



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Tammy Hepps, Genealogist and Local Historian
Gave a fascinating lecture about her family!

Topic: The Margarine Moonshiners from Minsk: A
Journey Through Lesser-Known Records
She spoke about the usual records we search for and
then the not so usual ones!

Numerous lesser-known historical and
genealogical repositories were discussed as she retraced her family and why this crime
landed them all in Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. She offered advice for how you
can better pursue the fascinating leads in your own tree when you think more broadly
about what records are out there.



Here is the zoom link.

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/XvqZQyxufkXIL95VwPHDwZaDcl3D-pbGJVAYlG-9R8LS94D6j2DqETEDdS5RzvM2Nijx8bZ-MONvWj6E.jX-xJlmlWJusxhSI?accessLevel=meeting&canPlayFromShare=true&from=my_recording&continueMode=true&oldStyle=true&pwd=DJ9a8mU-kp1YjB08wAAIAAAAPLeJEeQ6M9olfWte9JaiyRlt-W569skIsbz2GUUZQtXTn-VOlekV8y2HTtJtXxR4nDAwMDAwNA&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fus06web.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2Fn5DyE9xacBcan9UqfzY-DaRqea3wSYDTQNpCWwn0c06JDWS_mU_srEs71ocCJ_Obi.rPtFt3MDX1UNyg3v%3Fpwd%3DDJ9a8mU-kp1YjB08wAAIAAAAPLeJEeQ6M9olfWte9JaiyRlt-W569skIsbz2GUUZQtXTn-VOlekV8y2HTtJtXxR4nDAwMDAwNA%26from%3Dhub

Following the presentation, one of our members, Amy shared her own family research involving potential criminal activity, and the group discussed resources for further investigation including Ron Arons' book "The Jews of Sing Sing" and pursuing newspaper archives. I had my own discovery this week and hope to continue researching activity in the courts for my family. I plan to discuss this more during our Everything Genealogy

meeting on August 10th. During the meeting today we discussed "What do you do with your DNA"? Who is in control of it when you aren't? More reasons to watch Ellen's presentation!

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

Ellen was very informative and gave us a lot to think about. one task. The audience participated in the discussion and we all shared what we currently do. She challenged us to go home and do some homework!

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.

www.EllenKowitt.com

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://downloads.boxcast.com/2026-06-28-170005-ki8cakcyjorg2ddbf5yq-1080p-b0s-e6998.61s.mp4?response-content-disposition=attachment%3B+filename%3D2026-06-28-170005-ki8cakcyjorg2ddbf5yq-1080p-b0s-e6998.61s.mp4&Expires=1786303677&Signature=e~r~6VBca9pB8~L40wqPxyk9NzBj7dLCK~NRXbU14coDRN6SmfBUf-2k7uHk1OkXl2x5l~ngAi1MEmYGRhtDGVoslNYmRnvnob-hkCOTdzV0tzHMCRSgoNnLdVU5vA-dhBA645gCJ2BJDdsRxlq1MrCwJSj5yArpfq5HisRmJ2jbLQBTM7RteaR0D77CJtr25U1siR-pAv3EJEYFeFaY0l03McritQNeDAzgLHe5gGnY7y2Xc4jdM9uir96OyJwZiXCWTRc6auM~KI>

[WO6FixULXNeLCFeqdbqJBPeY77u6Rfh9jtGx6WRPA5CaW0ApSRi5hth0Xs~fOKeL-wEprUqAf2lg](https://www.jgasgp.org/Key-Pair-Id=APKAJ7GUCBQUK6NTWZCA) &Key-Pair-Id=APKAJ7GUCBQUK6NTWZCA

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips

Two fabulous resources are
available on our website:



Other Beginner guides are available on Jewishgen.org, american-cestors.org and Ancestry.com, for example.

Have you tried ChatGPT yet to enhance your old photos?
It's amazing what can be done for free! What have you done with
AI?

Book Club Update May-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.

Our Book club always starts at 7:30 PM.

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

Our meetings are usually on a Wednesday night. I've adjusted the dates to be the 4th 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.

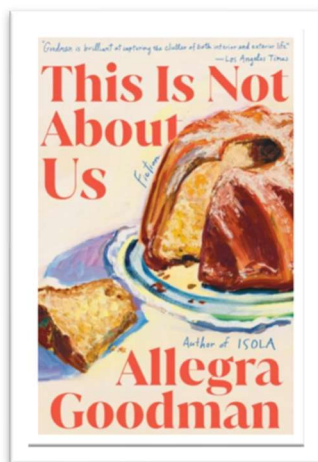
Thank you to everyone who joined me for our last discussion of *On Her Own*. We all enjoyed the book!

***Download a free copy of the next book!**

1. [The Invisible Harry Gold: The Man Who Gave the Soviets the Atom Bomb](#) by Alan Hornblum Date Aug 26, 2026 7:30 PM

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<https://dokumen.pub/the-invisible-harry-gold-the-man-who-gave-the-soviets-the-atom-bomb-9780300156782.html>
.....

2. [This is Not about Us](#) by Allegra Goodman (Available at the library)
(Xandra recommended) Date TBA



NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A kaleidoscopic portrait of a modern American family—steadfast, complicated, begrudging, and loving—from the bestselling author of *Isola*

“Wise, witty . . . a deliciously readable book [about] the delicate minutiae of family life, played beautifully, boldly, brightly in a major key.”—*The New York Times Book Review* (Editors’ Choice)

“Goodman’s mature and deftly written book suggests that, in family as in art, there is no such thing as uncomplicated happiness.”—*The Wall Street Journal*

Was this just a brief skirmish, or the beginning of a thirty-year feud? In the Rubinstein family, it could go either way. When their beloved sister passes away, Sylvia and Helen Rubinstein are unmoored. A

misunderstanding about apple cake turns into a decade of stubborn silence. Busy with their own lives—divorces, dating, career setbacks, college applications, bat mitzvahs and ballet recitals—their children do not want to get involved. As for their grandchildren? Impossible.

