

Founded in 1995, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado is a member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, a nonprofit organization with 76 member societies in 16 countries. Membership is open to anyone interested in researching Jewish roots. Guests are welcome at monthly meetings.

JGSCO

Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado

CHAI

Winter 2004-2005

A Recent Visit to Salt Lake City

During the first week of November, I traveled to Salt Lake City to attend a board meeting of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). My husband and 14 week old daughter accompanied me as we drove 8.5 hours on I80 through Wyoming. Although a long road trip, a beautiful one through Wyoming's southern Rockies and northeast Utah via Park City. Salt Lake City looked the same as it did for my last trip there in 2000 during the annual IAJGS summer conference. The most notable change is at the Mormon Library itself where the internal layout has been reorganized and is easier to navigate. Change for copy machines is no longer necessary as a card system is now utilized and translators are available at the International Desk for minor assistance. There is street construction outside the library which required crossing the street to use sidewalks. The library remains closed on Sundays for the Mormon celebrated Sabbath, however, access to hear the televised Mormon Tabernacle choir is open to the public if you arrive first thing in the morning as space allows. We searched for a 4 star or better hotel using Orbitz and were pleased to be placed at the historic Peery Hotel for \$54 total per night. Many fast food, affordable buffet and fine dining restaurants are within walking distance of Temple Square and the library. A special treat was the elegant all-u-can-eat buffet located on the top floor of the Joseph Smith Building which overlooks the city. I had time apart from the two day board meeting to accomplish some personal genealogy and was met with success! I learned the maiden name of my great great grandmother who was born in Kiralyhaza, Hungary in 1854. Her full name is Ella Lebowitz Ackerman. Next I need to find out when and where she died after coming to the U.S. in 1904.

- Ellen Shindelman Kowitt, editor

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*Contributing
articles are
welcome!*

Yad Vashem Launches Its Names Database Including Pages of Testimony

Excerpted From Gary Mokotoff's "Nu? What's New?" Vol. 5, No. 16 – September 12, 2004 and "Nu? What's New?" Vol. 4, No. 13 - July 27, 2003

The Yad Vashem database consists of an index to some four million digitized records and is now available online at <http://www.yadvashem.org/>

Included are three million Pages of Testimony. This is one of the most important collections for Holocaust genealogical research.

The major archives and documentation center for the Holocaust is Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel. Since 1955, Yad Vashem has been attempting to document every one of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust in a manuscript collection called Pages of Testimony. To date, more than three million victims have been documented. Persons have been requested to come forward and submit, on a preprinted form, information about the victim, including name; place and year of birth; place, date and circumstances of death; occupation; names of mother, father and spouse; and, in some cases, names and ages of children. Each submitter is required to sign this Page of Testimony and to show his or her name, address and relationship to deceased. By submitting this form, the person testifies that he or she knew of the victim and the circumstances surrounding his or her death. The majority of the submitters

are relatives of the deceased. Most Pages of Testimony were submitted in the 1950s when the project started. Most have been submitted by Israelis and, therefore, are written in Hebrew. In recent years, there has been an effort to increase the size of the collection significantly. Holocaust survivors are encouraged to contribute Pages now; otherwise, information that only they can provide will be lost to future generations. The emigration of a large number of Jews from the former Soviet Union has also provided an opportunity to add significantly to the collection.

There are two search screens identified as Basic and Complex. The Basic search permits the user to search by last name, first name and place. The Complex search allows access to most fields on the Page of Testimony including last name, first name, father's first name, mother's first name, date of birth (approx), place of birth, place of residence, spouse's first name, profession, date of death (approx), place of death, submitter's last name and submitter's first name.

Most of these fields can be searched by Exact Spelling, Phonetic, Synonym or Word Stem (Word Stem is meant for names spelled in Hebrew). The Synonym feature is very powerful. Yad Vashem has compiled a list of both last

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and first names and determined which are synonyms of the other. This feature is especially useful for given names. In one example, searching for a person whose name was Rose, identified women whose given names were Raizel, Reize, Riscl, Raizela, Royze, Roza, Roze and Ruza.

