

Resources for Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland

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Key genealogy locations

- National Archives Great Lakes (NARA) at 7358 South Pulaski (773-948-9000)
- Illinois Regional Archive Depository (IRAD) at 5500 N. St. Louis (Northeastern IL U.) (773-442-4506)
- Illinois State Archive webpage: www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html (Springfield 217-782-3556)
- Newberry Library at 60 West Walton (312-255-3658)
- Office of the Circuit Court Clerk of Cook County at Daley Center -Room 1113 (312-603-6601)
- Wilmette Family History Center (FHC) (847-251-9818)
- Cook County Vitals (312-603-7790)
- Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies at 610 South Michigan Avenue, www.spertus.edu (312-322-1700)

Vital records

Jewish Cemeteries (3 largest)

- Waldheim: over 160,000 burials (708-366-4541) incl Free Sons
- Silverman & Weiss: over 26,000 burials (708-366-0125)
- Westlawn: over 46,000 burials (773-625-8600)

Funeral Homes

- Weinstein Family Services (773-761-2400)
 - Records date from 1894
 - Includes records from former Weinstein Bros, Palmer-Lauer, and Robert A.

Weinstein

- Piser Chapels (773-561-4740)
 - Records date from 1900
 - Includes records from former Original Weinstains, Hartman-Miller, Gratch-Mandel, Albert & Jaffe, and J. (Jacob) Weinstein
- Furth & Company (from 1930s) (773-784-4300)

Death Records

- Earliest (1871-1950)
 - Illinois State Death Index 1871-1950 (on-line)
 - Certificates FHC Wilmette 1871-1945 (about half)
- Modern (1940-present)
 - Chicago Tribune Historic Archive (on-line) 1849-
 - Proquest (1985-present)
 - Social Security Death Index (SSDI) (1962-present) [//ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/ssdi.cgi](http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/ssdi.cgi)
- All years
 - Cook County Vital Records (1871-www.cookctyclerk.com (online index search/ordering starting tentatively in June 2008.
 - Newspaper microfilms
 - JGSI online death index www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/projects.htm

Marriage Records

- Not much uniquely Jewish (may find synagogue record)
- Cook County Vital Records
- Family History Center (Wilmette)
 - Indexes 1871-1915
 - Licenses 1871-1920 (incomplete)
- Illinois Statewide Marriage Index 1763-1900 (on IL State Archives website)

Birth Records

- Cook County Vital Records
- Family History Center (Wilmette)
 - Birth Register 1871-1915
 - Birth Certificates 1871-1922 (a few)
 - Birth Record Index 1871-1916
- Illinois Regional Archives Depository: Indexes
- Newberry Library: Indexes

Record Services

- www.chicagogenealogy.com (from FHC in Wilmette, IL)
- www.molix.com (from Springfield, IL)

Location/residence records

- Chicago Re-numbers Streets in 1909
- Any documents prior to 1909 will probably have wrong numbering
- My mother's birth certificate (1907)
 - 521 South Halsted on certificate
 - Now 1314 South Halsted
- Chicago Historical Society will give you new address or go to their website: www.chicagohistory.org

City Directories

- Chicago: 1839-1870 (irregular), 1871-1917 (every year), 1923, 1928/29
- Contain name, residence, occupation, work address (optional)
- Found at Newberry, Chicago Public Library (Harold Washington), Chicago Historical Society, Arlington Heights Library

Property records

- <http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/startsearch.html>

Life in Jewish Chicago

- Chicago Jewish Archives
- Located also at Spertus Institute has historic records
 - Synagogue
 - Organizations
 - Personal collections
 - Oral histories
- Creating finding aids (full inventories) available via catalog
- Appointment needed with Joy Kingsolver archivist
 - Handle documents with gloves
 - No pens
- Phone: 312-322-1741
<http://www.spertus.edu>

Jewish Newspapers and Periodicals

- Contain news of people active in Jewish Community
- Found at Spertus Institute of Jewish Study On-line catalog:
<http://norman.spertus.edu:4505/ALEPH>
- Other periodicals available: *Israelitische Presse* (first Yiddish publication: 1877), *Chicago Yiddish Tageblatt*, *Daily Jewish Courier*, *Occident*, *The Jewish Advance*, *The Maccabean*, *the Chicago Jewish Forum*, and *the Jewish Way*

Arrival records

- Naturalization
- INS Naturalization Index for Chicago & Cook County (incl some Ind, Wisc)
 - 1871 to 1950
 - Soundex Index
 - Found at Office of Circuit Court Clerk of Cook County, NARA, IRAD
- Actual papers available as follows:
 - District Courts (Federal) from NARA (South Pulaski)
 - Superior, Circuit, County and Criminal Courts from Office of Circuit Court Clerk of Cook County (Daley Center)

References

All material from this lecture plus MORE:

Resources for Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland

www.JewishGen.org/Infofiles/Chicago

Organizations:

- Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois (JGSI) www.jewishgen.org/jgsi or 312-666-0100
- Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society www.lincolnet.net or 708-957-9457
- Chicago Jewish Historical Society www.chicagojewishhistory.org or 312-663-5634

Reading:

Bercow, Ira. *Maxwell Street: Survival in a Bazaar*. (Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1977).

Cutler, Irving. *The Jews of Chicago: From Shtetl to Suburb*. (University of Illinois Press, 1996)

Eastwood, Carolyn. *Chicago's Jewish Street Peddler* and Shapiro, Beatrice Michaels. *Memories of Lawndale* (Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 1991).

Kraus, Bea and Schwartz, Norman D. *A Walk To Shul: Chicago Synagogues of Lawndale and stops on the Way*. (The Priscilla Press, 2003).

Meites, H.L.. *History of the Jews of Chicago*. (Reprinted 1990, originally published in 1924 by Jewish Historical Society of Illinois).

Sorkin, Sidney. *Bridges to an American City: A Guide to Chicago Landsmanshaften, 1870 to 1990*. (Peter Lang, 1993).

The Sentinel History of Chicago Jewry 1911-1986. (Sentinel Publishing Co., 1986).

For more information about Mike's lectures or e-mail him at mike@MikeKarsen.com or go to his website at www.MikeKarsen.com

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