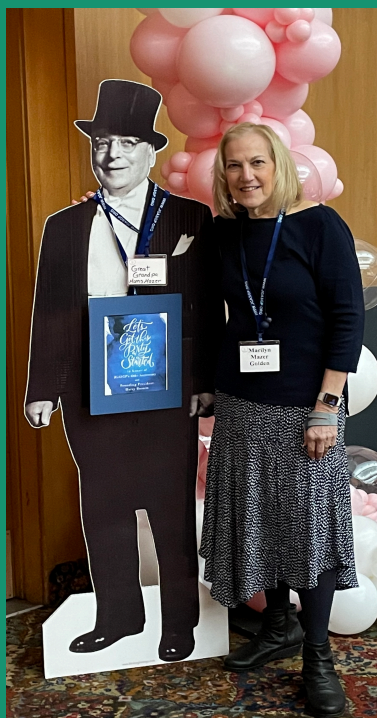




JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

MARILYN GOLDEN VP
membership@jgasgp.org



Hi Everyone,

October 22, 2023

Dr. Polly Zavadvker, Assistant Professor of History and Director, Jewish Studies Program, University of Delaware spoke at our meeting today. She was well received! I was unable to attend but was told her talk was fascinating!

*Once again, my family and I thank you so very much for honoring **Steve Schecter** each year with this memorial lecture! It was great to see everyone in person, and I especially loved being able to see Harry Boonin who was Steve's mentor and someone he always looked up to!*



Announcement: Recording of meetings!

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



<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/877109032>

Passcode: JGASGP2023

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/jyas_5wvvk2qi7zTpsvm3vc8dU-WkDMA3c6S2wtDh-3yP2ZgP4CCuNEooW_tkbA5L.X4Fh43IzGBiW46YK

Passcode: vy#70UV3

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips



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

Two great resources are available on our website:



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

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

I hope this Newsletter finds you all well. I have been spending time in Massachusetts with my sister. She has been hospitalized and I wanted to find out more information about our deceased mother's medical condition. My mother passed away in 1965 and was in the now defunct Hahnemann Hospital. I wrote to the Pa. Dept of Health. I received this information from them:

The Department of Health does not have access to any facility's medical records. Also, medical records are only kept for seven years after the last date of service as outlined in the brochure link below. So, don't delay if you are looking for medical records. Too many years have passed by, and I had no luck!

[brochure medical records.pdf \(pa.gov\)](#)

Thank you,
Allison | Executive Secretary
Department of Health

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.

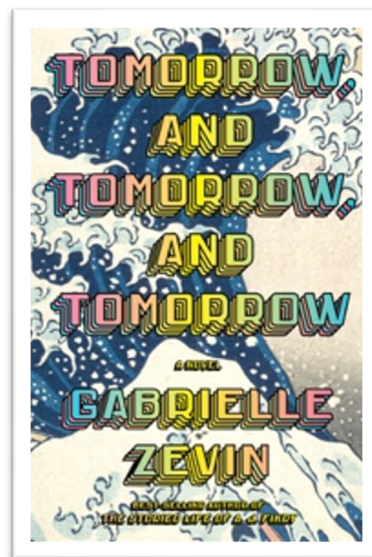
Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, October 25th. We are friendly and welcoming! Here are the next few selections:

1. **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.



2. **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.



3. **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.

CHRONICLES

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.



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

Dear Fellow Members of the JGASGP,

On October 7, the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas carried out an unprecedented surprise attack on the state of Israel. In an act of war, Hamas terrorists invaded Israel, infiltrated cities and towns across Israel's south, kidnapped civilians and fired thousands of rockets and missiles at cities across the country. Currently the Israeli death toll is over 1200, including Americans. This is the greatest loss to the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Israel has every right to defend itself from acts of war and terrorism.

The Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia extends our condolences to the families of the murdered, our wishes for a speedy recovery to the

wounded and the immediate return of the 150 hostages seized by the Hamas fighters. Most members of our society have friends and relatives in Israel. They are all in our prayers.

We stand united with Israel.

