



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

FROM
MARILYN GOLDEN VP
membership@jgasgp.org



Hi Everyone,

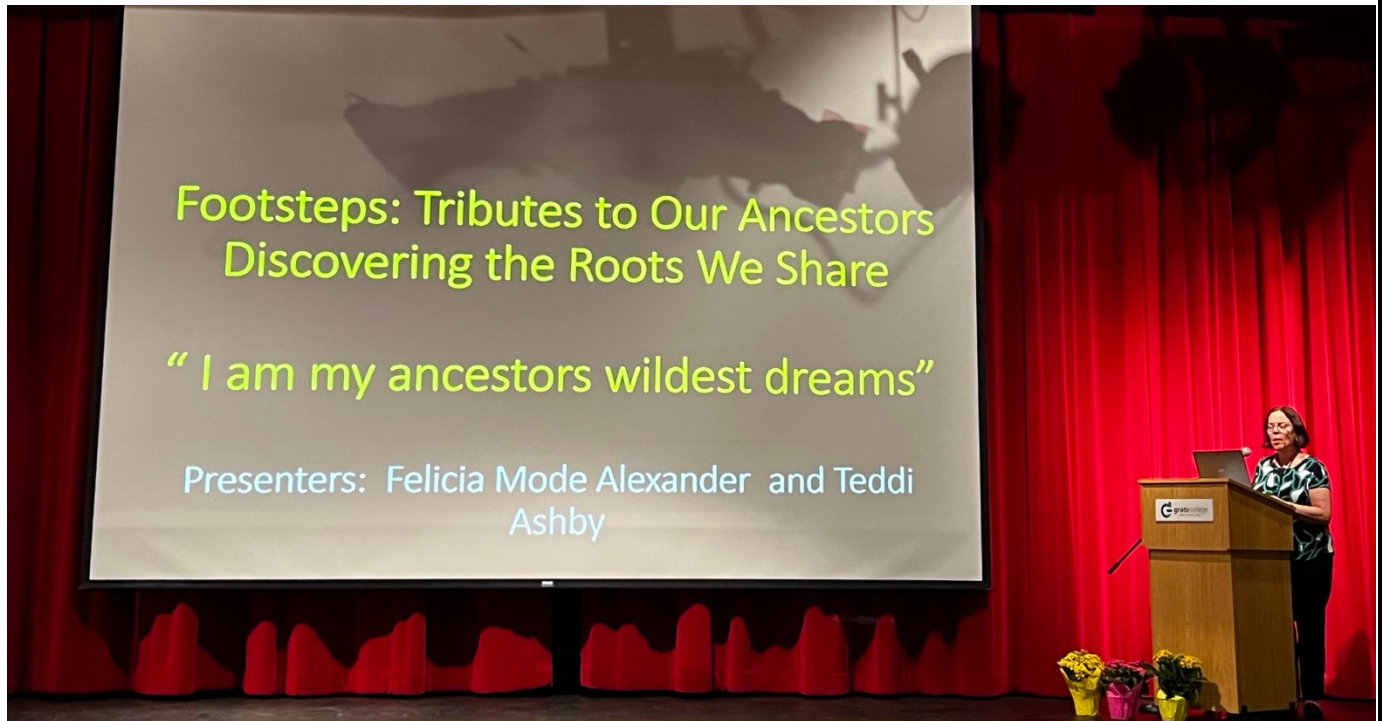
4/23/23

We had two special events this month with HAMEC. Remembrance is Resistance on April 18th at Rodeph Shalom was attended by over 50 guests. We heard our President Felicia speak as well as Dr. Anne Parsons and Sister Judith Parsons about what resistance means to them. Stacy Seltzer from 3GPhilly and Lita Rosov from Temple Hillel joined the panel. It was an uplifting program ending with



Avi Wisnia performing. Don't miss watching <https://www.pbs.org/video/how-saba-kept-singing-gzanvx/>, a documentary that was presented on PBS. It is now free for anyone to watch.

Our second event was also held at Gratz College. It was uplifting, inspiring, and educational!! Felicia spoke and also presented a slideshow. Please read her President's Message below. I took a few photos of the event. When the film about the Danon Family is fully finished and edited, we will receive a link to watch it!



