

# CHAI

*From Colorado*

Winter 2008

Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado

Founded in 1995, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado is a member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (iajgs.org)- a nonprofit organization with 69 member societies in 14 countries. Membership is open to anyone interested in researching Jewish roots. Guests are welcome at free monthly meetings.

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## Galveston Jewish Genealogy

An online search of Ancestry.com, the American Jewish Historical Society, the American Jewish Archives, the Center for American History at University of Texas Austin and Google found the following records as a starting point for documenting Jewish genealogy through Galveston.

### **Ancestry Galveston Records:**

- 1.) Galveston Passenger Lists 1896-1948. NARA micropublication M1359. RG085. Rolls 1-36. Includes subports of Houston, Brownsville, Port Arthur, Sabine and Texas City. Some passenger lists from 1893.
- 2.) Atlantic Ports, Gulf Coasts and Great Lakes Passenger Lists. Roll 3: Galveston, TX 1846-1872. NARA microfilm publication M575, roll 3. Records of the U.S. Customs Service, record group 036 in Washington, DC. 8300 immigrant names. *Note: Hurricane Frederick on September 8, 1900 killed more than 8,000 people. Few records survived for 1871-1894.*

### **AJHS.org Integrated Online Catalog from Center for Jewish History Records, Archives and Finding Aids:**

- 1.) Industrial Removal Office Records 1899-1922. ID 1-91 includes immigrant removal records in a database in English and Yiddish. 115 manuscript boxes and searchable database online.
- 2.) Baron de Hirsch Fund 1891- includes records and photos; Undated 1819-1983 files document individual immigrants. Index to extensive holdings online.
- 3.) Jewish Immigrant Information Bureau, Galveston Immigration Plan records 1901-1920. Searchable database online.

### **American Jewish Archives:**

- 1.) Congregation B'nai Israel of Galveston, Texas, 1 box, 1868-1968.
- 2.) Blum family of Galveston, biography file.

### **Center for American History at University of Texas Austin:**

- 1.) Jewish Galveston Immigration Collection 1908-1914, folder.

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*Contributing  
articles are  
welcome!*

## From the President - Cousin Saga: Be Grateful

A few years ago, I received an email from a first cousin (her father and my father were brothers) I had not seen or talked to for over 50 years. She informed me that she got my email address from my sister and that my sister told her of my interest in our family genealogy. She said she had papers that I would probably like to have. **Probably like to have!**

Of course, I emailed her immediately to please send them! A few days later, I received a letter from her with copies of documents enclosed that included our grandfather's petition for naturalization and several birth certificates for members of her immediate family. She also wrote a detailed account about her family. Most of this I already knew, but I learned some things that I had not previously heard.

I am ever grateful to her for all the information she gave me, so if you ever talk to a cousin, if they don't offer, ask them if they have anything that might be useful to you in your research. You just never know!  
-Rita Jo Tensly

NOTE: If you're interested in a book called "Gone But Not Forgotten: A History of the Burials in the Jewish Cemeteries of Kansas City, Missouri," contact Eleanor Judd at 303-377-3244 or [epjudd@comcast.net](mailto:epjudd@comcast.net).

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## What Was the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society and What Genealogical Value Does it Offer?

Beginning in the early 1900s, tubercular patients flocked to this Denver sanitarium for treatment. The patients were primarily Jewish immigrants, and many were from Eastern Europe where they lived in circumstances that promoted health problems. The greatest number came from the New York area, but others came from around North America and were admitted free of charge.

The applications (housed at the University of Denver) were often signed with an X and usually filled out in English by a friend. Many folders contain personal correspondence written in Yiddish, photographs, legal documents including naturalization papers, the birth year, and names of spouses, children and other family members. Burial locations are provided about the deceased.

Thanks to volunteers of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado, these files are being indexed and can be accessed through our website, [www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado](http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado). The application files indexed to date are for 1904 to 1937. Contact Myndel Cohen at [myndel\\_cohen@comcast.net](mailto:myndel_cohen@comcast.net) for information.

## JGSCO Cemetery Project for CO, NM, UT & WY Nears Completion

by JGSCO Member Terry Lasky

The JGSCO Cemetery project to document all Jewish burials in the rocky mountain region is near completion. This project is part of a larger project known as the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR). JOWBR's goal is to document all Jewish burials across the world. Currently, JOWBR has 980,000 entries. All of the Jewish burials in the state of Colorado have been documented and uploaded to JOWBR. Relevant information from the gravestones includes the Hebrew name and date of death. There are just over 22,000 documented Jewish burials in Colorado. All Jewish burials (over 3500) in Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico have also been indexed. They will be uploaded to JOWBR shortly. The cemeteries and the number of burials are as follows:

