



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

12/31/2020

Hi Everyone,

Chuck Weinstein told us about seven different genealogy software programs for us to choose from. He compared and contrasted the ins and outs. Some are for Windows or Mac only. Some are better for charts and reports. Some link to online companies. The link will be sent out for you to see what you missed. Linda will be providing a comprehensive review in the next edition of *Chronicles*.

I started out with papers in files for each branch of my family. Then I switched to files for each smaller family group. Then I separated family groups to individuals so I could see what I had. So many papers!!! I was researching 3 branches of my family and 4 branches of Michael's family. I made notebooks with dividers for each person and printed out or put in real documents in archival paper in those notebooks. I'm a born organizer, but it was getting out of control for me.

I use Family Tree Maker which syncs with Ancestry.com and Reunion 13 for Mac. With Reunion, I've produced numerous family reports and made huge family trees for presentations at family reunions.

Researching the program to suit your needs is important. Chuck can be contacted for questions at Chuck1@outlook.com. Please watch the video first. You will learn a lot.

One of our members, Joe, wrote to Mackiev for FTM questions. He was directed to tutorial videos provided by Ancestry Academy: <https://www.ancestryacademy.com/getting-the-most-out-of-family-tree-maker>

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

The census will provide a starting point providing a lot of beneficial information: Location, age, family, occupation, neighbors. Learn what each census provides.

The "[Beginning your Genealogical Research at the National Archives and Records Administration](#)" presentation provides an excellent introduction to most popular

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CHRONICLES, Our quarterly
award-winning journal:

Please submit articles to
our *Chronicles* editor,

Evan Fishman,

editor@jgsgp.org.

We all have stories to tell!

Deadline for the next issue
of *Chronicles* is March 14th.

If you want to add a hard
copy of *Chronicles* to your
membership it is an extra
\$10.

genealogical records at NARA.

View the video on "[Introduction to Census Records](https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/start-research)" <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/start-research>.

The word of the day is “**consistency**” in recording and record keeping.

The field of genealogy has several conventions for recording information.

1. Dates: Dates are usually captured as day – month – year, e.g., 21 May 1852.
2. Maiden Names: List a woman under her maiden name. If her maiden name is unknown, leave a blank space e.g., Marilyn (____) or Marilyn ____.
3. Surnames: Many genealogists capture surnames in capital letters to highlight the name in a text field. e.g., MAZER, Marilyn
4. States: Either spell out states or use standard abbreviations. Do NOT use the two letter postal codes.
5. Make yourself aware of common abbreviations such as b=born, m=married, d=died, unk=unknown, div=divorced.
6. Don't trust all record transcriptions as correct. My great great grandmother's name was transcribed as Ida Unk. I realized that several family members making trees on Ancestry.com also used her last name as UNK. Avoid confusion and write her name as Ida _____. (see #2 above).
7. You need to be consistent, but the records you come across probably won't be. Spelling doesn't count and neither do dates.
8. Our new and improved Beginners Guide isn't posted yet. If you want to see a condensed beginner's guide go to our website jgsgp.org. Look under Links/other links.

OTHER LINKS

TRACING YOUR JEWISH ANCESTORS, From the United States to Europe 1850 to 1930

New Class Offered by JewishGen: Fresh Start

If you are just starting out in your genealogical venture or are beginning again, JewishGen is offering a new course to help you move beyond an interest in family history to working with a tutor, mentor and coach to learn the tips, tools and techniques of United States Jewish genealogy. Although this is a U.S. research class, the course will prepare you for future research in all-country databases.

It is a personal mentoring course which features a private online Forum where students will be encouraged to post one ancestral branch (one surname), set goals for their research, and work one-on-one with the instructor.

Tuition for the course is \$60.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.jewishgen.org/education/description.asp?course=40301>. Register for the course at <https://www.jewishgen.org/education/edu-courses.asp?group=mentor>.



9. Type in the urls above to get to the JewishGen site.

New Website Update

Check out our new website in progress! 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. *Please do not register on the new site yet. We are not ready!

From the President's Desk

With the New Year on our doorstep, here is my list of "5 Hopes for 2021".

#1- We will be able to reschedule family vacations, cruises to Antarctica, rail trips through the Canadian Rockies, heritage trips to Europe, reunions in Israel and even rental houses at Cape Cod (me).

#2- We will start celebrating holidays with extended family and friends without needing Zoom to see each other. Although the technology has been amazing, it does not replace in person communication.

#3- Longtime JGASGP genealogy buddies will be able to share the joy of a new discovery and receive a pat on the back, high five or a hug in return.

#4- We will be able to enjoy an Entenmanns cookie and coffee for our social time before and after our JGASGP General Meetings. Those needing help will once again sit with fellow member Gary Brownstein, who generously shares his experience and guidance with newbies before our meetings.