The last name search automatically includes searching for maiden name. You can even search by submitter name.

Other records included in the database to date are:

Austria (Dow)
Berlin (Gedenkbuch)
France (Klarsfeld deportation lists: 70,000 Jews deported from France primarily to Auschwitz)
Germany (Gedenkbuch: 128,000 German Jews murdered in the Holocaust)
Hungary (Nevek series of name lists)
Lodz Ghetto (Censuses of the ghetto)
Luxembourg (All victims)
Mauthausen (Jewish inmates)
Megilot - Memorial Lists (Small lists)
Netherlands (Oorlogsslachtoffers)
Slovakia (Deportations in 1942)
Theresienstadt Camp - Bohemia/Moravia
Thessaloniki (Deportations)
Yugoslavia (State register)

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Effort Underway to Locate Survivors of Ahlem Labor Camp in Hanover, Germany

Mrs. Roni Seibel Liebowitz of Scarsdale, New York writes in an email:

We are in a race against time to locate survivors (or their families) of World War II prisoners who were in the Ahlem Labor Camp, in Hanover, Germany. Men and boys at this slave labor camp were taken from the Lodz Ghetto, sent to Auschwitz for a short time, and then to the Ahlem Labor Camp. Many Lodzers (and those from the surrounding areas) settled in the eastern United States after the war and then migrated west, especially with the second generation. We hope to reach more of them. Vernon Tott of Sioux City, Iowa has been honored by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and at a ceremony in Hanover, Germany. A documentary is now being produced about this quest to give them a piece of history through his photographs. He has found several in Israel, the U.S. and Sweden. In very poor health, Mr. Tott is using his last strength to make as many contacts as possible. We traveled to Poland this summer for the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Lodz Ghetto and if his health permits, we will travel to Israel in March. To see photos and learn more, go to <http://www.jou.ufl.edu/documentary/prod/Ahlem/album/default.asp>.

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Help With Finding Israeli Submitters to Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony

Per Email posted on the German Jewish SIG Digest 29 Nov 2004

Martha Lev-Zion, martha@bgumail.bgu.ac.il, President of the Israel Genealogical Society [IGS] has offered to help with finding Israeli submitters to the Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony. They have set up a process whereby you can send queries and they will field them for you. The queries will stay on their website where everyone similarly wanting to find submitters or their descendants will post. IGS will publicize the site around Israel so that people can check in to see if they know anyone or can help you in your search. Go to <http://www.isragen.org.il> <http://www.isragen.org.il> and look under "Projects" on the side bar. You will see a category called "Searching for Submitters of Pages of Testimony in Israel." To post, send ALL of the following information to Rose Feldman rosef@post.tau.ac.il.
Testimony regarding: [Last name, First name]; Country of origin or pre-war residence; Name of submitter of testimony; Relationship to deceased; Year of submission to Yad Vashem; Address and telephone number of submitter; Your name; Your email and phone number; Date of posting your inquiry.

Opportunity to Audit D.U. Judaic Studies Program Courses

D.U. Judaic Studies Department Chair Dr. David Shneer has graciously offered that members of the JGSCO can audit courses (free) by permission of the instructor. Generally, auditors are allowed in any of the Judaic Studies courses and they ask that people make some kind of contribution to the Center, whether that be financial or with their volunteer support. The spring course description can be found online at <http://www.du.edu/cjs/academic/schedule.htm>.

