

CHRONICLES

JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

דברי הימים

IAJGS CONFERENCE ISSUE

Using Facial Recognition Tools to Identify Unnamed Ancestors
Scott Genter
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https://wielec-yidn.org

MIGRATIONS AND SETTLEMENTS OF THE SPANISH JEWS

YAD VASHEM
Holocaust Remembrance Center

The Challenges of Jewish DNA testing: a Q & A
By Kitty Munson Cooper
Blogging at blog.kittycooper.com
slides at slides.com/kittycooper

Projects & Updates
The Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Collection
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40th IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY
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CHRONICLES

JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

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Cover image collage by Ed Flax from screenshots of selected IAJGS virtual conference recordings.

(See conference articles pp. 14 - 23

Memes courtesy of Stew Feinberg, (p. 21)

REFLECTIONS FROM YOUR CHRONICLES TEAM



I came away from the recent IAJGS conference rejuvenated and impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm exhibited by presenters, volunteers, and attendees. Presenters were eager to share their knowledge; volunteers have taken it upon themselves to transcribe, translate, and index records; over 2300 people from twenty-eight countries attended! Uniting us all was our passion, as Jordan Auslander of JGSNY described it, for genealogy research.

I "attended" sessions every day from 10 am till 7:30 pm and then watched one of the selected films afterwards. Although this wasn't an in-person conference, I still found the experience very intense, yet invigorating. I was extremely moved by the film, "The Children of the Inquisition," which deftly combined Jewish history with the family histories of several of those children. Award winning filmmaker, Joseph Lovett, interviewed several descendants and revealed their hidden identities. He also covered present day *conversos* in the southwest U.S. who have established their own organization to explore their respective pasts and connect with their newly discovered Jewishness.

One of the highlights of the four days for me was the Genealogy Death Match which pitted two accomplished genealogists in our midst, E. Randol Schoenberg and Jarrett Ross, against each other. They were assigned the task of tracing up to fifteen (!!) generations of their respective family histories while providing documentary proof. The competition was intense, yet friendly, and Randy and Jarrett were amusing combatants. Randy demonstrated the panorama of Jewish history as he presented evidence of his Austrian, German, and ultimate Sephardic heritage. Jarrett showed us the richness of his Sephardic background over many generations and several countries—Turkey, Greece, Palestine, etc. Both of them exhibited impressive research journeys. Judges evaluated their presentations, and attendees had the opportunity to rate both contestants after each round. Kudos to Randy for coming up with this ingenious concept. Is this something we could replicate within JGASGP?? The example set by Randy and Jarrett is certainly worth emulating and inspires us to persist in our research efforts.

Our society was honored with the Outstanding Publication

Award for our quarterly publication, *Chronicles*. Ed Flax and I wish to acknowledge the many accolades we received, especially from fellow JGASGP members, but we can't overlook the significant contributions made by everyone who's submitted original material during the past year and extending back to 2011, when we took over the helm. Thanks also to the associate editors who proofread and edit content. Our president, Felicia Mode Alexander, shared the awards committee's assessment that our publication exhibits considerable professionalism, and we will strive to maintain that level of excellence.

Reading Marlise Gross's article about finding her Argentinian family resonated with me because I described a similar situation when my brother and sister-in-law met our Buenos Aires area relatives in 2010 (*Chronicles*, Vol. 31-1, Spring 2014, pp. 12-13). Walt Spector shares some memories of various relatives in two heartwarming pieces. It would be terrific if other members would write about their own recollections. We all have memorable family members who continue to fascinate and influence us.

Many of us attended and benefited in different ways from the recent IAJGS conference. Mary Jane Roth appreciates the opportunity to link live sessions with On Demand presentations to create a more comprehensive understanding of new research developments in the Ukraine Research Division (RD). Similarly, Marilyn Mazer Golden took advantage of Adam Brown's and Gil Bardige's combined lectures which did a good job of elucidating the DNA maze. Jeff Albert praises Scott Genzer's talk on facial recognition technology and foresees great promise in its capability for making old photographs come alive.

Mark Halpern's efforts to provide outstanding programs continue unabatedly, and four meeting summaries appear in this issue with a slight change in format. In order to conform to space constraints, the summaries are presented as abstracts. You can read the full summaries on our website.

I'm writing this piece shortly before the cycle of autumn Jewish holidays beginning with Rosh Hashanah. Let 5781 be a year of **good health (along with containment of and vaccine for the COVID-19 virus,)** contentment, and significant accomplishments in our genealogical research. ❖

Evan Fishman, Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK—FELICIA MODE ALEXANDER

IAJGS Annual Conference 2020



The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies met in August for four days. This gathering of genealogists meets annually for lectures, leadership meetings, films, panel discussions and best of all, they hope to discover new leads that could ad-

vance their own family research. Some attendees have been involved in this field of study for decades, while others are just getting started. All are welcome, and many people connect with old friends and sometimes newly discovered family members. Local tours and lectures always include a wide variety of topics including the Jewish history of the host city. Since 2003, I have attended IAJGS conferences in Cleveland, New York City, Boston, Washington D.C., Warsaw, Poland and here in Philadelphia. I have advanced my genealogy research thanks to the fantastic speakers at each. I fondly recall my first conference, which was in Washington D.C. in 2003. It was an amazing experience to meet people from all over the world who shared my passion for family history research. Each conference since that time has been a mesmerizing experience.

This year, our conference was to be held in San Diego. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, required a complete transformation of this year's event. I could never have imagined that this much anticipated event in global Jewish genealogy would ever need to be conducted virtually. Kudos to the IAJGS conference chair Robinn Magid and the San Diego conference committee for persevering and proceeding with the 2020 conference. Running a 100% virtual four-day conference for more than 2000 people was a massive challenge!

For four days, I was glued to my computer and immersed in fascinating lectures, panels and films! I also attended leadership sessions for JGS board members! A special offering this year was the On Demand feature. Since it was not possible to include every presentation on the live feed, a portal was created which gave access for attendees to watch sessions on demand for sixty days at one's own pace in the comfort of home. There were some inevitable technical snafus, and we had to make do without the

WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS & HIGHLIGHT SOME SURNAMES THEY ARE RESEARCHING

Sylvia Baker

Philadelphia, PA

COHEN from Smila, Russia, Philadelphia; BORTECK, (BORTICK) from Odessa, Russia, Philadelphia

Olivia Brown

Hatfield, PA

KIRSCHNER (may be KROAGMAN, URUSHKIN or PRUSHKIN) from Bialystok, Poland; KAPLAN from Kremchug, Russia, YANOFF from Kirovohrad, Ukraine; MOLOFF (may be MALOWSKY) from Zlotopol, Ukraine

Paul Campbell-Trimbur

Phoenixville, PA

PILARSKI from Gorki Dabskie, Bydgoszcz, Poland; RATAHCZACJ from Miescisko, Wagrowiec, Poland; OGRODOWSKI and TRUDNOWSKI from Gniezno, Poznan, Poland; WARCQYNSKI from Klecko, Poznan, Poland; JANOSKI from Niechanowo, Poland

Wendy Eisenberg

Willow Grove, PA

SCHWARTZ(MAN), ABRAMSON, MENAKER, all from Mohyliv-Podilskyy, Ukraine; BELFERMAN, LERMAN from Pyatyhory, Ukraine; GELMAN (BAUMAN OR FORMAN) from Mohyliv-Podilskyy, went to Montevideo, Uruguay

Edward M. Janes

Moorestown, NJ

JACOBSON and BRENER from Bauska, Latvia; SCHOLDER from Zolochiv (Zloczow,) Poland / Ukraine; RUDA and MOSAISDZ from Przasnysz, Poland; OGUZ from Kaunas, Lithuania;

Jerome Hoffman

Broomall, PA

BAS from Zhaskova, Ukraine; SHMUKLER from Pnsk, Belarus; WASSERMAN from Bar, Ukraine; SHIMELOVITZ from Pusalot, Lithuania; HOFFMAN from Kaunas, Lithuania

Caren Savo

Cherry Hill, NJ

KRENTSER / STRICKMAN from Yaltushokov / Shargorod, Ukraine; ROSMAN / REZNIL from Shargorod, Ukraine; KLEINMAN / BLUSMAN from Odessa or Murafa, Ukraine; KAHN from Yas, Romania; SAMSCHICK from Ostrey, Ukraine; SPIVAK from Odessa, Ukraine

Edward Sobel

Wilmington, DE

SOBEL from Belaya Tserkov, Ukraine, EPSTEIN from Lomza, Poland; GORONSTEIN from Bresticke, Poland, GER(CH)SHMAN from Molov, Poland

schmoozing with new friends over coffee, catered lunches, and the annual awards banquet.

One of my favorite parts of each conference is the recognition given to people who have contributed to their individual societies, Jewish communities around the globe or to the overall field of Jewish genealogy. Normally, this would have taken place at the banquet on the last night, but this year the awards were presented virtually on the third day. Nothing could have made me prouder than to see several very hardworking and talented members of JGASGP recognized for three awards for stellar contributions to Jewish genealogy. Kudos to all! Drum roll please!

Outstanding Publication

JGASGP *Chronicles*: Editors Evan Fishman and Ed Flax

The guidelines for this award state “Recognition of excellence to a member organization, for a primarily original content publication or series, which has been made available to Jewish genealogists, which furthers their work”.

Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant

The Stern grant should target and facilitate the development, launching, or expansion of projects on a rapid timetable that will both:

- benefit those undertaking Jewish genealogical research, and
- improve the level of social interaction within and between families, and also between researchers.

Tsal Kaplun Foundation (TKF) founded in memory of Tsal Kaplun by his descendants including JGASGP member, Michael Levin.

IAJGS Salutes!

IAJGS Salutes! are designed to provide recognition on an ongoing basis of noteworthy projects, activities and accomplishments relating to Jewish genealogy.

Shalom Bronstein (long time member who lives in Israel). To learn more about Shalom’s achievements, see <https://www.iajgs.org/awards/iajgs-salutes/salute-to-work>

shalom-bronstein/.

During the JewParly! session on the final evening, our member, Zyppora Goldberg, was recognized for coming closest to guessing total conference attendance--2223. Zyppora will be given a one-year subscription to (an Ancestry feature), Newspapers.com.