The Danon Family was extremely lucky. They were survivors of the Holocaust! Their family was reunited, and most of them made their way to the USA. They chose to live in Philadelphia.

Announcement!



We now have a Vimeo Account!

Our lectures will be recorded and posted with the approval of our speakers.

1. Emily Garber's lecture will be available on our Vimeo page for 1 more month. You can download the handout from our website. You can watch here <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/802502720> Passcode: JGASGP2023mg
2. And while you're on the Vimeo page, you can also see our 40th Anniversary event honoring Harry Boonin. <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/788102383/6811a49a61> Passcode: JGASGP2023mg

3. **Dr. Zachary Mazur.** <https://vimeo.com/user121114834/jgasgp2023> Passcode: JGASGP2023

We will add recordings of programs as our speakers allow. **This is a member's benefit!**

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

Two great resources are available on our website:

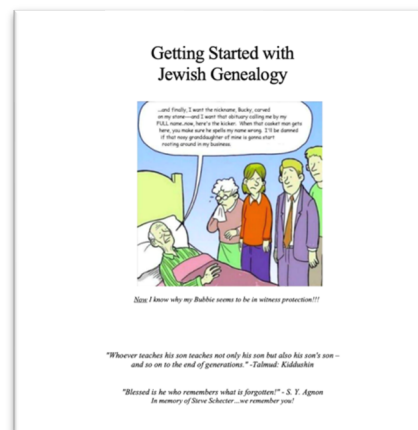


Greater Philadelphia Genealogical Resource Guide 2022



(Sign in and look under the Resources Tab)

Getting Started with Jewish Genealogy



THE 10 HARD TRUTHS EVERY FAMILY HISTORIAN MUST LEARN

1. Not every record is online.
2. Other people's trees are not valid sources.
3. Citing your sources is not optional.

4. Not all of your family's stories and assumptions are true.
5. One single database will not provide all the answers you need.
6. You will make mistakes in your research.
7. You will hit brick walls.
8. Technology doesn't solve every genealogical problem.
9. Original records will contain errors.
10. You are never "done" tracing your roots.

Read the complete article on Family History Daily's blog: <https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/hard-truths-family-historian/>

BOOK CLUB UPDATE

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

See our website under [Events](#) for updated Book Club titles and descriptions.

All members are welcome to join us. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we had to cancel the last meeting. A few of us read or tried to read the book and couldn't find any real Jewish content. So, in keeping with our choice of Jewish themes and/or Jewish concepts, we picked out a new title for next month. Our discussions have been friendly, informative, and thought provoking. Let's get our momentum going again. Please join us! RSVP!

Meeting # 11 April 26, 2023, at 7:30pm.

Book selection: The Art Forger by Barbara A. Shapiro

Meeting #12 May 24, 2023, at 7:30pm.

Book Selection: All About Me by Mel Brooks

[Books are available in the public library, and on Amazon, eBay, etc.](#)

Please RSVP to membership@jgasgp.org if you want to be on our book club list.

Check our website for the comprehensive list of future book club titles.

PLEASE BRING YOUR IDEAS TO OUR NEXT MEETING!

CHRONICLES

Everyone should have received their electronic version. The black and white hard copies are in the mail. **Next issue deadline in June 18th, 2023.**

Did you read the articles about Rabbi Eli Freedman of Congregation Rodeph Shalom (Philadelphia) and Rabbi Benjamin David of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel (Elkins Park) that appeared in the winter issue of our quarterly publication, Chronicles? These are the first of what I hope will be an ongoing series of articles tracing the family histories of area rabbis and cantors.

I invite you to interview your rabbi or cantor and submit an article tracing their respective genealogies. Some of the questions you could pose include:

- 1. What ancestral towns and countries are associated with your various surnames of interest?*
- 2. Do you know when your parents/grandparents/great grandparents immigrated? Where did they settle? Were they the first in the family to come to the United States or other new country? Did they travel alone or with other family members?*
- 3. How did the Holocaust affect your family?*
- 4. Are there interesting stories from your family lore? How true are they?*
- 5. What was Jewish life like for you when you were growing up? Did you live in an identifiably Jewish neighborhood?*

Articles should be between 500 – 1500 words and include a head shot of the rabbi or cantor. Deadline for the spring issue is Sunday, April 9.

