



## JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

MARILYN GOLDEN VP  
membership@jgasgp.org



Hi Everyone.

June 11, 2023

***Barbara gave an inspiring and informative talk with 30 suggestions for writing. Where is your story?***

*All JGASGP members are being challenged to submit a family story for our next Chronicles issue. Please make sure to let Evan know if you have something in the works!*

*Did Barbara inspire you? She has a website and writes a blog too! See below for some of her offered workshops.*

*Here is her email [barbaradkrasner@gmail.com](mailto:barbaradkrasner@gmail.com).*

*Read below how Beth Stein was inspired by Tammy Hepps at our last meeting: "I had an amazing find after yesterday's meeting with Tammy Hepp. I forgot to use such a simple thing as [newspaper.com](http://newspaper.com). One of my great-grandmothers was Bertha Markheim Wichner from Krakow, Poland. She and her husband Max arrived in NYC in 1899, and initially settled in Baltimore, where a few of her other siblings settled. I had a major brick wall for one of her sisters, my great aunt, Chana/Anna/Annie Markheim. She arrived with her mother (my GGGM-Pessel Huppert Markheim) at the port of Baltimore in 1900 and then disappeared. She was about 20 years old. But she didn't disappear! I searched in newspapers when I got home from Tammy's presentation and found a 1903 marriage announcement for an Annie Markheim. Bingo. One*

*problem, the groom's last name was cut off. But I now had his first name, Leon. So, I did a search in the 1910 federal census, for Baltimore, with an Annie and a Leon, and found the full last name, Schmayer. Then everything fell into place. I even found Leon Schmayer's naturalization papers, witnessed by Annie's brother-in-law, Samuel Koenigsberg, so additional validation I got it right, as another sister, Sadie was married to Samuel Koenigsberg, and they lived in Baltimore. Unfortunately, Annie died in 1916. I have a copy of her headstone. By 1920, her husband moved with their two kids, to LA. He never remarried. There*

*are lots of descendants of the two kids, several with Facebook Goldstein's Ground profiles. California centric. My brick wall is down". So, in short, our meetings are very helpful!*

## Writing Family History

---



Writing Family History workshops—July 9, 16, 23, and 30

- Option 1: 9:30-11:30 am ET
- Option 2: 1:00-3:00 pm ET

Writing the Past workshops—July 11, 18, 25, and August 1

- 2:00-4:00 pm ET

Holocaust Writing—July 2, 9:00-11:30 am ET

Learn more and register at [barbarakrasner.com](http://barbarakrasner.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 30 days.**

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

**Barbara Krasner's lecture recording is available now:**

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/835225123>

**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: AI (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE) AND MY NEW FAMILY MEMBER!

*Ancestry.com sent me a 'hint'.*

*My "cousin", **Mary Lois Mazer**, was listed in the 1950 census. What? I have a new cousin that I never heard of before? Her relationship to the head of the household was U2o(?) What does that mean? Household members: 4.*

*I knew that Louis, Renee, and Josette Mazer lived in the Bronx. Louis was VP of a costume jewelry manufacturing company. That was correct. I have photos of them. But Mary Lois was not on my tree! Who was she? What happened to her?*

*With careful inspection of the actual 1950 census document, I read under Josette's name: **No one home. See sheet 80 Line No 20.** There is NO Mary Lois Mazer! AI made up a cousin's name and counted her as part of the household!*

*Make sure you dig a little deeper and review the documents to check the facts before adding information to your family tree!*

### Two great resources are available on our website:

Greater Philadelphia Genealogical  
Resource Guide 2022

Getting Started with Jewish Genealogy



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

Getting Started with  
Jewish Genealogy



"Whoever teaches his son teaches not only his son but also his son's son --  
and so on to the end of generations." - Talmud: Kiddushin

"Blessed is he who remembers what is forgotten!" - S. Y. Agnon

***Linda is constantly updating the guide for us!  
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.

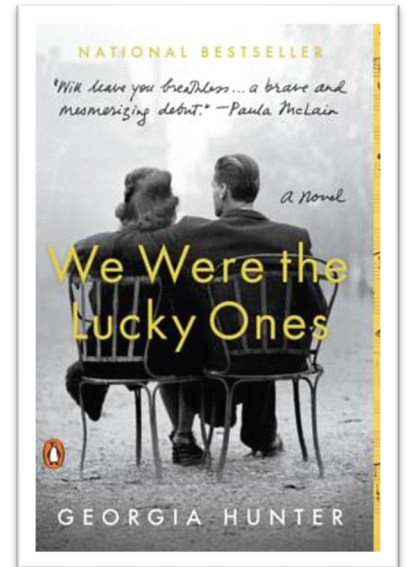
**Meeting #13 Wednesday, June 28, 2023, 7:30 pm**  
***We Were the Lucky Ones: A Novel by [Georgia Hunter](#)***

The *New York Times* bestseller with more than 1 million copies sold worldwide | Soon to be a Hulu limited series starring Joey King and Logan Lerman

Inspired by the incredible true story of one Jewish family separated at the start of World War II, determined to survive—and to reunite—*We Were the Lucky Ones* is a tribute to the triumph of hope and love against all odds.

