

# Lectures by Ellen Shindelman Kowitt

---

4/10/2020

Erie, Colorado, USA

[www.EllenKowitt.com](http://www.EllenKowitt.com)

[SoleSearching@EllenKowitt.com](mailto:SoleSearching@EllenKowitt.com)

Presentations (45-90 minutes) that are informative and educational.

All topics include a Q&A period and handout.

Additional lecture topics can be developed upon request.

All lectures can be delivered as **webinars** or local lectures.

Ellen will travel out of state.

Please inquire about speaking fee and expenses.

*Bios for use at bottom of document.*

- I. *What Would Nancy Drew Do in the Modern-Day Quest for Missing Family: Exploring Digital Resources*
- II. *\*Mile High Resources: Researching Colorado Records*
- III. *Planting Your Family Tree for the Next Generation 2.0*
- IV. ***NEW!** Exploring DAR Specialty Research to Identify African American, French, Jewish, or Spanish Revolutionary War Patriots*
- V. *\*Mile High Resources: Researching Jewish Families in Colorado Records*
- VI. *\*Secrets for Researching Jewish Genealogy Revealed (alternate titles: What's Jewish About Jewish Genealogy; Jewish Family Tree Initiative; Researching Your Jewish Family History: What Can You Expect to Find; Getting Started Tracing Your Jewish Roots; Back to the Basics in Jewish Genealogy)*
- VII. *Comparing Jewish Resources on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast, MyHeritage and JewishGen*
- VIII. *\*Ukraine 2020: Update Your Research Plan*
- IX. *Documenting Jewish Families or Communities Lost in the Holocaust by Bullets*
- X. *Tracing Jews Who Coughed Their Way West*
- XI. *Introducing the Jewish Genealogy Society of Colorado!*

*\*Ask about workshop/mentoring formats (2-4 hours) available for Beginner Topics, Colorado Resources, Ukraine Research, and Jewish Genealogy.*

## ***I. What Would Nancy Drew Do in the Modern-Day Quest for Missing Family: Exploring Digital Resources***

For fans of the girl sleuth, or newcomers to her mysteries, this entertaining "then and now" lecture showcases genealogy resources found in the text of the classic Nancy Drew series and journeys through contemporary online records, photographs, and maps found in digital libraries, as well as archival collections, cemeteries, and newspapers. This adventure around the world explores old and new tools of the trade including tackling foreign languages and finding clues and records in untraditional places!

### **PRESENTATION TARGET AUDIENCE:**

- All skill levels.

### **RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE CONTACT:**

**Upcoming Jewish Genealogy Society of Illinois Webinar**, Chicago, Illinois, July 26, 2020 – Michael Tarkoff [tarkoffm@yahoo.com](mailto:tarkoffm@yahoo.com)

**Upcoming Broomfield Genealogy Society Webinar**, Broomfield, Colorado, July 20, 2020 – Dana Smith [broomfieldgsprogramchair@gmail.com](mailto:broomfieldgsprogramchair@gmail.com)

**Upcoming Estes Park Genealogy Society**, Estes Park, Colorado, June 11, 2020 – Kris Holien [kjholien@aol.com](mailto:kjholien@aol.com)

**Pikes Peak Genealogy Society**, Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 11, 2020 - Danielle Digiacomo [danielle.digiacomo@yahoo.com](mailto:danielle.digiacomo@yahoo.com)

**Highlands Ranch Genealogy Society**, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, March 3, 2020 - Megan Koepsell [mkoepsell2198@msn.com](mailto:mkoepsell2198@msn.com)

**Aurora Rotary Club**, Aurora, Colorado, January 29, 2020 - Jim Bickford [jim@abclawyers.com](mailto:jim@abclawyers.com)

**Columbine Genealogy Society**, Centennial, Colorado, January 21, 2020 - Anita Burbank-Jenkins [aebjenk@gmail.com](mailto:aebjenk@gmail.com)

**Weld County Genealogy Society**, Greeley, Colorado, November 7, 2019 - Martha VanDriel [martha.vandriel@gmail.com](mailto:martha.vandriel@gmail.com)

**Castle Rock Genealogy Society**, Castle Rock, Colorado, October 26, 2019 - Jennifer Carlisle [jennealogy@yahoo.com](mailto:jennealogy@yahoo.com)

**IAJGS Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy**, Cleveland, OH, August 2, 2019 – [program@iajgs2019.org](mailto:program@iajgs2019.org)

**Longmont Genealogy Society**, Longmont, Colorado, May 9, 2018 - Harry Ross [harryglennross@gmail.com](mailto:harryglennross@gmail.com)

### **ARTICLE:**

*The Sleuth: The Original Nancy Drew FanZine* to be published in 2020

## II. ***Mile High Resources: Researching Colorado Records***

Beginning with a brief history and modern statistics, this lecture will provide local and online resources for anyone interested in documenting individuals in Colorado. Local repositories will be covered including materials at the CO State Archives, History Colorado Hart Library, DPL Genealogy and Western History Collection, National Archives at Denver (NARA), Bureau of Land Management Colorado Office, Boulder Carnegie Library, and DU Beck Archives. An inventory of CO records found on the global genealogy giants including Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, FindMyPast, and MyHeritage will be reviewed as well as websites with digitized newspapers. We will review current laws for access to vital records at the CO Department of Public Health and Environment and review other legal material.