<b>Aspen, Colorado:</b>	Aspen Jewish at Red Butte (26)
<b>Boulder, Colorado:</b>	King David at Green Mountain (121) Jewish Section at Mountain View (21)
<b>Colorado Springs, CO:</b>	Sons of Israel Section of Evergreen (402)
<b>Denver Metro Area:</b>	Emanuel at Fairmount (4163) Ft. Logan (584) Golden Hill (3839) Mt. Nebo (5762) Rose Hill (6391)
<b>Ft. Collins, Colorado:</b>	Har Shalom at Roselawn (17)
<b>Grand Junction, CO:</b>	Ohr Shalom at Orchard Mesa (12)
<b>Greeley, Colorado:</b>	Beth Israel at Linn Grove (11)
<b>Leadville, Colorado:</b>	Hebrew Cemetery (135)
<b>Pueblo, Colorado:</b>	Bnai Jacob at Pioneer (366) Temple Emanuel at Roselawn (199)
<b>Tin Cup, Colorado:</b>	Jewish Knoll at Tin Cup (5)
<b>Trinidad, Colorado:</b>	Congregation Aaron at Masonic (167)
<b>Albuquerque, NM:</b>	Beth Israel at Fairview (48) Bnai Israel at Fairview (505) Congregation Albert at Fairview (613) Fellowship of the Desert at Fairview (15) Jewish Center at Vista Verde (36) Jewish War Veterans at Fairview (97) Jewish War Veterans at Vista Verde (37)
<b>Las Cruces, NM:</b>	Beth El at Masonic (70)
<b>Santa Fe, New Mexico:</b>	Bais Olam at Santa Fe Memorial Gardens (5) Shalom Garden at Santa Fe Memorial Gardens (28)
<b>Ogden, Utah:</b>	Brith Sholem at Aultorest (132)
<b>Salt Lake City, Utah:</b>	Bnai Israel at Salt Lake City Cemetery (776) Montefiore at Salt Lake City Cemetery (730) Shaarie Tzedek at Salt Lake City Cemetery (57)
<b>Cheyenne, Wyoming:</b>	Mt. Sinai at Cheyenne City Cemetery (356)

Pictures of existing gravestones will not be placed online. If you desire a photo of a gravestone from one of these cemeteries, contact Terry Lasky at [talasky@comcast.net](mailto:talasky@comcast.net).

## Passing of a Generation

Malke (nee KLARNET) STEINMETZ circa 1845-1921

by JGSCO Member Howard Steinmetz

During one of the last days of winter in 1921, as the sun began to rise; lingering Malke STEINMETZ quietly passed away in the home of her oldest daughter and son-in-law, Judit and Haskel KREIG, who lived across the way from the post office on Slowackiego Street in Rohatyn, Galicia.

There was a sudden, loud pounding on the door, with a neighbor hollering that the house next door was on fire. The KREIG household was instantly in commotion. There was concern that flying hot embers would spread to the KREIG'S house. Townspeople came running, some to help, and others to gawk, as the volunteer firemen fought the blaze.

As a precaution, in the event the fire spread, a brigade quickly began to evacuate the contents of the KREIG'S house onto the street. Judit, awake and shaking, immediately dressed her five year old son Shrulka. Shrulka was the source person, who shortly before he himself died at age 88, amazingly provided previously unrevealed details and the basis for telling this story.

Word of the burning house and the simultaneous death of Malke had spread like wildfire through the informal Rohatyn Jewish network. The Chevra Kadisha ladies assembled before anyone fully knew what was happening because there was the additional concern for Haskel's aged mother, who was also being cared for, side by side, as failing senior companions, in the same shared bedroom.

Judit's neighboring sister-in-law, Feige STEINMETZ, along with her eleven and nine year old daughters, Ester and Mince, appeared in order to bundle up the old lady KREIG into winter clothing and hustled her and little Shrulka, out into the cold air to take them back down the street to the safety and warmth of the STEINMETZ house.

Ester and Mince had something unspoken on their minds. The young sisters had been attentive and frequent visitors at the KREIGS to listen to the "bubbe meise" stories that their adoring grandmother told in a localized dialectic combination of the Yiddish and Ukrainian languages. Grandmother Malke had promised that when she died, the two youngest daughters of her oldest son Wolf, would jointly share her most treasured possession, a silver, chain male purse. The legendary purse was carried away from the tumult, back to the Wolf STEINMETZ house, swinging gently on Ester's arm.

Meanwhile, in consultation between Malke's nephew, who just happened to be Rohatyn's Rabbi, Avrom David SPIEGEL, and the Chevra Kadisha ladies, it was agreed that this threatening fire had caused an unusual set of circumstances, and that Malke's limp seventy six year old body should be gently carried outside by a couple of the stronger women. They placed Malke on a makeshift table that sat on wooden horses under the grape arbor in the back yard. This was the very same table that had been used during the Succoth celebration each year. The ladies suspended a linen bed sheet to create a privacy blind which hung from the dormant, grape arbor pergola.