With This Is Not About Us, master storyteller Allegra Goodman—whose prior collection was heralded as “one of the most astute and engaging books about American family life” (The Boston Globe)—returns to the form and subject that endeared her to legions of readers. Sharply observed and laced with humor, This Is Not About Us is a story of growing up and growing old, the weight of parental expectations, and the complex connection between sisters—a big-hearted book about the love that binds a family across generations.

3. [A Place to Hide](#) by Ronald Balson Date TBA

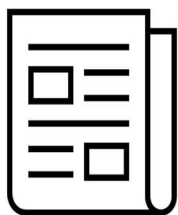
4. [The Lost Family: How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are](#) by Libby Copeland
Date TBA

Chronicles *Spring hard copies were mailed out. If you paid for a copy and don't receive it, please contact Jim: Webmaster@jgasgp.org. New subscribers to Chronicles for 2026 will receive the SPRING edition as your first copy.*

Debbie Terman, *Chronicles Acting Deputy Editor*, has recently updated the *Chronicles* Index covering every issue from Vol 1-1 in 1982 through Volume 43-1, Spring 2026.

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!
Our editors will help you! Don't be shy!*



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

With our thanks,

Ed Flax, Acting Editor editor@jgasgp.org

Debbie Terman, Acting Deputy Editor dcterman@jgasgp.org

Everything Genealogy

Our next meeting: August 10th at 7:30 PM. ZOOM only
Bring you questions, brick walls, and suggestions! You never know...

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84288984402?pwd=0oceDDMj6bk8dDpNQUZ29lbY8AnB9K.1>

New Members introduce yourselves!
Bring your BRICK WALL questions and FINDS!
This meeting is very popular! Come and join us. Listen in and offer research advice. All are welcome.

Let's talk about how Newspapers have helped our research!

JGASGP Meeting Schedule and Updates



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

TBA

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

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 the News



The In-Person Conference has been moved to 2028
The 2026 Virtual Conference has been moved to April 4–6, 2027

Membership

Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues!

***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 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 Acting Deputy Editor - 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

**Programs from other societies and/or by our own members-
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!



**A NATIONAL CENTER FOR
FAMILY HISTORY, HERIT-
AGE & CULTURE**

SERVICE AVAILABLE TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 10 A.M.-6 P.M. (ET)

Our expert staff is available five days a week through Ask a Genealogist online chat! Do you have questions about how to get started with genealogical research or where to locate a particular record? Stumped on border changes in a particular town or how to access an online database? We are here to help!

When an expert is available, you may click on the chat icon in the lower right-hand corner of this web page, enter your question in the chat box and one of our experts will connect with you soon.

WE CAN HELP

- ***Explain how to use a particular website or resource***
- ***Answer brief local history questions***
- ***Define an unfamiliar term or phrase in a record***
- ***Make recommendations for where to find records***

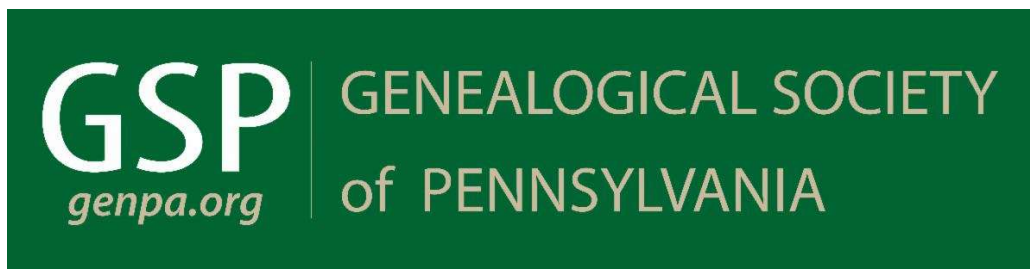
Chat is limited to less than 15-minute inquiries. For more in-depth discussions, please review our [Consultations](#) service.

Just enter your question in the chat box during the times listed, and one of their expert genealogists will respond. You can access the feature directly [here](#), or find it on the home page of the [American Ancestors](#) website, scroll down just a bit to the "Stay in Touch" section, where "Ask a Genealogist - Live Chat!" is one of the options. Click on Chat Now and ask away.

****See the calendar of genealogy events posted on the Bucks County Genealogy Society website. <https://www.bucksgen.org/index.php/bcgs-programs>***



Sign up for Newsletters too: JewishGen.org Discussion Group - Daily Summary <https://groups.jewishgen.org/g/main> and Eastman's online genealogy newsletter Eogn.com.



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

PODCAST and INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTER. <https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/>



IAJGS AI for Jewish Genealogy Virtual Summit

Did you miss the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Society (IAJGS)'s free virtual summit in April on how AI can support Jewish family history research? The program featured two hour-long sessions with Steve Little and Mark Thompson, co-hosts of the podcast "The Family History AI Show." It started with an overview and an exploration of AI as a research tool, then concluded with a panel discussion.

The recording of this event is now available. If you missed it or just want to refresh, you can find it on IAJGS' blog: [AI Virtual Summit: Lessons in Using Artificial Intelligence in Jewish Genealogy.](#)

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

If you know of the passing of any member, please let me know so I can inform everyone.



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.