Our own JGASGP will host next year's IAJGS conference which is currently scheduled for August 2—5, 2021 as an in-person event to be held at the newly renovated Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia. JGASGP immediate past president, Fred Blum, is the local chair. We hosted the 2009 conference which turned out to be very successful, thanks to the efforts of conference local chair, David Mink, program chair Mark Halpern and the many JGASGP members who volunteered. Thanks to Mark, we had a phenomenal slate of speakers as we will again next year. The significant work of volunteers then can't be underestimated, and for 2021, we will again need our members to step up to the plate.

*We cannot say with certainty that this conference will proceed in the traditional manner or virtually since COVID-19 is still with us. Stay tuned and save the dates! ❖

Felicia Mode Alexander, President

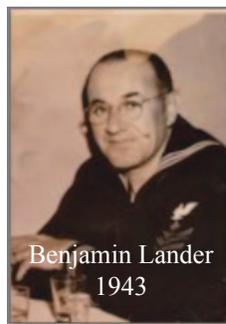
BENJAMIN LANDER AND THE LANDER FAMILY STORY

by Walter Spector



This account of the life of Benjamin Lander, my great uncle, is written with respect and remembrance. It is based on family lore and substantiated by newspaper accounts and court records. The incidents mentioned have led to many hours of family discussions and laughter.

Benjamin (Pine) London Lander was born in Proskurov Russia (now Khmelnytsky, Ukraine) to Joseph Landau London Lander and Sonia Rothstein Lander on May 21, 1896. He emigrated to Philadelphia in 1904 with his mother, Sonia, and his older brother, Herman (Chajam), my grandfather. (See image top of p. 7, Source: *Blitzstein Bank Records, Vol. 3 p. 89*)



Eventually, four more children emigrated to Philadelphia, and four more children, Pauline, Ida, Sam, Rob (Robert), were born there. Uncle Ben, my grandfather, and the four siblings born in Philadelphia are the focus of this story. Each was reserved, upstanding, hardworking, and sweet. They included businesspeople, a lawyer, and two pharmacists.

On November 11, 1918, Uncle Ben enlisted in the army, but he was discharged from military service on the same day because the draft was cancelled by President Wilson. What a stroke of good luck.

Uncle Ben attended Philadelphia public schools and graduated from Temple University School of Pharmacy in 1919. He opened his first pharmacy in 1920 on the northwest corner of 16th and Christian Streets in Philadelphia.

Brother Herman established a curbside Atlantic gas station and Lee Tire repair service in a three-story row house at 2023 Christian Street., four blocks away from Uncle Ben's pharmacy. He lived above the repair shop on the second and third floors. At the same time, the National Prohibition Act, known informally as the Volstead Act, was enacted to carry out the intent of the Eighteenth Amendment (ratified January 1919). The three distinct purposes of the act were:

1. to prohibit intoxicating beverages,
2. to regulate the manufacture, production, use, and sale of high-proof spirits for other than beverage purposes,
3. to ensure an ample supply of alcohol and promote its use in scientific research and in the development of fuel, dye, and other lawful industries.

Pharmacies were permitted to maintain a supply of alcohol for medical purposes.

Not everyone who agreed with the Eighteenth Amendment was a prohibitionist. There was money to be made, and the brothers tried to take advantage of the opportunity. The story that has been passed down is as follows: Uncle Sam, the younger brother, mixed the gin in Herman's third floor bathroom, and Uncle Ben sold liquor in the drug store.

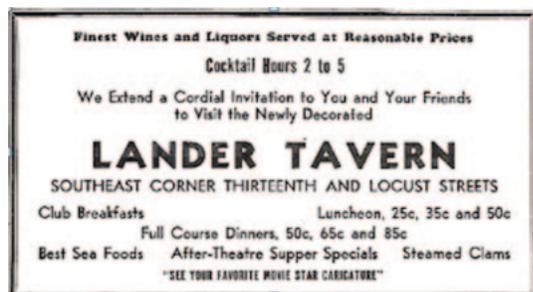
48th and Walnut Streets and 436 Market Street. in Philadelphia. Meanwhile, Uncle Sam and Aunt Pauline were busy working the “other end of the pharmacy business” that took place under the counter. Even in his later years, Uncle Sam was very proficient at wrapping a small bottle in newspaper. In the 1990s Aunt Pauline enjoyed talking about all the celebrities that frequented the pharmacy which continued to operate until the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Act were repealed in 1933. The sale of liquor became legal again. No one spent any time in jail.

In 1934 Uncle Ben opened Doc Lander’s Tavern at the 13th and Locust location. It operated successfully as a restaurant and place of entertainment.

Legal drinking started early in the day, and the food was very inexpensive. Everything was very respectable. Now, other endeavors had to be found to increase profits.

An article entitled “Seeks to Revoke Lander’s License” appeared in the Philadelphia *Evening Public Ledger* on September 18, 1938:

Benjamin Lander, owner of Lander’s Tavern, thirteenth and Locust Streets, is under indictment and at liberty on bail for



Playbill Magazine November 26, 1934

bookmaking charges. Mr. Lander was cited today by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to show cause why his license should not be revoked. He was specifically charged with being a ‘disreputable and irresponsible licensese’, permitting gambling in the Tavern. Lander, who was ill and unable to appear at the hearing, made a denial of the charges.

Liquor agents testified they had been in Landers’s taproom four times and placed bets with the bookies and the bar tender (Robert Lander). They declared Lander

was in the premises once and pointed out a bookie with whom they could place bets. Disposition of the case was delayed.

Eventually, Uncle Ben was held on \$2500 bail, and Uncle Rob on \$1500 bail. In 1939 Uncle Ben was given three years probation.

In 1939 Uncle Ben left Philadelphia in 1939 and opened a drug store the following year in Washington D.C. that employed up to twenty people. In September 1942, Uncle Ben enlisted in the Navy and served two years. He was a Pharmacist Mate Second Class at various locations. While stationed in Norfolk Virginia, he met Esther Kroskin. They were married on June 16, 1946 and remained in Norfolk. Their visits to Philadelphia were always a time of excitement. Uncle Ben continued to own and manage a pharmacy until his untimely death in 1953 at the age of fifty-six. Esther and the Lander family always remained close until her death in 1998.

The members of the Lander family--Herman, Sam, Rob, Pauline (Abrams) and Ida (Shafer)-- were supportive and cared deeply for each other until their deaths. They spoke of Uncle Ben with affection and a twinkle of mischief in their eyes. Many a holiday dinner discussion centered around the “story” that my grandfather, Herman, was the only one to get arrested. Now the truth is known.

Some were arrested, and others were complicit and should have been arrested. I deeply regret that I did not have the documentation to clear my grandfather’s name while we sat around the table.

Today, Uncle Ben is remembered fondly by his nephew, (Joe Abrams), niece, (Susan Lander), and me, a great nephew. We tell the stories to our children and grandchildren.

P.S. Seventy years after Doc Lander’s Tavern closed, my son Michael was employed to open a restaurant and bar at the 13th and Locust Streets location for a local restaurant group. ❖

A former assistant principal in the Philadelphia School District, Walt Spector is an avid collector of historic Philadelphia-themed postcards (Chronicles, Vol. 28-4, Winter 2011-2012, p.15) and is proud of his roots in the agricultural colony of Woodbine, New Jersey. He is a former JGASGP vice president.

You can reach Walt at educonser@comcast.net.

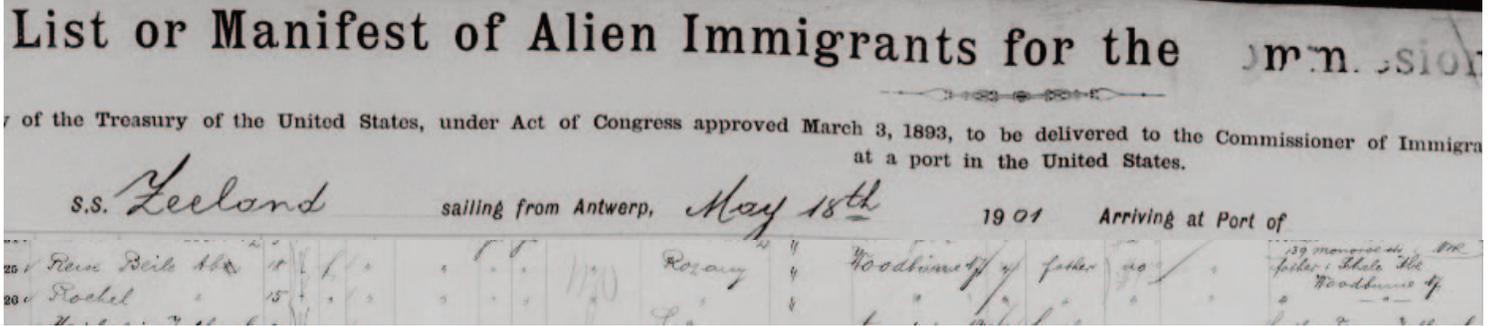
HANDWORK OF MARY SPECTOR

by Walter Spector

My grandmother, Mary Eby Spector, was born on August 17, 1882 to Samuel Abe and Bella Pitcowsky in Rushany, Belarus Russia. She arrived in the United States on May 27, 1901 accompanied by her sister Rose and was mistakenly listed as Reise Beile on the manifest.

Street location in the Logan section of the city, and it was there that she set up her “workshop” where she perfected her needlecraft. She created artwork for the walls, tablecloths and napkin sets of all kinds, and even furniture.

Her projects included various techniques of embroidery: counted thread (Figure 1), petit point (Figure 2) that is worked in a small hoop, needlepoint (Figure 3, p.10), and crewel in wool (Figures 4 through 6, p. 10).



Their mother did not come with the two sisters, who were headed for Woodbine, New Jersey to join their father Schele (Samuel) Abe. My grandmother met my grandfather, Samuel Spector, in Woodbine, and they were married on August 27, 1905 in the Brotherhood Synagogue (now the Samuel Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage).

My grandmother was very generous with her creations. Every member of the immediate family and her extended families was given a sample of her craft. Today, there are enough examples to share with her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great

grandchildren. The Spector (three branches), Galnick (two branches), Bronstein (two branches) and Kalman families are all proud owners of her work.



