



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Date: Aug. 22, 2025

IAJGS HONORS PAST OFFICERS AND WELCOMES NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

Last week at the 45th Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) was pleased to recognize past members of the Board of Directors for their excellent service to the IAJGS and to the Jewish genealogy community. At the same time, they welcomed new officers elected to serve on the IAJGS Board of Directors from 2025-2027.

Marlis Humphrey received the President's Award (a plaque):

With awe and gratitude for her extraordinary service to the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, 2013-2021 and 2022-2025. As President of IAJGS and, later, in her role as Past President, Marlis pushed IAJGS to innovate to keep pace with the changing genealogy and technology landscape - a daunting task. Her ability to think strategically, to identify and focus on the gist of each issue, and to lay out solution strategies has been invaluable. She leaves the IAJGS as a forward-looking and much stronger organization.

Douglas M. Cohen received the President's Award (a plaque):

With gratitude for his eight years of dedicated service as Treasurer of the International Association

of Jewish Genealogical Societies 2015-2023. Doug brought financial professionalism to the IAJGS and strengthened its fiscal health. In addition to his fiduciary duties as a member of the IAJGS Board of Directors, Doug dedicated himself to planning, guiding, and monitoring the budget of the annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Doug's diligence and attention to clear reporting and detail ensured the continued viability of the conference and the IAJGS organization.

Joe Tarshish received a Certificate of Appreciation: (member of JGSGP 😊)

With gratitude for his excellent service as Treasurer of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, 2023-2025. He applied a clear-eyed view of our budgeting and financial positions and moved IAJGS to take advantage of current technologies and resources.

The IAJGS is pleased to welcome our new officers elected for the 2025-2027 term:

- **President: Susan G. Weinberg**
- **Vice President: Emily H. Garber**
- **Secretary: Debbie Kroopkin**
- **Treasurer: Alene Franklin**

And, after four years of service as President, Jane Berenbeim will assume the role of Past President. Thanks to all for not only being willing to serve but also doing so with distinction. We all benefit from their service.

*At our Gala celebration Wednesday evening, 13 August 2025, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies was pleased to present awards to several worthy recipients.

Lifetime Achievement Award: David Silvera, Sephardic Genealogy Society

In appreciation of David Silvera's years of effort building an essential resource for Sephardic Jewish history and genealogy researchers: the **A Nação Hebraica** project. Under his energetic and innovative leadership, thousands of pages of 17th–19th century records of the London Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation have been digitized, transcribed, and made publicly available. His leadership has been visionary, sustained, and impactful, extending far beyond a single project to reshape the genealogical landscape for Western Sephardic Jews worldwide.

Future Leader of the Year: Ethan Parmet, JGASGP Member 😊

In recognition of his demonstrated leadership and leadership potential within the Jewish genealogical

community and in support of his local society and its goals. Ethan has organized events, mentored peers, and contributed to groundbreaking research. He has taken an active role in the Har Jehuda cemetery restoration and digitization project. In addition to his active work in the cemetery clean-up, he has taken over 10,000 photos, many of which have been uploaded to JOWBR. He has also connected with other young people through various genealogical sites, provided research assistance, and engaged with them in genealogical research projects.

Outstanding Publication. “Venturing into Our Past” JGSCV newsletter

In recognition of this quality publication and its editor, Diane Goldin. The quarterly issues contain summaries of the monthly meetings, additional references on the presentation topics, links to relevant podcasts, news articles, videos, reference sources, and discussion topics regarding Jewish genealogy in general, photos, graphics, and personal stories submitted by members, and a column to inform people about the best practices for personal technology security. It is provided free on the JGSCV website and as such is a resource for the whole Jewish genealogy community.

Outstanding Project/ Resource/Program: All Israel Database, IGRA

In recognition of the substantial contribution to Jewish genealogy made by the development of the All Israel Database. This database, containing more than 3.5 million lines transcribed, translated and proofread by a large crew of volunteers from around the world, brings together sources from Ottoman, British, and Israeli administrations and contains varied records allowing researchers to access information about those who lived in Israel or passed through on the way to other countries. This has filled a gap in record availability for Jewish researchers and is a welcome resource for the community.

