



MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia
EST. 1979
<https://jgsgp.org>

FROM
MARILYN GOLDEN VP
MEMBERSHIP
SECRETARY
membership@jgsgp.org



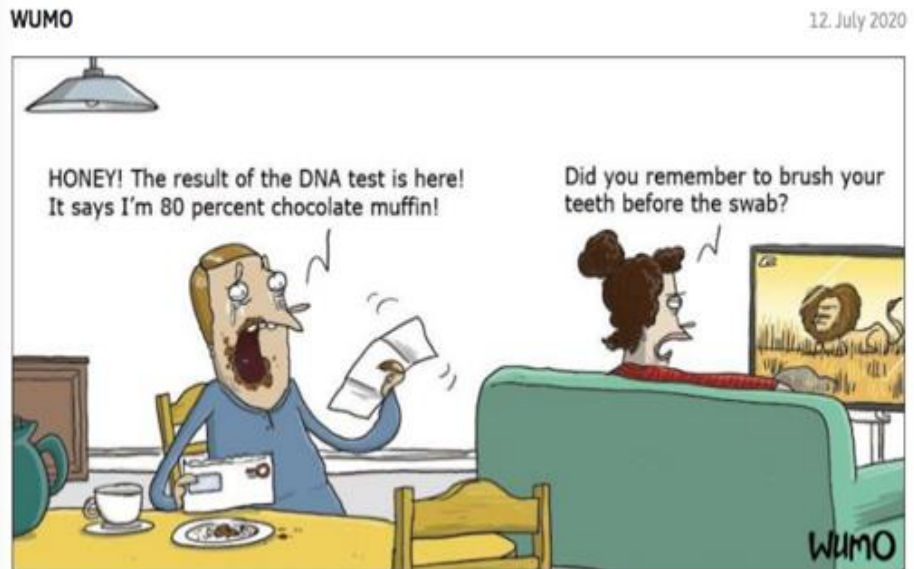
CHRONICLES, Our
Quarterly Journal:

Please submit articles to
our Chronicles editor,
Evan Fishman, at
editor@jgsgp.org.

Hi Everyone,

On August 23rd, we were privileged to hear Marty Schiller, PhD, Executive Director, Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine, speak to us about “Leveraging DNA analysis in Genealogy”. We’ve heard about DNA research before, but “Marty’s tools” are quite different when it comes to DNA analysis. Be sure to read Linda’s review in Chronicles. His lecture proves there’s always something new to learn!

Thanks to Michael Furman for this cartoon.



His lecture can be accessed here if you cut and paste:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/2uNf5Sv5kFI7qOV2Wjxal4kI73BX6a8hiYW-qcLyB3Y2AFfz9zWohSMIFwepkk?startTime=1598203796000>

Chronicles

The next issue of Chronicles will be devoted to articles about the IAJGS conference. Please continue to send in your research finds and stories. Contact Evan if you have any questions. editor@jgsgp.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 or research story? Just remember that we learn from each other!

From the President's Desk:

For many of us, genealogy is not just a hobby; it is a passion. It is that moment when you know, you just know, that you will be spending the wee, wee hours at the computer, again, because of a new lead you just discovered. These “aha moments” come in different forms, sometimes on the computer and sometimes from an in-person experience.

That moment has resulted from finally deciphering a previously illegible 1888 headstone. When I informed the cemetery association that the older stones were being neglected, I never expected to see a change. Visiting the cemetery, a year later, that same stone was finally quite clean and legible after lichen had been marring its finish. A photo of that stone, my great-great grandfather's, was posted on our JGASGP Facebook page and a member transcribed the Hebrew!

An “aha!” experience has come from locating the 1900 Federal Census record that had always eluded me. I tried a new research trick, searching the given names of all five family members. That led to the record of my great grandmother's family, with the surname obscured in the first line of the census documentation!

A poignant moment came when I was on ProQuest Historical Newspapers and found a previously unknown letter written by my father to his father during WWII, in which he wrote about how much he missed his family and synagogue community (shool in his wording). My grandfather was so moved by this letter that he sent it to the local Jewish newspaper under the title of “What Are We Fighting For”. That one brought me to tears.

Despite many years researching my own family, sometimes the greatest aha moments come from finding one missing link that completes someone's story. Over the years, I have received a few requests regarding specialized research. I have conducted research for children of Holocaust survivors, seeking to unravel the mystery of their parents' lives. Obtaining the Bad Arolsen records for one Second Genner's parents revealed that despite coming from different parts of Poland before the war, and in different ghettos and camps during the war, they were together briefly at Auschwitz and the same displaced persons camp. All of this information had never been shared by the parents.

At our Genealogy Fair several years ago, I looked for the childhood friend of a member of our own society. She had been placed in the Jewish Home for

Orphan Children in NYC during the Depression. I did locate that long lost friend, but sadly she had predeceased our member by just a few years and no reunion could take place.

Most recently, I was contacted by a French history teacher who was teaching his students about the American soldiers who died in their region during the First World War. He asked if I could find out about a specific Jewish US Army soldier, who died in France and was exhumed after the war and repatriated to the US... ..to Philadelphia! And yes, I located his place of interment, the same cemetery we just digitized for our website and JewishGen- Har Nebo!

