



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

11/15/2022

Hi Everyone,

FROM
MARILYN GOLDEN VP
membership@jgasgp.org



CHRONICLES: THE FALL EDITION WILL
BE EMAILED AROUND THANKSGIVING.

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE SPRING
TO OUR EDITOR, EVAN FISHMAN,
editor@jgasgp.org

On Sunday we listened to Dr. Andrew Zalewski, Author, Speaker, and Galicia Historian. His topic was "The Path to Modernity: The Jews of Galicia". We received a history lesson that was fascinating.

If you are a Galicia researcher, make sure you are also a member of <https://www.geshergalicia.org/> Look for Linda's review in a future issue of Chronicles.

There is a podcast with **Dr. Andrew Zalewski** Talking About his Years at Gesher Galicia.

If you want to learn more: I spoke with Andrew recently and I think you will find our conversation to be very interesting. You can listen to the podcast here.

We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions at info@geshergalicia.org.

*Sincerely, Dr. Steven S. Turner
President, Gesher Galicia*

We did receive a lot of compliments after the meeting. I had some glitches with the Wi-Fi and my computer froze during the Q and A. I hope we were able to answer all questions from the audience.

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

Two great resources are available on our website:

Getting Started with Jewish Genealogy
(Under the Publications Tab)

**Greater Philadelphia Genealogical
Resource Guide 2022**
(Sign in and look under the Resources Tab)



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL
AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY
OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Greater Philadelphia Jewish
Genealogical Resource Guide

Where We Lived
42nd IAJGS Conference
on Jewish Genealogy
iajgs2022.org



BOOK CLUB UPDATE

The link will be sent out to all on the morning of each meeting.

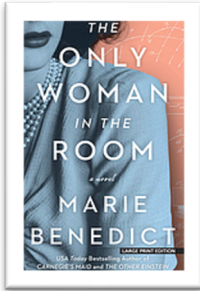
There is now a scroll down on our website for future book club meetings. Look under the "Events" tab.

Thank you **Rebecca** for leading our discussion of **Red Sea Spies: The True Story of Mossad's Fake Diving Resort** by Raffi Berg. The book is much more detailed than the fictionalized tv movie.

Book Club Meeting #7

Book Club Meeting #7 will be held on November 30th at 7:30.

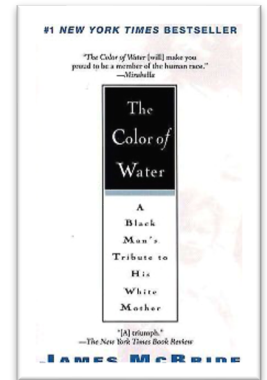
Book selection: **The Only Woman in the Room** by Marie Benedict



Book Club Meeting #8

Book Club Meeting #8 will be held on December 28 at 7:30.

Book selection: **The Color of Water** by James McBride



CHRONICLES

Look for the next issue around Thanksgiving.

Please submit your well-thought-out and organized stories to editor@jgasgp.org. Our editors will correct grammar and refine your text so that it's top notch. Please be sure that all links work and documents and photos are not copyrighted by someone else. Please let us know that you have something in the works.

Before submitting your article, have someone else read what you wrote to ensure



Note our "call for articles" challenge encouraging first time contributors to Chronicles. The first five "newbies" will receive a copy of genealogist extraordinaire, Dan Rottenberg's book, The Education of a Journalist, My Seventy Years on the Frontiers of Free Speech.

Thank you.

Evan Fishman editor@jgasgp.org

Chronicles is posted on our website. Contact Jim, webmaster@jgasgp.org for any questions about receiving your hard copy. Jim has posted all issues of Chronicles dating back to 1982 (Vol 1 # 1).

CONTRIBUTIONS

We would like to thank members who have made generous donations to our society. Your continued kindness is greatly appreciated.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Thanksgiving greetings to you all! I would like to share a few thoughts with you today about our upcoming 40th Anniversary Gala to be held on Dec. 11, 2022. If you have not yet registered, I hope you will still do so and join this long awaited gathering. However, the deadline is coming up soon... on Nov. 22, 2022, so do not delay.

Following months of work by our planning group, it is exciting this event will be happening IN PERSON! Although virtual meetings have helped us through the terrible months of isolation during the pandemic, we can finally see each other without the necessity of computer screens, filters and Zoom. Best of all, for those of us who choose to do so, we can once again greet each other with handshakes, hugs, or fist bumps. By the way, if you have not yet seen it, the menu looks scrumptious!! Open your virtual invitation again to see all of the yummy treats we will enjoy together.