Nolan Altman Volunteer of the Year 2025: Estella Rappaport, AGJA-IWO

In recognition of the sustained and thorough efforts of Estella Rappaport to document and digitize Jewish cemeteries, *ketubot*, and genealogically valuable organizational records across Argentina and Uruguay, preserving thousands of records that would otherwise remain inaccessible. She was instrumental in making more than 200,000 burial records from Argentina available on JOWBR to serve researchers around the world. She participates in many seminars and other genealogical presentations as well as responding to public inquiries to the IWO library reference service. Her volunteer work has been invaluable to genealogical

research in Argentina and beyond.

Member of the Year: Southern Arizona Jewish Genealogical Society

In recognition of the exceptional efforts of the leaders of the SAJGS over the past year to revitalize the organization. They have re-incorporated as a 501(c) non-profit, relocated monthly meetings to a centralized location, and fostered collaboration with other Jewish organizations. Through the development of study groups, monthly Zoom lectures, field trips, and other outreach initiatives, they have expanded opportunities for members to engage with the organization. Their efforts to expand board membership, establish a robust digital presence, and form working committees have further strengthened their community presence.

In addition, each year the IAJGS awards two grants to be used for projects that will advance Jewish genealogy research. After review of several fine project proposals, the IAJGS selected the following two projects for \$3,000 grants.

2025 Malcolm Stern Award

Jewish Social Self-Help Group Questionnaires (1940-1941) - Jewish Records Indexing-Poland

This grant will cover the entire cost of this project to transcribe mostly hand-written questionnaires submitted for the elderly, invalids, and widows who received assistance from the International Red Cross and other organizations. The project will provide free, online access to transcriptions of a collection in the Krakow branch of the Polish State Archives that represents over 135 towns in the Krakow, Lublin, Radom, and Warsaw areas.

2025 John Stedman Memorial Award

The IJG Journal - - International Institute for Jewish Genealogy & Paul Jacobi Center

This grant will provide initial support for the development and publication of a free, online, scholarly "voice" for the Jewish genealogical world, with articles that reflect the entire interdisciplinary breadth of Jewish genealogy. Publication will begin in 2026.

Congratulations to all awardees. Recognizing those who make significant contributions to our field is important and always gratifying.

Emily H. Garber, Vice President, IAJGS

Joe and Ethan, we are very proud of you!

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

Two fabulous resources are available on our website:



Thank you to Ed Flax for this information:

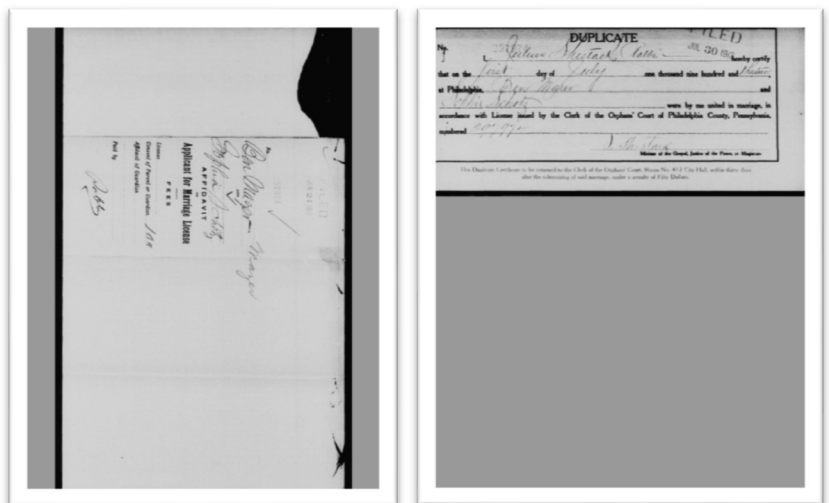
FYI: Here is an overview of the Center for Jewish History in NYC in a 27 minute video.