Our fascination with research, hours spent on what might seem to be unimportant or trivial facts to others, is what makes Genealogy much more than a hobby. If you are nodding your head, can relate to these examples, and have found yourself digging deeper, for hours, welcome to the family-the Genealogy family!

Felicia Mde Alexander MEd., President



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

Contact Marilyn at mazergoldenjgsgp@gmail.com prior to the morning of the meeting.

***Future JGASGP Zoom Meetings**

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

Program starts promptly at 1:30

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

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

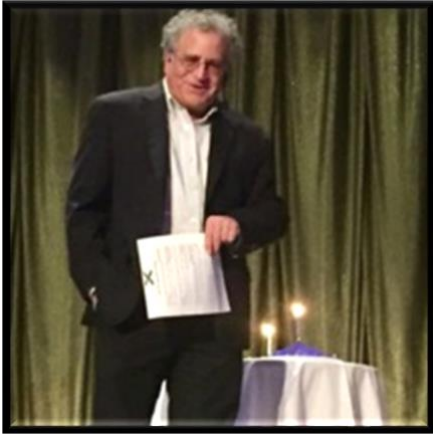
Galicia was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire until after WWI. The territory is now situated in southern Poland and western Ukraine. Suzan's brief historical and geographical overview will focus on:

- 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!

Monday, October 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm Check in and chat 6:30-7.
Program starts promptly at 7:00.

Guest Speaker: Rabbi Gary Gans



Gary was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and served as the Rabbi of Congregation Beth Tikvah, Marlton, NJ for 35 years. In 2016 he was elevated to Rabbi Emeritus. He earned his Doctorate from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Family Counseling, a rare honor for a Jew! Gans is a licensed family therapist in NJ, specializing in family relationships, grief, and the impact of life-cycle events. He is the Rabbinic Advisor of the Crescent Memorial Cemetery, Pennsauken, NJ In his free time Gary is a sworn chaplain with his local police department.

Topic: Yizkor Books: A Great Research Tool

This presentation will focus on one Yizkor book; the one from the Trembowla area of Tarnapol of his Galitzianer family, as a microcosm of the larger genre. This one volume includes personal vignettes of the occupation and devastation commencing with World War One, the inter-war years, and then the destruction of the Shoah. Research in this Yizkor book introduced me to members of my extended family and the realities of their lives. I discovered pictures and explanations of their youth groups, Yeshivas and famous Rabbis, businesses, indices of individuals according to profession, community and family histories, maps and illustrations, along with stories of heroism and martyrdom The Necrology revealed names and location of those murdered during WWII. I will show the methodology for reading a Yizkor book and how participants can use similar works in their own genealogy investigations to deepen the quality of their family knowledge

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 TBA

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 JGASGP.org (currently under construction) 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 of our journal, 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 940+ 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 .

***Everyone should be signed up for the JewishGen Family Finder!!!!
This is the database for everyone around the world searching for their Jewish family.**

ZOOM Programs of Genealogy interest

- Center for Jewish History <https://programs.cjh.org/> Check them out!
- The Chicago Jewish Genealogical Society has a calendar of past recorded lectures free to view. <https://jgsi.org/Events-calendar>
- The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston offers [monthly programs](https://www.jgs.gb.org/monthly-programs) and previously recorded lectures. <https://www.jgs.gb.org/event>

- [Brigham Young University Family History Webinar Series Sept., 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th](#) Copy and past the link below.



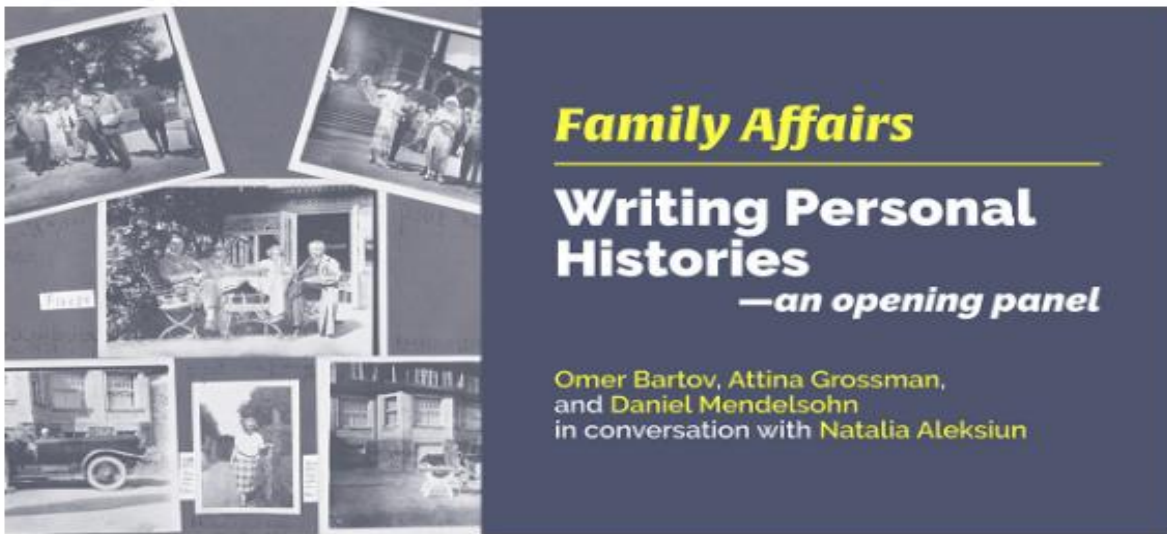
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/WhctKJVzdNqdxMJWPHVWMzVnJNFQJfqwnrSdbWDbHJINWQDHKDlnhjQXTRGpZpqWtMMNzKG>

