



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia

JGASGP

<https://jgsgp.org>

FROM

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MEMBERSHIP  
SECRETARY  
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CHRONICLES, Our  
Quarterly Journal:

Please submit articles  
to our Chronicles  
editor, Evan Fishman,  
at [editor@jgsgp.org](mailto:editor@jgsgp.org).  
We all have stories  
to tell!

**Deadline for the next  
issue of Chronicles is  
August 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Hi Everyone!

I'm so glad so many who joined us for our meeting on Sunday. It was terrific! Sandy Lanman spoke about a topic most of us knew little about. She had us glued to the story about her grandmother Elsie and what the Jews went through in the Philippines. If you want to learn more about the filmmaker or her Philippine research, see the information below. Sandy now has to return and tell us more about her genealogy research and "Finding Elsie". We viewed a short film by Noel "Sonny" Izon, Filipino-American filmmaker, known for his documentary, 'An Open Door'.

To watch a short film about Sonny, [click here](#):

The books Sandy referenced: *RAMPAGE: MacArthur, Yamashita, and the Battle of Manila* Author: James M. Scott

*Escape to Manila: From Nazi Tyranny to Japanese Terror*  
Author: Frank Ephraim.

\*If you missed Sandy's lecture - here is the link: Start at 52 minutes. I tried to cut out the beginning part, but I was unsuccessful. [Click here](#)

To see "An Open Door" on Youtube - full documentary 56 minutes [Click here.](#)

Each week I find myself writing down the Zoom webinars that I've signed up for. I am really enjoying the JewishGen Wednesday ones. They are recorded and can be viewed at any time. Jewish Genealogical Societies of Boston and Illinois offer some great free webinars as well.

Last night I participated in a free GRIP (Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh) webinar with Dr. Michael Lacopo. You may know of him from his [www.Roots4U.com](http://www.Roots4U.com) blog *Hoosier Daddy* or his Facebook page. I enjoy his writing about his research and family story. He inspired me when I wrote about my mother's family from Ohio.

He reminds us that research is not just about birth, marriage, and death dates. Understanding the who, what, when, where, why (why did it happen?), and how (how did they travel, how did they dress, how did they speak, for example) make our ancestors come alive for us. Incorporate more of their social history in your story including race, ethnicity, labor, sex, gender, education, immigration, rural/urban life, religion, and more. Seek out historical societies and museums; delve into archives and libraries.

Why are you researching you family? If you want to share the story about your family , consider the social history aspect. Your descendants will appreciate the information much more than just seeing a completed tree. And don't forget sharing to *Chronicles*! We want to read your story too!

## Chronicles

Please don't forget to submit articles about your research and unusual finds. Chronicles editors will happily help you. Contact Evan if you have any questions. [editor@jsgsp.org](mailto:editor@jsgsp.org) Check our website for previous copies of Chronicles to see what other people have written about. Have you read any interesting book that we'd like to hear about? Write a book review. Do you have an interesting DNA connection? Just remember that we learn from eachother!

## From the President's Desk:

For this Newsletter, I would like to talk about podcasts. What a great way to expand one's genealogy knowledge base! I have become obsessed with podcasts since our time in quarantine began. If you have never listened to one, you are missing out on a new technology that can be of great interest to you as a genealogist. They can also simply be entertaining at a time when we can all benefit from some fun.

According to [thepodcasthost.com](http://thepodcasthost.com), "a podcast is an audio program, just like Talk Radio, but you subscribe to it on your smartphone. In a little more detail, a podcast is a series of spoken word, audio episodes, all focused on a particular topic or theme. You can subscribe to the show with an app on your phone and listen to episodes whenever you like on your headphones, in the car or through speakers." I have also signed up for podcasts using my laptop and family computer.

How does one locate podcasts? Visit any type of website that interests you and there is usually a companion podcast. For example, if you like National Public Radio programming, go to this link: <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/>. You will be astounded at the number of podcasts awaiting you. Once on the NPR podcast page, scroll to the bottom of the page, then further narrow your search by topic. These range from Arts, to Business to Comedy to Health and Fitness, etc. If you are looking specifically for Jewish podcasts, they are not hard to find.

Try Googling "Jewish podcasts 2020". When I did this, I was stunned to get 18,600,000 results! A few too many? Try narrowing down by subtopic to find podcasts on everything imaginable- add some new recipes with [Jewish cooking](#), religious instruction in all denominations of Judaism, studying Yiddish through [the Schmooze](#), which is part of the Yiddish Book Center and even find out more about the wonderful world of [klezmer music](#)!

