

1979-2008 TIMELINE

1979
Jewish Genealogical Society of Philadelphia is founded. Harry D. Boonin is elected first President
First outside speaker, Stephanie Morris addresses the group on Indexing Ship Arrival Records for the Port of New York
Average meeting attendance between 9 and 15
1980
Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern speaks at the National Museum of American Jewish History at the invitation of JGSP and the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center
1982
First Newsletter is published
1984
Jon E. Stein is elected president of JGSP
1985
Monthly Bulletins are mailed to members in advance of each meeting
Meeting time is changed from 1 p.m. on occasional Sundays to 7:45 p.m. on the second Monday of each month with the exception of the summer months and January and February
Meeting place is changed from private homes and Society Hill Synagogue to National Museum of American Jewish History
Newsletter is named CHRONICLES
Share-the-Ride Book listing members by zip code to facilitate car pooling is compiled and made available.
Library is created. A wheeled cage which can be locked is donated to contain growing collection
"Genealogy-in-the-Round" program is introduced to permit members to share personal experiences
1986
Meetings are taped on audio cassettes which are stored in Library and available to be borrowed by members
1989
JGSP becomes a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation with IRS tax-exempt status
Average meeting attendance between 50 and 75
JGSP hosts 8th National Seminar on Jewish Genealogy June 25 - 29. A syllabus, "Guide to Resources in Philadelphia Area" is produced.
JGSP is now financially able to make modest cash contributions to related Philadelphia institutions
Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern, Leon E. Brown and Miriam Weiner are named Lifetime Members of JGSP
1991
Russian and German Interest Groups and Computer Users' Group are created to encourage exchange of ideas
JGSP "Register of Roots" is published listing surnames and locations being researched by JGSP members
1992
JGSP stages its first Beginners' Workshop on Genealogy at Balch Institute. A 110 page "Jewish Genealogy Beginners Guide" is produced
1993

Walking Tour of Immigrant Jewish Philadelphia is held
List of Library Holdings is compiled, published and sent to each member
JGSP participates in Cemetery Records Project of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies to create a worldwide listing of cemeteries where Jews are buried
Position established for Orientation of New Members
1994
Worldwide membership reaches close to 350
Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern, Dean of Jewish Genealogy, dies suddenly on January 5th.
The Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Award is created to be presented annually to a member of the JGSP for Distinguished Service in the Field of Jewish Genealogy. Harry Boonin is named the first recipient
Jon E. Stein completes 10th year as JGSP president
JGSP celebrates its 15th Anniversary on Sunday, June 5, with a Luncheon at the Adam's Mark Hotel
1995
Elaine (Bunny) Kolinsky is named second recipient of the Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern award presented on May 8 by Harry Boonin.
Jon E. Stein steps down after eleven successful and productive years as President.
JGSP Member, Leonard Markowitz starts the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project.
1996
Leonard Markowitz elected the third President of JGSP, succeeding Jon Stein.
Jon E. Stein is named the third recipient of the Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern award presented by Elaine Kolinsky at a Luncheon in Jon's honor on May 19. Karen Spiegel Franklin is the keynote speaker.
JGSP website inaugurated with the hard work of Bill Firestone, Howard Rosen and many other members.
Harry Boonin steps down as Editor of Chronicles. New Editor is Elaine (Bunny) Kolinsky.
1997
JGSP General Meetings and Library are moved to Gratz College from the National Museum of American Jewish History. This provides a permanent home for the Library.
Chad Gottschlich takes over as Webmaster and expands the JGSP Website.
1998
Dan Rottenberg is named the fourth recipient of the Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern award presented by Leonard Markowitz at a Luncheon on May 17. Sallyann Amdur Sack is the keynote speaker.
Leonard Markowitz steps down as President after three years at the helm. Membership is at nearly 400.
1999
Joel Spector elected the fourth President of JGSGP, succeeding Len Markowitz.
Founding President Harry Boonin publishes his book The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia – A History and Guide 1881-1930.
2000
Elaine Kolinsky steps down as Editor of Chronicles. New Editor is Chad Gottschlich.
Two affiliates of JGSP are established. South Jersey affiliate meets at Congregation Beth Tikvah in Marlton. Delaware County affiliate meets at Martins Run in Media.
2001
Society name changed to Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia.
An era ends. Jonathan Emanuel Stein, JGSP President for eleven years (1984-1995) passes away on May 28 at the age of 87.
Joel Spector steps down as President after three years at the helm.

