

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

Spring 2005

CHAI

Vegas Conference Planning Tips

So you've decided to attend the 25th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Las Vegas, July 10-15, 2005. Good decision! What can you expect to happen and how should you plan?

While networking with an anticipated 700-1000 Jewish genealogists, you'll be able to attend all kinds of lectures ranging from topics on methodology to genetics, foreign archives, computer resources, Holocaust, immigration, media, and rabbinical resources.

Brush up your skills and start by arriving in time for Sunday afternoon's beginners workshop facilitated by professional Jewish genealogist Nancy Levin Arbeiter. Another not-to-miss program for all levels is the Tuesday evening program hosted by JewishGen.

For JGS leaders, schedule Sunday afternoon for the first-ever Management Sub-Seminar sponsored by the IAJGS Board of Directors. Sit in on three free sessions between 1-5 pm including "How To Grow a JGS," a panel addressing issues for large and small societies, and an informative presentation on what IAJGS at the international level is doing to help the local society.

Get up early each morning and have breakfast between 7-8 am with one of 8 experts available to answer your most challenging research question. Ukrainian archivist Olga Muzychuk will be one of those experts as will Sallyann Sack, Gary Mokotoff, Warren Blatt, Peter Lande, Stephen Morse and more! Sign up for the breakfast expert sessions when you register online at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs/jgs-southernnevada/Shelley/regist.htm>. Early registration ends May 1st. After that, there is a \$30 additional fee to register until June 25th.

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*Contributing
articles are
welcome!*

Vegas Conference Planning Tips

Another exciting opportunity will be access to the databases being brought onsite by Israel's Beth Hatefutsoth (<http://www.bh.org.il/>) as well as Washington, DC's Holocaust Museum Survivors Registry.

In terms of maximizing time at the conference:

- Check the Daily Planner listed online to plan out which sessions to attend in advance before you get there.
- Consider attending SIG (special interest group) or BOF (Birds of a Feather) meetings to ask specific questions on research for your ancestral towns.
- Print up business size cards with your personal contact information, surnames and shtetls to pass out as you network.
- Bring materials requiring translation. You can post notes on a central bulletinboard seeking translation assistance.
- Do not bring original documents or photos - only photocopies in case they get lost.
- Do bring a digital camera to copy materials.
- Book shows NOW! Big name shows like Celine Dion are already sold out for July. Same goes for reservations at famous restaurants like Wolfgang Puck and Emerils.

Some other useful information:

- Multiple door prizes will be offered daily in the vendor and hospitality rooms.
- Continental Airlines offers a conference discount. Call 800-468-7022, use code **3N3ZV6**, and get the best discount from their regular fare or a zone fare, whichever is less.
- Pre-packaged kosher meals will be available for delivery to the hotel through Glatt Chabad.
- If you want a refrigerator in your room, you can get it free for medical reasons or rent it for \$10. Call the hotel directly once you have reserved a room to request this or other special services.
- DSL will be available in rooms. \$6 for 2 hours or \$11/day.
- Coloradoans know this already, but remember your hat, sunscreen, water bottle, and a light sweater for air conditioned venues.
- Consider purchasing a "10 trips for \$20 monorail pass" rather than paying \$3 every time you ride.

I ate at the buffet in the Flamingo and it was a good meal for \$13-\$16. A better and very special buffet was at the Paris Hotel for \$25 per person. Fast food is readily available nearby on the strip. Buy soda or bottled water at a grocery or convenience store. If you buy it in the hotels or on the strip, prices are grossly inflated. Another budget hint: Go to entertainment.com and order a Las Vegas coupon book discounted to \$15.

