



Chai from Colorado

Winter, 2004

**AWARD WINNING AUTHOR,
JEFF MALKA,
TO BE FEATURED SPEAKER
AT MAY 11
MEETING OF JGS OF
COLORADO**

Special arrangements have been made by Ellen Kowitt for Dr. Jeffrey S. Malka, author of the book, *Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World*, winner of the Best Judaic Reference Book awarded by the Association of Jewish Libraries in 2002, to speak to our group on May 11, 2004. Dr. Malka will already be in Denver on a family visit at that time.

The subject matter should not only be of interest to those already involved in Sephardic research, but also those among us now focusing on our Ashkenazic roots who might be surprised to find Sephardim as part of our ancestry. Non-Jews, as well, with crypto-Jewish backgrounds will find this presentation of great interest, as well as those of Hispanic heritage, who could find the rich historic background fascinating.

Those who want to prepare for this upcoming event might want to visit JewishGen's SephardSIG at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/sefardsig>

Additional exciting programs are scheduled for the next months. On January 13, using the Family Tree Maker program, Ed Richard will show us how to "Put Your Family on Computer." In February, the program is scheduled to be, "DNA and Genealogy, a Good Team?" For March we have rescheduled James Jeffrey and a

visit to the Denver Central Public Library. For April, a trip to the Aurora Family History Library is scheduled along with beginning and intermediate genealogy classes. June, as is usual, will be election of officers and our annual sharing event. Hopefully, we will be able to fit a field trip in to the Federal center sometime during the spring, preferably after our class sessions in April.

HOW TO BEST USE DNA TESTING IN GENEALOGY

The February 10th meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado will be concerned with when and how DNA testing could be used to extend ones ancestral knowledge. A short film will be shown, with general discussion afterwards. Additional material will be distributed in advance at the January meeting.

We will also have a Benefit Used Book Sale for the organization at the February meeting at Temple Emanuel, so bring your unwanted used books to share with others.



NEW ARCHIVAL TREASURE

Just prior to World War II, the National Jewish Welfare Board began preparation to record Jewish involvement in what they thought would be a war against fascism. To this end The Bureau of War Records (BWR) was formed and continued its effort until 1947. Now in the hands of the American Jewish Historical Society, these records "are a treasure trove for the genealogical researcher seeking to identify the war record of his or her forbears." Off-site requests must be made in writing to the:

Reference/Cataloging Librarian,
American Jewish Historical Society,
15 West 16th St.
New York, NY 10011
or to:

reference@ajhs.org

It is asked that the researcher identify themselves as a family member unless they wish to publish from the collection, in which case permission must be granted. Name, confirming details such as birth date, address, location, and other details, such as whether the person was a casualty or received awards, will be helpful in making sure the record is for the right person.

The charge is 25 cents per page, plus postage, for photocopies, with a minimum charge of \$5.00. Researchers should provide a mailing address with their request.

The collection(reference #I-52) National Jewish Welfare Board, Bureau of War Records. (1940-1969) contains name and geographic cards for most who served, except that in big cities a sampling technique was used, and there is not a card for every person who served.

SLC Institute of Genealogy January 12-16, 2004

The Utah Genealogical Association will hold its ninth annual Institute of Genealogy at the Wyndham Hotel in Salt Lake City.. If interested, contact UGA toll free at 1-888-INFO-UGA or at institute@infouga.org.

Going Dutch?

by Ben Noach

The genealogical department of the Center for Research on Dutch Jewry (Hebrew University-Jerusalem) has resumed full-fledged activities, after a partial stagnation of over two years.

The department shall again gladly receive genealogies, based on Dutch Jewish roots, to be added to its Dutch Jewish Genealogical Data Base (the DJGDB), either digitalized in gedcom format, or hand-made, to be digitalized by the team of volunteers of the department.

We shall also gladly consider absorbing other genealogical material that has a bearing on Dutch Jewish genealogy. (The department does not do any genealogical research of its own, but maintains a "response group" to assist in resolving individual genealogical queries).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2004

- January 13 Ed Richard, "Putting Your Family on Computer."
6:30 to 9:30 p.m, Temple Emanuel
- February 10 "DNA & Genealogy, A Good Team?"
Film & Group Discussion plus Used Book Sale
6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Temple Emanuel
- March 9 James Jeffrey, "Resources Available to Jewish Genealogists at the Denver Public Library."
7 to 10 p.m, Denver Central Public Library,
Fifth Floor
- April 13 Trip: Family History Library, Aurora
9:30 am to 12:30 p.m, 967 Laredo
- April 18 Beginners Workshop; "An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy."
April 25 Intermediate Workshop; "More Resources and Tearing Through Research Brick Walls".
Both Workshops, 1-4 p.m., Temple Emanuel
- May 11 Dr. Jeffrey S. Malka," Sephardic Genealogy."
6:30 to 9:30, Temple Emanuel
- June 8 Election of Officers, Share Triumphs & Tribulations

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Thanks to everyone who helped in 2003 to make the JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF COLORADO continue to grow.

