

FROM  
MARILYN GOLDEN VP  
membership@jgasgp.org



CHRONICLES, OUR  
QUARTERLY AWARD-  
WINNING JOURNAL:

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES BY  
JAN 2<sup>ND</sup> FOR THE WINTER  
EDITION TO OUR CHRONICLES  
EDITOR, EVAN FISHMAN,  
[editor@jgasgp.org](mailto:editor@jgasgp.org)

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

12/13/2021

Hi Everyone,

Joel Weintraub gave us a comprehensive overview with some fun visuals about the 1950 census. We all have work to do to prepare for our 1950's census research. We need to find the ED's (Enumeration Districts) and NARA Maps before we begin. You can read the review by Linda in the next issue of Chronicles. The handout from Joel (I sent it out) is comprehensive. You can also watch Joel's podcast, JDW Talks:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/JDWTalks>

If you missed his presentation or want to see it again go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/9LWjfwuziZdXVU9C8l6ySTv1FI7JvObSvQFEyJqBYDgLG937I-drWZbPpVtcinYv.jsmJeSPRMkpfFYww> Passcode: ZL74f&2Z

***It's time to renew your membership!***  
***Thanks so much to the members who have***  
***sent in payments!***  
***We are looking forward to a positive 2022!***

Only paid-up members will have access to our website receive Chronicles and meeting notices after December 31, 2021. **If paying by check, make sure you indicate the type of membership you**

**want.** Family \$35 is the same as Individual w/Chronicles mailed \$35, and I need to know what you want. That's why I ask everyone to fill out the interactive form.

Please contact **me** ([membership@jgasgp.org](mailto:membership@jgasgp.org)) if you have any dues related questions.

Contact **Jim** ([webmaster@jgasgp.org](mailto:webmaster@jgasgp.org)) with web access questions or receiving hard copy problems.

Contact **Evan** ([editor@jgasgp.org](mailto:editor@jgasgp.org)) with Chronicles article questions.

## Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

Look for our **Getting Started with Jewish Genealogy** under the Publications tab on our website for a comprehensive beginner's guide. Below are a few "beginner tips".

From your Friends at JewishGen!



- **Myth #1: Most Ashkenazic family surnames can be traced to BEFORE the 18th century —**  
RESPONSE: Most Jews did not have fixed hereditary surnames until the early 19th century. Before that, people were known only by their first name and a *patronymic*, i.e., their father's first name, e.g.: "Yaakov ben Shmuel" (in Hebrew), or "Yaakov Shmulovich" (in Russian), both meaning "Yaakov, the son of Shmuel".

Surname adoption for Jews began to be required by the various governments during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Austrian Empire (1787) was the first to require this and was followed by edicts from the Russian Tzar for the Pale of Settlement (in 1804, and again in 1835 and 1845), and for the Russian Kingdom of Poland (1821). Napoleon inspired France (1808) to take this modern step, which was followed by various German states: Frankfurt (1807), Baden (1809), Westphalia (1812), Prussia (1812), Bavaria (1813), Württemberg (1828), Posen (1833), and Saxony (1834). Jewish surnames were not required in Romania until the 1870s, or in Turkey until 1934.

- **Myth #2: Spelling of surnames is important —**  
RESPONSE: Spelling is irrelevant in genealogy, as the consistent spelling of names is a 20th-century

invention and obsession. Names were almost never spelled in a standard way in earlier records. For example, it is not unusual for the same person's name to be spelled Meyerson, Meirzon, Majersohn, etc. — they're all the same name. Transliteration from one language to another creates infinite spelling variances, e.g., there is no “H” sound in the Russian Cyrillic alphabet, so Jewish names such as “Hersh” might become “Gersh”, utilizing the “G” sound instead.

