

Chai from Colorado

Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado

Fall, 2004

A GREAT NEW SEASON AHEAD

In the past months, the members of the board of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado have worked to set up the program for the coming season. In response to the survey sent out by Ellen Kowitt, we varied our days and hours so that our meetings would be more open to all with an interest in genealogy, and we took advantage of the talented people and wonderful resources in our area.

Please note, our meeting place and hours will vary from meeting to meeting so check your calendar and flyers for time, location and special instructions. A calendar is available on page 7.

Those who attended our field trip to the Denver Public Library this spring will be very pleased to know that our first speaker will be Joe Cahn of the Research Department of the central library. His topic will be *Unexpected Jewish Resources at the Denver Public Library*. This meeting will be on Sunday, September 12th, 1:30 p.m. at B'nai Havurah, 6445 E. Ohio Ave, one block east of Monaco Blvd., one block south of Leetsdale.

At a Tuesday evening meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m. on October 12th at Temple Emanuel, Professor David Shneer of the Center for Judaic Studies of the University of Denver will speak on *Utilizing Photography for General Research from the Collections of*

YIVO and the United States Holocaust Museum.

Our November 14th meeting will be in Boulder at the Earth Sciences Building of the University of Colorado right across from Folsom Field. This is a Sunday afternoon meeting for which we will arrange carpooling. Katy Lage will inform us about *Map Resources at C. U. Boulder Libraries and Online.*

In Denver, on Tuesday, December 14th, 6:30 p.m., at Temple Emanuel, we will gather for an *Ask the Experts Panel* manned by our knowledgeable members. Questions will be submitted in written form and every effort will be made to answer or find the answer to them.

On Sunday, January 9th, Ellen and Shai Kowitt will speak at B'nai Havurah. These experienced cemetery archivists share *Deciphering Jewish Gravestones.*

In February, we will learn about special resources already at Laredo Family History Library and how to make the resources housed in SLC available at any local Family History site.

Speakers to follow will be Terry Lasky who will speak on *Creative Census Research Technics*, Tim Ostwald will cover *Organizing and Writing a More Readable Family History*,
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and Ed Richard will speak on *German Genealogy: History, Resources for Records, Aids, & Reading Gothic German Script*.

There will be a Beginner's Workshop in the spring and an autumn field trip to NARA (the Federal Center) and one in spring to the Denver Public Library.

Our final meeting in June, will be to *SHARE THE TRIUMPHS AND TRIALS* of our genealogical efforts and to have election of officers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF COLORADO

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Ed Richard.....303-355-2592

Ted Ruskin.....303-798-6566

Newsletter Editor: Anne Fendrich

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE FENDRICH

The following individuals were elected to the IAJGS board at the Annual General Meeting which was held in Jerusalem on July 7, 2004:

Jan Meisels Allen (programming VP of the JGS Los Angeles)

Florence Elman (president of the JGS of Southern Alberta)

Martha Levinson Lev-Zion (IAJGS director and president of the Negev branch of the IGS)

Ellen Shindlemen Kowitt (IAJGS director, and former president of the JGS of Greater Washington & board member of JGS of Colorado)

Daniel Schlyter (IAJGS director and webmaster. Also webmaster of the JGS of Utah)

Paul Silverstone (treasurer of the JGS, Inc. (NY))

Hal Bookbinder (president), Michael Brenner (vice president), Joel Spector (secretary), Michael Posnick

treasurer) and Howard Margol (immediate past president) continue to serve in their capacities. .

**THE 24TH ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON JEWISH GENEALOGY**

BY MARTHA LEVINSON LEV ZION, PH.D.

The 2004 Jerusalem Conference was a resounding success and exceeded all expectations. Over 765 people from 21 countries attended more than 175 lectures and workshops. This year's conference was organized according to themes, which, according to the feedback we received, the attendees particularly appreciated. They could easier plan their research hours at archives, knowing that a group of lectures being given at any particular time might not cover their immediate interests, and they felt freer to choose other alternatives. Of course, those with broader research interests had a hard time choosing among the various sessions. Unlike previous conferences, Friday had a full complement of lectures on all three tracks.

One person said that she had attended every conference of the IAJGS since 1994 and that the content and level of Jerusalem's was head and shoulders above the others. This Conference had the highest concentration of Sefardic subjects ever before given at a Jewish genealogy conference. This fact contributed to the numbers of people coming from Portugal, Spain, South America and Israel.

