



## JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

FROM  
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CHRONICLES, Our quarterly  
award-winning journal:

Please submit articles to  
our Chronicles editor,

Evan Fishman,

[editor@jgsgp.org](mailto:editor@jgsgp.org).

We all have stories to tell!

Deadline for the next issue  
of *Chronicles* is Dec. 13.

If you want to add a hard  
copy of *Chronicles* to your

Hi Everyone,

Imagine three siblings who were Catholic, walking to school everyday passing a cemetery. A Jewish cemetery. They never met any Jews in Przasnysz. Ed Janes was researching his Jewish family from Przasnysz. This is the story of how they met and joined forces. We were honored to hear Ed Janes and Maggie Goralczyk tell us about “**Restoring Dignity: Planning and Executing a Cemetery Restoration Project in Poland**”. Their project took place in the town of Przasnysz. What occurred between Ed and Maggie and her sisters is quite an unbelievable and amazing story.

How they met and what happened between them is astonishing. Contact me if you didn’t get the link to their lecture. Of course, Linda’s comprehensive summary will be in the next issue of *Chronicles*. The Facebook group, **Friends of Jews from Przasnysz Poland** is administered by sisters, Maggi and Agata Goralczyk.

Agata, shared several links with me about **Dariusz Popiela**, a Polish Olympian, who has taken on the project of commemorating the Jewish community of Krościenko nad Dunajcem. The Popiela Family Foundation called “Centrum” was created by Darius. His Project, “People, not numbers” was made possible by Dr Karolina Panz’s discovery of lists of inhabitants of the region of Podhale, prepared by Judenrate in 1942.

Below are the links with information about what Darek is doing for Jewish heritage in Poland.

<https://centrumfundacja.pl/en>

<https://www.facebook.com/LudzieNieLiczyby>

<https://patronite.pl/LNL>

**\*Here is another project about Poles helping to preserve Jewish memories:**

On **November 19, 2020**, Brama Talks guest will be Lubliner, **Leora Tec**. **Leora will present her latest project—undertaken with Brama Grodzka-Teatr NN—an online video archive called: The Neshoma Project: Conversations with Poles Rescuing Jewish Memory (website here <https://neshomaproject.org/>).** Over the last two years, Leora has interviewed non-Jews all over Poland who in different ways are remembering the Jews who used to be their neighbors. In our next Brama Talks she will introduce you to some of these people, for example, Dr. Krzysztof Czubaszek, who remembers the Jews of Lukow. Dr. Czubaszek told Leora, "I realized that there was something missing in this local history. I noticed that there is a blank space—there is no literature, no sources, publications where I could get any information about the local Jewish community. And it was this moment —that was the impulse. I decided that I want to investigate this subject."

Those she interviewed work in many different fields including scholarship, teaching, guiding, grassroots activities, museum work and the arts.

In conversation with Dvora Trachtenberg, Leora will share her experiences from working on The Neshoma Project and will introduce us to some of the people she calls “Rescuers of Memory”.

Please register through the following link: <https://tiny.pl/7kxq1>

Duration: 1 hour

Time: 08:00 PM Europe/Warsaw

09:00 PM Israel

02:00 PM New York

Leora Tec is the founder and director of Bridge to Poland. She is the American Ambassador and Special Projects Partner to Brama Grodzka-Teatr NN. Her current joint project with Brama Grodzka is a video archive: The Neshoma Project: Conversations with Poles Rescuing Jewish memory. Leora traces her family in Lublin back to the 1700s. Her mother, Nechama Tec is a Holocaust survivor and Holocaust scholar who was born in Lublin in 1931.

Dr. Dvora Trachtenberg is a retired psychologist and a descendant of Lubliners. As part of a multi-faceted professional career, she has worked with those directly affected by the legacy of the Holocaust. These have included children of survivors, children of rescuers, and children of perpetrators of the Shoah. Dvora's parents were born in Lublin, Poland, and survived WWII by fleeing to the Soviet Union. She was born in post-war Poland and emigrated with her family while still a child.

Please note the event will be also available on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tK2XyfZ6LFI>

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community. And it was this moment —that was the impulse. I decided that I want to investigate this subject."

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### From the President's Desk

I would like to send a hearty welcome to both new and established members! Our society has actually grown in membership over the past 8 months, which is amazing. I hope that you and your families are well and avoiding contracting Covid-19. If you have had the time to further your research, please share your progress on our FB page or better yet, contribute an article for our *Chronicles* journal. Evan Fishman will be pleased to receive your articles and his editorial team will help to fine tune it, if necessary.