- **Myth #3: We have the same last name, so we are probably related —**

RESPONSE: Just because two people have the same surname, it does not necessarily mean that they are related. Very few Jewish surnames are *monogenetic*, i.e., having only a single progenitor with that surname. Many Jewish surnames (e.g.: Cohen, Levine, Katz, Kaplan, Weiss, Klein, Feldman, Greenberg, Friedman, Finkelstein, Epstein, most patronymics, etc.) are extremely common, each perhaps having hundreds of separate progenitors. Surnames derived from patronymics and occupations arose independently in towns throughout Eastern Europe, among non-related families. So, attempting to undertake genealogy based on surname matches alone is not always productive. Geographic-based matches are often more important than the surname matches.

- **Myth #4: Our family surname changed at Ellis Island —**

RESPONSE: No, it was not. Passenger lists were filled out at the port of embarkation by clerks hired by the steamship lines, or by the ship's purser, and then checked by U.S. customs or immigration authorities upon arrival. Thus, the names on these passenger lists are the European, pre-Americanized versions of names. No names were changed at Ellis Island. Immigrants changed their own names afterwards, to more easily recognized surnames, those which might match their already arrived relatives, or the name of someone who sponsored them to come to America, or even a name with perceived greater “yichus” or renown.

- **Myth #5: All of the vital and other family records were destroyed in the Holocaust —**

RESPONSE: Yes, some records were destroyed due to wartime conditions, but on the whole, the majority of records have survived and are available in archives throughout Europe and other areas of the Jewish diaspora. Particularly, there are large amounts of records available on JewishGen, as well as through a number of organizations that also have collected and preserved Holocaust-related documents, as well as the large accumulations of records in Israel, and many that are available through commercial entities.

- **Myth #6: Our ancestral town no longer exists —**

RESPONSE: Today, your ancestral town may not have a Jewish community which has survived, but it most likely still does exist. It might be in a different country or have a different name. More than 6,000 known Jewish communities can be searched in the [JewishGen Communities Database](#). Once you have identified your ancestral town and its present-day name, it is possible to locate records, visit the place, and involve yourself in learning more about your ancestors' lives, with the assistance of JewishGen and its various tools such as [Yizkor Books](#), [KehilaLinks](#), and the like.

- **Myth #7: People knew their birthdates —**

RESPONSE: Wrong, many immigrants did not know their birthdates. Entering the U.S. before 1924 required no documentation, just a ticket. Many brought no identification papers with them. Even if they knew their birthdates, it was usually in relation to a Jewish holiday (“the third day of Chanukah”), or a Hebrew date (“12th of Adar”). They had no easy way of translating this Jewish calendar date into the secular Gregorian calendar date. Many individuals decided to use American holidays, such as January 1st or July 4th, as their birthday. Also, some people adjusted their ages for various reasons: to avoid conscription into the military, to be eligible to vote, to enable them to obtain pensions, or to marry a younger person. It is said that the average woman's age decreased over seven years between every Federal census from 1900 through 1940.

- **Myth #8: Family Stories (“bubbe meises”) are absolutely true —**

RESPONSE: While many stories have germs of truth and should be investigated, often the stories are exaggerated. For example, “my great-grandfather was the tailor to the Tsar” (probably he sewed

uniforms for the Tsar's army); “my great-grandfather played in the Emperor's band” (perhaps the local band dedicated to the Emperor?); or “my great-grandfather was the chief rabbi of our ancestral town” (many men were ‘qualified’ as rabbis, but in daily life were milkmen, butchers, etc.). There are also *bubbe-meises* about the black sheep in families, and these too may be tracked down due to the prevalence of available records and knowledge about how to obtain documentation.

- **Myth #9: DNA Analysis is THE way to find out who is in your family —**

RESPONSE: DNA analysis can be an incredibly powerful and revolutionary genealogical tool, but it has to work in conjunction with other tools. Jewish DNA also presents a bit of a challenge. Because Jews are descended from a small group of people whose descendants have married one another for generations, autosomal tests often predict that Jews are much more closely related than they actually are. While autosomal predictions will be correct for very close relationships, matches beyond immediate family need to be investigated further -- using techniques including paying attention to the size of the segments. Traditional paper-trail research needs to be done to verify any suspected connection to a traceable common ancestor.