Another first for a conference will be the Lectures CD using MP3 technology and will include all lectures given throughout the week. We chose this technology instead of tapes for each lecture, because it was more affordable for the people who missed the Conference and yet wanted to know the content of the lectures, and because it was more durable and clearer.

From many of the letters we have received, exactly what we hoped would happen, did happen: families found cousins and had mini-reunions that were very meaningful to them. Yad Vashem's databases provided new information and contacts. We made sure that anyone who wanted to make contact was aided in their communications. Most Israelis are multilingual, so we could always communicate somehow.

The archives around Israel suddenly sat up and took notice of the Israel Genealogical Society We developed a special rapport with the various archives and archivists and are now working hand in glove to database information that will in turn bring in more researchers.

In the last analysis, I think we did Israel proud! We gained a lot of experience, gained archival allies,
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and increased our membership greatly. Because of the encouragement of local Israelis, we are considering having a one day annual study seminar in Israel. This Conference had an amazing impact on Israelis and awakened them to begin actively doing family research. After all, isn't that what it is all about?

IAJGS Announces Annual Awards at Jerusalem Conference.

Warren Blatt was awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award for his great contribution to JewishGen and Jewish Genealogy.

The Outstanding Contribution award went to Dr. Alexander Beider for his major contributions to the science of the origins and forms of proper names and surnames. Beider is the author of numerous books about Jewish names.

Outstanding Publication was awarded to the Jewish Genealogical Society (New York) in recognition of its "Genealogical Resources New York" (2nd Edition).

The Outstanding Project award went to David Fox in recognition of the numerous projects undertaken within the Belarus SIG that have generated seventeen databases containing over 250,000 individual entries.

Special congratulations go to JGS-CO member, Ellen Kowitt, who after finishing out the term of Mike Brenner of Las Vegas, was elected to the board of IAJGS.

Conferences to put on your calendar:

The 2005 conference will be at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas from July 10-15. The JGS of Colorado has already been asked to support this undertaking with volunteers from our membership.

The 2006 conference will be at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City from August 13-18.

JAMES JEFFREY RECEIVES AWARD

Bobbi King, president of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies reported that James Jeffrey of Denver Public Library received the Filby Award from the Godfrey Memorial

Library, Middletown, Ct. at the National Genealogical Society annual conference.

JRI-POLAND DATABASES GROW

By Stanley Diamond

Jewish Records Indexing-Poland is delighted to announce that new data was added to our database just prior to the conference in Jerusalem.

Almost 200,000 new entries for 66 towns were added. Jewish Records Indexing Poland < www.jri-poland.org > now has 2.4 million indices to Polish Jewish records in its searchable database. In many cases, this is the first time that data for some towns has been included in the JRI-Poland database. In addition, we have updated the data for a number of towns as records for later years became available. Thus, in some instances, we have data up to 1903, the cut-off year for the 100 year Polish privacy rule. Data for 12 Shtetl CO-OPS were added which included the completion of 32 LDS microfilms.

We are listing the towns below with their Gubernia code (the first two letters of the name of their Gubernia) so that you can focus your search by Gubernia. If you have questions about the specific years and types of records in the database for your town, go to the "Your Town" feature on the JRI-Poland website at www.jri-poland.org. You will find links there to your Town Leader or Shtetl CO-OP Coordinator who will be able to help answer your questions.

Przasnysz (PL)	Piaski (LU)
Parczew (LU)	Sandomierz (RA)
Sokal (GA)	Tyczyn (GA)
Skole (ST)	Ulaszkowce(GA)
Slesin (KL)	Widawa (PI)
Sompolno (KL)	Winniki (GA)
Stara Sol (LW)	Wolborz (PI)
Szczebrzeszyn (LU)	Wysokie (LU)
Szczercow (PI)	Zagorow (KL)
Szydlow (KI)	Zamosc (LU)
Szydlowiec (RA)	Zarki (PI)
Tarlow (RA)	Zbaraz (GA)
Tomaszow Lubelski (LU)	

Many successes have been reported by those searching the records of the towns of Kielce and Checiny which were also recently completed.

A FIFTY CENT TOUR OF THE JEWISH GEN WEBSITE

With this issue we begin a tour of <http://www.jewishgen.org/>. Step aboard. First stop is the first spot on the page: "Learn." Here are found:

*** The FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions ***

The FAQ is the place to start. And it's a place to visit again and again -- as your research progresses, you will find that some parts of the FAQ become more relevant than they were at first.

This is a quick overview of what can be found there:

Get started: general books to start with, easy records to find, simple actions to take.

