



Perth Jewish Roots

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

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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



PESACH

Erev Pesach

Saturday 12 April 2025

We are sure that you have been thinking about Pesach and all that has to be done in the next week. Many will gather with family and friends or in a communal setting. This is a great time to recall and record family stories and traditions.

Besides Pesach, April is very busy with Yom Hashoah, Yom Haatzmaut, and Anzac Day. We invite you to support these events in your area.

Chag Pesach Sameach to you all.

Keepers of Perth's Jewish History

To many in our community the Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society WA (JHGS-WA), is just another small group servicing a small number of members and does not contribute much to the broader community.

The JHGS-WA is the organisation that is keeping the history of the Jews of Perth and WA, the impact they have had on the Jewish community and the wider population of Perth.

Jews were among the first non-indigenous people to come to Perth. The Jewish community has, since those first Jews arrived, formed many organisations and groups to cater to their various needs and interests.

JHGS-WA is not only collecting and archiving the histories of existing organisations, it is seeking information held by members of the community of organisations that NO LONGER EXIST.

Earlier in the year, we contacted existing organisations, asking if they wished to facilitate themselves of the offer to professionally archive their histories. As a result, Michelle Urban, Jan Walters, with John Urban's help, and Sabrina Elias, Head Archivist from the Australian Jewish Historical Society (AJHS), spent several weeks going through the information held and selected the relevant historically significant information to be archived.



To date, we have received from Sabrina, a professionally compiled 57-page Significant Assessment Report (available to interested parties). The various organisations have now 'signed-off' their permission forms, and JHGS-WA are progressing to the next stage.

The work does not stop here. The fact that we are a thriving community means the work continues. This latest Project was made available through the help of a Lotterywest Grant and allowed us to hire through the auspices of the AJHS, Sabrina Elias, Head Archivist, who has been amazing, outstanding, exciting and thorough and we thank Peter Philippsohn for AJHS help.

AJHS website <https://ajhs.com.au> See their 3 March 2025 edition.

Anyone who wishes to contribute and help in this worthwhile cause and for JHGS-WA's ongoing Projects – either by donation, sponsoring or volunteering time – please email JHGS-WA Vice-President Michelle Urban on email – michelle.urban@jhgs-wa.org.au or mobile 0418 910 258.



WHO IS THE AJHS

Australian Jewish Historical Society

The AJHS was founded in 1938 in Sydney. The first president was Percy J. Marks. At the first business meeting of the Society, the then-president of the Royal Australian Historical Society K.R. Cramp expressed the view that the chief object of the Society should be the encouragement of individual research. In 1939, the Society published the first issue of the Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal. In 1949, a Melbourne branch was established, which was informally known as AJHS, Melbourne Victoria.

AJHS documents material on almost every aspect of **Jewish** life is available, such as genealogical information, personal papers, bound newspapers and institutional records sourced from individuals through to synagogues, communities and Jewish organisations.

Forthcoming Events - DIARISE

GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting is on **SUNDAY 25 May 2025** at 1.30pm for 2.00pm start, when Guest Speaker – Rabbi Dan Liberman will present a talk on *The ANZAC Rabbi David Isaac Freedman*.

Venue to be at **Perth Hebrew Congregation Synagogue (PHC), Freedman Road, Menora (Please note Change of Address)**. Members \$5.00 and Non-Members \$10.00. Please RSVP Michelle on 0418 910 258 or email her on michelle.urban@jhgsa.org.au for security and catering purposes.



In 1914, Rabbi David Freedman, who served as the Rabbi of Perth Hebrew Congregation in Western Australia, embarked on a journey that would etch his name in the annals of heroism.

Joining the ranks of the ANZAC forces, Rabbi Freedman carried with him a sacred mission and a symbol of faith – a small Sefer Torah gifted by the Jewish community of Alexandria, Egypt, where he had stopped during the arduous journey to Gallipoli.

The ancient Jewish community of that famous city wanted to show its appreciation for his and the Jewish soldiers' war effort and to do something to protect them. They gave him that small Sefer Torah, which he took and kept with him at all times.

Come and find out more about what happened to Rabbi Freedman and that Torah.



THE ANZAC Torah is held high by rabbi David Yitzchak Friedman during the Gallipoli Campaign of World War I in 1915.

The ANZAC Torah is held high by Rabbi David Yitzchak Freedman during the Gallipoli Campaign of WWI in 1915



Sunday 22nd June 2025

Topic – Machlin Family earliest History to now – including the Menora Theatre & Picture Theatre in the 1950s

Speaker – Mackie Machlin

Place - Noranda Chabad Synagogue (NSHC)

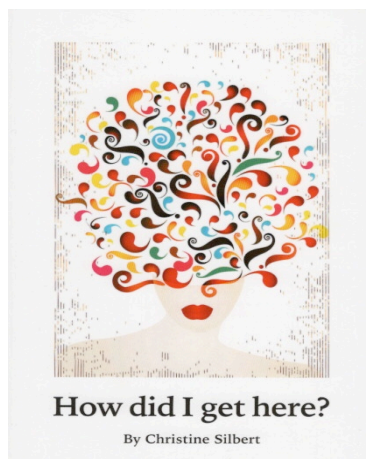
Time - 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start

Members \$5.00 Non-Members \$10.00

RSVP - Michelle Urban – M: 0418 910 258

E: michelle.urban@jhgsa.org.au

NEW to the LIBRARY



How did I get here? Written by Christine Silbert. Available for \$35.00

Researching has turned grainy, old fashioned photos of places and people into living, breathing personalities. The tenacity the **Silberts** brought from a small town in the north of Poland (then Russia) to Australia in 1886, makes inspiring reading.

Instead of joining the goldrush to possibly make their fortune in Broken Hill and Kalgoorlie, **Abraham**, the first Australian **Silbert**, and business partner Joe Sharp had the boldness to develop a large merchant business. The extent of their entrepreneurship will surprise. In 1900, he brought out his two half-nephews, Solomon and Barney, who followed suit conducting numerous businesses.

The follow-on memoir of my life as a single woman making her way in business, and finding her place in the world, has some of the same hallmarks of risk and adventure.....constantly posing the question of : ***How did I get here?***

JHGS-WA thanks Christine for her donation of her book to the Library.

Book is available at \$35.00, for further information, please contact Michelle – michelle.urban@jhgsa.org.au

The Royal WA Historical Society (RWAHS) – A New Era

A little while back, the RWAHS (the Royal) held an open afternoon at their new building in Claremont, at 109 Stirling Highway. Michelle Urban attended, and was told about everything that they had planned for the building whose past life was interesting, being a gym at one stage, complete with swimming pool (now filled-in) and a showroom for Liz Davenport. The building needed much renovation, as it was filled with smaller rooms whose partitions were to be removed to make larger space. There was a lovely meeting space with a balcony facing Stirling Cres, a reception area and a lock and leave space for the new book shop.

RWAHS are moving by the end of May from their current address at 49 Broadway, Nedlands. For further information about this major new move, contact The Royal on (08) 9386 3841.





WHY FORT WAYNE?

In prior years, the conference was held in costlier big cities, such as London, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. This is the

first conference to be held in a more affordable, yet dynamic, smaller city. Fort Wayne is known for its exceptional genealogical capability through the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center, and national recognition of the host venue, the Grand Wayne Convention Center. Fort Wayne is among the fastest-growing cities in the Midwest, with major development in its downtown area.

The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center is among the largest family history research centers in the world. The collection of more than 1.2 million physical items is completely open and available to researchers and visitors can access a large number of genealogical databases on-site.

Website to visit : iajgs.org <https://iajgs2025.org>