



## JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

February 22, 2026

**Risa Daitzman Heywood, Professional Genealogist, Writer, and Speaker, was our guest lecturer. Here is a meeting recap using Zoom AI.**

The meeting focused on a presentation by Risa Dutchman-Haywood about using HIAS Philadelphia records to trace family immigration journeys. Risa explained various types of HIAS records, including travel tickets, arrival lists, special inquiry interviews, and naturalization documents, and demonstrated how these records could provide detailed information about immigrants who arrived in Philadelphia between 1884 and 1952. She emphasized that these records are valuable for advanced genealogy research, particularly for immigrants who arrived before 1894 or whose manifests were lost or damaged. The presentation included examples of how to access these records at FamilySearch centers and discussed the limitations and challenges of working with these unindexed documents. After the presentation, attendees asked questions about accessing HIAS records for New York immigrants, proving family relationships for record access, and strategies for finding elusive immigrant ancestors.

To watch the lecture click on this link: Zoom Shareable link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/knxOte-QeBORvwEJ0XKtfadc9jowmzgCUgo-NbeXtg6ICiCix\\_XA-ezKSG9PUgTB8O.khriTEC8p\\_CMbl3?pwd=Dlc3kQxPD5dOhia3ZAAAI-AAAACVEeD7Xu7upAz1zi2JXQWE5AT0ZOPTLRq5al5IAiYyN9aBqZ7mSxxUkisFYXnK1DTAwMDAwNA](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/knxOte-QeBORvwEJ0XKtfadc9jowmzgCUgo-NbeXtg6ICiCix_XA-ezKSG9PUgTB8O.khriTEC8p_CMbl3?pwd=Dlc3kQxPD5dOhia3ZAAAI-AAAACVEeD7Xu7upAz1zi2JXQWE5AT0ZOPTLRq5al5IAiYyN9aBqZ7mSxxUkisFYXnK1DTAwMDAwNA)

Don't forget: Call [FamilySearch Centers before visiting to confirm hours and location, as mentioned in presentation.](#)

**FamilySearch centers in our area: As you can see there are many centers and affiliates. You have to call to make sure they have the information you are looking for. Google for more locations.**

Morrisville, PA · (215) 295-9628  
PA\_Morrisville@familyhistorymail.org  
1204 Pine Grove Rd  
Morrisville, PA 19067

FamilySearch affiliate

BUCKS COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM - FREE LIBRARY OF NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP

(215) 357-3050

25 Upper Holland Rd

Richboro, PA 18954

FamilySearch center

Doylestown, PA · (215) 348-0645

FamilySearch center

Philadelphia, PA · (215) 382-2359

FamilySearch center

Valley Forge Family History

Broomall, PA · (610) 356-8507

FamilySearch center

Broomall, PA · (610) 356-8507

FamilySearch center

Cherry Hill Township, NJ · (856) 795-8841

FamilySearch center

East Brunswick, NJ · (732) 254-1480

***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***

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**MARK IS PRESENTING TO THE SAN DIEGO JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY:**

Don't delay signing up as they limit their registration. <https://www.sdjgs.org/event-6560889>

## ***STORIES OF ESCAPE DURING WWII: JEWISH REFUGEES SURVIVED VIA THE EASTERN ROUTE THROUGH ASIA***

- When  
[March 08, 2026](#)
- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PDT)
- Location  
Virtual on Zoom
- Spaces left  
72
- Registered  
[26 registrants](#)

### REGISTRATION

- **Member**
- **Non-member – \$5.00**

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**Hang around after the presentation for general conversation**

## **STORIES OF ESCAPE DURING WWII: JEWISH REFUGEES SURVIVED VIA THE EASTERN ROUTE THROUGH ASIA**

**Presenter: Mark Halpern**

Thousands of Jews fled war-torn Europe by traveling eastward via Japan and/or Shanghai. I will trace the very interesting journeys of survival of four refugees from Europe to safe harbor in the United States – two in the New York area and two in the Los Angeles area. Two refugees were from Poland, one from Lithuania, and one from Bulgaria.

Most Jewish genealogists know about the exploits of Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese consul in Lithuania who issued transit visas to over 2000 Jewish refugees. Only one of these four refugees used a Sugihara visa. All the stories are compelling and worthy of documentaries. Along with providing their interesting narratives, I will share many of the research sources and practices used to document their journeys.