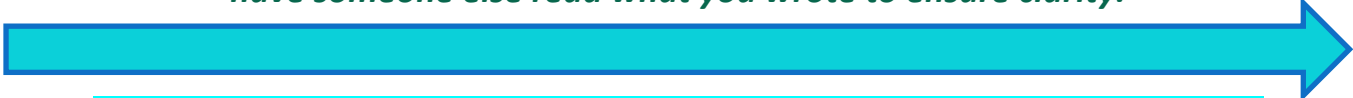
*Of course, we still welcome submissions of articles about other topics for inclusion in **Chronicles**. Deadline for the spring issue is Sunday, April 9.*

**Please submit your well-thought-out and organized stories to [Evan Fishman](mailto:Evan.Fishman@jgasgp.org),
editor@jgasgp.org.**

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.



***New contributors 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.](#)***

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

April has been very busy month for us all, celebrating Passover followed by various Yom HaShoah events this past week. It is a sobering thought that the incredible Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was 80 years ago! If you do not know much about this event, I encourage you to watch the Golden Globe winning 2001 film *Uprising*, which is available on most streaming platforms. It has an amazing cast of then unknown actors who are now stars.

Our society was part of two Yom HaShoah events. The first was held at Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Center City on Tuesday April 18th. It was well attended and included several presentations on the topic *Remembrance is Resistance*, including my own brief talk on a case study that merged both genealogy and Holocaust era research to create a 7 generation family tree for a family nearly wiped out in the Shoah. The icing on the cake that night was the beautiful music of Avi Wisnia, a 3rd Genner, whose late grandfather, David "Saba" Wisnia, was a famous Warsaw cantor imprisoned in Auschwitz. He eventually came to America, to the Philadelphia area and became an active member of the Bucks County Jewish community. A new documentary film "How Saba Kept Singing", recently aired on PBS. We were treated to Avi on piano accompanying a video of his grandfather singing at the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz held at the camp five years ago. It was a special event and the result of a lovely collaboration between our society, HAMEC, and host synagogue Congregation Rodeph Shalom.

On April 23rd, the Israel 75 Community Mitzvah Day, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Philadelphia, brought people from all over the region to lend a hand on special projects in honor of Israel's 75th birthday. There were many opportunities for engagement. Our society was part of two cemetery cleanup efforts that day, one at Har Nebo and the other at Har Jehuda. These are the two cemeteries with digitization of records conducted by our society. Har Nebo records are complete while Har Jehuda's digitization project is a massive undertaking spearheaded by our members.

Last but not least is the Yom HaShoah event we just co-hosted on April 23rd at Gratz College. This collaboration was among our society, HAMEC and the African American Genealogy Group (AAGG). I spoke along with the president of AAGG about the importance of students tackling their family genealogy and presented an introductory lesson to guide students in getting started. This event was attended by approximately 150-200 people including students from Cheltenham Public Schools, HAMEC and JGASGP members, community members

and most importantly, the large extended family of the Danon Siblings, three 90+ year old Holocaust survivors from Split, Yugoslavia (now Croatia). It also included a sneak preview of a film currently in production about the Danon family and for which our society has under-written some of the costs.

In recent months, I have written extensively about our society embarking on collaborations with other organizations in the Philadelphia Jewish Community and genealogy community in general. We all benefit from these types of events and projects. With the frightful increase in anti-Semitism over the last few years, positive energy to combat these attitudes is really important. JGASGP can help! We welcome ideas for future collaborations and look forward to continued networking. Next summer, when we host the IAJGS international conference, these wonderful relationships should enhance our attendance and volunteer team.

I hope to see you all at our next in-person meeting on Sunday May 21st. You are in for a wonderful lecture by the extraordinary Tammy Hepps! This meeting will be at Main Line Reform Temple at 2:30 pm.

Warmly,

Felicia Mode Alexander, President JGASGP



JGASGP MEETING SCHEDULE

The Zoom link will be sent out and posted on the HOME page of our website on Friday prior to each meeting. Link reminders are also sent out on Sunday mornings. Sunday morning. Meetings are for members only.

