

# JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY

OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

1/8/2023

FROM
MARILYN GOLDEN VP
membership@jgasgp.org



Hi Everyone,

We just had our first joint meeting with the JGS of Montreal! We had 79 in attendance. In discussion with Menachem Kaiser and Dan Rottenberg. Menachem gave us an overview of how he got started writing his book. Dan asked some poignant challenging questions that sparked some deep discussion.

Please read **PLUNDER** and join us for our next book club meeting. Make sure you read the book if you plan on joining us. It's a prerequisite for attendance!

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)

When asked for beginner's advice recently about joining multiple genealogy sites, I gave my usual answer. "Each

site provides different information. Not all documents are on every site. Not all people are on all sites. The more you spread yourself around, the more opportunities you have for success. Unfortunately, there is no one good place to look. Sometimes you have to pay. Will I get my money's worth? Well, that depends on what you are looking for and what you find".

FamilySearch.org is free. I have put my immediate family tree information on that site. I have been able to view actual documents that are indexed on JewishGen, but NOT available to be seen. I am sent emails when documents are available on FamilySearch. (I have that option checked) Much to my surprise, I received an e-mail about my great grandfather Morris' second marriage. I've been searching for this marriage license and was preparing to pay for this record!



Below is the FREE information I received from FamilySearch.org! Now I know the exact marriage date, address of both Morris and Ida, and her parents' names. She was married before. Her first husband died.

Just be sure you analyze the dates and names carefully on these documents. The FamilySearch website has the marriage date of Oct. 5, 1919. Actually, it was on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1919. Mazer looks like Mager on the actual document.

Pretty exciting for me! I'll never ignore those Family Search e-mails again! BTW, I'm standing with great grandfather Morris Mazer in the photo from our December 11<sup>th</sup> celebration!

# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Ss. County of Philadelphia

We, the undersigned, in accordance with the statements hereinafter contained, the facts set forth wherein we and each of us do solemnly swear are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief, do hereby make application to the Clerk of the Orphans' Court of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, for a license to marry.

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# BOOK CLUB UPDATE

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

See our website under <u>Events</u> for updated Book Club titles and descriptions.
All members are welcome to join us.

Meeting #8. December 28.

Felicia led the discussion of the fabulous memoir, The Color of Water. Highly recommended!

### Meeting #9. Jan. 25th at 7:30.

Book selection: **Plunder** by Menachem Kaiser **Reading the book is a prerequisite for attendance.** We have invited Menachem to join us! JGS of Montreal members have also been invited if they attended the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### Meeting # 10 Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30.

Book selection: Captain Corelli's Mandolin' by Louis de Bernieres

#### CHRONICLES

#### Please submit your well-thought-out and organized stories.

Please submit your material to <a href="mailto:editor@jqasqp.org">editor@jqasqp.org</a>. We all have stories to share and learning from each other is another benefit of membership in JGASGP." 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 clarity.

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.

# <u>Evan Fishman</u> <u>editor@jgasgp.org</u>

Chronicles is posted on our website. Contact Jim, <u>webmaster@jgasgp.org</u> 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.

#### Contributions 4th Quarter

- 1) Charles and Lynn Alexander
- 2) Nancy Hyman
- 3) Arlene and Kenneth Lutz
- 4) Toby Mazer
- 5) Tom and Carol Perloff
- 6) Roberta Ross
- 7) Dan Rottenberg

8) Dan Wittenberg

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Happy and Healthy New Year! Please read my next message in Chronicles!

#### 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. <u>If anyone does not wish to be recorded</u>, 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, January 29, 2023

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

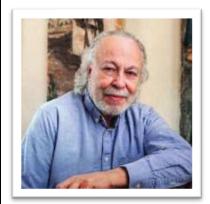
Official program starts promptly at 1:30

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**

(See below for a lecture Emily is giving on Feb. 12th to another society)

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 pro-

gram 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: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

# HAR JEHUDA CEMETERY ADOPTION

Karen Albert and Helene Rosenfeldt will be the Project Coordinators for the Har Jehuda records digitization project! We have a team of volunteers willing to spend some time at the cemetery scanning records. We have others working from home to help digitize the records.

We have a spreadsheet from JewishGen's JOWBR with easy instructions to follow.

# If you wish to be part of this project, contact Karen and Helene.



They have a comfy chair and space to work. Helene will start scanning and assignments will be given out.



