

FROM
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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.



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

2/23/2021

Hi Everyone ,

Once again, **Miriam Weiner** has wowed us with the amazing amount of information on her rtrfoundation.org website. Her determination and relentless work throughout her career have enabled many of us to learn so much more about our families than ever expected. 125 of us signed in to listen to Miriam. We had a few Zoom issues, but we weren't thwarted in learning about the Archive Database, Surname Database, Image Database, Maps, OCR and so much more!!!

It was a learning experience for Miriam. She was rather fabulous for her first Zoom experience. We all are grateful to Miriam for her generosity in sharing her research. Even if your ancestors did not come from the regions she visited, you will find some helpful tips on her website.

Miriam is also interested in responding to your relevant questions. There is a link on the website that says "email/more info". I have attached a few pages from the rtrfoundation.org website and highlighted that spot to click on. Also attached is a screenshot from my browser window showing you where to click to put in a search for a town. You will only understand this if you watched her lecture. You will need to do some research on your own on the website to find all of the gems available.

If you missed listening to Miriam speak, read about her lecture in the next issue of *Chronicles*.

Maps are invaluable to genealogical research. For those of us whose families are from areas outside of Miriam's research, we can look elsewhere for maps of importance.

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

During our meeting Chat, several members mentioned where they found maps. Jack Meyers showed us the maps on the wall behind him. "In the late 1900's, I found in the Main Phila Library's Map Room an Army Corps of Engineers map of 1944 of Ukraine."

___ I read an article posted this week about the importance of maps. *Old Map Collections That Every Family Historian Should Know About* can be found at <https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/old-maps/>.

New Website Update

Our new Beginner's Guide is up on our new jgasgp.org website. Look under PUBLICATIONS, and you will find a wealth of research information. Thanks to Linda for doing a fantastic job! Jim has worked tirelessly on making our new website fabulous! (You can access this part of the new website even before the formal launch.)

You can start to register now on the new website. We are having a new jgasgp.org website launch on March 14th. Everyone will need to be registered for access to our members- only portal. Registered members will also have access to the Zoom links prior to each meeting. If you registered previously and are a paid-up member of the Society, you will be activated on March 14. There is no need to re-register. You will know that you can login when you receive an email from our system with a password. That password is a long, hard-to-remember password of letters and numbers. This is not a problem if you use a password manager such as LastPass , Dashlane, or 1Password. If you will be typing in the password, you are given the option to change it to something that is easier to remember.

From the President's Desk

Our most recent speaker, the amazing Miriam Weiner has provided us with a list to make the most of Roots Tech, which starts this Thursday and runs for several days. Included are both the speakers' names and the titles of each lecture. Roots Tech is free this year and provides genealogists of all stripes, not just Jewish genealogists, with superb learning opportunities and world class speakers. Please let us know on our Facebook page if you attend any sessions that you found exceptional!

Felicia Mode Alexander

RootsTech Lectures of interest to Jewish Genealogists

1. Secrets to Jewish Genealogy Revealed (in 3 sessions; overview, names, geography) – Ellen Kowitt
2. Using JewishGen – Avraham Groll
3. JRI-Poland: Doing Jewish Research in Poland Records – Robin Magid
4. Research off the Beaten Track (Lithuania) – Janette Silverman
5. How I Found My Jewish American Family: A Success Example of Genealogy Research – Daniel Horowitz
6. Using the B&F Compendium in Jewish Genealogy – Philip Trauring
7. The Schoenwald Family: Victims and Survivors of the Holocaust – Simon Fowler
8. Onsite Research and Offline Sources in Vienna – Markus Schonherr
9. Using FamilySearch for Jewish Research – Todd Knowles
10. The Knowles Collection: What is it and How Do I Use it? – Todd Knowles
11. Jews of the Caribbean – Todd Knowles
12. Sephardic Resources: What's New for 2021 – Schelly Talalay Dardashti
13. Tracing Your Sephardic Genealogy – Rabbi Jordan Gendra-Molina
14. Mexican Genealogy: Jewish Origins of Three Families in Nuevo Galicia (Jalisco) – Nefi Arenas Salazar
15. How I Found My 15 Grandmothers (Crypto-Jewish) – Genie Milgrom
16. When Your Tree is a Banyan: Untangling Endogamy – Leah Larkin
17. Not considered "Jewish track" but Libby Copeland is also speaking about DNA (author of new book, *The Lost Family: How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are*).