Below are links to offer humanitarian aid to Israelis:

<https://jewishphilly.org/ways-to-give/donate-emergency-response-fund/>

[*\(Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. Philly Stands with Israel Fund\)*](#)

[*\(Magen David Adom in Israel. First responders for terror victims.\)*](https://www.mdais.org/en/donation)

[*\(United Hatzalah. Rapid deployment first aid ambucycles and trauma response.\)*](https://israelrescue.org/)

[*\(America-Israel Democracy Coalition. Supporting housing for uprooted families from the south.\)*](https://www.americaisraeldemocracy.org/)

Felicia Mode Alexander

President JGASGP

HELP WANTED
THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO VOLUNTEERED!

Mentor for new members



Thank you, Alicia Weiss, and Beth Steiner, for joining our Mentor 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.

Most of our programs will be recorded with the permission of the guest lecturer. **If any-one 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!

The new facilities manager at MLRT has asked us to move our meetings one hour later to allow them to tear down and set up the rooms after dismissal of Sunday school at 12 noon. In the future all MLRT meetings will start at 2:30 pm with the informal schmoozing starting at 2 pm.

Our next meeting has a NEW venue! We are moving to BUCKS COUNTY!

Date: Sunday, November 12, 2023

Time: 1:00 Check in, Chat, and Schmooze

1:30 pm EST Official start time

Hybrid Meeting Zoom and

In Person Venue: Shir Ami (More info to follow in an e-mail)

Speaker: Meryl Frank, Author and former Mayor of Highland Park, NJ

Meryl was appointed as the United States Representative, and subsequently, as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) by President Barack Obama in February 2009.

She was selected as one of "The Fifty Most Influential Jews in the World" by the Jerusalem Post (2012) for her work on behalf of women around the world.

Prior to her appointment as Ambassador, Frank was elected Mayor of

Highland Park, New Jersey. She served in that capacity for ten years, from January 2000 to January 2010.

Topic: Unearthed: A Lost Actress, a Forbidden Book, and a Search for Life in the Shadow of the Holocaust (the title of her book)

A thrilling mystery woven into a beautifully constructed family memoir: Meryl Frank's journey to seek the truth about a beloved and revolutionary cousin, a celebrated actress in Vilna before World War II, and to answer the question of how the next generation should honor the memory of the Holocaust.

Date: Sunday, December 10, 2023

Time: 1:00 Check in, Chat, and Schmooze

1:30 pm EST Official start time

Hybrid Meeting Zoom and

In Person Venue: Congregation Rodeph Shalom. 615 North Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19123

Speakers: Gary Pokrassa, Data Acquisition Director, and Joel Spector, Director of Metric Record Projects for the Ukraine Research Division of JewishGen



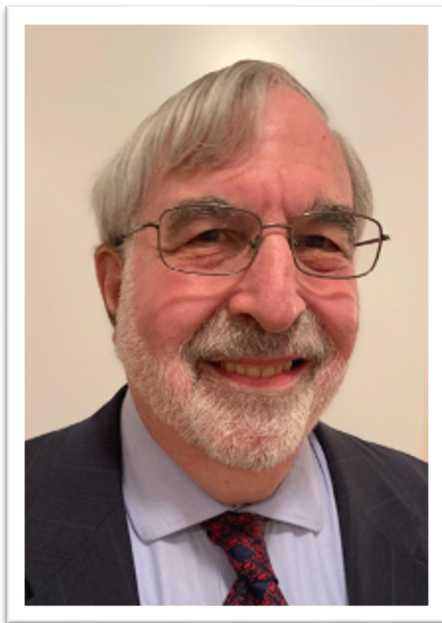
Gary is the Data Acquisition Director for the Ukraine Research Division of JewishGen, Treasurer and Director of JRI-Poland, and town leader for 4 shtetls. He is a member of the JGS of Long Island. At the 2020 IAJGS Conference, he presented on Alex Krakovsky and his Wiki and was a panelist on the Ukraine Research Division Meeting. Gary has authored an article on the Alex Krakovsky project published in AVOTAYNU Summer 2020.

Joel is a Past President of the Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia, where he has also

been chairperson of its Russian Special Interest Group. Joel is a former Secretary of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) and now serves as its Archivist. Currently Joel is a member of the Ukraine Research Division and serves as its Director of Metric Record Projects.

Topic: The Alex Krakovsky Project: Navigating the Wiki to Locate Town Records

For several years, Alex Krakovsky, a Ukrainian Jew, has been scanning metrical and census records found in long-closed Ukrainian archives. He has placed the indexes, in Cyrillic, on a webpage where they can easily be accessed by anyone interested. This presentation will discuss the origin and method of Alex's data acquisition, and then give an overview of the contents of his site.



