



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia

JGASGP

<https://jgsgp.org>

FROM
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SECRETARY
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CHRONICLES, Our
Quarterly Journal:

Please submit articles
to our Chronicles
editor, Evan Fishman,
at editor@jgsgp.org.
We all have stories to
tell!

**Deadline for the next
issue of *Chronicles* is
March 1st**

If you want to add a
hard copy of
Chronicles to your
membership it is an
extra \$10.

A big thank you goes to our member, **Ira Siegal**, for presenting his story of The Irish Torah at our February meeting. Ira not only shared the story of his family heirloom, but he brought it with for us to see! The Sefer Torah, originally from the town of Oshmyany (now Belarus – near Vilna) made its way to Dublin, Ireland and then to Philadelphia, carried by his grandfather, Isaac Schreider in 1908. Yes, there were and are Jews in Ireland!

We had an additional guest speaker, **Amy Degen**. She talked about the Bialystok, Poland, Jewish Cemetery Restoration Project. She spends a week every August working with volunteers to unearth, lift up, and identify headstones. Hopefully she will return for a full presentation in the future. For more information go to her website:

Bialystokcemeteryrestoration.org. The FB page is Bialystok Cemetery Restoration @BialystokCemetery Contact her at

Bialystokcemeteryrestoration@gmail.com if interested in volunteering for this project. You can also let Felicia know if you are interested.

Avivah Pinski gave out information about the BRCA Outreach Study for Ashkenazi Jewish Ancestry. Learn more at BFORSTUDY.COM. See the attached flyer! CHECK OUT THE LAST PAGE!

Meeting Announcements: Our next 2 meetings will also feature members. If you have an interesting genealogy research presentation to share or know of someone else, please let Mark Halpern know.

Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020

Research Help and Registration: 1:00-1:30

Lecture: 1:30

Location: Main Line Reform Temple, Wynnewood, PA

Speaker: Joel Spector, Director of Metrical Record Projects, JewishGen
Ukraine Research Group



Joel is a Past President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia, where he has also been chairperson of its Russian Special Interest Group. Joel has given presentations and workshops on the Russian language, both contemporary and pre-Revolutionary, and has provided translations of documents to individuals and groups. Currently Joel is a member of the Ukraine Research Group and serves as its Director of Metric Record Projects. Joel has been actively engaged in genealogy for over 30 years and has been conducting research in several historic Russian language encyclopedias. He has produced a unique English language Index to the Russian language *Evreiskaya Entsiklopedia*.

Topic: The Krakovsky Documents: Utilization of the Data by the Ukraine Research Group and Its Preservation on JewishGen

For several years, Alex Krakovsky, a Ukrainian Jew, has been scanning metrical and census records found in long-closed Ukrainian archives. He has

placed the indexes, in Cyrillic, on a webpage where they can easily be accessed by anyone interested. This presentation will first discuss the origin and method of Alex's data acquisition, and then give an overview of the contents of his site.

The Ukraine Research Group, formerly the Ukraine SIG, has begun a project to make English language indexes to these documents available. I will describe the Group's current Metrical Records Project, whose purpose is to transliterate components of the documents and make the data available for researchers on JewishGen.

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2020

Research Help and Registration: 1:00-1:30

Lecture: 1:30

Location: Main Line Reform Temple, Wynnewood, PA

A tribute to Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day (April 21)

Speaker: Mark Halpern, Executive Board Member, JRI-Poland



Mark was an International Businessman who lived in Japan. Later, while on business in Poland, he became interested in his roots. Now retired, Mark works with JRI-Poland, JewishGen, IAJGS, and JGASGP helping others research their roots. Mark serves on the Board and Executive Group of JRI-Poland, is the founder of Bialystok Area Jewish Genealogy Group, is an Advisory Board of Geshet Galicia, and is past President of JGASGP. Mark chaired the program committees for the 2009 and 2013 Conferences and served as advance

coordinator for the 2018 Warsaw Conference. Mark was honored in 2018 with the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mark's interest in Sugihara and the refugees goes back to the 2013 IAJGS Conference in Boston, where he met a Japanese gentleman. The following article explains Mark's interest. <https://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-life-and-religion/197643/from-japan-with-love>.