Future JGASGP Zoom Meeting

Date: Sunday, February 28, 2021

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

Guest Speaker: Leora Tec, Founder and Director, Bridge to Poland

<https://bridgetopoland.com/about-leora>

Topic: What is there for Jews in modern day Poland? An Introduction to [The Neshoma Project](#)



Leora Tec is the founder and director of **Bridge To Poland**, which seeks to educate people about Jewish history in Poland with an emphasis on how the Jews of Poland are being remembered by non-Jewish Poles today. Leora is the Special Projects Partner of **Brama Grodzka-Teatr NN** in Lublin, Poland and a Mary Elvira Stevens Traveling Fellow from Wellesley College (2018-2019). In cooperation with Brama Grodzka-Teatr NN Leora has created the online video archive, [The Neshoma Project: Conversations with Poles Rescuing Jewish Memory](#).

Leora sits on the board of the **American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies**. She is the author of several articles including "Bridge Building in the Polish Jewish Landscape in **Jews in Dialogue** (Brill 2020) and the forthcoming, "An Inclusive Model of Memory Work in Poland: Bridge To Poland as a Case Study" with Professor Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs in the Polish journal **Politeja**. Leora's mother, Nechama Tec, is a Holocaust survivor and Holocaust scholar whose book, "Defiance," was made into the film of the same name starring Daniel Craig and Liev Schreiber. Leora holds a B.A. from Wellesley College and a J.D./LL.M. from Duke University School of Law.

As we know, ninety percent of Polish Jews were murdered during World War II. It's understandable that some people, especially Jews of Polish descent, might have reservations about going to Poland, the site of such vast pain and loss. And yet, Poland is an integral part of Jewish history.

Leora Tec has travelled all over Poland having conversations with non-Jews who, in different ways, are remembering the Jews who used to be their neighbors. Those interviewed, working to heal historical wounds, come from many different fields including: scholarship, teaching, guiding, grassroots activities, museum work and the arts.

Date: Sunday, March 7, 2021

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

Guest Speaker: Joel Spector

Topic: "Finding Your Ancestors: How to Get Started and Where to Go."



Joel is a Past President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia, where he has also been chairperson of its Russian Special Interest Group. Joel has given presentations and workshops on the Russian language, both contemporary and pre-Revolutionary, and has provided translations of documents to individuals and groups. Currently Joel is a member of the Ukraine Research Group and serves as its Director of Metric Record Projects. Joel has been actively engaged in genealogy for over 30 years and has been conducting research in several historic Russian language encyclopedias. He has produced a unique English language Index to the Russian language [Evreiskaya Entsiklopedia](#).

The presentation will focus on how to find information about your ancestors, both those you know and those you didn't even know you had. We will explore what data is immediately available and review what information can be derived from the many types of resources - local, national, and international - and from on-line resources. Throughout, we will focus on the excitement in discovering information about your little-known ancestors and on the various types of information that make the search in Jewish genealogy fun.

*** This is a special meeting open to the public. The link for this program will be sent to members and published on our website at 12:00 noon prior to the meeting. Please feel free to invite your friends and send them to our website.**

Webinars, Podcasts and Zoom Meetings of Interest



RootsTech Connect, a free online genealogy conference, will take place Feb. 25-27, 2021. Register at: <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

For the first time ever, the world’s largest family celebration event will be entirely virtual and completely free.

Get ready to celebrate shared connections with people from around the world. Connect with friends, your family, your past, and your heritage and homelands—all from the comfort of your home and in your browser.

RootsTech Will Match Registrants’ Trees

One of the features of previous RootsTech conferences was they would compare registrants’ family trees to demonstrate if two registrants were related to each other. Called “Relatives at RootsTech,” this feature will be offered at the virtual RootsTech conference next month. But instead of matching against a mere 20,000 registrants, the virtual conference will likely have more than 200,000 registrants.

Participation in the project is optional and requires you submit your tree to the RootsTech database. Here is what to do:

Visit <http://familysearch.org/connect>.

- Sign in with your FamilySearch account.
- Follow the instructions on the opt-in page for joining the experience and confirming your registration.
- See your results.

The complete announcement is at <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/relatives-rootstech/>.

YIVO: <https://www.yivo.org/Calendar>

The Center for Jewish History is holding a free virtual Genealogy Coffee Break webinar at 2:30 p.m. Central Time *every Tuesday* on Facebook Live. If you are on Facebook, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/centerforjewishhistory/501317183869918> .

