



## JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

March 29, 2026

Today's meeting was a special session honoring the late editor of Chronicles, Evan Fishman, featuring presentations on genetic genealogy. Jennifer Mendelsohn delivered the 1<sup>st</sup> presentation on working with Ashkenazi Jewish DNA, explaining concepts like endogamy, match lists, and strategies for identifying meaningful genetic connections. She demonstrated how to interpret DNA results, particularly for those with predominantly Ashkenazi heritage, and emphasized the importance of building comprehensive paper trees to understand genetic matches.

Jennifer discussed the importance of autosomal DNA testing in genealogy, particularly for Jewish families. She explained how match lists work across different DNA testing platforms and demonstrated how these lists can help connect relatives, even when paper trails are severed. Jennifer emphasized that predicted relationship categories should be treated as estimates.

Adina Newman presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation explaining the basics of DNA inheritance, chromosome browsers, and their applications in genealogical research, including identifying IBD (Identical By Descent) segments and understanding DNA matching. She outlined the importance of chromosome browsers in visualizing DNA inheritance patterns and discussed their practical uses, particularly in ethnicity estimation and analyzing DNA matches. She demonstrated how to use chromosome browsers on FamilyTreeDNA, MyHeritage, and 23andMe to identify shared DNA segments and potential triangulation with DNA matches.

**Both presentations were informative and full of information. This was a fabulous day and Evan would be very proud of us. I took notes and will now be going back to review my DNA matches again. Let us know if you learned something new about your family after using the techniques discussed in these lectures! Make sure you have both handouts.**

Here is the link to watch the 1st Day of Learning:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/j4lj4wNTVuYEvxEghuqVrhBunliiRLv-JWeEMs-mUfb6SmRfLrgSrrs0l0GcTaw.pSsbDqTQoZwZg3TZ?pwd=DHJ3Zy2YxCIZYnSJ5gAAI-AAAANB8FjdcxcyBwuns9ZJvoaY-JnvcUAXnKXWJf-tDAWOMCwCS5hP\\_dajJhpu-hpFDB0TAwMDAwNA](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/j4lj4wNTVuYEvxEghuqVrhBunliiRLv-JWeEMs-mUfb6SmRfLrgSrrs0l0GcTaw.pSsbDqTQoZwZg3TZ?pwd=DHJ3Zy2YxCIZYnSJ5gAAI-AAAANB8FjdcxcyBwuns9ZJvoaY-JnvcUAXnKXWJf-tDAWOMCwCS5hP_dajJhpu-hpFDB0TAwMDAwNA)

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## Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

Two fabulous resources are available on our website:



## Book Club Update March-July



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

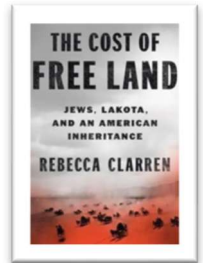
the month unless there is a holiday. PLEASE RSVP to [membership@jgasgp.org](mailto:membership@jgasgp.org).

**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 meetings are usually on a Wednesday night. I've adjusted the dates to be the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month except for April. We are meeting on a Thursday night instead. I'm going to pick books with Jewish content due to their popularity.

*Thank you for the lively discussion to those who attended our meeting discussing **Opening doors : The Unlikely Alliance Between The Irish And The Jews In America** by Hasia R. Diner. We had ideas and stereotypes before reading the book. We learned the story of how Irish and Jewish immigrants worked together to secure legitimacy in America: politics, unions, education and the Irish Catholic connections we didn't know we had! This book read like a college class textbook!*



1. The Cost of Free Land by Rebecca Clarren (2025) April 30, 2026 (THURSDAY-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.

Mary Jane Roth recently reviewed this book in our winter Chronicles.

## 2. 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.

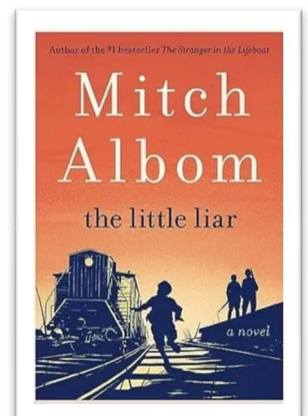
Set between the eve of Passover and Israel's Independence Day, *On Her Own* is a tense and immersive psychological read about two families looking for redemption and the transformative bonds between strangers. Translated from the Hebrew by Sondra Silverston.

