

CHAI

From Colorado

Spring 2006

Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado

Annual JGSCO Beginner Workshop Open To All Members and Guests This Year

Sunday, April 9, 2006

1:00pm to 4:00pm

Congregation Emanuel

1st and Grape Street, Denver

1. Learn how and where to start.
2. Learn about local, national, and Internet resources.
3. Learn about genealogical software.

Send your name, address and phone number along with a \$20.00 registration fee for non-members and \$10.00 fee for members to:

Myndel Cohen, 6965 E. Girard Ave., Denver, Colorado 80224

The fee includes a three hour session, valuable handouts, and the book "Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy" by Gary Mokotoff and Warren Blatt.

For further information call (303) 756-6028 or email:

myndel_cohen@comcast.net

Israeli Company May Change The Way We Research Our Families

Posted on IAJGS Leadership Listserv by Micha Reisel

A story written by Schelly Talalay Dardashti highlights a new research engine, face recognition technology (to help with matching people of various ages in unidentified pictures), free gen software and family pages. The article is online at <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3223966,00.html>

Founded in 1995, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado is a member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, a nonprofit organization with 78 member societies in 16 countries. Membership is open to anyone interested in researching Jewish roots. Guests are welcome at monthly meetings.

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*Contributing
articles are
welcome!*

Research Libraries Group Launches ArchiveGrid

Posted on IAJGS Leadership Listserve by Joy Rich, Editor, Dorot

“ArchiveGrid contains nearly a million archival collection descriptions held by hundreds of libraries, archives and museums.”

“A search result page includes a list of archive collections, a summary of the archives and archive locations that are represented in the collections, as well as a search box that enables the user to limit a search to a particular date range, an archive and/or the location of the archives. The description of each collection includes a title, the name of the archive, and some brief information from its description. Each entry also shows the users’ search terms in context. The user can discover what archives have material on the topic by reviewing the summary of archives and archive location.

Researchers who want more information about the archive or who want to contact it can click on the name of the archive in the collection description. The archive’s name is linked to the ArchiveGrid database of archive information.” Access is free until May 31st. <http://archivegrid.org/web/jsp/index.jsp>

Information on the Preservation of Historical Records

Posted on the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (ISFHWE) Listserve by Sally J. Jacobs

There is only one federal agency devoted solely to the preservation of historical records (meaning not artifacts and not buildings) and that’s the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, or NHPRC <www.archives.gov/nhprc/>.

There are also state boards affiliated with the NHPRC. State Records Advisory Board online directory: www.statearchivists.org/shrabs.htm

Don’t assume that digital copies will outlast paper. The lifespan of a home-recorded CD is 10-15 years at the very best. Many experts give them 5 years max.

Preservation Spotlight: <http://www.jacobsarchival.com/page3.html>

Ukraine's Jews Have Enough Stuff For A Museum, But Not Enough Money *By Yulianna Vilkos (Extract)*

KIEV, Ukraine, March 16 (JTA) — A Jewish activist in Ukraine has collected thousands of artifacts for what he hopes will be his country's first Jewish museum. But, he admits, it's all about the money.

Leonid Finberg, director of the archives at Kiev's Institute of Jewish Studies, put together a small exhibit of Jewish artifacts last summer for the newly renovated Beit Jacob Synagogue in the Ukrainian capital.

The few dozen precious artifacts now carefully displayed under glass in the shul's main hall include a book illustrated by Marc Chagall, which Finberg picked up at a flea market in Lvov. There's also a letter he found written in Yiddish by a World War II Jewish soldier, a "truly unique document," he says, that somehow escaped Soviet wartime censorship.

Finberg, an inveterate collector, says the exhibit he organized is just a tiny portion of the holdings, which boast thousands of items that could be the basis for a future Jewish museum. "But a museum with its own building requires millions of dollars, while we operate with budgets of several thousands," Finberg says. "So for the moment, we are doing what we can."

A Jewish museum is still a dream not only for Ukrainian Jews. There is not a real Jewish museum in the entire former Soviet Union.