Topic: The Sugihara Refugee Story: Survivors and Those Without Whom This Story Would Not Be Told

Most Jewish genealogists know the story of Chiune Sugihara, known as the Japanese Schindler. Sugihara issued over 2,000 Japanese transit visas that enabled many Jews to escape war torn Europe in the summer of 1940. But there is so much more to the story. There were many people – Europeans, Americans, Japanese – who helped to save these people. We will identify some of them and talk about their exploits. We will trace one Polish Jewish woman's journey from Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Poland to Santa Monica, California using her Sugihara transit visa to ultimately obtain US citizenship. Her journey started in Poland and included stops in Lithuania; Moscow and Vladivostok, Russia; Tsuruga and Kobe Japan; Shanghai, China; Windsor, Canada; and Chicago and Los Angeles over 15 years mostly as a Stateless person. We will document her journey using genealogical methods and records.

May 3, 2020 - 40th Anniversary Celebration!



Celebrate with us on May 3rd for our 40th Anniversary Celebration! National Museum of American Jewish History, with special guest Daniel Goldmark, Professor of music at Case Western Reserve, kosher brunch by Barclay Caterers, discounted parking at the Bourse garage, and entrance the museum from 3-5.

**Cost - \$50@ members \$75@ non-members
(will include membership for 2020)**

E-invites will go out March 1st .

Payments can be made through Paypal or checks sent to our P.O. Box or paid at a meeting.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR RSVP THROUGH THE INVITATION!!!

FYI: We are subsidizing more that 50% of the cost. We want to show our appreciation to everyone who has been a part of our growing organization!

Date: Sunday, May 17, 2020

Research Help and Registration: 1:00 - 1:30

Lecture: 1:30

Location: Main Line Reform Temple, Wynnewood, PA

Speaker: Tony Hausner, Town Research Group Leader



Tony has a Ph.D. in Social/Community Psychology from the University of Kentucky. He worked for 26 years for the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on research and policy projects. He played a leadership role in 11 town research groups, particularly Skala Podolskaya in Eastern Galicia, where his mother was born. He spent several weeks as part of three trips traveling to Eastern Europe, Western Europe and Great Britain, visiting all of these ancestral

places and other relevant places. He has published articles on these trips and has given several talks about the trips and other topics relevant to Jewish genealogy.

Topic: Jewish Internees on the Isle of Man in World War II

Tony's parents, grandparents and other family members escaped from Vienna to England shortly after the German Anschluss. After about a year, the British government decided that people from Germany, Austria, Italy and several other countries could be classified as "enemy aliens". Several members of Tony's family were interned as "enemy aliens" with men and women housed in separate camps on the Isle of Man. His parents wrote letters to each other frequently. His mother kept his father's letters which Tony donated copies to several museums. This talk will focus on the history of British internment and Tony's parents' experiences. He will also discuss the visit that Tony and his wife made to the Isle of Man in 2016, the exhibit they saw at their Manx Museum, their meeting with Museum staff, and their tour of the island.

Date Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 7:30 pm

Location: Main Line Reform Temple, Wynnewood, PA (tentative venue)

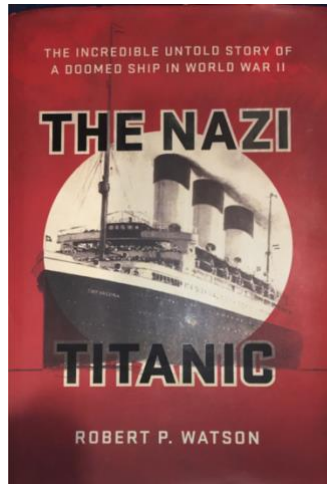
Lecture: 7:30

Speaker: Robert Watson, Distinguished Professor of American History, Lynn University



Robert Watson is an award-winning author who has published over 40 books on topics in history and politics, 200 scholarly articles and chapters, and

two multi-edition encyclopedia sets on the presidents and first ladies. His recent books include: *Affairs of State* (2012); *America's First Crisis* (2014), winner of the Independent Publisher's Gold Medal in History; *The Presidents' Wives* (2014), released in an expanded 2nd edition; *The Nazi Titanic* (2016), which is being made into a motion picture; *The Ghost Ship of Brooklyn* (2017), subject of a National Geographic TV special and winner of the John Barry and John Lyman Book Awards; and the forthcoming books *George Washington's Final Battle* (2020) and



Escape! The Story of the Infamous Bastille of the Confederacy (2020). Several of his books have been published in international translation, nominated for book awards, and were featured on C-SPAN's Book TV and at prominent literary festivals.

