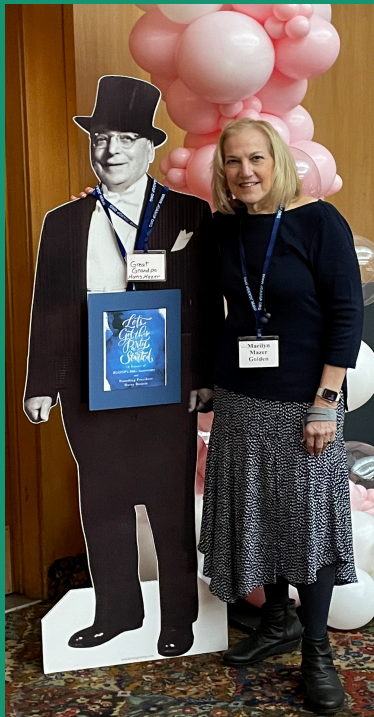




JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

MARILYN GOLDEN VP
membership@jgasgp.org



Hi Everyone,

November 12, 2023

Meryl Frank presented her story yesterday at our new Bucks County location. We did have a tough time setting up the wi-fi and getting zoom to work. It's all a learning experience as we venture out of our comfort zone.

I ended up using my phone and I know there was an echo. It was out of my control. One problem was that many people had their microphones and video turned on. In the future, please make sure you turn those off.

The topic was fascinating: Unearthed: A Lost Actress, a Forbidden Book, and a Search for Life in the Shadow of the Holocaust (the title of her book).

Her book is for sale on Amazon, Barnes and noble, etc. I look forward to reading it and will add it to our Book Club list too!

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.

Announcement: Recording of meetings!

Our lectures will be recorded and posted with the approval of our speakers.
Meryl Frank's lecture had some tech difficulties. Turn on Closed Captioning and keep on listening.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kUjKirs3l_CdakyKQCG4Ry9TcTT3cWZwr42XVmh-EHDelsb7_O4dMCnp0Gm-9iJ8.vXEXY2w52wjhJ9Bl

Passcode: k?ig8BkJ

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!

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. **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 aristocratic 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.



2. **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 soulmates. 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.

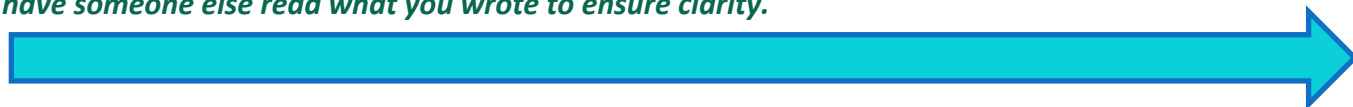
CHRONICLES

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

*It is official! **SAVE THE DATE: August 18-22, 2024.** The JGASGP is hosting the next global conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. This will be an in person conference at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown. The address of this hotel is 201 N 17th St, Philadelphia, PA 19103. It is a Marriott property so save your travel points to stay there free or at a discount.*

Fred Blum, Past President of JGASGP, is the conference Lead Chair, and I am the Local Chair. The last IAJGS conference hosted by JGASGP was in 2009 and was a huge success with over one thousand attendees. This was due to the amazing team of volunteers from our society. Now our society numbers of 400 members so we expect to surpass the number of worker bees and overall attendance of the 2009 event.

For the 2024 conference, many people are already stepping up to be actively involved. However, WE NEED YOU, too! A conference of this scope and magnitude requires many hands on deck as well as many attendees. If you can volunteer to help in the planning phases or on site during the actual event, your services will be much appreciated. Marilyn Mazer Golden will be coordinating our cadre of volunteers, so if you would like to sign up to help, reach out to her directly ASAP at membership@jgasgp.org. Of course, we also hope to see ALL our members here in person!!! If you are a remote member and live outside the Philly area, this is a great excuse to come to the City of Brotherly Love.

I have been to a number of IAJGS conferences over the years in Boston, NYC, Wash. DC, Cleveland, Warsaw, and of course here in Philadelphia. I know you are in for the experience of a lifetime. In fact, I guarantee it! My greatest discoveries and "aha" moments have resulted from these conferences.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy Chanukah. For our cousins in Israel and around the world, I wish a peaceful resolution to the war with Hamas, and a return to normalcy.



Am Yisrael Chai.

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 anyone does not wish to be recorded, please do not participate in the live program.** All microphones and 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, December 10, 2023

Time: 1:00 Check in, Chat, and Schmooze in person only.

