

CHAI

From Colorado

Fall 2006

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, www.iajgs.org, a non-profit organization with 79 member societies in 16 countries. Membership is open to anyone interested in researching Jewish roots. Guests are welcome at free monthly meetings.

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Jewish Genealogy Thriving With Opportunities

Alive and well, opportunities to do Jewish genealogy are diverse and growing. From time to time, critics state that membership in local Jewish genealogy societies has dwindled and that this somehow reflects a lack of interest. It just isn't so. Some people may prefer to research alone, utilizing online databases and the Internet from home, while others need the camaraderie of a beginners workshop, annual conference, trip to Salt Lake City, or local meeting to jumpstart knowledge and motivate a lapsed search. Coloradans are no different. If you're a pajamma surfer or live outside of Denver, let us know what resources or mentoring you require via phone, email, or on the JGSCO web site. If you're a lapsed genealogist, grab one of us in person at a meeting and tell us what you need to break down those research brick walls and restart.

If you happen to live in northern Colorado and can't make it to Denver meetings, great news is on the horizon. Naomi Johnson is organizing a new Jewish Genealogy Society in the Fort Collins and Greeley area. If you're interested, contact her at (970) 351-1446 or naomi.johnson@unco.edu.

The Jewish Genealogy Conference held in New York City this summer was a huge success with about 1400 attendees. Come to our kickoff JGSCO meeting September 19th to hear all about the juicy shortcuts, cutting edge technology, SIG activities, and new resources. We've purchased a copy of the recorded sessions from the conference and it will be available to our members. If you missed a particular speaker or topic of interest, you'll be able to listen to a recording on your own time.

The next annual IAJGS conference will be held July 15-20, 2007 in Salt Lake City, and in 2008, the conference will again return to Chicago, Illinois for the first time since 1984! -Editor

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From The President

The board of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado has met several times this summer to make program plans for the coming season. In response to some of your requests, we are concentrating this season on how-to sessions combined with high interest topics.

As sometimes happens, monthly calendars seem especially full and that is true of September. On Sunday, September 10th, there will be an all day symposium entitled, "Hidden Jewish Heritage: Exploring a Path to Return." Obviously, this is intended for Hispanics who have discovered or suspect they might have Jewish roots, but would also be of special interest to those who have Sephardic ancestors, some of whom might have followed the same historic path.

On September 11th, at their regular meeting, the Computer Interest Group of the Colorado Genealogical Society, is hosting Beau Sharbrough. This starts at 7 p.m., and the subject is *Ancestry Today*. The evening event will be free, and Mr. Sharbrough will appear at an all day seminar on the following day which promises to be very informative. The cost for this is \$15 for a Computer Interest Group member and \$20 for non-members. Additional information on both these events can be found in this newsletter.

Because of these early events, we have moved our first meeting up a week to September 19th when a report will be given on the 26th Annual IAJGS Conference held in August in New York City. Making the presentation will be Ellen Shindelman Kowitt, Sandra Greenberg, and Anne Fendrich. The schedule offered at the conference was quite varied and included hands on lab experience, field trips to cemeteries and historic sites, information on special collections and websites, and even newly discovered klezmer music. Although I hardly left the hotel, I was able to get in a Broadway musical. Next year's conference will be more convenient to Denver as it will be held in Salt Lake City.

At our October meeting, Bernie Spilka will tell us how and what DNA testing can tell us about family history, and in November, Toni Bienstock will talk about interviewing techniques.

I hope that your summer has been enjoyable in spite of our rather unusual weather patterns. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings.

Sincerely,

Anne Fendrich, President, JGS of Colorado

Genealogy TV Shows Entertain and Aid Researchers

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter recently reported that Megan Smolynak Smolynak will launch a new cable channel in September called Roots TV. A link to www.rootstelevision.com/ proved to be a placeholder (hopefully only temporary) without any information about the content of the programming or a schedule. I was intrigued to research what other types of television programming might be a useful methodology tool for genealogists.

