

Ellen Shindelman Kowitt Lectures updated 6/4/2021

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Presentations are 20-90 minutes (with most averaging 45-60 minutes) including a Q&A period and handout.

Ellen will travel out of state, conduct **live webinars**, or **provide mp4 recordings**.

Additional lecture topics can be developed upon request.

Lecture fee is \$200-\$250 (plus travel expenses) depending on whether lecture is newly developed or existing topic, size of audience and organization, lead time, and other factors.

Bio: Ellen Kowitt (*pronounced KO-witt, like KO-dak*) is Director of JewishGen's USA Research Division and National Vice Chair of the NSDAR Jewish Task Force. She is past president of Jewish Genealogical Societies in Colorado and Greater Washington, DC, and she served for three years on the IAJGS board of directors. Ellen publishes articles in *Family Tree Magazine* and *Avotaynu: The International Journal on Jewish Genealogy*. She has completed the ProGen Study Group, attends genealogy institute programs, and is a member of the Colorado Chapter Association of Professional Genealogists. For upcoming lecture dates or more information, visit www.EllenKowitt.com.

Lecture Titles

- I. *An Overview of Jewish Records in the Golden Medina/USA*
- II. *Nancy Drew's Top Websites for Modern Sleuthing*
- III. *2021 Comparison of Jewish Resources on the Giants: Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findmypast, JewishGen, & MyHeritage*
- IV. *Tips & Tricks for Navigating JewishGen*
- V. *Secrets for Researching Jewish Genealogy Revealed (alternate titles: What's Jewish About Jewish Genealogy; Getting Started Tracing Your Jewish Roots; Introduction to Jewish Genealogy)*
- VI. *Liberty and Freedom for All: DAR Broadens Reach with Targeted Initiatives*
- VII. *Documenting Jewish Families or Communities Lost in the Holocaust by Bullets*
- VIII. *Creative Strategies for Ukraine Research*
- IX. *Not Your Typical Ukraine Travelogue: Reflections on Shtetlschlepping over 20 Years*
- X. *Tracing Jews Who Coughed Their Way West*
- XI. ***In Development!*** *Applying the Genealogical Proof Standard to Jewish Genealogy*
- XII. ***In Development!*** *Patriot, Loyalist, or Hessian: Documenting Jewish Families Before and During the American Revolution*
- XIII. ***In Development!*** *Same Record: Different Search Results on Multiple Websites*

I. An Overview of Jewish Records in the Golden Medina/USA

Documenting Jewish communities in the United States not only includes Jewish cemeteries and synagogue memorial plaques, there are congregational records including vital records and Sephardic-liturgy Escabot lists, mohel registers, Jewish hospital and funeral home records, Jewish clubs and organizational materials, and more to be uncovered. This lecture showcases search techniques and websites where these Jewish genealogical gems may be found in archives, newspapers, rare books, or elsewhere. Featuring examples from the American Jewish Historical Society, the American Jewish Archives, regional Jewish historical society archives such as The Bremen Museum and DU's Beck Archive, state archives, *FamilySearch*, *WorldCat*, and more.

RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE:

Upcoming Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado, Denver, CO, May 1, 2022 – Judy Petersen
kpeter3434@aol.com

Upcoming IAJGS Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Philadelphia, PA, August 4, 2021 – Hadassah Lipsius
program@iajgs2021.org

Greater Houston Jewish Genealogical Society Webinar, Houston, Texas, March 11, 2021 – Stefani Twyford
stwyford@legacymultimedia.com

I. Nancy Drew's Top Websites for Modern Sleuthing

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 non-traditional places!

