



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

FROM
MARILYN GOLDEN VP
MEMBERSHIP and
SECRETARY
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Hi Everyone,

I'm thrilled to introduce our new JGASGP identity! Incorporating the older Liberty Bell with the newer branch of a tree growing through the crack ... we may always be looking back, but we are also always looking forward. I am honored that my brother, Carl Mazer, (mazercreative.com) has generously donated his time and talent to provide us with our new identity! Check out his website and you can see what else he has done!

Jim is working hard on our website and we look forward to that introduction as well. He has recently put up a comprehensive list of Landsmanschaftn groups and where they are buried from Goldenstein's. Individual names are not listed.

Our last meeting with Rabbi Gans was terrific. His topic was, Yizkor Books: A Great Research Tool. If you want to listen to his lecture, I sent the link out in a previous email. Linda's summary of the lecture will be in a future Chronicles.

I wanted to remind everyone about the importance of signing up for JewishGen Family Finder and looking up to see if there is a Yizkor book for your family shtetl. If you are a new user to JewishGen, you need to create a

free account. Yizkor books is under RESEARCH across the top. You can find Family Finder under DATABASES. If you are a First Timer, there are many tutorials under GETTING STARTED.

***Now is the time to start paying your dues for 2021. Our fiscal year runs from January 1st - December 31st, 2021. All new payments will go towards 2021. Please use the attached membership form if you send a check. The form is also on our website. The form will be updated with our new logo too!**

Members who paid for our 40th Anniversary party will be reimbursed. We have decided to postpone until we are free to meet comfortably and have time to plan a fabulous event. Our current concentration is with our new 'identity', our website, a members only portal, a resource guide, a getting started guide, and plans for the IAJGS 2021 conference, which we are co-sponsoring. Your board has been very busy!

We have members who do not use a computer and unfortunately are missing all of our meetings. I hope this Newsletter finds everyone well. I hope you like our new look. Let me know what you think! Looking forward to meeting again in person!

*We are co-hosting the *IAJGS 2021 Conference from August 2nd-August 5th in Philadelphia!!!! Call for 'papers' will be going out from them soon. *The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

From the President's Desk:

As I write this, Jewish calendars now read 5781 and we are ten months into the Covid-19 pandemic. This column will touch on both negative consequences and positive innovations to come out of this time.

Could you ever have envisioned virtual Yom Kippur services and listening to the Kol Nidre through your home computer speakers? Or the blast of the shofar during Rosh Hashanah? Rabbis and synagogue leaders still found ways to deliver High Holiday services virtually and Jews around the nation, if not globally, prayed at home instead of being in the company of their fellow congregants. This reminds me of how these holy days were celebrated at other times in history; during the Holocaust, when struggling to survive in the direst of conditions, Jews still cherished their religious traditions and secretly practiced these in whatever way they could. Scholars refer to this as spiritual resistance.

Did you know that Covid officially hit the United States in January? We have all made many changes in our lives to adapt to this new normal. How many of these have happened in your own life? Weddings have been downsized, cruises postponed indefinitely, milestones celebrated on Zoom or FaceTime, and of course, many families have experienced the death of a loved one and funerals have been conducted in ways never conceived of until now. However, there are also positives to be derived from this frustrating time. Our society, JGASGP, has been making some significant improvements that will benefit our members.

During the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies annual conference, held virtually in August, we had roughly double the usual number of participants which has been around 1000. This meant that 1000 people, who had never attended our international events were able to join us on their computers! On a local level, this led to an increase in our own society's membership, including Ed Janes, one of our newest members who joined as a result of the IAJGS event. In fact, Ed will be delivering the lecture during our Zoom General Meeting on November 15th.

My favorite part of being JGASGP president is sharing surprises like the fantastic new and redesigned logo for our society which will be used in everything we create. Now included on the top of the first page, our new logo is a very sophisticated, stylish design, and incorporates the roots and growth of our organization with the incredible history of our host city, Philadelphia. Designed by Mazer Creative's Carl Mazer, he is the younger brother of our very own Marilyn Mazer Golden. Carl generously donated his design talents and the logo. It is a welcome addition to our new website which will be rolled out very soon. This logo will be on the newsletter, Facebook page, website, correspondence and even in some very nice "swag" like polo shirts, to fundraise for the IAJGS conference which we will host next summer.

Felicia Mode Alexander M.Ed., President



Chronicles

The next issue of Chronicles will be finalized shortly. Everyone will receive an e-mail version. Print versions will be sent out in a few weeks. Please be patient. 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. You don't have to be a great writer.