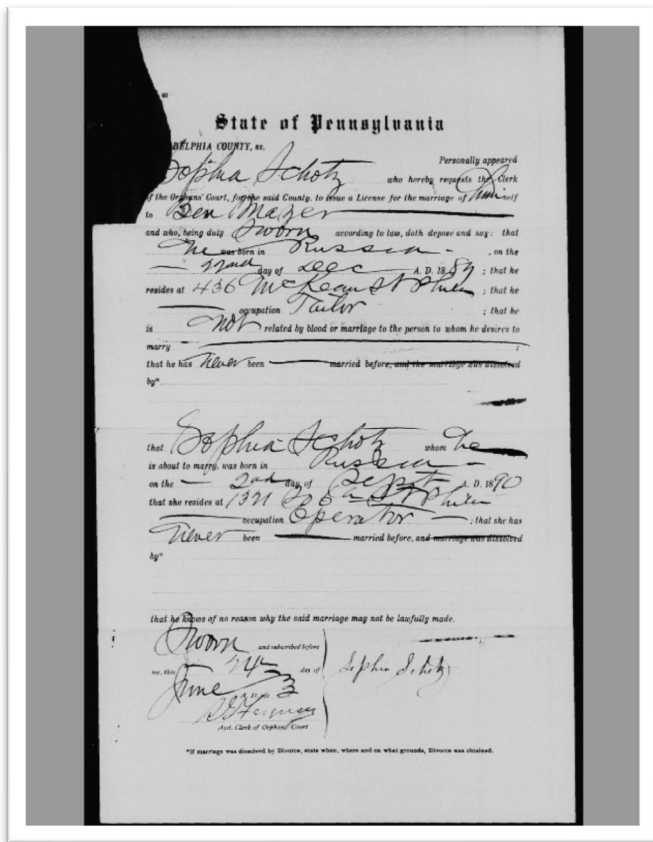
It may encourage some of our members to make use of their collections for genealogical research and study of our shared history.

A couple of our well known friends in the genealogy community are featured in the video, Moriah Amit an archivist at the CJH who has presented at one of our meetings and Christa Cowan, the corporate genealogist at Ancestry, who many of us have met and learned from at IAJGS conferences.

***Here's a reminder from me: Don't overlook Familysearch.org free genealogy tips.**

I got a hint about my grandparent's marriage license. I clicked on the arrow and received 3 pages of different information. I learned where my grandmother lived and what her occupation was.





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 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: Our Book club resumes on October 8th.**

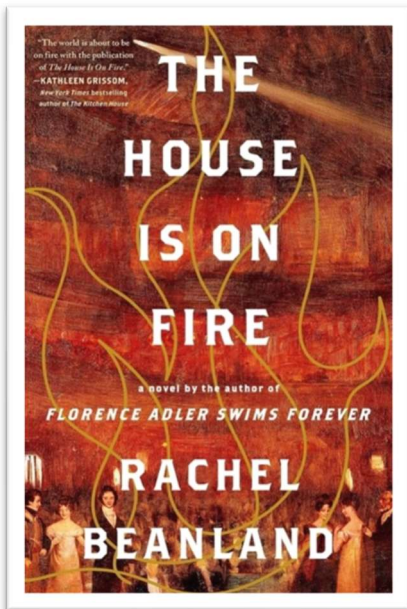
The dates have been adjusted to accommodate for holidays.