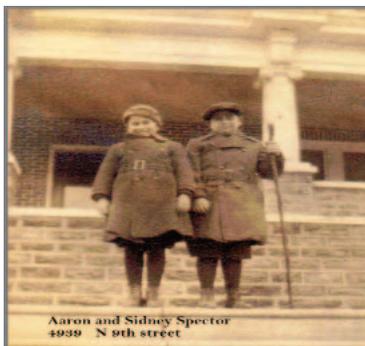
Mary Spector and great granddaughter, Caralyn Spector in 1972

The Sectors moved to Philadelphia by 1906. My grandfather was a commission agent in the produce market in the neighborhood near 4th and Callowhill Streets

in Philadelphia, and my grandmother set up house-keeping and raised my father, Sidney, and my uncle, Aaron. Through various common genealogical resources, I have been able to trace their residences:

216 Vine Street, 1616 North 8th Street, and 4939 North 9th Street, all in Philadelphia.

There were other homes including apartments and shared residences throughout my grandmother’s life. She lived the longest at the 9th



The last example of Mary Spector’s handwork is a small bridge tablecloth that my son, Michael Spector, and his wife, Ana Eleana Alverz, used as the *chupah* (canopy) for their wedding in Bucerias, Mexico in 2017.

This *chupah* (Figures 7 & 8) was a wedding highlight for the bride and groom and represented all the members of the family, past and pres-



FINDING MY ARGENTINIAN FAMILY

by Marlise Ellis Gross



ent, who were not able to attend their destination wedding.

My grandmother was ninety-two years old when she died in 1976. She will be remembered as a feisty woman who did not have any problem

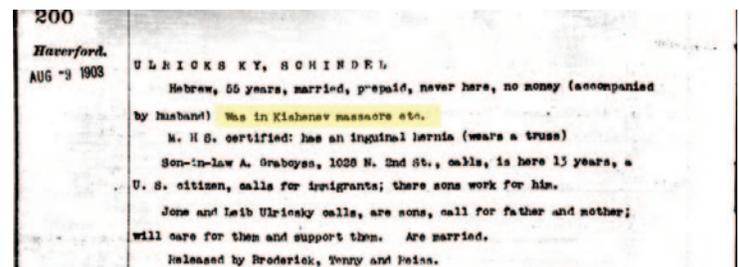


speaking her mind. When we sit at a holiday dinner table that is set with one of her tablecloths, we will all remember her cooking creations that were placed on it, as well. Her memory will live on through her stories and her craft ❖



Like many Eastern European Jewish families, my family relocated to many different countries. My Chisinau, Moldova (formerly Kishinev, Bessarabia) family immigrated to Philadelphia starting in 1891. Kishinev was beset by pogroms in 1903 and 1905. “Between 1902 and 1905, the number of Jews in Kishinev dropped from approximately 60,000 to 53,000. By 1910, there were 52,000 Jews living there.” [1]

My great grandfather, Joina Ulyanetskiy (later changed to John Ellis), and his siblings arrived in Philadelphia before 1903. Their parents, my great great grandparents, sailed to Philadelphia in August of that year. The Special Boards of Inquiry has a record of my great great grandparents’ arrival stating that they fled the pogrom. [2]



Note that the surname was listed as Ulricksky, not Ulyanetskiy



Walter Spector’s bio and contact information appear on p. 8.



My great grandmother, Tema Goldsman Ellis, and her brothers, Harry Goldsman and Hyman Goldsman

My great grandmother’s Goltzman family immigrated from Kishinev starting in 1904. First came my great grandfather’s first wife with two children. Her two brothers came in 1905. My great grandmother, Tema (born 1886), and her mother followed in 1907. My great grandfather’s first wife died that same year. She and my

great grandmother, the second wife, were sisters.

Other family photographs revealed that there was another sibling who immigrated to Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was identified as Chaskel (Jaskel) Goltzman (born 1890) along with his wife, Raquel (born 1899), shown in the photograph below.

Hyman Goldsman, Seymour Wigler, Adele Goldsman Wigler, Mimi Frieda Goldsman, Dorothy Goldberg Goldman, Jaskel Goldsman, Raquel Goldsman, Tema Goldsman Ellis, ?, Clara Goldsman Savrin, Diane Ellis, Al Savrin, Anna Ellis



Argentina brother and wife visit 1953-1954. Chaskel and Raquel Goldsman in center (dark clothes). Tema Goldsman Ellis in front on rt.

I entered these names at Ancestry.com and found their arrival to the U.S. in 1953 and subsequent departure in March 1954. According to the migration database from CEMLA, Centro de Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos, (<http://www.cemla.com/>), Chaskel and Raquel then arrived in Argentina. Further research identified the wedding of a niece in February or March of 1954. The picture above shows a celebration. The bride is on the left wearing a double strand of neck pearls and a large ribbon on her dress. Jaskel and Raquel Goldsman are in the center wearing dark clothes. My great grandmother, Tema Goldsman Ellis, is standing to the right of Raquel.

Next I contacted AGJA, (Agrupacion de Genealogia Judeo-Argentina), the Argentina Jewish genealogical association, (<http://agja.org.ar/>) in Buenos Aires for additional assistance. They provided me with an image of a *ketubah* (Jewish marriage contract) for one of Chaskel and Raquel's children and the burial information for the

couple. They also gave me the addresses for twelve people with the surname Goltzman currently living in Buenos Aires. You can look up the addresses for yourself on the Paginas Blancas website,

(<http://www.paginasblancas.com.ar/>).

Using the information I had on the family, I composed a simple letter and then translated it into Spanish using an online translation program. The AGJA helped me figure out how to address the envelopes. This information is also available online by typing in "how to address a letter to...." Here is an example of the format:

GOLZMAN, Sandra (last name in CAPS, first name)

(street name, house number)

1xxx CABA (city code, city)

ARGENTINE (country in CAPS)

"1xxx" is the code for that part of the Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires (Autonomous City of Buenos Aires) (CABA). Just like in the U.S., the code is different for different parts of CABA. If you look up the street on Google maps, it will show the code for the area.

As it turned out, I had a friend traveling to Argentina around the time I was writing the letters, and she agreed to take them with her and mail them in Buenos Aires. This assured me that the letters would get to their destination and cut down on the mailing costs which ended up being \$6.00.

I received three immediate responses. One was from Sandra Goltzman, and the other two were not related to me. Sandra wrote the following information to me in her email:

Hi! Do you speak Spanish? I'll write in English, I think perhaps is better for you.

I've just received your letter and I am still surprised about it!!! Jaskel and Raquel (SEIDE Jaskul and BOBE Rujl for me) were my grandparents.

They had 6 children:

Ester, Israel, Teresa, Celia, Clara y Samuel...

Samuel, the younger, was my father.

Actually, only Esther and Celia are alive.

Sandra and I went on to exchanging photos and addresses of her brothers who had moved to Israel. Her brothers were very surprised as well. It turns out that one of them had tried to find my family. He had heard the story of family in the U.S. but didn't know where to look.

When I sent the brothers photos of the family to show Jaskel and Raquel's eldest daughter, Ester, he indicated that she had some of the same photos in her collection. I am hoping Ester can identify some of the unlabeled pictures in my collection. She and her sister Celia, are 100 and 93 years old respectively!



Ester at her 99th birthday celebration. My third cousin, Sandra, is seated to Ester's left.

In December 2019, my nephew traveled to Israel with his synagogue. I made arrangements for him to meet with our cousins in Jerusalem. After sixty-six years, our two branches finally met. The picture below shows Chaskel and Raquel's grandchildren, and my second cousins once removed, Claudio and Marcelo Golzman, flanking my sixteen-year old nephew Dov. As the researcher and family historian, facilitating this meeting has made me extremely happy. ❖



Notes:

1. Moskovich, Wolf. "Kishinev." *YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*,

<https://yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Kishinev>

2. from Ancestry.com

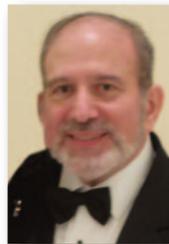
Records of the Special Boards of Inquiry in District No. 4 (Philadelphia), compiled 08/28/1893-11/16/1909

https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/40/?name=_ulricksky&arrival=1903&arrival_x=0-0-0&count=50&location=2&name_x=1_1&priority=usa

Author, Marlise Gross, currently resides in Cherry Hill, New Jersey where she was raised. She began her genealogy journey five years ago at the encouragement of an uncle and plans to start a genealogy research business this fall. She takes gravestone photos for Findagrave.com and when hired to do so. Her interests are in Chisinau, Bessarabia; Smorgon, Belarus; Novodarivka, Ukraine; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. You can contact her at marlise@prodigy.net.

UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES OR "CHEERIOS IN CHOCOLATE"

by Evan Fishman



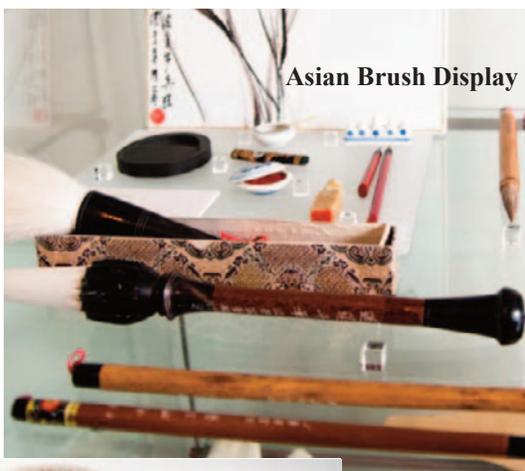
In our summer issue, Joe Eichberg mentioned that his ancestor, Samuel Jonas Eichberg's birthplace was Bechhofen, in Bavaria, Germany (*Chronicles*, Vol. 37-2, p. 17).

It turns out that JGASGP member and founder of Silver Brush Ltd., Dee Silver, and her husband, Ed Flax, have traveled to Bechhofen, a very small town, because of the town's thriving brush making business. What a coincidence!

Here's Ed account of their connection with the town:

We have done business for many years with a number of Bechhofen brush making factories and have visited the German Brush Museum, which at one time was managed by our major vendor in the town. It is a small museum and gets a limited number of visitors, but for brush fanatics like us it is interesting. We do know the Zahn Pinsel factory and its principals, though we've not done business with them, as they supply a Silver Brush competitor and seem to want to keep it that way.

The terms in German for artist and cosmetic brushes (pinsel) are distinguished from industrial brushes or brooms (bursten).