During this time of separation from extended family, I have been trying to make a plan for Thanksgiving 2020 that will be both memorable and a way to connect us all across the miles. My family is scattered around the country, from suburban Boston and Cape Cod, to Brooklyn and Rochester NY and as far west as Minneapolis. I will be setting up a Zoom conversation on my free Zoom account; you can Google Zoom to sign up for your own account. In advance, I will ask each family member to share a special moment or memory from previous Thanksgivings, and for my brother and myself, as the elders of the family, we will be sharing a Thanksgiving story from our childhood, thus passing along some family lore. What about food, parades, and football? Great topics to share. My hope is to create a screen shot of the whole family Zooming on Thanksgiving.

One other topic I would like to address today is to acknowledge the great work being done by members of our society in preparation for our August IAJGS conference, while also planning and hosting our Zoom meetings every three weeks and monthly Board meetings. As members, if you know of a special project or a speaker you could recommend, please email VP for Programs Mark Halpern. Our most recent speaker, Ed Janes, is a new member of our society and delivered a super talk on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> about cemetery restoration. He spoke to us with his project partner from Poland. They touched on some important points, specifically the need for cooperation between Jewish researchers, local Polish people and the centuries of shared history between us.

I look forward to seeing you all for our next Zoom Meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> which will feature IAJGS Board member Jarrett Ross, also known as the GeneaVlogger. You can find his fascinating video blog at [www.youtube.com/GeneaVlogger](http://www.youtube.com/GeneaVlogger) .

I wish you all a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving.  
Regards to all,  
Felicia Mode Alexander

Felicia Mode Alexander M.Ed., President



## \*Future JGASGP Zoom Meetings

**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020

**Time:** 1:00 check in, chat, and schmooze. Official 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



Jarrett Ross is the Lead Forensic Genealogist at DNA Labs International. He began seriously researching his family history in 2009 while finishing his undergraduate degree, quickly building an extensive family tree and connecting with thousands of relatives all across the World. Jarrett has since worked on hundreds of family trees, finding a specialty with Dutch Jewish ancestry, Jewish Agricultural Societies of Southern New Jersey, and Genetic Genealogy. Jarrett is also a volunteer curator on Geni.com, has served as the Vice President of the Triangle Jewish Genealogical Society since 2018, and is a board member of the Alliance Colony Foundation.

The Alliance Colony was the first successful Jewish agricultural colony in America, founded in Vineland, New Jersey in 1882. The community was originally settled by 43 families who were part of the Am Olam society which pushed to create Jewish agricultural societies in America. Alliance flourished with more families settling in the Colony over the decades, growing into more colonies and creating an amazing legacy through its many descendants. Many Alliance descendants are still in touch after many generations and even have reunions with over 600 descendants attending. This presentation will discuss the History of Alliance and how collaboration between descendants has been a genealogical goldmine.

**Date:** Sunday, December 27, 2020

**Time:** 1:00 check in, chat, and schmooze. Official program starts promptly at 1:30

**Speaker:** Chuck Weinstein, 2019 JewishGen Volunteer of the Year

**Topic:** Choosing a Genealogy Software – A Comparison

Chuck is a Past President of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island and co-chair of the 2016 Conference in Seattle. A family historian for over 25 years, he has spoken on a variety of topics in past Conferences. He has done extensive research on the Shoah and is writing a book on a town in Moravia that was devastated by the war.



There are several major software companies, and each has slightly different strong points. This lecture will focus on MyHeritage/Family Tree Builder and Ancestry/Family Tree Maker as well as options for Macintosh. We will examine the advantages of each and together build a small family tree, find relevant documents/images, attach these to the tree and build reports and charts.

**Date:** Sunday, January 17, 2021

**Time:** 1:00 check in, chat, and schmooze. Official program starts promptly at 1:30

**Speaker:** Sharon Taylor, JGASGP Member

**Topic:** Extra! Extra! Read All About it: Using Newspapers.com to Research Family History



Sharon Taylor graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial and Labor Relations. For ten years, Taylor worked for the University of Colorado School of Medicine as a Professional Research Assistant.

Taylor and her husband live outside of Philadelphia where Taylor continues writing and researching her family and the Jews of Galicia. She is a member of Gesher Galicia, and the Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia. Her articles have been published in their journals, on The National Library of Israel Blog, and in Jewish newspapers in Philadelphia and Arizona.