Books are available in the public library, and on Amazon, eBay, etc. Check our website for the comprehensive list of future book club titles.

**[Please RSVP to membership@jgasgp.org](mailto:membership@jgasgp.org) if you want to be on our book club list.**



## **CHRONICLES**

Everyone should have received their electronic version. The black and white hard copies are in the mail. **Next issue deadline is June 25th, 2023.**

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

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Miriam Weiner receives National Genealogy Society Award.** Jewish genealogist Miriam Weiner, founder and president of the Routes to Roots Foundation: [Routes to Roots Foundation \(rtrfoundation.org\)](http://Routes to Roots Foundation (rtrfoundation.org)) attended the NGS annual conference last week, along with 1,400 genealogists where she was given the ***Genealogy Tourism Award*** for her work in the former Soviet Union. Previously, Miriam has been the recipient of the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Society's (IAJGS) ***Lifetime Achievement Award***, and ***Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy Via Print Award***. The NGS had previously awarded her their ***Individual Achievement Award*** in 1991 as well as their ***Presidential Citation Award*** in 2019. Additionally, the Federation of Genealogy Societies awarded her the ***Malcolm H Stern Humanitarian Award*** in 2020. Congratulations Miriam!

If you have not been to her website, it is well worth checking out!

## 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

**WE WANT YOU TO CONNECT WITH THE JGASGP BOARD!!!**

Our society has grown so much since the start of my term, one month before the onset of the pandemic. We have mushroomed to over 400 paid members and over 1500 members of our Facebook page. This is tremendously exciting! Although some of you have been members for decades, many are newcomers. It is wonderful to see our society in a new phase of growth. In response to this surge in membership, the board wants to get a pulse on our members' thoughts about the future activities of our society AND find out how each of you might be able to lend a hand.



Please go to this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N9BVYXT> to respond to our 2023 new members-only survey. Your name will be kept confidential, and results will only be shared among the board members to help guide our organization. Thanks for your cooperation and speed in completing the survey.

\*\*\*

### KUDOS, KUDOS, KUDOS!

We have several very exciting updates to brag about! Our JGASGP Family Finder database is now on searchable on our website thanks to the stellar efforts of Marilyn Mazer Golden. It was her idea to launch this project and it has been a true labor of love to get this up and running! Special thanks to all who submitted family names and towns and to our webmaster, Jim Meyers for uploading all the data to the JGASGP website!

Our team of amazing volunteers continues to be hard at work on the Har Jehuda Cemetery digitization project. This cemetery is very large, and the number of burials is vast, but our team is making significant progress! Thanks to all involved.

Did you benefit from mentoring when you joined our society? I know I did! I was quite clueless when I joined JGASGP and would not have had the research success I have experienced if not for my mentors in Jewish Genealogy. Serving as a mentor is a wonderful way to pay it forward. If you would like to become one of our cadre of mentors, please be sure to indicate this interest on our survey.

Have you read the most recent issue of *Chronicles* yet? It is fantastic!!! Please remember to make your article submissions for the next edition by the end of the month.

### Who's Going?

Will you be attending the IAJGS global Jewish genealogy conference in London? Please email me at: [president@jgasgp.org](mailto:president@jgasgp.org) if you will be attending so we can arrange an in person gathering during the conference. After the conference is over, share your experiences on our Facebook page or by writing your own article for *Chronicles*.

Next year, this gathering of the tribe will again be held here in Philadelphia! So even if you cannot go to London in 2023, you can be hands on and actively involved in our role hosting IAJGS 2024. Stay tuned for lots of information in the coming months!

See you all at our next meeting to be held on Zoom 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 we could count on. [membership@jgasgp.org](mailto:membership@jgasgp.org) [Marilyn](#)

\*Thank you, **Alicia Weiss**, and **Beth Steiner**, for joining the Mentor Team!  
Check off YES on our new survey if you want to be part of this team.

# 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, July 9, 2023,** This meeting is in partnership with JGS Toronto!

