



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia

JGASGP

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.

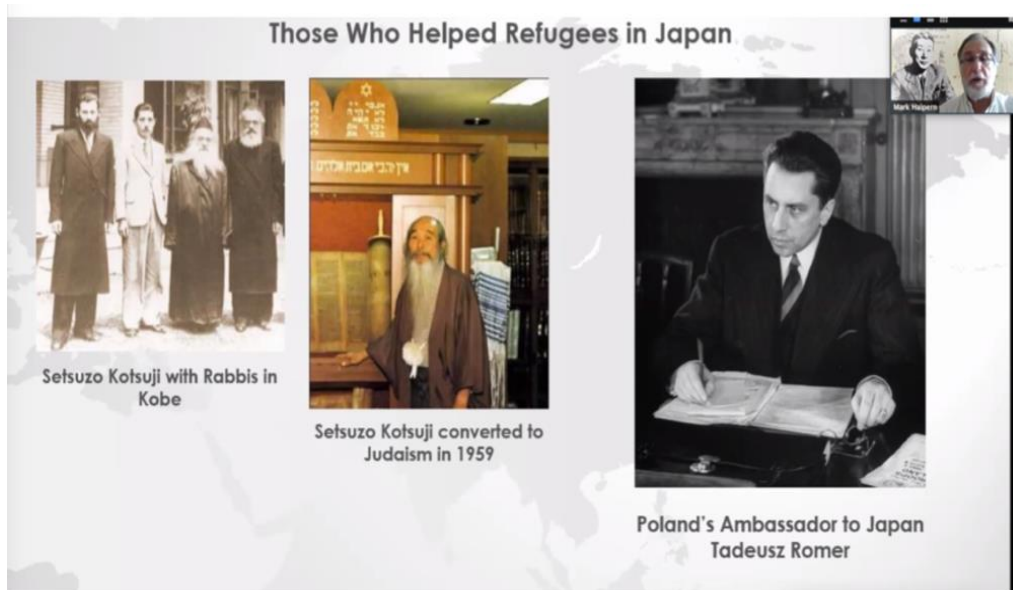
May 21, 2020 Quarantine Newsletter

Our second Zoom meeting was very successful. We had 85 in attendance. There were many other meetings going on at the same time. We did purchase a larger account, so no member will be kept out of our meetings. Currently we have 246 paid members. Our Facebook group has 871 members. So many kind people have helped others with research questions. Kindness is so important during these difficult days.

Mark Halpern told us about many Jews from Lithuania who were saved during the Holocaust because of the actions of several people. He focused on Chiune (Sempo) **Sugihara** (January 1, 1900-1986), the first Japanese diplomat posted to Lithuania. We learned about his efforts to save Jews and what happened to some of the survivors and their descendants. Mark's extensive research was fascinating.

To learn more, go to:

<https://www.yadvashem.org/righteous/stories/sugihara.html>.



To watch Mark's lecture please follow the link. The first few minutes of introduction were not recorded.

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vOleKrx25ITbfTxVnye_MtAofUX6a81iAW-vcKyUaEP199E3kCzMEGAOTAufaZ

Access Password: JGASGP2020!

Announcements

Check in for all meetings from 1-1:30. JGASGP meetings start at 1:30. The guest speaker starts after Felicia speaks and introduces the board. Q and A following presentations are through CHAT on Zoom. There is no limit to attendance at our meetings with our upgraded Zoom membership.

ALL ATTENDEES WILL BE MUTED (including me), without the option of unmuting. We have to eliminate static and interruptions, so the speaker is heard.

*Zoom meetings continue to be planned for us throughout the summer. Thank you Mark!

*From now on, only active JGASGP members will receive JGASGP Newsletters and invitations for Zoom Meetings.

*Thank you for your membership payment for 2020. Let me know if you have an e-mail address change so you don't miss our ZOOM meetings.

*Our 40th Anniversary Celebration has been postponed until further notice. Tentatively set for November 22, 2020

Zoom Meetings Scheduled

1. June 7, 2020 1:00-1:30 check-in. Zoom Meeting Starts at 1:30

Speaker: Tony Hausner, Town Research Group Leader

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

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.

