



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Date: Friday, May 2, 2025

During the IAJGS conference in Philadelphia, **Carol Moskot** attended our meeting about Carl Lutz. She stood up and announced that Carl Lutz was the reason that she was alive! We were privileged to listen to Carol tell us her story and find out why on Sunday, April 27, 2025.

She presented the story of the postcards that she possesses originally sent to her grandmother. and the “Shutzpass” (protection letter) that belonged to her grandmother as well. Her article, The Five Postcards, the Holocaust story of her Grandfather, has been published in Canada and the United States. Find her work at www.carolmoskot.com.

Topic: The Last Letters: An Enthralling Investigation of a Jewish Family Devastated by the Holocaust and Partly Restored through the Power of Genealogy and Storytelling.

You can watch the inspiring lecture using the following link: https://downloads.boxcast.com/2025-04-27-165002-vznuwy3tanszamdmv3ww-1080p-bos-e7243.04s.mp4?response-content-disposition=attachment%3B+filename%3D2025-04-27-165002-vznuwy3tanszamdmv3ww-1080p-bos-e7243.04s.mp4&Expires=1748650988&Signature=jth5QVzk4fv2CwP5tov-PSxjvc29eCP3wbqfsICy-VboweBSLK7Hxeh4JKHJlylRAhMecBg~b5tisK36vQtVu-TxSVpwc3Ug-mbbU5u8gO9j2gL1Ko9gt16An1vaEuo7LDgIN2dMJTU6ZPy1wpLqatx-CRt2JKEapv9z4olMtWWyAjVO4fLPhWUxaC4Gkfuk9BxWzExaogOt-uCaDkYXZZ-MyiOuUD-dUkQUJ7leSEVVJgrzcS7eEamXQxQh2-7GqZ6KnOm16V7b8OX4VchRaz-TYJA1YnqbWqOJB8YTd4Za1oXt~BPFZzt~ajj~VoGjyCg4tMajE4AmR8fVBOqk5YgfOQ__&Key-Pair-Id=APKAJ7GUCBQUK6NTWZCA

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips



Two fabulous resources are available on our website:

Looking for Philadelphia



Indices of all the Immigrant Banks in Philadelphia including the Blitzstein Bank were indexed many years ago by the Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia and can be searched in the JewishGen USA Database <https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/USA/>. The index information will be needed to find the image of that record.

The actual records are held by the Temple University Library Special Collections. They have digitized these records. Blitzstein images can be found via their M.L. Blitzstein and Co. webpage at <https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/custom/blitzsteinbank>.

All Immigrant Bank records and webpages can be found on the Steamship Ticket Purchase Ledgers webpage at <https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/collection/p16002coll16>.

Record Bank information:

*FYI: Many requests are sent to me for help. I don't personally take on clients or provide research for our members. Our society recommends contacting the **Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists**. <https://www.apgen.org/>

We do have volunteer mentors for our members if you need some guidance. See our announcement under "Mentors".

Beginners can go to our website for our Beginners Guide. There are also many terrific free websites to look at. <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/> is up to 27 quicken lessons (as of this writing). You can go back to #1 to start learning about your research documentation. Not just for professionals. Plan your organization and keep your tree as accurate as possible so you're not researching the wrong people! Sign up for <https://genealogybargains.com/> to find free and discounted items from Thomas MacEntee.

Book Club Update



Hope to see many of you at our Book Club meeting. All are welcome any time! Our books are either written by an author with Jewish heritage or is one who writes about a Jewish theme. 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. Meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the month.
PLEASE RSVP to membership@jgasgp.org.

The Book Spy by Alan Hlad

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 7:30 - 8:30

Meeting link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9151515151?pwd=mlrIWUoOQXN6cMORGojSc-BofP9nlf.1&omn=89221418704>

1. **Florence Adler Swims Forever** by Rachel Beanland Wednesday, June 25, 2025, 7:30
2. **Held** by Anne Michaels Wednesday, Sept, 2025, 7:30 (TBD)
3. **The House is on Fire** by Rachel Beanland Wednesday Oct., 2025 (TBD)
4. **The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century** by David Laskin

Chronicles

Dear Friends,

As you know by now, Evan Fishman, our beloved friend, JGASGP board member and Editor of Chronicles, passed away suddenly. We ask that you forward any article you previously sent to Evan to Ed & Debbie.