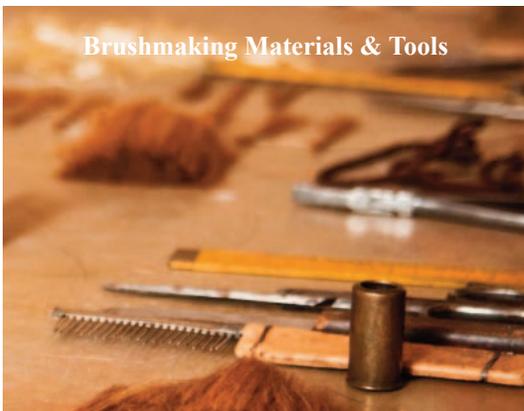
Asian Brush Display



Special Brush Display

That distinction also holds in some other languages, as well, like Spanish and French.

The factories that we deal with are focused on pinsels, but the town and all the brush factories are very close knit, with many operated by cousins of the third, fourth or later generations of brush makers.



Brushmaking Materials & Tools

In doing research for my friend Mordecai recently, I entered his grandfather's brother's name, Morris J. Krumbein, in an Ancestry.com search and found one citation for it in a family tree.

I was incredulous when I saw the names Kenneth Spetner and his wife Rita D. Krumbein. They hosted me one Shabbat when I was a senior in college. What is the likelihood that I would actually know two people listed

in a family tree that wasn't my own?!

Another Jewish geography incident occurred when another friend, Richard, and I shifted our attention to his maternal line. He told me about a first cousin and her husband in Youngstown, Ohio. It turns out that the husband's brother is someone I know in Lower Merion!!

Knowing of my passion for genealogy, my friend, Mitch, related a story involving his brother, also a genealogy aficionado. A while back, Al discovered the name of a woman, Jessica, whom he believed to be a second cousin, and proceeded to contact her. We all know that placing a cold call to a complete stranger and suggesting to her/him that we're related doesn't always elicit the most favorable reaction. Jessica grilled Al, all the while doubting the relationship. At one point he mentioned that he had once visited Jessica's mother in Massachusetts and clearly remembered her serving a special dessert which Jessica and her mother used to make together--Cheerios dipped in chocolate. When Jessica heard that comment, she could no longer deny that she and Al were related. An unconventional way to prove a relationship, yes, but it was nevertheless convincing. ❖

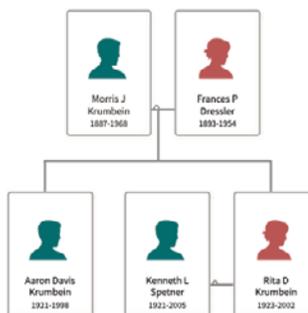
Evan Fishman is the editor of "Chronicles" and has always been interested in learning about his extended family. He began to methodically research his family history in 2000 and has been amazed by the stories and experiences he's encountered.

Evan is researching the following surnames, all in Ukraine: MANDELSTEIN--Starokonstantinov; LISNITZER--Luchinets, Izyaslav; ADELMAN--Krasilov; PRESSEISEN--Ostrog; UDIN--Kiev; BURSTEIN--Radomyshl FISHMAN--Terespol, Poland & Brest Litovsk, Belarus

Contact Evan at editor@jgsgp.org



Muhlestein Family Tree



MY (VIRTUAL) IAJGS CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

by Ed Flax



Although IAJGS 2020 was my seventh conference, this one was the most unique due to the COVID-19 pandemic's forcing us to meet online in a virtual format.

I found both benefits and disadvantages to the virtual conference, though in the end, I would opt for the in-person conference when the opportunity presents itself in the future, which I hope will be **the 2021 IAJGS conference to be held in Philadelphia and hosted by our own JGASGP from August 2-5, as announced by our immediate past president, Fred Blum.**

Positives:

- Over 2200 individuals registered for this year's virtual conference, of which about 700 paid for full access to presentations. The balance consisted of non-paying registrants with limited access. A typical in-person conference draws between 800 and 1000 people, so the virtual conference that the pandemic imposed on us was a blessing in disguise, in a way, because it encouraged those who might never have thought about or been able to attend an in-person conference.
- Being able to see the names and locations, of attendees as well as read the wide variety of questions they posed in the "chat" or "Q&A" windows at each webinar was very enlightening.
- The relative affordability of the virtual conference compared with the usual expenses for travel, hotel, meals in addition to the registration fee.
- For me, the ability to attend the conference while still maintaining my work schedule was a plus. I had given thought to not going to San Diego because I also originally had work travel commitments very close to the original conference dates. With the shift to a virtual conference and the cancellation of my work travel, I was afforded the opportunity to simul-

taneously attend the conference and pursue my day job while both were running on my work computer. No doubt my productivity was affected, but not as much as if I had left work for a week to attend an in-person conference in San Diego.

Negatives:

- Not being able to reunite with old friends and meet new ones "over the water cooler"- in the conference hallways, at a meal and in-person in so many ways - was something I missed greatly at this virtual conference.
- Some technical issues with the conference software and varying technical skill levels of the presenters made some sessions more challenging than in-person events: volume controls, the ability to properly present slides/PowerPoint presentations and utilize the chat and Q&A features.
- Not having a vendor room and the opportunity to meet with representatives of companies who support our genealogy obsession as well as the JewishGen research divisions, such as JRI-Poland or LitvakSIG, was a disappointment. In past years, professionals from those companies and knowledgeable helpers from the research divisions assisted conference goers with specific research questions, offering direct assistance, strategies and suggestions on where to find answers.
- The virtual conference provided a Q&A function as part of each presentation, but the time limits for each presentation made it difficult for presenters to respond to many questions within the time frame allotted. In addition, not being able to continue to talk with presenters in-person following their lectures proved frustrating.
- With the exception of some chats with panelists, there were relatively few presentation choices (maybe three at most) for each time slot during the conference. At a typical in-person conference, there is an abundance of choices, allowing beginners, intermediate genealogists and experts to find something of interest. Programs are typically offered in various "tracks," such as Holocaust, Sephardic, DNA, and location-specific research, along with opportunities for

“field trips,” all of which provided something for everyone throughout the complete conference schedule. Given the short time frame to develop the virtual conference and the need to rely largely on volunteers, this drawback was understandable. One would hope that, if we are faced with the same situation for next year’s conference, IAJGS, JGASGP as the local co-host JGS, and presenters will have adequate time, resources and technological help to improve on the program offerings.

I found a number of specific sessions to be outstanding:

The JGS Leadership Seminar included a very important presentation on maintaining physical and internet security for both our in-person and online events. The presenter, a former FBI agent, spoke about the need that we have all felt recently for enhanced security at any Jewish gatherings and venues, particularly following the Tree of Life synagogue attack in Pittsburgh. He focused on preparation, planning, the use of perimeter security, trained professional guards (such as off-duty police), and group organization to deal with security threats. This presentation was of great value to our organization as we begin plotting our hosting responsibilities for the 2021 conference and opened up a number of questions for me as to how we coordinate with the IAJGS and the conference venue to ensure security for all attendees.

Missing Manifests – Tips for Finding Those Elusive Passenger Lists

This was an excellent lecture by Risa Daitzman Heywood, a professional genealogist, (<https://www.researchbyrisa.com>), with a well-organized PowerPoint presentation that used quite a bit of visual material to illustrate her talking points and an excellent handout of her program outline.



Important points she made were:

- Search for the original name.
- Broaden your search to what she called the *FAN Club*, (Friends, Family, Associates & Neighbors).

- A brief history of immigration to the U.S. and changes in the laws and documents that identified immi-

grants and how that information became more detailed over time.

- Recommendations for using a variety of tools, such as search engines offered by Ancestry.com, Family Search.com, and the one-step tools of stevemorse.org.

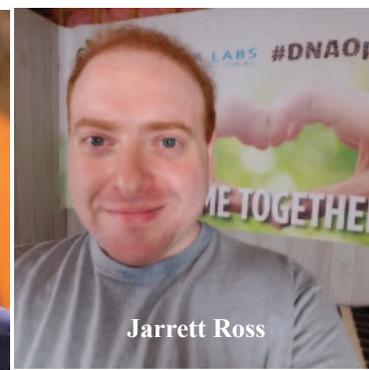
- Obtaining all the associated records, not just stopping at the first record you find with your ancestor’s name. You never know what other information may be found on a page before or a page after your initial discovery such as other family members, the town from which they came, their name in the “old country.”

IAJGS Annual Meeting & Awards

This presentation was of particular importance to JGASGP as *Chronicles* was recognized as the IAJGS Outstanding Publication of 2020. I’d like to express my appreciation and thanks, first to our editor, Evan Fishman, for his dedication to making *Chronicles* the best publication with every issue we produce; to all who contribute articles to make our quarterly journal unique and interesting to our members; and to those associate editors who assist Evan and me in bringing *Chronicles* to life four times a year.

Genealogy Death Match

This genealogy game was an unexpected pleasure. I originally looked at it as a “time filler,” since there was nothing else in that time slot that looked interesting. Much to my surprise, the competition was both entertaining and extraordinarily informative. The game took the format of a fifteen-round genealogy “boxing match,” hosted by Jordan Auslander, with each of the two contestants having two minutes per round to prove their ancestry according to the Genealogical Proof Standard. The contestants, Randy Schoenberg and Jarrett Ross, had to present and describe document images regarding themselves and their parents in round one; their parents & grandparents in round two; their grandparents & great grandparents in round three; etc.



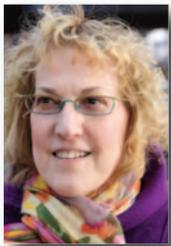
The value of this entertaining exercise was seeing the volume and diversity of documents that the two contestants were able to gather to support their ancestry. Jarrett's documentation went all the way back to the middle of the 16th century in the Netherlands while Randy's dated back to the 15th century of a rabbinic family in Ashkenazi Prague and Vienna, all of which astounded both the judges and the audience as the age and kind of documentation proved quite extraordinary. ❖

Ed Flax, a longtime JGASGP member and "Chronicles" graphics editor, has been studying his family for over twenty years. Surnames he is researching include: FLAKS, Ukmmerge, Lithuania; BRIN, Kaunus, Lithuania; SILBER, Orla, Poland, SNITKOWSKY, Thomaspol, Ukraine; BASHER-GLICK, Kamyanets-Podilskyy, Ukraine and FRIMERMAN, Soroca, Moldova.