Y-DNA tests show if there is a common direct-male ancestor between two males, but because the vast majority of Ashkenazim have only had surnames for a couple of centuries, often there will not be matches with the same surname, as would be the case for most western Europeans. mtDNA looks at the direct female line, but because it mutates so infrequently, often there are hundreds of exact matches, whose common direct female ancestor may have been multiple centuries back, with no existing paper trail. All of these tests can be used to disprove genealogical theories, but they give only one more piece of evidence in proving a specific theory.

- **Myth #10: The United States Census provides the Truth about your American family —**

RESPONSE: Sometimes, the census is correct. However, the enumerator came to the door and questioned whomever he found there; be it a child or neighbor (he was paid by the line). It is important to compare multiple years of the census and other key records — such as birth, marriage and death records; passenger manifests; military draft records; naturalization documents, etc. — in order to approach “the truth” about your family, how they came to America, and what they did once they arrived. This part of genealogy research is one of the most rewarding for the information it can provide on your ancestors.

Thanks to JGASGP member, Helene Rosenfeldt for letting us know about this free guide with hints from Ancestry.com.



[INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIONS](#)

**Don't let your international history go undiscovered.**

Download our research guide to learn 3 steps to help discover your international ancestors, as well as our 7 tricks for tricky names.

[Download guide](#)

## Chronicles

\*\*\*\*\**CONTEST*\*\*\*\*\*

***If you've never written an article before, now is your chance to be entered in our end-of-the-year contest!***

***Our founding president, Harry Boonin, is awarding copies of his book *The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia*, to the first five JGASGP members who publish an article for *Chronicles* for the first time.***

***Don't worry about perfection.***

***Articles are edited and formatted to fit. Our editors will choose what will be published in the next issue. You will be informed if you 'win'!***

***Please submit articles to [editor@jgasgp.org](mailto:editor@jgasgp.org) ASAP. Let Evan know if you are working on an article The next deadline is January 2, 2022.***

*Do you have successes to share? Any unusual finds you'd like to share? We are all relentless in our pursuits and enjoy hearing from fellow members. Our editors are happy to help you with editing your article. If you're not sure your topic is appropriate, ask Evan.*

*We want to hear from you!*

Contact Jim, [webmaster@jgasgp.org](mailto:webmaster@jgasgp.org) for any questions about receiving your copy. Jim has posted all issues of Chronicles dating back to 1982 (Vol 1 # 1).

### Contributions

We would like to thank all members who are making generous donations. Each quarter we will publish the names of those donations received over \$10. Please consider donating for the IAJGS Conference 2022 today! Contribution's list will be published in our next Newsletter.

### From the President's Desk

It is my pleasure to soon say goodbye to 2021 and a joyful welcome to 2022! It has been quite a year! Just one year ago, the Pfizer vaccine was approved by the FDA followed by the Moderna and J and J vaccines. Last year at this time, our future was a big question mark. Now, most of us are fully vaccinated and have even had booster shots. I am so happy to be able to spend time in person with my extended family, including my two young grandchildren as well as my circle of friends!

At our final general meeting of this calendar year, held on December 12<sup>th</sup> we re-elected the current board to serve another two-year term. It has been a rewarding experience to serve as president of the JGASGP during this challenging time. I could not be prouder of the team effort of our board to sustain the society during Covid, and to bring about significant growth in membership, speakers, and community engagement. Kudos to our very active board and to all members. Thank you for sticking with us and helping us grow!

I would like to extend a special welcome to those of you have joined our society during 2021 and experienced our society 100% on Zoom and through our Facebook page, our beautiful website and through our publications. We hope to move to a hybrid meeting format this coming spring, prior to hosting the 2022 IAJGS international conference here in Philly next August. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months from past president Fred Blum, who is co-chair of this auspicious event.

From my family to yours, I wish you all a very happy holiday season and a continued return to normal life in 2022!

