



**JEWISH GENEALOGICAL
AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY
OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA**

March 11, 2024

Where We Lived
**44th IAJGS International
Conference on Jewish
Genealogy**
Aug 18-22, 2024
Philadelphia
Save the date!
iajgs2024.org

Hi Everyone,

I'm changing the format of our Newsletter.

We are planning on the IAJGS 44th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. This is in the front of my mind, so I will be making sure it's on yours too. I hope many of you are planning on

attending! I will be depending on a lot of volunteers to help make this conference a friendly reflection on our society and the city of Philadelphia.

*I am looking for someone who like to be responsible to Chair the **Hospitality Desk**. If you think you want to be part of this please let me know. We will have shifts of volunteers for 2 hrs. at a time. No one will be asked to do more that that and no one will have to miss a lecture they want to attend!!!

*I am also looking for someone who would be the **Tour liaison**. We will be having tours daily (nothing is set yet) and I need someone who would meet the people each morning in the lobby or out front of the hotel. Michael Shatz and Jerry Silverman will be our tour guides.

If you would like to volunteer for either position, let me know ASAP that I can count on you.

When you register for the conference multiple Volunteer slots will be available. We need people to work in the **Resource Room** (computers, researching various websites), **mentoring** in specific areas of expertise (German, Ukraine, Holocaust, Adoptions, etc.), **Translations**, Yiddish, Hebrew, Spanish, etc. All these questions will be put into Pheedloop (the electronic registration program we'll be using). We will need greeters at the lectures, ticket takers at paid events. We will need people to help give out pre-paid boxed lunches.

I hope that everyone in our society will consider volunteering for something!

Our speaker on Sunday was **Alex Calzareth**. Alex is a Board Member of Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island and the JewishGen Research Director for Germany. His topic was: **Mapping Your Family History: How to Create a Customized Google Map**

Create maps with your own data on Google Maps. This presentation will teach you how to create a custom map, import location data associated with family history events or source records and then customize the appearance of that data on the map. Custom maps can be used in many ways, including visually conveying family migration patterns, showing the location of regional cemeteries, and which towns hold certain vital records. Resulting maps can also be imported into Google Earth for additional functionality.

Announcement: Recording of our meeting!

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/2BuGwhtWqxWD3YvCyJ9-WBG-fROVUugA_1Aefbr5Mz9WhQxpgUQt5VvcEBPomzOHv.pTLJErQP934upmNE

Passcode: J0d%M1?M

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

Two great resources are available on our website:



Search the On-demand library of RootsTech to watch
great videos for Jewish researchers!

Connections are so important!

It Really is a Small World

By Emilie Kaufman Epstein

About 4 years ago, in a bereavement group held at a local Jewish Community Center, I met a woman with whom I now have a friendship. Though a decade plus older than me, we found ourselves bonding over several interests. Certainly, we understood the pain of widowhood. About 2 years ago when discussing her growing up in Philadelphia, I mentioned that I had recently found a Philadelphia connection to my family tree. I mentioned the surname Kaufman (my maiden name) thinking perhaps she knew some people by that name. That's when she told me that her maiden name was also Kaufman. Surprised, I went home with notes about her family, but could find no connection between her family and mine.

Her 91st birthday was a few weeks ago. I took her out for lunch and also printed out some interesting documents I found on Ancestry about her family history. It seems there were others doing research and there were several wonderful family photos. I made her an album.

One of her three sisters was Gladys Kaufman. The page from her high school yearbook was on the website, so I printed it out. Gladys graduated Gratz High School in 1944. Taking a better look at the page, just above the photo of Gladys was my relative, Edith Irene Kaufman.

That's a very small world. I wish there was someone to ask if they knew each other and if so, if they were friends.

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.