Please join us on Friday at 1:30 on Zoom if you want to volunteer to help! It doesn't matter where you live or what time zone you are in!

Some of us met last Thursday to see the 3x5 cards that we are going to be digitizing for our Har Jehuda cemetery project. We have made a few deci-

#### sions:

- 1. Helene Rosenfeldt (<u>Helene.E.Rosenfeldt@gmail.com</u>) will be responsible for scanning.
- 2. Karen Albert (<u>karenalbert48@gmail.com</u>) will be responsible for sending out the pictures of the cards for us to digitize.
- 3. Alan Kaminsky (ajk7810@hotmail.com) will be in charge of collecting our spreadsheets and collating them.

The more help we have typing, the faster we will get this accomplished. Helene will be trying out the scanner once she receives it and learns how to use it. We will see if she needs someone else to scan.

We have a zoom meeting set up for Friday, January 13th at 1:30.

#### Zoom:

Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Har Jehuda Cemetery Project

Time: Jan 13, 2023, 01:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

#### Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8791908192?pwd=T2FkRTBqNi9rQ3NxbGczOEJZcmREZz09

Meeting ID: 879 190 8192 Passcode: JGASGP2023

#### IN THE NEWS



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

#### Adam Denish announces HAMEC's UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Addressing Anti-semitism**

January 11 Wednesday 630pm-8pm Sponsored by 3G Philly

https://3gphilly.org/events/addressing-antisemitism-the-current-crisis-and-what-we-can-do

#### **International Holocaust Remembrance Day events in the area**

January 18 Thursday 8-9 speakers include Jennifer Mendelsohn Sponsored by 3G Philly

https://3gphilly.org/events/3genealogy-uncovering-our-family-histories

Monday January 26 Thursday 6pm

#### National Museum of American Jewish History

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New York-based Center for Jewish History launches initiative to help people learn about family connections severed by genocide. The advent of DNA technology has opened up a new world of possibilities in addition to the paper trails and archives that Holocaust survivors and their descendants have used to learn about family connections severed by genocide. Read the story from the Times of Israel: Project offers free DNA kits to Holocaust survivors to help them find lost relatives | The Times of Israel Does this pertain to you???

# MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIETY NEWS

Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues for 2023. We currently have 314 members!

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. \* I will not be available from January 18<sup>th</sup>. I'll be 'out of the office' for a few weeks. Please contact:

Contact Jim (webmaster@jgasgp.org) with web access questions or receiving hard copy

problems.

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

Contact Felicia with any other research help questions.

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

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

# WEBINARS, CONFERENCES, PODCASTS, AND MEETINGS OF INTEREST

# First Friday Genealogy Group!

https://www.facebook.com/firstfridaygenealogy/ Meets at the City Archives 6<sup>th</sup> and Spring Garden Sts. Free parking in the Target lot! Chat and chew open to all!

### Join Bucksgen for a FREE webinar via Zoom





Wed. January 11, 2023
2:00 PM EST
featuring Mark Olsen,
FTM Ambassador

Join us for an introduction to the current version of Family Tree Maker. Mark will discuss Family Tree Maker and what makes it different from other genealogy products and software. He will focus on a quick walk through of the various family tree building features, beginning with how to get and install the software, and moving on to basic use and creating or downloading your very own family tree. Mark will discuss how it works with Ancestry.com and with FamilySearch and will be happy to discuss all your questions.

Mark will also discuss Family Tree Maker partner products -Charting Companion and Family Book Creator. Both are amazing plug-ins that can help you create incredible charts, graphs, and books.

This class is for all levels of genealogists, whether you are just getting started or very experienced. A copy of FTM 2019 will be raffled as a door prize, and a discount will also be offered to all! REGISTRATION REQUIRED: https://www.bucksgen.org/index.php/bcgs-programs



Mark Olsei

https://www.bucksgen.org/index.php/bcgs-programs

Santa Cruz Genealogy Society
Register below for this meeting.