The report on the IAJGS Conference in Washington, DC by Ellen Kowitt was so informative that we almost felt that we had attended it.

Everyone agreed that the "Music of the Yiddish Theatre" presented by our very own Rita Jo Tensly and her partner, Betty Fass, was a joyful event.

In November, we traveled to the Intermountain Jewish News offices for an excellent meeting with Larry Hankin who invites us to do research at the IJN. In the short time that we were there, we had a couple of very good finds.

Unfortunately, because of bad weather the trip to the Denver Public library had to be cancelled. This meeting with James Jeffrey will be rescheduled at another time. Anne Fendrich is planning some very good 2004 programs and will tell you more about them in another column.

On April 18, JGSCO will do a workshop for beginning genealogists, and that will be followed by an intermediate program on April 25. Both workshops will be at Temple Emanuel.

You will notice a slight change in JGSCO dues structure for 2004. The board hopes to simplify the bookkeeping.

Herb and Myndel Cohen, Anne Fendrich, Sandy Greenberg, Esther Griswold, Ellen Kowitt, Eileen Price, Ed Richard and Rita Jo Tensly are diligently working on the exciting project of indexing the JCRS records. Because of their volunteer efforts, we are approaching file number 2000. These files contain a wealth of historical information, and everyone is enjoying the experience. PLEASE JOIN IN!!!

Guests and new members are always welcome at the JGSCO meetings. Bring an interested friend to the January meeting.

My best wishes for a happy, healthy, productive 2004.

Myndel Cohen, President
Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado

FROM THE EDITOR:

Since I am giving serious consideration to attending the genealogical conference in Jerusalem this July, I was especially saddened to learn that Beth Hatefutsoth, the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora might be closed at that time due to funding problems. In truth, it was that museum that got me started on my genealogical search. In 1979, my husband, Shubert, and I went to a convention of Na'amat as Denver delegates. We found on our visit to that museum that a bank of computers had been set up. If you entered a town's name, you would get a brief history of the Jews of the community. My mother's family had called the town she was born in "Sokolov" or "Sokolova", so that was what I entered. From there I was given three options. I knew the correct choice was Sokolow Podlaski because of its proximity to Siedlce and to Warsaw. This was my first big clue that led me to the town's records at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and three lines of family. I still have my readout copy that is dated November 20, 1979.

I don't know how some of you, who do not take advantage of what the computer has to offer, keep up with your research. One thing that being newsletter editor requires is that I keep track of what is going on and convey that information to you. One of my favorite sources is the JewishGen Discussion Group where fellow genealogists share their knowledge freely with those needing help. Here are some helpful tips I've found in a very short time.

In November, Rosemary Wenzelul recommends as an aid to dating photos the website:

<http://www.familychronicle.com/photoextra.html>

It has examples of photos showing fashions from 1840-1900.

Continued on page 5.

Masthead photo courtesy of John Gaudio.

Maps for Your Family Research at the University of Colorado Boulder

By Ellen Shindelman Kowitt

Finding a map of your ancestral town or shtetl can add interesting detail to your family history research. Maps always provide a description of the topography and nearby natural resources. They can denote the names of buildings, as well as their owners, and also lead to the discovery of extant cemeteries and Jewish landmarks. For countries or states where the borders have changed, finding maps for each era may reveal new clues to what your town and surrounding places were named.

The University of Colorado Boulder Libraries house more than 200,000 maps, globes, atlases, gazetteers, and travel guides. The main map collection is located downstairs in the Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Science Library. Maps on campus are also held at the Norlin Library. These free collections are open to everyone and staff is available to answer questions. Their phone number is (303) 492-7578.

The collection is based on the Federal Depository program and primarily contains publications for the United States mapping agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, Central Intelligence Agency, U.S. Forest Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The focus of the collection is on domestic maps, but there are plenty of foreign maps. Of interest to genealogists is a large collection of detailed World War II and Cold War era topographic maps of Europe and Russia produced by the Army Map Service/Defense Mapping Agency.

A few unusual specimens I examined include hand drawn 16th to 18th century maps of Jerusalem; a 19th century map of Germany; a map showing the precise location and battalion names for every Civil War battle; and a strange Washington, DC map drawn prior to 1956 that

highlighted which public schools were for black children and which were for whites.

This is a circulating collection. Maps published after 1950 can be checked out for up to 14 days. A library card is required for this but can be obtained in Boulder. For maps that are older or fragile, copy machines are available onsite. No interlibrary loan is available at this time.