2002
Leonard Markowitz accepts a second term as President for one year.
After a seven year period of inactivity, the German SIG is resurrected under the able leadership of Monica Leonards
Jewish Historian and Genealogist Harry Boonin leads members on a walking tour of South Philadelphia.
Harry Boonin is named lifetime member of JGSGP.
2003
Mark Halpern elected fifth President succeeding Len Markowitz.
Lifetime member Miriam Weiner presented IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award.
Helen Stein, widow of Jon Stein, is named lifetime member .
JGSGP renews its partnership with the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center (PJAC). A joint project to index the Immigrant/Ethnic Bank records commenced under the able leadership of Selma Neubauer.
JGSGP purchases Laptop Computer for PJAC indexing projects.
2004
Number of JGSGP General Meetings expanded from 8 to 9 with the addition of a meeting in February. Winter meetings will be held on Sunday afternoons.
First joint PJAC project – Blitzstein Bank records – is completed and searchable on JewishGen website. Lipshutz Bank indexing started. Project is under the able leadership of Selma Neubauer
Karen Franklin is named lifetime member of JGSGP.
JGSGP and PJAC jointly purchase digital projector enabling Society to attract speakers employing digital presentations.
JGSGP project, in cooperation with PJAC, commenced to index Jewish Exponent obituaries and death notices from 1887 to present. Project is under the able leadership of Leonard Duboff.
JGSGP becomes a member of the Kehilla of Old York Road. Alan Remstein is the JGSGP representative.
JGSGP 25th Anniversary celebrated with luncheon on October 10. Speakers are Susan King, Hankus Netsky and Nan Beth Wallace.
2005
Second joint PJAC project – Lipshutz Bank records – is completed and searchable on JewishGen website. Rosenbaum Bank indexing started.
"Register of Roots" discontinued and replaced by listing of member Surnames and towns in Chronicles
Yale Reisner, Director of the Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project in Warsaw returns to Philadelphia to present "Genealogical Adventures in Poland." This meeting attracted over 120 members and guests.
Chronicles awarded Outstanding Publication by an IAJGS Society at 25th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Las Vegas
JGSGP Seminar - Jewish Family Heritage: Connecting to Your Past - attracts 40 participants
2006
"Genealogy in the Round" program is re-instituted and is a big hit.
Chad Gottschlich, long-time editor of Chronicles and webmaster of the JGSGP Website retires.
German SIG Coordinator and JGSGP Board Member Monica Leonards passes away in April at age 49 after a battle with cancer.
JGSGP project to index the Passage Order Book Records of Blitzstein, Lipshutz, Rosenbaum, and Rosenbluth Banks awarded Outstanding Programming or Project at 26th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy in New York City.
JGSGP General Meetings moved from Gratz College to Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel. JGSGP Library remains at Gratz.

PJAC Executive Director Nan Beth Wallace and Chief Archivist Don Davis leave PJAC. Nan and Don were instrumental in creating a very active and successful partnership with JGSGP.
2007
Mark Halpern steps down as President after four years. Selma Neubauer and Fred Blum are elected sixth President. Having Co-Presidents is a first for JGSGP.
Mark Halpern takes over as editor of Chronicles
Len Duboff steps down as Coordinator of the Jewish Exponent Obituary indexing project after completing the indexing of 35,000 records. James Gross takes over as Coordinator
Third joint PJAC project – Rosenbaum Bank records – is completed and searchable on JewishGen website.
JGSGP Jewish Exponent Obit/Death Notice Indexing Project's first 34,000 indices placed online and searchable on JewishGen website.
Dan Rottenberg, longtime JGSGP member and author of Finding our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy, the first book (1977) on Jewish genealogy, is the keynote speaker at the IAJGS Conference in Salt Lake City - 30 years after.
JGSGP and IAJGS agree to co-host the 29th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Philadelphia, August 2-7, 2009.
Marvin Brooks, former Recording Secretary and Webmaster passes away in December at age 62 after a battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease.
Helen Stein, widow of long-time JGSGP President Jon Stein and Life Member, passes away in December at age 87
2008
Fred Blum elected President. Selma Neubauer retires.