



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Hi Everyone.

July 9, 2023

MARILYN GOLDEN VP
membership@jgasgp.org



We were very fortunate to have Dr. Robert Watson, Professor, Author, Historian, and Media Commentator Speak to our society about **The Legacy of the Nuremberg Trials**. He is a dynamic speaker and was enjoyed by 84 attendees.

This meeting was our first in partnership with JGS Toronto! We had 84 members attend from both societies. Feedback was very positive, of course!

I missed this meeting as I was finally able to get together with all my siblings! I plan on watching the video. I hope that everyone can watch the recording if you missed it too.

See the link below.

Announcement!



We have a Vimeo Account!

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

Dr. Watson's lecture is now on our Vimeo page. Listen at your convenience.

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/844738120>

This is the Zoom link if you want to watch it that way instead.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ascCLbBHEQaXo0Kp40_OrTXKLGPFGF0FMJQGf4MAGh0cKt41aFvgDSLMTjwywl.LaMPsk-t7RYvSAXS

Passcode: 14SU??D5

Passcode: JGASGP2023 We will add recordings of programs as our speakers allow. This is a member's benefit!

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

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

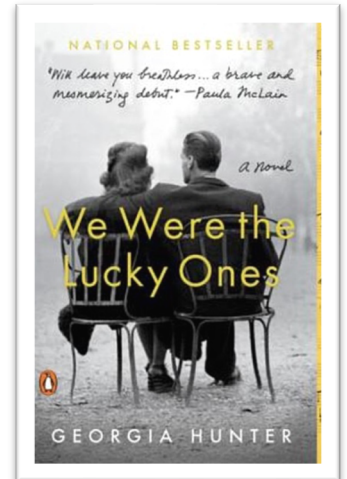
Linda is constantly updating the guide for us! Read Linda's New Beginner's Column in Chronicles.

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.

Thank you to all who attended the last Book Club meeting to discuss *We Were the Lucky Ones*: A Novel by [Georgia Hunter](#). It is highly recommended if you are interested in historical fiction about the Holocaust. This story was about real people from the author's family.



Elisa said, "This book has been very important to me-- both my parents are survivors from Radom, and I've learned a lot from Georgia's Hunter's powerful emotional writing and accurate history. My mother's house served as part of the ghetto border in the larger, Walowa ghetto-- one side of the house faced the Aryan section, and the opposite side of the house opened out into the Jewish ghetto.

My mother and aunt worked in the same factory (AVL) that Jakob and Bella worked in.

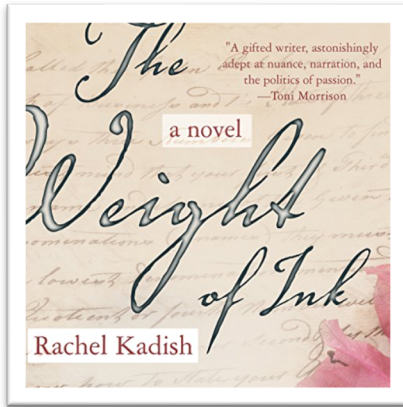
My father's history paralleled to a large extent that of Genek and Herta. He crossed the Bug River to Lvov. He was arrested and wound up in a prison in Siberia. Freed in 1942, he spent the rest of the war in Uzbekistan".

You never know what you'll learn from a book selection! We look forward to hearing more from Elisa in the form of her family's story!

Please join us for our next meeting in September. We are friendly and welcoming! Here are the next few selections:

1. *The Weight of Ink* Rachel Kadish

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 7:30 pm



Set in the London of the 1660s and of the early 21st century, *The Weight of Ink* is the interwoven tale of two women of remarkable intellect: Ester Velasquez, an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi just before the plague hits the city, and Helen Watt, an ailing historian with a love of Jewish history.

As the novel opens, Helen has been summoned by a former student to view a cache of 17th-century Jewish documents newly discovered in his home during a renovation. Enlisting the help of Aaron Levy, an American graduate student as impatient as he is charming, and in a race with another fast-moving team of historians, Helen embarks on one last project: to determine the identity of the documents' scribe, the elusive "Aleph".

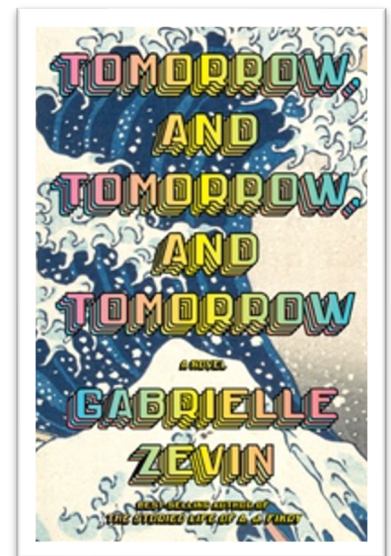
Electrifying and ambitious, sweeping in scope and intimate in tone, *The Weight of Ink* is a sophisticated work of historical fiction about women separated by centuries, and the choices and sacrifices they must make in order reconcile the life of the heart and mind.