We have fabulous editors. Just remember that we learn from each other and everyone has a story to tell.

*Future JGASGP Zoom Meetings

Rules for Zoom Meetings: Members Only

All members 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 e-mail. Any questions? Contact Marilyn at mazergoldenjgsgp@gmail.com **prior** to the morning of the meeting.

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 unnavigable.

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.

Sunday, November 15, 2020

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

Speaker: Edward Janes, Founder, Friends of Jews from Przasnysz Poland land along with Maggie Goralczyk

Topic: Planning and Executing a Cemetery Restoration Project in Poland

Sunday, December 6, 2020

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

Speaker: Jarrett Ross, aka GeneaVlogger, a youtube channel dedicated to Genealogy and Family Research.

Topic: The Soil From Which They Grew: A History of The Alliance Colony

Sunday, December 2, 2020

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

Speaker: Chuck Weinstein, 2019 JewishGen Volunteer of the Year

Topic: Choosing a Genealogy Software – A Comparison

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>



<p>Zoom meeting October 25, 2020 1:30 pm EDT</p> <p>A Forgotten Land: Growing Up in the Jewish Pale</p> <p><i>Lisa Cooper</i></p> <p>What was life like in the old country? Through the eyes of Lisa Cooper's grandmother Pearl, we experience family life in the Russian Empire in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the context of pogroms, World War I, the Russian Revolution, and civil war. Pearl's son recorded his mother's memories, which give a lively sense of life and culture in the Pale of our ancestors.</p>  <p>We have a limited supply of Lisa Cooper's book, A Forgotten Land, for sale (\$20). The book tells the stories of her grandmother's life in the Pale. To purchase, Click here to</p>	<p>Zoom meeting November 8, 2020 1:30 pm EST</p> <p>YIVO's Rediscovered Archives in Vilna and New York</p> <p><i>Jonathan Brent</i></p> <p>YIVO's collections include more than 2.5 million documents and 12,000 books that were long thought to be lost and represent over 500 years of Jewish history in Eastern Europe. The landmark Edward Blank YIVO Vilna project will preserve and digitize these materials, making them available to researchers. Dr. Jonathan Brent's talk describes the project and the political and social roles these records play in contemporary Lithuanian society and 21st century Jewish identity.</p> <p>Dr. Jonathan Brent is the Executive Director and CEO of the YIVO Institute of Jewish Research in New York. In 2014, with the cooperation of the government of the Republic of Lithuania, Dr. Brent established the landmark Edward Blank YIVO Vilna</p> 
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- The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston offers [monthly programs](https://www.jsgsb.org/event) and previously recorded lectures. <https://www.jsgsb.org/event> Check out their website for more information.
- [ConferenceKeeper.org](https://www.conferencekeeper.org) has many events listed for the month.
- Type in the URL below
VIRTUAL - CA/Oct 17/Introduction to Jewish Genealogy, presented by Joel Weintraub <https://sbgen.org/> ✓
- Type in the <https://sbgen.org> for the workshop above
- "Virtual Holocaust Learning Day 2020"

Please submit any questions to: institute.um@gmail.com

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

- *JGSCT Our very own **Joel Spector: The Krakovsky Documents: Utilization of the Data by the Ukraine Research Group**. Joel gives out a lot of information. He spoke to our group. I'm going to listen to him again! <http://www.jgsct.org/>
- **Bucks County Genealogical Society hosts our virtual 14th Annual Bucks County Ancestry Fair: Bookends of Liberty: 300 Years of the Growth of Freedom in North America**
Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm via Zoom
www.ancestryfair.org
- Valley Forge Family History Center is now open for limited **appointments**.
721 Paxon Hollow Drive Broomall, PA 19008 broomallfhc@gmail.com
FHC Hours: Each Wednesday 9:30am-3:30pm and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays 9:30-12:30pm

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](#). Also check out YouTube videos. There are so many for The Barefoot Geneologist, Crista Cowen, for example. Put in your research topic!

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.



Volunteers

As plans are under way for the 2021 conference, we are working on many projects. You may be asked to help or volunteer your time.

I am very appreciative of those who have offered to volunteer for the IAJGS 2021 Conference.

When I know more, I'll send out a HELP WANTED notice! We will need lots of volunteers.

To a genealogist,
everything is relative!

Twisted Twigs
on gnarled branches

Marilyn