Teach yourself: books and other publications, vendors of books and supplies.

Find records: vital records, naturalizations, passenger lists, archives, and Family History Centers.

Connect with others: societies, seminars, the Discussion Group, the JGFF and FTJP.

Special topics: Holocaust research, Jewish names, computers.

*** InfoFiles ***

The files are sorted into topics -- general genealogy and country-specific genealogy, plus a few about how to use JewishGen itself.

This is as close as you get to "something for everyone." Here are a very few samples:
Dictionary of Judaica - foreign words and expressions

How to Read a Hebrew Tombstone

Teaching genealogy to kids

Your family health tree

Jewish Given Names

Occupation translations

Genealogist's Code of Behavior

Many resources from around the world

*** Tools (the calculator) ***

The JewishGen Calculator is like a four-feature Swiss Army knife with:

1. Soundex: calculates Daitch-Mokotoff (D-M) and National Archives soundex codes.
2. Calendar Conversion: calculates dates to/from Gregorian and Jewish calendars.
3. Jewish Calendar: displays all Jewish holidays for any Gregorian or Jewish year.
4. Distance / Direction: calculates distance and direction between towns (kilometers and miles).

With some search skills, a few tools, and a bit of duct tape (put-it-all-together-ness), you can build on to your history.

Until the next stop on this tour,

Barbara Niederhoff

for the JewishGen moderation team

STEVE MORSE'S SHIP-LISTS PROJECT

Diane Jacobs recently reported that Steve Morse had completed his ship-lists project after working on it for two years. A team of 50 volunteers went through 3700 rolls of Ellis Island Microfilms for the years 1892 to 1924. Recorded were the roll, volume, frame, day, ship's name, and ports. The searchable list consists of a total of 84,000 ship arrivals.

To access the list click on the "Ship-Lists" link in the Ellis Island section of Steve's website at <http://stevemorse.org>.

CCGS CANCELS AUGUST CONFERENCE

In spite of an exciting schedule, there were insufficient registrants for the program entitled, "Connections . . . With Your Families, With Your Friends". It was to have been held on the Teikyo Loretto Heights University campus August 20-21, 2004.

.YIZKOR BOOK PROJECT UPDATE

REPORT FROM JOYCE FIELD

YIZKOR BOOK PROJECT MANAGER

July is usually a slow month because of the annual genealogy conference, the preparations leading up to the conference, and the post-conference vacations. But in July we hit a milestone: we now have 600 entries in the yizkor book project and 384 individual books. In July we added three new books, four new entries, and eight updates.

New books:

- Gyor, Hungary
- Pinkas HaKehillot Romania, tables of contents for volumes 1 and 2.

This is a tremendously useful list of towns with variant spellings compiled by Shalom Bronstein and Rosanne Leeson. .

- Ten Years of the State of Israel,

http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/ten_years/ten_years.html.

New entries:

- Kedainiai (Keydan), Lithuania, from Yahadut Lita
- Mielnica (Mel'nitza Podolskaya, Ukr), Pinkas HaKehillot, Poland, vol. 2
- Raseiniai (Raseyn), Lithuania, from Yahadut Lita
- Rejowiec, Poland, from Ten Years of the State of Israel

Updates:

- Bukowina: "Diary pages from Czernowitz and Transnistria (1941-1942)", Vol II, pp. 53-61, Geschichte der Juden in der Bukowina
- Krynki, Poland
- Minsk, Belarus
- Novogradok, Belarus
- Rzeszow, Poland
- Sochaczew, Poland
- Vileyka, Belarus
- Wyszkow, Poland

JewishGen's Yizkor Book Project is delighted to announce a first for the translation project. We have added a Polish translation of the Zgierz, Poland yizkor book to the web site. This is the first time that we have included a Polish

translation of a yizkor book, but it will soon be followed by a translation into Polish of a few chapters of the Debica book.

The Polish translation of the Zgierz book is at <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/zgierz/zgip000.html>.

The translation into English from the original Hebrew and Yiddish is at

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/zgierz/zgierz.html>.

The arrangement to have the English translation put into Polish was initiated in April 2003 by a letter from Mazenna Gruszecka, which began a year-long collaboration with the Yizkor Book Project and resulted in an exchange of many interesting letters between her and a number of JewishGenners with roots in Zgierz.

A few reminders for researchers:

-if you want to find if a yizkor book was written about your ancestral town, check online at the Yizkor Book Database,

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/database.html>.