2. **Tomorrow, Tomorrow, and Tomorrow** by [Gabrielle Zevin](#)

Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 7:30 pm

This is a story of making and playing games, a story of friendship, a story of loss and love, and a story of forgiveness. On a bitter-cold day, in the December of his junior year at Harvard, Sam Masur exits a subway car and sees, amid the hordes of people waiting on the platform, Sadie Green. He calls her name. For a moment, she pretends she hasn't heard him, but then, she turns, and a game begins: a legendary collaboration that will launch them to stardom.

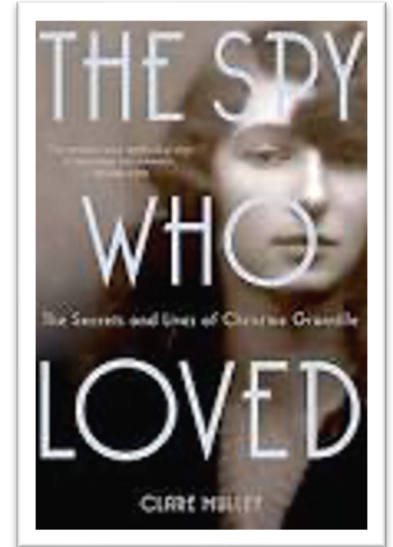
These friends, intimates since childhood, borrow money, beg favors, and, before even graduating college, they have created their first blockbuster, *Ichigo*. Overnight, the world is theirs. Not even twenty-five years old, Sam and Sadie are brilliant, successful, and rich, but these qualities won't protect them from their own creative ambitions or the betrayals of their hearts.



3. **The Spy Who Loved: The Secrets and Lives of Christine Granville** by Clare Mulley

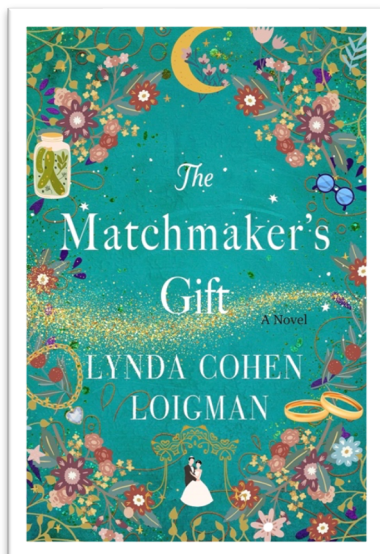
Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 7:30 pm (5th week of Nov.)

The Spy Who Loved presents the untold story of Britain's first female Special Agent of World War II. In June 1952, a woman was murdered by an obsessed colleague in a hotel in the South Kensington district of London. Her name was Christine Granville. That she died young was perhaps unsurprising, but that she had survived the Second World War was remarkable.



The daughter of a feckless Polish aristocrat and his wealthy Jewish wife, she would become one of Britain's most daring and highly decorated special agents. Having fled to Britain on the outbreak of war, she was recruited by the intelligence services and took on mission after mission. She skied over the hazardous High Tatras into Poland, served in Egypt and North Africa, and was later parachuted into Occupied France, where an agent's life expectancy was only six weeks. Her courage, quick wit, and determination won her release from arrest more than once, and saved the lives of several fellow officers, including one of her many lovers, just hours before their execution by the Gestapo. More importantly, the intelligence she gathered was a significant contribution to the Allied war effort, and she was awarded the George Medal, the OBE and the Croix de Guerre.

Granville exercised a mesmeric power on those who knew her. *The Spy Who Loved* tells the extraordinary story of this charismatic, difficult, fearless, and altogether extraordinary woman.



4. **The Matchmakers Gift** by Lynda Cohen Loigman

Wednesday, December 27, 2023, 7:30 pm

"Loigman's latest is a gem. A scrappy Jewish teenager newly arrived in 1920s New York struggles to follow her calling as a matchmaker--seventy years later, her cynical divorce-attorney granddaughter realizes she has very inconveniently inherited the family gift for matching soul-mates. Both funny and moving, *The Matchmaker's Gift* made me smile from start to finish."

--Kate Quinn, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Rose Code*

Is finding true love a calling or a curse?