*His family tree can be found online at:
http://www.flax.org/FamilyWeb/wc_toc.html
Contact Ed at ejflax@gmail.com*

REVIEW OF TWO DNA RELATED IAJGS PRESENTATIONS

by Marilyn Mazer Golden



I participated in two virtual meetings during the IAJGS conference about DNA that I found very helpful: Adam Brown and Gil Bardige's joint "Introduction to DNA Research" and Gil's "Help! I Just Got My DNA Results and I'm Confused." Gil gave a basic step by step instruction guide for the analysis of each

DNA testing company which was perfect for someone like me who needs guidance.

The first question often asked by researchers is 'What can DNA testing do for me? I made a lot of progress on my family tree already.' To answer this question, you have to understand a little bit about what DNA is. Then you have to learn about the tests available and what the results from each mean. This will give you a better idea of what information DNA testing can provide.

Humans share 99.9% of their DNA, yet there are more than 3 million differences between each of us. Genealogists look for both similarities and differences to help de-

termine significant matches. There are 7 million markers to evaluate on YDNA tests, a father's male lineage, and 16,000 markers on the mtDNA tests, a mother's female lineage.

The primary goal in identifying DNA matches and ethnicity is to assist you in your genealogical research, to fill out the branches and leaves of your family tree.

If you were to use the results from the four major testing companies, you would get more than 250,000 matches!!! Definitely a stressful and confusing situation. 'What do you do next?' Gil suggested, "Let's take it step by step to slow the process down and deliver results by managing expectations and prioritizing your matches".

Managing Expectations and the Four Rules:

Rule 1: This is a new science (DNA or Genetic Genealogy), and things are changing rapidly!

Rule 2: "Based upon what we know now. . ." because data is constantly changing.

Rule 3: Go back to verify if anything has changed because matching algorithms change.

Rule 4: Autosomal DNA inheritance is random. Think chicken soup! (Your sibling may get a bigger piece of chicken.)

You are doing data analysis and interpretation – FOLLOW THE EVIDENCE! Do not draw conclusions based upon what we want the results to be! If you are new at using DNA as a genealogy tool, be aware that you may learn secrets that you and/or others may not want to know about. Be prepared for adoptions, NPE (non-parental events), criminals, etc. in the family.

Genetic Genealogy is a Tool in Your Genealogical Tool Belt

1. *It is not stand alone!*
2. Results you receive regarding ethnic origins are just estimates and will change.
3. DNA is a key to confirming or rejecting family relationships.

The chart below provides the following information for a series of generations and shared ancestors: the maximum number of possible ancestors, the match relation-

ships to look for, and the average percentage of DNA shared for each generation.

Generation	Shared Ancestor	Max # Possible Ancestors	Matches*	% of DNA
1	Parent	2	Sibling	50
2	Grandparent	4	1st Cousin	25
3	Great Grandparent	8	2nd Cousin	12.5
4	2nd Great Grandparent	16	3rd Cousin	6.25
5	3rd Great Grandparent	32	4th Cousin	3.12
6	4th Great Grandparent	64	5th Cousin	1.56
7	5th Great Grandparent	128	6th Cousin	0.78
8	6th Great Grandparent	256	7th Cousin	0.39

Types of DNA tests:

Autosomal DNA is randomly inherited from both parents. A set of twenty-two chromosomes (excluding the one set of sex chromosomes) from each makes up the combined autosomal inherited DNA. Autosomal DNA dilutes by about 50% for each generation you go back in time. Autosomal DNA is only reasonably accurate back to about 300 years ago +/- 100 years. It reveals matches that share ancestors in approximately the last five to six generations. Both men and women can test.

Y-DNA is inherited by males from their fathers and passed on from son to son and so on, mutating infrequently. It is used to confirm or deny direct paternal line relationships regardless of surname.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)

Both males and females inherit mtDNA from their mothers and pass it on to their daughters and so on. Mitochondrial DNA is passed down from mother to her children virtually unchanged. It is used to confirm or deny direct maternal line relationship regardless of surname.

There are four major companies used for DNA testing:

- **Ancestry.com** -- results can be downloaded
- **MyHeritage** -- results can be downloaded and uploaded
- **FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA)** -- results can be downloaded and uploaded

- **23 & Me** -- results can be downloaded

Gedmatch Genesis is a website that can accept uploads from all the companies.

The information that can be provided by these companies is similar, but NOT identical because the reference populations and the DNA algorithms are different. For example, when looking at your matches on FTDNA, consider matches with at least 10 centimorgan (cM) segments in length. When comparing samples, determine whether the segments are lined up vertically. Longer matching segments are not affected by endogamy. (Endogamy results when extensive intermarriage occurs within a limited group of individuals, a situation that has long applied to Jews). Shorter segments scattered at random are not a concern and can be disregarded. Ignore cousin estimates! PRIORITIZE!

Gil then compared his ethnicity estimates to show us how the results varied.

- Ancestry** European Jewish 80-100%
- My Heritage** Ashkenazi 95.4%, Eastern European 5%, East Africa 4.6%
- Family Tree DNA** Jewish Diaspora 96%, Middle Eastern. 3%
- 23 & Me** Ashkenazi Jewish 99.4%

Chart Showing How Much DNA in cM You Can Expect Based upon A Relationship

1. Lara Diamond's data on this chart shows us the range

Relationship	#	Total Shared cM		Longest Segment	
		Average	Range	Average	Range
1C	660	881	83 - 1559	83	41 - 306
1C1R	606	440	54 - 903	62	13 - 164
1C2R	134	240	27 - 413	49	11 - 145
2C	597	246	47 - 760	49	16 - 282
2C1R	590	140	0 - 466	37	0 - 115
2C2R	101	94	0 - 575	31	0 - 117
3C	517	89	0 - 334	30	0 - 135
3C1R	263	76	0 - 332	27	0 - 71
3C2R	36	52	16 - 122	22	8 - 50
Aunt/Uncle	722	1703	121 - 2227	126	40 - 254
Grandparent/Grandchild	195	1760	875 - 2365	170	82 - 282
Great Aunt/Uncle	123	844	236 - 1301	86	35 - 140
Great Grandparent/Grandchild	25	856	547 - 1110	102	65 - 171
Half 1C	56	458	262 - 1194	75	29 - 145
Half 1C1R	33	223	99 - 518	46	28 - 96
Half 2C	44	123	17 - 264	34	12 - 83
Half Aunt/Uncle	43	892	540 - 1348	100	43 - 176
Half Siblings	125	1731	787 - 2134	127	62 - 254

of cM we can expect due to endogamy. 1C (1st cousin) average is 660 cm, but the range can be from 83-1559.

2. Prioritizing matches results in a reasonable, manageable number of people you can contact who could be re-

lated to you in the timeframe of your genealogy tree

3. *IGNORE THE "COUSIN" ESTIMATES by the company in all cases!*

4. For each one there will be a formula* that Gil utilizes (subject to Rules 1 & 2).

Gil provided a step by step formula as to how he evaluates his matches!

***Basic common formula** is: $> 95\text{cM}$ shared DNA + 1 segment of $> 20\text{cM}$ + 2 segments $>10\text{ cM}$ and then triangulate (does your match, match your known matches on the same, not all segments). In all cases more is better.

Family Tree DNA (FTDNA)

- (1) Take match list and re-sort by Longest Block (Segment)
- (2) Select those that meet the criteria of Longest Block $>20\text{cM}$
- (3) Write them down or enter them in your own spreadsheet
- (4) Utilize Chromosome Browser set to 10cM (upper left of screen)
- (5) Move your mouse cursor over the segments and read the size.

• Do not estimate length by the visual size of the segment (chromosomes are not the same length).

Things to be aware of: Endogamy is not closely related at 1 cM . Endogamy is not closely related at 10cM . However, there are real relationships even with endogamy at 1cM , and real relationships even with endogamy at 10cM .

Use the matrix chart on FTDNA and triangulate your matches--(does your match, match your known matches on the same, not all segments).

23 & Me

(Unique first step formula)

- a. % of DNA Shared of $>1.60\%$ and Number of Segments <10
- b. Re-sort match list by Segments (upper right corner) and list those who match the formula for further processing (takes less than 30 minutes)
 1. Write their information down or enter into a spreadsheet (amazing how few

there are compared to your total match quantity)

2. Compare them to you in the Chromosome Browser (go to bottom of that page)
Do they qualify at $>95\text{cM} + >20\text{cM} + >10\text{cM} + >10\text{cM} +$ triangulation?

23 & Me uses Genetic Distances (cM). Not all of their categories come out correctly. For example, Gil's 1st cousin was identified as his niece.

My Heritage

1. Review match list
2. Do they qualify at $>95\text{cM} + >20\text{cM} + >10\text{cM} + >10\text{cM} +$ triangulation?
3. Chart that shows your matches and prospect's matches and symbol shown if you triangulate on the website.
4. Write these people down or enter into a spreadsheet (amazing how few there are compared to your total match quantity).

Ancestry has a different formula since the site does not have a chromosome browser.

1. Divide the total amount of shared DNA (100 cM or more is better) by the number of segments (small is better) = >20
2. An option would be to download raw data and upload it to Gedmatch to utilize their chromosome browser.

If you are a member of an endogamous population, you're already accustomed to getting predicted "close" relatives that aren't really so close after all because of endogamy. One of the best strategies for determining if a match is truly worth pursuing for us Jews is to note the size of the largest segment, since many small segments may be artifacts from being related in many ways on multiple lineages well back in the past. Most of the large genealogical testing companies provide the size of the largest segment. Ancestry DNA will provide this information by the end of August.

Gedmatch Genesis

1. Upload any of your other testing site raw data (follow instructions carefully)
2. Sort one to many match lists by longest segment.

3. Write down the ones that qualify by the basic common formula:

(a) >95cM + >20cM + >10cM + >10cM

(b) Triangulate by 1 one to one match. Do your matches match them?

1. Case Study on Confirmation Table - Bardige v Burdige Yes, it's a cousin match!

As you get more advanced in your capabilities and work your way through the match lists, you may find that you can begin to expand the parameters of the formula to say >90 cM and >20 + >10 + >10. You can also add Cluster techniques to help determine the possible next level prioritizations. DNA Painter tool or the (Dana) Leeds Method can assist with what chromosome segments apply to the various branches of your family.

Remember the rules. They constantly change. The percentages are only estimates!

The key to success will be your family tree. Can you find where your matches fit on your tree and document that information? Remember spelling doesn't matter.