-Fundraising yizkor book translation projects are listed at

<http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGenerosity/YizkorTrans.html>.

Your donations will pay for professional translations of these books. Supporting these important projects with a tax-deductible donation is much appreciated.

-The Yizkor Book Project index is at

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/translations.html>.

All translations can be accessed from this site.

The translations are listed by modern names and are organized in three categories: regions, communities, and miscellaneous.

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**TIMELY TIP!**

According to Gary Mokotoff in *Nu? What's New?*, Ancestry.com has added an index for San Francisco Passenger Lists 1890-1912.

Information contained in the index is quite broad and may even include the name of the individual to be joined in this country and birthplace along with other pertinent information. The index is found at

<http://content.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=7949&ti=0&r=0>.

A fee is charged to use this database.

**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:**

As can be guessed from the front page of this issue of our newsletter there have been many discussions of what criteria should be used in the selection of program topics. It is my particular contention that the more we know about the time and circumstances of the lives of our ancestors, the more meaningful the facts and figures we collect about them become.

I recently received support for my thinking in an article by Kristin Brandt. Most of us start by gathering all the information we can from family member, names, locations, relationships and family lore. Kristin, who often does research of a less personal basis starts with a "locality survey."

She goes to reference books, maps and histories of the locale of the family or individual she is to research. "Facts learned through studying shape the course of research and put the ancestor in a context, showing that he was a real person in a real world."

She goes to national, state and county histories for information on wars and other major local events, on group migrations, and on transportation history. Finding maps close to the time period of the individual's residence is often helpful. She prefers road and topographical maps for a preliminary survey. The location of nearby towns and their relative size often proves useful. Records for an ancestor may be housed in a larger town or the county seat nearby. Gazetteers can provide information of the town's population, the primary industry and religious denominations.

Anytime we can learn of the world in which our ancestors lived will help us to understand the things that motivated them, that impacted their existence.

Kristin, who has a B. A. in Family History from Brigham Young University, provides research services at Family History Network.

Anne Fendrich

**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS:**

What a great time to be a member of the JGSCO! New, relevant and exciting programs are all set up and waiting to be presented.

You will be surprised and delighted to learn of all of the references available at the Denver Public Library from Joe Cahn, head researcher. That will be September 12, at a new location, B'nai Havurah, at a new time, 1:30 p.m., and on a new day, Sunday. Everything is new for September including the New Year that we will celebrate Sept. 17, 2004. Let us take this opportunity to wish everyone a L' Shana Tova.

A calendar listing all of the programs for 2004/2005 will be found in this Newsletter.

Make volunteering for your JGS a must on your calendar. Interested in being a Board member? Can you serve as a host for the September meeting? Can you make phone calls for October, November or December meetings?

We guess it doesn't have to be said, but your presence at the meetings is especially needed. Come prepared to ask questions and take notes. JGSCO offers a mentoring program that can be set up with just a phone call to a Board Member. Breaking through that brick wall might be doable. Our excellent collection of books is housed at the Temple Emanuel Library and new books are purchased as they become available.

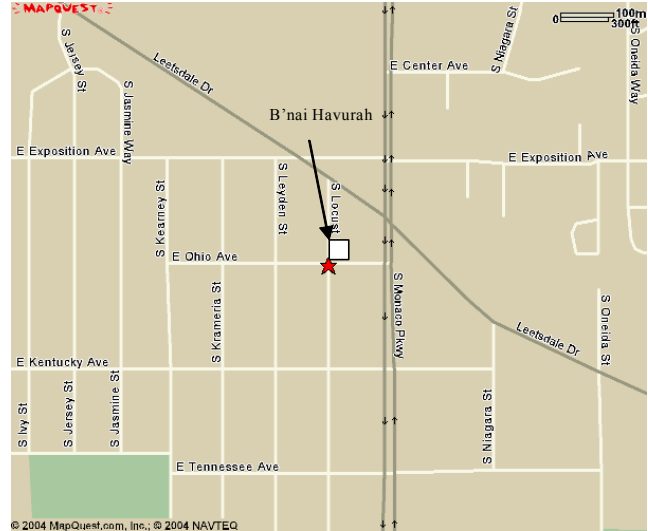
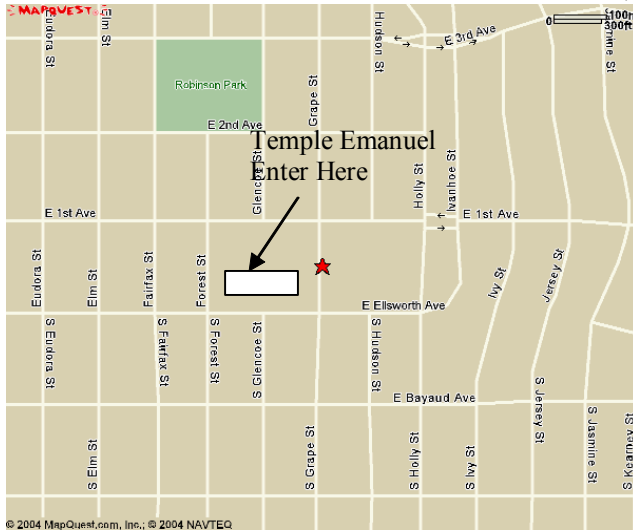
JGSCO is proud to announce the re-election of Board member, Ellen Shindelman Kowitz to the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