Established organizations can be a gateway to great podcasts about your research topics. Interested in Holocaust research? Look for podcasts on some of our most prestigious research institutions like the Museum of Jewish Heritage, Yad Vashem or the Center for Jewish History. On the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website, you can find a podcast series called [Voices of Antisemitism](#) which "features a broad range of perspectives about anti-Semitism and hatred and features dozens of guests over its ten-year run".

I will be reviewing several podcasts related to Jewish Genealogy in the next Chronicles edition. In the meantime, please email me at [jgasgp.president@gmail.com](mailto:jgasgp.president@gmail.com) if you have a favorite podcast related to Jewish genealogy that you would like me to include in my article.

Stay safe and healthy everyone. I look forward to seeing you at all of our upcoming Zoom meetings.

*Felicia Mode Alexander M. Ed. , President*

JGASGP extends condolences and well wishes to members families. If you know the illness or passing of a past or current member, please email a link of the obituary or provide the information to me. [mazergoldenjgsgp@gmail.com](mailto:mazergoldenjgsgp@gmail.com)



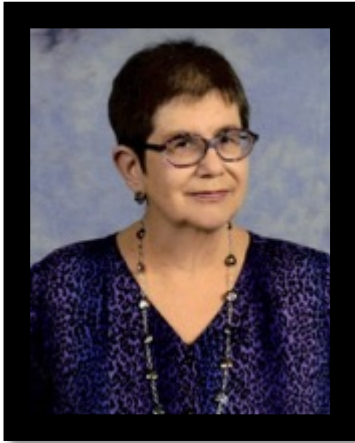
## \*Future JGASGP Zoom Meetings\*

**DATE: Sunday, August 2, 2020**

1:00 check in. Program starts promptly at 1:30

Join here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3280768188>



### **GUEST SPEAKER: Judy Baston, Litvak SIG Board Member**

Currently Secretary of LitvakSIG, Judy Baston has served for nearly two decades on the organization's Board and coordinates LitvakSIG's Lida District and Oshmiany District Research Groups. She is on the Executive Committee and Board of JRI-Poland. For nearly 20 years, she has moderated the Discussion Groups of LitvakSIG and JRI-Poland. She has been involved with the Jewish Community Library in San Francisco for 28 years and coordinates their monthly Genealogy Clinic.

In July 2015, Judy received the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award at the organization's conference in Jerusalem.

### **TOPIC: Finding Your Litvak Family ... with LitvakSIG and More**

With translations of more than 2.2 million Lithuanian Jewish records - censuses and vital records key among them - LitvakSIG's publicly searchable All Lithuania Database provides the primary foundation for Litvak genealogical research. There are also numerous additional sources online for researching your Litvak roots. This presentation will offer an overview of the LitvakSIG database and website, as well as various other important sources. It will detail the best ways to use key Litvak databases and websites to achieve optimum results and enhance your knowledge of your Litvak family information. The presentation will include how to determine what records are available, how to analyze, read and understand search results, and how best to access the information in them, as well as what new translations are underway. The presentation will cover LitvakSIG and its All Lithuania Database, as well as numerous other resources from JewishGen, Yad Vashem and other sources.

**\*IAJGS 2020 Virtual Conference on Jewish Genealogy\***

**Monday-Thursday August 10-13, 2020.**

[Join here](#)

**See price information and schedule of speakers on their website.!**



**DATE: Sunday, August 23, 2020**

1:00 check in. Program starts promptly at 1:30

Join here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3280768188>

**GUEST SPEAKER: Martin R. Schiller, PhD, Executive Director, Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine (UNLV)**

Dr. Schiller received a B.S. from Hofstra University and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Utah State University. He has served on the faculty at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, University of Connecticut Health Center, and is now a professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

His research focuses on building and scientifically testing sequence and structure based bio-informatic tools and their application to HIV and human genetics. He has published 75 research papers in well-respected journals including Neuron, Nature Methods, Molecular Cell and Science Signaling. His research has been supported by 24 research grants for ~\$33 M, mostly from the National Institutes of Health. He has designed and taught several undergraduate, graduate and medical school classes. Dr. Schiller has invented several new biotechnologies and has originated and served as CEO of several companies. He is the founder and Executive Director of the Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine (NIPM). In just four years since its origination, NIPM has applied for over \$110 M in research funding and won ~\$20 M including a Center of Excellence grant from National Institutes of Health where Dr. Schiller is the PI.



