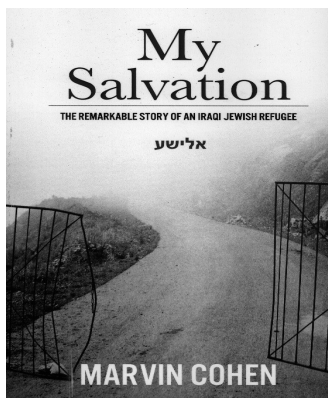
This led him to risk his life and escape Iraq.

Through an incredible journey of events, he arrived in Perth, Australia, which he has called home since 1999.

Marvin will share his own story of survival, as well as shed light on the history (including The Fahad) and the current situation for Iraqi Jews living in the Middle East.

Marvin has written a book on this remarkable story of being an Iraqi Jewish refugee, and this can be pre-ordered before this date.

Contact : Michelle on jhgs@iinet.net.au



The Search for Moritz WERTHEIMER

by Rose Raymen

In June 2016 the Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of Western Australia (JHGS-WA), received an enquiry from a Karen Wertheimer, regarding an inscription on the East Perth Jewish Memorial Cemetery plaque which read, 'WERTHEIMER, July 1895.'



Existing memorial plaque located at the East Perth Jewish cemetery

Karen's sister Judy Earnshaw, had been searching for their paternal great-grandfather, Moritz Wertheimer's death certificate for several years to no avail.

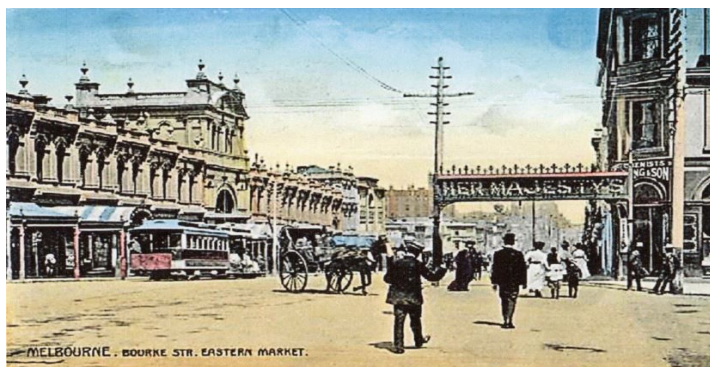
Moritz was born in 1850 in Pezinok north of Bratislava, in the former Kingdom of Hungary (now Slovakia), to Bernhard Wertheimer and Therese Weinberger. On 5 May 1874, Moritz married Rosa (Rouguine) Schenk in Pressburg, Hungary.

Judy and Karen had located a death notice placed by Moritz's widow Rosa, in Melbourne's *The Weekly Times*, which stated that he died on 14 July 1895 in Perth, Western Australia. This information convinced them that it was indeed their ancestor memorialised on the plaque. So Karen contacted the Society seeking the organisation's assistance in locating Moritz's death certificate.

Time was of the essence as Judy was unwell.

Firstly, I checked the Western Australian Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry Online Indexes for Moritz's death entry to no avail. So I conducted a search on Ancestry's Australia Death Index 1787-1985, for the name but was unable to locate an entry for a Moritz Wertheimer. I also tried various combinations of 'Wertheimer' without success so entered the given name 'Moritz' minus the last name. Lastly, I typed in the initial 'M' and included the year of birth and death. One name jumped out at me and that was, 'M Horthemier, born 1850, age 45, died 1895 in Western Australia.'

I contacted Karen and told her I was confident that the death entry for 'M Horthemier' was that of her great-grandfather. Judy was elated that Moritz had finally been found! Karen ordered the death certificate which read, 'M Horthemier, Place of Death - Hay Street, Perth, Date of Death - 14 July 1895, Occupation - Florist, Age - 45 years.' Judy and Karen had known for some time that Moritz Wertheimer was a florist, during the time he lived in Melbourne, Victoria.



Eastern Markets Melbourne, Victoria, where Moritz had a florist stall



Michelle Urban, Vice-President of the Society, contacted The National Trust of Western Australia, who with the JHGS-WA, maintain the East Perth Jewish cemetery. Then in November 2016, Michelle, Karen, her sister Vicki Sheppard, brother-in-law John Earnshaw, Sarah Murphy, from the Trust and I met at the cemetery to discuss the possibility of replacing the existing burial plaque.

I offered to proofread the burial list sent by Sarah but after close examination I noticed that the existing 19th century plaque appeared to be incomplete and also contained a number of discrepancies.

So I researched all the names of the deceased and updated the list with the information I had found.