Back when I lived in Washington, D.C., Arline Sachs and Sallyann Amdur Sack started a local cable access program in northern Virginia titled "Tracing Your Family Roots." I appeared twice, lecturing the first time about planning a trip to Ukraine and then about creating family websites as genealogical tools. Still taping almost ten years later, the majority of guests speak about topics in Jewish genealogy, but a number of episodes are generic. A list of episodes is available online at <http://tracingroots.nova.org/>.

I followed up on the comments of a few Eastman bulletin board posters and learned that genealogical television programs are more common than you might think at first glance.

First, I visited the Canadian History Television website where an *Ancestors in the Attic* program is explained. See www.historytelevision.ca/microsites/AncestorsSearch/. Viewers are encouraged to, "Help History Television create an exciting new series that will help you unravel a personal family mystery" by submitting 500 word statements about your mysteries, legends, brick walls, and stories."

Next, I checked out History Detectives on the PBS Kids web site at <http://pbskids.org/historydetectives/about.html>. This program is aimed at 8-12 year olds and introduces three new mysteries in each of ten episodes each season that, "Viewers of all ages may find themselves completely caught up in the search for clues that can solve the mystery - and perhaps reveal amazing facts about our nation's past."

On HGTV, *If Walls Could Talk* "Explores the many homes across the country that have intriguing pasts, and profiles passionate homeowners who make surprising historical discoveries while researching and restoring their homes."

A Google search uncovered a New Orleans cable TV show "Knowing Your Family History" hosted by Antoinette Harrell-Miller, founder of the nonprofit African American Genealogy Connection.

On the other side of the pond, "The return of the hugely successful genealogy TV series *Who Do You Think You Are* in which Britain's best loved celebrities trace their family trees" starts on BBC 1 September 6, 2006. <http://www.scotroots.com/who-do-you-think-you-are.htm>. A free online TV show about Irish genealogy is available at www.bananatv.com/default.asp?program=genealogy.

And finally, Cyndi's List details special shows about genealogy that have aired in the past <<http://www.cyndislist.com/media.htm#TV>> including an Oprah genealogy episode titled "Our Big American Family with Billy Crystal and Dr. Maya Angelou." -*Editor*

NY Area Genealogical Resources

Online New York Death Indexes & Records: www.deathindexes.com/newyork/

Online Searchable New York Naturalization Records & Indexes:
<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/newyork.html>

New York Naturalization & Vital Records Databases: www.italiengen.org/databaselist.stm

New York Genealogy and History Resources - NY GenWeb Site:
www.rootsweb.com/~nygenweb/

Cyndi's List - New York: www.cyndislist.com/ny.htm

New York Passenger Lists Quick Guide 1820-1957: www.genesearch.com/newyork/

New York Newspapers (current): www.usnpl.com/nynews.html

New York Newspapers (historical) - scroll to the NY section:
www.researchguides.net/newspapers.htm

Contact information for New York City libraries with newspaper collections:
www.jgsny2006.org/research.cfm

Brooklyn Eagle, 1841-1902 (full text of the newspaper):
www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle/index.htm

Links to death notices and obituaries in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and Long Island newspapers (older Long Island newspapers also covered Brooklyn and Queens):
www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Newspaper/index.html

Contact information for obtaining death dates from wills and letters of administration from the Surrogate's (Probate) Court in each county in New York City:
www.jgsny2006.org/research.cfm

Links to Brooklyn (and Long Island) births: www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Birth/index.html

Births from Queens County Sentinel:
www.nyvagenealogy.homestead.com/QUEENSBIRTH.html

Links to Brooklyn, Long Island, Manhattan, etc. marriages:
www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Marriage/index.html

New York Marriage Records: marriagedatabase.com/newyork/marriage-records.htm

Links to Brooklyn, Long Island, Manhattan, etc. deaths:
www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Death/index.html

www.jewishgen.org/jgs-colorado/

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Free Online Translation Tools

There are many free language translation sites available which can be searched for on Google. Using one will translate your word, document, or web page but will often have a hard time with correct verbiage. Good for a rough translation, the following are examples:

Alta Vista's Babelfish translator <<http://babelfish.altavista.com/translate.dyn>> for Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portugese, Spanish, and Russian.