## TOPIC: Leveraging DNA analysis in Genealogy

The utility of matching people's DNA sequences has emerged and grown rapidly over the past decade. One major application is genealogy research. Dr. Schiller, an established molecular biologist and functional genomics researcher will discuss his experience and basic approaches to build family trees and validate relationships with DNA analysis. The lecture will cover the basics of DNA and inheritance, common online platforms such as Ancestry and GEDmatch. We will examine how to infer ancestors, match you family member DNA to human fossils, and build genetic signatures (haplotypes) for each of your ancestral lineages, which can be used to identify more cousins and infer origins and migratory paths of your deep ancestry.

**DATE: Sunday, September 13, 2020** 1:00 check in.

Program starts promptly at 1:30

**GUEST SPEAKERS: Suzan Wynne, founder of Gesher Galicia with Mark Halpern, JRI-Poland Galicia Area Coordinator**



Suzan Wynne has been involved with the Jewish genealogy movement since 1977 as a teacher, indexer, author and former professional. A founding member of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, in 1993 she founded Gesher Galicia, a Special Interest Group (SIG) for Jews with roots in Galicia, part of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. She has written two books about Jewish genealogical research for Galitzianers and has contributed to or written numerous articles for Avotaynu, the journal of Jewish genealogy, and chapters of several books about genealogy. Suzan is a retired clinical social worker who lives in a retirement community in Silver Spring, MD.

## TOPIC: Understanding Jewish Galicia

Galicia was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire until after WWI. The territory is now situated in southern Poland and western Ukraine. Suzan's brief historical and geographical overview will focus on:

- the government-mandated administrative system that the Jews used for collecting and maintaining vital records; and
- how resistance to civil marriage resulted in widespread illegitimacy of Jewish children.

Following this presentation, Mark and Suzan will entertain questions about Jewish records and beyond. Come with your "brick wall" cases.

**Week of October 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm** (day to be announced)

Via Zoom

Speaker and Topic to Be Announced

**DATE: Sunday, October 25, 2020**

1:00 check in. Program starts promptly at 1:30

**GUEST SPEAKER: Jennifer Mendelsohn, founder of Facebook group Jewish DNA for Genetic Genealogy and Family Research**

Jennifer Mendelsohn is a seasoned journalist and ghostwriter. A former People magazine special correspondent and Slate columnist, her work has appeared in numerous local and national publications including The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, Politico, Washingtonian, Tablet, Medium, McSweeney's, and Jezebel.

A passionate genealogist, she is a member of the board of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Maryland.



**TOPIC: No, You Don't Really Have 7900 4th Cousins: DNA Basics for Those with Ashkenazi Heritage**

DNA has the potential to be an essential and exciting genealogical tool. But many Eastern European Jewish testers find their DNA results completely overwhelming and un navigable.

Based on the popular 2017 Medium piece that has garnered more than 90,000 views, this talk will help those with Ashkenazi heritage learn to make sense of their DNA results. We'll cover why our match lists are so large, (hello, endogamy!) why all our matches seem to match each other (endogamy, again!), and how to spot the meaningful matches and separate them from the faux ones.

Using real-life examples of DNA success, you'll learn techniques that will help you learn to work effectively with DNA to expand your tree.

Save the Dates:

**Sunday, November 15, December 6, and December 2, 2020.**

## Rules for Zoom Meetings:

All guests will be on silent. Marilyn will be moderating the Q and A at the end.

Please type your questions into the CHAT on the bottom of your screen.

This meeting is also being recorded for MEMBERS only. T

he link will be sent out in our next Newsletter. Any questions?

Feel free to contact Marilyn at mazergoldenjgsgp@gmail.com prior to the morning of the meeting.

## Mission Statement

The Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia (JGASGP) was founded in 1979 by a small group of individuals interested in researching their Jewish heritage. Since then, the membership of the society has continuously grown. We currently have 289 active members.

Our Objectives:

1. To collect, preserve and disseminate knowledge and information with reference to Jewish Genealogy and the history of the Jewish community in Greater Philadelphia.
2. To promote and encourage interested persons to engage in genealogical and archival research.
3. To stimulate and provide instruction in research methodology, the utilization of resources including the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection and adherence to standards of accuracy and thoroughness.
4. To foster careful documentation and to promote scholarly genealogical writing and publication.
5. To promote the preservation of genealogical records and resources, especially the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection.
6. To hold meetings for the instruction and education of its members and the general public.

