



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Date: July 13, 2025

Hi Members,

We had a very informative meeting with the interesting Sunny Jane Morton. She was lively and engaging as she talked about the “Newspaper Giants”. She certainly was inspiring. If you’ve curtailed your research, you can now take a look at some of the sites she shared.

Here is the Zoom link to the recording. Fast forward the first ½ hour shmooze to get to the official meeting.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/f3hOphHqNOJzNjBFgzVDNJI523zP6nx4xoFl27owKYoytwHWHu9oKJar2b-fkrtbPL39tcyhoqn8XTyB.K3e8ctzufjSePTqD?autoplay=true>

We have a special invitation from Leah Kushner:



We have an upcoming Latvia presentation with Marion Werle and Arlene Beare.

Arlene does not usually present anymore so this is a treat for anyone with Latvian ancestry. I know there is a large Philadelphia Latvian community.

We would like to extend an invitation to the Philadelphia members to attend this presentation without cost. It is Scheduled in July 20, 11am Pacific/ 2pm Eastern. If any Philadelphia members would like to attend simply ask them to send an email to our membership chair (membership@scjgs.org) and they will be put on the list to receive a Zoom link. Zoom links will go out on Wednesday.

Warmly,

Leah Kushner, President

President@SCJGS.org

SCJGSociety@gmail.com Visit Our Website GlobalJGS.org

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

Two fabulous resources are available on our website:



Looking for Philadelphia Record Bank information:

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>.

Book Club Update

We are not meeting until October.



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 unless there is a holiday. PLEASE RSVP to membership@jgasgp.org.

We had a lively and pleasant review of **Florence Adler Swims Forever** by Rachel Beanland. Thank you for everyone who attended and helped reminisce about our Atlantic City summers.

SUMMER BREAK: Book club resumes in October. Dates to be determined (To Be Determined)

1. **Held** by Anne Michaels Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2025, 7:30 (TBD)
2. **The House is on Fire** by Rachel Beanland (TBD)
3. **The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century** by David Laskin (TBD)

Chronicles

Dear JGASGP Members,

We are working on the next issue of “Chronicles” and need your help. Yes, YOU! One of the most difficult jobs our editor, Evan Fishman (z’l) had was securing articles from members. Beyond a very loyal corps of regular correspondents, whom he relied upon for contributions, we need members to share your family stories, contributions from which our newer genealogists can learn, stories of brick walls overcome and the frustrations that we all encounter in our searches for family.

We can’t create the next issue of “Chronicles,” a valuable research tool without your contributions. You need not be a professional author to tell stories about your genealogical pursuits. We hear stories and challenges from you all the time in informal settings like our “Everything Genealogy” meetings and pre-meeting shmooze sessions. Please share those stories and your images and documents with the “Chronicles” team. We’ll help you to turn informal thoughts into a polished article that you’ll be proud to see in print and will help our readers in their genealogical efforts.

Volunteer organizations operate typically with a core group that is dedicated to making a difference. At JGASGP, we have a dedicated board that meets monthly to guide our organization of almost four hundred members, but we need you to contribute as well.

Please send your draft articles to editor@jgasgp.org.

With our thanks,

Ed Flax, Acting Editor editor@jgasgp.org

Debbie Terman, Associate Graphic Editor dcterman@jgasgp.org

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.

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 are taking a break for the month of August.

Thanks to all who attended and offered their assistance! You never know what you'll learn!

JGASGP Meeting Schedule and Updates

There will be no meeting in August.

The Zoom link or Livestream link will be posted on the HOME page of our website on Sunday morning before each meeting. There will be no chat and shmooze on Livestream, only when we use Zoom. 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.



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

The Steve Schechter Memorial Lecture

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

(2 pm for Schmoozing and Mentoring)

Official meeting start time is 2:30

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

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

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS VERY SPECIAL MEETING IN
PERSON.
HAMEC**



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



HAMEC Blog



By Holocaust Awareness Museum on July 13, 2025

Paper monuments: How self-published books remember communities lost to the Holocaust
Historian Eliyana Adler researches memorial books compiled by Polish Jews after World War

II



Binghamton University Professor of History and Judaic Studies Eliyana Adler Image Credit:
Jonathan Cohen.