Even as a child in 1910, Sara Glikman knows her gift: she is a maker of matches and a seeker of soulmates. But among the pushcart-crowded streets of New York's Lower East Side, Sara's vocation is dominated by devout older men—men who see a talented female matchmaker as a dangerous threat to their traditions and livelihood. After making matches in secret for more than a decade, Sara must fight to take her rightful place among her peers, and to demand the recognition she deserves.

Two generations later, Sara's granddaughter, Abby, is a successful Manhattan divorce attorney, representing the city's wealthiest clients. When her beloved Grandma Sara dies, Abby inherits her collection of handwritten journals recording the details of Sara's matches. But among the faded volumes, Abby finds more questions than answers. Why did Abby's grandmother leave this library to her and what did she hope Abby would discover within its pages? Why does the work Abby once found so compelling suddenly feel inconsequential and flawed? Is Abby willing to sacrifice the career she's worked so hard for in order to keep her grandmother's mysterious promise to a stranger? And is there really such a thing as love at first sight?

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

CHRONICLES

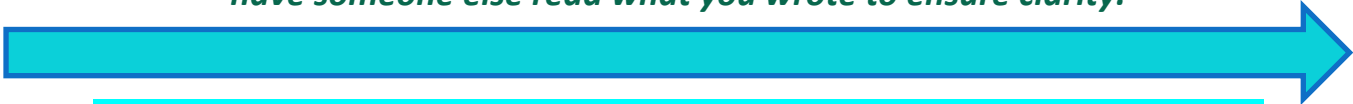
Everyone should have received their electronic version. The black and white hard copies are in the mail. **Summer issue deadline has passed. Please contact Evan if you have a story in the works.**

**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.

- 1) Stan & Ellen Fayer
- 2) Carol Raspler
- 3) Edward Sobel

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings Everyone!

We are officially on JGASGP summer hiatus. Yesterday, we held our last meeting prior to the IAJGS global conference being held in London later this month. We were treated to a wonderful presentation by Professor Robert Watson. His talk was fascinating and covered many aspects of American foreign policy before during and after WWII and how these policies impacted Jews in Europe and within our own borders. His analysis of the Nuremburg Trials of Nazi perpetrators during WWII was spellbinding. This presentation will be on our website so our members can rewatch it or view it for the first time if you could not join us live.

I immediately received an email from our founding president Harry Boonin regarding this lecture. As only Harry could state, in such eloquent terms, "I have listened to many talks by learned and important people, but Robert Watson is so far over everyone's head, that you may easily get a nosebleed at that height. Loved a talk like that. Of course, there are a few, if any, who have a way of explaining things. He talked about all important stuff (his word), before, during, and after WWII in less than an hour." Thank you, Harry! I agree with you 100%!

Some words regarding the IAJGS Conference being held in London in just a few weeks:

For those of you who will attend the IAJGS Conference, I know you are in for the experience of a lifetime. I have been to a number of these events over the years in Boston, NYC, Wash DC, Cleveland, Warsaw, and of course here in Philadelphia. Regretfully, I am unable to attend this year and will have to live vicariously through those of you who head across the pond to London!

If you meet a new cousin, tour Jewish London, take a research side trip while there or are simply gobsmacked with new information, do tell!!! Please be sure to write up your own memorable experiences from IAJGS and share them with those of us who cannot attend. Our fall issue of *Chronicles* will be focusing on the international conference, and we hope to have articles from all our society's attendees! Once you are home, simply email your article to editor@jgasgp.org.

Have a wonderful summer and safe travels!

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 in September!

Warmly,

Felicia Mode Alexander, President JGASGP

HELP WANTED

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO VOLUNTEERED! You will be contacted by our editors.



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 In-Design, 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 [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.
Don't forget to respond to our survey! We are counting on a
response from everyone!

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!

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Time: 1-1:30. Check in, Chat, and Schmooze
1:30 pm EST Official start time

Speaker: Jim Meyer, JGASGP webmaster and board member

Hybrid Meeting

In Person Venue: TBD



Jim has been researching his genealogy for many years but has never found any ties to Jews of Morocco. He and his wife Cindy toured Morocco in March with a trip sponsored by his synagogue that focused on this country frequently thought of as Muslim.

Topic: Jewish Morocco

Jews have lived in Morocco for thousands of years. The Inquisition in Spain and Portugal in the 15th century swelled the Jewish population there. Jim will show photos of relics of Jewish life in Morocco and discuss life there.

**SEE ADDITIONAL FALL EVENTS ON
OUR WEBSITE!**

FAMILY FINDER PROJECT:

**TAKE A LOOK ON OUR WEBSITE!
HAVE YOU MADE ANY CONNECTIONS? LET US
KNOW!**

HAR JEHUDA CEMETERY DIGITIZATION PROJECT UPDATE

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Records have begun to be posted on our website!