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

**An Instant *New York Times* Bestseller**

**Beloved bestselling author Mitch Albom returns with his most important novel to date, an unforgettable story of 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*, 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.

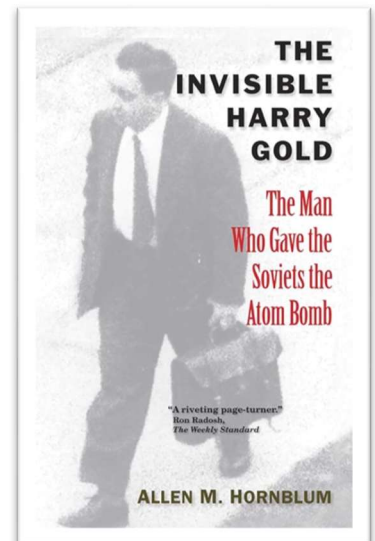
Through the war years, the concentration camps, and the decades that follow, Albom reveals the consequences of each person’s honesty and dishonesty, bringing them back to where it all started in a staggering climax worthy of the best of Albom’s internationally embraced stories.

#### 4. [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.



***I am ready to read!  
Will you be joining our Book Club this year?  
Let me know and I'll put you on the list!***

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## Chronicles

***Dear JGASGP Members,  
Winter hard copies have been mailed. If you paid for a copy and didn't receive it,  
please contact Jim: [Webmaster@jgasgp.org](mailto:Webmaster@jgasgp.org). New subscribers to Chronicles for  
2026 will receive the SPRING edition as your first copy.***

***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 key-words 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 sug-  
gestions on her website for free advice on writing articles. I attended her workshop and found  
it full of helpful advice for writing. <https://evaloque.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: April 6th at 7:30 PM. ZOOM only**

**Bring your 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=0oceDDMi6bk8dDpNQUZ29IbY8AnB9K.1>

**From our March meeting:**

### **RESEARCHING FRIENDLY BROTHERS ORGANIZATION**

David sought help in researching **the Friendly Brothers organization**, a Jewish group from the 1950s in Philadelphia, with limited online information available. Members suggested exploring newspaper archives, Jewish genealogical databases, and reaching out to broader community groups and Jewish organizations, including JewishGen and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society at Temple University. Peter shared insights on using DNA for genealogical research and emphasized the importance of consulting both Jewish and non-Jewish sources for comprehensive historical records. The group agreed to post inquiries on social media and suggested further steps for David to explore, including checking the Philadelphia Library's ProQuest database and looking at the list of Philadelphia's Landsmanshaft societies listed on our website.

### **FAMILY ARCHIVES PRESERVATION GUIDANCE**

The group discussed preserving family archives and documents, with Stephen sharing his experience of donating family materials to the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, who accept documents, photos, and recordings but not textiles. Marilyn advised Edward to contact local Philadelphia archives like SCRC and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in advance to ensure items meet their acceptance criteria, as he currently has no local relatives to leave his materials with.

**\*Make sure you plan to attend our meeting with Ellen Kowitt in June: Endgame Genealogy.**

**What do you do with all of your research, documents, trees, etc. Where does it go? Who gets it?**

## **JGASGP Meeting Schedule and Updates**



The Zoom link or Livestream link will be sent out on the morning of the meeting at 8 AM. 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**

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

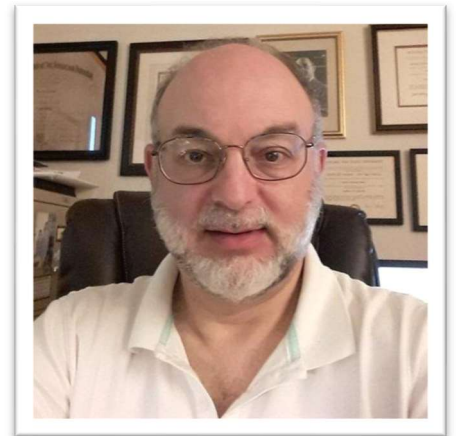
**Time: 2:00 PM for Check in, Schmoozing and Mentoring – in-person only)**

