



**JEWISH GENEALOGICAL
AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY**
OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Sunday, October 11, 2026

We were very lucky to hear from Karen Franklin on Sunday!

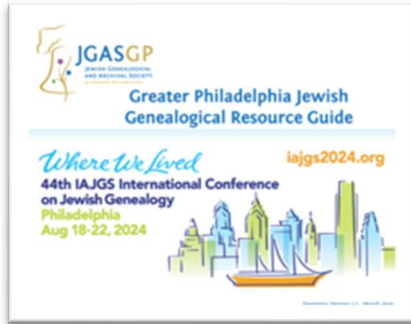
This meeting was a presentation by Karen, Director of Family Research at the Leo Baeck Institute, who shared her 15-year research project on the Meyer Lehman Charity Fund and the story of the Bodenheimer family during World War II. Karen detailed how she traced the journey of Gunter, Betty, and Bernie Bodenheimer, who were deported to Auschwitz and hidden in southern France, with Betty later emigrating to the United States in 1946. The presentation included newly discovered documents from 2025 that revealed details about Betty's time in hiding with two French families and Bernie's experience in orphanages during the war. The discussion included questions about Holocaust survivors' willingness to share their stories, with participants sharing personal experiences about family members' reluctance to discuss wartime experiences and the importance of preserving genealogical research for future generations.

Here is the link: https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/xK7vpu9J6ZXTI7CXIzUM-5N7QF5BjgtMX_nFf_bo-AMIR0DtGjwiOcsH2SSBjvuk.8RdH0X2R5HXo0YEr?pwd=DGK4EN7_Xr_usaVT6wAAIAAAPAqLNQxpEvut8Eu-Dhzz2ez5dHSdaHQswtnjzCFyREIxsCTUZnU3PbauwF5jtBO-qDAwMDAwNA

Today was a really busy day for genealogy! Lots of meetings to attend.

After our meeting I headed over to the Global Genealogy Society with Jeanette Silverman. She talked about Resolving Relationships using Resources on Ancestry.com. I'm inspired to do some more research myself!

Beginner's Corner and Research Tips



Two fabulous resources are available on our website:



LUKE ROTHMAN (ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE DAILY DIGEST)*. MARK MENTIONED HIM IN OUR MEETING TODAY.

"I've created a new website <https://archival.name> that has well over half a million Lwów records (including over 150k Jewish vital records) that are not indexed or searchable anywhere else. It also includes Kraków censuses and vital records, and covers much of Galicia and other regions, with over 7 million names. Attached are some example searches, and the results they link to on other sites. The vast majority of records have direct links to the originals. Please share!

There's an option to sign in with Apple or Google, allowing you to see full search results and links. It is to prevent bots; I won't use your name or email address for anything. Feedback is welcome at admin@archival.name. I'll be traveling for much of the next week, but I'll respond as soon as I can".

Book Club Update



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

Our Book club always starts at 7:30 PM.

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

Our meetings are usually on a Wednesday night. I've adjusted the dates to be the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Our next book selection is:

A Place to Hide by Ronald Balson October 21, 2026.

There will be no meeting in November.

Please see the complete list under "Events" on our website.

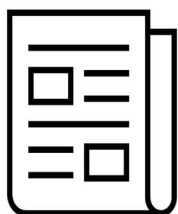
Chronicles *The Fall issue is almost complete! I'll let you know when it's sent out.*

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 SUMMER 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: November 2, 2026 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.

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.

Date: Sunday, November 15, 2026

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

Location: Zoom Meeting

Speaker: Mark Halpern, JRI-Poland and JGASGP Board Member

Mark worked for an International Fortune 500 Company for 32 years. 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. Retired for 20 years, Mark works with JRI-Poland, JewishGen, IAJGS, and JGASGP helping others research their roots.



Mark has been the JRI-Poland coordinator for eastern Galicia and the Bialystok area for 25 years and cooperates with Gesher Galicia as a partner associate. Mark is on the Board and Executive Committee of JRI-Poland, the founder of BIALYGen – the JewishGen Bialystok area research group, and past President of JGASGP. Mark chaired the program committees for the 2009, 2013, and 2024 IAJGS Conferences, served on the Program Committees of the 2018, 2020, and 2021 Conferences, and served as advance coordinator for the 2018 Warsaw Conference. Mark is a member of the Program Committee for this year's Conference. Mark was honored in 2018 with the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award.