-Ellen Shindelman Kowitt, editor

YIVO News Online

The Winter 2005 edition of YIVO News is now available online at the YIVO website www.yivo.org

Page 24 contains a list of a number of new landsmanshaft records turned over by the New York State Department of Insurance Liquidation, as well as family history materials donated by private individuals. www.yivo.org/pdf/yedies2.pdf

A glimpse into 1,000 years of East European Jewish history and culture is now available as well. Titled "When these streets heard Yiddish," the site can be accessed at <http://epyc.yivo.org>. The content was drawn from YIVO's EPYC (Educational Program on Yiddish Culture), a comprehensive curriculum that required five years of research and development to complete. Officially launched December 1, 2004, the web site was designed for educators, students and the general public. Viewers are encouraged to explore its three sections covering "Jewish Culture," "Lives" and "Places."



GROUP TRIP TO LITHUANIA & NEARBY AREAS

Howard Margol, past president of IAJGS is organizing another group trip to Lithuania June 28 to July 7, 2005. This is the 12th group trip he has organized and led.

Included are visits to the various archives, synagogues, ghettos, holocaust sites, meetings with Jewish leaders, sight-seeing, guide/interpreters, and two days to visit and spend time in your shtetl, or shtetlach of interest. Most meals are included, the finest hotels (new & modern), modern bus with onboard toilet, and much more. Howard is very familiar with local archives, the archivists, Lithuania and the main places of Jewish interest.

Howard does not organize these group trips as a profit-making endeavor. Everything is done at cost but in a deluxe manner. His main object is to encourage Jews to go back to their roots, to encourage them to research their ancestors and to enable them to see the rebirth of Judaism taking place in Lithuania.

This may be a good opportunity to go to the area of your ancestors and continue on to Las Vegas in time for the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

His previous trip participants can be contacted if references are desired.

For details and a full itinerary of the trip, contact Howard Margol, E-mail homargol@aol.com Fax: 404-228-7125.

Boy Scout Genealogy Merit Badge

Posted by Carol-Jean Boevers on the APG list serve.

I would encourage members to consider registering as a genealogy merit badge counselor with the Boy Scouts. I get called on occasion to help a boy get his badge, which consists of meeting briefly a few times to see how he is coming on simply defined projects, then signing off when they are done.

Becoming a merit badge counselor requires filling out a couple forms (obtained from your local scout council, often available online) and agreeing to a background check. If you know of a local troop, it is good to let them know you are volunteering, since most troops work with those they know are available.

It's fun to connect with these beginning genealogists and encourage them in their pursuit.

**Annual Jewish Genealogy
Beginners Workshop
April 10th at Temple Emanuel 1:30-5:30 pm**

Pre-Registration Strongly Recommended

Researching Jewish ancestry can be a challenge with so many languages, countries, and uniquely Jewish traditions to navigate.

Do you have a friend or relative who has an interest in beginning Jewish family history? If so, this is the opportunity they have been waiting for.

Aimed at novices, this popular workshop is presented by JGSCO member Ellen Shindelman Kowitt for the purpose of recruiting new members to JGSCO. For \$35, the workshop includes one year JGSCO membership, the book "Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy" by Gary Mokotoff and Warren Blatt, personal consultation, and additional materials.

Basic research tips on U.S. federal census, Ellis Island, passenger manifests and naturalization records are introduced as well as Jewish-specific resources located online, domestically and abroad including the world of JewishGen databases, networking through the organized JGS world, where eastern European Jewish records are held and how to successfully gain access to them.

Have you heard of the following repositories but are unsure how each collection can aid in your search? Come learn about The Center For Jewish History, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, The Leo Baeck Institute, The American Jewish Historical Society, U.S. Holocaust Museum, Yad Vashem, and The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People.

Learn about Jewish naming traditions, uniquely Jewish gravestone inscriptions, and Jewish migration patterns that provide clues to your ancestry and make doing genealogy easier and fun!

Last year, the response was positive, so early registration is recommended to ensure that enough materials and assistance is available to all participants. The program will begin at 1:30 pm, provide 1 or 2 short breaks and end no later than 5:30 pm.

For more information or to pre-register, contact Ellen at 720-221-6858 or email grapevynwest@comcast.net.