1. **The House is on Fire** by Rachel Beanland
Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025, 7:30 (*Eileen)

2. **The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century** by David Laskin Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025, 7:30 (*Enid)
3. **Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love** by Dani Shapiro Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025, 7:30
4. **Lilli de Jong** by Janet Benton Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, 7:30

FUTURE IDEAS/SUGGESTIONS FOR 2026

5. **The Invisible Harry Gold: The Man Who Gave the Soviets the Atom Bomb** by Allen Hornblum
6. **The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century** by David Laskin
7. ***The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum***
8. ***The Lost Shtetl*** by Max Gross
9. ***Once We Were Slaves*** by Laura Liebman
10. ***The Ice Cream Queen of Orchard Street*** by Sarah Jane Gilman
11. ***Family Papers-A Sephardic Journey through the 20th Century*** by Sarah Abrevaya Stein.
12. ***Where She Came From*** by Helen Epstein
13. ***The Almost Legendary Morris Sisters*** by Julie Klam.
14. ***The Song of the Jade Lily*** by Kirsty Manning
15. ***The Sterling Affair*** by Nathan Dylan Goodwin
16. ***The Promised Land*** by Mary Antin
17. ***Paper Love*** by Sarah Wildman
18. ***When We Were Arabs*** by Mahmoud Hayoun
19. ***The Marriage of Opposites*** by Alice Hoffman
20. ***The Lost*** by Daniel Mendelsohn
21. ***A Bintel Brief: 60 Years of Letters from the Lower East Side to the Jewish Forward*** edited by Isaac Metzker
22. ***On Her Own Lihi Lapid; Sondra Silverston, trans.***
23. **Jews in the Garden: A Holocaust Survivor, the Fate of His Family, and the Secret History of Poland in World War II** Paperback – (*Elisa G)
24. **Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth** Noa Tishby (Author, Narrator), Simon & Schuster Audio (Publisher)(*Cindy and Jim)



Richmond, Virginia 1811. It's the height of the winter social season, the General Assembly is in session, and many of Virginia's gentleman planters, along with their wives and children, have made the long and arduous journey to the capital in hopes of whiling away the darkest days of the year. At the city's only theater, the Charleston-based Placide & Green Company puts on two plays a night to meet the demand of a populace that's done looking for enlightenment at the front of a church.

When the theater goes up in flames in the middle of the performance, Sally, Cecily, Jack, and Gilbert make a series of split-second decisions that will not only affect their own lives but those of countless others. And in the days following the fire, as news of the disaster spreads across the United States, the paths of these four people will become forever intertwined. Based on the true story of the Richmond theatre fire.

(*Member recommendation)

Chronicles

Dear JGASGP Members,

We are working on the next issue of "Chronicles" and need your help. If you attended the IAIGS Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana, please write an article about your favorite lecture and/or experience. We'd love to hear from you.

Please send your draft articles to editor@jgasgp.org. We hope to receive materials in early September.

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.

Evan Fishman (z'l) 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 will continue to meet on Zoom on September 8th at 7:30PM.

Bring you questions, brick walls, and suggestions! You never know what you'll learn!

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. 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 Q and A. 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 Schecter Memorial Lecture

SPECIAL EVENT

Meeting will start with a special introduction followed by a Dessert Reception and The Steve Schecter Memorial Lecture



Date: Sunday, September 14, 2025

Time: 2:30 PM (2 pm for Schmoozing and Mentoring)

Location: Hybrid Meeting – In Person Venue Main Line Reform Temple, 410 Montgomery Ave. Wynnewood, PA 19096, Hausen auditorium upstairs. (Corner of Montgomery Ave. and Penn Road)

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

Benjamin Nathans is the Alan Charles Kors Associate Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania. He teaches and writes about Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union, modern European Jewish history, and the history of human rights. He is the author of the multiple award-winning books,

Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter With Late Imperial Russia. His latest book, *To the Success of Our Hopeless Cause: The Many Lives of the Soviet Dissident Movement*, tells the story of dissent in the USSR from Stalin's death to the collapse of communism. Nathans is a frequent contributor to the New York Review of Books and the Times Literary Supplement.

Topic: Selective Integration: The Evolving Legal Status of Jews in Imperial Russia, 1795-1917

By the middle of the nineteenth century, more Jews lived in the Russian Empire than in any other country in the world. Eager to modernize their relatively backward agrarian kingdom, Russia's rulers enacted a series of laws designed to integrate "useful" Jews, mimicking the results of emancipation in Western Europe without creating a society of equal citizens.

Jewish elites played a surprisingly important role in this process, whose striking consequences became visible well before the revolution that swept away the empire itself.



Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025

Time: 1:30 PM (1 pm for Schmoozing and Mentoring)

Location: Zoom Meeting Only

Speaker: Phyllis Berenson, Director of JewishGen's Ukraine Research Division

Phyllis Berenson serves as JewishGen Ukraine Research Division Director, which has added 4 million records to the JewishGen database in the last 2.5 years. She founded the Mogilev Podolskiy and Shargorod town research groups and is a Town Leader for both. Her checkered employment history includes social worker, bookstore owner, carpenter assistant, professional harpist, trust, estates and tax lawyer, as

well as symphony orchestra manager. She is thrilled to finally have the opportunity to use her Russian language background in her Ukraine work at JewishGen.

Topic: Ukraine Genealogy Research in 2025: New Sources and Tips

Opportunities for finding ancestral information in Ukraine records are increasing, even as war continues in Ukraine. The Ukraine Research Division of JewishGen expects to double its transcription rate and the resulting output for researchers, beginning in the second half of 2025. Phyllis Berenson, Director of the Ukraine Research Division will discuss the newly available records, how to access them, and research tips.



Date: Sunday, November 16, 2025

Time: 1:30 PM (1 pm for Schmoozing and Mentoring)

Location: Hybrid Meeting – In Person Venue Reform Congregation Keneseth

Israel, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 (Corner of Old York Road and Township Line Road) Elkins Park, PA

Speaker: Sydney Cruice, Professional Genealogist

Sydney F. Cruice is a professional genealogy researcher, writer, teacher and international lecturer with over 25 years of experience. She has lectured at many Institutes and conferences including: IAJGS, IGGP, SLIG, IGHR, RFIPA. For over seven years she developed the curriculum and taught the genealogy courses at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. She also served

as the President of the Association of Professional Genealogists for the Greater Philadelphia Area Chapter for the past 6 years. Sydney's article, "A Family Secret: Desertion, Scurvy, and President Lincoln" was the featured cover story for NGS Magazine in October of 2018.

Topic: Utilizing Probate Records to Solve Family Mysteries

Probate records can solve many of the toughest genealogy mysteries. They often describe family relationships and can give you clues to the relationships in multiple generations. We will discuss the probate process and the best ways to access these records. We go through case studies to show how you can maximize their information by using them with other genealogical sources.



Date: Sunday, December 21, 2025

Time: 1:30 PM (1 pm for Schmoozing and Mentoring)

Venue: Zoom Meeting only

Speaker: Robinn Magid, President, Jewish Records Indexing Poland

Robinn Magid is the head of JRI-Poland.org and serves as the project manager of the NextGen project which has already succeeded in replacing the old website and is now focused on converting JRI-Poland to a more modern database and search results system with extended features and abilities. Robinn is a past chair of two landmark IAJGS conferences: the 2018 Warsaw Conference and 2020 First Virtual IAJGS Conference. She is a recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award and a member of the SFBA-JGS. Robinn lives in Berkeley, California.

Topic: 18th, 19th and 20th Century Research with JRI-Poland

The JRI-Poland data collections can help genealogists draw a more complete picture of their ancestors' lives. Come learn how we are exploring whatever traces we can find of our ancestor's presence in the current or former territories of Poland. This official JRI-Poland session will highlight the breadth and depth of the JRI-Poland database including vital records population and legal records surviving from the Kingdom of Poland, the Russian, Prussian and Galician Empire. Join us for a glimpse into the past! A question-and-answer session will be included in this lively session.



Date: Sunday, January 18, 2026
Time: 1:30 PM (1 pm for Schmoozing and Mentoring)
Venue: Zoom Meeting only
Speaker: Deborah Long, Professional Educator and Author

Deborah Long has been researching her family history and searching for surviving family members for more than 60 years. She started as a ten-year-old, writing to the International Red Cross. Both of her parents were Holocaust survivors and were in some of the worst places imaginable: Auschwitz, Bergen Belsen, Buchen-

wald and more.