On 11 January 2017, Michelle and I received a message from the Trust advising us that the signage company had been contacted and that the replacement plaque was due to be completed in the next few weeks.

The Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of Western Australia (JHGS-WA) would like to dedicate this story to the late Judy Earnshaw who never stopped searching.

The Wertheimer and Earnshaw families thank the Society and Rose Raymen for fulfilling Judy's quest to 'find Moritz'. Rose's wise detective work and kindness is greatly appreciated.

Other descendants of those memorialised on the obelisk will also benefit from the care Rose took to honour their ancestors by sourcing full and accurate information.



VOLUNTEERS

Rose Raymen

I was born in Shanghai, China to Polish parents, grew up in Ra'anana, Israel and came to Australia in December 1956. In 1987 my husband and I moved from Melbourne to Perth, Western Australia where we still live. I started researching my family history back in the Year 2000 and have been doing voluntary genealogical research for the last few years. I am currently a member of the Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society of Western Australia (JHGS-WA) and subscribe to the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, JewishGen, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland and AVOTAYNU. Genealogy is my passion but I am also interested in the arts and am somewhat of a film buff.

Eli Rabinowitz

I was born in Cape Town, South Africa, and have lived in Perth since 1986. I am involved in a wide range of Jewish community activities, including filming events, research, education and arranging exhibitions such as hosting the Memories of Muizenberg Exhibition in three Australian cities. I give talks and presentations on my worldwide Jewish heritage travel and photography. I am a regular presenter at Limmud Oz. I like to educate about the importance of Jewish cultural heritage, family history and the shtetl. I am currently a member of the Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society of Western Australia (JHGS-WA) and give regular Talks on my many subjects.

LOCAL WEBSITES :

Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS)

wags.org.au

To find out about the many and varied events, programmes and activities that is happening around Perth, have a look at this website.

Royal Western Australian Historical Society

<https://www.histwest.org.au>

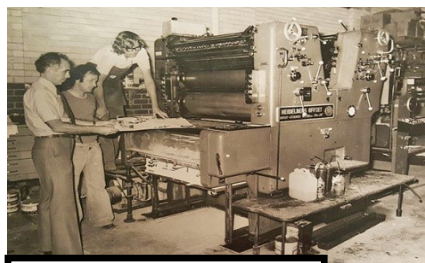
Every year the Society has a programme of fascinating history and heritage walks and tours around Perth and regional areas. A major Exhibition marks the centenary of the landing of Dirk Hartog on Western Australian shores in 1616.

Pilpel Print sold to Advance Press

14 Sept 2016 : Melanie Whiting

<http://www.australianprinter.com.au/News/20002,pilpel-print-sold-to-advance-press.aspx>

Western Australia's 89 year-old print outfit Pilpel Print is closing down after the business and its sister company, Print Finishing Line were sold off to Advance Press for an undisclosed sum. Advance Press declined to comment on the details of the purchase, however a WA print industry source tells *Australian Printer* the company plans to keep running Pilpel's print finishing business as an independent trade finishing company, while moving the print side to Advance's premises in Bassendean.



Pilpel printery in action

Pilpel Print was founded by Joshua Pilpel in 1927 and was passed down the family line to son Richard Pilpel, and then to grandson and current managing director Geoff Pilpel. Geoff says he sold the family business because he is looking to retire, but describes the decision as 'regrettable'. The company was considered an industry trailblazer in its delivery of offset, letterpress and digital printing.

Over the years Pilpel Print has collected a swag of awards at Printing Industries WA PICA awards. The industry will remember the 2014 awards ceremony where Pilpel Print spectacularly took out the gold, silver and bronze for fine letterpress work. In 2008, Richard Pilpel was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday honours list for his service to the printing industry in WA as well as the Jewish community.

Memory Lane for Pilpel

The Maccabean : Vol.45 No.25: Fri 23 December 2016



1927
Pilpel Print
Established

Although Pilpel Print on Beaufort Street was sold earlier this year, the adjacent laneway now bears the Pilpel family name in recognition of their contribution over almost 90 years.

Joshua Pilpel was born in Palestine in 1892 and came out to Perth in 1911 almost penniless. He first worked as a guillotine operator and envelope maker for the English paper and printing firm, Spicers and Detmolds in Bannister Street, Fremantle. After 15 years with Spicers, Joshua set up his own business in 1927, in a first floor building in a laneway owned by McLean Bros and Rigg, a hardware firm, buying second-hand printing equipment from other printers, with the help of a silent partner. The laneway was bordered by Murray Street in the south and Wellington Street to the north.