Register

# A SANCTUARY IN THE STORM: CARL LUTZ AND THE RESCUE OF BUDAPEST'S

**IEWS** 

**EVENT DETAILS** 

Virtual

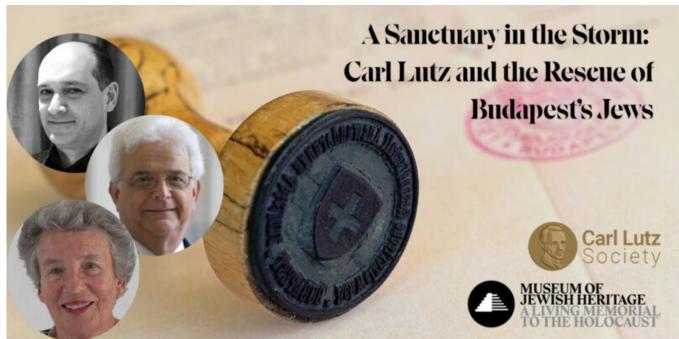
Tuesday

January 17, 2023

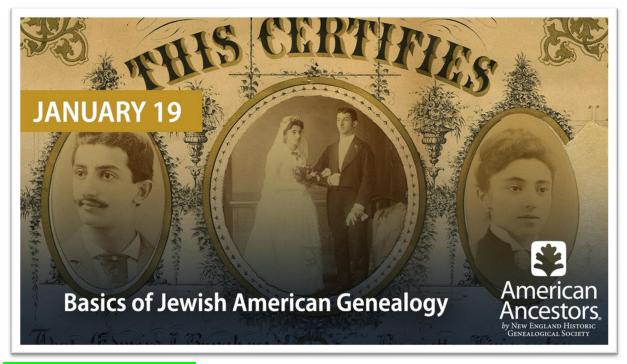
2:00 PM (ET) - 3:00 PM

A \$10 suggested donation enables us to present programs like this one.

Reaistei



Budapest, 1944: Vice Consul Carl Lutz and the Swiss Legation of Budapest started the largest diplomatic operation to rescue Jews during WWII. Thanks to an ingenious system of safe-conduct papers and residential buildings put under consular protection, Carl Lutz, who had acted as a protective power representing interests of the U.S. and UK in Hungary, sheltered, and saved tens of thousands of Jews. Frederic Hayat, vice president of the Switzerland-based Carl Lutz Society, will deliver a presentation about Lutz and will be joined by Agnès Hirschi, Lutz's stepdaughter, and Charles Gati, a Survivor saved by Lutz's efforts. Pascale Baeriswyl, Ambassador of Switzerland to the United Nations, will deliver the introductory spee



#### Register for this free webinar!

https://hubs.americanancestors.org/basics\_of\_jewishamericangeneal-ogy?fbclid=IwAR2YGhtZ8cbj7Sr808WV07zBhi5qv6vIogLLMEhbqmhVfvnx4XxbeFszLXA



## Santa Cruz Genealogy Society Register below.

Sunday, January 22, 2023, 1 pm Pacific Speaker: Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz

Locating Vital Records in Poland Using Online Records

Zoom link will be sent the week of the event

If you are researching your Jewish ancestral roots in Poland and would like to go beyond Jewishgen and JRI-Poland to find vital records this presentation is for you. This program introduces major websites such as Metryki, GenBaza,

Szukajwarchiwach (the Polish State Archives), Geneteka, and FamilySearch. Learn more about the Polish partitions to introduce history and geography of Poland. Our speaker genealogist, Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz will illustrate the use of religious records, passenger manifests, naturalization records, and other documents from U.S. sources, to suggest resources and strategies to help you decipher misspelled place names, and discuss the next steps in your research: determining the parish and civil registry office using gazetteers, and obtaining birth, marriage, and death records to determine one's ancestral village accurately. Julie will rely heavily on online sources throughout her presentation and show how you can trace your Polish ancestry without having to cross the ocean.

### **About Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz**

Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz is a genealogist, writer, and speaker, with over 20 years of experience in researching her family's origins in Poland, Germany, the U.S. and Canada. She is the Secretary of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts, contributes to a number of genealogy-related Facebook groups, and writes an informative genealogy blog, From Shepherds and Shoemakers.

Register

JEWISH SOLDIERS IN THE CIVIL WAR: THE UNION ARMY

AUTHOR EVENT
Online

January 31, 2023, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ET

Free

**REGISTER NOW** 



# The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center™

# at New England Historic Genealogical Society

PRESENTED BY ADAM D. MENDELSOHN

In conversation with Jonathan D. Sarna

The Union army was as diverse as the embattled nation it sought to preserve—a mix of ethnicities, religions, and identities. Almost one Union soldier in four was born abroad, and natives and newcomers fought side-by-side, sometimes uneasily. Though scholars have parsed the trials and triumphs of Irish, Germans, African Americans, and others in the Union ranks, they have remained largely silent on the everyday experiences of the largest non-Christian minority to have served. Jewish Soldiers in the Civil War examines when and why Jews decided to enlist, explores their encounters with fellow soldiers, and describes their efforts to create community within the ranks. Join author Adam D. Mendelsohn in conversation with Professor Jonathan D. Sarna as they discuss Mendelson's acclaimed new book about the stories and struggles of the Union Army's Jewish soldiers.