But in Moscow, plans for Russia's first Jewish museum are moving forward, mainly because there is funding for the project. The Chabad-affiliated Federation of Jewish Communities is planning a multimillion-dollar museum that will recount the history of Judaism, Russians Jews, the Holocaust and tolerance, says the federation's executive director, Rabbi Avraham Berkowitz. It will fill a 10,000-square-meter building adjacent to the Marina Roscha Chabad Jewish Center, and should be completed within five years.

Kazovsky is concerned, however, that most of the items for the museum's collection have to be acquired from abroad. "Unfortunately, little Jewish heritage has been preserved in Russia, so we are finding Jewish art and archives through Judaism dealers, mostly in the United States and Israel," Kazovsky says.

Ukraine is in a more fortunate position than Russia, says Finberg, as more Jewish artifacts are available locally. The Institute of Jewish Studies has been laying the base for a future museum since it was founded in 1990. "A tradition of preserving family history was almost non-existent during Soviet times," Finberg says.

"People were even afraid to write diaries. But a part of the intelligentsia did preserve some documents despite everything, and it has been our task to collect and study them."

The institute's vast archives on 20th-century Jewish life in Ukraine are largely the result of its project to preserve local Jewish heritage via a program funded by the British-based Hanadiv Charitable Foundation, Finberg says.

The bulk of the institute's records are made up of the private archives of Jewish writers and artists who were killed during Soviet times. The materials were passed on to the institute by the victims' children or grandchildren.

Among the institute's treasures are collections of pre-revolutionary photographs from Jewish family albums, old prayer books, and materials on Jewish theater and film-making activities in Ukraine before World War II. "To make its holdings available to a broader audience, the institute has been publishing books, holding joint exhibitions with the National Art Museum of Ukraine and running educational projects with a handful of Jewish schools in Kiev.

"These young people will most likely never have a chance to go to old Jewish towns or to visit Jewish cemeteries, where many tombstones are masterpieces of art," says Klimova, who has photographed many of the old synagogues and cemeteries during field trips organized by the institute.

International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center Opens

Located at the Jewish National and University Library at Givat Ram, Jerusalem, the new Institute, a non-profit organization, has two main aims: (1) to engage in Jewish genealogical research and teaching at the university level and (2) to make Jewish Genealogy a recognized academic discipline within the realm of Jewish Studies.

The Institute is the only one of its kind in the Jewish world. It plans to operate on an interdisciplinary basis and also in a collaborative way with organizations engaged in aspects of Jewish genealogy. It will put a premium on innovative programs and projects of practical benefit to individual family historians.

Its establishment is the result of efforts over the last two years of an international Founding Committee, headed by Sallyann Sack, of Washington, DC. and Yosef Lamdan of Israel. Lamdan, a former Israeli ambassador to the Vatican, has been appointed as Director of the Institute.

One of its first projects is an academic symposium to be held in Jerusalem in September with a view to setting research and teaching priorities for the new Institute. Experts from the academic and genealogical world will be presenting papers. Its e-mail address is info@IIJG.com.

- Gary Mokotoff, Member of Founding Committee

New Family History Show - You could be a part of it!

*From Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library
No. 22, December 31, 2005*

History Television (Canada) is creating an exciting new series about family history. This is your opportunity to share your stories, your research and your research challenges. If your story, research or question is chosen, it could appear on *Ancestors in the Attic*.

Were your ancestors sheep-thieves or war heroes, saints or sinners, or something quite unexpected? Are there family secrets you'd still like to unlock or legends you've already untangled? Let *Ancestors in the Attic* help you solve your dramatic, personal family mysteries or feature the stories you've already uncovered.

Whether you're a historical researcher or a family historian, *Ancestors in the Attic* would like to hear about astonishing stories with a Canadian connection that you've already unearthed.

Discover more on the History Television website: www.history.ca or go directly to The *Ancestors in the Attic* page at www.history.ca/microsites/AncestorsSearch/.