SEE ADDITIONAL FALL EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE!

FAMILY FINDER PROJECT:

TAKE A LOOK ON OUR WEBSITE!

HAVE YOU MADE ANY CONNECTIONS? LET US KNOW!

SEND ME ANY CORRECTIONS!

NEW MEMBERS NEED TO FILL OUT YOUR FAMILY RESEARCH INFORMATION ON THE MEMBERSHIP FORM.

Har Jehuda Cemetery Digitization Project Update:



ANNOUNCEMENT!

*Records will be posted on our website
up to Mar this week!*

*We have completed over 13,000 of the 26,000
or so records so far. We have terrific volun-*

*teers! Would you like to join us so we can complete our mission? We are now working
on the N's!*



Contact Karen Albert (karenalbert48@gmail.com) **if you'd like to volunteer.**

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

**This is tedious work that needs you to take your time and follow all
the directions. We provide guidance and helpful assistance!**

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.

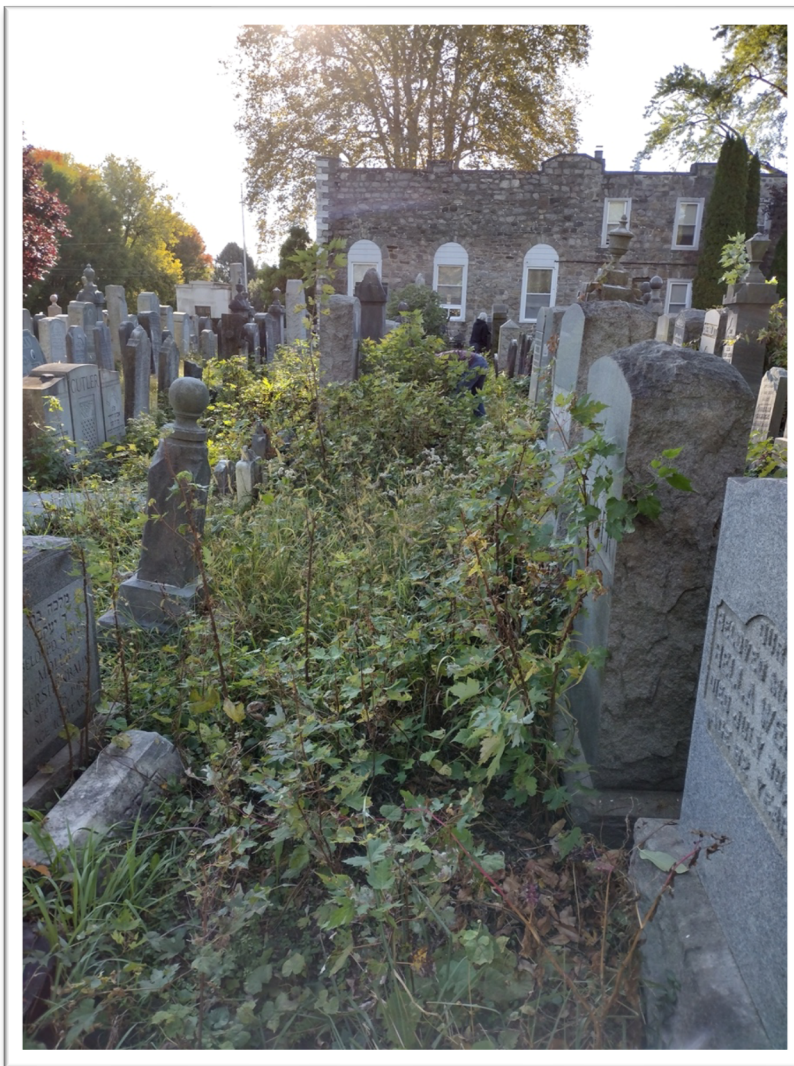
3. **Alan Kaminsky** (alan.kaminsky.gen@gmail.com) is overseeing the data collection, maintaining a master list of burials, and is responsible for a group of volunteers.