AppliedLanguage.com for ARABIC, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Protugese, Russian, and Spanish.

Slovnyk.org <<http://pere.slovnyk.org.ua/cgi-bin/pere.cgi?l=uk-UA>> - for Russian and Ukrainian.

Millenium Computers <<http://www.etranslator.ro/english-demo.html>> - for Romanian.

Wordlingo.com has online Hebrew dictionaries.

Link to a list of Israeli newspapers: www.onlinenewspapers.com/israel.htm

Tidbits about Utilizing Mormon Library Resources

1.) If you are unable to view Family History Library microfilm records in person, you can pay a nominal fee and mail away for a photocopy of your records.

- The Request for Photocopies Order Form for Census Records, Books, Microfilm, or Microfiche can be downloaded from www.familysearch.org/, picked up at a local Family History Center, or requested by mail. You are instructed to limit each request to eight items or three book items and submit requests at least two weeks apart. Requests are processed in the order they are received. You may request copies from the index of a record. After you receive the index, you may send a second form requesting the specific pages you need.
- Copies provided through this service cost \$2 each w/ a \$4 minimum charge per order.
- Research services are not provided, so this option only works if you know the location of your specific document.
- For more info, email help@productsupport.familysearch.org or call 801-240-3511.

2.) If you've been unable to obtain a copy of a NYC marriage record, some have been added to the controversal IGI or International Genealogical Index. If you don't know the names of a bride or groom's parent, they are often listed in the online index.

- Go the search page for the (IGI).
- Fill in your ancestor's last name, event as "Marriage," and state as "New York."

The result page will list many or no search returns in index format. If you find your name, click on the link and it will bring you to an IGI Individual Record where the person's spouse and parent names will be listed.

NY Area Genealogical Resources - continued from page 4

Online New York Death Records, Indexes, & Obituaries:

www.deathindexes.com/newyork/index.html

List of vital records at the Municipal Archives:

www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/holdings.shtml

births: www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/birth.shtml

marriages: www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/marriage.shtml

deaths: www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/death.shtml

Links to New York vital records:

www.worldvitalrecords.com/new-york-vital-records.htm

New York Pictures: www.nytstore.com/ProdCode.aspx?prodcode=791

Steve Morse has added a One-Step form for searching the online databases for Mount Hebron and Mount Carmel Cemeteries in Queens, New York. Among other things, this form allows more than 200 hits back. It also allows more choices in specifying names and it unifies the two cemeteries within a single search. Go to <http://stevemorse.org> under "Births Deaths, and Other Vital Records." Mount Carmel's first interment was in 1900. Mount Hebron's date back to 1904. Searches can be done by first name only, last name only, date of death only, or society only.

Mount Hebron Cemetery in Flushing, Queens, online at www.mounthebroncemetery.com.

Mount Carmel Cemetery in Glendale, Queens, is at www.mountcarmelcemetery.com.

Mount Moriah Cemetery in New Jersey recently put up a grave locator (searchable by name and organization only) at www.mountmoriahcemeteryofnewjersey.org.

DPL Completes St. Albans Collection

Contributed by Terry Lasky

The Denver Public Library has completed the microfilm collection of St. Albans records. The St. Albans Collection documents almost every border crossing between Canada and the United States between 1892-1952. The index consists of cards arranged by soundex code. There is a separate set for 1892-1924 and 1924-1952. The index cards give the person's name, who they travelled with, who/where they visited, their home address, when they immigrated to Canada, which boat and port, and other useful information. These records include all border crossings no matter what the reason. I have one that is to come to the United States permanently and another was just to visit a relative. There is another set of microfilm tapes which contain the boat records. They are arranged by boat arrival date.