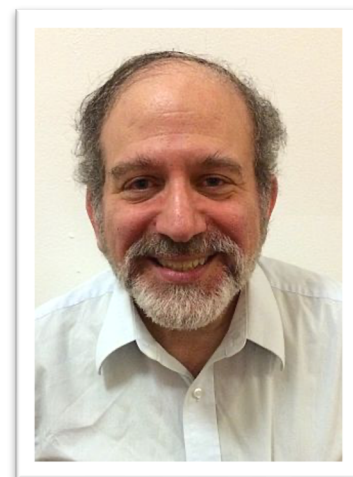
Please respond to Ed and Debbie.

Thank you,

Ed Flax, - ejflax@gmail.com

Debbie Terman - dct@alum.mit.edu

Everyone has been emailed the electronic version. If you've paid extra, the hard copies have been mailed. Let us know if you've changed addresses!



Evan was a kind soul who was dedicated to our Chronicles journal, his research, his friends and foremost his family.

Contributions: UPDATE

We would like to thank members and friends who have made generous donations to our society. Your continued kindness is greatly appreciated. Please let us know if you want to donate in honor of or in memory of someone special. Tom will be informing Evan's family of all donations received in his memory.

Evan was beloved by the JGASGP community, and the outpouring of love has been a testament to that. Many have asked about making donations in Evan's memory, and the JGASGP will be making donations to some organizations that were important to Evan:

JRI-Poland, <https://www.jri-poland.org/>

Ukraine SIG, <https://www.jewishgen.org/>

Alex Krakovsky, (Ukrainian: Олександр Краковський) is a Jewish-Ukrainian archivist, activist, and genealogist. He is a leader in the Jewish genealogical community in efforts to legalize the digitization of Jewish records from Ukrainian historical government archives.

HAMEC, Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center, 8339 Old York Rd, Elkins Park, PA 19027, <https://hamec.org/>

In addition, we will be planning a day-of-learning in memory of Evan. If you would like to contribute to JGASGP in Evan's memory you can use PayPal under the Membership Tab or mail a check to our mailbox address.

Please make sure to write that it is to be used in memory of our beloved Evan Fishman.

Any problems, contact Jim, webmaster@jgasgp.org

Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia

1657 The Fairway, #145

Jenkintown, PA 19046

Everything Genealogy

We met on April 7th. Here are some of the topics discussed.

1. **Where to visit for genealogy research when visiting Philadelphia?** Suggestions were given Philadelphia Archives, Free Library, SCRC at Charles Library (Temple U-you **MUST** call in advance), Weitzman Museum, cemeteries.
2. **Where do I look for more information for my Ukranian family?** Mark suggested going to JewishGen and looking under the Ukranian Research Division. If you know the town your relatives came from, look for the town leader and contact them. You can ask questions on the Ukranian Division Digest. Many records have been posted and indexed by Alex Krakovsky. Check his Wiki page. They are in Cyrillic and will need to be translated.
3. **Death Certificates are available up to 1971.** If you come across one, make sure to see if there is an additional page before or after that may explain more about a death. Walt Spector gave us this tip!

From Steve Weisberg:

The meeting on Monday was insightful; the suggestion to search for a page 2 of Death certificates was helpful. I found the page 2 for my Great Aunt's and verified what had been a dark family secret.

FORM 7

1 PLACE OF DEATH
COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA
TOWNSHIP OF
OR
BOROUGH OF
OR
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. 1

PRIMARY REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. 247

REGISTERED NO. 168-119

WARD 1

2. FULL NAME *Robert Rosner*

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX 5 COLOR OR RACE 4 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (Write the word)

6 DATE OF BIRTH Month Day Year

7 AGE Yrs. mos. ds. If LESS than 1 day how many hrs. or min.?

8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work. (b) General nature of industry business, or establishment in which employed or (employer).