**JGSCO Website
Updated - New
Features and
Significant
Links**

If you haven't visited the JGSCO website in the last 3 months, then you should definitely take another look.

Colorado specific resources including an index to the names of Jewish Cotopoxi settlers, a link to the JCRS patient names index currently being created at D.U., and handouts from recent JGSCO meetings are all included.

There's much more planned too. All back issues of "Chai From Colorado" are being scanned and indexed and a list of all holdings in the JGSCO private library collection can be viewed online and now circulated (by permission of JGSCO librarian Sandy Greenberg).

So, take another look and come back to check out additional materials in the coming months. www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado/

National Archives and Records Administration Rocky Mountain Region - Lakewood Spring Workshop Schedule

\$10 each - Pre-registration Required

<http://www.archives.gov/facilities/co/denver/workshops.html>

Monday, May 2

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Genealogical Research Using Census Records by Kathy Anderson, Archives Technician

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Non-Census Research at NARA's Rocky Mountain Region by Rick Martinez, Archives Specialist

Tuesday, May 3

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Preserving Your Family Papers by Linda Blaser, National Preservation Officer for Regional Records

Wednesday, May 4

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Using Federal Land Records: How to Find Homestead and Other Land Entries by Andrew Senti, Bureau of Land Management

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Modern Tools for Historical Records: Using Government Computer Resources to Research Ancestors by Rob Richards, Archives Specialist

Thursday, May 5

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Do You Have A Railroader Ancestor? by Bill Nix, Volunteer

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Using Bureau of Indian Affairs Records to Trace Your Native American Ancestry by Eric Bittner, Archivist

Friday, May 6

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Foreswearing All Other Allegiances: Naturalization in the United States from 1790-Present by Marene Baker, Archivist

JGSCO Winter Meeting Roundup

In December, a knowledgeable panel of JGSCO members answered questions in the JGSCO library at Congregation Emanuel during "Ask The Experts."

At the January meeting of the JGS Colorado, California author Stuart Tower enthusiastically lectured about his book "The Wayfarers."

<http://www.lighthouseeditions.com/wayfarers.htm>

The February JGS Colorado meeting was "Deciphering Jewish Gravestones" with member Ellen Shindelman Kowitt and Shai Kowitt. An informative handout can be found online at

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado/gravestones.html>.

In March, member Terry Lasky shared tips for creatively researching the federal census online. His presentation can be found online at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado/census.html>.

JGSCO Projects

Volunteers Ellen and Shai Kowitt continue to translate gravestones at Golden Hill Cemetery to complete an HEA initiated database for addition to the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR).

Volunteer Terry Lasky has begun the creation of a similar database for burials at Rose Hill Cemetery.

Volunteers continue to index records of the Jewish Consumptives Relief Society (JCRS) at D.U.'s Penrose Library.

Online Resources

Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation Testimony Catalogue

The Shoah Foundation Testimony Catalogue is designed to assist end-users in searching data in the Shoah Foundation archive. This software utilizes basic life-history information taken from interviewee questionnaires that were completed before each interview was videotaped. In some cases, interviewees may not have provided answers to all questions; therefore, some answer fields are blank. You can search by city of birth to locate survivors from your shtetl of interest. <http://tc.vhf.org/>

The American Jewish Archives has placed the late Rabbi Malcolm Stern's "**First American Jewish Families**" online with a searchable index at <http://www.americanjewisharchives.org/aja/FAJF/intro.html>

Genealogy Online Training Courses

MyFamily.com is offering interactive online genealogy training classes including Jewish Basic Research and Jewish Internet Research. Each class is \$29.95.

News Transcripts Available Online

Google plans to allow Internet users to search transcripts of news, sports and entertainment programs from ABC, Fox News, PBS and C-Span. Viewing times and channels for the shows will also appear in the search results.

Tidbit: AltaVista.com allows word-proximity searches whereas Google.com does not.