### PRESENTATION TARGET AUDIENCE:

- All skill levels.
- Those interested in Colorado records.

### RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE CONTACT:

**Upcoming Erie Public Library at Wise Homestead Museum**, Erie, Colorado, May 21, 2020 – Lisa Varra [LVarra@highplains.us](mailto:LVarra@highplains.us)

## III. ***Planting Your Family Tree for the Next Generation 2.0***

A demonstration of current technology examples and handmade ways to share genealogy research with family.

### PRESENTATION TARGET AUDIENCE:

- All skill levels.

### RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE CONTACT:

**Pikes Peak Genealogy Society**, Colorado Springs, CO, February 14, 2018 - Danielle Digiacomio [danielle\\_digiacomio@yahoo.com](mailto:danielle_digiacomio@yahoo.com)

**Estes Park Genealogy Society**, Estes Park, CO, July 14, 2016 - Kris Holien [kjholien@aol.com](mailto:kjholien@aol.com)

**Larimer Genealogy Society**, Fort Collins, CO, May 19, 2016 – Kathy Patrick [kathypatrick7@gmail.com](mailto:kathypatrick7@gmail.com)

**Longmont Genealogy Society**, Longmont, CO, November 11, 2016 – Harry Ross [harryglennross@gmail.com](mailto:harryglennross@gmail.com)

## IV. ***NEW! Exploring DAR Specialty Research to Identify African American, French, Jewish, or Spanish Revolutionary War Patriots***

Explore progress made by the National DAR Lineage Committee to organize specialty research teams assisting in the documentation of African-American, Jewish, French, and Spanish patriots.

PRESENTATION TARGET AUDIENCE:

- All skill levels.
- Those interested in applying for DAR membership.
- Those interested in specialty colonial-era research to identify patriots whom were African American, French, Jewish, or Spanish.

V. ***Mile High Resources: Researching Jewish Families in Colorado Records***

Beginning with a brief history and modern statistics, this lecture will provide local and online resources for anyone interested in documenting individuals in Colorado. Local repositories will be covered including materials at the CO State Archives, DU Beck Archives, History Colorado Hart Library, DPL Western History and Genealogy Department, Boulder Carnegie Library, National Archives Rocky Mountain Region (NARA), and the Bureau of Land Management Colorado Office. An inventory of CO records found online the global giant websites including Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, JewishGen, and MyHeritage will be reviewed as well as other collections with notable CO content such as the Industrial Removal Office, American Jewish Archives, and a variety of digitized CO newspapers. We will review current laws for access to vital records and the procedures of the CO Department of Public Health and Environment to obtain them, as well as a discussion regarding Colorado Session Laws circa 1861-1997. Previous indexing projects conducted by JGSCO volunteers and where to find them will be explored including Jewish gravestones in CO, JCRS patient applications, obituaries of the Intermountain Jewish News, synagogue memorial plaques, and mohel records.

PRESENTATION TARGET AUDIENCE:

- All skill levels.
- Those interested in Jewish records.
- Those interested in Colorado records.

RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE CONTACT:

**Jewish Genealogy Society of Colorado**, Denver, Colorado, January 26, 2020 – Ellen Beller [ebeller1@icloud.com](mailto:ebeller1@icloud.com)

PUBLISHED ARTICLE:

“A Colorado Immigrant's Tale of Three Husbands” Feb 2018 *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy* with Karen Franklin

VI. ***Secrets to Researching Jewish Genealogy Revealed*** (alternate titles: *What's Jewish About Jewish Genealogy; Jewish Family Tree Initiative; Researching Your Jewish Family History: What Can You Expect to Find; Getting Started Tracing Your Jewish Roots; Back to the Basics in Jewish Genealogy; Beginner's Workshop*)

Starting with yourself and working back through civil records is the same strategy for Americans of all faiths, but that's when the *meshuganah* fun begins with Jewish records. After

identifying an immigrant and jumping the pond can be challenging with multiple languages, geographic border changes, and religious traditions to navigate. Explore strategies and resources for tracing Jewish families in the U.S. and abroad including definitions of lifecycle events, naming patterns, archival collections, newspapers, web resources featuring JewishGen and elsewhere, documenting victims and survivors of the Holocaust, rabbinic dynasties, and more!