**Sign in, Chat, and Shmooze 1-1:30 (Optional)**

**Time: 1:30 pm EST Official start time**

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

**Topic: The Legacy of the Nuremberg Trials**

**Location: Zoom Only**



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:

### FAMILY FINDER PROJECT UPDATE:

*Check out our new **JGASGP Membership Family Finder**! It's on our website [jgasgp.org](http://jgasgp.org). Look under the resource's menu pulldown for members only! You must be signed in.*



Many of you have shared your family surnames, towns, and countries that you are researching. We now have a spreadsheet with 1,359 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 was from Transylvania, Hungary on the 1920 census. The modern town and country is Poiana, Romania. It makes sense for all of us to use the same source for our information when we are making comparisons.

For consistency, we researched the names of the towns and countries using JEWISHGEN.org. Using the TOWNFINDER (Jewish Communities Database) and/or the JEWISHGEN GAZETTEER, we were able to make many changes to keep everyone "on the same page". When towns couldn't be found on JewishGen they were Googled. Some were located. Others were not.

When you look at the JGASGP Membership Family Finder, you may not recognize "Your" towns. Please note the new location to aid in your personal research.

The town/s that were not located have (?) next to it. It doesn't necessarily mean it doesn't exist, but the spelling (phonetically, sounds like, fuzzy match, etc.) wasn't recognized in any search.

Let me know if you'd like to make a connection with another member. I will share the emails of the potential matches with each other.

I foresee updating this list yearly when members **rejoin**. New members will be asked to fill out the membership form and use the modern town and country of their ancestors as a requirement.

Please feel free to volunteer if you are interested in this project as coordinator or have any suggestions by emailing Marilyn at [membership@jgasgp.org](mailto:membership@jgasgp.org). All are welcome. Please put Family Finder in the subject line.

Thanks to everyone who submitted their information and to **Barbara Lewis** for her much-appreciated research help!

### Some interesting facts about our members:

#### Count of top 6 Modern Countries we are researching:

Ukraine. 481  
Poland: 195  
Belarus: 127  
Lithuania: 98  
Romania: 60  
Germany: 56

Count of the top 5 **Modern Towns** we are researching:

Kyiv: 23

Odesa: 22

Bialystok: 17

Bila Tserka: 13

Ostroh: 11

## 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](mailto:Helene.E.Rosenfeldt@gmail.com))

is responsible for scanning and coordinating a group of volunteers.

2. **Karen Albert** ([karenalbert48@gmail.com](mailto:karenalbert48@gmail.com))

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

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

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

[4,000 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!*

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

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

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

*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**



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.

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

\*\*\*\*\*



## U.S. Synagogue Records as a Genealogical Resource with Ellen Kowitt

When: 07/05/2023 7:00 PM, EDT

Where: Zoom

Will you be attending?

Register

---

### EVENT DETAILS:

#### U.S. Synagogue Records as a Genealogical Resource with Ellen Kowitt

**Date & Time:** Wed, July 5, 2023, at 7:00 - 8:30 PM ET

**Location:** Zoom

**Program:** Join us for a primer on how to find synagogue records, what genealogical material they include, see examples, and hear about JewishGen's new *Shul Records America*: the first-of-its-kind inventory of American synagogue records. See <https://www.jewishgen.org/sra/>.

Finding synagogue records can be problematic and time consuming as there are errors in catalogs and a variety of ways materials are described. To make it easier, and in one place, JewishGen starts the search for you with *Shul Records America*. This new finding aid points to the location of American synagogue records. Launched in fall 2022 with over 500 collections held at 50 repositories (including the Western Reserve Historical Society) or websites, about 20% include URLs for digitized materials. Not only a historical resource but important as modern-day synagogues merge or close, *Shul Records America* encourages congregations to preserve records with genealogical value.



**Speaker:** Ellen Kowitt is Director of JewishGen's USA Research Division and National Vice Chair of the Daughters of the American Revolution Jewish Specialty Research Team. She is past president of Jewish Genealogical Societies in Colorado and Greater Washington, DC, and she served for three years on the IAJS board of directors. Ellen publishes articles in *Family Tree Magazine*, she has completed the ProGen Study Group, attends genealogy institute programs, and is a member of the Colorado Chapter Association of Professional Genealogists. For upcoming lecture dates or more information, visit [www.Ellen-Kowitt.com](http://www.Ellen-Kowitt.com)

**Registration:** Required and free. A zoom link will be emailed to you the day before the program.

Best regards,

[Jewish Genealogy Society of Cleveland](#)

There are MANY programs from other societies. These sites are my favorite for comprehensive information. I have decided to cut back on the number of programs that I personally post. If you come across something you think is relevant to us, please let me know. Also, you can share on Facebook too!

See <https://conferencekeeper.org/> for a calendar of Genealogical events.  
<https://conferencekeeper.org/calendar/>

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

Sign up for Newsletters too: JewishGen.org Discussion Group - Daily Summary <https://groups.jewish-gen.org/g/main> and Eastman's online genealogy newsletter [Eogn.com](http://Eogn.com)

## 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.*