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.

Date: Sunday, May 21, 2023, NOTE LATER START TIME!

Time: 2:00 PM check in, chat, and schmooze (Optional) Official program starts promptly at 2:30

Speaker: 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 Main Line Reform Temple, 410 Montgomery Ave, Wynnewood PA 19096

<https://tammyhepps.com/>



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.

Date: Sunday, June 11, 2023

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

Speaker: Barbara Krasner, Poet, Author, Workshop Leader, Historian

Topic:

Location: Zoom Only Meeting

Barbara Krasner has been researching her family's history since 1989. She is the author of *Discovering Your Jewish Heritage* (2001) and leads workshops about writing family history. She holds a PhD in Holocaust & Genocide Studies from Gratz College and an MFA in Creative Writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts.

<https://www.barbarakrasner.com/>



Topic: Where's the Story? Mining Your Family's History to Bring the Past to Life

As genealogists, we often focus on names, dates, and places. But lurking within this data and other finds in the paper trail -- letters, diaries, photographs -- are kernels we can pop into full-fledged stories. In this session, learn how to uncover the stories and write a narrative to capture your family's history.

Date: Sunday, July 9, 2023, This meeting is in partnership with JGS Toronto!

Time: 1:30 pm

Speaker: Dr. Robert Watson, Professor, Author, Historian, and Media Commentator

Topic: The Legacy of the Nuremberg Trials

Location: Hybrid Meeting

In Person Venue: Main Line Reform Temple, 410 Montgomery Ave,
Wynnewood PA 19096



Robert Watson is an award-winning author who has published over 40 books and 200 scholarly articles and essays on topics in political, military, and social history, as well as two multi-edition, multi-volume encyclopedia sets on the presidents and first ladies. Some of his recent books include *Affairs of State* (2012), *America's First Crisis* (2014), *The Nazi Titanic* (2016), *The Ghost Ship of Brooklyn* (2017), *George Washington's Final Battle* (2021), and *Escape* (2021), as well as the forthcoming books *When Washington Burned* (2023) and *America's First Plague* (2023). Watson's books have won numerous awards including the Independent Publishers' Gold Medal in History and Silver Medal in History, John Barry Book Award, and John Lyman Book Award, have been featured on C-SPAN's Book TV and at prominent literary festivals around the country, and are available in both

audiobook and international translation.

Topic: The Legacy of the Nuremberg Trials

This presentation examines the philosophical, legal, and political debates surrounding the decision to hold the trials as well as the format for the trials, types of trials, and categories of charges and crimes. We will consider the important legacy of these historic trials on international law and human rights, but also their impact far beyond the courtroom.

SEE ADDITIONAL EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE!



HAR JEHUDA CEMETERY DIGITIZATION PROJECT UPDATE

Karen Albert, Helene Rosenfeldt, and Alan Kaminsky are our Project Coordinators for the Har Jehuda records digitization project! Read about us in Chronicles! If you wish to be part of this project, contact Karen or Helene. So far there are 25 volunteers working

on this project!

It doesn't matter where you live or what time zone you are in!

1. **Helene Rosenfeldt** (Helene.E.Rosenfeldt@gmail.com)

is responsible for scanning and coordinating a group of volunteers.

2. **Karen Albert** (karenalbert48@gmail.com)

is responsible for sending out the assignments and coordinating a group of volunteers.

3. **Alan Kaminsky** (alan.kaminsky.gen@gmail.com) is overseeing the data collection and is responsible for a group of volunteers.

4. **Marilyn Golden** (membership@jgasgp.org) is responsible for a group of volunteers.



We are working on the B's! We are taking our time, so we are perfect!

IN THE NEWS



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

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

MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIETY NEWS

Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues for 2023. We currently have 404 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!

Coming soon: “Har Jehuda Landsmanshaftn List” posted under the cemetery data on our site. Did you know there were so many different societies?

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.

Tell your friends about us!