9 BIRTHPLACE (State or Country)

10 NAME OF FATHER

11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Country)

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER

13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or Country)

14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

INFORMANT ADDRESS

15 FILED 19 LOCAL REGISTRAR

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH 1 16 32 Month Day Year

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT AN INQUEST WAS HELD UPON THE BODY OF THE ABOVE NAMED DECEASED ON THE JAN 23 1996 DAY OF 19 THAT THE JURY RENDERED A VERDICT GIVING THE CAUSE OF DEATH AS FOLLOWS: Strangulation by Hanging 168-119 suicide while temper changed

SIGNED *David Stewart* CORONER

* State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH; or in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal.

18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE, (FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS OR RECENT RESIDENTS.) At Place of death yrs. mos. ds. In the State yrs. mos. ds. Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? Former or usual residence Ward

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL DATE OF BURIAL

20 UNDERTAKER ADDRESS

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. N. B. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. Age and sex should be stated. Cause of DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

There is always something new to learn! Thank you to everyone who attended.

Our next EG meeting is on May 5th. 7:30

Help Wanted

***2nd Webmaster** to share responsibilities with Jim
WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for an additional webmaster. This position will split the responsibilities with our webmaster (Jim). Tasks will be divided. Website update suggestions gladly accepted to help keep us modernized with the best website of any society!



JGASGP Meeting Schedule and Updates

The Zoom link or Livestream link will be posted on the HOME page of our website on Sunday morning before each meeting. Livestream will not show the audience. There will be no chat and shmooze on Livestream.

Most of our programs will be recorded with the permission of the guest lecturer. **Using Zoom, 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 lectures.

Take a look at all the meetings scheduled so far.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PERSON FOR OUR MEETINGS!

See our website for more details about the speakers and the topics.

Sunday, May 18, 2025, at 1:30 pm

(1 pm for Schmoozing and Mentoring in person only)

Hybrid Meeting – In Person Venue: Main Line Reform Temple, 410 Montgomery Ave,
Wynnewood, PA 19096 Hausen auditorium upstairs

Speaker: Michelle Tucker Chubenko, Professional Genealogist, AG®, AGL™

Topic: Digging for Roots in the Garden State

Sunday, June 22, 2025, at 1:30 pm

(1 pm for Schmoozing and Mentoring in person only)

Hybrid Meeting –In Person Main Line Reform Temple, 410 Montgomery Ave, Wynnewood, PA
19096 Hausen auditorium upstairs

Speaker: David Lee Preston, Author and Journalist

Topic: Finding Hope Underground

Sunday, July 13, 2025

(1 pm for Schmoozing and Mentoring)

Zoom Only Meeting

Speaker: Sunny Jane Morton, Family Tree Magazine, Contributing Editor

Topic: Comparing the U.S. Newspaper Giants: What Jewish Content Do They Have?

Speaker: Sunny Jane Morton, Family Tree Magazine, Contributing Editor

The Steve Schechter Memorial Lecture

Sunday, September 14, 2025 (The Steve Schechter Memorial Lecture)

(1 pm for Schmoozing and Mentoring)

Hybrid Meeting – In Person Venue Main Line Reform Hausen auditorium upstairs

Speaker: Benjamin Nathans, Alan Charles Kors Associate Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

H A M E C



Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center
Preserving History to Learn From the Past | Est. 1961



JGASGP

We currently have 347 members!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: DUE'S HAVE INCREASED FOR 2025!

***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 Ed Flax, - ejflax@gmail.com or Debbie Terman - dct@alum.mit.edu with Chronicles article questions.

Our new fiscal year runs from January 1st - December 31st, 2025.

Our 2025 membership form is on our website. \$10 extra for printed Chronicles.