PUBLISHED ARTICLE: "The Case of the Missing Ancestors: 8 Genealogy Tips from Nancy Drew" Jan/Feb 2021 *Family Tree Magazine*

RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE:

Erie Colorado Public Library Webinar, April 22, 2021 – Melanie Goldman
mgoldman@highplains.us
Broomfield Genealogy Society Webinar, Broomfield, Colorado, July 20, 2020 – Dana Smith
broomfieldgsprogramchair@gmail.com

Estes Park Genealogy Society Webinar, Estes Park, Colorado, June 11, 2020 – Kris Holien
kjholien@aol.com

Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado Webinar, Denver, Colorado, May 11, 2020 – Ellen Beller
ebeller@ecentral.com

Pikes Peak Genealogy Society Webinar, Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 11, 2020 – Danielle Digiacomo
danielle_digiacomo@yahoo.com

Highlands Ranch Genealogy Society Webinar, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, March 3, 2020 – Megan Koepsell
mkoepsell2198@msn.com

Aurora Rotary Club Webinar, Aurora, Colorado, January 29, 2020 – Jim Bickford
jim@abclawyers.com

Columbine Genealogy Society Webinar, Littleton, Colorado, January 21, 2020 – Anita Burbank-Jenkins
aebjenk@gmail.com

II. 2021-22 Jewish Resources Comparison on the Giants: Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findmypast, JewishGen, & MyHeritage

Enjoy this updated comparative overview of Jewish record collections and research tools found on the global powerhouse websites referred to as “Genealogy Giants.” Comparing Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findmypast, and MyHeritage, this lecture includes many substantive record examples. Learn how each site can be helpful for documenting Jewish families, and get tips on each site’s best features or challenges. Current JewishGen partnerships with Ancestry and MyHeritage are featured.

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

RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE:

Upcoming Jewish Genealogical Society of Nevada Webinar, September 19, 2021 – Ben Kempner benjamin.kempner@gmail.com

Upcoming Legacy Family Tree Webinar, July 14, 2021 with Sunny Morton – Marian Pierre-Louis marian@legacyfamilytree.com

Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia, Webinar, April 11, 2021 – Mark Halpern mark@halpern.com

Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County Webinar, Palm Beach, FL, November 11, 2020 – Dennis Rice drtigers@aol.com

Miami Valley Jewish Genealogical and Historical Society Webinar with Sunny Morton, Dayton, OH, November 8, 2020 – Marshall Weiss mweiss@jfgd.net

Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington Webinar, Washington, DC, August 23, 2020 – Mary-Jane Roth greenst@comcast.net

Jewish Genealogy Society of Illinois Webinar, Chicago, IL, July 26, 2020 – Michael Tarkoff tarkoffm@yahoo.com

III. ***New! Tips & Tricks for Navigating JewishGen***

JewishGen.org is the global home for Jewish genealogy with over 30 million searchable records and indexes, educational and language tools, networking, and more. This free website contains a wealth of treasures to navigate through the complexities of Jewish names and origins, but where to begin? Or, what are you missing? Some geographical resources are valuable for researchers of any faith background and should not be overlooked. Join veteran Jewish records pro and Director of JewishGen’s USA Research Division, Ellen Kowitt as she provides an overview and shares examples of hidden gems to help maximize your time and search.

Proposed National Genealogical Society Conference, Sacramento, California, May 2022

IV. ***Secrets for Researching Jewish Genealogy Revealed (alternate titles: What’s Jewish About Jewish Genealogy; Getting Started Tracing Your Jewish Roots; Introduction to Jewish Genealogy)***

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 US 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!

RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE:

University of Denver OLLI Virtual 6-Part Course, Denver, Colorado, Fall 2020, Winter 2021, and Spring 2021 Quarters - Jacqueline Wyant Jacqueline.Wyant@du.edu

RootsTech Connect Virtual Recording, Salt Lake City, Utah, February 25, 2021 and available through January 2022 - Shipley Munson munsonsj@familysearch.org

Orange County Federation Webinar, Newburgh, New York, October 11, 2020 Sharon Ball sharon@jewishorangeny.org

Congregation Beth Evergreen Legacy Society Webinar, Evergreen, Colorado, August 14, 2020 – Eve Mills eve@bethevergreen.org

Boulder Jewish Community Center) Webinar, Boulder, Colorado, May 5, 2020 – Joy Eisenhauer joy.eisenhauer@boulderjcc.org

Anthem Ranch Genealogical Society, Broomfield, Colorado, January 13, 2020 – Carol Sooter genie16325@gmail.com

V. *Liberty and Freedom for All: DAR Broadens Reach with Targeted Initiatives*

Considering application in the Daughters of the American Revolution lineage society but didn't think your ancestors qualify? DAR's current efforts to *Rise and Shine for America* actively encourage new applications from a variety of heritage groups including women descending from African-American, Native American, Jewish, Spanish, French, and German settlers. Come hear about the Lineage Committee Specialty Research Task Forces actively developing resources and assisting in the location of documentation for daughters and prospective members descending from populations typically not emphasized in the past. DAR materials for genealogical research will be outlined and online access for members and non-members discussed.