**Bio:** In his professional career, Mark worked for an International Company for 32 years including overseas assignments in Denmark, Hong Kong and Japan. In 1996, while on business in Poland, Mark visited Bialystok, his mother's birthplace. Upon his return home, Mark dove down the rabbit hole searching his Galician and Polish roots. Now retired, Mark works with JRI-Poland, Jewish-Gen, IAJGS, and Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia (JGASGP) helping others research their roots. Mark is on the Board and Executive Group of JRI-Poland, is the founder of BIALYGen, the Bialystok area Jewish Genealogy group, and is the past President and current Program Chair for JGASGP.

Mark is a member of the Program Committee for the virtual 2026 IAJGS Conference in Philadelphia. He has chaired the program committees for the 2009, 2013, and 2024 Conferences, served as advance coordinator for the 2018 Warsaw Conference, and served on the Program Committees for the 2018, 2021, and 2022 Conferences. Mark was honored in 2018 with the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award.

### Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

Two fabulous resources are available on our website:



## Book Club Update



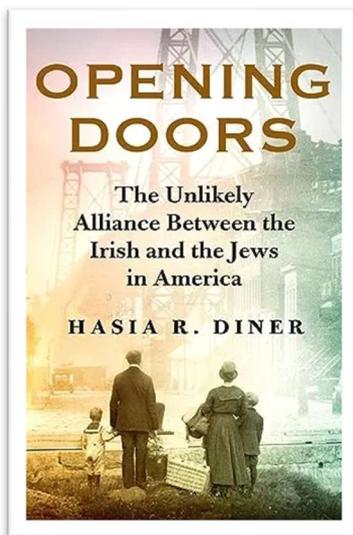
Hope to see many of you at our Book Club meeting. All are welcome any time! Our books are either written by an author with Jewish heritage or is one who writes about a Jewish theme. The link will be sent out to all on the morning of each meeting. See our website under Events for updated Book Club titles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

**Our Book club always starts at 7:30 PM.**

**If you'll be joining us, please RSVP to [membership@jgasgp.org](mailto:membership@jgasgp.org).**

Our next meeting is on a Wednesday night. I've adjusted the dates to be the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month except for April. I gave an extra week due to Passover. Dates are subject to change if there's a holiday! I tried to pick a variety of books from suggestions offered. After this current book, I'm going to pick books with Jewish content only due to their popularity.

1. **Lilli de Jong** by Janet Benton **Wednesday, Feb 25, 2026 7:30** (Jewish Author)
2. **Opening doors : The Unlikely Alliance Between The Irish And The Jews In America**  
by Hasia R. Diner **March 25, 2026**



Popular belief holds that the various ethnic groups that emigrated to the United States at the turn of the twentieth century regarded one another with open hostility, fiercely competing for limited resources and even coming to blows in the crowded neighborhoods of major cities. One of the most enduring stereotypes is that of rabidly anti-Semitic Irish Catholics, like Father Charles Coughlin of Boston and the sensationalized *Gangs of New York* trope of Irish street thugs attacking defenseless Jewish immigrants.

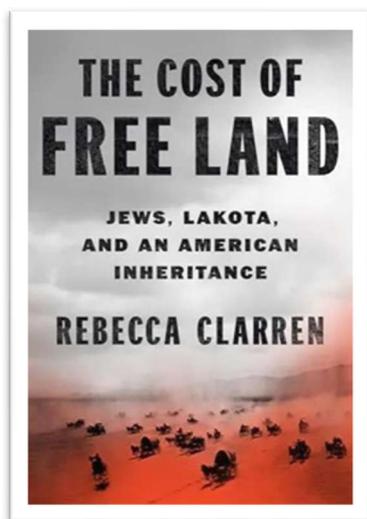
In *Opening Doors*, Hasia R. Diner, one of the world's preeminent historians of immigration, tells a very different story; far from confrontational, the prevailing relationships between Jewish and Irish Americans were overwhelmingly cooperative, and the two groups were dependent upon one another to secure stable and upwardly mobile lives in their new home. The Irish had emigrated to American cities en masse a generation before the first major wave of Jewish immigrants arrived and had already entrenched themselves in positions of influence in urban governments, public education, and the labor movement. Jewish newcomers recognized the value of aligning themselves with another group of religious outsiders who were able to stand up and demand

rights and respect despite widespread discrimination from the Protestant establishment, and the Irish realized that they could protect their political influence by mentoring their new neighbors in the intricacies of American life.

*Opening Doors* draws from a deep well of historical sources to show how Irish and Jewish Americans became steadfast allies in classrooms, picket lines, and political machines, and ultimately helped one another become key power players in shaping America's future. In the wake of rising anti-Semitism and xenophobia today, this informative and accessible work offers an inspiring look at a time when two very different groups were able to find common ground and work together to overcome bigotry, gain representation, and move the country in a more inclusive direction.