As you know, this celebration will be honoring our 40 years as a Jewish genealogy society and our first president, Harry Boonin. Imagine being affiliated with an organization from its inception through more than 4 decades of growth and STILL being an active member after all those years! Harry has been a true mentor to me as president for the last three years, although even Harry could not have predicted what serving as president in a pandemic would be like! A common thread shared by Harry's acquaintances is his willingness to help anyone interested in Jewish history and genealogy...he is a true mensch! Harry and his family will be among the celebrants joining us for the luncheon and we will all be able to share special memories with them.

Last but not least, a special feature of the 40th Celebration will be our "show and tell" display tables where members can share their own family trees, photos, and artifacts for all to view. If you plan to bring display materials, please notify Marilyn Golden asap @membership@jgasgp.org

Once again, have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Enjoy each and every moment with your family and friends. I look forward to greeting and/or meeting you at our 40th Celebration next month!

Warmly,

Felicia Mode Alexander

President, JGASGP

JGASGP MEETING SCHEDULE

Hybrid meetings will continue! The link will be sent out and posted on the HOME page of our website on Friday prior to each meeting. Link reminders are sent out on Sunday mornings.

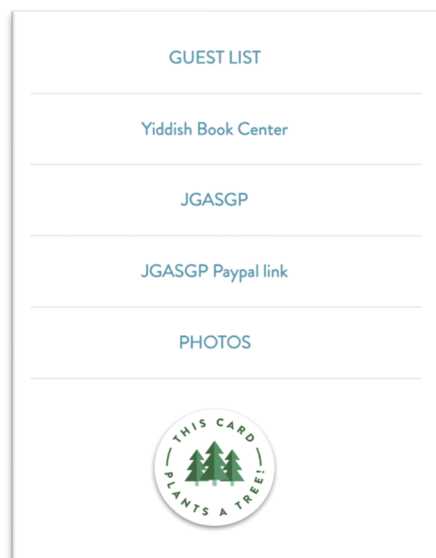
Most of our programs will be recorded with the permission of the guest lecturer. **If anyone does not wish to be recorded, please do not participate in the live program.** All cameras will be turned off during the lecture but may be turned on during the Q and A. Thank you for your cooperation.

Read updates and detailed descriptions on our website.

Date: Sunday, December 11, 2022



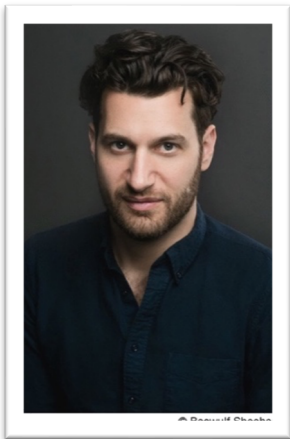
We have 86 attending so far. We have members showing off their family research with special displays. Did you want to display yours? LET ME KNOW ASAP! We have some terrific door prizes too!



You should have received your e-invite. PLEASE RSVP and remit payment by Nov 22nd. Make sure you look on the right side of the invitation and scroll down until you see the three trees.

<https://jgasgp.org/make-reservations> \$50 per person Feel free to invite guests. All payments must be received by November 22nd.

Date: Sunday, January 8, 2023



Time: 1:30

A joint presentation of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal and the Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia

Speakers: Menachem Kaiser, author, to be interviewed by Dan Rottenberg, author and journalist

Topic: Book Talk: Plunder: A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure

Location: ZOOM co-hosted with JGS of Montreal

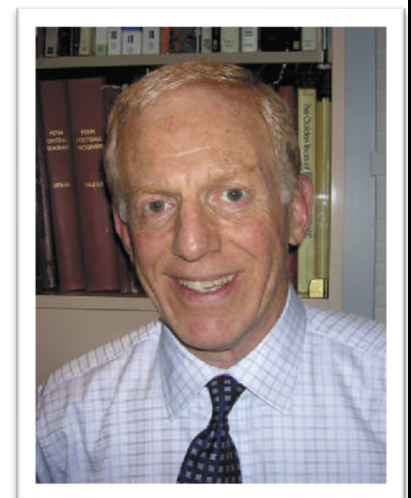
The book is available everywhere including e-book versions. The full title is ***Plunder: A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure***. You can find a New York Times review at <https://www.ny-times.com/2021/03/08/books/review-plunder-memoir-family-property-nazi-treasure-menachem-kaiser.html>. Menachem's website is <https://mnchm.com/>.