Topic: Formerly Galicia! – Understanding It's Jewish History and Records

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the formation of Galicia within the Austrian Empire and their treatment of the Jewish minority. We will also cover the history of laws and regulations that governed Jewish life and record keeping in Galicia. The work of Jewish Records Indexing – Poland and Gesher Galicia has made vital records and other historical documents more readily available to Galician researchers. This session offers an examination of Galician vital records along with a strategic framework to help researchers in acquiring records to further their research. Most importantly, this talk will make sense of the regulations covering civil marriages that impacted the legitimacy and surnames of children. Close examination of sample birth, marriage, and death records will reveal the information contained in the records.

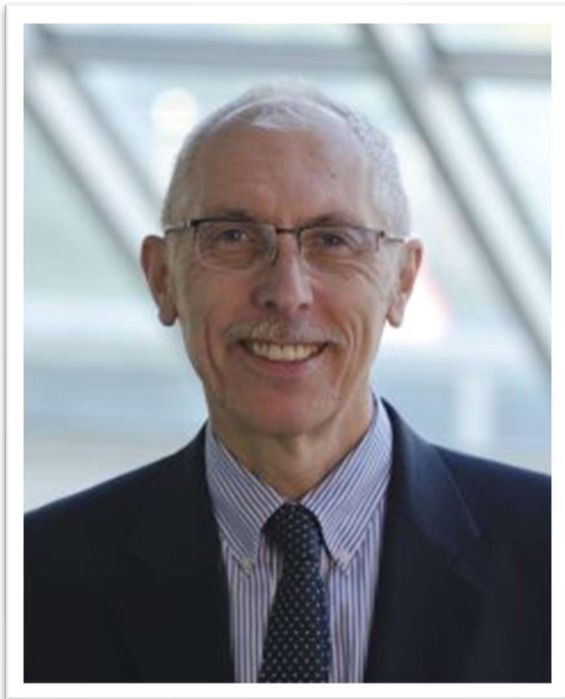
Date: Sunday, December 13, 2026

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

**Location: Hybrid – In Person and Live Streaming
Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old
York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027**

**Speaker: Andrew Zalewski, Historical Research
Advisor and Former Vice President of Gesher
Galicia**

Dr. Andrew Zalewski is a former professor of medicine at Jefferson University in Philadelphia. He has authored two books on Austrian Galicia: *Galician Trails: The Forgotten Story of One Family* and *Galician Portraits: In Search of Jewish Roots*, both of which reconstruct the story of his ancestors within a broader historical context. During his tenure as vice president of Gesher Galicia, he led archival research on Jewish educational access, cultural transformation, and legal rights in Galicia. He currently serves as a historical research advisor for Gesher Galicia and coordinates a multi-year project examining Jewish experiences in the Soviet-occupied region of former eastern Galicia.



Topic: NKVD Files: The Intersection of History and Jewish Genealogy

When World War II began in September 1939, the Soviet invasion of Poland brought former eastern Galicia—today western Ukraine—under Soviet rule and into the reach of the NKVD, the Soviet internal security agency. This talk brings to light the experiences of Jews swept up in that system: Jewish refugees who had fled German-occupied Poland, longtime local residents targeted for political reasons, and Jews from Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary, and Romania. Drawing on NKVD arrest files now searchable in the Gesher Galicia database, we will explore how these records preserve not only names and dates but also traces of individual lives. Confiscated photographs, letters, and personal documents offer glimpses into people's journeys, losses, and identities during one of the most turbulent moments in Jewish history.

Look for the Zoom link at 8AM on Sunday morning.

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.



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

HAMEC

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

Jewish genealogy has always been about persistence. About doing the hard work to get it right, even when it takes longer than expected.

That's the spirit behind an important announcement from the IAJGS Board today.

We are moving our **Virtual Conference to April 4–6, 2027** and our In-Person Conference to 2028 because we are not willing to rush something this important to our community. Our president Susan Weinberg has written a full account of why, including the financial realities facing conference organizers post-COVID and what we're doing differently to build a stronger future.

It's worth a read. 🖱️

<https://www.iajgs.org/an-important-update-on-the-future.../>

And if you have thoughts, questions, or ideas, we always want to hear from you at feedback@iajgs.org.

Emily H. Garber
Vice President
IAJGS



Membership

Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues!

<https://jgasgp.org/joinrenew>

All payments received now will go towards your 2027 membership.
Payments are remaining the same for this year.