Mentors

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



News Update

(US-PA) Pennsylvania Starts Pilot Program for Immediate Access to Birth Certificates

Jan Meisels Allen

Apr 29



The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Departments of Labor & Industry (L&I) and Health (DOH) has started a pilot program providing immediate access to birth certificates at PA CareerLink® locations – helping more Pennsylvanians access the documents they need to enter the workforce, faster and more efficiently than before.

DOH offers multiple options for obtaining a birth certificate, including online (<https://mycertificates.health.pa.gov/pastorefront/customer/pa/paProductSelect.xhtml>) through the mail, (<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/health/documents/topics/documents/certificat>) or in-person at a Vital Records public office (<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/programs/vital-records/public-offices.html>).

To see more go to:

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/newsroom/pilot-program-providing-on-the-spot-birth-certificates>

Jan Meisels Allen

Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee



Webinars, Conferences, Podcasts, and Meetings of Interest

See the videos about the conference on Youtube: You will learn about the venue, the hotel and the Fort Wayne Genealogy Library.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKEShBC8kMo>

JGSLI YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Did you know that our award-winning YouTube Channel has 40 5-minute videos on topics including Landsmannschaften, DNA, immigration research, Jewish headstones and more! Watch them here: [YouTube Videos](#)

JGSLI Presents their May Meeting:

- **Sunday May 4, 2025: Genealogy Records in Israel 2024 by Garri Regev**

IGRA is the main starting point for researching records of relatives in Israel. With over 3,400,000 records from tens of archives IGRA has records from the Ottoman Empire, British Administration and the State of Israel: records documenting Israel/Palestine, the Mediterranean Basin, references to Europe and more. Join me to learn more about navigating the IGRA website and unlocking information about your family.

[Details about Genealogy Records in Israel 2024 by Garri Regev](#)

JGSGB Presents their May Meeting:

SUSAN WEINBERG – THE BARON DE HIRSCH FUND: SHAPING THE JEWISH IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

- **MAY 4, 2025 @ 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM EDT**

AT BEECH STREET CENTER (HYBRID MEETING*)

***Speaker will present in person. You may attend in person or on Zoom.**

JGSGB members: Program is free. Members do not need to register. Join us in person, or you can find the Zoom link by logging in to your [JGSGB Membership account](#). Once logged in, use the “What would you like to do” dropdown to locate the Members-only Page for the Zoom link. You will also receive an email with the Zoom link the morning of the program. Non-members: Pay \$5.00 at the door to attend in person, or [click here](#) to pay \$5.00 fee to receive the Zoom link.

If you do not receive an email with the link to the program within 15 minutes, please check your Spam folder.

This program will be recorded and available on the members’ page.

Program Description:

From the late 1800s through the 1920s, the United States saw a huge influx of Jewish immigrants as they fled the difficult constraints placed upon them in Russia. The Baron de Hirsch played a pivotal role in assisting their immigration from Russia and their subsequent experience in the United States. This talk will trace the genesis of the efforts of Baron de Hirsch and the many ways in which he influenced the lives of our ancestors. We will then explore more in-depth one of his efforts, the Industrial Removal Office, which assisted the movement of Jews out of New York City to other areas in the United States, seeding future Jewish communities. In port cities such as Boston, there were often committees of the Baron de Hirsch Fund which provided additional support. We will take a look at what was offered through these committees and some of the additional efforts supported by the Fund that changed the immigrant experience of our ancestors.

The MainLine Genealogy Club Presents:

Demystifying the Three Big Free Digital Sites for Genealogists: The Internet Archive and Beyond

As we grumble about the ever-increasing costs of the commercial databases, do you sometimes admit to yourself that you don’t value free sites as much as you should? With a whole truckload of formerly copyright-protected, now freely available, materials out there, has it been at least a year since you stopped to search the Internet Archive, the Digital Commonwealth, or the Digital Public Library of America? Let’s visit these three and a few additional favorites of mine, old and new, to add to your list of: “When did I last go mining for a free golden discovery in ...?!”