Felicia Mode Alexander

President: Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia (JGASGP)

[www.JGASGP.org](http://www.JGASGP.org)

The Nominating Committee of the Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia is proud to report that our election was held, and the following have maintained their 2-year positions:

President: Felicia Mode Alexander

Vice President (Programming): Mark Halpern

Vice President (Membership): Marilyn Mazer Golden

Secretary: Linda Ewall-Krocker

Treasurer: Tom Perloff

Submitted by Joel Spector for the JGASGP Nominating Committee

### Future JGASGP Zoom Meetings

**Currently all meetings are on the Zoom platform until further notice.**

\* Some meeting reminders:

1. Please **shut off your video** while you are eating your lunch.

2. Sign in 1-1:30 to ask questions, tell us about your finds or brick walls.

New members introduce themselves.

3. Please do not share the links. Our meetings are for members only and we appreciate your cooperation. The next meeting IS open to the public. We want people to get to know us.

4. The chat function between members will be turned off during the presentation.

5. Closed Captioning will be turned on during the meeting.

6. Please type your questions into the chat and they will be moderated during the Q and A. Please ask questions that are relevant to the presentation.

E-mail personal questions to me at [membership@jgasgp.org](mailto:membership@jgasgp.org).

7. The meetings will be recorded for **members** who are unable to attend. The link will be posted in the next JGASGP Newsletter.

### Save the dates:

**Sunday, January 2, 2022**

**Time: 1:00 PM check in, chat, and schmooze (Optional)**

**Official program starts promptly at 1:30**

**Speaker: Gil Bardige, Experienced Genealogist and Speaker**

**Topic: Help! I just got my Autosomal DNA Results and I'm Confused"**

**Date: January 23, 2022**

**Time: 1:00 PM EST check in, chat, and schmooze (Optional)**

**Official program starts promptly at 1:30**

**Speaker: Sydney Cruice Dixon, Professional Genealogist, Writer, and Lecturer**



**Topic: Analyzing Evidence and Sources for Genealogical Research - Forming Sound Genealogical Conclusions and Maximizing Indirect Evidence**

**Date: Sunday, February 13, 2022**

**Time: 1:00 PM EST check in, chat, and schmooze (Optional)**

**Official program starts promptly at 1:30**

**Speaker: Mark Olsen, Family Tree Maker Ambassador**

**Topic: What's New in Family Tree Maker Q and A Discussion**

**Sunday, March 6, 2022**

**Time: 1:00 PM check in, chat, and schmooze (Optional)**

**Official program starts promptly at 1:30**

**SPEAKER: Serafima Velkovich**

**TOPIC: TIPS FOR USING GENEALOGICAL SOURCES AT YAD VASHEM**

### Help Wanted

#### HELP US CREATE OUR OWN JGASGP FAMILY FINDER

We need someone who has the capability to make an interactive database on our website. Members will be able to input family names, where they are researching, and their e-mail if they want to be contacted by other members. The database needs to be sortable by name or town location.

Can you help us? You will be working with our webmaster, Jim ([webmaster@jgasgp.org](mailto:webmaster@jgasgp.org)). Contact Jim and me ([membership@jgasgp.org](mailto:membership@jgasgp.org)) ASAP so we can get started on this new feature of membership!

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### In the News

**The Wiener Holocaust Library in the United Kingdom** is the oldest Holocaust archive in the world and is one of the world's leading and most extensive archives on the Holocaust, the Nazi era and genocide. From its archival collection of Family Papers, it has created a map which traces a refugee family or family member's journey with individual records related to a specific location and period within their travels. Each record includes material such as letters, emigration documents, memoirs, photo albums, newspaper clippings, and interviews.

You can search the map by key terms, highlighted records, and curated themes.

To search the map, go to: <https://www.refugeemap.org/map>

When you click on a number, the list of refugees for that area opens and then you chose which refugee and click on that name to find the records available on the Wiener Holocaust Library.





**FamilySearch opened registration to RootsTech 2022.** It's the largest family history event in the world held online March 3–5, 2022. Register for free at [www.rootstech.org](http://www.rootstech.org) today. RootsTech 2022 will be a virtual-only experience, with some enhancements and improvements.

