



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Date: Oct 19, 2025

We had 61 people sign in to our very informative meeting. Here is the link if you want to watch the lecture: https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/MZ_qWiK2oo3nY-toUfSe0HA94sn1ABa2vW6OuV5e3pyQAcxmbN2zTLAW9cH3oA6YW.SwxkJTqP96QiQEig?pwd=Dlbg9xdEihnm793QvwAAIAAAOngPJbohVvZ48q1GIJNfvriQwN5QTkk2_n1DVvAvW-9sxKEA6UoQx2H_dRCsAQ7gjAwMDAwNA

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BE PATIENT...IT STARTS OUT SLOWLY AND PICKS UP.

Below is a summary of the JGASGP meeting with Phyllis Berenson
Meeting summary

- JewishGen Ukraine Research Division has added over 4 million records to the JewishGen database since late 2022
- JewishGen is now a division of the Museum of Jewish Heritage with new leadership after the departure of Executive Director Avraham Grohl
- Ukraine records are obtained from individual volunteers, archives, Alex Krakovsky's wiki, and FamilySearch
- Records are transcribed by an offshore company with hundreds of transcribers, allowing 100,000 records to be posted monthly
- When searching JewishGen, users should always click on "image" links to see original documents which may contain additional information
- Records date back to 1795, though most pre-1800 records lack surnames and haven't been transcribed yet
- **Conclusion**
 - The Ukraine Research Division posts 100,000 transcribed records every month

- Since late 2022, over 4 million records have been added to the JewishGen database
- For towns that changed countries over time, it's important to search records from all relevant countries
- JewishGen's town leader system helps organize information about specific towns
- Check the Ukraine monthly and cumulative upload lists for newly added records
- Consider donating to support the Ukraine transcription work
- Email Phyllis at PBerenson@JewishGen.org with specific town research questions

Outstanding Resource Award: Miriam Weiner

Miriam Weiner was honored for her outstanding work in expanding and improving the [Routes to Roots Foundation](#) (RTRF) website. Renowned as a unique resource for Jewish genealogy, RTRF provides invaluable information about Jewish records from archives across Eastern Europe. Miriam's recent efforts reflect her lifelong passion for uncovering and sharing unique Jewish family history resources. She has significantly diversified RTRF's offerings, adding a wide array of maps, lists, articles, and documents from various locations and time periods. With over three million records, RTRF now offers researchers both information and context to better understand their ancestors' lives.

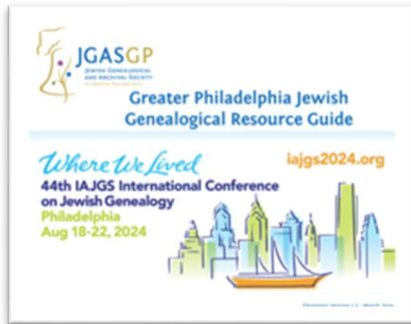


Don't forget about the fabulous [Routes to Roots Foundation](#) website when researching! Miriam was given an award last summer at IAIGS in Philadelphia! <https://www.rtrfoundation.org/Archdta1.shtml>

If you are giving a presentation to another JGS or a group, please let us know! Contact Mark if you have a presentation you think may be of interest to our society. mark@halpern.com

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

Two fabulous resources are available on our website:



Genealogy Resources of the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center

An introduction to the genealogy-related holdings of the Special Collections Research Center.

Home

Getting Started

Immigration Records

Healthcare, Social Service, and Fraternal Organization Records

Beneficial Societies or landsmanshaftn Records

Religious Records

General Collections

Getting Started

Welcome to the research guide for Temple Special Collections Resource Center's Philadelphia Jewish Archives Collection of genealogical resources. Our records with the most genealogical value are from social services agencies documenting interactions between those agencies and members of the Philadelphia community as well as articles, obits, etc. in local newspapers. Browse the tabs on the left for our information on our relevant collections.

If you have not already done so, we would suggest utilizing online genealogy sites like jewishgen.org, familysearch.org, or ancestry.com, the first two of which are free to register. These sites provide online access to many records that are helpful for genealogical research and facilitate access to what I would describe as top tier genealogical resources such as vital records (birth, marriage, death records), immigration records, etc. that apply to many if not most people. If you are new to genealogical research and interested in connecting with other like minded people, you may consider joining a group like the Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia.



https://guides.temple.edu/PJAC_genealogy_resources

Go to the website to contact Casey Babcock for help.