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

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

**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**

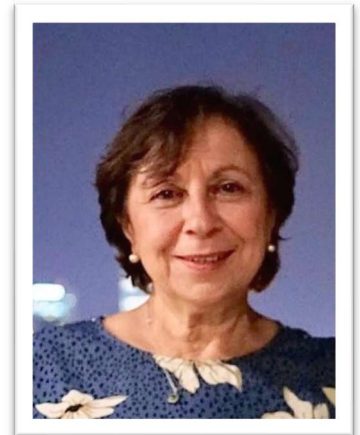
**Time: 1:00 PM for Check in, Schmoozing and Mentoring – in-person only)**

**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)**

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

**In-Person Location: Main Line Reform (Hybrid)**

**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 ProGen 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/>

### **In Honor of Larry Smith: 65 Years of HAMEC and The Cattle Car Experience**

April 14 @ 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

EVENT COST:

**\$5.00**

Join HAMEC as we honor Larry Smith and reflect on 65 years of HAMEC's work to confront anti-Semitism and prejudice of all kinds through Holocaust education. This gathering includes the powerful Cattle Car Experience, created to help visitors better grasp what survivors endured.

Your registration supports our mission to preserve survivor stories, bring them to students and communities, and ensure this history is neither forgotten nor distorted. Please share your details below so we can plan thoughtfully and welcome you.

THE HOLOCAUST AWARENESS MUSEUM PRESENTS THE HATE ENDS NOW

# MOBILE HOLOCAUST EXHIBIT AND ORIGINAL ARTIFACT COLLECTION

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE HOLOCAUST  
COMBATting ANTISEMITISM AND ALL FORMS OF HATE

The Hate Ends Now exhibit is a 360 degree, immersive multimedia presentation housed inside an exact replica of a WW2 era cattle car just like the ones used to transport Jews and other targeted groups to concentration and death camps during the Holocaust.

**TUESDAY APRIL 14, 2026**  
YOM HASHOAH  
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY  
IN HONOR OF LARRY SMITH

**11AM-7PM**  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

REFORM CONGREGATION KENESETH ISRAEL  
8339 OLD YORK RD  
ELKINS PARK, PA 19027

RESERVE YOUR SPOT HERE:  
tinyurl.com/14apr26HAMEC

StandWithUs  
gratzcollege

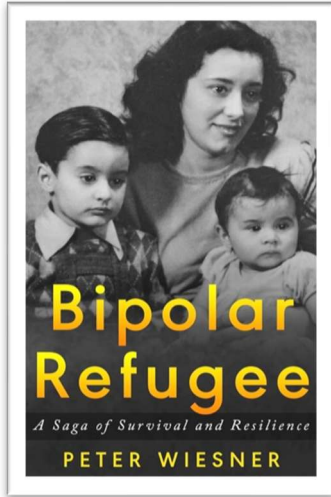
HATE ENDS NOW  
THE CATTLE CAR

www.HateEndsNow.org Info@HateEndsNow.org

**Register Today**

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*One of our members, Peter Wiesner, has published a book about his family. He has been interviewed and has an interesting story to tell: He was interviewed by David Lee Preston on June 2, 2024. He will be giving another Zoom talk on May 4, 2026, sponsored by HAMEC and Tikvah. I will share the information when it is published.*



In **Bipolar Refugee**, author and documentary film maker Peter Wiesner has turned his writing and documentary skills to telling the story, 'warts and all' of his mother, Mary Krotoczynski Wiesner. The excellently researched book becomes a literal monument to her survival and the memory of her parents who perished under the Nazis. The grueling effects of her bipolar disorder wreak havoc on Peter and his half-sister, Monica, as they grow up, in economic straits, often in foster homes, estranged from the fathers they barely knew. America, the 'land of milk and honey' for his mother, even Santa Monica with its broad beaches and cool ocean, cannot soften the guilt Mary feels for having left her parents behind when she boarded the Kinderreise for her escape to safety in England. Learning the grim truth of her own mother's murder causes unrelenting pain for Maria.

I just received my copy from Amazon.

## In the News



Dear IAJGS Community,

I have some important news to share about our upcoming conferences, and I want to make sure you hear it directly from me.