- MyHeritage is continuing to offer many live or recorded lectures. <https://blog.myheritage.com/2020/07/myheritage-online-events-for-july-august/>
- Even if you can't make it to the live events, you can still enjoy all recorded FB Live sessions in [the Videos section of the MyHeritage Facebook page](#). Many of the webinars are available for free viewing on the [MyHeritage Knowledge Base](#).

- Thanks to Mark for this recommendation:

Watch the documentary film from documentary filmmaker and journalist Judy Maltz "No. 4 Street of Our Lady," about the rescue of her father and his family by a Polish woman. The film draws on excerpts from a diary kept by Judy's grandfather Moshe Maltz,

View the film at <https://vimeo.com/80085717>. View the excellent Museum of Jewish Heritage program at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9Lx6ZtJCBw&feature=youtu.be>



Family Affairs: Writing Personal Histories

Thursday, September 17 at 3 pm ET

Our new "Family Affairs" series explores researching and writing about Jewish experience from a distinctively personal perspective in discussions with leading scholars of modern Jewish history and the Holocaust.

Daniel Mendelsohn will discuss the experience of writing his critically acclaimed book, *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million* (2006), a memoir in which he uncovered the fate of his family members in a Galician town, offering a compelling new perspective on Holocaust remembrance. **Omer Bartov** has shifted to the study of memory and loss in eastern Galicia in his 2007 book *Erased*, a turn which culminated in his *Anatomy of a Genocide: The Life and Death of a Town Called Buczacz* (2018), which explores the impact of the Holocaust in one community closely linked with his family history. **Atina Grossmann's** research trajectory has taken her from the study of German Jews to the experience of Jewish refugees, following the path of her family during World War II. She will reflect on her book in progress, *Trauma, Privilege, and Adventure in Transit: Jewish Refugees in Iran and India*.

Pay what you wish; register [here](#) to receive a link to the Zoom meeting

Presented by Center for Jewish History

[Click this link or copy and paste to sign up. https://familyaffairs.bpt.me/](https://familyaffairs.bpt.me/)

* I also suggest registering on these websites to get timely information! Feel free to post other genealogical events on our Facebook page. 950 members and growing!

JGASGP extends condolences and well wishes to members families. If you know of the illness or passing of a past or current member, please email a link of the obituary or provide the information to me.



I regret to inform you of the passing of **JANET GOLEMAN FELGOISE** , age 81 of Abington, PA passed-away peacefully on August 21,2020. Daughter of the late Esther and Edward Goleman. Sister of the late Joel B. Goleman. Cherished mother of Marc (Judy) Felgoise, Roy (Valerie) Felgoise, Brian (Lori) Felgoise and Glenn Felgoise, and stepchildren Jeffrey (Julie) Havsy and Lynn Havsy along with 14 grandchildren. Beloved wife of the late Bertram M. Felgoise and the late, dear Arthur Havsy. She received her Master's in Education from the University of Pennsylvania and taught at Elkins Park Junior High School and then received her law degree from Temple University Law School and practiced Family Law for more than 25 years and was still doing Mediations while dealing with her sickness! She chose to live with Acceptance rather than Denial! Janet was extremely proud of her memoir, "Reinventing Myself" which details her inspirational life and is available on Amazon. May Janet's memory be a blessing to all! No memorial events are currently scheduled

Volunteers

As plans are under way for the 2021 conference, I cannot give out any information yet.

I am very appreciative of those who have offered to volunteer. When I know more, I'll send out a HELP WANTED notice! We will need **lots** of volunteers!

THE GENEALOGICAL PROOF STANDARD

- 01 A reasonably exhaustive search
- 02 A complete and accurate citation of the sources for each item
- 03 Analysis of the collated information for quality as evidence
- 04 Resolution of any conflicts of evidence
- 05 Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

<http://jaynecgarvey.com/>

Can you write up your family story in a narrative? Use the above as a standard practice for building your family tree and disseminating information about your family. Remember, we are the historians for our family!



Apple stuffed challah



And now for something completely different... all of Temple Emanu-El's (77) virtual programs - will be available on their website here: <https://www.emanuelnyc.org/streickercenter/past-events/> They are not genealogy related. The Streicker Center Cooking School is one of my favorites. Rosh Hashana cooking classes! Stay safe, stay healthy! Hope to see you at our next meeting!