A new set of educational classes will be featured during 2022, along with new technologies to explore in the virtual expo hall, and inspiring stories shared by a fascinating line-up of keynote speakers.

Classes for the event will have a mix of on-demand, livestream, and interactive sessions that will allow attendees to learn, grow and connect to people all over the globe. Participants will also be able to connect with fellow attendees, speakers, experts, and enthusiasts. In 2022, the planners of RootsTech are looking to take that experience to the next level.

For more information go to:

<https://media.familysearch.org/ready-to-connect-rootstech-2022-registration-is-now-open/>

**1000 recovered pre-Holocaust photos of Jews from Cluj / Kolosvar identified by name to be digitized, researched, and posted**



**EVREI LUI SÁRDI**  
 PORTRETE DE EVREI CLUJENI  
 DIN ARHIVA  
 FOTO /  
**SÁRDI**  
 1935 - 1944  
 UN PROIECT RENASCENDIS ȘI ARHIVA DE FOTOGRAFIE  
 COFINANȚĂT DE AECN

About 4000 photos taken between 1935-1944 in Cluj by Elemér Sárdi, a local professional photographer, were recovered by a local NGO. About 1000 of those are of Jews that lived in Kolosvar just before the Holocaust, or nearly 10% of the town's total Jewish population. Those photos are being digitized and posted individually on Facebook on a nearly daily basis.

The uniqueness of the archive is that each photo was enclosed in an envelope with the name of the

person in the photo. [The NGO that is running the entire project](#) is researching each name that appears on the envelopes against sites such as Yad Vashem etc to learn about each person's destiny. While many have perished in the Holocaust, some have survived.

It's well worth following those daily photos, I was amazed to find one of my relatives in a previously unknown photo posted a few days ago. She's one of the survivors...

[All photos here](#). Photo descriptions are bilingual (Romanian & English). Theo Rafael

The [gates of Har Nebo](#) are now open from 8:30-4:30 on Sundays. ([harnebo.com](#)). On the website you can request that the gates be opened and schedule an unveiling.

Schedule a visit below:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbqEVLqBupMF7zOfKusRB2ZlIVxyfRVGzIPPBlo\\_88GWkTWQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbqEVLqBupMF7zOfKusRB2ZlIVxyfRVGzIPPBlo_88GWkTWQ/viewform)

**Many of us heard the Genealogy of the Three Stooges. Now we can schedule a visit to the museum!**



**THE STOOGUEUM** IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE OUR PLANS TO REOPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN A LIMITED CAPACITY

STARTING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 2021.



## **The Stoogeum is now accepting appointment requests!**

The Stoogeum is pleased to announce that we have made appointments available in a limited capacity.



As we adapt to new operating procedures, we ask for your patience and understanding throughout this process.

Visiting The Stoogeum will be available by appointment only and requests will be honored at the discretion of The Stoogeum's staff. You can submit an appointment request by filling out the visitor request form at [stoogeum.com/visit](http://stoogeum.com/visit), emailing [info@stoogeum.com](mailto:info@stoogeum.com), or by calling The Stoogeum and leaving a message at 267-468-0810.

For the foreseeable future, we will be opening our appointment calendar by listing available dates on [stoogeum.com/visit](http://stoogeum.com/visit), where you will be directed to an appointment request form. Private appointments are scheduled in two-hour blocks, morning appointments are scheduled from 10 am to 12 pm and afternoon appointments are scheduled for 2 pm to 4 pm.

Each appointment slot is limited so when a slot becomes full, that date and time will be removed as an option. Same day appointments and walk-ins cannot be accommodated at this time.

For [December 2021](#), the following dates are available for appointments:

Thursday December 9, 2021  
Friday December 10, 2021  
Tuesday December 14, 2021  
Thursday December 16, 2021  
Friday December 17, 2021  
Monday December 20, 2021  
Tuesday December 21, 2021  
Thursday December 30, 2021  
Friday December 31, 2021

For your safety and ours, The Stoozeum requires face coverings for all visitors aged 2 and over inside the museum, regardless of vaccination status. As new information becomes available, this policy may change. Disposable adult face masks will be available for visitors who have forgotten theirs. Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the galleries. If you are not feeling well, we ask that you reschedule your visit. The Stoozeum is not available as an event venue as we still do not permit food and drink in the galleries. The museum continues to maintain a no-photography and no-videography policy.