Colorado State Archives Adds Pre-1906 Birth and Death Records

Contributed by Terry Lasky

The Colorado State Archives has added online databases for pre-1906 births and deaths in the Denver area. Previous to 1906, deaths were not required to be recorded in Colorado. This index documents deaths from 1870-1905. However, it only includes those deaths that occurred in a hospital or in which a doctor was involved. If a person died at home, it is not recorded. There are 35,000 names on the death index. The same is true for births. They are only recorded if born in a hospital or if a doctor recorded them through a hospital. It is not known how many birth records are in the index. Both indices can be found on the Archives website at <http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/>.

JGSCO Annual Program Schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 19	<i>Report on Summer Jewish Genealogy Conference in NYC</i> with Anne Fendrich, Sandra Greenberg, and Ellen Shindelman Kowitz Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm
Sunday, Oct. 15	<i>DNA Testing and Jewish Genealogy</i> with Bernie Spilka B'Nai Havurah, 1:30 pm
Tuesday, Nov. 14	<i>Interviewing Techniques</i> with Toni Bienstock Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm
Sunday, Dec. 17	Program To Be Announced B'Nai Havurah, 1:30 pm
Tuesday, Jan. 9	<i>Utilizing the Stephen Morse Web Site</i> with Terry Lasky Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm
Sunday, Feb. 11	<i>What's New on JewishGen</i> with Ellen Shindelman Kowitz B'Nai Havurah, 1:30 pm
Tuesday, Mar. 13	<i>Q&A About Family Tree Maker</i> with Ed Richard Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm
Sunday, Apr. 15	<i>Beginner Workshop</i> Congregation Emanuel, 1-5 pm
Tuesday, May 8	<i>Photo Restoration/Preservation</i> with Alan Gass Congregation Emanuel, 6:30 pm
Sunday, June 10	<i>Panel Discussion on Family and Personal Histories</i> B'Nai Havurah, 1:30 pm
July 15-20, 2007	<i>27th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy</i> Salt Lake City Hilton

Other Upcoming Colorado Events

Sunday, Sept. 10	"Hidden Jewish Heritage: <i>Exploring a Path to Return</i> " A one-day symposium sponsored by B'nai Sephardim of Colorado - FREE Radisson Hotel Denver Southeast, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm - For more information and to register online, go to www.somosjudios.org/ .
Monday, Sept. 11	"Ancestry Today" with Beau Sharbrough: A talk about Ancestry.com content: What is online, how to use it and what's new within the last few months. Free. Christ the King Lutheran Church, 7:00 pm
Tuesday, Sept. 12	"A Day With Beau Sharbrough" - \$20 for non-members Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 29	"Stand Up for Humanity" — 65th Annual BABI YAR Memorial Dr. David Shneer will be the keynote speaker at this program honoring the memory of those who perished at Babi Yar in Kiev, Ukraine in 1941. www.mizelmuseum.org or call 303-394-9993 x. 4 Babi Yar Park, Havanna and Yale, 11 a.m.

The first 26 recognized volunteers were unveiled during the IAJGS conference in NYC. Rosanne Leeson and Paula Zieselman of ROM-SIG recommended Terry stating:

"Terry Lasky has taken it upon himself to personally telephone the librarian at New York University to obtain her approval to send rare microfilm, owned by them, of Russian language newspapers that contained the Duma voting lists from Bessarabia. He arranged to have these films sent, without charge, to his own library in Denver, where he laboriously copied all of the relevant lists from these papers, to help create the spreadsheets that were used to add more that 128,000 records to our All-Romania database, and for which project he acted as the Coordinator. A truly exceptional effort! He has also volunteered as a Project Coordinator for Romanian Yizkor Books."

Congratulations to JGSCO member and treasurer Terry Lasky for being named to the inaugural 2006 JewishGen Mila Begun Volunteer Wall of Honor!

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