



## 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  
membership it is an extra  
\$10.

Sunday's lecture by **Jarrett Ross** (<https://www.youtube.com/GeneaVlogger>), was quite refreshing. We learned about the migration of the Jews from Russia, who helped them get here, where they went, and who helped them succeed. He is so fortunate that his family came with a group that stayed together and the descendants continue to be friends today. The Alliance Colony was the first successful Jewish agricultural colony in America, founded in Vineland, New Jersey in 1882. I learned a lot today!

Jarrett provided us with a handout containing many links. He requests that you go to the Alliance Colony Facebook Page and sign up if you have a connection to Alliance, Brotman, Norma, and other communities in S. Jersey region. The Alliance Colony Geni Project focuses on the Jewish families who settled at Alliance Colony in Vineland, New Jersey and the surrounding communities including Brotmanville, Rosenhayn, Carmel, and Norma. You can check out <https://www.geni.com/projects/The-Alliance-Colony/42642>.

The Alliance Colony continues to grow today. William and Malya Levin <https://mailchi.mp/of4f6357c967/acre-newsletter-signup> invite you to sign up for their newsletter. Here is an invitation to their livestream Chanukah concert featuring the music of Ami Yares, a fellow descendant of South Jersey chicken farmers, now living in Philly. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-virtual-chanukah-alliance-synagogue-live-music-by-ami-yares-tickets-131738295789>

This is from Jarrett: Hello everyone! Thank you again for having me speak to JGASGP. If you are interested in more information about **The Alliance Colony**: Here are a few links, some of which he did not include in the handout.

\* My videos about Alliance - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist...>

\*Alliance Geni Project - <https://www.geni.com/projects/The-Alliance-Colony/42642>

\*"First Chapter In A New Book: The Story of Brotmanville and the Alliance Colonies of Southern New Jersey" by Rich Brotman - <https://vimeo.com/222691402>

\*Alliance Synagogue website - <https://alliancesynagogue.org/>

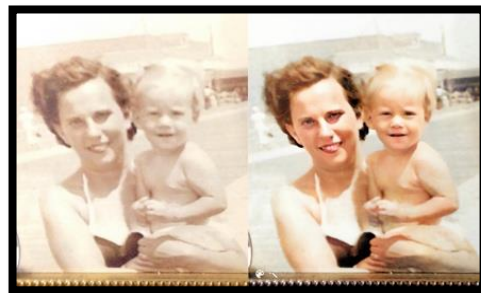
\*360 Digital Image of inside the Synagogue - <https://synagogues-360.anumuseum.org.il/.../tifereth-israel/>

\*Trailer for an upcoming Documentary about Alliance - <https://www.facebook.com/1116794101830638/videos/920242081665430>

The link will be sent out for you to see what you missed. Linda will be providing a comprehensive review in the winter edition of Chronicles.

## MyHeritage News

Recently announced: The release of a new colorization model for [MyHeritage In Color™](#), which produces even better results when colorizing black and white photos! [MyHeritage In Color™](#) is based on deep-learning technology licensed by MyHeritage exclusively from DeOldify. The results were rather **amazing** for some of my photos! The update was November 2020.



## Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

I would like to introduce a new feature in our newsletter: Thanks to Harold Kohn for his suggestion. Each newsletter will have an area for beginning research and tips. We will have a comprehensive “Beginner’s Guide” for member’s only on our new website in 2021. Linda, our Secretary, has worked diligently on that document! It has many research tools and links to aide us in our research journey. I often receive requests for research help. I will try to offer some guidance.

**The word of the day is “document”.**

1. When starting your family research always begin with yourself. **Document** everything you know (that’s easy).
2. **Interview** family members. JewishGen.org has a section for *FIRST TIMERS* and offers a list of helpful questions. <https://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Quest.html>
3. **Document** what you already know about your parents and your grandparents. I have attached a family group sheet for your use. **Document your sources.**
4. Watch some cool free 5 minute videos from JewishGen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUufBJ5rZIA&feature=youtu.be>
5. [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Philadelphia\\_County,\\_Pennsylvania\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Philadelphia_County,_Pennsylvania_Genealogy) Researching in Philadelphia? This wiki page tells you what is available. Thanks to Linda for this find!
6. Choosing the right software program to record your findings is often a dilemma.
7. Our next lecture on December 27th, Choosing a Genealogy Software – A Comparison, is apropos.