As soon as the old, infirm KREIG grand mother was made comfortable at the STEINMETZ house, the three curious and excited young cousins could no longer contain themselves and ran back to watch the activity. Quietly, they peeked from between the hanging sheets to observe the ritual procedure that was going on in the cold out of doors under the grape arbor. There they saw the steamy mist rising from the warm water as their bubbe was tenderly washed. Bubbe's thinned out grey hair was brushed, and her finger nails trimmed. The ladies finished dressing Malke in an eight part, white linen shroud that she, herself, had sewn. The carpenter's wagon arrived with the plain pine box coffin in which the old woman would be put to her eternal rest. Small clay shards were placed over each of her eyes to speed up the process of her return to nature.

Meanwhile, the fire had been fortunately extinguished without harm to the KREIG'S house. The contents of the house of mourning were moved back indoors. The house was reoccupied, and the mirrors were covered. Low, hard benches were carried in by the Chevra Kadisha in preparation for the family to sit Shiva in the traditional way in stocking feet and wearing torn garments as a sign of grief.

While all this was taking place, the grave diggers were diligently forcing pick and spade into the frozen ground to create a grave in the hillside cemetery.

In the afternoon, Malke was slowly lowered next to her husband, Srul, who had been interred in 1913, the year prior to the start of the First World War.

Malke's mourning 62 year old son Wolf [Zeev ben Izrael] recited the Kaddish prayer. Shovels and handfuls of frozen earthen clods were strewn over her wooden coffin by members of family and friends who had known her in life. That very afternoon, as mourners and congregants slowly filed home before sunset, Malke's burial was complete.

Until a 1921 photo that had been taken by Nushie WALD, the opportunistic Rohatyn shtetl photographer, was recently rediscovered, one would have marveled how young Shrulka could have possibly been able to retain in memory, for such a long time, the vivid details of the happenings of a day 82 years earlier.

Standing in the unmarked, black and white photograph, in the dusty rubble of the remnants of World War I, was a handsome, five year old boy, with neatly combed hair, dressed in a sailor type suit in front of his two female cousins who wore big bows in their hair. Ester held a chain mail purse hanging casually from one hand. Immediately, the significance of the memorable photograph became obvious, and on what special day it had been taken.

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**Terry Lasky writes:** I am working on two other cemetery projects. I have secured copies of a cemetery book from the town of Orhei, Moldova (my ancestral hometown). It is in Russian script, and with the help of two friends, I am translating the information. There are 2800-3000 entries. In addition, I have been in contact with the Jewish Heritage Center in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. A relative of mine used to be president of that organization. They have lists of all Jewish burials in the Winnipeg area up to the year 1996 and are embarking on a project to update it. There are over 17,000 entries from ten cemeteries in the spreadsheets. In order to put this data on JOWBR, it will require a major reformatting job. I am working with this organization to get all of the data and to reformat it for JOWBR.

## IAJGS Annual Awards

by Stephen P. Morse of San Francisco  
(As Reprinted from the IAJGS Leadership List Serve)

Each year the IAJGS (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies) recognizes individuals and organizations with four prestigious awards for excellence in Jewish genealogy. For 2008, as in past years, the four award categories are:

1. IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award
2. Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product
3. Outstanding Programming or Project that Advanced the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy
4. Outstanding Publication by a Member Organization of IAJGS

This year there has been a change in the nominating process. Rather than submitting nominations via email or postal mail as in past years, nominations can now be made online via a One-Step Form. Our intent is to make it easier for the submitters as well as for the committee members who have to review the submissions. The online form is at <http://stevemorse.org/awards/nominate.php>.

Please note that nominations can be made only by member organizations of the IAJGS and not by individuals. However, we encourage individuals to be part of the process by contacting their local JGS board and suggesting worthy recipients.

The recipients of the 2008 awards will be announced at the annual IAJGS conference banquet in Chicago on August 21. The deadline for award nominations is April 1. The members of the 2008 awards committee are Hal Bookbinder, Michael Brenner, Stephen Morse (chairman), Ilene Murray and Rieke Nash. For details on each award and a listing of all previous winners, go to <http://www.iajgs.org/awards>.

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### **Trust of the Judah L. Magnes Museum Seeks Jewish Community Pictures for the Gold Rush Era for Publication in Book Titled *The Jews of the Gold Rush* for Arcadia Publishing**

Pictures needed for circa 1849-1880 of Jewish people, Jewish families, Jewish owned or working mines, stores, ads for stores, businesses, synagogues, posters for events, ketubahs, prayer books, artifacts and other items of Jewish life during the Gold Rush in either picture form or that can be photographed.