**The extraordinary untold story of how Irish and Jewish immigrants worked together to secure legitimacy in America .**

### 3. [The Cost of Free Land](#) by Rebecca Clarren (2025) April 29, 2026 (last week of the month)



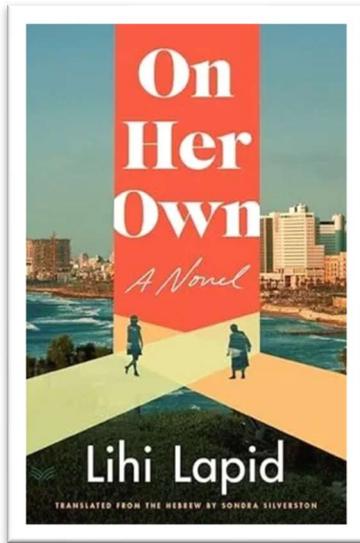
**An award-winning author investigates the entangled history of her Jewish ancestors' land in South Dakota and the Lakota, who were forced off that land by the United States government**

Growing up, Rebecca Clarren only knew the major plot points of her tenacious immigrant family's origins. Her great-great-grandparents, the Sinykins, and their six children fled antisemitism in Russia and arrived in the United States at the turn of the 20th century, ultimately settling on a 160-acre homestead in South Dakota. Over the next few decades, despite tough years on a merciless prairie and multiple setbacks, the Sinykins became an American immigrant success story.

What none of Clarren's ancestors ever mentioned was that their land, the foundation for much of their wealth, had been cruelly taken from the Lakota by the United States government. By the time the Sinykins moved to South Dakota, America had broken hundreds of treaties with hundreds of Indigenous nations across the continent, and the land that had once been reserved for the seven bands of the Lakota had been diminished, splintered, and handed for free, or practically free, to white settlers. In *The Cost of Free Land*, Clarren melds investigative reporting with personal family history to reveal the intertwined stories of her family and the Lakota, and the devastating cycle of loss of Indigenous land, culture, and resources that continues today.

With deep empathy and clarity of purpose, Clarren grapples with the personal and national consequences of this legacy of violence and dispossession. What does it mean to survive oppression only to

perpetuate and benefit from the oppression of others? By shining a light on the people and families tangled up in this country's difficult history, *The Cost of Free Land* invites readers to consider their own culpability



#### 4. ON HER OWN BY LAPID, LIHI ,MAY 27, 2026

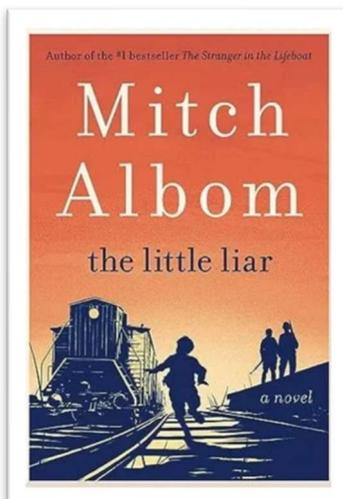
**A moving, page-turning story of two families in crisis and the unexpected places from which love can grow.**

Nina, a teenage runaway, wakes up in the unfamiliar stairwell of a Tel Aviv apartment in a torn minidress. As her memory starts to resurface—the abusive older man she's running away from, the crime she witnessed—she knows one thing: she needs to find a place to hide.

When one of the building's tenants, Carmela, a lonely old widow suffering from memory loss, mistakes Nina for her granddaughter she hasn't seen in years, Nina jumps at the opportunity for a safe haven. Soon, the two strangers become each other's lifeline as Nina settles into the apartment with sweet, reassuring Carmela.

Meanwhile, Irina, a Russian immigrant, is living a parent's worst nightmare: her only daughter has gone missing. She knows Nina got involved with the wrong men and will do anything to find her. Across the ocean, Itamar feels that something is happening to his mom, Carmela. The guilt over having left Israel for his pursuit of the American dream stirs childhood memories in him and a longing for the family that once was complete.

Set between the eve of Passover and Israel's Independence Day, *On Her Own* is a tense and immersive psychological read about two families looking for redemption and the transformative bonds between strangers. Translated from the Hebrew by Sondra Silverston.



#### 5. THE LITTLE LIAR BY MITCH ALBOM, JUNE 24, 2026

**Beloved bestselling author Mitch Albom returns with his most important novel to date, an unforgettable work of World War II historical fiction about truth and lies set during the Holocaust.**

Eleven-year-old Nico Krispis has never told a lie. When the Nazis invade his home in Salonika, Greece, the trustworthy boy is discovered by a German officer, who offers him a chance to save his family. All Nico has to do is persuade his fellow Jewish residents to board trains heading "north," where new jobs and safety await. Unaware that this is all a cruel ruse, the innocent boy reassures passengers on the station platform every day.