Prioritize your match lists, get organized and thus reduce the stress and confusion.

To reach either of the meeting presenters,

Case Study: Confirmation Table – Bardige v Burdige		
Surname	Bardige	Burdige
Original Surname	Bardiga	Bordiga
Shtetl	Berestechko, Russian Empire	Barasechka (Yiddish) Poland
Immigration	Early 1900s to IL, WI, NY, NJ	Early 1900s to NY, NJ
Paternal GGF	Moshe Aron Bardiga	Isaac Phillip Bordiga
GGF Year of Birth	1843	1835
GGF siblings	4	unknown
In Common With	Isaac Bardiga	Isaac Phillip Bordiga
Year of Birth	1836	1835
DNA Testing	FTDNA	FTDNA
Y-DNA	Haplogroup - 0 GD	Haplogroup - 0 GD
mtDNA	No	No
Autosomal Projected	2nd-3rd Cousin	2nd-3rd Cousin
Triangulation	Yes	Yes
Genealogical Tree	3rd Cousin	3rd Cousin
Source 1	Verified Family Tree	Verified Family Tree
Source 2	1920 US Federal Census	1920 US Federal Census
Source 3	1858 Russian Empire Metrical Revision List	
Relationship Confirmed	✓	✓

*Note that the formulas provided have not been empirically tested/verified. They are the ones that Gil has used to effectively prioritize his matches (and find real relatives) to a reasonably sized list to start a search and manage his own expectations.

Then we have to ask ourselves, ‘Do our surnames and shtetls match?’ Remember we are looking for relatives and we want to confirm or reject relationships on our family tree that aren’t accurate. Ethnic origins are only **estimated** on the testing sites! It’s not just the ethnicity but where they actually lived that you’re looking at. Try to have your eldest relatives tested. Download your results and upload to other companies. Post your tree or family surnames on FTDNA, etc. so others can see if you match their names. That can lead to triangulation.

If you can afford it, Gil recommended that you test at all companies. Each company tests a different part of your cells. Some companies will accept your DNA as an upload and download. Others can only be downloaded. Ancestry.com and 23 & Me download only to other companies. MyHeritage and FamilyTree DNA can be downloaded and uploaded. Gedmatch uploads all. Check for sales before purchasing a test or an upgrade.

Adam Brown: Adam.Brown@Avotaynu.org

Gil Bardige: gbardige@gmail.com ❖

Marilyn Mazer Golden is a retired speech/language pathologist. Married to Michael, she has two children, Eli and Sarah. Her interest in genealogy has become a passion.

She is researching MAZER from Elinetz, Ukraine, SHUSTERMAN from Gaysen, Ukraine, NATHANSON from Odessa, Russia, LOCKMAN from Rzeszow, Poland, GOGOL from Savran, Russia, SLOTKIN from Smela, Russia CLOUTS from Telsiai, Lithuania, Glasgow, Scotland, and England.

She enjoys helping others and can be reached at mazergoldenjsgp@gmail.com



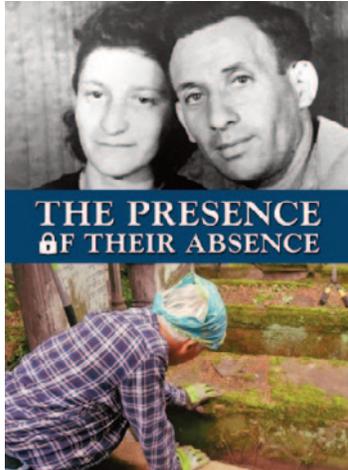
IAJGS FILM FESTIVAL: “THE PRESENCE OF THEIR ABSENCE”

by Felicia Mode Alexander



Most IAJGS conferences include a film festival. These often offer opportunities to meet the directors and people involved in the production. This year was no exception. All of the films were outstanding, but the one which I found most

compelling was “The Presence of Their Absence.” This feature length (84 minute) documentary film is a combination of genealogy, history, Holocaust tragedy and inherited trauma. The role of reconciliation is also a significant theme explored throughout the two main characters’ travels in Poland.



In a review posted in MediaPlayNews.com, critic Stephanie Prince wrote:

Director Donna Kanter follows Fred Zaidman on a journey to trace his inherited trauma as he uses scant clues from his late parents, who were Holocaust survivors, to find his roots. While growing up, Zaidman’s mother Renate spoke incessantly of her pain while his father Wolf virtually shut down. In his early sixties, he embarks on a quest to discover what had happened to his family in Poland during the Shoah with one primary goal — to find a single photo of his grandparents. His journey takes him to Poland, Israel, Germany and finally to Atlanta, where he receives a helping hand from an unlikely source – a Baptist minister.

This summary mentions that Fred experiences inherited trauma. This fact is a significant part of the film, which is treated with care and tenderness by Kanter. Sadly, Fred has internalized so much of his parents’ losses that it per-

petuates his grief; the family he might have grown up to know remains lost in Poland. His goal in traveling to his ancestral homes is to connect his life today with those who perished.

The part of this film that spoke to me is the role of reconciliation in learning how to move forward in life with such pain and grief. As a Holocaust educator, I studied this phenomenon as it occurred in Rwanda and South Africa. After apartheid in South Africa and the Rwandan genocide, the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions helped the people of each country come to face and possibly even forgive the egregious actions of one ethnic component of each nation’s population upon the other.

Although Fred may never forgive the perpetrators of his family’s terrible losses, he learns tools during the course of this film that help him continue in his own life. That reconciliation is due to Steven Reece, the remarkable Baptist minister from Georgia, with whom Fred travels in Poland. He is the founder of the nonprofit organization, the Matzevah (gravestone) Foundation, which provides volunteer work crews to Eastern Europe to clean, restore and honor Jewish cemeteries that have been in ruin since World War II. The scenes in which Fred is comforted by the pastor, while finding Fred’s family *matzevot*, are true testaments to the power of personal faith and love.



Fred Zaidman speaking with Rev. Steven Reese

I was incredibly moved by this film and contacted Fred Zaidman after watching it, prior to the virtual discussion. He was very appreciative of the positive feedback, and it is apparent that this filmmaking experience was life altering for him. He has not been able to really process it too much yet. He told me that the cemetery trips he and Pastor Reece shared gave him some sense of healing. I found their partnership to be very special, and I will admit

NOTES ON IAJGS 2020

by Mary-Jane Roth

that I cried during several scenes. One final thought is that after watching this film for the second time, I gave more thought to its title. It is very well named.

“The Presence of Their Absence” is available to stream on Amazon Prime, Vimeo, Virgil Films and iTunes. The website is www.thepresenceoftheirabsence.com and provides commentary that is worth a look.

Steven Reece’s Matzevah Foundation has a very robust website (<https://www.matzevah.org/>) which lists its upcoming projects as well as its mission – “to remember and honor the Jewish heritage of Poland that was once a vital and vibrant part of the country before the *Shoah* (the Holocaust). We seek to remember the Jewish communities in Poland, to restore the memory of those that the world lost during the *Shoah*, and to reconcile Jews and Christians through dialogue and participating in a common *mitzvah*, or righteous act together.” ❖



Fred Zaidman at his ancestors’ graves

A retired special education teacher in the East Windsor, NJ Regional School District, Felicia Mode Alexander has taught both middle and high school world history and has been actively involved in Holocaust education, connecting her students with survivors and escorting them to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington D.C. each year. Her passion for genealogy research and Holocaust education came to fruition when she discovered a long-lost cousin, the only child of a sole survivor, living in Israel.

President of the Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia, Felicia, is researching MODE, SHUMAN, ABRAHAMS, BORNSTEIN in Berlin and Posen; Grossman, LONGBORD and TALIAFSKY in the Kiev region.

You can contact Felicia at jgasgp.president@gmail.com



I wasn’t sure how I felt about the idea of this conference going “virtual.” This would be my ninth conference, and I felt that what I gained from them came from my personal interactions, shared meals, and discussions with vendors in the exhibit halls as much as from the formal sessions.

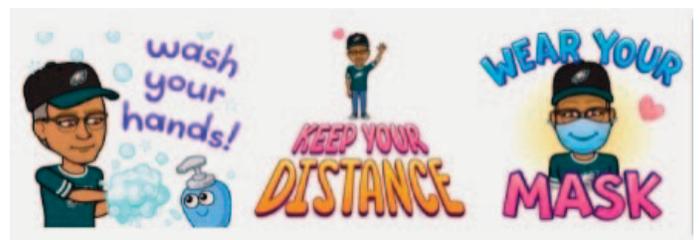
I attended many sessions during the live portion of the conference, and I have just started watching the many recorded on-demand sessions that I starred which have been a pleasant surprise. I really enjoy the ability to string together related talks to get a deeper insight into the subject.

For example, the Ukraine Research Division (RD) meeting was live. Some discussion occurred about the Alex Krakovsky project and how the RD planned to handle the anticipated flood of new information. I subsequently listened to the on-demand talks by Ellen Kowitt on “Updating Your Ukraine Research Plan,” and Gary Pokrassa’s talk on “Navigating Alex Krakovsky’s Wiki.” I was reenergized about a translation project I head after combining all the information I had gleaned. I’m looking forward to continuing through the on-demand talks by grouping my subjects of interest. ❖

Mary-Jane Roth is a retired civil servant who has been re-searching her family tree for about fifteen years. Although she now lives outside of Washington, D.C., she lived for many years in and around Philadelphia where most of her ancestors lived.

All of her maternal great grandparents (GROSSER, TEP- PER, LIEBERMAN, KANDEL) came to Philadelphia in the 1890s, and the families stayed in the area. Many of them and their siblings lived into the late 1960s and 1970s passing family stories down during large and frequent family gatherings. These provided the basis for much of her initial re- search. Mary-Jane now passes on the stories of her family in her family history blog:

<http://memorykeepersnotebook.blogspot.com>



FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY COMES TO JEWISH GENEALOGY

by Jeffrey Albert



Do you find yourself spending a lot of time trying to identify who's who in old family photos? Do you compare one photo to another over time to see if you can pinpoint the same relative over decades, but you're unsure of identities due to aging-related changes in appearance?

Scott Genzer, a professional data scientist, informed us at IAJGS's first virtual conference that these types of questions may soon be resolved thanks to facial recognition software.