We have almost 30 volunteers and have completed over 6,000 of the 26,000 or so records. Here's a link to the data (for members only) posted on the society website to date: <https://jgasgp.org/cemetery-data>



Also, Alan Kaminsky, our coordinator who is maintaining our master list, notes: *I think we have learned that we keep finding new items to question. We learned a lot about the different sections of the cemetery and had to add/clarify sections on to the standard cemetery map, that some people buried cremains there - sometimes in the grave of their spouse. There is a lot of checking and rechecking of records to ensure accuracy, that there are many rules to follow in how to input data and our instructions had to be modified several times as we discovered unique records and differences in how the data was entered on the cards. That even after entering hundreds of records each, we and our volunteers are still learning what to enter.*

[We think we have all the volunteers we can manage at this time, but we would take names of interested people for a waiting list in case anyone drops out. Contact Karen Albert if you'd like to be added to our list.](#)

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, maintaining a master list of burials, and is responsible for a group of volunteers.

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

[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 that list.](#)

REGISTER: CEMETERY CLEANUPS

[Cemetery Project](#) | [Donate to Cemetery Restoration](#) | [Donate to Jewish Community Fund](#)



CEMETERY CLEANUP

Honor those at rest by joining your community and help clean up a local historic Jewish cemetery.

We are deeply appreciative of the outpouring of kindness and generosity from volunteers. Please fill out this registration form once for each volunteer. Note that this is appropriate for adults and school-age children, accompanied by an adult.

EVENT DETAILS

Sunday, July 16 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Har Jehuda Cemetery; 8400 Lansdowne Ave, Upper Darby, PA 19082

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) 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

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](#)

Santa Cruz Jewish Genealogy Society



Sunday, August 20, 2023, 1:00 pm Pacific

Speaker: Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz, Genealogist

Locating Vital Records in Poland Using Online Resources

Zoom link will be sent the week of the event.

Description: 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](#)

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.jewishgen.org/g/main> and Eastman's online genealogy newsletter Eogn.com.

***WELCOME TO THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY**

Another wonderful source for information and learning opportunities!

HOME TO FIVE DISTINGUISHED PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE ARCHIVE OF THE MODERN JEWISH EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE OF ISRAEL

Center for Jewish History and partner collections span five thousand years, with tens of millions of archival documents (in dozens of languages and alphabet systems), more than 500,000 volumes, as well as thousands of artworks, textiles, ritual objects, recordings, films, and photographs. The Center's experts are leaders in unlocking archival material for a wide audience through the latest practices in digitization, library science, and public education. As one of the world's foremost research institutions, the Center offers academic fellowships, symposia, conferences and lectures as well as a wide array of cultural, educational and genealogy programs for the public. Please visit the Center, search our collections online and join our Email List.

Condolences

MARCIA JOY STECKI

Marcia Joy Stecki (nee Kasachin) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania passed away peacefully on May 29, 2023. She was born to Max and Rose Kasachin on April 8, 1941, who are both deceased. She married Jack Stecki on November 6, 1960. She is survived by her husband Jack, daughter, Elana Jennifer Solomon (Edward Solomon), and two grandchildren, Tyler, and Maya Solomon. Services and burial were private as per Marcia's request, but we do appreciate your love and support during this difficult time. If you would like to honor her life, please plant a tree in Israel in her name. <https://www.nationaljewishmemorial-wall.com/plant-a-tree/>

Robert Goldberg-Alberts

Robert Goldberg-Alberts on June 16, 2023. Beloved husband of Amy (nee Goldberg); Loving father of David Alberts; Dear brother of Charles Alberts. Robert was a devoted husband, father, and friend. He was a brilliant analytical mathematician, whose decades of work in the pharmaceutical industry led to the successful development and approval of many new medications. A lifelong learner, in retirement he spent his free time learning about and pursuing mathematical applications to biology, studying various Jewish texts, and trying new recipes. He developed a love of film as an undergraduate and continued to love going to movies and discussing films throughout his life. He loved hiking and walking both locally and in the many national parks he visited and along the shoreline. Having grown up in a California beach town he also loved the Jersey shore and had many memorable day trips and vacations at New Jersey, Delaware, and New York

beaches with family and friends. Robert served in the U.S. Navy as a Hospital Corpsman at the Naval Medical Center San Diego in the early-mid 1970s. Contributions in his memory may be made to Legacy for Learning Fund at Or Hadash, 190 Camp Hill Rd., Ft. Washington, PA 19034, or a charity of the donor's choice.

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.