Sharon Taylor's roots lay in Mariampol, a typical small town in eastern Galicia (today western Ukraine), and in Philadelphia. No vital records are known to exist for the time Taylor's family lived in Mariampol. In Philadelphia, it was rumored that Taylor's family was involved in organized crime, an activity that strives to leave no trace. Turning to [Newspapers.com](http://Newspapers.com) Taylor explored the tale of her great-uncle's kidnapping by the Russian Army. She'll share her results and methodology as she tracks the struggles of Mariampol during the First World War, and finds evidence of her family's colorful life in Philadelphia in the 1930's.

**Date:** Sunday, February 7, 2021

**Time:** 1:00 check in, chat, and schmooze. Official program starts promptly at 1:30

**Speaker and Producer:** Ron Arons, Author and Genealogist



Ron has presented at 14 of the past 18 IAJGS conferences on a wide variety of subjects and has also been behind the scenes at 4 IAJGS conferences to help produce "Game Show Night/Jewish Genealogy Jeopardy". Ron has traced his roots to Lithuania, Poland, Romania, England, Belarus, and the Ukraine. In 2006 Ron appeared on the PBS TV series The Jewish Americans. He has published three books including The Jews of Sing Sing, and most recently, Mind Maps for Genealogy. Ron earned a B.S. in Engineering from Princeton and an MBA from the Univ. of Chicago.

### **Topic: Game Show Night Schpiel of Fortune**

Game Show Night is almost a tradition at the IAJGS Conference. Specifically, 'JewPardy' (Jewish Genealogy Jeopardy) has been conducted at six previous IAJGS conferences to much acclaim. JewPardy is a takeoff of the standard game of 'Jeopardy' with certain twists to make more germane for Jewish genealogy audiences. Today, we will play "Schpiel of Fortune," Ron's spin-off of Wheel of Fortune. The result is an evening of education, jokes, mishaps, and LOTS of laughter. Not to be missed.

#### **\*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.

These meetings are also being recorded for MEMBERS only. This is a member benefit. The link will be sent out in e-mail. Any questions? I will make sure to send out the invitation link by the Friday before the meetings. Contact me ASAP if you don't receive it. Make sure you let me know if you have a new preferred e-mail. I cannot respond to e-mails during the meeting.

## ZOOM Programs of Genealogy interest

- \*From Gail Klein: On Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 8 p.m., "**How Genealogy Became the Great Jewish Pastime**," about the latest in genealogy technology, family roots research and potentially unsettling DNA discoveries.

Speakers include **Dani Shapiro**, author of *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love*; **Jennifer Mendelsohn**, a leading genealogist/journalist who assisted with Shapiro's research; and **Libby Copeland**, author of *The Lost Family: How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are*.

Here's more info and the link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/2316026923548/WN\\_QMv3hxEoQTWKyzA5NUf7QA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/2316026923548/WN_QMv3hxEoQTWKyzA5NUf7QA)

- Center for Jewish History <https://programs.cjh.org/> Check them out!
- Wednesday, November 18, 12 pm: [New Works Wednesdays - Cities of Splendour in the Shaping of Sephardi History](#) - Live on Zoom | *American Sephardi Federation*
- Wednesday, November 18, 1 pm: [Fermenting and Foraging: Resourcefulness in the Historical and Contemporary Kitchen](#) - Live on Zoom | *YIVO Institute*
- Wednesday, November 18, 6 pm: [Two Great Families and Their Temple: The Strauses, the Lehmans and Temple Emanu-El](#) - Live on Zoom | *Leo Baeck Institute & Straus Historical Society*
- Thursday, November 19, 12 pm: [At the Crossroads of Sephardic, Mizrahi, and Russian-Speaking Worlds: The History of Bukharian Jews \(Part 2 of 2\)](#) - Live on Zoom | *American Sephardi Federation*

- [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 numerous monthly programs and previously recorded lectures. <https://www.jgsgb.org/event>
- [ConferenceKeeper.org](#) has many events listed for the month.
- [MyHeritage](#) is continuing to offer many live or recorded lectures.

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](#).

- Interested in a DNA blog? Read <https://blog.kittycooper.com/>

I also suggest registering on these websites to get timely information! Feel free to post other genealogical events on our Facebook page and continue to send them to me.