WEBINARS, CONFERENCES, PODCASTS, AND MEETINGS OF INTEREST



LitvakSIG's *Power Up Your LitvakSIG Research: Getting to Know LitvakSIG with Rhoda Miller* held a virtual program on January 29, 2023. This session provided an introduction to the LitvakSIG organization and addressed common questions regarding LitvakSIG's relationship with JewishGen, passwords, structure of research groups, and other general information.

A recording of the program, about one hour long, free and publicly available on the homepage of www.litvaksig.org All the presentations listed below will be recorded and available as they occur.

Save the date for the following Zoom presentations in the series:

Mar. 26 - Power Up Your LitvakSIG Research: Finding Your Shtetl with Susan Feinberg and Ann Brody

April 23 - Power Up Your LitvakSIG Research: Getting to Know Lithuanian Archives with Russ Maurer

May 21 - Power Up Your LitvakSIG Research: Use of Collective Data with Hatte Blejer

June 11 - Power Up Your LitvakSIG Research: Navigating the FamilySearch Library and Polish State Archives with Jody Tzucker

July 16 - Power Up Your LitvakSIG Research: When One Place is in Two Countries with Judy Baston [Note this corrected date from that which appears in the video.]

Rhoda Miller

Cornelius, NC

If you missed the session or if you'd like to view it again, you can view the recording at: [Power Up Your LitvakSIG Research](#). All sessions are offered at no charge, and all are welcome to join us. You must register separately for each session. Information about registration will be published via the LitvakSIG Digest, JewishGen Digest, and on the LitvakSIG Facebook page.

Our next program in this virtual series will take place on Sunday, February 19th at Noon Eastern Standard Time. All programs in this series will be recorded and will be available for viewing within a few days after the session. The program on February 19 will be led by David Ellis and cover the topic: Using Excel Spreadsheets to Enhance Your Research.

[Register](#)

Join the **Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA)** for our upcoming free webinar, "It's What They Answered To: Understanding Ashkenazic Jewish Names" by Emily Garber on [April 30, 2023, 7 pm Israel Time, 12 pm ET](#).

Name changes, both in adopted countries and in the old world, make determining Ashkenazic (central and eastern European) Jewish names a genealogical puzzle. One cannot take research back to the old country until one has identified forenames and last names. This presentation will introduce some of the basic clues for recognizing the same person recorded under a variety of names.

An archaeologist by training (B.A., and M.A.), Emily Garber has been researching her Jewish family heritage since 2007 and holds a certificate from Boston University's Genealogical Research program. She is a family history researcher, writer and speaker and owns Extra Yad Genealogical Services.

Emily blogs at <https://extrayad.blogspot.com/>, has written two books and several articles on genealogical research. She serves as chair of the Phoenix Jewish Genealogy Group and board member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and the Arizona Jewish Historical Society.

Advance registration required:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApcuuuqjgiHNBVr9IMrnoT_CsyCQz0sxqE

Elena Biegel Bazes

SANTA CRUZ JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Sunday, April 30, 2023, 1pm Pacific

Speaker: Vera Miller

Getting The Most Out Of Online Resources for Ukrainian Genealogy

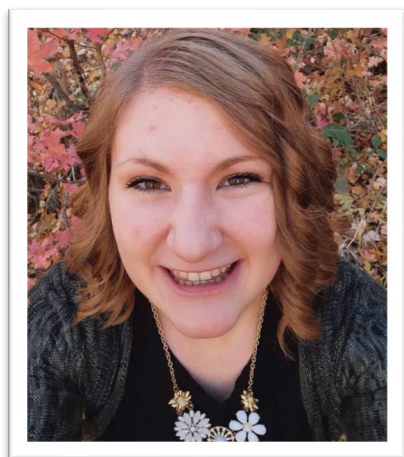


Zoom link will be sent week of the event

Description: Come dive into Ukrainian research and break down your brick walls . Explore online databases and online Ukrainian archival records? Where are the best online forums for Ukrainian genealogy? Where are the online communist era databases ? Find old maps of Ukraine and the latest news on FamilySearch's efforts to scan archive records? Our speaker ,Vera Miller, will illustrate the best translation tools and techniques?

About Vera Miller

Vera Ivanova Miller has been writing about her journey into Ukrainian and Russian genealogy since 2011. As a former newspaper reporter , Vera utilized her skills to research and locate lost cousins in Ukraine, Russia, and Poland. Vera has researched her family tree from the 1600's. Vera is the founder and administrator of Find Lost Russian & Ukrainian Family, a Facebook group and blog. Vera published Genealogy at a Glance: Ukrainian Genealogy Research and Genealogy at a Glance: Russian Genealogy Research in 2021, Genealogical Publishing Co. of Baltimore, Md.



Sunday, May 21, 2023, 2:00 pm Pacific

Speaker: Hailey Wentz, Genealogist

Revision Lists and 1897 Census Records Tracing Jewish Families in the Former Russian Empire

Zoom link will be sent the week of the event

Description: If you are researching your Jewish ancestral roots in the former Russian Empire this presentation is a must! This presentation provides insight to effectively read, locate, translate, and summarize the contents of these important documents (Revision Lists and the 1897 Russian Census Records).

The Ревизские сказки Reviska Skazka ("Revision Lists") are some of the most important records for Jewish Russian genealogical research beginning in 1719 through 1858. These lists, used to levy taxes, contain the names of all taxable persons from each city, town, village, or estate arranged by household and provide the relationship to the head of house and ages over time.

The 1897 Russian Imperial Census was the first and only census carried out in the Russian Empire. The census enumerated the entire population of the Empire (excluding Finland) and was designed to gather population and statistical data. This census provides a wealth of genealogical and personal details (address, occupation, literacy, profession, study, military status, lineage and more.)

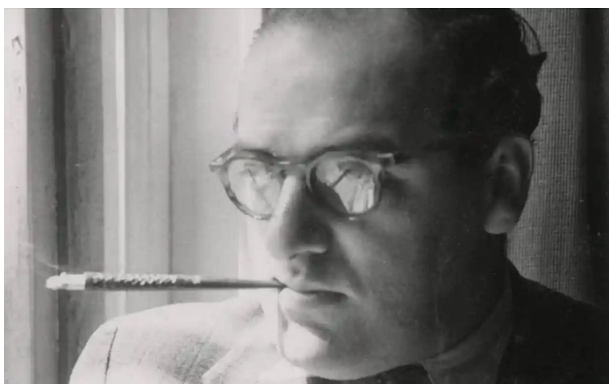
About Hailey Wentz

Hailey Wentz is an up-and-coming genealogist with an emphasis in Latin American research and Eastern European genealogy. A student of linguistics she studied Russian and Ladino. Hailey has a passion for finding ways to make reading foreign language family history records easier to navigate. Hailey's love for Jewish genealogical research began during her internship at the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, where she met many researchers with Jewish roots. The primary motivation behind her career is paying forward the knowledge she has acquired through teaching, both in individual and group settings.



SOUSA MENDES FOUNDATION

www.sousamendesfoundation.org



Next, learn about a forgotten Jewish hero ...

SALLY NOACH -- THE ANGEL OF LYON

SUNDAY, MAY 7

11 AM LOS ANGELES • 2 PM NEW YORK

Tickets by donation (\$18 suggested)

This program tells the story of the Jewish hero **Salomon “Sally” Noach**, who is remembered as **the “angel” of the city of Lyon, France**. He acted at great personal risk to rescue Jews who had been already captured by the Gestapo. **See a new film about him that will touch your heart**, and then meet his son along with one of the people that he saved.

To explore the collection, [click here](#).



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



Whether you are beginning to research your family's history or are a seasoned genealogist, you'll constantly be finding yourself asking questions.

"What's a good source to find the name I'm looking for?"

"How can I navigate this database to make it useful to me?"

"What does this term mean?"

Our expert family historians are here to answer these questions and more! Our **free Ask a Genealogist live chat** is available every week, Tuesday-Saturday. When you

visit AmericanAncestors.org/chat, find and click the chat icon in the lower right-hand corner of the American Ancestors website and enter your question.

One of our genealogists will quickly respond to help out with your brief inquiries about:

How to use a particular website or resource

Local history

Unfamiliar terms or phrases in a record

Recommendations for where to find records

Chat with a Genealogist

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@jqasqp.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

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.