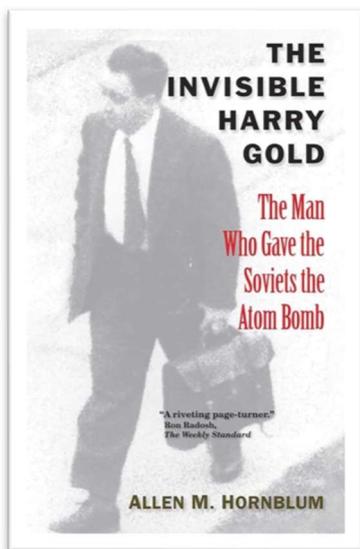
But when the final train is loaded, Nico sees his family being herded into a boxcar. Only then does he discover that he has helped send them—and everyone he knows and loves—to their doom at Auschwitz. Nico escapes—but he never tells the truth again.

In *The Little Liar*, a gripping family saga, Mitch Albom examines the human repercussions of deception by interweaving the stories of Nico, who yearns for forgiveness; his older brother, Sebastian, who vows revenge against him; Fannie, the girl who must choose between them; and Udo Graf, the Nazi officer who forever changed their lives with his lies.

Through the war years, the concentration camps, and the decades that follow, Albom reveals the consequences of each person’s honesty and dishonesty in this powerful story of survival, bringing them back to where it all started in a staggering climax worthy of the best of Albom’s internationally embraced stories.

## 6. The Invisible Harry Gold: The Man Who Gave the Soviets the Atom Bomb by

Alan Hornblum July 22, 2026



In the history of Soviet espionage in America, few people figure more crucially than Harry Gold. A Russian Jewish immigrant who spied for the Soviets from 1935 until 1950, Gold was an accomplished industrial and military espionage agent. He was assigned to be physicist Klaus Fuchs’s “handler” and ultimately conveyed sheaves of stolen information about the Manhattan Project from Los Alamos to Russian agents. He is literally the man who gave the USSR the plans for the atom bomb. The subject of the most intensive public manhunt in the history of the FBI, Gold was arrested in May 1950. His confession revealed scores of contacts, and his testimony in the trial of the Rosenbergs proved pivotal. Yet among his co-workers, fellow prisoners at Lewisburg Penitentiary, and even those in the

FBI, Gold earned respect, admiration, and affection.

In *The Invisible Harry Gold*, journalist and historian Allen Hornblum paints a surprising portrait of this notorious yet unknown figure. Through interviews with many individuals who knew Gold and years of research into primary documents, Hornblum has produced a gripping account of how a fundamentally decent and well-intentioned man helped commit the greatest scientific theft of the twentieth century.

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## Chronicles

*Dear JGASGP Members,*

Debbie Terman *Chronicles* Associate Graphics Editor has recently updated the *Chronicles* Index covering every issue from Vol 1-1 in 1982 through Volume 42-3, Fall 2025.

The index is accessible to members only - on our website under the Publication Tab > Chronicles - at the bottom of the page. It is sorted Chronologically and by Author, includes each article title and its starting page. There are also some keywords and notes included. The index is in Excel format, enabling users to sort and organize their research as necessary.

Every back issue of *Chronicles* is also posted on our website under publications for members.

*Do you have a story to tell? Did your research teach you something new? Did you uncover a family secret? 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!*

*Would you like to learn how to write about your research? Rhonda Lauritzen has many suggestions on her website for free advice on writing articles. I attended her workshop and found it full of helpful advice for writing. <https://evalogue.life/memoir>. Our editors work with you!*

*Please send your draft articles to [editor@jgasgp.org](mailto:editor@jgasgp.org).*

*With our thanks,*

*Ed Flax, Acting Editor [editor@jgasgp.org](mailto:editor@jgasgp.org)*

*Debbie Terman, Associate Graphic Editor [dcterman@jgasgp.org](mailto:dcterman@jgasgp.org)*

## Everything Genealogy

**Our next meeting: March 9th at 7:30 PM. ZOOM only**

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

**These discussions have been very beneficial to attendees.**

Here is the link for the next EG discussion.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84288984402?pwd=0oceDDMj6bk8dDpNQUZ29IbY8AnB9K.1>

## 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. We will use closed captioning.

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

Sunday, February 22 via Zoom at 1:30 pm will be Risa Daitzman Heywood on "Using HIAS's Philadelphia Records to Trace Your Family's Immigration Journey"

### **SPECIAL EVENT MEMBERS ONLY**

**A Day of Learning – In Memory of Evan Fishman Z" L**

**Evan Fishman (z'l)** was beloved by the JGASGP community, and the outpouring of love has been a testament to that.

**Date: Sunday, March 29, 2026**

**Time: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**Topic: Special Event: The Evan Fishman Memorial Day of Learning**

## **Location: A members-only event via Zoom**

This is a **special all-day program** to provide information about using **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Genetic Genealogy** in creating and advancing your family history. This program is for members in good standing for 2026.