Ongoing Beginning Genealogy Workshop Cosponsored by CO Genealogical Society and DPL

Second Saturday of every month, year round at Denver Public Library Downtown, Gates Conference Room, 5th level, 10-2:30 pm * Free Walk-In Registration *

A basic course for the beginner. Each class is followed by a tour of the 5th floor Genealogy Department. *This course does not feature Jewish specific resources.*

JGSCO to Sponsor Annual Jewish Beginners Workshop April 10th at Temple Emanuel 1-5 pm

Names Index Compiled For "The Cotopaxi Colony"

A names index to the 80-page thesis about Colorado's 1882 Jewish Cotopaxi Colony has been created. Initiated by DPL Genealogy Librarian James Jeffrey, JGSCO member Ellen Shindelman Kowitz compiled a surname index to the thesis written by Flora Jane Satt at C.U. in 1950. The original, unpublished manuscript is held at the Denver Public Library Genealogy Department. A copy of the thesis and this newly created names index are also available at the JGSCO library at Temple Emanuel.

Following are the surnames of 123 unique individuals mentioned within the thesis:

Altman; Baer; Bancroft; Carroll; Cremieux; Davidson; Frazer; Goodwin; Grimes; Hart; Heilprin; Ignatieff; Isaacs; Isaacs; Kadish; Kohn; Korpitsky; Kossuth; Levinsohn; McCoy; Mendelsohn; Milstein; Montefiore; Morris; Moscowitz; Mullins; Needleman; Newman; Ornstein; Prezant; Quiat; Radinsky; Robinson; Rockafellow; Rosenstein; Rudd; Saleel; Saltiel; Schneider; Schwartz; Shames; Shradsky; Shuteran; Singer; Spivak; Steinel; Strauss; Tarkoff; Thomas; Tobias; Toplitsky; Toplitsky; Washer/Wesher; Witkowski; Wulsten; Zalman

Seeking any information about the current whereabouts of Flora Jane Satt. Please contact James Jeffrey at Jeffrey@denver.lib.co.us.

Colorado Marriages 1858-1939 Now

Available on CD for \$11 An Index Compiled by The Denver Public Library and Published by the Colorado Genealogical Society, Inc. < www.rootsweb.com/~cocgs/ >

In the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration (WPA), working through the Division of Vital Statistics, indexed all known marriages statewide for Colorado from the time of the gold rush (1858) to 1939. The information was typed onto index cards. The index cards were then filed in rough alphabetical order by the surname of the groom. No index of the brides was generated through the WPA.

Colorado Marriages 1858-1939 was a special project of the Western History/Genealogy Department of the Denver Public Library and the Colorado Genealogical Society. Volunteers have generated an index to over 456,000 marriages cross listing the names of both bride and groom, the date and place of marriage, and the license number.

Every Colorado County represented * Over 912,000 entries * Brides and grooms in a single alphabetical listing * Uses Adobe Reader * Make payment to CGS, Inc. * CGS-Colorado Marriage CD, P.O. Box 9218, Denver, CO 80209-0218

Filmmakers Hope Movie About Shtetl Rekindles Interest in Preserving History

Excerpt of article by Lev Krichevsky (JTA)

Despite what its title suggests, "Judenfrei: A Shtetl Without Jews," is not a typical film about the Holocaust. The 52-minute film, part-feature, part documentary, tells the story of Brailov, a shtetl in central Ukraine.

In December 1942, the Nazis, helped by local collaborators, killed the remaining 2,500 Jews in the shtetl leaving only one sign of the former Jewish presence in this once-lively Jewish town: a poster nailed at the village entrance reading "Brailov. Judenfrei."

But the filmmakers say their film is more than a requiem to a Jewish community destroyed in the Holocaust. The movie, full of scenes reconstructing the town's past, is devoted to the preservation of history and spirit of shtetl life in Ukraine.

Since no Jews currently live in Brailov, filmmakers brought Jewish adults and kids from the neighboring communities of Vinnitsa and Shargorod to play in the scenes that reconstruct life in Brailov before and during the Holocaust. The film documents how a once-prosperous and lively shtetl became a depressed Ukrainian village.

The story of the Kemelman family is similar to that experienced by many Jewish families in this part of the world. The family lived in Brailov as long as their family memory goes back — since the 1850s.

In the documentary, the 80-year-old pensioner now living in Brooklyn, comes to Brailov to talk to the villagers and visit the grave of his grandmother Reeva, who died in the Holocaust along with dozens of other members of his family.