Menachem Kaiser is a writer living in Brooklyn, NY. His debut memoir, *Plunder*, won the 2022 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and was named a New York Times' Critics Best Book of the Year.

Dan Rottenberg, a member of JGASGP, is an author, editor, and journalist. He is best known to us as the author of *Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy* published in 1977. This book was instrumental in the growth of pursuit of Jewish family histories.

Topic: In Conversation with Menachem Kaiser, award winning author of *Plunder: A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure*

This book describes the author's quest to reclaim his family's apartment building in Poland — and of the astonishing entanglement with Nazi treasure hunters that follows.



Date: Sunday, January 29, 2023

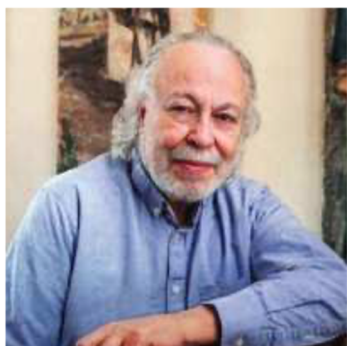
Time: 1:00 PM check in, chat, and schmooze (Optional)

Official program starts promptly at 1:30

Topic: Topic: Book Talk - The Stolen Narrative of the Bulgarian Jews and the Holocaust

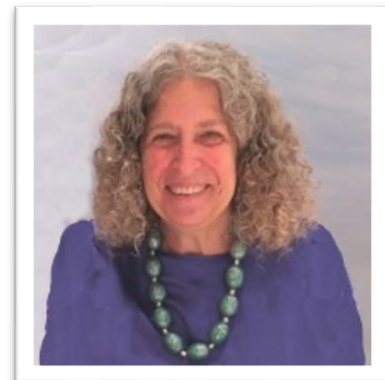
Location: Via Zoom

Speakers: Jacky Comforty, Award-winning documentary filmmaker, oral historian and media creator and Martha Bloomfield, Award-winning author, oral historian, and artist



Jacky is an internationally acclaimed, award-winning documentary filmmaker, oral historian and media creator who has worked for over thirty-five years creating films and videos in the United States, Germany, Israel, and Bulgaria. He has worked on groundbreaking films in Holocaust Studies. He is the director, editor, producer, and distributor of three full-length documentaries and a dozen short videos about the Holocaust.

Martha is an award-winning author, oral historian, artist, and independent scholar who has written several books about immigrants, migrants and the formerly homeless. In an effort to help dissipate prejudice and discrimination, she conducts oral histories to discover people's voices and stories to share within the social historical contexts with other people.



Topic: Book Talk - *The Stolen Narrative of the Bulgarian Jews and the Holocaust*

The speakers share a complex tapestry of voices and memories previously underrepresented, ignored and denied. It is an alternative perspective that includes stolen, silenced but now reclaimed Jewish narratives based on our peoples' experiences. It contextualizes and personalizes the history, reconstructs the puzzle, praises those who helped the Jews and shares their exemplary acts of humanity for future generations. It fills a void in the Bulgarian Holocaust literature—specifically first-hand accounts of memory of survivors, eyewitnesses, photographs, official publications, laws, and newspaper articles. They will also talk about the importance of oral histories and their journey together to write this ground-breaking book. Jacky will also share an excerpt of the movie he is working on based on their book

Date: Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM check in, chat, and schmooze (Optional) Official program starts promptly at 1:30

Speaker: Emily Garber Writer, Speaker, and Professional Genealogist

Topic: Topic: It's Hard to Say, 'Good-bye': Russian Jews Emigration to the United States

Location: Via Zoom



Genealogy researcher, writer and speaker, Emily is an anthropological archaeologist by training and has been researching her family history since 2007. She holds a certificate from Boston University's Genealogical Research program and owns Extra Yad Genealogical Services. Emily blogs at <https://extrayad.blogspot.com/>, has written two books and several articles on genealogical research that have appeared in Avotaynu. She serves as chair of the Phoenix Jewish Genealogy Group, and a member of the Board of Directors of both the IAJGS and the Arizona Jewish Historical Society.

Topic: It's Hard to Say, 'Good-bye': Russian Jews Emigration to the United States

There were times when it was more difficult for many Jews to leave the Russian Empire than to enter the United States. What did emigrants have to do to get from their towns of origin to their ports of departure? What were the steps they had to take before leaving their communities? What did the Russian government require of potential emigrants? How and where did emigrants acquire tickets to sail? What routes might our ancestors have taken to get from their homes to ports of departure?

This presentation will answer these general questions and suggest how we can find likely answers for our relatives.