1:30 pm EST Official start time on Zoom

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

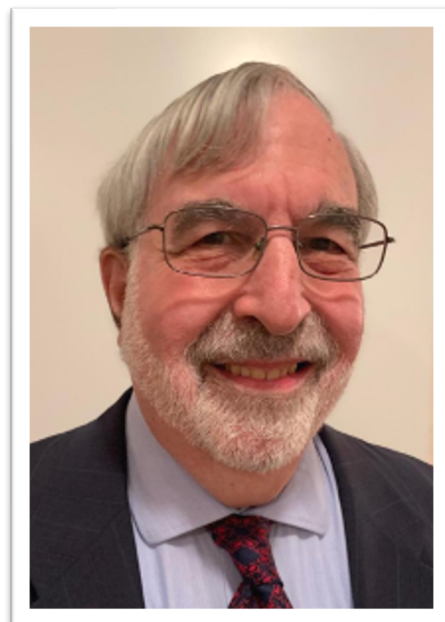


Director of JRI-Poland, and town leader for 4 shtetls. He is a member of the JGS of Long Island. At the 2020 IAJGS Conference, he presented on Alex Krakovsky and his Wiki and was a panelist on the Ukraine Research Division Meeting. Gary has authored an article on the Alex Krakovsky project published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

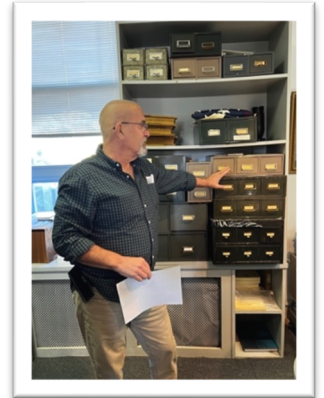
HAVE YOU MADE ANY CONNECTIONS? LET US KNOW!

Har Jehuda Cemetery Digitization Project Update:



ANNOUNCEMENT!

*Records will be posted on our website soon.
17,000 records will be posted by the end of
November. Would you like to join us so we
can complete our mission?*



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.

H A M E C



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

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!

Thank you to everyone who has paid their membership dues!

***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

The Holocaust Teacher Institute

Is Proud to Announce
The Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Foundation
Holocaust/Jewish Themed Sunday Salon Series

A Virtual Evening with Best Selling Author

Lisa Scottoline

in Conversation with Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff about Lisa's best-selling
books and what inspires her to write about Jewish Historical Events!



Sunday, November 19th, 2023

5 PM - EST - (U.S.- Eastern Time) / 2 PM - PST (Pacific)

What war destroys, only love can heal.

Eternal is a triangular story of first love, told against the backdrop of WWII in Rome, that is both terrifying and magical; three young people at one of the worst times in history are filled with love, hate, fear, rage, and at the end, survival, and hope.

[Click HERE for Lisa Scottoline's Bio](#)

After registering, you will receive an immediate confirmation email with your ZOOM link. A reminder will be sent as well.

[Click HERE to Register](#)

Finding Ancestors in Deeds - Online program via Zoom

Presented by Bill Eddleman

Saturday, December 2nd at 10:00 am EST

Records involving land transfers after the original title holder often require a deeper level of understanding to be used effectively. This presentation provides an overview on locating available information in deeds, including types of deeds, using deed indices, and how to record and use what you find.

Registration for this program opens on **Monday, November 27, 2023** for both members (\$5) and non-members (\$10). This presentation **will be recorded**. Only **members who have registered for this program as members** will be able to view it for 30 days following the program date, by logging in to the website and selecting "Meeting registration" from the Members-Only menu.

For complete information on the program and speaker, please visit <https://www.bucksgen.org/index.php/bcgs-programs>.

Also, our Comprehensive Calendar of Events has been updated through 2024 and available free at [CompCalendarEvents.pdf](#). It continues to be our most popular download and linked to from many genealogy websites. Feel free to submit your organization's public events directly to me.

Thanks so very much for your support this year to Bucksgen and to our genealogical community.

Sincerely,

Cathy Ivins

Director of Publicity. publicity@bucksgen.org

**Orange County CA JGS Meeting Sunday
November 19 at 10:00 am (Pacific time zone)**

Schelly Talalay Dardashti: *Sephardic Genealogy*

A journalist and genealogist, Schelly Talalay Dardashti is the US Genealogy Advisor for MyHeritage.com. She has been tracking her families across Spain, Eastern Europe, and Iran for more than three decades. She is the founder of “Tracing the Tribe—Jewish Genealogy on Facebook,” with some 38,000 members in 101 countries.

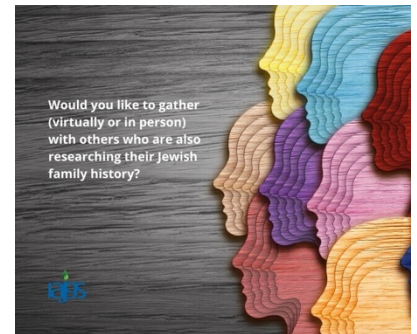
Register in advance for this Zoom presentation. [Click this link to register.](#)

Michelle Sandler
Publicity OCJGS
Westminster, California

INTERNATIONAL JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH: GET HELP WITH RESEARCH CHALLENGES!

#JGS-IAJGS

Do you have a confounding brick wall in your family history?
Sometimes it helps to review what you know with others who are working with similar records, places, and time periods. With that kind of teamwork, you can be back to climbing your family tree in no time.
Many Jewish genealogy societies hold both virtual and in-person meetings. Visit our member page to find a group that meets your needs.



<https://www.iajgs.org/membership/member-societies/>

Emily Garber Director, IAJGS

[American Ancestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.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

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.