**Jewish Soldiers in the Civil War: The Union Army** marks the first of two volumes to be published in partnership with the Shapell Manuscript Foundation, which has compiled a roster of Jewish service in the Civil War. Volume Two will explore the complex history of Jews in the Confederate Army.



Adam D. Mendelsohn is Associate Professor of History and Director of the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town. He is the author of multiple award-winning books including **The Rag Race: How Jews**Sewed Their Way to Success in America and the British Empire and coeditor of Jews and the Civil War: A Reader and Transnational Traditions:

New Perspectives on American Jewish History.

Jonathan Sarna, PhD is University Professor and the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History and Director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University. He is also Chief Historian of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, and past president of the Association for Jewish Studies. He chairs the Academic Advisory and Editorial Board of the American Jewish Archives, and also serves on the Advisory Council of the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center.



Sunday, February 12, 2023, 1pm Pacific

Speaker: Emily Garber, Genealogist
Be an Expert: Create a Resource Guide
Zoom link will be sent week of the event

One of the greatest challenges when starting research in a new area is learning and understanding the resources that are available. Maps, gazetteers, archival finding aids, Yizkor books, and local histories are just a few of the resources needed to build a research toolbox. Learn to prepare a historical sketch and timeline, review a general record category list, topical guides and record types (i.e. archives, repositories, jurisdictions). This presentation will walk through the steps of building one's own resource guide - (whether geographically or topically based) - a valuable tool that may serve as a foundation for one's research for many years to come.

#### **About Emily Garber**

Genealogy researcher, writer and speaker, Emily H. Garber, is an anthropological archaeologist by training (B.A. and M.A) and has been researching her family history since 2007. She holds a certificate from Boston University Genealogical Research program and owns Extra Yad Genealogical Services. She has an abiding interest family history methodology and historical context. Emily has written two books and several articles on genealogical research that have appeared in Avotaynu. She serves as a member of the Board of Directors of both the IAJGS and the Arizona Jewish Historical Society.

Register

Be sure to check: the 2022 Comprehensive Calendar of Genealogical Events complied by the Bucks County Genealogical Society for more events and lectures! And Conference Keeper, "The most complete collection of Genealogy events online!"

### New to Genealogy or need a refresher course?

January 11, 2023, Foundations of Genealogy I, an 8 week online course, <a href="SydneyCruiceGenealogy">SydneyCruiceGenealogy</a> March 2-4, 2023 Rootstech, Salt Lake City, In Person & Virtual <a href="Rootstech 2023">Rootstech 2023</a> April 5, 2023, Foundations of Genealogy II, an 8 week online course, <a href="SydneyCruiceGenealogy">SydneyCruiceGenealogy</a>

# 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@jgasqp.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

IN MEMORY OF SUSAN E. KING, Z'L

Dear JewishGen Community,

# With deep sadness, we regret to inform you of the passing of Susan E. King, the legendary founder of JewishGen.

When Susan first created JewishGen, I doubt she expected the impact it would have upon thousands of people, and the countless family connections it would ultimately facilitate - including siblings who had been separated during the Holocaust.

I did not know Susan well, as she retired before my involvement with the organization. However, we connected in 2019, when as an expression of gratitude, we renamed our Volunteer of the Year award in her honor. She, more than anyone else, was able to galvanize people, and to provide them with both a sense of inspiration to get involved, and a sense of aspiration for what they could accomplish. JewishGen will be there for future generations. When people many decades now wake up one day, and wonder what it means to be part of the Jewish people - **JewishGen will be there**.

#### And this is all because of Susan.

So it is with deep regret and sadness that we offer our condolences to Susan's entire family. We cannot possibly express our appreciation for her achievements. Nearly every element of Jewish genealogy that exists today is due to her vision so many decades ago.

And as JewishGen, in particular, embarks on the next phase of our growth and development, we will look to her wisdom and inspiration to guide us. We will be grassroots. We will be guided by a sense of vision and aspiration. And we will forever remain true to our roots - which is to preserve our Jewish history and heritage for future generations.

Avraham Groll

**Executive Director** 

**IewishGen** 

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.