[Schedule an appointment to visit The Stoozeum!](#)

### Membership Dues and News

**It's time to renew your membership! Access to the members only section of our website will be accessible by paid members only after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.**

**Thanks to everyone who has sent in their renewal membership.**

Thanks to everyone for spreading the word about our fabulous society! Renewals can be sent in via PayPal (under the membership tab on our website) or a mailed check. Please indicate which type of membership you are paying for if sending in a check.

Our fiscal year runs from **January 1<sup>st</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**. Our 2022 membership form is on our website. \$10 extra for printed Chronicles. Only active members will have access to our new members only portal on our website, receive the JGASGP Newsletter and emailed **Chronicles**. All meetings are for paid members only except for our annual Steve Shecter Memorial Lecture.

### Podcasts, Webinars, and Zoom Meetings of Interest



**December 19, 2021.**

**1:30 PM EST**

**Vilnius, The Jerusalem of Lithuania**

*Daniel Gurevich*

**Explore Vilna, known as “the Jerusalem of Lithuania,” once European Jewry’s intellectual, spiritual, and political capital.** Daniel Gurevich will begin the program with a brief overview of Lithuanian history and Vilnius’ place in it. Then through a virtual tour of Vilnius, including many personal stories, our journey will focus on the city’s dynamic, painful, and rich history, the enduring legacy of the Vilna Gaon and the sometimes-contentious contemporary rebirth taking place within the local Jewish community.

**Daniel Gurevich** is a native of Vilnius and serves as general manager of the Jerulita Travel Agency. He leads tours that center on Jewish heritage, history, religion, and culture, specifically including the Holocaust and relations between Jews and other local people. He has spoken extensively about Vilnius and Lithuania.

Recorded program will be available on the Members-Only Page

Non-members

[Click here](#) to pay \$5.00 fee to receive the Zoom link.

**First-time members**, who join between now and December 31 will receive membership through **December 2022**. **First-time Members join [here](#)**.

**IGRA Free Webinar “The Krakovsky Documents: Utilization of the Data by the Ukraine Research Group and Its Preservation on JewishGen”**

Join the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) for our upcoming free webinar, “The Krakovsky Documents: Utilization of the Data by the Ukraine Research Group and Its Preservation on JewishGen” by **Joel Spector** on **December 19th, 7 pm Israel Time, 12 pm ET**

Advance registration required:

<https://zoom.us/j/7149244444>

For several years, Alex Krakovsky, a Ukrainian Jew, has been scanning metrical and census records found in long-closed Ukrainian archives. He has placed the indexes, in Cyrillic, on a webpage where they can easily be accessed by anyone interested. This presentation will first discuss the origin and method of Alex’s data acquisition, and then give an overview of the contents of his site.

The Ukraine Research Group, formerly the Ukraine SIG, has begun a project to make English language indexes to these documents available. I will describe the Group’s current Metrical Records Project, whose purpose is to transliterate components of the documents and make the data available for researchers on JewishGen.

Joel L. Spector is a Past President of the Jewish Genealogical [and Archival] Society of Greater Philadelphia, where he has also been chairperson of its Russian Special Interest Group. He is a former Secretary of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) and now serves as its Archivist. Currently Joel is a member of the Ukraine Research Division 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. 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.

Elena Biegel Bazes

IGRA Publicity Chair

Be sure to check the [2021 Comprehensive Calendar of Genealogical Events](#) compiled by the [Bucks County Genealogical Society](#) for more events and lectures!

