



July 2020

President's Message

By Steve Jaron

Hello and welcome to the third first issue of our newsletter! Or possibly the fourth if you count the original newsletter.

First off let me apologize for the very long delay in having any programming. The Fall of 2019 got away from me with stuff at work taking priority and with October being the anniversary of the Tree of Life Massacre we were unable to get anything together. However we do have some exciting things to announce.

In February Eric Lidji from the Rauh Jewish Archives and History Program joined our leadership team as a liaison and Secretary. He will be contributing a piece to our newsletter each issue regarding the archives and genealogy.

I am also excited to announce the launch of our new website: <http://www.pghjgs.org>. We have

four main sections: Upcoming Events, Resources, Membership, and About Us.

Also if you use Facebook, Twitter and/or Instagram please remember to like and follow and follow us on those platforms. Our handle is @pghjgs. If you post on Instagram or Twitter about your genealogy can I also ask that you tag us in your posts?

Along with this issue comes two important items—membership renewal and election of the board. Membership renewal is straightforward. Obviously since we are not doing in person meetings at this time that is out, however, you can renew via snail mail with the application provided later in this newsletter or you can use the online form that is on our new website.

Thanks for sticking with us over the past few years.



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JGS Pittsburgh Officers and Board Elections

Steve Jaron

With a new year comes the opportunity for you to have a say how the JGS is run. When I first restarted the new group I did not have the original bylaws (written in 2001) so I was going off of what other societies were doing and asking for volunteers. According to the bylaws we should have four officers; a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer along with the Chairs of eight standing committees. This forms the Board of Directors.

We currently look like this:

President: Steven Jaron

Vice President: Evan Wolfson

Treasurer: Jonathan Schachter

Secretary: Eric Lidji

Additionally Stephanie Biersdorf is our Membership and Outreach Coordinator.

The committee chairs are appointed by the President. However as we are pretty much starting fresh we are looking for volunteers.

The standing committees should be (along with how I interpret their purpose):

1. Program - organizing meetings and finding speakers
2. Resources - keeps track of new data sources, data collection with Technology
3. Technology - website and social media

see Officers page 4



The new JGS-Pittsburgh website is live

Steve Jaron

As mentioned in my president's message we are launching our redesigned website. Our old website was out of date and didn't have the functionality we needed. This will allow us to be more streamlined in our initiatives and offer more to our members and the general public. What follows is a more in depth description of the different areas.

Meetings

In this area you will be able to find our past and future meetings and events. As it allows for registration it will give better insight into who is attending our meetings and events.

Resources

This area contains links to areas of interest for General Research, Local Research, and Jewish Specific Resources. If you have an idea for a resource that we may have missed please contact us.

Membership

The main page describes the cost of membership as well as the benefits of membership. It goes on to give the information of the three different ways you can join. In the submenus you can also access the online membership form. You will also see the link for the members area and the family finder. These two areas cannot be accessed without being a paying member. As time goes on I would like to have other items in our members only area.

About Us

The main page gives a little more insight into who we are and our history. There will be a submenu in the future describing who the current leadership team is with short bios.

Some record sets seem to have been designed with genealogists in mind, and this is one of them. Each card includes the name of the deceased (often in English and Hebrew), the date of death (often in the Gregorian and Hebrew calendars), and the name, address and relationship of all the family members who requested a notice each year.

It's an excellent resource. But there's a catch.

Bertha Zentler *yahrzeit* card

Jewish Association on Aging records (2018.0028)

The Jewish Association on Aging only found application for last names starting with S through Z—Shipkovitz to Zwirnbaum. No one knows what happened to A through R. The Association has sent out an A.P.B. and has promised to let us know as soon as the missing cards appear.

To search for a name in the collection, email rjarchives@heinzhistorycenter.org or call me at 412-454-6406. Or, when normal in-person visitation to the archives continues, request Jewish Association of Aging Records, accession 2018.0028.

We want your stories

The relaunch of *Z'chor* is an opportunity for the Jewish Genealogy Society of Pittsburgh to publish original research and writing about Jewish family history in Western Pennsylvania.

The JGS is interested in a wide variety of genres, including biographies, memoirs, behind-the-scenes accounts of research initiatives, historical mysteries, recipes, interesting datasets, book reviews, preservation and conservation stories, research trips to other countries, and other tales of

Jewish family history. Essays should be no more than 500 words and should include citations whenever appropriate. While essays need not be explicitly about Western Pennsylvania, they should appeal to local readers. The initial goal is to include one piece of original work in each monthly issue. With enough interest, that would expand.

To contribute, contact the Jewish Genealogy Society of Pittsburgh at pghjgs@gmail.com



Officers, from page 2

(Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), data collection with Resources

4. Hospitality

5. Publications - newsletter works with Resources, Technology, PR and Program

6. Public Relations - marketing, attends local “non-Jewish” genealogy events (Irish, German, Polish, etc Days), and community events

7. Special Events - organizing Jewish Genealogy Day and other non typical events

8. Education

So if you would like to throw your hat in the ring to be an Officer or to volunteer for a committee please let us know via email by August 1, 2020



Upcoming events

July 6-July 10, 2020

[Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh institute](#)

July 19-July 24, 2020

[Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh institute](#) FULL

July 22, 2020

Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society meeting

["Incorporating Social History Into Your Research" by Michael Lacopo, DVM](#)

Aug. 10-Aug. 13, 2020

[International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies 2020 Virtual Conference](#)

To submit events, please contact pghjgs@gmail.com

Jewish Genealogy Society of Pittsburgh

membership form

Please mail to:
Jewish Genealogy Society of Pittsburgh
1008 Mirror St. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217

The mission of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Pittsburgh is to provide a means for our members and the community at large to reconnect with their Jewish roots in Southwestern Pennsylvania, as well as in the countries and regions in which their families previously lived.

Name:

Email:

Date of birth:

Phone:

Current address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Please include on the back if you have any skills that may benefit our society

Check here if you do NOT want your Family Finder information shared

Please print surnames of your ancestors and where they were from clearly. Please fill in as completely as you can. Additional names and locations can be added on the back.

Surnames	Locations

2020-20 Membership: \$18

This includes: Membership, Family Finder Access, Newsletter Subscription

Signature:

Date: