



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

FROM
MARILYN GOLDEN VP
membership@jgasgp.org



Hi Everyone.

May 21, 2023

We had some technological difficulties at our meeting on Sunday. I'm sorry I had to shut off the chat and schmooze part of the meeting. The echo was loud, and I couldn't hear people clearly when they spoke.

So sorry for the lengthy delay.

It was nice to see many members in person! 55 others signed in too!

Tammy Hepps gave a terrific talk called, "The Ancestor Deep-Dive: How You Can Find Out Everything There Possibly is to Know About Your Ancestor". She was inspiring and showed us how to look at our research in a different way. Check her website for some other information about her and other research she has done.

<https://tammyhepps.com/>

Announcement!



We have a Vimeo Account!

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

Tammy Hepps lecture recording will be available for 60 days.

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/828847891>

Passcode: JGASGP2023

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

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

TIP: USE DIFFERENT RESOURCES. DON'T GIVE UP!

I had been searching for my Aunt Evelyn's burial date, location, and headstone. I had conflicting information about the location. I found an obituary on Newspapers.com. Newspapers.com only had the California death index. Find-a-Grave had nothing. I recently had a hint from Geneanet. I wasn't going to look because it was my tree on that free site. I did look and saw that there was burial information for her and a picture of her headstone from Billion Graves.com!



*Here is what I found.
She died on June 1, 1958, in San Diego, California, at the age of 35. Undertaker: Lewis-Colonial Benbough. 3051 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92104 Phone: (619) 283-7211. Burial: June 4. Eden Memorial Park 11500 Sepulveda Blvd Mission Hills California 91345 United States.*

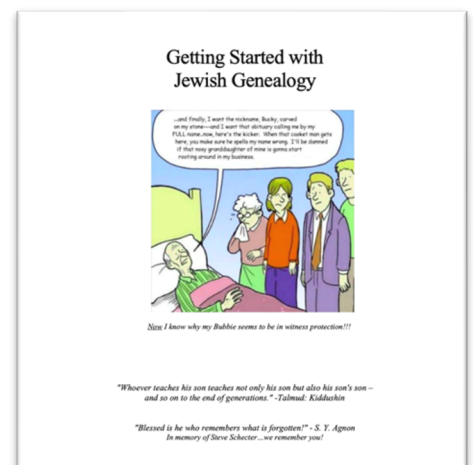
Two great resources are available on our website:

Greater Philadelphia Genealogical Resource Guide 2022



(Sign in and look under the Resources Tab)
See the updated version!

Getting Started with Jewish Genealogy



Read Linda's Beginner Column in Chronicles, Page 17.

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

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING!

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.

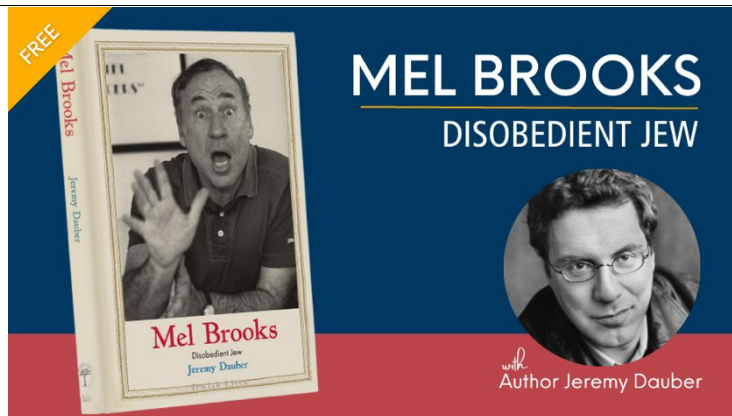
Free online lecture:

Thursday, June 01, 2023. 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm (PDT)

Register here: [HTTPS://MAVEN.AJU.EDU/EVENTS-CLASSES/PROGRAM/MEL-BROOKS-DISOBEDIENT-JEW](https://MAVEN.AJU.EDU/EVENTS-CLASSES/PROGRAM/MEL-BROOKS-DISOBEDIENT-JEW)

MEL BROOKS: DISOBEDIENT JEW

A SPIRITED DIVE INTO THE LIFE AND CAREER OF MEL BROOKS; A PERFORMER, WRITER, AND DIRECTOR WHO DOMINATED TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICAN COMEDY. DESCRIPTION



Mel Brooks, born Melvin Kaminsky in Brooklyn in 1926, is one of the great comic voices of the twentieth century who has won almost every entertainment award there is. Throughout his career, Brooks has straddled the line between outsider and insider and obedient and rebellious, making out-of-bounds comedy the American mainstream. **Jeremy Dauber** and AJU's **Jonathan Dobrer** will discuss Brook's extensive body of work – from **Show of Shows** and **Blazing Sadd-**

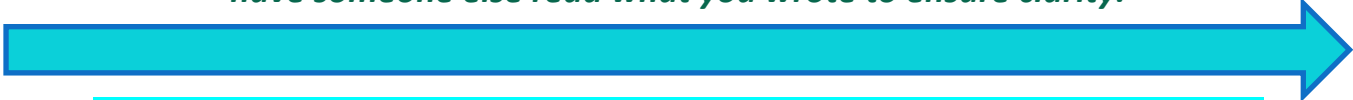
les to **Young Frankenstein** and **Spaceballs**— and how his American Jewish humor went from being solely for niche audiences to an essential part of the American mainstream, paving the way for generations of Jewish (and other) comedians to come.

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.**

**Please submit your well-thought-out and organized stories to Evan Fishman,
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

Summer is nearly here but our society will not be taking the summer off. Rather, we will continue to host our monthly meetings, our team of amazing volunteers will be hard at work on the Har Jehuda Cemetery digitization project, we will be producing our publications *Chronicles* and our Newsletter, interacting with our members on our Facebook page and website, conducting our leadership meetings and of course, researching our families.

What are your summer genealogy plans? Do you have a family reunion scheduled? Are you traveling to an ancestral town? Going to the big global Jewish genealogy conference in London? You can share your experiences on our Facebook page or by writing your own article for *Chronicles*. Have you read the most recent issue of *Chronicles* yet? It is fantastic!!!

The JGASGP board is always looking for ways to engage our more than 400 members in our society's activities. Many hands make light work and our board is small. Have you ever considered serving the society as a board member? Do you have an idea for a research or community project? Adam Denish, current board member and our liaison with HAMEC is an

example of one person who saw potential for collaboration and suggested it to me when I became president. Thanks to Adam's initiative, he is now a very active member of our leadership team. This could be YOU!

Speaking of *Chronicles*, please read our **Help Wanted** notice below. See you all at our next two meetings, online in June and in person in July!!

Warmly,

Felicia Mode Alexander, President JGASGP

HELP WANTED



Graphics Editor, *Chronicles*

Chronicles, the journal of the Jewish Archival and Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia is published quarterly in both electronic and print editions, typically running twenty-eight to thirty-six pages. The graphics editor works collaboratively with the editor of *Chronicles*, to design and layout the journal.

A modern computer and desktop -publishing software (which JGASGP will purchase and maintain) are needed to work on the publication. A large screen monitor and color printer are a big help. Familiarity with desktop publishing software, such as Adobe InDesign, QuarkXpress or Microsoft Publisher will be necessary to produce *Chronicles*.

The current editors will assist a volunteer, to help them gain the skills necessary to create and edit *Chronicles*. JGASGP can fund professional training, if necessary, for a volunteer to learn the use of the software.

If you would like to consider joining the *Chronicles* creative team, contact Ed Flax or Evan Fishman for a relaxed conversation about how we can work together.

Ed Flax
ejflax@gmail.com

+1-609-638-7778

Evan Fishman
editor@jgasgp.org
+1-856-383-5233



Mentor for new members

Would you like to mentor a new member? Newbies often join and need help getting started. We need dedicated people to offer their assistance. Please let me know ASAP. It would be nice to have a group of people I could count on. membership@jgasgp.org [Marilyn](#)



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, 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 and 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 FALL EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE!

FAMILY FINDER PROJECT UPDATE:



Many of you have shared your family surnames, towns, and countries that you are researching. We now have a spreadsheet with over 1300 responses. I realized that many towns had inconsistent spellings yet were the same town. Countries didn't always match the current, modern town name either. My grandfather, for example said he was from Transylvania, Hungary on the 1920 census. The modern town is Poiana, Romania. I know it makes sense for all of us to use the same source for our information.

It was time for me to go into action. For consistency, I researched the names of the towns and countries using JEWISHGEN.org. Using the TOWNFINDER (Communities Database) and/or the JEWISHGEN GAZETEER, I was able to make many changes to keep everyone "on the same page". I Googled the

names I couldn't find on JewishGen as a Jewish community. Some were located. Others were not. I am going to have Jim post the draft version for everyone to check.

So, when I do send out the finalized FF Project, you may not recognize "Your" towns as the way you originally sent them to me. I want you to research those names to double-check my work (I DO MAKE MISTAKES) and learn what the modern town is for your ancestor. JewishGen.org is free for all to research.

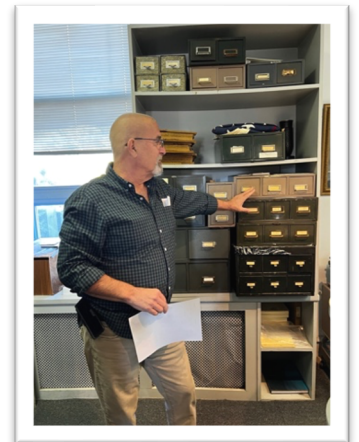
The towns I am unable to locate will be highlighted in red with (?) next to it. That means I was unable to find a listing for I anywhere. Please feel free to research on your own and correct any errors I've made.

Thank you to **Barbara Lewis** for her research help! And thanks to all of you for responding and being patient with the publication of the database!



HAR JEHUDA CEMETERY DIGITIZATION PROJECT UPDATE

If you wish to be part of this project in the future, contact Karen or Helene. Your name will be put on a waiting list. We are capping the number of volunteers to 25. We have videos to watch and detailed instructions to follow. We have received an updated Har Jehuda map and will add that to our Resource Guide. We are working on the D's! We are taking our time, so we are perfect! We have a fabulous team!!! 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.

[3,000 burials recorded so far! We are learning more than we ever imagined about Har Yehuda and Landsmanshaftn. Go to our website and see the hundreds of Landsmanshaftn that were affiliated with Har Jehuda. Thanks to Andi Sporkin for providing us with the list.](#)

HAMEC



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

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

IN THE NEWS



IAJGS CONFERENCE

2023, JULY 30 - AUGUST 3, LONDON, ENGLAND



WHAT IS IAJGS?

The **International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)** is an organization of organizations formed in 1988 to provide a common voice for issues of significance to its members, to advance our genealogical avocation, and to coordinate items such as the annual [International Conference on Jewish Genealogy](#).

Most local and national Jewish Genealogical Societies (JGSs) and several Jewish genealogical Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and historical societies are members.

The purposes and objectives of the IAJGS are well outlined in its [bylaws](#).

[Future Conferences](#)

2024, August 18 - 22

Philadelphia, PA

IAJGS and JGASGP



2025, August 10 - 14

Fort Wayne, IN

IAJGS and Northeast Indiana JGS



MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIETY NEWS

Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues for 2023. We currently have 406 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.

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

[Register](#)



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 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](#)



EXPERIENCE THE TENEMENT MUSEUM

Happy Lower East Side History Month! Celebrate by listening to the very first episode of Travel + Leisure's newest podcast, [Lost Cultures: Living Legacies](#)!

An annual celebration of the neighborhood, every day in May is dedicated to the people, food, music, and traditions that have made the Lower East Side the cultural epicenter it is today. Since the 1800s, the Lower East Side has served as a beacon for newcomers to America and each group has left an indelible mark on the neighborhood.

Hear from our own Dolan Cochran, Education Coordinator for Public Programs and Content as [the episode](#) explores the storied past of the neighborhood with actor and LES native Luis Guzmán. How has each arrival and exodus affected the neighborhood — not just in terms of size, but also sustained cultural impact? ► [LISTEN ONLINE to The Undiscovered Story of NYC's Lower East Side](#)

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!



Good news, Mr. Smith!...

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.