This program is **in honor of and in memory of Evan Fishman**, a long-time Board member and editor of our award-winning **CHRONICLES**.

We are offering 4 different meetings. Here are the program and the instructors:

### **9:00-9:15 AM - Introduction**



### **9:15-10:45 AM – Ashkenazi DNA 101 with Jennifer Mendelsohn, Co-Founder of Holocaust Reunion**

DNA has the potential to be an essential and exciting genealogical tool. But many Ashkenazi Jewish testers find their DNA results completely overwhelming and unnavigable, largely due to endogamy. In this talk, Jennifer Mendelsohn will help those with Ashkenazi heritage learn how to tame the tangle of our match lists and make them make sense. She will cover why our match lists are so large (hello, endogamy!), why all our matches seem to match each other (endogamy, again!), and how to spot the meaningful matches and separate them from the faux ones. Using real-life examples of DNA success, you'll learn techniques that will help you work effectively with DNA to smash brick walls.



**Jennifer Mendelsohn** is a sought-after genealogist who specializes in helping Eastern European Jewish families shattered by the Holocaust reclaim their history. Her journey began in 2013, when she reunited her husband's grandmother—a Polish Holocaust survivor who had lost her entire immediate family and most of her extended family—with three living first cousins she had never known. Since then, she has worked on scores of cases, solving complex family mysteries using a blend of traditional and genetic genealogy. Her sleuthing was featured in the 2019 bestseller *Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro. She co-founded the Holocaust Reunion Project, which provides free DNA testing and genealogical consultation to help Holocaust survivors find family. Their work has garnered international media attention.

2

**11:00 AM-12:30 PM – AI Foundations with Arthur Sissman, Founder Jewish Genealogy SIG (JGSIG)**



A deep dive into the basics of prompting and the effective use of AI chatbots for genealogical research. (*more description to come*)

**12:30–1:30 PM Break for Lunch**



3

**1:30-3:00 PM More Than Just Browsing: Best Practices in Using a Chromosome Browser with Adina Newman, Co-Founder of Holocaust Reunion**

In Jewish genetic genealogy, you may have heard that using a chromosome browser is almost always a must. But why? Where can you access it? How does it work? If you have ever had questions related to chromosome browsers, this presentation is for you! Topics will include the purpose of a chromosome browser, how to utilize it at the major commercial testing and third-party sites, when to use it, and best chromosome browser practices in your genealogical research. Applications to real cases—including Holocaust research—will illustrate the practical benefits of using a chromosome browser effectively.



**Dr. Adina Newman, EdD**, the creator of My Family Genie, is a professional genealogist and educator. Her specialties include Jewish genealogy, genetic genealogy, social media, and New England, and she presents on these topics in a variety of venues, from major genealogy conferences to local genealogy societies. Her findings have received international media attention, such as mentions in The Daily Mail, Washington Post, AP News, TODAY, Us Weekly, People, and The Times of Israel, and she has made appearances on several news outlets such as

NPR and I24NEWS. She co-founded the Holocaust Reunion Project, a program to raise awareness about the potential of DNA testing within the Holocaust survivor community and provide survivors and their children with free commercial DNA tests and consultations.

4

**3:15-4:45 PM – Advanced Prompt Engineering with Arthur Sissman, Founder Jewish Genealogy SIG (JGSIG)**

Sophisticated strategies tailored for intermediate and advanced users to unlock complex record analysis. *(more description to come)*



**4:45-5:00 PM – Wrap-up**

**Date: Sunday, April 19, 2026**

**Time: 2:00 PM for Check in, Schmoozing and Mentoring – in-person only)**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**2:30 PM official meeting start time**

**Location: In-Person Location: Main Line Reform Temple (tentative)**

**Speaker: David Brill: Russian Genealogy Maven and JGASGP Member**



**David** is a longtime member of the Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia, and the coordinator of its Russian Interest Group. For over 30 years, David has researched his family history in the countries of the former Russian Empire (especially Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Russian Poland). Over the years, his interest in this area led him to become a self-taught translator of prerevolutionary Russian-language genealogical records. Currently, he manages the Rovno District Jewish Records Project for JewishGen’s Ukraine Research Division and is the JewishGen town leader for his ancestral shtetl of Tuchin (Ukraine). In his non-genealogical life, David is a civil engineer with the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. He lives in Cherry Hill, New Jersey with his wife, Michelle.