Genzer's lecture was based on his article entitled, "Using Facial Recognition Tools to Identify Unnamed Ancestors," in *Avotaynu* (Fall 2019, Vol. XXXV, No. 3, pp. 7-12, available at <http://avotaynu.com/journal.htm> and revealed the excellent results he has obtained in exploring his family's roots in Mielec, Poland

Genzer has spent years retracing Mielec's history (see <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Kolbuszowa/mielec/mielec.html>) and by using photographs obtained from official sources and the collections of others, he's opened previously unknown chapters of his family tree. His excitement about this new tool in identifying past generations was evident to all.

He selected "Rekognition," off-the-shelf software from Amazon WebServices (AWS), to upload and analyze photos taken years apart. Using artificial intelligence (AI), that software broke down each photo into a multitude of various measurements that no human eye could discern. Starting with a large collection of photographs from Mielec identification applications, U.S. passport applications, Yad Vashem pages of testimony, and others from the same era, Genzer then decided to apply the image analysis methods used by data scientists to help determine the identity of previously unidentified Mielec Jews in earlier photographs. He was thus able to correlate individuals in photographs taken years apart.

A photograph of Regina Schapira from her U.S. passport (dated October 22, 1920) ⁽¹⁾ follows:

The task was then to find her in an earlier photograph in



which she wasn't identified.

Figure 1



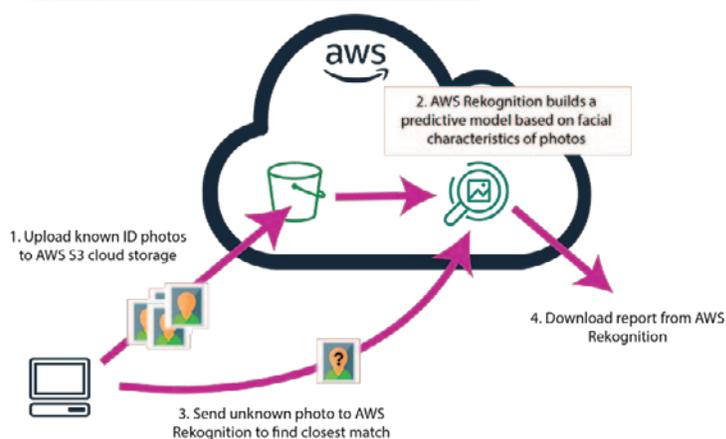
Figure 2

Thanks to the AWS Recognition software, the earlier photograph (Figure 2, cropped from an unknown family portrait) was matched with the later one (Figure 1), and a brick wall was surmounted! Subsequently, Genzer was able to identify her husband, Mendel, and the others in the family portrait below.



Figure 3

The process is summarized in the following illustration²:



Process flow for genealogical facial recognition using AWS S3 storage and Rekognition ML API

Fortunately and importantly, both "Rekognition" and similar software available from competing companies that are appropriate for the limited use that we beginners in facial recognition technology would need, are free. The

prospect for making old photographs come alive offers great promise.

Scott Genzer's email address: sgenzer@gmail.com ❖

Notes:

1. <http://mielec-yidn.org/GenzerIAJGS2020.pdf>, pp. 9-10.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 3.

Jeff Albert is an Oxford Circle, (Philadelphia) native who married Karen, another Oxford Circle native. They live in Eastern Montgomery County, with their children living in Silicon Valley and the suburbs of Paris.

Jeff is an attorney focusing on issues of attorney conduct. He uses his investigative skills to explore his family's genealogy.

With Karen, he has attended two recent meetings of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

Contact Jeff at: jalbertlaw@gmail.com

A TALE OF TWO CITIES (AND THREE FAMILIES); ALL THESE GURALNICKS ARE DEFINITELY RE- LATED. BUT HOW?

by Dan Rottenberg



Maybe you've encountered this challenge: you have good reason to believe two or more families are related, but for the life of you, you can't find their common ancestor.

In my case, one such puzzle concerns three families with some variation of the name Guralnick—two of whom settled in Philadelphia and one in Boston, but all of whom originated very close to each other in the Russian *gubernia* (territorial division of Imperial Russia) of Volhynia, Ukraine.

Shiah Guralnick's Philadelphia family

The first of these is the family of my late mother-in-law, Ann Gralnick Rubin (1913-1996). Of all the branches of my family tree as well as my wife's, Ann's paternal line has proven my most stubborn challenge. I can trace her ancestry back no further than her grandfather Shiah Guralnick (1850?-1914), who I was told spent his entire life in Biedlach, a hamlet in the middle of a forest about thirty miles from Korets—in which direction, none of his de-

scendants could say for sure. Shiah and his wife Miriam Faiga produced eight children who lived to adulthood, four of whom emigrated to the U.S., some changing their name to Gralnick or Grolnick. Of the four children who remained in Russia, two died in the Holocaust, and two survived; Ann last heard from the youngest brother in a letter from his home in Poland in 1970.

That's pretty much all I know about Shiah's ancestry, except for one other small but possibly significant clue: Shiah had a brother known as Yankel, who had a daughter named Bess married to a Benjamin Wilner. Bess perished in the Holocaust, but by then at least two of her children had already come to America and settled in the Boston area—a son named Philip and a daughter named Sophie Goldberg. When I spoke by phone to Sophie in 1976, she confirmed this information, but of course I neglected to ask her many questions that occur to me now, when she is long gone.

Solomon Guralnick's Philadelphia family

The second Guralnick family in this puzzle is probably better known to Jewish Philadelphians through its connection to the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy in Bryn Mawr. This line begins with Solomon (Shmiel) Guralnick, born about 1870, who emigrated from the Korets region of Volhynia gubernia to Boston, probably during World War I. He intended to establish himself in America before sending for his wife, Bess (or Pessel), and their children Szywra (later Sylvia) and Shloma (later Sam), but by the time they arrived in December 1923, Solomon had died in a Boston hospital.

His widow and children settled in Philadelphia, where Bess remarried a Louis Dinkowitz. Sylvia (1902-1972) married Morris Barrack, a shoe manufacturer, and they raised four children in Philadelphia. In 1960 Morris and his older son, Jack M. Barrack, were killed in a plane crash in Boston Harbor en route to a shoe industry convention. In 2007, the Jewish day school, Akiba Academy, was renamed in Jack's memory and also in recognition of the donations from Jack's youngest sibling, the Philadelphia lawyer and philanthropist, Leonard Barrack.

I first learned of this branch in 1976, when I was gearing up to write a family history. At that time, my mother-in-law put me in touch with Jack and Leonard's sister Pearl Barrack Singer, who my mother-in-law thought might be vaguely related to her. Pearl confirmed that she was definitely related to my mother-in-law, although she didn't

know how. What's more, she recalled, her Guralnick relatives and my mother-in-law's family had all attended a Guralnick family wedding in Boston in 1946.

Here was tantalizing evidence that these two families were related, and also related to a third set of Guralnicks in Boston. but in that pre-internet era, I could take that information no further.

Harry Goralnick's Boston family

But this summer, just for the heck of it, I googled "Guralnick wedding" and "Boston" and "1946." Lo and behold, this search produced an item in the *Boston Jewish Advocate* announcing the wedding of Howard Goralnick to Ethel Gross in July 1947.

Yes, yes, I know: The name was spelled Goralnick, not Guralnick; and the year was 1947, not 1946. However, that's a mighty close match, don't you think?

In short order, I contacted the Goralnick clan of Boston, a large family blessed with a family tree website, widespread interest in family matters, and several members who are still active in their eighties and nineties. Although Howard Goralnick, the groom of that 1947 wedding, died in 2002, I was able to speak to his widow Ethel Goralnick, a renowned chef and teacher of French cuisine, now ninety-five. She didn't recall any Philadelphia Guralnicks at her wedding, but she deputized her son to try to find the wedding guest list.

These Boston-area Goralnicks are descended from a Harry Goralnick, who emigrated from Russia in 1913 and died in a Boston suburb in 1946. I speculated that Harry might be a



son of Shiah Guralnick's brother Yankel. At my suggestion, Harry's eighty-three-year-old grandson, Norman Goralnick, hopped in his car and drove to the cemetery in Everett, Massachusetts, where he photographed Harry's grave. To my dismay, the grave identified Harry's Hebrew name as "Zvi ben Yitzhak," Zvi son of Yitzhak.

With this in mind, I paid special attention to Warren Blatt's

session on Jewish given names during the recent IAJGS conference, as well as Madeleine Isenberg's session on reading Jewish tombstones. 'What,' I wondered, 'could be made of the name of Shiah Guralnick's brother Yankel? Yankel was clearly a nickname, but for what?'

Warren Blatt pointed out that most Jews have multiple names: religious and secular names, for starters, but also names in multiple languages, variants between languages, and nicknames. Madeleine Isenberg mentioned that some nicknames defy logic: Pepi as a nickname for Josephine, for example. Yankel, Blatt noted, is a Yiddish variant of the Hebrew Yakov or the English Jacob. Consequently, Harry Goralnick's father's transliterated name was most likely Isaac, not Yankel.

On the other hand, nineteenth century Jewish families (both in Europe and America) usually had large families. Shiah Guralnick and his brother Yankel probably had other siblings as well. Perhaps one of them was Harry Goralnick's father, Yitzhak .

Meanwhile, various Boston Goralnicks furnished me other documents, including an oral history recorded by Howard Goralnick for his temple. The manifest of the ship, the SS Kroonland, which arrived in New York from Antwerp on May 10, 1921, listed among its passengers Harry Goralnick's wife Beila and five of their six children. The manifest spelled their name Guralnik, not Goralnick. More intriguing: all were listed as having been born in "Sudytkow, Poland." As it happens, Sudytkow is a village located on the outskirts of the town of Shepetovka, in Volhynia *gubernia*, Ukraine.

Why does this tidbit interest me? Because Shepetovka is the place where Shiah Guralnick's widow—my wife's great grandmother, Miriam Faiga Guralnick - died in 1917.

An unmined clue

So—we know there's some connection between the two Guralnick families of Philadelphia and the Goralnicks of Boston. We also know that the differences in spelling are irrelevant, since any variation of Guralnick would likely have been the same in either the Hebrew or the Russian Cyrillic alphabets. Finally, we know that in Russia these families lived within a few miles of each other.