Khmelnitski says he decided to make the movie based on his family experience in order to tell his children who are being raised in the United States, what the life of a shtetl looked like.

The town now has a monument to its victims of the Holocaust; its construction was funded by the former local citizens now living abroad and by the U.S. Commission on Preservation of the American Heritage Abroad.

Others around the world may know as well. Masterovoy, the film's director, said negotiations are under way to arrange the TV screening of the film in the United States and Canada, and a Russian TV channel has already agreed to show it next season.

JGSCO Fall Meeting Roundup

At the September meeting of the JGS Colorado, Denver Public Library Research Librarian Joe Cahn spoke. Joe's useful handout "Some(Un)expected Resources for Jewish Genealogy Research in Denver's Central Library (Outside the Genealogy Department)" is posted online at the JGSCO website www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado/.

The October JGS Colorado meeting welcomed Dr. David Shneer, D.U. Judaic Studies Department Chair as he lectured about the history of photography in Jewish shtetls and using photos to conduct family history research.

In November, a number of JGS Colorado members and guests traveled to C.U. Boulder for an introduction to the map collection division and an explanation of online map resources. This useful handout is available on the JGSCO website www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado/.

Dues Increase For 2005

Increasing operation costs such as postal hikes, speakers honorarium, and donations made by JGSCO to JewishGen and the IAJGS, have made it necessary to raise individual and family JGSCO dues to \$30 and \$40 effective as of January 1st.

Online Resources

Jewish Web Index is a compendium of thousands of links and bits and pieces of information — sorted in alphabetical order by country and/or by subject — free to browse. Published by Ted Margulis <tmargulis@dc.rr.com> of Palm Desert, California. <http://jewishwebindex.com>

Jewish Data Times is a professional compilation of databases available for a fee. The e-newsletter promoting new materials focused mostly on upstate NY, New England, eastern Canada and NYC, is free. To subscribe, go to http://jewishdata.com/mailman/listinfo/newsletter_jewishdata.com

The IAJGS ECHO is a periodic update from the IAJGS Board of Directors. It provides both information about the activities of the IAJGS as well useful ideas that can be implemented at the local JGS level. Topics include operations such as budget, leadership structure, volunteer recruitment, publicity, programming, and local projects. Current and back issues are accessible via the www.iajgs.org website.

If you haven't looked at Stephen Morse's One Step Directory website lately, do it! In addition to the Ellis Island Jewish name search function, the Israeli phonebook, and the Hebrew/Russian/English translation programs, there are also a Jewish calendar conversion program, a latitude/longitude to address converter, access to Castle Garden passenger lists, and more!!! <http://stevemorse.org>

Ancestry offers a free 14-day free trial to access all of its census images and more. Why not make a list and spend 14 days looking up all of your surnames to maximize this freebie? www.ancestry.com

The current issue of Dick Eastman's Online Standard Edition Newsletter is available free at <http://eogn.typepad.com/>

GenWeekly is a weekly e-publication, via email, packed with information that helps people of all ages and levels of genealogical experience discover their unique heritage. A complimentary version is available as well as paid subscription options. www.genweekly.com/index.html

Archaic Medical Terms - A Resource For Genealogists and Historians at www.paul_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm

Las Vegas Update

July 10-15th, 2005
25th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held at the Las Vegas Flamingo Hotel. <http://www.jgssn.org>

Online registration begins December 1st. There is a link to make a hotel reservation at the conference website. A lottery is available for early registrants and a call for papers to speak at the conference is due by December 31, 2004.

If you are interested in attending and would like to find a roommate to share expenses with, please contact a JGSCO board member to help pair up.

Author of Acclaimed Book, "The Wayfarers" To Lecture January 16th

Stuart Tower will speak to the JGSCO at B'Nai Havurah about his historical novel of mass Jewish emigration in celebration of the 350th anniversary of Jewish Life in America.

The "Wayfarers" or Fuggeyers in Yiddish traveled by foot across Europe from Romania in the early 20th century.