From the IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

Lois Sparling from Canada, a lawyer who is actively involved with the Canadian census issue sent the following URL which gives an excellent overview on the history and current issue facing the Canadian census issue and has attached letters of "support" from various Canadian sources including the LDS. The "support" is in quotes, as they, like us, have concerns with the opt-in provision.

-Jan Meisels Allen

<http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazce/azce109.htm>

Upcoming Local Genealogy Programs

April 9, 2005 DPL Beginners Workshop. Free. 10am

April 10, 2005 JGSCO **Jewish** Beginners Workshop. See article page 4.

April 12, 2005, JGSCO meeting. See back cover.

April 15, 2005 CGS monthly meeting at Glendale Community Center. Free. Thomas Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL presents "Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor."

April 16, 2005 10:30-4 DPL, CGS Annual Seminar with Thomas Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL includes Five Ways to Prove Who Your Ancestors Were, Going Beyond the Bare Bones, and Missing Something? Pre-registration required. Cost is \$25

May 2-6, 2005 NARA Workshops, Lakewood Campus. See article p5.

May 10, 2005, JGSCO meeting. See back cover.

May 14, 2005 DPL Beginners Workshop. Free. 10am

May 24, 2005, JGSCO field trip to DPL. See back cover.

June 5, 2005, JGSCO meeting. See back cover.

June 11, 2005 DPL Beginners Workshop. Free. 10am

July 9, 2005 DPL Beginners Workshop. Free. 10am

Testimonies of Life and Survival Honoring Colorado Survivors of The Shoah

Reprinted in part from University of Denver Center For Judaic Studies Publication

The Holocaust Awareness Institute at the Center for Judaic Studies announces the upcoming publication of a book honoring all Colorado survivors of the Shoah, both living and departed. The book will be used as part of the Institute's future educational programming.

New Treeshare Service Immortalizes Families Online

As the passion for genealogy continues to sweep the world, so the tools get better and better. TreeShare Genealogy, a small Toronto-based web services company, is pleased to announce the launch of its online family tree service, available throughout the western world. The service provides and hosts handsome, graphical and dynamic family tree web sites. Members create, edit and share their family history collaboratively using only their web browser.

Everything about the TreeShare service is online, at www.treeshare.com - full details of features, a fully working demo, secure purchase of web sites, documentation, a message board, customer service, etc. The demo is an attraction unto itself, featuring the genealogy of the British royal family, complete with a large picture collection.

TreeShare is designed to be easy to use for web surfers of any skill level, but at the same time it is genealogically complete. Its database-driven software is fully GEDCOM-compliant, meaning that existing family history data from most desktop programs can be used. And unlike so many web hosts, TreeShare has a very thorough approach to data and personal security. Members have full control of their web site's content and to what extent it is public, if at all. The massively redundant backup system ensures that precious family data will not be lost. All this for a cost lower than most ordinary web hosts. Send email to info@treeshare.com

Gershon David Hundert's New Book: "Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century: A Genealogy of Modernity"

Missing from most accounts of the modern history of Jews in Europe is the experience of what was once the largest Jewish community in the world—an oversight that Gershon David Hundert corrects in this history of Eastern European Jews in the eighteenth century.

The experience of eighteenth-century Jews in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth did not fit the pattern of integration and universalization—in short, of westernization—that historians tend to place at the origins of Jewish modernity. Hundert puts this experience, that of the majority of the Jewish people, at the center of his history. He focuses on the relations of Jews with the state and their role in the economy, and on more “internal” developments such as the popularization of the Kabbalah and the rise of Hasidism. Thus he describes the elements of Jewish experience that became the basis for a “core Jewish identity”—an identity that accompanied the majority of Jews into modernity. \$50 from the University of California Press online at <http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/10033.html>

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Upcoming JGSCO Meetings and Events

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 Richard	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'Nai Havurah	

IAJGS Summer Conference on Jewish Genealogy

July 10-15, 2005

Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs/southernnevada/shelley/index.htm>