You will find an extensive list of online links to other significant map collections, gazetteers, and vendors at the C.U. map website <http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/map/>. These include:

Odden's Bookmarks: The premier map website with links to pretty much every map on the Web. Created by a geography professor at University of Utrecht, Netherlands.

<http://oddens.geog.uu.nl/index.html>

Federation of East European Family History Societies Map Room: Scanned 19th century maps of eastern European countries.

<http://feefhs.org/maps/indexmap.html>

The David Rumsey Historical Map Collection contains over 8,800 maps online including Europe. <http://davidrumsey.com/>

Library of Congress: Many scanned images of historic maps including a zoom capability. <http://memory.loc.gov/>. Click on "Maps".

Other notable map collections in the Front Range area include the Denver Public Library, National Archives and Colorado School of Mines.

Susser Archive Now on JCR-UK A Major Anglo-Jewish Resource

By Laurence Harris, JGSGB

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain (JGSGB) is delighted to announce that the Susser Archive is now available on Jewish Communities and Records UK (JCR-UK) website at

<http://www.jewishgen.org/JCR-UK/susser/>

The documents and papers of the late Rabbi Dr. Bernard Susser, expert historian of the Jews of South-West England, together with his computer disks, had been placed in the care of Frank Gent of the Exeter Synagogue. Frank transcribed the

data from these papers and computer records, and published them on his website to honor the memory of Rabbi Susser, and his genealogical and rabbinical activities. Gent has now kindly donated this work to JGSGB, and the lists, transcripts, data and some original document images are being made available on the JCR-UK website.

The JCR-UK website at www.jewishgen.org makes available genealogical and historic records of the UK Jewish Communities. The website is a joint project of JGS Great Britain who provide the website content and JewishGen.

Whilst the emphasis of the Susser Archive relates to the Jews of the South-West of England, there is much information relating to London Jews and more generally to Anglo-Jewish genealogy.

This is a major archive with more than 100 web pages including:

- Studies in Anglo-Jewish history (including cemetery inscriptions, census details, wills, and birth, marriage and death records).
- Archive transcriptions (including a number of circumcision registers and synagogue records).- --
- Copies of some of Rabbi Susser's historical and religious writings.
- Many lists of individual names.

The archive also includes a few items that have been donated by others after the death of Rabbi Susser.

Anyone with an interest in Anglo-Jewish research should review the following for a better idea of the archive content:

- The CONTENTS list at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/JCR-UK/susser/susserpublications.htm>

SLC Institute of Genealogy January 12-16, 2004

The Utah Genealogical Association will hold its ninth annual Institute of Genealogy at the Wyndham Hotel in Salt Lake City.. If interested, contact UGA toll free at 1-888-INFO-UGA or at institute@infouga.org.

Continued from page 3.

Joyce Field announced five additions to the Holocaust Database at

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust>

They are:

- Polish Martyred Physicians
- North Bavarian Jews
- Jewish Survivors listed in a Hungarian Periodical
- Refugees from France to Brazil
- Braunschweig Cemetery for Forced Laborers

In addition she lets us know that the Dachau Concentration Camp Records have been updated.. "The Holocaust Database is a collection of 62 databases, containing over 500,000 entries." All can be searched by surname, town or global text search.

Chaim Freedman from Petah Tikvah, Israel, reports that a new database is being developed in Israel by The Council for Restoration and Preservation of Historic Sites in connection with the Clandestine Immigrants Camp Museum at Atlit, Israel. "The database contains personal information about those immigrants who arrived in Eretz Yisrael in a clandestine fashion during the British Mandate. Many of them were interned at Atlit."

The archive includes 11,000 personal cards which are being computerized, but it is believed that up to 120,000 records may eventually be available.

Denise Azbill of Las Vegas found a website for the Ukrainian State Archives at:

www.archives.gov.ua/Eng/index.php

It tells how to obtain records, giving two options for research: having the State Archives do the work or an organization called the Ukrainian Center for Genealogical Research. Denise was concerned about cost and the effectiveness of both these resources, and perhaps we'll get some input on that. I had Miriam Weiner take care of my Ukrainian research and was quite pleased that we located my father's grandfather and his family.

Anne Fendrich, Newsletter Editor.

JGSCO Membership Dues

Please complete this form and make checks payable to: Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** ___ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **E-Mail** _____

Please mail your completed form with your check to:

Terry Lasky, Treasurer
6636 S. Piney Creek Circle
Centennial, CO 80016

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Individual (\$25) \$ _____

Family (\$35) \$ _____

ADD'L CONTRIBUTIONS

Library Fund \$ _____

General Fund \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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