#5- Families..... will be together again! I know I am not alone in craving the opportunity to hug adult children who live out of the area, or experience the unique and blessed joy of cuddling a grandchild while reading Dr. Seuss books together.

In the spirit of looking forward to 2021, you have heard the news about the August 2-5, 2021 conference we are cohosting with the IAJGS. This is a major genealogy event that attracts people from around the world. YOU CAN HELP! WE NEED YOU!

Our first major project related to the conference is currently underway. This is the updating of our 2009 Philadelphia Area Resource Guide and Directory. Thank you to all who have taken the volunteer survey. You will be hearing from us soon if we need your individual skill set. However, we really need everyone's feedback; out of more than 300 members, fewer than 125 completed the surveys. If you have not yet done so, please log onto our very brief survey which only takes 3-5 minutes. This will help us assign the right tasks to the right volunteers. Some of the tasks can be done right from your home computer, too. Kindly log onto the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RKV9GD6>

In closing this final message of 2020, I wish you all happiness, good health and a return to at least a semblance of normal life in 2021.

Felicia Mode Alexander

Future JGASGP Zoom Meetings

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 Geshet 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

Sunday, February 21, 2021

1:00 pm Check-in, Chat, and Schmooze. Official program starts promptly at 1:30

Guest Speaker: Miriam Weiner

We are very lucky to have our Lifetime member join us for a special presentation.

Check out Miriam’s website: <https://www.rtrfoundation.org/index.shtml> and her two new surnames database <https://www.rtrfoundation.org/lnintro.shtml>. She will be demonstrating how to search her two new surname databases with all the bells and whistles!

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 **HELP WANTED!**

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

We already have a few members who are experts within certain fields, such as Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, and Philadelphia research. Would you consider yourself an expert in a certain area? Or a Translator? If so, send me an e-mail with a description of your expertise and experience. Put ASK THE EXPERT in the subject line. You will be contacted by Mark Halpern as he plans the program.

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

Yiddisher Black cantors from 100 years ago rediscovered thanks to rare recording Discographer Henry Sapoznik tracks down record by international Yiddish-language performer Thomas LaRue, and slips into a rabbit hole of Black Jewish history <https://www.timesofisrael.com/yiddisher-black-cantors-from-100-years-ago-rediscovered-thanks-to-rare-recording/> Felicia shared this article on Facebook. It is a fascinating story!

[JewishGen.org/live!](https://www.jewishgen.org/live/) Has many recorded lectures and continuously adds new programs.

YIVO: <https://www.yivo.org/Calendar> Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese Food. This was very interesting, and you can find it on their Youtube page. There are numerous videos from YIVO on Youtube.com with a variety of topics.

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

The Chicago Jewish Genealogical Society has a calendar of past recorded lectures free to view.

<https://jgsi.org/Events-calendar> You need to register on their website.

Upcoming events

"JRI-Poland Update and More" by Stanley Diamond

When 24 Jan 2021

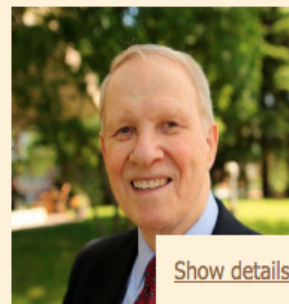
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CST)

Location From the convenience of
your home computer.

[Already registered](#)

Stanley Diamond to present update on JRI-Poland on Jan. 24, 2021

Jewish Records Indexing-Poland's founder and executive director, Stanley Diamond, will present "JRI-Poland Update and More" for the Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021, virtual meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois. His live streaming presentation will begin at 2 p.m. Central Standard Time.



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](#).

The Bucks County Genealogy Society is having Steve Morse in February.

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

Expect delivery of the winter Chronicles mid-late January 2021.

Membership Dues

***Now is the time to pay your dues for 2021.** If you paid in the fall, **no** payment is due. Your payment went towards 2021. I have e-mailed everyone who owes a payment. 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 available on our website. \$10 extra for printed Chronicles! Use jgsgp.org until further notice.



**41st IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON JEWISH GENEALOGY**

JGASGP *from the past into the future* iajgs

2 - 5 August 2021 Philadelphia, PA iajgs2021.org

***We are Currently fundraising for the 2021 IAJGS Conference.**

Thanks so much to those of you who have made generous donations! We are working hard to plan a fabulous event! Whether it's live or virtual, you won't be disappointed!

Volunteers

Thanks to everyone who submitted responses to our Survey Monkeys. Felicia, Ed, and Evan have been working on the Philadelphia Resource Guide and will be contacting volunteers. See Felicia's request in her message above.

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.



Happy and Healthy New Year!

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 .