Linda B. MacIver is an educator, lecturer, librarian and genealogist. She recently retired from a 27- year career at the Boston Public Library where she inaugurated the BPL patron genealogy classes. She taught the multi-week beginners’ genealogy course, organized two extremely popular seasons of the Local and Family History lecture series, and developed the Intermediate Genealogy Summer Lecture series. Linda is the past Secretary and Civil Records Director

for Federal Records for the Massachusetts Genealogical Council (MGC), a member of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists (MSOG), the Essex (MA) Society of Genealogists (ESOG) and the Essex (Eng) Society for Family History (ESFH). She serves as the New England Representative for the Essex (England) Record Office. Linda has a BA in History from the University of New Hampshire, an MEd from Boston University and earned her MLIS at Simmons College. Linda was presented the 2018 Lackey Scholarship award for attendance at the week-long Genealogical Institute for Federal Records (GEN-FED) at the National Archives in Washington, DC. She was also the inaugural recipient of the 2019 “Senior at the Center of Excellence Award” sponsored by Xerox Corporation and the City of Boston.

Our speaker will be on Zoom but you can attend in person at the Tredyffrin Library or on Zoom.

Remember to register you must [CLICK HERE](#) (and press Reserve a Spot) and participate in the required registration process. If you have registered, then you should be on the lookout for an email on Wednesday, May 7th, which will provide you with the Zoom link and handout link.

*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 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 full calendar of many Genealogical events. Also Bucks County Genealogy Society has a terrific calendar of programs.

The L’Dor V’Dor Foundation (LDVDF) Announces Worldwide Jewish Event Calendar.

The calendar, called JDays, was unveiled at the 44th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Read more including FAQ’s at: [JDays - L’Dor V’Dor Foundation \(LDVDF\)](#) This is a real “game changer” in the posting and discovering Jewish educational events 24/7/365 from around the world. A single place to post and a single place to view Jewish events!

You can have the programs sent to your calendar, so you don’t miss anything. See instructions on their website!

Here’s a program that may inspire you to write about one of your ancestors:

DCAGS May Meeting - Creating an Ancestor Sketch

Dane County Area Genealogical Society | PO Box 113 | Cottage Grove WI 53527-9385



Dane County Area Genealogical Society

10 May 2025

11:00 AM Central
Time Zone

Creating an Ancestor Sketch with Thomas MacEntee

Face it: most genealogists never get around to publishing that family history book based on their genealogy research. How about a different approach: producing short 3-5 page “sketches” about an ancestor? You’ll learn how to include a cover, photos, facts, family stories, source citations and more! And guess what, once you get a few of these ancestor sketches done, you can compile them together for one big book!

Thomas MacEntee is a professional genealogist specializing in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogical research and as a means of interacting with others in the family history community.

Questions? Contact programs@dcags.org.

Make a Gift

This event is made possible by donations from members like you. Donations go a long way in allowing DCAGS to provide member programs.

Location: Zoom meeting

[Register Now!](#)

*Live Chat

Did you know that [American Ancestors](#) has a free 'Live Chat' feature on their website, available Monday through Saturday 9am to 5pm ET? Just enter your question in the chat box during the times listed, and one of their expert genealogists will respond. You can access the feature directly [here](#), or find it on the home page of the [American Ancestors](#) website, scroll down just a bit to

the "Stay in Touch" section, where "Ask a Genealogist - Live Chat!" is one of the options. Click on Chat Now and ask away.

See the calendar of genealogy events posted on the Bucks County Genealogy Society website.
<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.



Suggestion Box

Do you have any ideas for our society? We want to hear from you. Please send your ideas or thoughts to me. Subject: Suggestion Box! I appreciate the program offerings and Youtube videos I've been receiving.

Condolences

Condolences If you know of the illness or passing of a past or current member, please email a link to the obituary or provide the information for me to share.



Disclaimer: The purpose of our group is to help foster research and education, collect family records, and make family connections. No political comments or advertising for services or merchandise are permitted.