**Podcasts:** <https://conferencekeeper.org/genealogy-podcasts/>

We Share the Same Sky by Rachael Cerrotti

**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/>

**Check our Facebook page for additional postings by our Facebook group members.**

### Resource Suggestions:



#### **Ancestry® Facebook Live**

Have you joined us yet for a Facebook Live? I spend 15 minutes or so talking about the topic du jour and then another 15 minutes doing live audience Q&A related to the topic. We do this on the Ancestry Facebook page every other Tuesday or so. Here's the whole playlist of past videos:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/7483836629/2043384795940392> If you aren't able to watch live, you can always catch the replay later at the link above.

And, if you follow the page, you'll get notified whenever a LIVE session starts.

#### **Instagram Stories and IGTV**

Do you follow me on Instagram yet? We have so much fun. I share tips and tricks and little glimpses into my life on my Instagram Stories. Today, I'm running a poll to see how you work on your trees - leaves or a plan? Barefoot or in socks? Is your tree a working tree or a conclusion tree?

Go check it out and share your opinions here:

<https://www.instagram.com/stories/cristacowan/2672355487483403528/>

I also started a series on IGTV called, "Stories From My Back Porch." It's been fun to settle down in the evening with a little story time. It's so important that we tell our family stories and, hopefully, I've modeled some ways to do that.

You can find the whole series here: <https://www.instagram.com/cristacowan/channel/>

Well, that's all for now.

Until next time ...

Have fun climbing your family tree!

Crista

#### **FindMyPast Retrieves Gazetteer Information for UK Censuses**

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter reports that FindMyPast has added a new feature to help researchers learn more about where their ancestors lived. FindMyPast's 1891, 1901 and 1911 UK census transcripts now provide key information on the surrounding local area. Sourced from FindMyPast's Comprehensive Gazetteer of England and Wales 1895, transcripts now provide valuable contextual information and color maps on the cities, towns, villages and parishes our ancestors called home.





The company states that by automatically connecting census transcripts to more than 25,000 Gazetteer entries from every county in England and Wales, researchers around the world paint are given a fuller picture of their ancestor's lives.

Additional information is at <https://eogn.com/page-18080/10983660>.

### **The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA)**

IGRA does its utmost to allow the material to be searched both in Hebrew and English. Our search engine allows you to search either with exact results or phonetic matches. The rules of transliteration we follow may not always show the name as you think the names of the person were spelled. It is best to search in both Hebrew and English.

You can begin your search after [registering to the website](#). Use of the [search engine](#) registering to the website is free, but details and available scans can only be seen if you have a paid subscription.

Enjoy.

MyHeritage Ltd., P.O. Box 50, 3 Ariel Sharon Blvd., Or Yehuda, Israel 6037606, Israel, +972-3-6280000

Evan shared this article and Youtube links that are full of information.

### **A New look at NEW YORK Immigrant Passenger Manifests:**

Steve's Genealogy Blog. <https://stephendanko.com/blog/268>. Louise Cooke put the information in a document that we can print out and use as a guide. [https://lialouisecooke.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Passenger\\_Manifests.pdf](https://lialouisecooke.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Passenger_Manifests.pdf)

### **There are two youtube videos that shed light on this topic:**

1. JGSLI: "8 Pieces of Information on a Passenger Manifest"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sg4IZOPRJfE>

2. Crista Cowen/Ancestry: "Naturalization Records: What They Tell Me and Where to Find Then/Ancestry"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80BNRJGqSb0>

### **Sephardic World Lectures on YouTube**

*Sephardic World* is a weekly series on online talks, lectures and discussions on Sephardic genealogy, history, and culture. They are broadcast live on YouTube on Sunday afternoons, European time, and Sunday mornings, American time. Currently there are 40 videos online. They also publish an online newsletter.

Connect with Sephardic World at <https://tinyurl.com/3dtx3hyv>.

### **Sign up for "Nu? What's New?" The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy**

Keep abreast of the most recent news in Jewish genealogy. Be informed of what is going on in Jewish genealogy worldwide. Read about the latest discoveries in DNA and how it can influence your methods of research.



Subscribe to Nu? What's New? our weekly e-mail magazine. Each week (usually on Sunday) you will receive a copy of this publication by e-mail. The cost is only \$12 per year; that's only \$1 per month or about 25 cents per issue.