2. June 28, 2020 1:00-1:30 check-in. Zoom Meeting Starts at 1:30

Speaker: Robert Watson is a professor, author, historian, media commentator and community activist.

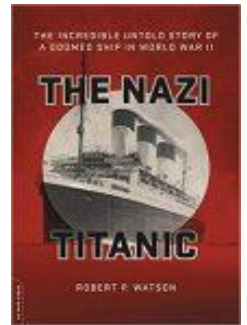
Topic: The Nazi Titanic



Robert joined the faculty of Lynn in 2007 after spending 15 years teaching at universities around the country. He has published over 40 books and approximately 200 scholarly articles, essays and chapters on topics in history and politics. His recent books *America's First Crisis*, *The Nazi Titanic*, *The Ghost Ship of Brooklyn*, and *George Washington's Final Battle* have received critical acclaim.

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 purchase your book through Amazon or Barnes and Noble prior to the meeting.



3. July 19, 2020 1:00-1:30 check-in. Zoom Meeting Starts at 1:30

Speaker: Sandy Lanman

Topic: Haven or Hell? Jews in the Philippines during WWII

Sandy Lanman has worked as a communicator and writer since the 1970s. A native New Yorker, she began her career as a print journalist with The Home News in New Brunswick, where she won awards for opinion and creative writing, and reporting on health and medical issues. Sandy moved into public relations in the late 1980s, working successively in the arts, public broadcasting and higher education. She served as director of communications for New Jersey Network, and as director of media relations at Rutgers University.

Sandy holds a bachelor's degree in English from Douglass College and master's in communication and information studies from the School of Communication and Information at Rutgers University.



4. Dates and times to be announced.

Topic: <https://www.myheritage.com/> 2 additional ZOOM meetings are going to be scheduled to learn how to research on MyHeritage. More info to follow.

From the President's Desk:

As President of the JGASGP, I would like to extend heartfelt kudos to members of the JGASGP Board, which has used this time in quarantine to plan and begin to implement future activities of our society. The 2020 Board is comprised of returning officers as well as newcomers to the leadership team. This blend of experience is resulting in positive chemistry, brainstorming and results benefitting our members. The Board has convened in front of our computers for several Zoom Board Meetings and hosted two Zoom General Meetings for all members, with outstanding presentations by two of our own Past Presidents, Joel Spector and Mark Halpern.

Like other JGS organizations, our most important goal has been to keep you, our members, connected and engaged. Our Zoom moderator and Board Secretary, Marilyn Golden has become adept with the nuances of running virtual meetings and easing the process of logging on for our members. We are also able to enjoy robust Q & A sessions following the speakers' presentations. Our JGASGP Zoom account has been increased to accommodate all members. Mark Halpern, our VP for Programming has already scheduled speakers for the coming months, every three weeks which is more frequent than when we met in person! We also have this newsletter, our Facebook page and our website as vehicles of communication among our membership and potential members. Our award-winning journal, Chronicles, is also continuing publication despite Covid-19 quarantine. If you have a story to share, send it to our Chronicles editors!

Until we all can meet again in person, stay home and stay healthy!

Felicia Mode Alexander

Sad news

I regret to inform you of the death of Larry Nevens, husband of Barbara Nevens, on April 25, 2020, California. Our condolences to Barbara and her family.

Research Links, webinars, Zoom meetings, and interesting links:

["The Genetic Detective" Series Premiere - May 26, 2020 @10pm/9pm on ABC](#)

Don't miss the ABC series premiere of "The Genetic Detective"
May 26th at 10pm ET/PT and 9pm CT/MT

CeCe Moore, the Genetic genealogist, has helped solve crimes and gives us more insight into the importance of DNA testing. This should be a fascinating show to watch.



*Sign up for these and other free webinars in advance. I picked these because they interested me.

