



# JGSLI Programs – Sept. 2015 to June 2016

*Program details are subject to change. Please watch [www.jgsli.org](http://www.jgsli.org) for the latest information.*

Date	Location	Speaker(s)	Topic
<p><b>Sunday, Sept. 20</b> 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Mavens 1:30 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>Mid-Island Y-JCC</b> 45 Manetto Hill Road Plainview <a href="http://www.miyjcc.org">www.miyjcc.org</a></p>	<p><b>Renee Stern Steinig</b></p> 	<p><b>"Finding Joe Seltzer"</b></p> <p>Renee Steinig will tell the story of JGSLI's successful effort to reunite an ID bracelet found in the Arizona desert with a Brooklyn GI's surviving family. Her presentation will illustrate the path we followed to learn more about Pfc. Joseph G. Seltzer and to identify his parents and their descendants. FindaGrave, censuses, military records, newspapers, the Social Security Death Index, PeopleFinders, Geni and ultimately Facebook were among the sources that led to a poignant conclusion, 70 years after the young soldier's death.</p>
<p><b>Sunday, Oct. 18</b> 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Mavens 1:30 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>Plainview-Old Bethpage Library</b> 999 Old Country Road Plainview <a href="http://www.poblib.org">www.poblib.org</a></p>	<p><b>Dr. Rhoda Miller, Ed.D., CG</b></p> 	<p><b>"Researching the Wandering Jew: Two Generations in Six Countries"</b></p> <p>Oral history and early information in our research are often incomplete or misleading because our ancestors moved a lot. Social history greatly impacts the lives of generations who lived in Eastern Europe. Rhoda will present research strategies that unfold the stories of a family who were "wandering Jews" within Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, England, Canada, and the United States.</p>

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**Sunday, Nov. 1**  
12:30 – 5:00 p.m.

**Mid-Island Y-JCC**  
45 Manetto Hill Road  
Plainview  
[www.miyjcc.org](http://www.miyjcc.org)

**Bonnie Birns, Chair**



**“Jewish Genealogy 101:  
Four Hours+ to Your Family Roots”**

**JGSLI’s 25th Annual  
Family History Workshop**

... a review of the fundamentals of Jewish genealogy. Topics include interviewing relatives; identifying ancestral towns; Holocaust research; using censuses, city directories, ship's manifests, naturalizations, vital records, and other U.S. sources; European records; and internet resources. Early-bird rate (through Oct. 26): \$45. After Oct. 26 and at the door: \$55. Additional family member: \$15. Fee includes a workbook (one per family, on a flash drive), a copy of Avotaynu's *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy: 2015 Edition*, a light lunch, and 2016 membership dues. Send checks to JGSLI, Attn. Bonnie Birns, 28 Madison Ave., Jericho NY 11753. Questions? Contact Bonnie ([workshop@jgsli.org](mailto:workshop@jgsli.org), 516.433.0130).

**Sunday, Nov. 22**  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
(Mavens 1:30 p.m.)

**Mid-Island Y-JCC**  
45 Manetto Hill Road  
Plainview  
[www.miyjcc.org](http://www.miyjcc.org)

**Glenn Kurtz**





<http://glennkurtz.com>



**“Rescuing the Evidence:  
Three Minutes in Poland”**

Visiting his hometown in Poland in August 1938, one year before the outbreak of World War II, David Kurtz captured three minutes of ordinary life on film. More than 70 years later, these few minutes of home movie footage would become a memorial to an entire community annihilated in the Holocaust. His grandson Glenn Kurtz, author of the critically acclaimed book *Three Minutes in Poland: Discovering a Lost World in a 1938 Family Film*, will describe his four-year effort to identify the people in the film's haunting images – a search that took him across the United States, to Canada, England, Poland and Israel, to archives, film preservation laboratories, and an abandoned Luftwaffe airfield.