**Topic: Where Did They Run To? Tracing Ancestors Who Fled Conscription in the Russian Empire**

The reign of Tsar Nicholas I (1825-1855) is infamous in Russian Jewish history for the brutal conscription of minor boys. Beginning in 1827, thousands of Jewish boys as young as 9 were recruited into “cantonist” schools to begin a military career that could last as long as 25 years. Thousands of others tried to avoid conscription by hiding from authorities, joining new families, or running away from their homes – in some cases escaping to an entirely different, distant part of the Pale of Settlement. For the genealogist tracing Jewish families, this situation presents unique issues that call for a creative approach. This presentation explores ways to connect the “runaway” to his birth family, using strategies including analyzing revision lists and other 19th century Russian-language documents, multi-generational name comparisons, and genetic genealogy. The presenter will work from examples in his own family research of ancestors who fled their shtetls as children in the 1830’s-1840’s and will show how genealogy was able to piece together the stories of their journeys.

**Date: Sunday, May 31, 2026**

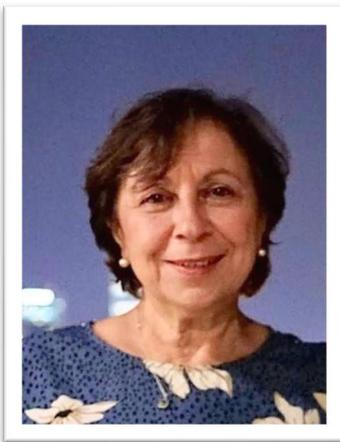
**Time: 1:00 PM for Check in, Schmoozing and Mentoring – in-person only)**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**1:30 PM official meeting start time**

**Location: In-Person Location: Main Line Reform Temple (tentative)**

**Speaker: Raquel Levy-Toledano, Board Member of International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and International Institute for Jewish Genealogy**



**Raquel** is involved in Moroccan Jewish Genealogy and Genetic Genealogy projects, director at IAJGS, member of the General Assembly of IJG, board member of the Cercle de Généalogie Juive (France) where she manages the genetic genealogy group, president of NAJMA (Nos Ancêtres Juifs Marocains et Algériens), a French Genealogical Society, co-administrator of the Avotaynu DNA project section involving North African Jews, expert curator of Geni’s Moroccan and Algerian Jewish family tree, founder of the Généalogie des Juifs Marocains Facebook Group, which has 12,700 members .

**Topic: 19th Century Jewish Presence in the Land of Israel**

The Jewish presence in the Land of Israel of the 19th century has not been extensively studied. While they have been poorly explored, the Montefiore censuses taken in the Land of Israel (1839, 1849, 1855, 1866 and 1875) constitute a unique tool to characterize the Jewish population of the Land of Israel of the 19th Century. The presentation will detail the waves of migration to the Land of Israel, the composition of the members of the Jewish population (Ashkenazim and Sephardim), their countries of birth, their demographic characteristics, and will compare the occupation, the socio-economic status and the naming pattern of Ashkenazim and Sephardim.

**Date: Sunday, June 28, 2026**

**Time: 1:00 PM for Check in, Schmoozing and Mentoring – in-person only)**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**1:30 PM official meeting start time**

**In-Person Location: Rodeph Shalom (tentative)**

**Speaker: Ellen Kowitt, Professional Genealogist, Writer, and Presenter**



**Ellen** operates Sole Searching Genealogy & Historical Research. She is a frequent presenter at national conferences and has published articles in *NGS Magazine*, *Family Tree Magazine*, and *Avotaynu: The International Journal on Jewish Genealogy*. Topics include getting started in Jewish genealogy, methodology, Jewish institutional records, comparing Jewish resources on the genealogy giant websites, Russian Empire research, and Holocaust in Ukraine. Ellen has completed the Pro-Gen study program and several genealogical institutes, she is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and

while accepting clients, she continues to volunteer as JewishGen USA Research Division Director and D.A.R. Jewish Specialty Researcher. Originally from New York and Washington DC, Ellen resides in Colorado with her husband and is mother to two college students. [www.EllenKowitt.com](http://www.EllenKowitt.com).