Get Research Help - Email **Casey Babcock** casey.babcock@temple.edu

Book Club Update



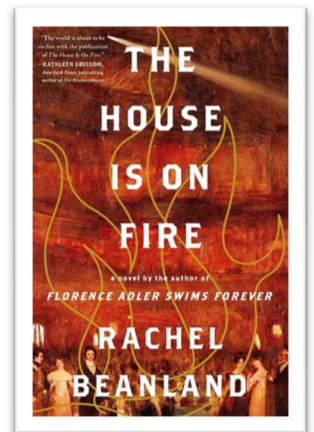
Hope to see many of you at our Book Club meeting. All are welcome any time! Our books are either written by an author with Jewish heritage or is one who writes about a Jewish theme. The link will be sent out to all on the morning of each meeting. See our website under Events for updated Book Club titles and descriptions. Meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday. PLEASE RSVP to membership@jgasgp.org.

Our Book club always starts at 7:30 PM.

If you'll be joining us, please RSVP to membership@jgasgp.org.

The dates have been adjusted to accommodate for holidays.

1. **The House is on Fire** by Rachel Beanland **Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2025, 7:30** (*Eileen recommended)
2. **The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century** by David Laskin **Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, 7:30** (*Enid recommended)
3. **Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love** by Dani Shapiro **Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, 7:30**
4. **Lilli de Jong** by Janet Benton **Wednesday, Jan 14, 2026 7:30**



FYI: Book club at *Society Hill Synagogue*

If you are interested, one of our members runs a book club at her synagogue.

This is the third year of the Society Hill Synagogue book club. When possible we try and have authors zoom or visit with us. Our picks for 2026 include **The Secret Chord** by Geraldine Brooks; **The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the 20th Century** by David Laskin and **The Panther in the Basement** by Amos Oz. We generally meet the second Friday of the month however that can change to accommodate an author. David Laskin will be in Philadelphia and will be at the synagogue on Oct 27th at 1 pm.

Please let me know if you plan to attend or want our book picks from January to June, 2026. I can be reached at dtartasky@gmail.com. Society Hill Synagogue is located at 418 Spruce St, Philadelphia 19106. Anyone in your book club is welcome to attend and I am wondering if you can announce this at today's meeting or your next book club meeting. I just request that anyone interested contact me by email as we need a head count to plan the space.

Thank you.

Donna Tartasky (JGASGP Member) and Judith Axler (Coordinators)

Chronicles

Dear JGASGP Members,

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

Do you have a story to tell? Did you meet any new relatives through your research? Have you made any unusual finds in your attic? We'd love to hear from you!

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.

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

Everything Genealogy

Our next meeting: November 3rd at 7:30 PM.ZOOM only

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.

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

Topic: Utilizing Probate Records to Solve Family Mysteries





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

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

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

Topic: Out of the Whirlwind: Resources for Holocaust Research



SPECIAL EVENT

A Day of Learning – In Memory of Evan Fishman Z” L

Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM (To Be Determined)

Venue: Zoom Meetings only

Topics: TBA

Speakers: 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

HAMEC



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

Tours And Exhibitions In-Person And Virtual Tours

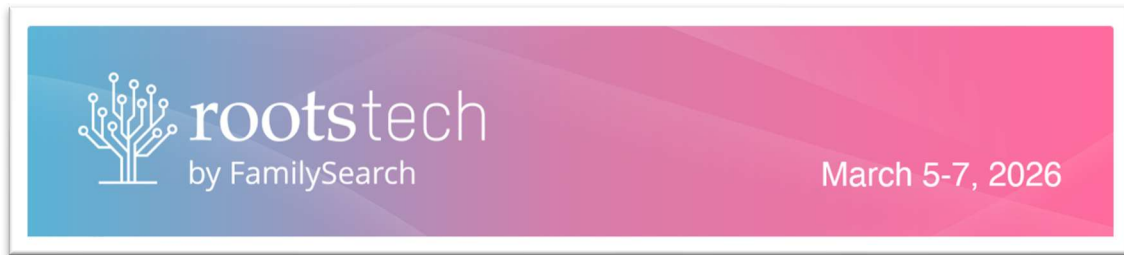
Our museum houses the largest public collection of personal Holocaust artifacts in Philadelphia belonging to survivors, liberators, resisters, and their families. Virtual tours are currently available and open to the public. The artifacts tell individual stories of pre-war European life, ghettos and concentration camps, resistance, liberation, resettlement, and transitions to Philadelphia. These precious artifacts, documents, and photographs help to share the tragic and inspirational stories of our local survivor community.

We offer personalized in-person or virtual tours for individuals, families, and classes during the week by appointment. These can last anywhere between thirty minutes to more than two hours. Please contact us beforehand to schedule a tour or you can perform a self-guided tour below. See the website.

<https://hamec.org/>

HAMEC's annual Gala and Silent Auction, honoring Abby Gilbert, Anna Okropiridze-Cassidy, and Kira Gulko, will take place on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel (2400 Old Lincoln Hwy, Trevose, PA, 19053).