A docudrama based on the book is currently being prepared by Yale Strom, the internationally recognized documentarian, and is scheduled to be in theaters by mid-2005. Additionally, Strom, also a musicologist of note (!), has been commissioned by The Center for Jewish Culture and Creativity to compose a suite honoring the Fuggeyer movement as depicted in The Wayfarers.

New Book by Yale Strom & Elizabeth Schwartz "A Wandering Feast: A Journey Through The Jewish Culture of Eastern Europe"

Published by Jossey-Bass

In 1981, a young man gave up law school, and bought a one-way ticket to the Eastern Bloc. His goal: To find remnant Jewish communities, and never-before recorded or notated klezmer music. After a year behind the Iron Curtain, Yale Strom did indeed find the people and music that would form the foundation for his work... but he found much, much more. Before the 6 films, before the 10 books, before the 9 CD releases and myriad compositions, there was the very first trip. An artist, a man and a Jew came of age. This is that story. A memoir and travelogue, filled with Yale's photos, transcribed music from his field recordings and recipes of the Jewish and regional dishes he found (and devoured) there.

World renowned artist-ethnographer Yale Strom has been called "one of the best klezmer musicians in the country" (Houston Public News) and "an all-around musical visionary" (Sing Out! Magazine). Time Magazine writes, "Through his art, Strom has brought back his spiritual Klezmer ancestors". Dirty Linen sums it up most concisely: "Yale Strom is a Jewish roots trip unto himself".

Book Titled "From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America" Published by the Library of Congress

As part of the national celebration of 350 years of Jewish presence in North America, the Library of Congress opened a new exhibit "From Haven to Home" this fall. A companion book titled "From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America" has been published by the Library in association with George Braziller Inc. Edited by Michael W. Grunberger, head of the Library's Hebraic Section. This compilation of essays by leading historians provides insight into the complexities of the American Jewish experience within the framework of American history and culture. The 240-page publication, with more than 100 color illustrations, is available for \$50 in bookstores nationwide and in the Library's Sales Shop. For credit card orders, call (888) 682-3557. See the LOC website for details at <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2004/04-116.html>.

AJHS Making Jewish Periodicals Available Online

Excerpted from American Jewish Historical Society Heritage Fall 2004/Winter 2005
The American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) has begun a long-term project to make complete runs of as many as 1,000 American Jewish periodicals available in fully searchable digital form through the power of the Internet. The project is called ADAJE, an acronym for "American Digital Archive of Jewish Experience." The goal of ADAJE is to make available a record of daily Jewish life of the nation's many Jewish communities in the nineteenth and twentieth century. AJHS has begun ADAJE by placing a fully searchable digital run of its own journal, *American Jewish History* from 1893 to 1992 on the ADAJE section of the Society's website, www.ajhs.org. The American Jewish Committee has granted AJHS permission to mount a complete run of its *American Jewish Yearbook*, and by the end of 2004 that resource should be available on the site as well. The project will expand as funding is obtained.

Upcoming JGSCO Meetings and Events

Sun, January 16, 2005	"The Wayfarers" Stuart Tower	B'nei Havurah
Tues, February 8, 2005	<i>Deciphering Jewish Gravesites</i> Ellen and Shai Kowitz	Temple Emanuel
Sun, March 13, 2005	<i>Creative Census Research Techniques</i> Terry Lasky	B'nei Havurah
Sun, April 10, 2005	<i>Annual Jewish Beginner's Workshop</i> Ellen Kowitz	Temple Emanuel
Tues, April 12, 2005	<i>Writing A Readable Family History</i> Tim Oswald	Temple Emanuel
Tues, May 10, 2005	<i>German Genealogy Resources</i> Ed Richards	Temple Emanuel
Tues, May 24, 2005	<i>DPL Daytime Field Trip</i> Terry Lasky	Denver Public Lib.
Sun, June 5, 2005	<i>Share Triumphs & Trials in Genealogy</i> B'nei Havurah	B'nei Havurah

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