Adopted by the Board July 1, 2019

## Member Benefits

1. Website JGSGP.org (currently under revision) with research information and a future members only section.
2. Members will be offered a "Getting Started" guide placed on our website (currently in draft form)
3. Members receive Chronicles an electronic version sent quarterly. Members are encouraged to submit articles about their research, personal journeys, etc.
4. Members receive a monthly Newsletter and additional e-mail updates. The newsletter contains our future Zoom meeting dates, conferences, webinars from other organizations, and an update from our President.
5. Meetings for members only are currently being held every 3 weeks through Zoom.
6. Becoming a member is easy! You can pay through PayPal on our website or download the interactive membership form and mail it with a check to our mailbox. We ask for your research information and post it in Chronicles. You may find a relative within our group! We encourage everyone to sign up with JewishGen family finder on JewishGen.org.
7. Our Facebook group is currently at 922+ members. Members provide research help, tips and information about Philadelphia history. Upcoming meetings are posted as well as genealogy related events on the internet. Facebook members are invited to join our JGASGP society. We are very friendly!

Disclaimer: The purpose of our group is to help foster research, education, collect family records and family connections. No political comments or advertising for services or merchandise are permitted .

## ZOOM Programs of Genealogy interest:

Jewish Genealogy Society of Illinois is sponsoring a few free events.

**Ellen Kowitt** to give two talks on July 26, 2020

Ellen Kowitt, past president and current outreach chair of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado, will give two virtual lectures for the Sunday, July 26, 2020:

"Comparing Jewish Resources on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast, MyHeritage and JewishGen" at 1 p.m.

"What Would Nancy Drew Do in the Quest for Missing Family" at about 2:30 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public; however, **Zoom will limit attendance to 100.** To access the webinar, at 1 p.m. go to <https://tinyurl.com/y9sue5mk>. For more information about this meeting, see <https://jgsi.org/event-3605842> or call 312-666-0100.

**Deborah H. Long**, founder of the Triangle Jewish Genealogical Society in Durham/Chapel Hill, N.C., will present a webinar on "Out of the Whirlwind: Finding Your Family Lost in the Holocaust" at the Sunday, Aug. 30, 2020. Her presentation will begin at 2 p.m. via a live streaming platform. ["Out of the Whirlwind: Finding Your Family Lost in the Holocaust"](#) Click this link for more information.

The daughter of two Holocaust survivors, Deborah Long reviews in this presentation the best (as well as some of the obscure) resources and methods for determining the fate of those involved in the Holocaust, including survivors and victims. She will use examples from her own research to demonstrate the documents and artifacts she discovered. **\*Deborah Long spoke to us at JGASGP and she was terrific! \*Don't miss her if you are researching Holocaust records.**

These were listed in ConferenceKeeper.org.

Jul 25 /Overview of DNA Tests & Applications in Genealogical Research Online Class - A zoom presentation/class with Mark McLaren, hosted by the California Genealogical Society <https://bit.ly/30ez5FJ>

Jul 25 /The Story Beyond the Name - How Ohio birth, marriage and death certificates helped an African-American genealogist find the rest of the story about her Irish great-grandmother. Hosted by Ohio History Connection.

Free. [https://ohiohistory.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_PXr1QjovRG6qBNfY5HdDeQ](https://ohiohistory.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PXr1QjovRG6qBNfY5HdDeQ) (I listed this one to show you that you can find info. from a webinar that is NOT Jewish. I'm interested in Ohio records!)

Jul 27 /Family Tree Maker Part 2: Getting Started - People and Media Tabs, hosted by Heritage Library History & Ancestry Research Center <https://heritagelib.org/online-classes>

Jul 28 /Jewish History & Genealogy presented by The Association of Jewish Refugees <https://ajr.org.uk/news-events/>

Jul 30 /"Mapping Your Genealogy Journey" presented by Boston University's Genealogy Studies Program <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6196890822803236876>

10. Jul 30 /Maximizing the DNA Tools at 23andMe, hosted by Heritage Library History & Ancestry Research Center <https://heritagelib.org/online-classes>

## Translators and Researchers

### Translators:

1. ViewMate on [Jewishgen.org](http://Jewishgen.org). FREE
2. Translations from Yiddish and Hebrew; specializes in handwritten letters and documents. Mark Alsher. email: [alsher21@icloud.com](mailto:alsher21@icloud.com)
3. Genealogy Translations (Facebook Group)

Researchers: If you wish to hire a researcher, consider one of our members. All are experienced researchers! Presented in alphabetical order. Disclaimer: we are recommending these nice members of our society. They are independent and it is up to the individual to work out the details.

Evan Fishman

30 years expertise researching.

[ebf2001@comcast.net](mailto:ebf2001@comcast.net)

Lois Sernoff

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

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Keren Weiner

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Alicia Weiss

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Current participant in the ProGen Study program

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Stay well!

☺ Marilyn

VP Membership/Secretary

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