PUBLISHED ARTICLE:

"Bridging Daughters of the American Revolution and Jewish Genealogists" Fall 2020 *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*

RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE:

Proposed National Genealogical Society Conference, Sacramento, California, May 2022

Southern California Genealogical Society Webinar, Burbank, CA, March 17, 2021 – Beth Ullman beth.ullman@gmail.com

VI. *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 pass away. Review documentation from this important era including access to Russian Extraordinary Commission files; Yahad-In Unum eyewitness video; USC Shoah Foundation and other recorded survivor testimonies; Yizkor Books; Yad Vashem; USHMM; National Library of Israel; local community resources; and more.

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

RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE:

Upcoming **Legacy Family Tree Webinars Virtual Recording**, December 8, 2021 – Marian Pierre-Louis marian@legacyfamilytree.com

Upcoming **Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree Conference Virtual Recording**, Burbank, CA, June 11, 2021 – Beth Ullman beth.ullman@gmail.com

University of Denver OLLI Speaker Series, Denver, CO, September 15, 2020 – Jacqueline Wyant Jacqueline.Wyant@du.edu

Colorado State Genealogy Society, Denver, CO, August 29, 2020 - Kim Rogers krogers7900@gmail.com

VII. Creative Strategies for Ukraine Research

Records access in Ukraine is exploding thanks to efforts by Alex Krakovsky, FamilySearch, and others; and partnerships with locals and academics can complement research. This lecture explores challenges in language; background content; pros and cons of town group projects; purchasing documents online; and a comprehensive overview of resources including online access to Ukrainian Archives, newspapers, Ukraine SIG, blogs, Facebook groups, the global genealogy giants, resources in Israel, military databases, and documenting the Holocaust by Bullets. This lecture is frequently updated with new examples as they become available. If you've only used JewishGen, this presentation will open your eyes to many other resources, and often in English.

RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE:

Orange County Jewish Genealogical Society Webinar, April 25, 2021 – Michelle Sandler michellegailsandler@gmail.com

IAJGS Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy Virtual Recording, August 11, 2020 – Dan Oren program@iajgs2020.org

Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) Webinar, Tel Aviv, Israel, June 21, 2020 – Daniel Horowitz webinars@genealogy.org.il

VIII. Not Your Typical Ukraine Travelogue: Reflections on Shtetlschlepping over 20 Years

First travelling to Ukraine with my family in 1997 to walk in the footsteps of my ancestors, I had the opportunity to return in 1999 as leader of JewishGen's Shtetlschleppers program. But returning to Ukraine a third time as part of the Protecting Memory Project in 2019 was unexpected, and yet it resulted in finding significant genealogical treasures and provided a sense of healing. Join me on an adventure over 20 years contrasting similarities and differences surrounding ease of travel, collaboration, and records access. Veteran travelers, those considering a visit to the old country, or armchair enthusiasts will enjoy this historical overview with photos and recollections captured in blog entries posted throughout the journey.

RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE:

Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento Webinar, Sacramento, CA, March 21, 2021 – Sherri Venezia sher@omsoft.com

IX. 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 index JCRS patient application records that contain significant genealogical material held at the University of Denver.

RECENT AUDIENCES WITH REFERENCE:

IAJGS Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, July 30, 2014 – Chuck Weinstein chuck1@outlook.com

IAJGS Annual Conference, New York City, August 17, 2006 – Linda Cantor lincan@rcn.com

X. ***In Development!*** ***Applying the Genealogical Proof Standard to Jewish Genealogy***

Proposed National Genealogical Society Conference, Sacramento, California, May 2022

XI. ***In Development!*** ***Patriot, Loyalist, or Hessian: Documenting Jewish Families Before and During the American Revolution***