By Jennifer Micale

July 09, 2025

3-minute read

https://www.facebook.com/plugins/share_button.php?href=https://www.binghamton.edu/news/story/5670/paper-monuments-how-self-published-books-remember-communities-lost-to-the-holocaust&layout=button_count&size=large&appId=1388422351183190&width=110&height=28

After their communities were shattered by the Holocaust, survivors and refugees constructed monuments — not of stone, but of words.

In Yiddish, they are known as yizkor-bikher, or memorial books. And while they remember human lives now gone, they also memorialize something larger: the town itself, and the web of relationships and place that constitutes its fabric.

Binghamton University Professor of History and Judaic Studies Eliyana Adler is currently working on a book about the yizkor-bikher and the process involved in compiling them. The California native is new to the University, having most recently taught at Penn State; her first year at Binghamton was spent on sabbatical as she completed a fellowship at the United States Holocaust Museum.

Holocaust survivors and war refugees began compiling memorial books after the end of the Second World War, although the phenomenon took off in the 1960s and '70s, she said.

“After the war, they were living all over the world. They would pool their memories, knowledge and financial resources to put together these potluck books,” she explained. “The books were created for the people from that town, and they were chiefly written in Hebrew and Yiddish. They were an internal form of monument and memory, keeping a connection to a place they couldn’t go back to.”

Around 1,000 of these books exist; Adler focuses on the more than 500 books memorializing Polish communities. In fact, there are a few in the Binghamton University Libraries.

In the days before the Internet, the work it took to create these books — and to find former neighbors scattered around the globe — was considerable. The projects were entirely volunteer-driven and often messy.

A former community member now living in Brazil may contribute a poem, while someone in Tel Aviv may send a memoir they wrote about what it was like to grow up in that town. Perhaps a writer in New York shares their testimony of the Holocaust, while someone from Los Angeles sends in a family photograph or their mother’s favorite recipe.

Sometimes, the compilers hired a professional historian to write an introduction, but it was just as likely to be written by an insurance salesman or hatmaker.

“On the whole, historians and literary scholars haven’t paid a great deal of attention to these books, but I’ve always loved them,” Adler said.

Piecing together these memories was also painful work — both in terms of the memories themselves and the compilation process. The books often contain a necrology, a list of everyone in the town who died during the war. The compilers worked to contact as many survivors as they could but acknowledged that they couldn’t reach everyone.

Photographs and other materials were lost in the mail or thrown out by children after their parents’ deaths. Writers fretted about how their work was edited, or a nephew stewed about what an article said about an uncle.

Town life, after all, has always been complicated, filled with both fellowship and disagreements. The virtual towns of the yizkor-bikher were no different.

Also affiliated with Binghamton's Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, Adler will teach a graduate course on historical monuments this fall, looking specifically at the U.S. Civil War, Soviet history and the Holocaust. During the upcoming academic year, she will also teach courses on American Jewish history, Holocaust history and women in the Holocaust. Her research and her coursework often center on how history and memory intertwine. It's a complicated business, much like town life; while memories inform history, they are not always reliable.

"With history, we sometimes lull ourselves into believing that it is reliable and 'objective,' whereas just like memory, history is very much influenced by who's writing it and in what context," she reflected. "Bringing history and memory into conversation has the potential to help us look more critically at history and historiography."



JGASGP

We currently have 356 members!

***MAKE SURE YOU REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE!**

It is NOT automatic because you are a JGASGP member.

Only paid-up members have access to all areas of our website, JGASGP Newsletters, Chronicles, and meeting notices. Members have access to our members-only portal. Tell your friends!

Contact Marilyn (me) membership@jgasgp.org if you have any dues-related questions.

Contact Jim webmaster@jgasgp.org with web access questions or receiving hard copy problems.

Contact Ed Flax - ejflax@gmail.com or Debbie Terman - dcterman@jgasgp.org with Chronicles article questions.

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

Our 2025 membership form is on our website. \$15 extra for printed Chronicles.

Mentors

THANKS so much to Alicia Weiss and Beth Steiner who have joined our Mentor Team! They have been **very helpful** to those who have contacted them.

If you need a mentor or would like to volunteer to be one, let me know!



Have a FABULOUS time if you are attending the conference. Don't forget to write an article for our special CHRONICLES edition in the fall!

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](#)

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!

*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.