In the News



Membership

You may renew your membership now for 2026.

The new membership form is on our website. <https://jgasgp.org/joinrenew>
Our prices are a bargain! \$30 individual. \$15 for Chronicles hard copies

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

It is NOT automatic because you are a JGASGP member. Jim needs to activate you individually. Don't delay. All members become inactive on Dec. 31st unless Jim has a current membership for you.

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, 2026.

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!

Programs from other societies-there are so many. Check out the calendar from L'DorV'Dor!

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.



Join JewishGen's Chief Genealogist Caitlin Hollander Waas for an engaging introduction to the world of Ashkenazi Jewish family research. This session will explore the fundamentals of tracing your roots—understanding how geography, history, language, and migration shaped the records and names we work with today. Learn where to begin, what resources and tools can help you, and how to navigate the unique challenges of Ashkenazi genealogy. Whether you're just getting started or hoping to fill in missing branches, this talk will provide the context, strategies, and inspiration to illuminate your family's journey from the old country to the present day.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22, 2025

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

This program will be recorded, but we have a backlog on uploading recordings to YouTube, so it may take a few weeks. Apologies for the inconvenience.

Registration: Free with a suggested donation. [Click here to register](#)

Donations will be made to the Museum of Jewish Heritage and credited to JewishGen.

About the Speaker:

Caitlin Hollander Waas is JewishGen's chief genealogist, as well as being on staff at the Peter and Mary Kalikow Jewish Genealogy Center at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. She has been a professional genealogist for over a decade, beginning in the world of forensic genealogy specializing in high value estate cases, as well as researching for private clients and consulting for books. In addition, her citizenship reclamation work has been featured in Family Tree Magazine, The Times of Israel, and the South Florida Sun Sentinel, among other publications. She holds a degree in Anthropology, as well as additional certificates in Jewish Studies and Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

"Indexes and Databases: What Indexers, Proofreaders, and Genealogy Researchers Should Know" presented by Ken Ryesky, Esq. (MBA, JD, MLS):

Date and Time: October 27, 2025 7:00 - 8:00 pm Israel time

[NOTE that this occurs between the Israel reversion to standard time and the USA standard time reset, so the time for the Eastern US would be **1:00 PM**].

Topic: This presentation will uncover the hidden challenges to accurate genealogical research, focusing on the critical role of indexes. Using real-world examples, you'll learn how indexes are created, quality-controlled, and used effectively. Understand their capabilities and limitations to enhance your research skills and make more reliable discoveries.

The presentation will be in English; although many of the examples are from the presenter's experiences as an indexer and proofreader on certain IGRA projects, the presentation covers issues that pertain to ALL genealogical research.

{There will be some Philadelphia stories in the "real-world examples," including one implicating the JGASGP website}.

Live attendance is at no cost for those who register in advance at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/OhvOB0zXQIm7c5OIMlnKkg#/registration> ;

Recording of the presentation will subsequently be available on the IGRA website [<https://genealogy.org.il>] to IGRA members.

If you are unable to attend (and even if you are able to), please inform other genealogy-minded people of this.

--KHR

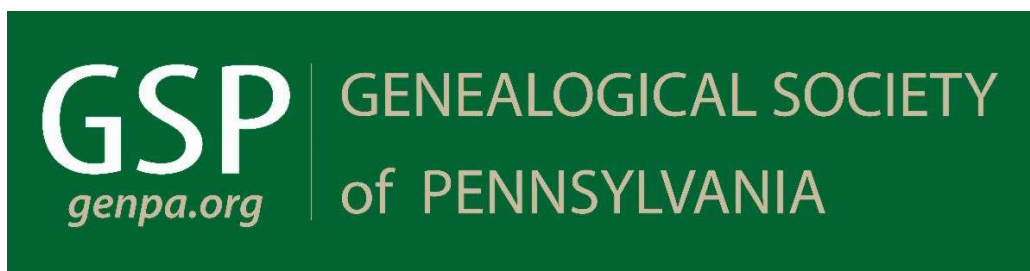
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Kenneth H. Ryesky, Esq.

MBA, JD, MLS

Petach Tikva, ISRAEL

profryesky@yahoo.com



Click the green box to see the available programs at GSP.

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

Margery N. Sly

Margery became the Director of Special Collections Research Center, Temple University Libraries in Philadelphia in 2010. While there she was instrumental in the planning of the new Charles Library and the move of its collections to modern, new spaces with enhanced preservation and access capabilities. She played a key role in transferring the Phila. Jewish Archives Center (PJAC) materials to the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at the Temple University Library.

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.