***WE HAVE TO DELAY OUR MARCH MEETING. THIS IS A LONG BOOK!
Please note the change of date!**

**Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, April 24th at
7:30 pm.**

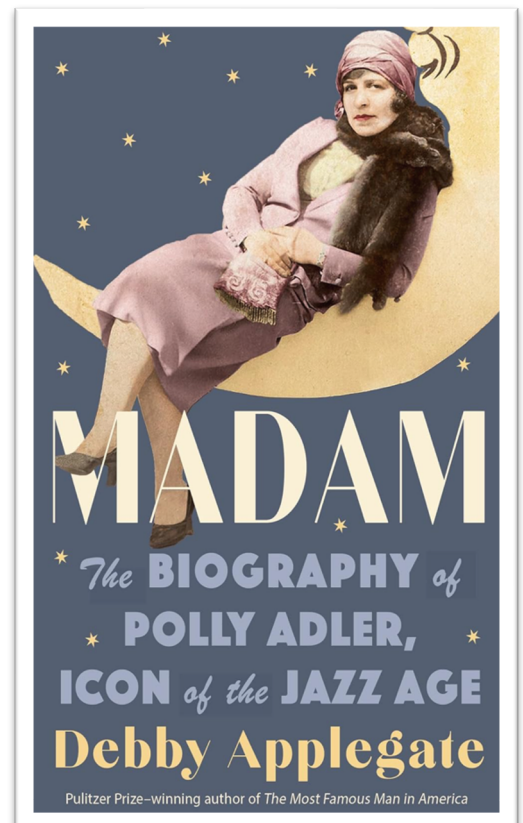
Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age by Debby Applegate

The compulsively readable and sometimes jaw-dropping story of the life of a notorious madam who played hostess to every gangster, politician, writer, sports star and Cafe Society swell worth knowing, and who as much as any single figure helped make the twenties roar—from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Most Famous Man in America*.

"A fast-paced tale of ... Polly's many court battles, newspaper headlines, mobster dealings and society gossip.... A breathless tale told through extraordinary research." —The New York Times Book Review

Simply put: Everybody came to Polly's. Pearl "Polly" Adler (1900–1962) was a diminutive dynamo whose Manhattan brothels in the Roaring Twenties became places not just for men to have the company of women but were key gathering places where the culturati and celebrity elite mingled with high society and with violent figures of the underworld—and had a good time doing it.

As a Jewish immigrant from eastern Europe, Polly Adler's life is a classic American story of success and assimilation that starts like a novel by Henry Roth and then turns into a glittering real-life tale straight out of F. Scott Fitzgerald. She declared her ambition to be "the best goddam madam in all America" and



succeeded wildly. Debby Applegate uses Polly's story as the key to unpack just what made the 1920s the appallingly corrupt yet glamorous and transformational era that it was and how the collision between high and low is the unique ingredient that fuels American culture.

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

All are welcome to attend.

The link will be sent out on Wednesday morning, prior to the meeting.

CHRONICLES

***Chronicles* is seeking a new editor.**

If you have writing and/or editing experience, this might be up your alley.

Enjoy the process of being the first to read fascinating, new stories by our members and help refine and craft them for publication. You'll have the opportunity to continue to build on ***Chronicles' legacy*** as a publication that has been informing and instructing JGASGP members about genealogy, and reporting our members' joys and challenges as they travel their research journeys.

Current editor, Evan Fishman, will be available to train and mentor.



Please submit your well-thought-out and organized stories to ***Evan Fishman***, ***editor@jgasgp.org***.

Please let us know that you have something in the works.

Before submitting your article, have someone else read what you wrote to ensure clarity.

Chronicles is posted on our website. Contact Jim, webmaster@jgasqp.org for any questions about receiving your hard copy. Jim has posted all issues of Chronicles dating back to 1982 (Vol 1 # 1). Hard copies will be mailed out in about a week.

CONTRIBUTIONS

*We would like to thank members who have made generous donations to our society. Your continued kindness is greatly appreciated. Please let us know if you want to send a donation **in honor of**, or **in memory of** someone special.*

*Contributions for the conference need to be labeled **“For the 2024 conference”**.*

Have you filled out the Family Finder information and sent it to me? All new members are requested to keep me informed about their family research names. Please read below.

Research Information For New Members (Please share family names you are researching so others may help you connect)

| SURNAME | TOWN | COUNTRY |
|---------|------|---------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
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NEW MEMBERS: Please fill out the bottom part of the membership form. I will include your family in the next update.

FAMILY FINDER PROJECT UPDATE:

Check out our updated JGASGP family finder!

It's on our website jgasgp.org



Look under the **RESOURCES** menu pulldown for members only! You must be signed



JGASGP MEETING SCHEDULE

The Zoom link will be sent out to members by Friday and posted on the HOME page of our website on Sunday prior to each meeting.



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!