In 500 words or less, tell *Ancestors in the Attic* about your story and briefly outline the evidence you gathered in your research. Send all information to Ancestors.Search@allianceatlantis.com

26th IAJGS Summer Conference

www.jgsny2006.org/
Aug. 13th-18th

Marriott Marquis Hotel
rooms at the conference
rate

are now booked solid.
For those who have not
reserved rooms yet,
arrangements have been
made with the Marriott
Courtyard at 3 East
40th St. (Fifth Ave.)
New York, NY 10016
212-447-1500. You
can make reservations
by phone at 1-800-
321-2211 or email
<Elsa.Simon@marriott.com>
or
<Carmen.Cardona@marriott.com>

Yad Vashem Community Outreach Guide Available

Yad Vashem invites you to join the historic mission of the Jewish people to memorialize every individual Jew who perished in the Holocaust through the collection of the ultimate representation of their identity: their names. To date, half of the six million victims have been recorded in the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names (www.yadvashem.org), where one may access their brief histories and, when available, their photographs, and submit additional names online.

Yad Vashem now offers a new online community outreach guide to initiate local Names Recovery Campaigns. Packed with valuable resources and materials, this free guide will enable Jewish communities to plan and implement meaningful memorial programs, names collection events and related activities around Yom Hashoah - Israel's national Holocaust Remembrance Day (this year, 25 April) and other significant dates in the Jewish calendar, such as 10th Tevet, 17th Tammuz, 9th Av, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The guide is designed for use either by an individual or group, such as a synagogue, community center, welfare agency, survivor and next generation group, university or school. You can use it to call upon members of your community or organization to complete a "Page of Testimony" for each unregistered victim, or to volunteer to assist others with this urgent task. To access the Community Outreach Guide visit:

<http://www1.yadvashem.org/names/whyCollect.htm>

Jewish Genealogy Societies Make Publications Available Online

Following are links to selected current issues. Others can be accessed via. www.iajgs.org.

JGS of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (CA): www.jgscv.org/
JGS Greater Washington: www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw/Mishpacha-Winter2006.html
JGS Montreal: www.jgs-montreal.org/Newsletters/Mtl_Forum_Sep2005.pdf
JGS Oregon: www.rootsweb.com/~orjgs

Some societies only send attachments. If you are interested in reading current issues sent to JGSCO by the following, please send an email requesting them to <grapevynwest@comcast.net>.

JGS Greater Miami
JGS Michigan
JGS Wisconsin

From The President

Gary Mokotoff gave a wonderful presentation February 26, 2006 at the first JGSCO "Beyond the Basics Seminar" held at the Conference Center of the Denver Public Library. About 50 genealogists attended, many from organizations outside our own, like the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies and the Association of Professional Genealogists. It is a shame that more of our membership did not attend. It really was worthwhile. It will be a number of years before we will attempt an event of that scope again.

A Beginner's Workshop is being planned for April 9, 1 to 4 p.m. at Congregation Emanuel. Summarize what genealogical material you may have already gathered so that someone can assist you in determining what your next step should be. There will be a \$10 charge for members and \$20 for non-members. A helpful book for beginners will be given to those attending.

I still have a lot of membership cards in my possession. These can be valuable to those who might wish to check out books from the wonderful reference library of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado housed in the Congregation Emanuel Library. I plan to have them with me at upcoming events and will have additional ones printed for new members. Be sure to call the library ahead of time to find out what their drastically shortened library hours will be.

We also have two of Denver's best resources scheduled to speak to us at our April and May meetings. On April 25 at 6:30 p.m. Professor David Shneer, chairman of the D.U. Center for Judaic Studies will speak. His subject is *Jews on the Move: Modern Jewish Migration Patterns and Genealogical Research*. Joe Cahn of the Research Section of the Denver Central Public Library will address JGSCO May 16. This will be another Tuesday evening meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. Joe's subject will be *City Directories: New, Old & Worldwide*. Both events will be at Congregation Emanuel.

Scheduled for June 11 will be a special competitive event. People will be able to win gold, silver or bronze awards during JGSCO's program, **FAMILY TREE WORLD RECORDS**. Forms will be sent out with the meeting notices. You don't even have to be a professional to win. Good luck!!! I look forward to seeing you all soon. - Anne Fendrich

The 4th Annual Fred Marcus Memorial Holocaust Lecture Sunday, April 2, 2006 at 4 p.m. Temple Sinai

As reported in the Center For Judaic Studies E-newsletter

The Center for Judaic Studies and the Holocaust Awareness Institute are pleased to be co-sponsors of the fourth annual Fred Marcus Memorial Holocaust Lecture. This year's program, "Shanghai Revisited: The Refugee Diaries of Fred Marcus" features Rena Krasno and Audrey Friedman Marcus. After the lecture, join guests for the opening of a new exhibit, Shanghai: Refuge During the Holocaust.