Please identify if you have archives, libraries, sources or leads in your genealogical material for the Gold Rush period, particularly for Toulumne, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras and Nevada Counties, California. Also, can we trace any of your surnames to those in the pioneer Jewish Gold Rush cemeteries?

Contact Paul Solomon, Trustee, Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries & Landmarks in the West, A Trust of the Judah Magnes Museum, at [paul@psastrategy.com](mailto:paul@psastrategy.com).

## Happenings of Interest

Judaica show through January 2nd at the Boulder Arts & Crafts Co-op located on the Pearl Street pedestrian mall.

A Library of Congress exhibition, From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America, opens January 7, 2008 at the Denver Central Public Library, 10 W. Fourteenth Ave. Parkway.

This commemorative exhibition is one of the activities associated with the congressionally recognized Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History. The exhibit is brought to Denver through sponsorship of the Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society at the University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies, the Mizel Museum, the American Jewish Historical Society, and the Denver Public Library. The exhibition will be on view in the library's main floor of Schlessman Hall through February 15.

ALEPH Institute for Jewish Culture classes offered this winter and spring through DU's University College will include:

Yiddish II with Professor David Shneer. Wednesday's beginning Jan. 8, 6-7:30 p.m.

Early Zionist Thought & Politics with Professor Caryn Aviv. Four sessions beginning Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7-9 p.m.

The Ethics of Memory: Portraying the Holocaust with Scholar in Residence for the Holocaust Awareness Institute, Janet Rumfelt. Five sessions beginning Wednesday April 16, 7-9 p.m.

Registration at University College is open so reserve your space now. Call University College at 303.871.2291 for more information or visit [http://www.du.edu/cjs/public\\_education\\_classes.html](http://www.du.edu/cjs/public_education_classes.html) for class descriptions and details.

"The Jewish Americans," a three-part, televised PBS series by David Grubin, airs January 9, 16 and 23rd. Check your local PBS station for exact timeslot. For more information, visit [www.jewishtvnetwork.com/jewishamericans/](http://www.jewishtvnetwork.com/jewishamericans/).

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### **Jewish Galveston on Google:**

- 1.) Wikipedia listing says that 10,000 passed through Galveston 1907-1914.
- 2.) Book titled, "Galveston, Ellis Island of the West" published 1983 by Dr. Bernard Marinbach in Jerusalem.
- 3.) Tracing the Tribe Blog: The Jewish Genealogy Blog by Shelley Tallalay Dardasti, August 25, 2007 references a Mass Jewish Migration Database at [mjmd.haifa.ac.il/](http://mjmd.haifa.ac.il/) which locates Jews who immigrated through the Jewish Colonization Association (ICA), the Jewish Territorial Organization (ITO) and the Galveston Plan.
- 5.) Tracing the Tribe Blog also references that in February, 1909, "Forgotton Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island" exhibit will open at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin, Texas to tell the story of the port (1845-1924). More than 300 Galveston descendnts were contacted. A link to this story was in the Jeruslame Post, August 23, 2007.

The Israel Genealogical Society [IGS] announces that more searchable databases have been added to the Eretz Israel Records Indexing [EIRI] project. You can find:

1.) The searchable 1922 Census for Petach Tikvah with 3,077 names on EIRI. This census was undertaken during the British Mandate as the first census of the British hegemony over the area. [www.isragen.org.il/eiri/1922/introduction.html](http://www.isragen.org.il/eiri/1922/introduction.html)

2.) Victims of the 1929 Arab Riots: In 1929, the Arabs, at the incitement of Hadj Amin al-Husseini, Mufti of Jerusalem, went on a killing spree against the Jews in Jerusalem, Motza, Hebron, Tel Aviv, Beer Tuvia, Hulda, Haifa, Safat and Ein Zeitim. This list includes those murdered. Details include surname, given name, father's name, place of birth and country of birth, birth year, date and place murdered, detailed biographical notes and many entries also contain the mother's name. Be sure to click on "details" to get all the information on a person. For those using Firefox as a browser, when "details" is clicked, an "error console" might pop up inadvertently. Just close it to read all the information available on the person of interest. The birthplaces of those listed are from all over the globe. [www.isragen.org.il/eiri/1929/introduction.html](http://www.isragen.org.il/eiri/1929/introduction.html)

3.) American Citizens in Eretz Israel in 1929: After the riots broke out, an American citizen, worried about his parents who had come to Eretz Israel for a visit, wrote to the American State Department to ask about their whereabouts. The Department of State then requested a survey of all United States citizens present in the area. This database is extracted from the American Consul's response. [www.isragen.org.il/eiri/1929-Amer/introduction.html](http://www.isragen.org.il/eiri/1929-Amer/introduction.html)

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