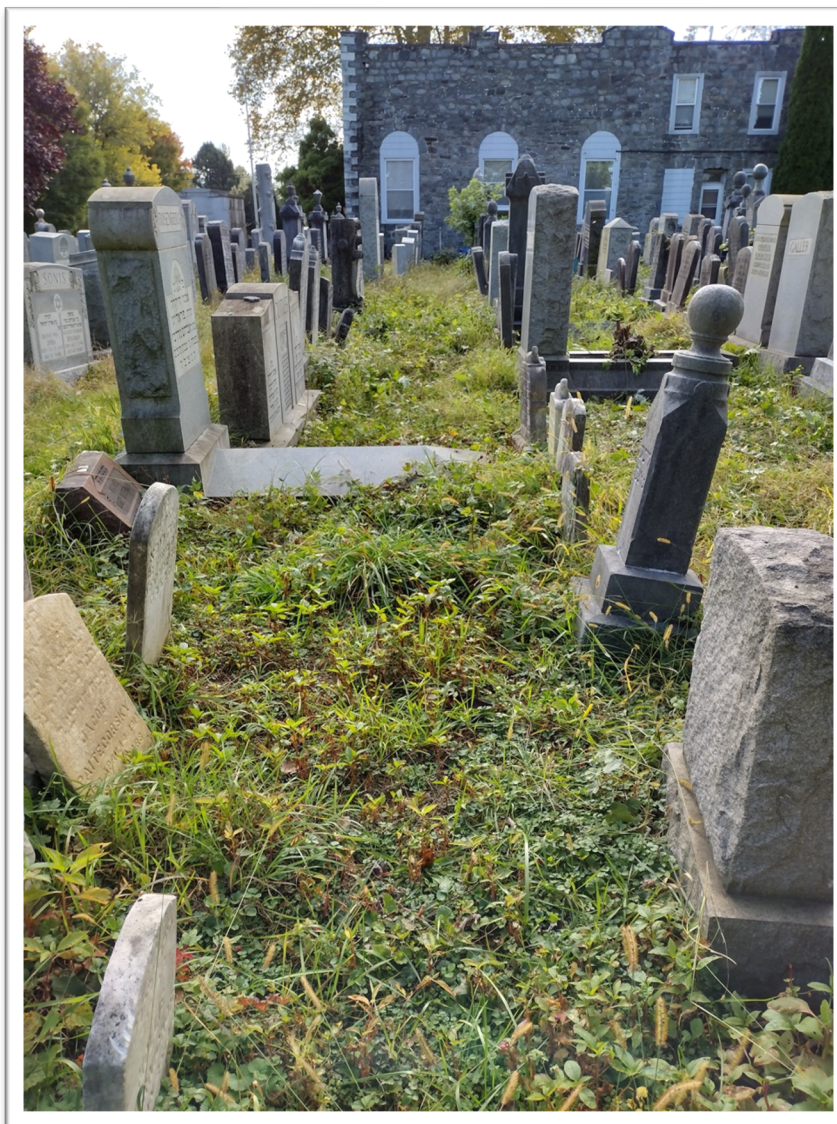
4. **Marilyn Golden** (membership@jgasgp.org) is responsible for a group of volunteers.

Alan was at the Har Jehuda clean up yesterday. Here are two photos he took.

It is a true mitzvah to help with the cemetery cleanups. We have wonderful members!

Look at the difference in the before and after photos!





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 2024

Fred BLUM and Felicia
Mode Alexander are our Local Co-
Chairs of the conference.

Stay tuned for more information
about
volunteer opportunities!

We are going to count on your
help to make our IN-PERSON
conference a huge success!



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

It's not too early to renew for 2024!

****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 new fiscal year will run from January 1st -
December 31st, 2024.***

***Our 2024 membership form is on our website.
\$10 extra for printed Chronicles.***

**WEBINARS, CONFERENCES, PODCASTS,
AND MEETINGS OF INTEREST**



JENNIFER MENDELSON
and
JEWISH DNA

October 29, 2023, at 2:00pm via Zoom



Thank you to the Dr.
Harry W. Salon
Foundation and the
Louis and Anne B.
Schneider Foundation
for their support of this
program.