Zoom Meeting links will be sent out to members on Friday mornings before the meetings. Link will be posted on our website on Sunday morning. **We use CLOSED CAPTIONING on Zoom.**

**AS THE WEATHER GETS NICER, WE ARE GOING TO MEET
IN PERSON!**

**JIM AND CINDY WILL BE BRING BOOKS TO GIVE AWAY
AND WE WILL HAVE SOME YUMMY SNACKS!**

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HUMAN INTERACTION!

Date: Sunday, April 14, 2024.

**Time: 1:00 check in, chat, and schmooze
1:30 pm Est official start time on zoom and in person.**

**Location: Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel,
8339 Old York Rd, Elkins Park, PA 19027**

Hybrid Meeting

Speaker: Matt Weismantel, Professional Genealogist and Ellis Island Volunteer

Matt has been fascinated by history for as long as he can remember and has had a passion for genealogy for the past 35 years. As an adoptee himself, he fully appreciates the importance of uncovering one's roots. Matt's academic background in historical geography has been invaluable in supporting his genealogical interests, and he has graduated from ProGen 47 and multiple genealogical institutes.

Matt has served in various leadership positions, including as the secretary of the New Jersey Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), is currently the organization delegate for the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society (Oregon) and is serving as the Vice-Chair of the Delegates Council of the National Genealogical Society. He is also an active member of the New York Metro and Greater Philadelphia Chapters of the APG and several other local genealogical societies. Matt's work has been published in numerous local and state genealogical journals.

Since retiring in 2019 from his role at Rutgers University, Matt has been dedicating his time to volunteering at the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island National Monument at the American Family Immigration History Center and the Ellis Island Research Library, where he enjoys helping people discover their family histories. Matt helps organize and improve access to materials on the library's history of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

Topic: Ellis Island: Its History and Its Documents

Ellis Island served as the main entry point for millions of immigrants to the United States, with its peak years between 1892 and 1924. This presentation places Ellis Island within the context of US immigration history, debunking some long-standing urban legends. It considers the documents generated as part of the immigration process, including how to find them



and what information they include. Additionally, it looks at Ellis Island's recent story, from its abandonment and partial restoration, and reflects on the conflicting yet critical immigration story in our nation's long history.

Date: Sunday, May 5, 2024.

Times: To be determined... check in, chat, and schmooze
official start time on zoom and in person.

Location: Shir Ami, 101 Richboro Road Newtown, PA 18940 Bucks County

Guest Speakers: Linda Ewall (Our JGASGP secretary) and her cousin Jeffrey Friedman will be discussing their DNA research group where they've discovered 100's of family members. More info. to come.

Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024

Special BRUNCH to honor our Har Jehuda volunteers!



Time: 11:00 In person only

Location: Main Line Reform 410 Montgomery Ave,
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Guest Speaker: Rich Blumberg, JGASGP Member and Volunteer FJC

Har Jehuda Project : It's a Mitzvah Celebration

Bagel Brunch honoring the volunteers of the Har Jehuda Project: It's a Mitzvah. We will be discussing the Har Jehuda Project and the future of cemetery cleanup projects in the Philadelphia area. ALL are welcome to attend our in-person event.

We have completed our digitization project of the approximate 26,000 burial cards. I am so grateful to all our wonderful volunteers. We couldn't have done this without you!

SEE ADDITIONAL EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE! CHECK OFTEN. NEW LECTURES WILL BE ADDED MONTHLY AS THEY ARE SCHEDULED.



MENTORS

Alicia Weiss and **Beth Steiner** have joined our JGASGP Mentor Team! If you need a mentor, let me know!

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

Dear JewishGen Community,

We are pleased to announce that the pilot episode of *Generations*, the first Jewish-themed genealogy television series produced by the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, JewishGen, and JLTv, has been completed.

The show features actors Camryn Manheim (Law and Order, The Practice) and her son, Milo Manheim (School Spirits, Zombies), and explores their DNA and family roots, while revealing artifacts, objects, documents, and photographs to paint a full family portrait.

This pilot episode will air later this spring, and we are pleased to share advanced access to the trailer: <https://www.jewishgen.org/generations>.

If you have any questions, or feedback, please email support@JewishGen.org.

Sincerely, Avraham

IAJGS CONFERENCE 2024

Fred Blum ,Local Chair and Felicia Mode Alexander, Local Co-Chair
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!

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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



WE ARE NOW LOOKING FOR EXHIBITORS FOR THE CONFERENCE

ARE YOU A VENDOR OR KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED? PLEASE SHARE THE ATTACHED FLYER.