And on a personal note, a Mazel Tov to Ellen and her husband, Shai, on the birth of their daughter.

Thirteen programs are planned for 2004/2005 and we hope to see you at all of them.

Myndel Cohen and Anne Fendrich,

Co-Presidents  
JGSCO



## JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF COLORADO WHERE WE WILL MEET

For those of you who have been a part of the Jewish Genealogical Society for awhile finding Temple Emanuel is no problem. It has been our home for many years. You know that although the Temple has a South Grape St. address, we park and enter through the Forest St. entrance. For those who are newcomers, South Holly St. makes an excellent north-south route and either East Alameda or East 1<sup>st</sup> Ave is an excellent east-west roadway.

Many of you are not familiar with B'nai Havurah. Monaco Parkway is the best north-south road. The congregational building is located on East Ohio Ave. which is one block south of Leetsdale. A good landmark is the Compass Bank on the corner on Monaco and the B'nai Havurah building is just beyond that on East Ohio. Enter the door on your left. They have graciously allowed us to use the building for our Sunday meetings.

Special arrangements will be made for carpooling for our two field trips and the Sunday meeting on the CU campus. For the October field trip we will most probably meet in the South Grape St. parking lot of Temple Emanuel at 9:15 a.m. so we don't interfere with daycare parking needs. Flyers will be sent for each event as reminders.

## 2004-2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| DAY       | DATE       | TIME    | SPEAKER               | TOPIC                                          | LOCATION              |
|-----------|------------|---------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sunday    | 9/12/2004  | 1:30    | Joe Cahn              | Jewish Resources of the Denver Public Library  | B'nai Havurah         |
| Tuesday   | 10/12/2004 | 6:30    | David Shneer          | Using Photographs from YIVO & USHM             | Temple Emanuel        |
| Wednesday | 10/20/2004 | Daytime | Anne Fendrich, Coord. | Field Trip to NARA                             | Federal Center        |
| Sunday    | 11/14/2004 | 1:30    | Katy Lage             | Map Research @ CU Libraries & Online           | Earth Sci Bldg, CU    |
| Tuesday   | 12/14/2004 | 6:30    | Panel                 | Ask the Experts                                | Temple Emanuel        |
| Sunday    | 1/9/2005   | 1:30    | Ellen & Shai Kowitz   | Deciphering Jewish Gravestones                 | B'nai Havurah         |
| Tuesday   | 2/8/2005   | 6:30    |                       | Using the Resources of the Family History Lib. | Temple Emanuel        |
| Sunday    | 3/13/2005  | 1:30    | Terry Lasky           | Creative Census Research Techniques            | B'nai Havurah         |
| Sunday    | 4/10/2005  | 1:00    | Ellen Kowitz          | Annual Beginner's Workshop                     | Temple Emanuel        |
| Tuesday   | 4/12/2005  | 6:30    | Tim Ostwald           | Writing a More Readable Family History         | Temple Emanuel        |
| Tuesday   | 5/10/2005  | 6:30    | Ed Richard            | German Genealogy: History, Resources, Aids     | Temple Emanuel        |
| Tuesday   | 5/24/2005  | Daytime | Terry Lasky, Coord.   | Denver Public Library Field Trip               | Denver Public Library |
| Sunday    | 6/5/2005   | 1:30    | Election of Officers  | Share Triumphs & Trials in Genealogy           | B'nai Havurah         |

**YOUR CALENDAR IS ON THE BACK OF THIS COVER PAGE!**

JGS of Colorado  
1819 S. Kearney St.  
Denver, CO 80224