Deborah is a professional educator and speaker, though typically her audiences are licensed professionals who are required to attend real estate continuing education programs. She has written more than 20 books, including a memoir about growing up as a child of survivors titled *First Hitler, Then Your Father, and Now You*. She earned her doctorate in adult education. She is the founder and first president of Triangle JGS of North Carolina (Chapel Hill/Durham/Raleigh).

Topic: Out of the Whirlwind: Resources for Holocaust Research

The daughter of two Holocaust survivors, Deborah Long reviews the best (as well as some of the obscure) resources and methods for determining the fate of those involved in the Holocaust, including survivors and victims. Deborah will use examples from her own research to demonstrate the documents and artifacts she discovered to determine her family's fate.

SPECIAL EVENT

A Day of Learning – In Memory of Evan Fishman Z" L **Speakers/Teachers: TBA**

Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026
Time: 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Venue: Zoom Meetings only
Topics: TBA

JGASGP will offer to members only at no cost a full-day virtual seminar covering two topics of great importance to members no

matter their level of experience. There will be two workshops in the morning geared to less experienced genealogists, a break at mid-day, and two workshops in the afternoon geared to more experienced genealogists. Members can choose to attend any or all of these four workshops. JGASGP will contract with two of the best minds in the two chosen fields.

H A M E C



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



JGASGP

***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

THANKS 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!

We love our volunteers!



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!

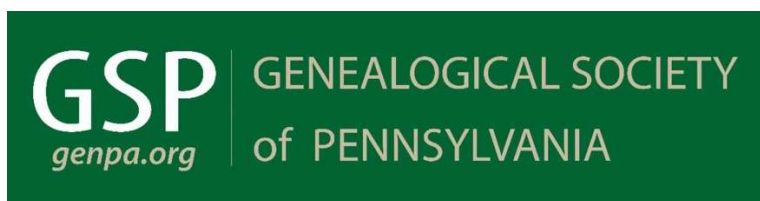
Live Chat

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.jewish-gen.org/g/main> and Eastman's online genealogy newsletter eogn.com.



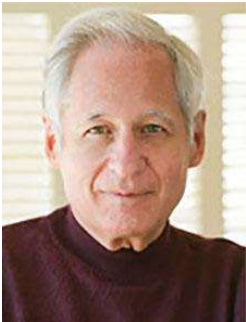
Global Jewish Genealogy Society



UPCOMING LECTURES ON ZOOM

Sept 7, 2025, 1 pm Pacific

Speaker: Steve Morse, PhD



Newly Updated: One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools

Description: This newly updated presentation on One-Step Webpages is a must for those researching their ancestral roots. The One-Step website started out as an aid for finding passengers in the Ellis Island database. Shortly afterwards it was expanded to help with searching in the 1930 census.

Over the years it has continued to evolve and today includes about 300 web-based tools divided into 16 separate categories ranging from genealogical searches to astronomical calculations to last-minute bidding on e-bay. This presentation will describe the range of tools available and give the highlights of each one.

About Steve Morse

Stephen Morse is the creator of the One-Step Website for which he has received both the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Outstanding Contribution Award from the International

Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, Award of Merit from the National Genealogical Society, first-ever Excellence Award from the Association of Professional Genealogists, and two awards that he cannot pronounce from Polish genealogical societies.

In his other life Morse is a computer professional with a doctorate degree in electrical engineering. He has held various research, development, and teaching positions, authored numerous technical papers, written four textbooks, and holds four patents. He is best known as the architect of the Intel 8086 (the granddaddy of today's Pentium processor), which sparked the PC revolution nearly 45 years ago.

Non-members pay \$5.00 Zoom link will be sent the week of the event. Members automatically receive a Zoom link.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=Z6L4GE5XHC3WL



Sunday, October 26, 11 am Pacific
Note earlier time



Speakers: Johannes Schwarz and Sara Mansutti

**Part 1: Working with Tabular Data
in Transkribus**

Description: This workshop is a must! Join us to discover how Transkribus can help you unlock documents in tabular format and take your genealogical research to the next level with AI.