PLEASE CONTACT ME FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING OUT A TIMELINE FOR SET UP, ETC.

MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIETY NEWS

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

Please join us for this week's JewishGen Talks webinar:

Title: A Gallery of Missing Husbands: Family Deserters in Jewish Genealogy

Speaker: Michael Morgenstern

When: Thursday, March 14th, 2024 (please note the change in the day of the week)

Time: 2:00 PM ET

Registration: Free with a suggested donation. [Please register by clicking here.](#)

Recording: Those who register for the webinar will have access to the recording before it is made available publicly.

About the Talk:

The Yiddish language Forward newspaper crafted a unique solution to ease an epidemic of family desertion in the early 20th century. By printing names, photos and brief blurbs about absconding husbands, Forward readers helped track these men and report their whereabouts to their families. This talk by Michael Morgenstern, who compiled and translated these entries, will shed light on the data in this

collection and this largely overlooked part of the Jewish American experience. This collection now spans from 1908-1920 and includes over 3,200 entries.

The original source for this collection is the National Library of Israel and the Forward Association.

About the Speaker:

Michael Morgenstern is a native of Los Angeles. He has been an avid genealogy researcher since high school. Since 2014, he has worked as an educator at the Holocaust Museum LA. He frequently carries out volunteer genealogical research for Holocaust survivors, focusing on those who do not have any pre-war family documents or photographs. Michael has presented at IAJGS conferences and on Uniworld’s Jewish-heritage-themed European river cruises. His latest project has been researching the Forverts and translating segments for JewishGen.



The Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon invites you to a free Zoom presentation:

The Jewish Communities of the Caribbean, with W. Todd Knowles,

Sunday, 21 April 2024, 10:30 a.m. Pacific Time.

All our Zoom presentations offer closed captioning.

Please register in advance:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0odOGvqTwpG9Yq49YdyvnqfOO1mIJCtWu6#/registration>

Linda W. Kelley

Secretary, JGSO

Portland, OR, USA

Joel Weintraub spoke to our Society about the 1950 Census before it was released in 2022. He is an expert on such records. Joel recently posted this message on JewishGen. Might be helpful to you.

I have recently put online three YouTube videos I think will be of interest to ‘Genners. They are:

1. A Rat Ate My Family’s Manifest 27:25

<https://youtu.be/exK3GOOTzIs>

Subtitle: I have their ship manifest, but they are not on it! Using the first 3 letters of the surname, and the 3 children’s ages and sexes, I find the “missing” family manifest at Ellis Island.

2. U.S. Naturalization: Processes, Denials & Immigration Scams 39:19

<https://youtu.be/EgA-jmupKSA>

What is Naturalization; Finding Naturalization records; Declaration of Intention; Getting a Certificate of Arrival; Manifest Annotations; Witness legal steps & why the infamous Charles Ponzi's witnesses’ statements caused him to withdraw his Naturalization papers; the Petition; Women & Naturalization laws & Repatriations. Two cases of denial of the Petition. Finally, I document swindles involving the ship

manifest at Ellis Island. If you have a relative whose name was lined off the manifest yet still arrived in America from that voyage, or went mysteriously from steerage to first class, it might be a product of an early 1920s swindle.

3. Immigrant Names & Manifest Searches 1:20:14

<https://youtu.be/vy98KS-gaK8>

Changing names or spelling and manifest searches. I concentrate on how Certificate of Arrival (C/A) requests were managed by the Naturalization Bureau in the 1920s. I show the viewer, with two examples, how one applies for the C/A. I then discuss the spellings of immigrant names, and how they affect manifest searches. With a sample of over 40 immigrants using multiple names (or spellings) from online C/A applications, the viewer will see, in the immigrants' own words, why they used those names (mostly their given (first) names). Applications where the Immigration Service could not, initially, verify the port/ship/date of arrival are shown with their solutions. C/A applications are also shown of a person arriving under another person's name and the naturalization consequences, and an individual arriving under his mother's maiden name (unknown to him). I end with an example where an immigrant in 1927 sued Ellis Island who told him he could not be found on his stated ship's manifest (he did) and then would not let his agent look at the manifest.

Spread the word.

Thanks, enjoy!

Joel Weintraub

Dana Point CA

<https://www.youtube.com/c/IDWTalks>

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.

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.*