**Topic: Endgame Genealogy**

Is it the journey or the destination? Many enjoy the process and camaraderie that comes along with the act of doing genealogy research. Others have goals to answer a specific question, find a living relative, build a family tree, or publish a book. What happens when you move onto other pursuits or suddenly depart midstream before

completion? End of life planning typically does not include instructions for hard-earned and meaningful genealogy research. How would loved ones or fellow landsman find and navigate your online passwords, final version of a family tree, photos, acquired documents, translations, instructions on next steps, or manuscript in process? Let's explore big picture questions about setting expectations, create a planning checklist to ensure your intentions are honored, and start organizing today for tomorrow. This lecture will allow time for participants to share best practices.

## H A M E C



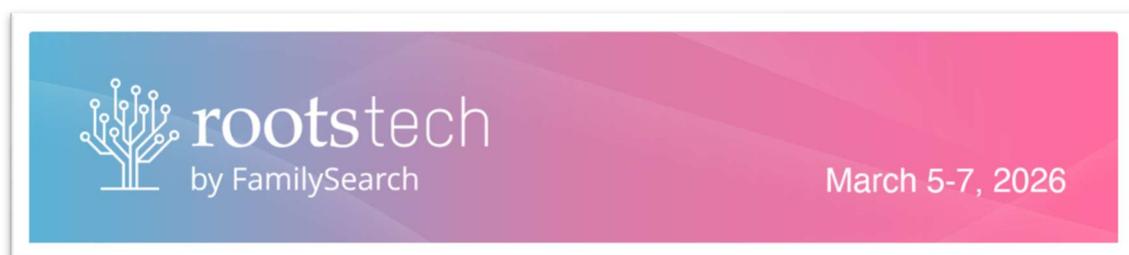
Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center  
Preserving History to Learn From the Past | Est. 1961

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 event:** Our JGASGP members can take advantage of the free offer. March 10th Tuesday at 7pm at Keneseth Israel is the annual concert with the Commonwealth Youth Choir honoring our Holocaust survivors.

### In the News





## Membership

It's time to renew your membership now for 2026. Don't delay if you want continuous access to our website. All access ended on December 31<sup>st</sup> automatically unless you renewed your membership.

The new membership form is on our website. <https://jgasgp.org/joinrenew>  
*Our prices are a bargain! \$30 individual. \$40 Family  
\$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 [membership@jgasgp.org](mailto:membership@jgasgp.org) if you have any dues-related questions.

Contact Jim [webmaster@jgasgp.org](mailto:webmaster@jgasgp.org) with web access questions or receiving hard copy problems.

Contact Ed Flax [ejflax@gmail.com](mailto:ejflax@gmail.com) or Debbie Terman - [dcterman@jgasgp.org](mailto:dcterman@jgasgp.org) 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!***



**Do you have website skills?**

**We could use your help. Please contact**

**Jim: [webmaster@jgasgp.org](mailto:webmaster@jgasgp.org)**

**Programs from other societies and/or by our own members-  
there are so many.**

From Member Stephen Cohen:

Perhaps my upcoming talk for Yom HaShoah will be of interest to our members. I will be discussing the life and work of Dr Stefanie Horovitz, a Viennese chemist who proved that isotopes are a real thing in the shadow of World War I. Her life was upended by the Nazis--which leads to Yom HaShoah. The talk is co-sponsored by the synagogue and the US Section of the Royal Society of Chemistry. It will be Sunday afternoon, 3 pm, April 12.

I will toss in a bit of Jewish genealogy (and JRI-Poland) with her birth record and her parents' graves.

Here is the announcement on the shul's webpage (if you scroll down a bit):

<https://www.societyhillssynagogue.org/coolanu/>

Dr. Stefanie Horovitz, The Isotope Lady: A Presentation by Dr. Stephen Cohen  
Sunday, April 12 @ 3:00 pm

[Click here to Register](#)



Join us for a fascinating evening of science, history, and Jewish memory. Co-sponsored with the Royal Society of Chemistry, Society Hill Synagogue member Dr. Stephen Cohen will bring to life the remarkable story of Dr. Stefanie Horovitz — the brilliant Viennese Jewish chemist whose groundbreaking experiment provided the first proof of isotopes.

Horovitz’s discovery reshaped modern chemistry, yet her name has all but disappeared from the scientific record. Why?

This compelling lecture will explore Horovitz’s pioneering work, her intellectual circle, and the dramatically different paths taken by her colleagues as Europe descended into World War II and the Holocaust. It is a story of

discovery, erasure, resilience, and the moral responsibility of remembering.

This program is open to the public. Admission is included with Society Hill Synagogue membership and/or membership in the Royal Society of Chemistry. General admission costs \$18, and advance registration is required.