The IAJGS Board has made the decision to reschedule our upcoming conferences:

The 2026 Virtual Conference has been moved to April 4–6, 2027

The In-Person Conference has been moved to 2028

I know this may come as a surprise, and I want you to understand the thinking behind this decision, not just the decision itself.

The short version: the cost of producing a high-quality in-person conference has changed dramatically since COVID, and we are not willing to deliver anything less than the conference our community deserves. Moving the timeline gives us the runway we need to fundraise properly, plan thoughtfully, and build something we can all be proud of.

We are not going dark in 2026. We have programming planned, including a free AI-focused virtual summit on April 26th open to all society members. More details on that are coming very soon.

For the full story, including the financial data that informed our decision, what we're doing differently going forward, and how you can get involved, I invite you to read my complete message on our blog:

[\[READ THE FULL ANNOUNCEMENT HERE →\]](#)

As always, we welcome your thoughts and feedback at [feedback@iajgs.org](mailto:feedback@iajgs.org).

Thank you for your continued passion for Jewish genealogy and for being part of this remarkable community.

Warmly,



Susan Weinberg.  
IAJGS President

## Membership

**Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues!**

***\$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.*

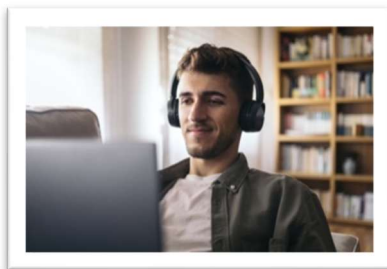
## Mentors

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.societyhillsynagogue.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.

### **Bucksgen Monthly Program:**

**Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 10 a.m. on Zoom**

**"NARA Mythbusters: Your Family *IS* In The Archives"**

**presented by The Legal Genealogist Judy Russell**



Bucks County Genealogical Society hosts their Monthly Program  
on Saturday, April 11, 2026  
at 10 a.m. on Zoom



**“NARA Mythbusters:  
Your Family IS In The Archives”**  
presented by **Judy Russell**



Visit [https://bit.ly/bcgs\\_programs](https://bit.ly/bcgs_programs) for more information

*“All the military records were burned  
in the fire.”*

*“There isn’t any birth, marriage or  
death information in federal records.”*

*“There aren’t any details about ordi-  
nary families at the National Archives.”*

These kinds of myth-statements stop genealogists from breaking down all kinds of brick walls using the wealth of information in NARA records.

Join the Mythbusters with the treasures the National Archives holds for your family.

Registration for this program opens on

Saturday, April 4, 2026 for both members (\$5) and non-members. (\$10)

at [https://bit.ly/bcgs\\_programs](https://bit.ly/bcgs_programs)

This presentation will be recorded. Only members who have registered for this program as members will be able to view it for 30 days following the program date.

*About the Speaker:* Judy G. Russell is a genealogist with a law degree. She writes, teaches and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical topics, providing expert guidance through the murky territory where law and family history intersect. Judy is a Colorado native with roots deep in the American south on her mother’s side and entirely in Germany on her father’s side. She holds a bachelor’s degree from George Washington University and a law degree from Rutgers School of Law-Newark. Before she retired, she worked as a newspaper reporter, trade association writer, legal investigator, defense attorney, federal prosecutor, law editor and, for more than 20 years, as an adjunct member of the faculty at Rutgers Law School. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society and numerous local societies. A recipient of the Silver Tray Award from the Utah Genealogical Society and the 2017 Award of Excellence from the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, she now serves as a member of the NGSQ editorial board. Judy is sought after internationally as a speaker. She holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist® and Certified Genealogical LecturerSM from the Board for Certification of Genealogists®. Her award-winning blog appears at The Legal Genealogist website (<https://www.legalgenealogist.com>).