PRESENTATION TARGET AUDIENCE:

- All skill levels.

RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE CONTACT:

**Boulder Jewish Community Center**, Boulder, CO, February 4, 2020 – Joy Eisenhauer  
[joy.eisenhauer@boulderjcc.org](mailto:joy.eisenhauer@boulderjcc.org)

**Anthem Ranch Genealogy Club**, Broomfield, CO, January 13, 2020 – Carol Sooter  
[genie16325@gmail.com](mailto:genie16325@gmail.com)

**Boulder Genealogy Society**, Boulder, CO, December 5, 2017 – Nichelle Barra  
[barragenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:barragenealogy@gmail.com)

**Adventure Judaism Passover Retreat**, Moab, Utah, April 15, 2017 – Rabbi Jamie Korngold  
[jamie@adventurerabbi.org](mailto:jamie@adventurerabbi.org)

2004 - 2016: **Bonai Shalom Synagogue**, Boulder; **Hebrew Education Alliance**, Denver; **Family History Expo**, Loveland, CO; **Boulder Jewish Community Center**; **Weld County Genealogy Society**, Greeley; **Highlands Ranch Havurah**; **Denver Chapter Hadassah**; **LEA Chapter Hadassah**, Denver; **Temple Sinai**, Denver; **Limmud Colorado**, Colorado Springs; **Jewish Genealogy Society of Colorado**, Denver; **Congregation Har HaShem**, Boulder; **Limmud Colorado**, Keystone Ski Resort; **Congregation Emanuel**, Denver.

VII. ***Comparing Jewish Resources on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast, MyHeritage and JewishGen***

Enjoy this comparative overview of the global powerhouse websites referred to as "Genealogy Giants." Meet each site including subscription cost analysis, description of free access options, and comparison of Jewish record collections and research tools that can be especially helpful for documenting Jewish families. Get tips on when it might be better to search on one site over another, and hear tips on each site's best features or challenges, including how JewishGen collections found on Ancestry.com differ from comparable collections originating on JewishGen.org, both in content and in the search experience. All levels of genealogists will leave better prepared to answer, "Which genealogy websites should be I be using right now?"

PRESENTATION TARGET AUDIENCE:

- All skill levels.
- Those interested in Jewish records.

RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE CONTACT:

**Upcoming Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County**, Palm Beach, FL, November 11, 2020 – Dennis Rice

**Upcoming IAJGS Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy**, San Diego, CA, August xx, 2020 – Dan Oren [program@iajgs2020.org](mailto:program@iajgs2020.org)

**Upcoming Jewish Genealogy Society of Illinois Webinar**, Chicago, IL, July 26, 2020 – Michael Tarkoff [tarkoffm@yahoo.com](mailto:tarkoffm@yahoo.com)

**Jewish Genealogy Society of Conejo Valley**, Thousand Oaks, CA, March 1, 2020 - Jan Meisels Allen [janmallen@att.net](mailto:janmallen@att.net)

**IAJGS Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy**, Cleveland, OH, July 28, 2019 – [program@iajgs2019.org](mailto:program@iajgs2019.org)

#### PUBLISHED ARTICLE:

"Jewish Resources on the Giants: Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Findmypast.com, and MyHeritage.com" Aug 2019 *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy with Sunny Morton*

### ***VIII. Ukraine 2020: Update Your Research Plan***

Revisiting Ukraine this year catapulted my research, and it can advance yours too! Records access is exploding thanks to efforts by Alex Krakovsky, FamilySearch, and others; an improved Ukrainian economy makes travel more comfortable; and partnerships with locals and academics can complement research. This lecture explores challenges in language; background content; pros and cons of town group projects; identifying professionals; purchasing documents online; and an overview including JewishGen, Ukraine SIG, blogs, Facebook groups, the global genealogy giants, resources in Israel, WWII military databases, Cantonist material, and documenting the Holocaust by Bullets.

#### PRESENTATION TARGET AUDIENCE:

- All skill levels.
- Those interested in Jewish records.
- Those interested in Ukraine records.

#### RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE CONTACT:

**Upcoming IAJGS Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy**, San Diego, CA, August xx, 2020 – Dan Oren [program@iajgs2020.org](mailto:program@iajgs2020.org)

**Upcoming Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) Webinar**, Tel Aviv, Israel, June 21, 2020 – Daniel Horowitz [webinars@genealogy.org.il](mailto:webinars@genealogy.org.il)

### ***IX. Documenting Jewish Families or Communities Lost in the Holocaust by Bullets***

English speakers can now learn details about what happened to relatives or a community in the Holocaust by Bullets. Knowing and sharing your story is more important than ever in a world of continued genocide, and as a generation of survivors and eyewitnesses decreases while Anti-Semitic violence has increased. Review documentation from this important era including access to Russian Extraordinary Commission files; German Einsatzgruppen Reports; Einsatzgruppen Trial "Blue Series

Files" of the Subsequent Nuremberg Military Tribunals; Yahad-In Unum eyewitness video; USC Shoah Foundation and other recorded survivor testimonies; Yizkor Books; Yad Vashem; USHMM; Center for Holocaust Studies in Ukraine; National Library of Israel; local community resources; and more.

**PRESENTATION TARGET AUDIENCE:**

- All skill levels.
- Those interested in Jewish records.
- Those interested in mass graves created during the Holocaust in former Soviet territories, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and elsewhere.
- Those interested in the work of Father Patrick Desbois and Yahad-In Unum.

**RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE CONTACT:**

*Upcoming* **Colorado State Genealogy Society**, Denver, CO, August 29, 2020 - Kim Rogers  
[krogers7900@gmail.com](mailto:krogers7900@gmail.com)

*Upcoming* **IAJGS Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy**, San Diego, CA, August xx, 2020 – Dan Oren [program@iajgs2020.org](mailto:program@iajgs2020.org)

**Boulder Jewish Community Center**, Boulder, CO, November-December 2018 – Jonathan Lev  
[jonathan@boulderjcc.org](mailto:jonathan@boulderjcc.org)

**PUBLISHED ARTICLE:**

"Yahad-In Unum Documents Holocaust Mass Gravesites in Nine Countries" Feb 2019 *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*

## **X. *Tracing Jews Who Coughed Their Way West***

An overview about the history and records for two Jewish sanitariums in Denver, Colorado, and why Jews from across North America travelled for the treatment of tuberculosis beginning in the 1890s and lasting until the widespread use of antibiotics became common. JGSCO was awarded the IAJGS Stern Grant in 2003 to complete the indexing of JCRS patient application records that contain significant genealogical material held at the University of Denver.

**RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE CONTACT:**

**IAJGS Annual Conference**, Salt Lake City, UT, July 30, 2014 – Chuck Weinstein  
[chuck1@outlook.com](mailto:chuck1@outlook.com)

**IAJGS Annual Conference**, New York City, August 17, 2006 – Linda Cantor [lincan@rcn.com](mailto:lincan@rcn.com)

## **XI. *Introducing the Jewish Genealogy Society of Colorado!***

For Jewish community organizations in the Denver-Boulder metro area, this taste of Jewish genealogy and introduction to the statewide Jewish Genealogy Society provides an overview about the programming, projects, and people who have been providing camaraderie, education, and support to local family history enthusiasts since 1995.

#### PRESENTATION TARGET AUDIENCE:

- Those interested in Jewish records.

#### RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE CONTACT:

*Upcoming* **Temple Emanuel**, Denver, CO, May 31, 2020 – Ellen Beller [ebeller1@icloud.com](mailto:ebeller1@icloud.com)

#### **Local Colorado Bio:**

Ellen Kowitt is Vice President of the Colorado Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, a past president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado, and DAR National Vice Chair of Jewish Specialty Research. She has been researching her own family history for 25 years and enjoys helping others. Ellen lectures, publishes articles, accepts clients, and volunteers at the Colorado State Archives indexing naturalization and probate records. For an upcoming list of lectures or more information, visit [www.EllenKowitt.com](http://www.EllenKowitt.com).

#### **Jewish Genealogy Community Bio:**

Ellen is past president of JGS Colorado and JGS Greater Washington DC, she has served on the IAJGS board of directors and been recipient of IAJGS Program and Stern Awards. Ellen publishes articles in "*Avotaynu: The International Journal on Jewish Genealogy*" and lectures often. She is currently VP of the Colorado Chapter Association of Professional Genealogists and accepts clients when she isn't volunteering as a project manager for the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project; KehilaLinks; or Ukraine SIG Lyubar town leader research projects, which she has coordinated for 23 years. Ellen has indexed naturalization and probate records at the Colorado State Archives, memorial plaques, gravestones, mohel records, and JCRS patient applications. Last summer, Ellen travelled to Ukraine as a guest of *The Protecting Memory Project* and in 2020, she was appointed the first-ever DAR National Vice Chair of Jewish Specialty Research. Ellen is currently participating in the ProGen 46 study group cohort and aspires to become board certified. For an upcoming list of lectures or more information, visit [www.EllenKowitt.com](http://www.EllenKowitt.com).