Date: Sunday, May 21, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM check in, chat, and schmooze (Optional) Official program starts promptly at 1:30

Speakers: Tammy Hepps, Local Historian and Genealogist

Topic: The Ancestor Deep-Dive: How You Can Find Out Everything There Possibly is to Know About Your Ancestor

Location: Hybrid Meeting – In-person venue TBD



Tammy is a genealogist and local historian who focuses on topics within American Jewish history, especially small towns, and synagogues. Her projects combine research techniques from genealogy and history and draw heavily upon her technology expertise to break new ground in data gathering and interpretation. She is best known for her community reconstitution project focusing on the Jewish community of Homestead, PA, available online at HomesteadHebrews.com. Tammy earned her AB in computer science from Harvard.

Topic: The Ancestor Deep-Dive: How You Can Find Out Everything There Possibly is to Know About Your Ancestor

Too often our research is driven by sources. We look for an ancestor in all the sources we've heard about, and we only break new ground when we hear about new ones. How do we assess how comprehensive our search has been? How do we know if we're even on the right path to get the answers we

long for? This presentation will teach a methodology for creating a research plan centered on the discoveries we want to make, not just the sources we think we are limited to.

HELP WANTED

HAR JEHUDA CEMETERY ADOPTION

We are very happy to announce that the project to digitize Har Jehuda records is a go!!!

We need a team of volunteers willing to spend some time at the cemetery to help digitize the records. You can work in their office or scan records and work from home.



No, you won't be using the typewriter in the picture, unless you are an expert in Hebrew! We have a spreadsheet from JewishGen's JOWBR with easy instructions to follow.



If you live close by to the cemetery and wish to be part of this project, contact me. We will be setting up a Zoom meeting after Thanksgiving. They have a comfy chair and space to work. Kathy, the secretary is very sweet and helpful too! Here is a photo of Larry Moskowitz, President of Har Jehuda, showing us his file boxes of over 20,000 records!

Har Nebo Restoration has begun!

Dear JGASGP Members,

Hi! On behalf of the [Friends of Jewish Cemeteries](#) it would be helpful to do some Family Group Records (FGR) on the individual/families in our pilot #2 location at Har Nebo or in an area at Har Jehuda which is planned for conservation and restoration in 2023. Last year JGASGP members and others played a leading role in telling some amazing stories of mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, nurses, soldiers, cantors, and others. This activity helped create a more vibrant insight into those at rest to honor their memories.

If interested, please email Rich Blumberg, rich.blumberg@comcast.net who will assign you a name. This research helps tell the stories of individuals/families which will be part of an upcoming community report (here's the [one from last year](#)). The focus is to draft 5 or 6 sentences which can help tell their story at a high level.

In addition, you can provide a Family Group Record on your family members at Har Nebo or Har Jehuda. It's recommended to zero in on the oldest member of the family and provide a photo (which is optional or photo of the stone). Up to 1 or 2 stories per family is appreciated.

The timing for turning in the FGR would be for mid-December, but more time can be arranged if needed.

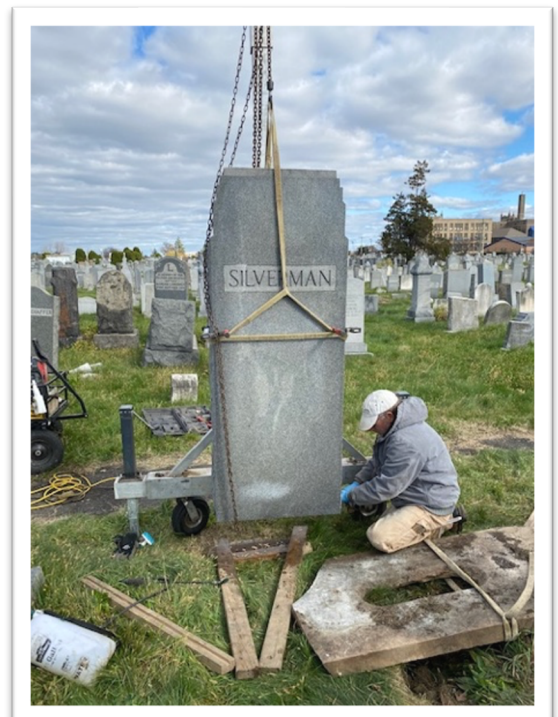
Also, if you are interested in helping put together the [Community Report](#), I can share more about what's involved (e.g. light editing, formatting). The report will come out during the Winter of 2023!

Thanks for your consideration!