## New Website Update

Check out our new website in progress! [www.jgasgp.org](http://www.jgasgp.org). There are pictures on a 'slider'. If you have old photos that you may want to share, Jim Meyer, our webmaster, would be interested in hearing from you! Contact Jim through our current website [www.jgasgp.org](http://www.jgasgp.org). \*Please do not register on the new site yet. We are not ready!

## From the President's Desk

December is always a tough month for me. I think a lot about my parents, Philip and Barbara Mode, z'l who were both born in December (1914 and 1927) and died within days of their own birthdays. As we have struggled this year, thinking about their lives and challenges has brought me comfort. I hope your reflections on your parents or grandparents will do the same for you.

Philzo, as we all called my father, refused to die on his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday and made it one more day. He had defied death many times before thanks to WWII, and I am certain he was not going to miss his last birthday celebration. It was his last laugh. And Mom, well, she hung around for that last Thanksgiving when we were all together in Massachusetts as a family to celebrate with her. Monday morning after the holiday, I received notification that she had passed...peacefully, having spent her final Thanksgiving with all of her children and grandchildren. So December is bittersweet indeed for me.

However, the month of December has been a challenging time for many Americans throughout our history. Washington crossed the Delaware River in December 1776 to win the Battle of Trenton which turned the tide during our War for Independence. Going back exactly 79 years to December 7, 1941, President Roosevelt told our nation in a radio broadcast, it (Pearl Harbor Day) was a day "that would live in infamy". Americans were stunned by the attack but in the months and years that followed, our nation rallied on the home front, in the military and in industry. You know, these folks have been called the Greatest Generation.

I am sure many of our members remember the 1940's. My mother talked about blackout curtains, ration cards, etc. In fact, one of her recollections about this period in her life related to the missing boys from her high school who were in the service instead. My father promptly enlisted in the Army 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and fought in Belgium across frigid and snow-covered land in the critical Battle of the Bulge. He spent most of his time with the 16<sup>th</sup> Armored Field Artillery as a forward observer in a tiny two-man piper cub plane, spotting artillery fire. After he died, we discovered his service record, citations and medals: Purple Heart, Silver Star, 2 Bronze Stars, Presidential Unit Citation, etc. His heroism was part of who he was, yet he never talked much about this part of his life. It was hidden away in the deep recesses of his memories. He did what he did to serve our nation, as an extremely patriotic son of a Russian and German Jewish immigrants who came to America for a better life.

December 2020! I see a light at the end of the tunnel. We are coming to the end of a challenging year for the U.S. and the rest of the world and a year of many changes for us all. There is even talk of a vaccine in the near future. Perhaps thanks to being homebound during Covid, our membership in both our society and our Facebook group

have grown in leaps and bounds. Yesterday, during our Zoom meeting, our Facebook group hit the milestone of 1000 members!

We have been reaching out via Survey Monkey for information from members of our society. So far, over 100 members have responded! The skills and experiences you have shared on the survey are so impressive and diverse! This information will help find the right people to staff our international conference in August, inform our programming in general and even lead us in some new directions. If you have not completed the survey yet, please do! You can submit your info by using the link Marilyn sent out to all members.

I have one follow up request to the surveys. A local attorney who completed our survey indicated he/she has written articles about Graham Nash. I have a great personal story about him during one of his shows at the Keswick Theatre in Philly, so please go back into your survey and include your contact info which can still be added. I would love to connect with you!

Speaking of contact info, about 30 people who completed surveys did not include their contact information which we still need... to reach you. Just go back onto your original survey link and add your info.

I would also like to wish everyone a very Happy Hannukah whether you celebrate on Zoom, Skype, Facetime, What's App or in person with your loved ones.

Felicia Mode Alexander



### \*Future JGASGP Zoom Meetings

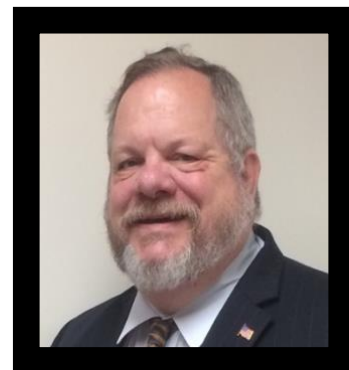
**Date:** Sunday, December 27, 2020

**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 Geshar 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](https://www.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 – or an original Jewish themed gameshow with member participants

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.