<https://www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes>

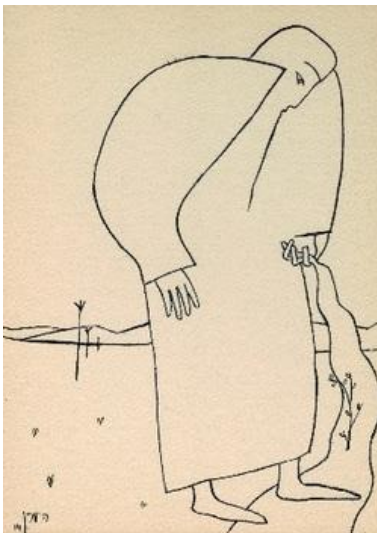
[June 2 | Return to the Catskills | SPECIAL WEBINAR](#)

[June 30 | Jewish Life in Rural New England | SPECIAL WEBINAR](#)

*** UKRANIAN RECORDS** - The majority of our society has ties to the Ukraine. Don't forget to research this treasure of information. New translations to English are in the process of being added. ***This is the foundation Michael Levin was telling us about at our 1st Zoom meeting. CHECK THIS OUT!! A LOT OF RESEARCH INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE!

TSAL KAPLUN FOUNDATION (TKF). <https://www.tkfgen.org/about/.html>

The Foundation was started in 2016 and named in honor of [Tsal Kaplun](#), common ancestor of TKF co-founders Michael Levin, Joseph Menaker, and Leonid Vayn.



© Moshe Heman

TKF is collaborating with other organizations, groups and individuals to share knowledge about history, past and present life of Jewish communities in former USSR territories. We want to celebrate ancestors' life and to commemorate the names of the victims of pogroms, the Holocaust, and other atrocities. Pain and suffering of million of Jewish families should be acknowledged by future generations.

JewishGen Suggestions: “Five Things to Do While Stuck At Home” JewishGen.org (free to sign up)

Most of us will be spending more time at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. JewishGen is encouraging people to use some of that time to advance their family history research by logging in to the resources of JewishGen, such as:



1. **Family Finder.** Make sure you have entered all the surnames and ancestral towns you are researching into Family Finder. This program has been very successful in connecting family members separated by time and distance. <https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/>

2. **Unified Search.** From one screen, search millions of records in more than 850 collections. Records are continually added and updated. <https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/all/>

3. **Discussion Group.** If you haven't subscribed to the JewishGen Discussion Group, do so. Ask questions and share information with fellow researchers. It is as easy as sending an email. <https://groups.jewishgen.org/g/main>

4. **Education.** Learn from home. Sign up for one of JewishGen's online courses. Those who have donated \$100 or more in the past 12 months to the JewishGen General Fund are eligible to receive certain free videos and Value-Added Workbooks. <https://www.jewishgen.org/Education/>

5. **Info Files.** Have you accessed JewishGen's InfoFiles lately? This resource contains a wealth of information on topics of relevance to Jewish genealogical research. <https://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/>

6. **Viewmate Translations:** Submit your document, pictures, etc. to request a free translation. Volunteers respond quickly. I added this 6th one.

You might want to hire one of our member researchers or have a document translated.

Translators Recommended:

1 Yiddish and Hebrew:

Yiddish and Hebrew- specializing in handwritten letters and documents.

Mark Alsher

email: alsher21@icloud.com

2. **Genealogy Translations group on Facebook FREE**

3. **Viewmate** JewishGen.org

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

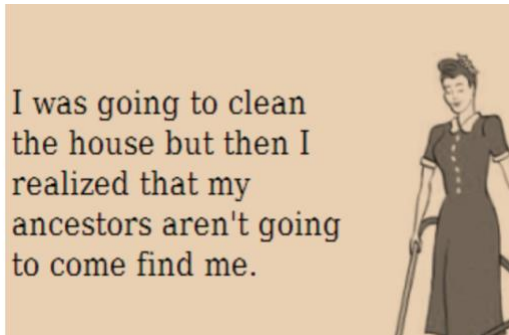
Keren Weiner

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 for information and meeting updates!

Stay inside! Stay safe and healthy!

Please feel free to share suggestions for Zoom meetings, webinars, or websites and tv programs.
Feel free to ask questions.

All the best,

Marilyn