Transkribus is the leading online platform for the automatic recognition of text and the extraction of information from historical documents. Used by thousands of researchers, archives, libraries, and genealogists worldwide, it combines powerful AI tools with a user-friendly interface designed to make the transcription, searching, and processing of historical materials accessible to everyone, with no programming knowledge required. Originally developed as part of the Horizon 2020 “READ” EU project, it is now maintained and further developed by the non-profit-oriented READ-COOP European Cooperative Society.

This workshop focuses on one of Transkribus’ most advanced features: table recognition. Genealogists and historical researchers often work with materials such as census records, parish registers, tax rolls, or other sources arranged in tabular format. These documents usually consist of numerous pages, making manual transcription a time-consuming process. In addition, standard text recognition workflows fail to capture the row/column relationships, which are crucial to understanding this type of data.

During the session, experts from Transkribus will guide you through the full process of training your first table model. You will learn how to draw tables in the Transkribus editor, create training data, train a model capable of automatically detecting similar tables, and evaluate its performance. Once recognized, the data can be searched for key information, such as names, dates, or places, or exported into a spreadsheet for further analysis and use in genealogical databases.

Lastly, the workshop will introduce the collaborative features available in Transkribus, such as sharing collections, working in teams, and reusing trained models across projects. It will end with a Q&A session, offering participants the opportunity to ask questions and receive advice from Transkribus experts.

The workshop is document-driven and tailored to the materials participants submit in advance, enabling you to apply each step of the workflow to your own sources.

Email us your documents with tabular data that you would like to process with Transkribus by October 5, 2025. Email: membership@scjgs.org

Please note that this is an advanced-level workshop designed for users already familiar with the basics of Transkribus. To ensure the best learning experience and acquire all the essential

knowledge about Transkribus, we kindly request the participants to complete some preparatory steps:

- Registrants will receive preliminary materials and introductory videos.
- If you are new to the platform, register at <https://app.transkribus.org/>, upload a few pages, and test the basic text recognition feature using one of our public models (for more guidance, read the Beginners' Guide to Transkribus on our Help Center).

This workshop will be followed by a second one in January focused on training custom text recognition models.

About Johannes Schwarz and Sara Mansutti

Johannes Schwarz is a Customer Success Manager at READ-COOP. He studied Music History as well as Medieval German Literature and European Ethnology in Kiel and Vienna and has a strong expertise in palaeography and genealogical research.

Sara Mansutti is a Customer Success Manager at READ-COOP, the European Cooperative Society behind the Transkribus platform, where she has worked since 2022. She holds a PhD in Digital Humanities from University College Cork, Ireland. Her research interests include early modern Italian history, Digital Humanities, and crowdsourcing.

Non-members pay \$5.00 Zoom link will be sent the week of the event. Members automatically receive a Zoom link.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QVZV8F3UB7CHS

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



Shelly Dardashti. Tracing the Tribe

Schelly Talalay Dardashti, a noted figure in the Jewish genealogy field, passed away August 16, aged 79.

Dardashti was a writer and researcher who was the founder and main admin of the [Tracing the Tribe Jewish genealogy group](#) on Facebook, which to date has more than 82,000 members worldwide.

She published widely on Jewish genealogy issues. Her articles appeared in **Avotaynu**, **NGS Quarterly**, **The Forward**, and **Hadassah**, among others, and she maintained a regular column "It's All Relative," for the Jerusalem Post (1999-2005) and a Tracing the Tribe blog, founded in 2006, which later transitioned to the Facebook group. She served as the US Genealogy Advisor for MyHeritage.com, co-admin, Iberian Ashkenazi DNA Project, FTDNA; board member, Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies; founding member, Sephardic Heritage Institute NM; and a Persian community liaison, Avotaynu Jewish Heritage DNA Project. May her soul be bound up in the bond of life!

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.



Wishing you a sweet and happy New Year!



ROSH HASHANAH

SEPT

SEPT 22-24
MAY 2025