



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater
Philadelphia
JGASGP

April 2020 Quarantine Newsletter

I hope this newsletter find you safe and healthy.

I wanted to send out updates and information.

We will get through this! Let's keep our minds busy.

Our newest feature:

From the President's Desk:

To my fellow members of JGASGP, I wish you all a belated Happy Pesach and happier days ahead.

Our society leadership has discussed and planned the status of our next few meetings. Members of the board met virtually using the Zoom platform. We have subsequently been trained on Zoom security measures to keep our society safe from cyber intrusion. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) recently conducted several webinars, with experts in the field of Jewish/Cyber security. I found the content to be quite fascinating. The ADL has stated that by utilizing recommended security measures, when we conduct meetings on Zoom, we should be quite safe from Zoom-bombers, as these predators are called. To further protect our privacy, we will not be using the free Zoom platform and have instead purchased a paid account on Zoom. *If you would like more information about this important issue affecting us all, please read this article from the*

FROM
MARILYN GOLDEN
VP MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY
membership@jgsgp.org



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
summer issue of
Chronicles is May 31st

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

Forward <https://forward.com/news/443967/zoom-new-security-features-anti-semitic-trolls-adl-coronavirus/>

and this piece from the ADL <https://www.adl.org/blog/how-to-prevent-zoombombing>

At this time, I am thrilled to report that we will stream our first Zoom General Meeting later this month! Board members Mark Halpern and Joel Spector will be working hard to make this new experience worthwhile for all of us. You will receive an email invitation closer to the date of each meeting which will include the login information. These logins are private for our society only and should not be shared outside our membership. The first meeting will be accessible to anyone who is a paid member as of the end of 2019. The second meeting will require current 2020 membership that is paid in full.

I look forward to greeting you all at our first Virtual Meeting! In the meantime, stay home, stay healthy and have fun working on your genealogy!

Felicia Mode Alexander

Announcements:

One week prior to the meeting event you will get an invitation. The day before the event I will send out a reminder. PLEASE make sure you follow the directions on the screen. You will be asked to download the app and allow “view in video and audio”.

Please check out and familiarize yourself with Zoom. It’s very easy once you get the hang of it. <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

I can only use my desktop computer. My laptop is not loud enough. You can use your laptop and call in with your phone. Check out the ZOOM website and practice if you need to use this method.

Research Links and webinars and Zoom meetings:

1. Alec Ferretti's talk on DNA endogamy is now on the Utah Genealogical Association website: [I heard this webinar and thought it was very well done.](#)

2. <https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/stop-saving-records-to-your-ancestry-tree-until-you-read-this/> Make sure you download records you find and label them for each person. Make a folder for that person. For example, my folder would be MAZER, Marilyn. My records: MAZER, Marilyn birth 1953, MAZER, Marilyn marriage cert. 1979. I use all caps for the last name, maiden name as my last name, and I date all documents. If I saved them on Ancestry.com and then do not re-subscribe, I still have those records. I also print copies of everything and keep large notebooks organized by family and individuals with these documents.

3. Free Access to online book collections. See below.

Free Access to Online Book Collections



To help people keep up their family history research from home, the NEHGS Library is providing free access to books on our Digital Collections website. These book collections, which are normally available only to American Ancestors and NEHGS members, include [city directories](#), [family history books](#), and [local history books](#). Need an 1824 directory of Baltimore? Vital records of Hampton, New Hampshire? Or maybe you'd like to plan for a post-social-distancing family gathering by reading about past reunions of other families. You'll find all of these and much more in these digital book collections. If you have questions about the collections or stories of discoveries you have made in them, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact us at library@nehgs.org.

4. Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois member **Steven Flack will speak on “When DNA or Documents Reveal Life-Altering Origin Secrets” on Sunday, May 3, 2020**, in a free live webinar from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois. His presentation will begin at 2 p.m. CDT.

To register in advance for this free live webinar, go to <https://tinyurl.com/tolrrka>. Webinar viewers need not be members of JGSI.(Illinois)

Genealogists may uncover a family secret of a relative, in some cases someone's origin story, the most fundamental and potent secret of all. This knowledge may arise from DNA test results, which link cousins across generations, or from documents that are passively obtained. In this presentation, Steven will share how to decide on and obtain the additional input you need to learn the truth. The DNA section demonstrates the "What Are the Odds" tool to triangulate unknown or uncertain parentage, as well as an empirical way to calibrate the DNA of highly endogamous families.

"An unknown family secret revelation is life-altering; it's essential to decide whether and how to ethically and responsibly unwrap the secret," Steven said. "I will use five riveting family secret stories, several involving parentage, along with extensive rich graphics to ensure a robust learning experience."

For more information about the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois or the JGSI schedule of future events, visit <http://jgsi.org/> or phone 312-666-0100.

5. <https://familyhistorydaily.com/tag/beginner-genealogy-help/>

There are links to daily tips, beginners guide, free genealogy sites, and online courses.

6. I signed up to receive Sarina Roffe's e-mails about Sephardic cuisine. She sends out interesting recipes. **Sarina's Sephardic Cuisine**
sarina@roffe.com [Visit Sarinassephardicuisine](#)

My favorite memory of the Seders I attended were as a child. The dessert table was always the most fun besides searching for the afikomen. "The grandmothers" would show off their sponge cakes. A ruler was used to determine who made the tallest cake. Was it Grand mom Sophie, Grand mom

Bessie, Grand mom Fania, or Great Aunt Rose? Sometimes they used nuts or chocolate chips. The winner was always very proud of her accomplishment. The loser would announce that next year they would use more eggs! Sponge cake and compote! Yum. I can taste it now!