**No, You Don't Really Have 7900 4th Cousins
and
Reunited and It Feels So Good – Holocaust
Reunions**

REGISTRATION CAN BE FOUND AT [NEINDIANAIGS.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS/](https://neindianaigs.org/upcoming-events/)

1. Please plan on joining the **Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society** on Sunday, October 29th for a wonderful afternoon featuring genealogist Jennifer Mendelsohn

- ☐ 2:00pm: NO, YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE 7900 4TH COUSINS
- ☐ 3:30pm: REUNITED AND IT FEELS SO GOOD - Holocaust Reunions

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://neindianaigs.org/upcoming-events/>

Free event!!!

2. Register for this in person event to be held at Rodeph Shalom Synagogue!



SAVE THE DATE!

MEMORIAL SCROLLS TRUST GATHERING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 7:00 P.M.
KRISTALLNACHT
CONGREGATION RODEPH SHALOM
(615 N. BROAD ST. PHILADELPHIA, PA 19123
ENTRANCE & PARKING LOCATED AT 1339 GREEN ST.)

Honor the Holocaust Torah Scrolls rescued from Czechoslovakia.

Registration required at bit.ly/mstgathering.

For questions, contact Barbara Chesler at bchesler12@gmail.com.



Evidence shows Jews have lived in Moravia and Bohemia since the 10th century. Over 600 Jewish communities emerged in the Kingdom of Bohemia (including Moravia).^[9] In the 1930 census, Czechoslovakia had a Jewish population of 356,830. Jewish communities flourished in the 16 and 17th centuries and again in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In October 1938, the Sudetenland was absorbed into Germany following the Munich Agreement and the nightmare for the Jews began. In just two months, in Czechoslovakia and Germany, pogroms destroyed families and homes, synagogues and ritual artifacts were vandalized, many were destroyed, and life became fearful and ugly. Jews started leaving, going to Palestine, Britain, France, or America.

The Nazis invaded Bohemia and Moravia by March 1939 on their way to Poland. Nazis immediately took over Jewish businesses and property, forcing the congregations to close. All communities in Bohemia and Moravia sent their “historically valuable” items to the Jewish Museum in Prague; some members of Prague’s Jewish community persuaded the Nazis to allow them to bring other religious treasures from the deserted communities and destroyed synagogues to the comparative safety of Prague. More than 212,000 artifacts were brought to the Museum, and 40 warehouses were required to house these treasures. **Among them were approximately 1,800 Torah scrolls.**

After the war, only 15% of the Jews of Czechoslovakia survived. About fifty Jewish congregations re-established themselves in the Czech Republic and were provided with religious artifacts, not necessarily from their communities. When the Communists took over the country’s government in 1948, Jewish communal life was again stifled, and most synagogues were closed. Their possessions went to

the newly restored Jewish Museum of Prague. One survivor, a museum curator, convinced the newly formed government to allow her to transfer all the scrolls to an abandoned and ruined temple outside Prague. They stayed on wooden racks, with a leaky roof, mice, and mold from 1948 until the early 1960s.

Through the generosity of Ralph Yablon, they were bought and brought to London and donated to the Westminster Synagogue in 1964. Damaged and deteriorating, the scrolls needed loving care. **The Memorial Scrolls Trust** was created as an independent charity/Trust to care for the scrolls and loan them to congregations, schools, and organizations worldwide. Currently, there are 1400 scrolls in circulation. The collection dates from the 1200s up to WWII. All the scrolls are from the Czech lands. Pennsylvania has 67 MST scrolls, of which 59 are in the eastern part of the state -44 in the Philadelphia region. New Jersey has 84 scrolls, and Delaware has 2.

[American Ancestors.org](#)

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

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.

*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

Rebecca Parmet, a member of JGASGP has passed away. May her memory be for a blessing.

Rebecca was enthusiastic about her genealogy research. She was active with the Friends of Jewish Cemeteries and helped encourage volunteers for the Har Jehuda cleanups. She enjoyed participating in our meetings and book club. She led a lively discussion of Red Sea Spies. She was the mother of two teenage twin boys. Please send cards of condolence to her husband Dan and her sons: The Parmet Family 160 Bewley Rd Havertown PA

The family kindly requests that donations be made to one of the following or similar charities:

- National Brain Tumor Society (<https://braintumor.org/take-action/give/memorial-giving>)
- Hadassah Medical Organization (https://secure2.convio.net/wzoa/site/Donation2?df_id=2261...)
- Overbrook School for the Blind (<https://www.obs.org/get-involved/ways-to-give.cfm>)

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.