**\*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.

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

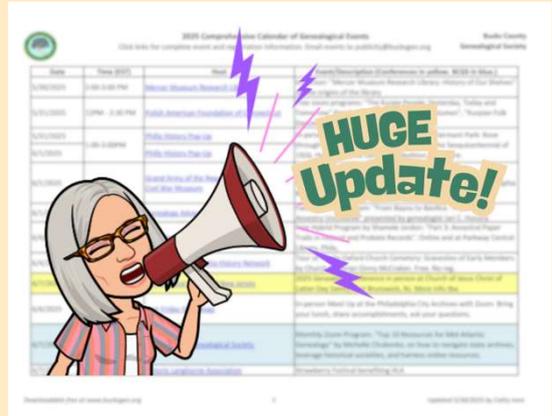
<https://www.bucksgen.org/index.php/bcgs-programs>

**COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

The calendar has again been updated - as we begin to add a few going forward to 2026! It includes community and heritage fairs as well as many new in-person, hybrid and virtual events!

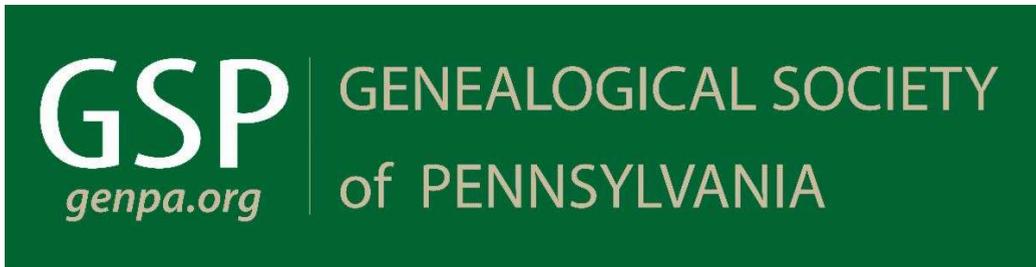
If you know of another that you would recommend, or are looking for a specific topic, please email: [publicity@bucksgen.org](mailto:publicity@bucksgen.org).

Here is the link: [Comprehensive Calendar of Events](#)



Did you know you could search for specific topics? Simply click control+F once opened. Be sure to scroll through to take advantage of early bird registrations and deadlines! At the bottom there is a list of other sites with even more courses, webinars and podcasts!

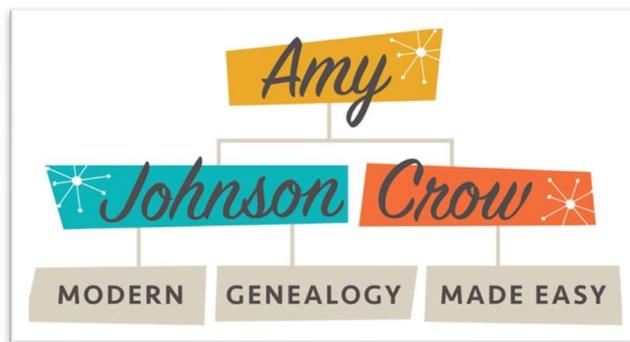
Sign up for Newsletters too: JewishGen.org Discussion Group - Daily Summary <https://groups.jewish-gen.org/g/main> and Eastman's online genealogy newsletter [Eogn.com](http://Eogn.com).



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

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PODCAST and INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTER. <https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.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!

Below are a few suggestions I've received:

## Condolences

**Dolgin, Howard Arthur** (79) long time resident of West Mt. Airy Philadelphia, died peacefully at home at Shannondell, Audubon, Pennsylvania on October 23, 2024. He is survived by his loving wife, Trudy of 52 years; his brother Herbert Dolgin, his wife, Theresa (Tess) and their children, William, Katherine and Andrew. He enriched the lives of faculty and students by writing and receiving 46 Paths Prism Grants in math, science, the arts, and literature. In 1984 he received the B'nai B'rith Award of Excellence and the following year he was the recipient of the Rose Lindenbaum Improvement of Education Award. Howard's investigation into genealogy led him to author two family histories. His grandfather's story is chronicled in the September 2024 edition of *Harry Lucacher : A Life Dedicated to the Boys of the Hebrew National Orphan Home*. The second, about Howard's cousin, Harry Kabran, *The Survivor: The Autobiography of Harry Kabran "You Have to Fight to Survive"*. In lieu of flowers please send donations to [Reading Al-  
lowed](#) and the [Parent Child Plus](#) programs or a charity of your choice.

Please forgive the late notice. I only found out recently of Howard's passing.



**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.