Regards,
Rich

Attached: Family Group Record | Background

P.S. FYI: The Har Nebo pilot project work is underway...



IN THE NEWS



Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center
Preserving History to Learn From the Past | Est. 1961

<https://mobile.hamec.yourcultureconnect.com/experiences>



We were pleased to attend the HAMEC Gala which honored our board member, Adam Denish.

Also honored was Jacqueline Cherepinsky-Schmidt. You can read her bio on HAMEC's website.

Here is impressive write-up about Adam from their website.

Adam Denish was born and raised in Northeast Philadelphia and always desired to be a veterinarian. Adam completed his undergraduate degree at Beaver College, (now Arcadia University) and went on to veterinary school at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been the owner and lead doctor of Rhawnhurst Animal Hospital and Elkins Park Veterinary Hospital and Boarding Kennel for over 22 years. Previously, Adam served as the director of veterinary medicine for the Elmwood Park Zoo and the selected veterinarian for the City of Philadelphia K-9 Department.

Outside of his veterinary hospital work, Adam heads the board of the Belize Zoo Neotropical Conservancy and travels to Belize once a year to work on animals like jaguars, toucans, and howler monkeys while raising money for conservation projects. Adam also sits on the board for the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, working to make a difference in the lives of future veterinarians. Recently, Adam became a board member for the Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of

Greater Philadelphia. He is honored to work with this wonderful organization and collaborate with HAMEC on mutually beneficial projects.

Adam met Chuck Feldman about 11 years ago as an office neighbor who had a mutual interest in Philadelphia sports memorabilia. Their chats quickly shifted to a shared belief in the importance of Holocaust education. Adam's daughter Melissa, participated in the Witness to History Project - learning and sharing Ronnie Breslow's amazing story. That experience strengthened Adam's interest in helping HAMEC grow and ensure that important stories like Ronnie's are preserved.

Adam's board duties include co-chair of the Special Events Committee of HAMEC for many years, helping with the annual Gala and silent auction. He shares the mission of HAMEC with anyone who will listen and eagerly devotes time to bringing friends and donors to the museum. In the future, Adam plans to continue to support HAMEC's mission and dedicate time to remembering the survivors and their families.

Adam lives in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania with his wife Andrea and their menagerie of pets. They are avid followers of their children, Melissa and Jordan.

Learn more about HAMEC on their website. You can send a donation in Adam's name to them. They provide Holocaust education in the schools. Never Again!

MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIETY NEWS

It's time to renew for 2023! 406 members in 2022. Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues. Not sure if you paid? Just ask me.

MAKE SURE YOU REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE!
It is NOT automatic because you are a JGASGP member.

Only paid-up members have access to all areas of our website, JGASGP Newsletters, Chronicles, and meeting notices. Members have access to our members only portal. Tell your friends!

*Contact Marilyn (me) (membership@jgasgp.org) if you have any dues related questions.
Contact Jim (webmaster@jgasgp.org) with web access questions or receiving hard copy problems.*

Contact Evan (editor@jgasgp.org) with Chronicles article questions.

Our fiscal year runs from January 1st - December 31st, 2023.

Our 2023 membership form is on our website. \$10 extra for printed Chronicles.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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Har Jehuda Cemetery Cleanup

(8400 Lansdowne Ave, Upper Darby)

Sunday November 20, 2022 | 9am to 11am



Volunteers are asked to bring their own tools to use:
lawnmowers, weed trimmers, shovels, clippers,
hedgers, gloves, wheelbarrows, and other gardening
tools to help prune, rake

Thank you for your consideration to join us. If you plan
to attend please RSVP to Rebecca Parmet

This effort will be led by grassroots volunteers

drparmet@gmail.com

WEBINARS, CONFERENCES, PODCASTS, AND MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Thanks to Walt Spector for letting us know about the First Friday Genealogy
Group!

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

[Meets at the City Archives 6th and Spring Garden Sts.](#)

[Free parking in the Target lot! Chat and chew open to all!](#)

WEBSITE UPDATE

Check out our new features! Our book club is listed under our events page!

MAKE SURE YOU REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE!

It is NOT automatic because you are a JGASGP member.

If you need help contact Jim, 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!

CONDOLENCES



Burton L. Bobman, long time member of JGASGP

Passed away on October 27, 2022. Husband of Eileen Bobman (nee Golove). Father of Stuart (Juli) Bobman and David (Dorothy) Bobman. Grandfather of Rachael, Sarah, Michael, and Jennifer. Contributions in his memory may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, www.michaeljfox.org. www.goldsteinsfuneral.com

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. 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.