**Sign up for the Family History Daily and receive a free comprehensive genealogy checklist!**

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/your-most-common-genealogy-questions-answered/>

**Your Most Common Genealogy Questions Answered**

Family History Daily has produced an article on "Your Most Common Genealogy Questions Answered." Many are oriented toward the needs of people starting their family history research, but others, such as "Is there a good way to break down a brick wall" applies to all levels of research

**The Historical Society of Pennsylvania**

With more than 21 million items in our collections, from diaries and letters to deeds and directories, HSP is one of the most complete and professional genealogy centers in the nation—and the largest in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, HSP is currently closed until further notice. You can contact them for more information.

<https://www.portal.hsp.org//for-genealogy>

**GenealogyBank** has created a four-part series titled "Easy Guide to Citing Source's in Genealogy."

Citing your sources is an important part of documenting your family history.

The four parts are located at:

- <https://tinyurl.com/kncb2w2x>
- <https://tinyurl.com/5d4tkyfp>
- <https://tinyurl.com/t9ptmrx>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y5bfn4ab>

**Recommended Genealogy Websites with links.**

**Thanks to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston for this list!**

**JewishGen**

"The first source to go to for Jewish Genealogy." Info files by topic and country. Family Finder, Family Tree of the Jewish People, Yizkor book translations and more. First Timer videos for the beginner.

**Ancestry**

Comprehensive source for U.S. and foreign materials. Free at many libraries. Paid subscription needed. for home use after free trial period

**Family History Library Catalog**

World's largest collection of genealogical records available on microfilm and online.

**My Heritage**

International genealogy research website and social network service. Available by paid subscription.

**Ellis Island**

For immigrant arrival records from 1892-1924. Use the Steve Morse website (next) for easier searches.

### [Steve Morse](#)

Find your ancestors more effectively in the Ellis Island database and the U.S. and N.Y. census. A wealth of other genealogical material.

### [Routes to Roots Foundation](#)

Identifies which Jewish vital records can be found in state archives in Eastern Europe.

### [Yad Vashem](#)

World's largest searchable database of Holocaust victims' names and information.

### [Center for Jewish History](#)

Located in NYC; a partnership of major institutions: American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum; genealogy research library.

### [JRI-Poland](#) (Home of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland)

Database of indices to the 19th century Jewish vital records of Poland.

### [Italian Genealogy Group](#)

They have digitized many New York based vital records, especially bride and groom indexes.

### [Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston](#)

Monthly educational programs, extensive reference library of worldwide resources, one-on-one assistance. Check out their calendar

## Volunteers:

**\*We are co-hosting the IAJGS 2022 Conference in Philadelphia!**

**We will need a lot of help to plan the best experience possible for our guests! We will need a lot of help to be successful and show off our fabulous organization!**

**There will be numerous opportunities. We are preparing a list of opportunities.**

**Be on the lookout for a new survey monkey in January! We love our volunteers.**

**Many members have worked on our new Resource Guide. It will be ready on our website before the 2022 conference.**



Check our Facebook page for additional postings by our Facebook group members.

#### Website Update

### It's time to renew your membership!

190 members have registered for our new [jgasgp.org](http://jgasgp.org) website! If you need help contact Jim, [webmaster@jgasgp.org](mailto:webmaster@jgasgp.org). Send your personal photos to Jim to be included in a future slideshow! If you haven't seen the slideshow yet, check it out! FYI: Jim has uploaded all past issues of *Chronicles*, from the original issue in 1982 through Winter 2020 under "Chronicles".

#### Condolences



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 for me to share.



Hope everyone had a Happy Chanukah. Enjoy this photo of Boathouse Row provided by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

If you watched the program of lighting up the 'lights', the music we heard was provided by the EYAL VILNER BIG BAND from their album called, "Hanukkah"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXNZhGeKZ\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXNZhGeKZ_0) (check out his big band swing dance music) It was a lot of fun to hear 'swing' Hanukkah music.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Whatever you and your family celebrate, may you remain happy, healthy, busy, and positive.

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.