**Save the dates:** We are planning on Zoom meetings through June 2020.

**Date:** Sunday, February 28, 2021

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

**Guest Speaker:** Leora Tec <https://bridgetopoland.com/about-leora>

**Topic:** What are there for Jews in modern day Poland?

**Date:** Sunday, March 21, 2021

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

**Guest Speaker:** David Brill

**Topic:** Russian Revision Lists



**Date:** Sunday, April 11, 2021

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

**Guest Speaker:** Ellen Kowitt <https://www.ellenkowitt.com/>

**Topic:** Comparison of the website giants for genealogy research

**Date:** Sunday, May 2, 2021

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

**Speakers:** To Be Determined

**Topic:** Genealogy in the round... Ask the Experts

**Date:** Sunday, June 23, 2021

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

**Guest Speaker:** TBA

## Zoom Meetings of Interest



<https://www.yivo.org/Calendar> Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese Food. This program is free. Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020 1 pm

The Center for Jewish History offers numerous programs-many are free .

[https://programs.cjh.org/?utm\\_source=cjh.org&utm\\_medium=website&utm\\_campaign=cjh-nav](https://programs.cjh.org/?utm_source=cjh.org&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=cjh-nav)

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](https://www.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](#).

Register now at [JewishGen.org/live](http://JewishGen.org/live)! Many members have raved about Adam Brown's lecture on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Go to their website to register for future programs. 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.

## Chronicles

Due date for new article submission is December 13, 2020.

## Membership Dues

**\*Now is the time to pay 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! Use [jgsgp.org](http://jgsgp.org) until further notice.

## Volunteers

Thanks to everyone who submitted responses to our Survey Monkeys.

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.







jamie geller

HOME > HOLIDAYS

## 5 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT LATKES

GIL MARKS · DEC 16, 2014

Dedicated to the life and works of [Gil Marks](#) who shared this article with us last Chanukah in the Joy of Kosher with Jamie Geller magazine, may his memory be a blessing.

Judah Maccabee never saw a latke or a potato (or doughnut)... nor did medieval Jews.

**1. Pancakes are batters shallow-fried in a skillet or on a griddle.** People were already cooking on hot stones and griddles since time immemorial. In the Temple, a minchat machavat was cooked on an oiled griddle. But with the fall of Rome, pancakes, along with many culinary techniques, disappeared from most of Europe. Pancakes reemerged (made from flour and fried in olive oil) in Italy after the First Crusades, then spread north (usually not fried in olive oil). The first record of the English word “pancake” was in 1430.

**2. Sicilian Jews introduced ricotta pancakes** to northern Italy, called cassola in Rome, as a Shavuot dish and later combining two traditional Chanukah foods - fried and cheese. The association of dairy to Chanukah was first mentioned (c. 1360) by Rabbi Nissim ben Reuben (Ran) of Gerona.

**3. The initial association between Chanukah and pancakes** (and fried foods in general) was by Rabbi Kalonymus ben Kalonymus (c. 1286-1328) – raised in Provence, but spending his career in Italy – who mentioned pancakes in a poem about Chanukah.

**4. Oil in northern Europe was rare and expensive,** so the principal fat for frying was schmaltz - animal fat, being unacceptable for cooking with dairy. Rye and, later buckwheat, commonly substituted for cheese and wheat. The two most prominent Eastern Yiddish terms for pancake became chremsel (from the Western Yiddish vermesel from Latin vermiculos “little worms” – before you get all ooey, vermiculos is also the source of the pasta vermicelli) and latke, derived from the Ukrainian diminutive word for pancake/fritter, oladka (“little oily”), from the Latin oleum (“olive oil,” also the source of the English word “oil”) from the Greek elaion (olive oil).

**5. When the white potato arrived in Europe around 1570 from its native Peru/Bolivia,** it was considered poisonous, taking centuries to gain acceptance as food. By the end of the 1700s, Germans made pancakes from raw or cooked potatoes. Only with a series of crop failures in Ukraine and Poland in 1839 and 1840 were these tubers consumed there. Potatoes emerged as the staple of the Eastern European Jewish diet and most prominent type of latke.

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 .