***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, 2027.

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



JGSGB PROGRAM

10 Generative AI Prompts Every Genealogist Needs to Know

Blaine Bettinger

October 18, 1:30 pm

IAC, [1320 Centre St, Newton](#)

Hybrid

[More info](#)

**These are presented by a variety of societies. We are NOT the presenters.
Please click on the link provided for information. (Thanks to JGSGB for this information.)**

All program times listed are East Coast time.

Caring for the Jewish Cemeteries of Poland

Dan A. Oren

Museum of Jewish Heritage

October 14, 2 pm

[More info](#)

Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Open House

Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center

October 20, 6 pm

[97 Newbury St, Boston](#)

[More info](#)

Finding ancestors in the 1850 Russian Revizskie skazki

Hal Bookbinder

Orange County Jewish Genealogical Society

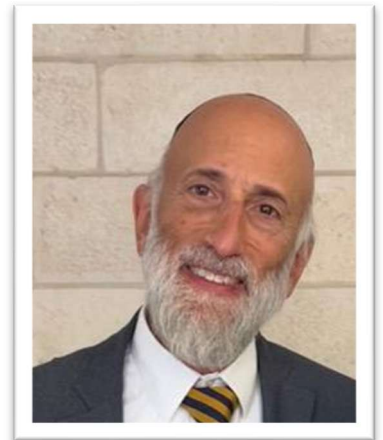
October 25, 1 pm

[More info \(scroll down the page\)](#)



Sunday, December 13, 11am Pacific

Speaker: Avrohom Krauss (Member of JGASGP)



Beyond Your Shtetl: Advanced Landsmanshaft Research

Description: *You know your hometown. You have researched European ancestors. What is next?*

Move beyond your shtetl! Our ancestors were not static; they frequently moved.

Family branches spread out beyond known territory. How to recover missing pieces of the family puzzle? Become a shtetl maven! This presentation will show, through examples, how to integrate your information and connect “sister” towns using the “town triangulation” technique.

Triangulating towns is the idea of identifying and connecting towns that were homologous, that is, communities sharing structural or functional similarities. Our ancestors did not live in a vacuum, in one solitary location. They were part of a larger territorial network. A landsmanshaft name therefore should not simply point us to one isolated shtetl but to a cluster of interconnected communities. For ultimate success in shtetl research, we must, at times, adjust our approach by 'moving the goalposts' -beyond our respective shtetls. Here we show how.

About Avrohom Krauss

Avrohom Krauss is a Jewish educator, genealogist, writer and speaker, specializing in landsmanshaftn and underutilized resources. He is the creator of CAHJP Landsmanshaft Inventory and the Philadelphia Landsmanshaftn Inventory. His articles have appeared in Avotaynu, Dorot and Gesher Galicia. Topics include landsmanshaftn, immigration, relief organizations, vital records, the Hebrew calendar and name changes. Krauss is a frequent presenter at IAJGS conferences and at regional

JGS societies. He has featured on the Ordinary Extraordinary Cemeteries and on the Yeshiva of Newark-On Principle podcasts. A native of Elizabeth, NJ, Avrohom resides in Telz-Stone, Israel.

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

Register

***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, HERITAGE & 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.



American Ancestors®

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.

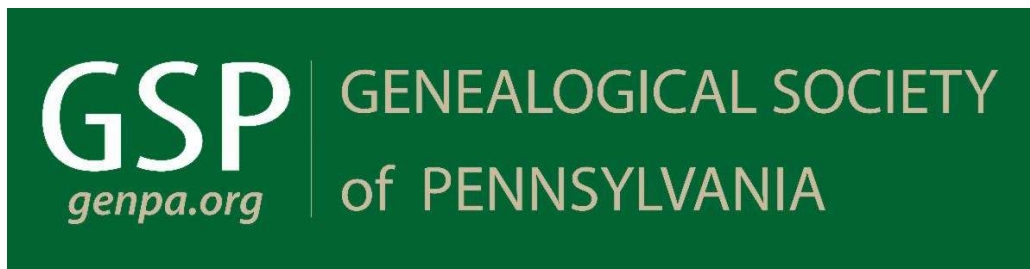
Just enter your question in the chat box during the times listed, and one of their expert genealogists will respond. You can access the feature directly [here](#), or find it on the home page of the [American Ancestors](#) website, scroll down just a bit to the "Stay in Touch" section, where "Ask a Genealogist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

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.