**\*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\***

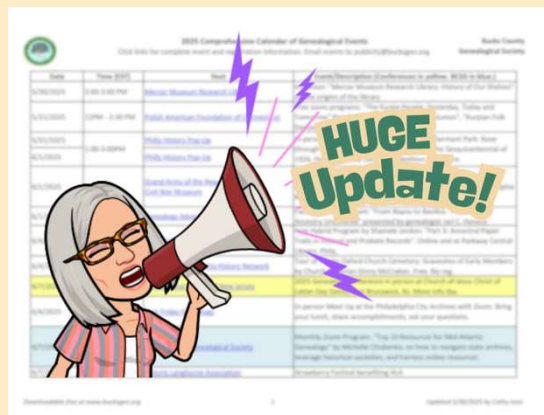
Did you know that [American Ancestors](#) has a free 'Live Chat' feature on their website, available Monday through Saturday 9am to 5pm ET? Just enter your question in the chat box during the times listed, and one of their expert genealogists will respond. You can access the feature directly [here](#),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

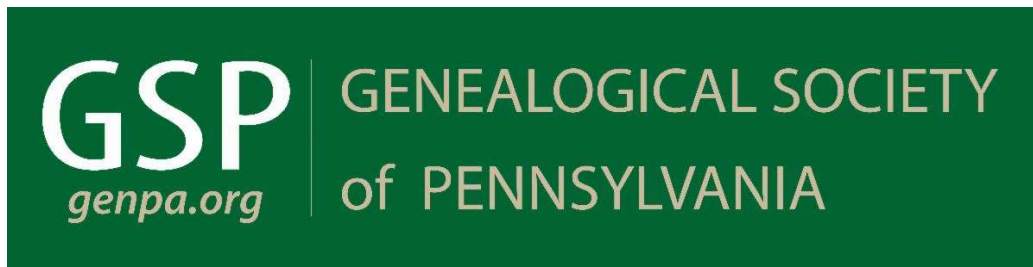
The calendar has again been updated - as we begin to add a few going forward to 2026! It includes community and heritage fairs as well as many new in-person, hybrid and virtual events!

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.jewishgen.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 Allowed](#) 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.

**WITTENBERG DONALD M.** of Philadelphia, PA passed on March 5, 2026, peacefully with family by his side. Beloved husband of Bonnie (nee Steele) and the late Louellan (nee Twersky); loving father of Steven (Jennifer) and Jan (Meghan); loving grandfather of Lillian Elizabeth, Aidan James Noonan and Leo Asher Yaron; son of the late Rose (nee Pilzer) and Joseph Wittenberg and survived by cherished cousins.

Though proud of being a "true New Yorker" born in the Bronx, he ultimately was a Philadelphian through and through. He graduated Olney High School in 1964 followed by Temple University in 1969 with a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Education. Donald was an educator for 42 years in the School District of Philadelphia, teaching at Meade, McClure, Rowen and Leeds Middle School; an Auxiliary Principal at Kenderton and Hanna Elementary Schools; Principal at Pennell and Franklin Elementary Schools; and completed his career as an Educational Facilities Planner in the central office.

Donald maintained diverse interests. In addition to his involvement in Democratic politics for many years, he was a member, former Treasurer and President of B'nai B'rith Educators Unit. For almost 25 years, he was the Curator for the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center. He was honored by the Columbus Forum as the first recipient of their Unity Award for fostering cultural awareness. He was committed to traditions of his faith as an active congregant of numerous synagogues. He became interested in genealogical research tracking his family back to the 1700s and his late wife's family to the 1300s. He enjoyed gardening, was a life-long learner and an avid reader, particularly interested in history, math and trivia. He was best known for his sense of fairness, honesty, good sense of humor (proud of a "good" pun), and his passion for music, especially that of Frank Sinatra.

Relatives and friends are invited to funeral services on Sunday, March 8, 2026.

Contributions in his memory may be made to either the [Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center](#) or a charity of the donor's choice.

**Hughes, Mark Joseph** , July 15, 1949 - March 24, 2026 Passed away on March 24, 2026, at home after a valiant battle against prostate cancer. Husband of Beth Steiner, Son of the late Joseph and Rose Boyce Hughes. Survived by his beloved wife Beth Steiner Hughes, brothers Chris (Eileen) and Gary, and children from his first marriage Michael (Lauren, son Robert), Mark Jr. (children Mark III, Kylie, and Micah), and Melissa. Mark will be remembered for his warmth and goodness and will be deeply missed. A Nondenominational Memorial Service will be held at 10 A.M. Monday, March 30 at GOLDSTEINS' ROSENBERG'S FUNERAL DIRECTOR, INC., 310 Second Street Pike, Southampton, PA. Interment and luncheon to follow. Contributions in his memory may be made to Fox Chase Cancer Center, 333 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111.



**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.