Below is Sarina's recipe. Passover is almost over. You can practice for next year!

Passover Nut Cake

Ingredients

12 eggs, separated
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ C. sugar
1 C oil
1 tsp. vanilla
1 C Cake Meal
1 lb. chopped walnuts

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat yolks with sugar until thick and lemon colored.
2. Add oil and vanilla and mix well.
3. Beat egg whites until stiff. Set aside.
4. Fold yolk mixture and cake meal into beaten egg whites.
5. Add chopped nuts and fold gently.
6. Pour into greased 10x14" oblong pan or tube pan
7. Bake 1 hour.

This year I attended a Zoom Seder. My niece used a power point presentation and assigned each of us a part to read. I was very impressed and enjoyed seeing everyone.

If you had a Zoom Seder and want to tell your story, please send it to Evan for our next Chronicles issue.

While you are home researching in your free time, maybe you have a different story to tell? Write it up, send it to Evan. We have very helpful editors.

7. If you use Facebook you can watch **Saturday Night Passover Seder on this link. Very enjoyable. One hour of seder music and humor.**

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=562115407741920>

8. [Watch Streit's: Matzo and the American Dream | Prime Video](#) or on PBS. That you'll have to look that up.

9. This article deals with a surviving sibling's efforts to locate his oldest sister's grave. She died during the 1918 flu epidemic.

https://forward.com/culture/443871/1918-pandemic-alice-wolowitz-spanish-flu-victim/?utm_source=PostUp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter%20RSS_Test&utm_maildate=04/14/2020

10. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-lost-family/202004/genealogy-provides-the-strength-persevere?amp> This article is from Psychology today and the importance of Genealogy research.

Eli's (my son) birthday was on the 12th. I planned a Zoom birthday party surprise for him. I invite all of the cousins to sign on and didn't tell him. It was lots of fun to see everyone in my family from coast to coast on different time zones. We have to continue to communicate with each other in these unusual times.

Now is the time to make actual connections with those relatives you've found on your tree. You can hear their voices and see them on your computer screen! I have communicated with cousins in different continents. Isn't that the next dimension of genealogy research? We find dead relatives. We find living relatives. Don't forget to make real time connections. We are all at home now. It's free to call anyone on WhatsApp, Facetime, and Google Chat.

We must look for humor when we can. My daughter, Sarah made a Covid-19

MC Hammer Parody. It's a 1 minute video guaranteed to make you smile.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEWr8BebX1g>

MEETINGS

APRIL 26, 2020 1:30



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

May 17, 2020 1:30



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

June 7, 2020 1:30



Speaker: Tony Hausner, Town Research Group Leader

Our 40th Anniversary Celebration has been postponed until November 22, 2020.



Celebrate with us on Nov. 22, 2020 for our 40th Anniversary Celebration! National Museum of American Jewish History, with special guest Daniel Goldmark, Professor of music at Case Western Reserve
Anyone who has paid can request a refund if unable to attend. Please contact our treasurer, Tom Perloff.

At this time, the IAJGS conference will be held as scheduled in San Diego.



PhotoScan by Google Photos

www.iajgs2020.org

Sad news

IVAN POPKIN Obituary

We note with sadness the passing of Ivan Popkin, Philadelphia business and community leader. Ivan was married to our member Sue for fifty-seven years. Sue was trained as a professional archivist and was a key player in the development of the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center. For example, she enjoys relating how she help rescue the Rodeph Shalom Archives from a bathroom closet. Sue served as President of PJAC and has continued to contribute as a member of the Board of Visitors of the Temple University Library, the host of the PJAC Collection. Our heartfelt condolences go out Sue and her family. Anyone wishing to send a card can use this address:

Sue Popkin and Family Riva Ridge South - #670, 74 Willow Rd.,
Vail, CO 81657. (They split the year between Elkins Park and Vail)

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/inquirer/obituary.aspx?n=ivan-murray-popkin&pid=195912759&fhid=4370>

***Please let me know if anyone is ill or has passed away. I send cards out to the members that I am aware of.**

Since you are at home with nowhere to go but the supermarket, take-out, and the pharmacy, you might want to hire one of our member researchers or have a document translated.

Translators Recommended:

1. ViewMate on Jewishgen.org. FREE

2. Yiddish and Hebrew:

Yiddish and Hebrew- specializing in handwritten letters and documents.

Mark Alsher

email: alsher21@icloud.com

3. Genealogy Translations group on Facebook FREE

Researchers: If you wish to hire a researcher, consider one of our members. All are experienced researchers! Presented in alphabetical order.

Evan Fishman

15 years expertise researching

ebf2001@comcast.net

Lois Sernoff

(30 years expertise researching Philadelphia. Has worked for Miriam Weiner)

Jglois@verizon.net

Keren Weiner

413-499-9980

Kweiner2@gmail.com

www.kerenweinergenealogy.com

member of Association of Professional Genealogists

Alicia Weiss

Graduate of the Boston U certificate Research Program.

Current participant in the ProGen Study program

reclaimingyourtribe@gmail.com

Always check our website, jgsgp.org or Facebook JGASGP

for information and meeting updates!

Stay inside! Stay safe and healthy! If you must go out wear a mask!

All the best,

Marilyn