Topic: The Nazi Titanic

Professor Watson will discuss the shocking and little-known story of "The Nazi Titanic," which is an event that occurred during the final hours of the Holocaust and is based on his award-winning book. It is quite the story.

***You can find it on Amazon books.**

Local meetings of interest:

Bucks County Genealogical Society hosts

"Getting the Most out of Archives, Libraries and Repositories"

Presented by: Sydney Cruice Dixon, Professional Genealogist

Saturday, March 7, 2020, from 10 am to 12 pm

Mandell Science Building, Delaware Valley University

105 Campus Drive, Doylestown, PA

Knowing which archives, courthouses, and libraries to use for your family research can be difficult and intimidating. Then, figuring out your way through the vast array of books, manuscripts, and files to get to the information you seek can be completely overwhelming. This presentation discusses the different types of repositories for genealogy research. You will discover the best strategies to efficiently find the family information you need and learn tips on the best ways to get help from archivists, librarians, and county clerks. Learn how to develop a game plan even before you walk through the door of the research facility. You will also discover the wealth of unique genealogy resources in the Greater Philadelphia Area.

Open to the public • \$5 Members / \$10 Non-Members

A printable flyer with complete information on our program and directions to our new venue is available

at <http://www.bucksgen.org/images/pdf/Dixon2020.pdf>

Door Prize: “Research Like A Pro” by Diane Elder

For more information on our society, visit www.bucksgen.org

Directions and Parking info: <https://www.bucksgen.org/index.php/directions-to-mandell-science-building>

Upcoming Appearances



with Historian Sarina Roffé

March 21, 2020

"From Iberia to Syria: Solving a Converso Mystery"

Scholar in Residence

Congregation Mikveh Israel

44 N 4th St, Philadelphia, PA

sarina@roffe.com Sarina spoke to us and was fascinating! Her new cookbook, Backyard Kitchen, is for sale on Amazon.

WE LOVE VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to **Gary Brownstein** for his mentoring prior to the meetings. We need a few volunteers to form a Mentoring committee to help him out.

Thanks to **Barbara Lewis** for helping out with Hospitality. We need a few volunteers for a Hospitality committee. **Charlotte** has volunteered to help at KI.

Thank you to **Cindy** for helping me at Check in!

Please let me know which committee you would like to volunteer for and if you have a preference for meeting locations.

Thanks to **Meryl** for letting me know you want to help out!

IAJGS CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO August 9-14 Registration is now open! Book your hotel rooms now!! www.iajgs2020.org

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PhotoScan by Google Photos

Always check our website, jgsgp.org or Facebook JGASGP for meeting updates!

Marilyn Golden, VP Membership Secretary mazergoldenjgsgp@gmail.com

LEARN MORE AT
BFORSTUDY.COM



WHEN A *BRCA1*
OR *BRCA2* MUTATION IS
DETECTED EARLY,
THE INFORMATION CAN
BE LIFESAVING.

Susan Domchek, MD
Executive Director of the Basser Center
for BRCA at Penn Medicine

ARE YOU OF ASHKENAZI JEWISH ANCESTRY? HAVE YOU BEEN TESTED FOR A BRCA GENETIC MUTATION?

While everyone is born with BRCA genes, Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jews are up to 10 times more likely than the general population to carry a BRCA mutation. Men and women with a BRCA mutation have a high risk of developing hereditary cancers such as breast, ovarian, prostate, and pancreatic. Since it's hereditary, both women and men can inherit the gene mutation and you can pass the mutation on to your children.

WHY ENROLL?

- Prevention and early detection may save lives. Genetic testing provides knowledge that may reduce cancer risks and improve outcomes for those who carry a BRCA mutation.
- You will be guided the entire way through the study first online, then through either a licensed genetic counselor or your family PCP (you choose!).
- There is no cost to participate.
- It's easy and convenient: pre-test education is provided via our online platform and at the end, you can take your order to Quest to have your blood drawn.

BFOR Executive Committee includes:

Susan Domchek, MD & Katherine Nathanson, MD
Basser Center for BRCA
Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center, Philadelphia

BASSER
CENTER
FOR BRCA

 Penn Medicine

In collaboration with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, University of California-Los Angeles, Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

*Genetic testing provided by Quest Diagnostics.
The BFOR study is a not-for-profit research project
and has no commercial interests.*

LEARN MORE AND SEE IF YOU'RE A CANDIDATE FOR THE
STUDY AT BFORSTUDY.COM