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<p><b>Sunday, Dec. 20</b> 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Mavens 1:30 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>Mid-Island Y-JCC</b> 45 Manetto Hill Road Plainview  www.miyjcc.org</p>	<p><b>Avraham Groll</b></p> 	<p><b>“How Did Jews Get to Europe?” (Part 2)</b></p> <p>Continuing the interesting presentation he gave us last April, Avraham Groll will tell us more about patterns of Jewish migration after the decline of Babylonian Jewry in the 9th and 10th centuries. He will use maps, pictures, and documents to illustrate why Jews chose (or were forced) to seek new homelands in Europe, the places they settled, and how they lived. Avraham Groll was recently appointed JewishGen's Senior Director of Business Operations.</p>
<p><b>Sunday, Jan. 24</b> 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Mavens 1:30 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>Mid-Island Y-JCC</b> 45 Manetto Hill Road Plainview  www.miyjcc.org</p>	<p><b>Andrew Zalewski</b></p>  <p><a href="http://thelzopress.com">http://thelzopress.com</a></p>	<p><b>“Galician Portraits: The Story of Jews, Gentiles, and Emperors”</b></p> <p>Andrew Zalewski is the author of <i>Galician Portraits</i> -- the story of his father's family, and much more. Set in large cities, small towns, and tiny villages of Austrian Galicia -- the region that from 1772 to 1918 spanned parts of today's Poland and Ukraine -- the book reflects on centuries of Jewish history in the region, on the interaction between its ethnic groups, and on the debates and tensions within the diverse Jewish community. Despite the challenges to tracing Jewish heritage anywhere in Europe, especially in the years of the Holocaust, Dr. Zalewski has discovered many voices that had long been forgotten, as well as surprising details about his own family. His talk will be illustrated by genealogical findings and by archival pictures and old maps of Galicia.</p>

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<p><b>Sunday, Feb. 21</b> 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Mavens 1:30 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>Mid-Island Y-JCC</b> 45 Manetto Hill Road Plainview www.miyjcc.org</p>	<p><b>Rita Gabis</b></p>  <p><a href="http://www.ritagabis.com">http://www.ritagabis.com</a></p>	<p><b>“A Guest at the Shooters’ Banquet: My Grandfather’s SS Past, My Jewish Family, A Search for the Truth”</b></p> <p>Poet and reporter Rita Gabis comes from a family of Eastern European Jews and Lithuanian Catholics. Five years ago, she discovered that her Lithuanian grandfather was the Chief of Security under the Gestapo in Svencionys, Lithuania, near the killing field where 8,000 Jews were murdered in the fall of 1941. Gabis will describe the research and interviews she did in four countries to learn the truth about the grandfather she thought she knew. She will also read passages from her new memoir, <i>A Guest at the Shooters’ Banquet</i>.</p>
<p><b>Sunday, March 27</b> 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Mavens 1:30 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>Mid-Island Y-JCC</b> 45 Manetto Hill Road Plainview www.miyjcc.org</p>	<p><b>Arthur Kurzweil</b></p>  <p><a href="http://arthurkurzweil.com">http://arthurkurzweil.com</a></p>	<p><b>“45 Years as a Jewish Genealogist: A Cranky Critique”</b></p> <p>Based on his four and a half decades in the field, Arthur Kurzweil, author of <i>From Generation to Generation</i>, will explore the underbelly of the world of Jewish genealogy — our mistakes, our misbehavior, our sins of omission and our sins of commission — and he will offer some strong suggestions for the future.</p>

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<p><b>Sunday, April 17</b> 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Mavens 1:30 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>Mid-Island Y-JCC</b> 45 Manetto Hill Road Plainview <a href="http://www.miyjcc.org">www.miyjcc.org</a></p>	<p><b>Bennett Greenspan</b></p> 	<p><b>“Family Tree DNA”</b></p> <p>An entrepreneur and life-long genealogy enthusiast, Bennett Greenspan founded Family Tree DNA (<a href="https://www.familytreedna.com">https://www.familytreedna.com</a>) in 1999, turning a hobby into a full-time vocation. He'll tell us about the latest developments in genetic genealogy and how they can help our family research.</p>
<p><b>Sunday, May 22</b> 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Mavens 1:30 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>Mid-Island Y-JCC</b> 45 Manetto Hill Road Plainview <a href="http://www.miyjcc.org">www.miyjcc.org</a></p>	<p><b>Judy G. Russell</b></p> 	<p><b>“The Legal Genealogist”</b></p> <p>An attorney AND certified genealogist, Judy Russell – “The Legal Genealogist” -- is a popular lecturer and blogger who sheds light on the often arcane and even impenetrable legal concepts and terminology that are so very important to those studying family history. Read more about her at <a href="http://www.legalgenealogist.com">www.legalgenealogist.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>Sunday, June 26</b> 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Mavens 1:30 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>Mid-Island Y-JCC</b> 45 Manetto Hill Road Plainview <a href="http://www.miyjcc.org">www.miyjcc.org</a></p>	<p><b>Bill Farran</b></p>	<p><b>“A Bialystok Travelogue”</b></p>