During the depression years they worked 44 hours per week. Working with a staff of three, Joshua was able to repay his silent partner and the business Pilpel Print became his own.

Joshua's son, Richard Pilpel, entered the business in 1948. Tragedy struck that same year when Joshua Pilpel went blind, but the tenacity of father and son kept Pilpel and Co progressing. New premises were bought at the rear of Pilpel and Co and in 1988, Print Finishing Line, a trade house in the binding business, was established.

In 2006, Richard received the Printing Industry Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to the Printing Industry. Two years later he was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to the printing industry and the Jewish community. Richard's son, Geoffrey joined the business in 1981 and was a Director of the company.

A major move to a new factory and office at 148 Beaufort Street, Perth, occurred in 1999, helping to raise the profile of the firm. The printing company had continued with an unblemished reputation for 89 years. Pilpel Print was one of Perth's most awarded printing firms at both state and national levels.

Richard Pilpel said that naming the laneway after his father would fulfil a long-held dream of his. "The naming of Pilpel Lane is recognition of the 89 years of business in the City of Perth in which three generations of Pelpels have served the corporate sector and local community of Perth," Geoff said.



Richard Pilpel OAM, Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi
and Geoff Pilpel in Pilpel Lane

**Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society of Western Australia Inc.
(JHGS-WA)**

www.jhgswa.org.au



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

☐ Existing ☐ New Date _____

NAME : _____

ADDRESS : _____

PHONE : _____

E-MAIL : _____

Annual Membership @ \$20 per person

Number of Members _____ \$ _____

Donations : (Over \$2.00 tax deductible) ☐ \$ _____

To the JHGSWA Library and Museum Fund

YOUR DONATION WILL HELP TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

TOTAL: \$ _____

PAYMENT METHODS:

Cheque or cash payment:

Cheques to be made payable to JHGSWA

Cash will be accepted at our meetings – please do not send cash in the mail

Electronic Banking:

PLEASE QUOTE YOUR NAME ON YOUR REMITTANCE

AND SEND CONTACT DETAILS FOR OUR RECORDS to [jhgsa@iinet.net.au](mailto:jhgswa@iinet.net.au)

OUR BANK DETAILS:

BANK WESTPAC

BSB 036-059

ACCOUNT # 399532

Useful and interesting Websites

Australian Jewish Genealogical Society - OnLine Forum

AJGen Online Forum : <http://www.ajgs.org.au/>

The AJGen Online forum is an open forum and discussion group for anyone with an interest in researching Jewish Genealogy - with a particularly Australian bent !

New International Tracing Service (ITS) website

<http://www.its=aarlsen.org/en/>

The ITS has launched a new website with a simplified inquiry form for information and research requests. The site also has new digital collections. Thanks to Peter Nash for this information and to the AJGS, Sydney.

Western Australia offers cheaper BDM Certificates

bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/U/uncertified_copies

The WA Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages is now offering the option of purchasing uncertified copies of BDM certificates to assist with family history. The price of an uncertified certificate is now \$20, while the price of a certified certificate remains at \$48.

To obtain a certificate you must apply directly to the Registrar in Perth online or by mail.

The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience

www.spiritofanzac.gov.au

The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience is Australia's flagship community event of the Anzac centenary. It has just had its exhibition showing in Perth. It will be touring to 23 locations around Australia up until April 2017.

JewishGen KehilaLinks

kehilalinks.jewishgen.org

All information on KehilaLinks pages is provided by JewishGen volunteers, so please contact the individual persons for further information.

Nu? What's New?

The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu

<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu.htm>

You will see a lot of information on this website, and can see back-issues as well.

Family Search Sets Goals for 2017

<https://familysearch.org/>

Family Search has published a list of goals for 2017 that includes not only records acquisition and indexing, but improving the quality of its website and apps.

More than 330 FamilySearch digital camera teams worldwide will preserve 125-150 million historical records in 2017. The organization announced recently that they digitized 60 million new images of historical records in 2016. Another 200 million images will be added from FamilySearch's microfilm conversion project that uses 25 specialized machines to convert their vast microfilm collection. More than 30% of the 2.4 million rolls of microfilm have already been digitized and published online.

Workshop Planned on Online Access of Holocaust Documents - Ethical and Practical Challenges - European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI)

The organization EHRI is planning a workshop on "Online Access of Holocaust Documents". It will be hosted in Bucharest, Romania, from 29-31 May by the "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for Study of the Holocaust in Romania.

Additional information can be found on : <http://tinyurl.com/EHRIWorkshopRomania>

January 27 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Additional information can be found at : <http://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance>

See Page 5 for advertisement