You **never** know where you can pick up a hint or clue to better researching techniques. Don't forget our JGASGP Facebook group, Tracing the Tribe, Genealogy Portal, JewishGen, MyHeritage, Ancestry.com, Genealogygems.podcasts and Youtube ( The Barefoot Genealogist, for example) for tutorials under many topics.

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, you need to create a free account on JewishGen.org. [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.

THANKS to Harry Boonin, who reminds us about the web site **Chronicling America**. It is an online, word searchable American newspaper website for hundreds of newspapers from each state in the United States [up to and including 1922](#). I thought it might be updated so I wrote to the Library of Congress, the entity responsible for the web site. Their answer is found below.

Thank you for contacting the Library of Congress. We do have some newspapers on Chronicling America that were published after 1922 but none of those are from Pennsylvania. For many years we did not include material published after 1922 because some content might still be under copyright. Determining if something was still under copyright protect takes time and resources that we did not want to spend at the time.

Over time the situation has changed. We now have a solid collection of pre-1922 material. We are more willing to devote more effort into finding more recent material. I cannot say when we be adding more Pennsylvania titles. We were working with Penn State on the titles from there and they never recommend anything post 1922. We need to either reestablish our relationship with them or find another local institution to work with before we proceed.

Henry Carter, Serials and Government Publications Division, Library of Congress

Do not forget Newspapers.com and Fold3.com. MyHeritage has access to different Newspapers. Obituaries, birth, marriage, and death records reveal lots of information. I've also found information from the society pages and social events too!

## Chronicles

Send in your research finds and stories. Contact Evan if you have any questions. [editor@jgsgp.org](mailto: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? 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

## Membership Dues

**\*Now is a great time to start paying your dues for 2021. Our fiscal year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. All new payments will go towards 2021. Please use the attached membership form if you send a check. The form is also available on our website. \$10 extra for printed Chronicles!**

**Current membership 323. We continue to grow! Facebook members 992**

JGASGP extends condolences and well wishes to member's 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.



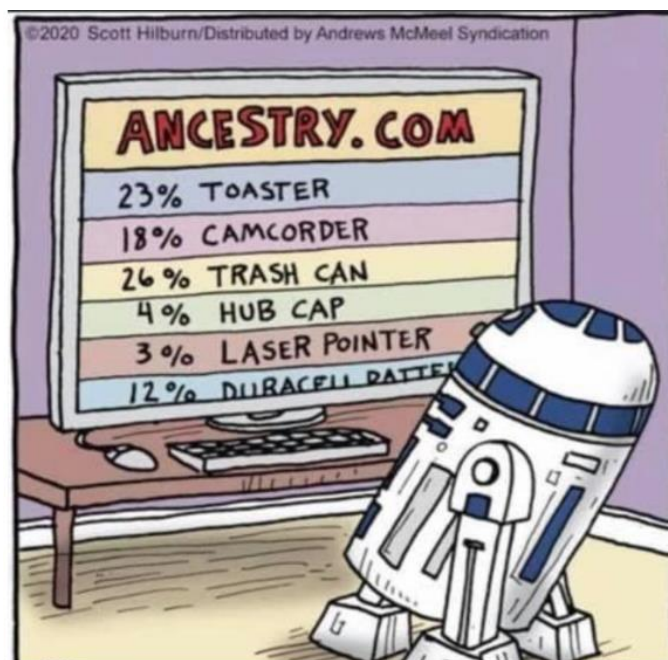
## Volunteers

**REMINDER: The deadline to submit a proposal for IAJGS 2021 is Thursday, November 19th.**

[https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2021/call\\_for\\_proposals.cfm?fbclid=IwAR3DKjcSe4J2HGmeNI7NvY8ca7vi\\_\\_sysfnhOgZtDXUWC2mkbao6tYmQoEg](https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2021/call_for_proposals.cfm?fbclid=IwAR3DKjcSe4J2HGmeNI7NvY8ca7vi__sysfnhOgZtDXUWC2mkbao6tYmQoEg)

**Survey: Please give us 3 minutes of your time - respond by Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>!**

**Wanted! JGASGP Volunteers: 2021 IAJGS Conference in Philadelphia**



Happy Thanksgiving!

Hope you get to have family zoom time! I'm making squash soup and pumpkin ice cream.

I'm going to try this recipe with a can of coconut cream and an equal amount of coconut milk added to my ice cream maker.



Stay safe and stay healthy! Hope to see you at our next meeting!

☺ Marilyn

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 .