Miriam Faiga,
widow of Shiah Guralnick

Clearly, I'm just getting started with this search. The other day, thanks (again) to the internet, I discovered the Shoah Foundation at the University of Southern California, founded by the film director Steven Spielberg. Its oral history collection includes an interview with one Ida Guralnik Annapolski, born in 1930 in Bratslav, Volhynia *gubernia*, Ukraine. The online summary enumerates her siblings, parents, uncles, aunts . . . and her paternal grandparents, listed as Shmiel and Pesya Vennick Guralnik. Could Shmiel and Pesya be identical to Shmiel and Bess (Pessel) Guralnick, the grandparents of the Barracks of Philadelphia? The recorded interview is not available online, but it can be accessed at several libraries around the U.S., including University of Pennsylvania's library in West Philadelphia. Stay tuned.

This story must necessarily end the way most genealogical stories end: to be continued . . . except for one delicious bit of serendipity. It turns out that Leonard Barrack, the Philadelphia lawyer and philanthropist responsible for the renaming of Barrack Hebrew Academy, was a classmate of my wife (nee Barbara Rubin) at Samuel Gompers Elementary School in Wynnefield more than seventy years ago. Of course, they didn't know then that they were related. I hope to prove it to them someday soon. ❖

Philadelphia journalist Dan Rottenberg is the author of eleven books and has edited seven publications, most recently the arts and culture website Broad Street Review. (His first book, "Finding Our Fathers", launched the modern Jewish genealogy movement in 1977.

Contact Dan at: dan@danrottenberg.com

ABSTRACT - JUNE 27TH MEETING

THE NAZI TITANIC: THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF A DOOMED SHIP IN WORLD WAR II

Presenter: Robert Watson, PhD



Following Hitler's liquidation decree in the winter and spring of 1945, Heinrich Himmler ordered tens of thousands of concentration camp prisoners to be transferred and interned on the Cap Arcona, Germany's replica of the Titanic. His plan was to use the ship as a negotiating tool for a separate conditional surrender or as a

trade of countless thousands of prisoners for his life.

Deprived of food and water, between 10,000 and 20,000 prisoners died in transit to the port of Neustadt in Lubeck Bay in the southern Baltic. Two Nazis decided to fill the ship with fuel with the intention of blowing it up.

The British secured the port and were in the process of rescuing the prisoners. Meanwhile British bombers began to strafe the ship, and due to inclement weather conditions, the pilots didn't know who was aboard. The ship exploded, and thousands below deck drowned. Those prisoners who survived died of hypothermia in the 42° water. Few reached shore. Mortified and embarrassed by what was perhaps the world's worst maritime disaster, the British government classified documents related to the incident.

Thanks to the British government and directors at the Imperial War Museum and National Archives, Watson gained access, resulting in a record of a previously unknown chapter of the war.

ABSTRACT - JULY 19TH MEETING

HAVEN OR HELL? JEWS IN THE PHILIPPINES DURING WORLD WAR II

Presenter: Sandy Lanman



For over twenty years, Sandy Lanman knew that her grandmother Elsie Gabel Hamburger had escaped Germany to the Philippines, only to lose her husband Gunther in the brutal Battle of Manila at the end of World War II. A recent serendipitous connection to Gunther's family uncovered photos of Elsie and him in Manila. This finding sparked Sandy's interest in learning more about the history of the Manila Jewish community and the Jews who found safe refuge there during the war. Her presentation described the little known story of the rescue of 1300 mostly German Jews by the Philippine people and the tragedy that befell this nation during World War II. Her account includes the eyewitness testimony by her grandmother of her experience, her narrow escape during the Battle of Manila, and the successful post war settlement of family members in the U.S.

ABSTRACT - AUGUST 2ND MEETING

FINDING YOUR LITVAK FAMILY

Presenter: Judy Baston, Litvak SIG Board Member



Judy explained how to navigate the resources of Litvak SIG, JewishGen.org, etc. to aid the Litvak researcher in researching his/her family history.

On the LitvakSIG page you will find descriptions of records, archives and repositories, FAQs, *shtetlach*, Given Names Database, LitvakSIG Online Journal, Image Library (photos), books, internet links. Within Litvak SIG there are District Research Groups (DRG) with Litvak shtetl maps. There are fourteen districts including: Disna, Lida, Oshmiany, Svencionys and Zarasai.

The All Lithuanian Database (ALD) contains vital records, revision and other census lists, tax lists, voters' lists, passport and citizen lists, Holocaust lists and cemetery lists. More specific directories include continuation of German (World War I era) passports, 1919-1941 Vilna household registers, Jews deported under Soviet repression, 1942 ghetto prisoners' lists, Kaunas (Kovno) passport envelopes which provided passport supporting documentation.

If you go to JewishGen.org, you can search for town resources, yizkor books and kehila links for communities, JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) and Jewish Online World Burial Registry (JOWBR). You can find Vilna Refugee lists at the JDC website which tells the story of Polish Jews who escaped through Vilna at the beginning of World War II. At www.yadvashem.org you can search the names of Lithuanian Holocaust victims.

ABSTRACT - AUGUST 23RD MEETING

LEVERAGING DNA ANALYSIS IN GENEALOGY

Presenter: Martin Schiller, PhD



The utility of matching people's DNA sequences has emerged and grown rapidly over the past decade. One major applica-

tion is genealogy research. Dr. Martin Schiller, an established molecular biologist and functional genomics researcher, discussed his experience and basic approaches to building family trees and validating relationships using DNA analysis.

His lecture covered the basics of DNA and inheritance, common online platforms such as Ancestry and GED match. We examined how to infer ancestors, match your family member DNA to human fossils, and build genetic signatures (haplotypes) for each of your ancestral lineages, which can be used to identify more cousins and infer origins and migratory paths of your deep ancestry.

SOUTH STREET HISTORY PROJECT

by Joel Spivak



In the 1960s Joel Spivak was part of the group that blocked the construction of the Crosstown Expressway which would've obliterated Philadelphia's

South Street. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the South Street Renaissance. Here's Joel's message to our JGASGP family:

I am uncovering the endless rich history this neighborhood had as a thriving community of Jewish families and businesses.

If you have any stories about an experience like buying your wedding dress at the Bluebird Bridal Shop or attending an affair catered at Uhr's, please contact me.

No limit as to how far back your experience occurred. The geographical area includes Spruce Street south to Washington Avenue and 10th Street east to the Delaware River.

Please submit your stories to joelspivak@comcast.net or fill in the questionnaire at <https://qluency.com/southstreet50>. Thanks.



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

2021 Membership & Renewal Form

(Please Print)

Name (s) _____ Date: _____

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Phone: _____ Email 1 _____

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Membership Categories (Check boxes on left)

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Family (2 Person Household)	\$ 35	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sponsor (Incl. Family Level Benefits & Paper <i>Chronicles</i>)	\$ 50	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron (Incl. Family Level Benefits & Paper <i>Chronicles</i>)	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Add Paper "Chronicles" (optional) \$10 per year. For International mailing fee, contact editor@jsgsp.org		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Additional Contribution (optional)	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Amount		\$

All members receive e-mail copies of *CHRONICLES*. If you would like to have a paper *CHRONICLES* mailed to you, include an additional \$10 with your dues. Dues are for the calendar year, January 1 – December 31, 2021. YOU MAY PAY YOUR DUES USING PAYPAL on our website: <https://jsgsp.org>

If you are mailing your membership form and check, please make your check payable to JGASGP.

Mail to: JGASGP, 1657 The Fairway, #145, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

Research Information For New Members (Please share family names you are researching so others may help you connect)

SURNAME	TOWN	COUNTRY

JGASGP is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Membership dues and donations are tax-deductible within the guidelines of U.S. law.

rev. 5 October 2020



JGASGP CALENDAR & REMINDERS

Our U.S. mail address is: 1657 The Fairway, #145 Jenkintown, PA 19046

JGASGP is on the web at: <https://jgsgp.org>

Look for information about other IAJGS member societies:

<http://www.iajgs.org/members/members.html>

Join the JGASGP Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/196732503717635/>.



For the foreseeable future, our virtual meetings will be conducted via Zoom. A thirty-minute period before each meeting is devoted to a free-form chat and to assisting those who may be new to the technology - helping them get started and working out any kinks in their audio or video connections.

Have you hit a brick wall in your research? Post your questions on the JGASGP Facebook page. Almost 1000 active genealogists belong to this group. Who knows who can help answer your question? We've all been there, and often someone else's fresh perspective and prior experience and knowledge can yield the clues that help knock down that wall.

Please check JGASGP e-mails, website and our Facebook page for complete and up-to-the-minute program information.

Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 1:30 pm via Zoom

Speaker: Jennifer Mendelsohn, founder of Facebook group, Jewish DNA for Genetic Genealogy and Family Research

Jennifer Mendelsohn is a seasoned journalist and ghostwriter. A former *People* magazine special correspondent and Slate columnist, her work has appeared in numerous local and national publications including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Politico*, *Washingtonian*, *Tablet*, *Medium*, *McSweeney's*, and *Jezebel*. A passionate genealogist, she is a member of the board of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Maryland.



Topic: No, You Don't Really Have 7900 Fourth Cousins: DNA Basics for Those With Ashkenazi Heritage

DNA has the potential to be an essential and exciting genealogical tool, but many Eastern European Jewish testers find their DNA results completely overwhelming and unnavigable. This talk will help those with Ashkenazi heritage learn to make sense of their DNA results. We'll cover why our match lists are so large (hello, endogamy!) 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 learn to work effectively with DNA to expand your tree.

Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 1:30 pm

Speaker Edward Janes, Founder, Friends of Jews from Przasnysz Poland, along with Maggie Goralczyk



Janes has been researching his Polish, Litvak and Latvian genealogy for more than forty years; he has also been a student of the Holocaust for the past fifteen years. Janes has led a cemetery restoration project in Przasnysz, Poland for the last five years in collaboration with committed volunteers, local officials, the Foundation for Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland, and the offices of the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Michael Schudrich.

Restoring Dignity: Planning and Executing a Cemetery Restoration Project in Poland

Cemeteries are personal touch points for the genealogical researcher. Standing on holy ground where ancestors gathered to bury loved ones, at perhaps their most vulnerable moments, is both moving and motivating. In some cases the researcher learns new information from headstones or a caretaker; in other cases the researcher realizes the need to become the caretaker. This lecture will review how genealogical research that spanned many decades led to a successful restoration project in Przasnysz, Poland.

Deadline for submission of articles for our winter issue is Sunday, December 13, 2020.

Please send material to: editor@jgsgp.org.