The Chicago Jewish Genealogical Society has a calendar of past recorded lectures free to view HTTPs You need to register on their website.

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, conferences, and podcasts, listed for the month. Sign up for their weekly e-mails.

JewishGen.org/live! Has many recorded lectures and continuously adds new programs to their site.

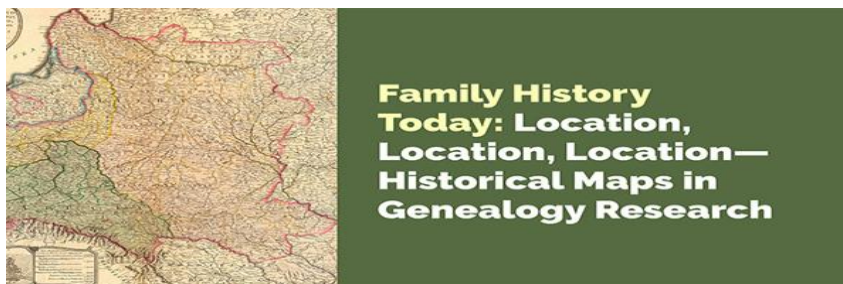
MyHeritage is continuing to offer many live or recorded lectures. Even if you can't make it to the live events, you can still enjoy all recorded FB Live sessions in the Videos section of the [MyHeritage Facebook page](#). Many of the webinars are available for free viewing on the [MyHeritage Knowledge Base](#).

IGRA, the Israel Genealogy Research Association, is holding free webinars mostly in English about Jewish genealogy research resources. Scroll down their calendar of events to register for coming webinars: <https://genealogy.org.il/calendar/>

“Resources for Sephardic Jewish Research: An Introduction” by Schelly Talalay Dardashti can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywoXcY2YRis&feature=youtu.be>

Legacy Family Tree Webinars General research <https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

To continue to learn more about using maps for your research, this was just announced from the Center for Jewish History.



<https://programs.cjh.org/tickets/family-history-today-2021-03-17>

Answering the question "where do my ancestors come from?" is key to understanding their history and traditions. However, identifying and locating the places where they lived, particularly in Eastern Europe, is often a tricky task. In this lecture, **Ed Mitukiewicz**, map consultant for the documentary film *Raise the Roof*, will demonstrate how you can use historical map websites and geographic information databases to overcome these challenges.

This program is sponsored by the Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute. It is funded, in part, by a Humanities New York CARES Grant, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the federal CARES Act, and by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Ticket Info: Pay what you wish; register at [/tickets/family-history-today-2021-02-11](https://tickets/family-history-today-2021-02-11) to receive a link to the Zoom program

To find online links to other Jewish genealogical societies, check out the list from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies at: <https://www.iajgs.org/membership/member-societies/>



Stay tuned for updates!

Chronicles

Chronicles has been mailed. Keep those research articles coming!

Membership Dues

*Now is the time to pay 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 available on our website. \$10 extra for printed Chronicles! www.jgasgp.org. Checks have taken up to 6 weeks to reach us. We are patient. Just inform me if you mailed in your dues! Only active members will have access to our new members only portal on our website.

All future meetings (with the exception of March 7th), will be for paid members only. Please do not share the Zoom links. Meetings are a member benefit!

Volunteers

Working on the Philadelphia Resource Guide has begun. Thank you to everyone who is helping us with this fabulous project! We will be researching and updating repositories! Our next training session will be on March 7th, at 11:00. Our plan is to have a newly revised 2021 Resource Guide for the City of Philadelphia ready for the IAJGS Conference 2021!

The previous guide from 2009 is currently on our website for you to use. It has a lot of information and is worth checking out! Remember though, the information may be out of date!

In the News

- https://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/preadoption.htm?fbclid=IwARoVvRarUonIgtysa5lyRwr7OjWRxFOZrKpAIKEtQOuLCPvoTW7Ae099ps Information for obtaining pre-adoption birth certificates.

- **Fire at Krakow City Archives**

Fire struck the Krakow City Archives last week. The fire started on Saturday and as of Monday was not completely extinguished. Officials cannot assess the losses yet, as it is still unknown what burned down. The buildings contain more than twenty thousand meters of city documents from many years.

This is not the Krakow National Archives. The only materials which could have been important for Jewish research were books for resident registration, mostly postwar. Earlier records are at the Krakow National Archives.

Additional information is at <https://tinyurl.com/jgd45f1s>.



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.



I hope everyone continues to experience good health, stay safe, and keep busy!

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.