For information please contact Audrey Friedman Marcus at 303.770.2020 or Walli Richardson at 303.759.1827. Additional information can also be found at www.fredmarcusmemorialwebsite.com.

Jewish Community Foundation Helping to Establish Endowment Fund for Jewish Cemeteries

From the Newsletter of The Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado

For the last year, the Jewish Community Foundation (JCF) has been working with the directors of local Jewish cemeteries to begin the process of establishing an endowment fund to help local Jewish cemeteries bear their ever-growing operational costs. This campaign will apply income from an endowment fund to help pay the costs for general maintenance, water, repairing and resetting headstones, purchasing headstones for graves that don't have them, salaries for groundskeepers and providing free or reduced cost burial plots to indigent families who are unable to bear the cost of burial at many of Colorado's Jewish cemeteries. After learning about this innovative program from JCF board member Gene Kay, Maurice and Alice Wexler, former Colorado residents who now reside in Memphis, Tenn., stopped by the JCF offices on a recent trip to Denver to give a generous donation benefiting Golden Hills Cemetery. During their visit, Mr. Wexler explained that both of his parents were buried at Golden Hills, and that he felt it important to help secure the future of Colorado's Jewish Cemeteries. On hand to receive the donation were Neil Price, Director of Golden Hills Cemetery and Bradley A. Friedman J.D., Executive Director of the JCF. "Ensuring the future of Colorado's Jewish Cemeteries is one of the most important mitzvahs that somebody can perform, and we're so thankful to the Wexlers for their generosity," said Friedman. "We hope that soon many others will follow their example." For more information of the Jewish Cemetery Endowment call 303.316.6484 or visit www.jcfcolorado.org.

Cotopaxi Interview on NPR

Dr. Jeanne Abrams, director of the Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society and Beck Archives, was featured on NPR's Colorado Matters on January 4th. Dr. Abrams was interviewed along with Miles Saltiel about the Orthodox Jews from Russia who came to Cotopaxi Colorado in the late 1800's. The interviews can be found at www.cpr.org. Click on the Colorado Matters link and search by "Jeanne Abrams."

Library Policy Changes

The Denver Central Library is now open seven days a week. For 2006 revised hours at all branches, visit www.denverlibrary.org/locations_hours_new.

Library hours across the system have been standardized based on eight-hour work shifts, which allow staff operations to be more efficient while providing more equitable service in branches across the city. .

The Denver Public Library, 720-865-1111, is an independent city agency governed by a seven member library commission, www.denverlibrary.org/about/commission/schedule.html. Regular library commission meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m., and meetings are open to the public. The January 19th meeting will be held at Park Hill Branch Library, 4705 Montview Boulevard at 3:30 p.m. Public comment is welcome.

JGSCO member Sol Flax reports that he successfully retrieved records from the Lithuanian State Archives

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Tel. (370-5) 213 74 82
Fax. (370-5) 213 76 12**

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

www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado/

Sunday, April 9

"Beginner's Workshop"

Congregation Emanuel, 1-4 pm

Tuesday, April 25

"Jews on the Move: Modern Jewish Migration Patterns
and Genealogical Research" with Prof. David Shneer
Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 16

"City Directories: New, Old & Worldwide" with Joe Cahn
Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm

Sunday, June 11

"Sharing Member Trials & Tribulations"
Congregation Emanuel, 1:30 pm

August 13-18th

26th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy
New York City

Other CO Genealogy Society Events

[Colorado Genealogical Society - www.rootsweb.com/~cocgs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~cocgs/)

April 21st: "Black Sheep Research" by Birdie Holtsclaw

May 19th: "Oral Histories: Listening for Your Ancestor's Stories" by Susan Echelemer

[Computer Interest Group of the Colorado Genealogical Society -](http://www.rootsweb.com/~cocgs/cigmmain.htm)

www.rootsweb.com/~cocgs/cigmmain.htm

May 8-9th: "A Day With Dick Eastman"