



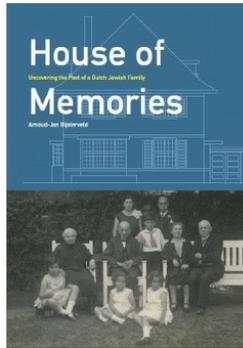
# JGSGW December Meeting

## Sunday, December 3, 2017

B'nai Israel Congregation, 6301 Montrose Rd., Rockville, MD

### Special Morning Members-only Presentation: *House of Memories* 10 AM: Video screening and presentation by Beri Kravitz

In 2000, Historian Arnoud-Jan Bijsterveld and his spouse bought a 70-year-old house in Tilburg, The Netherlands. As they prepared to update the house, they noted the name M.H. Polak on the plans as the original owner. Polak was a common Jewish name in the Netherlands before the war, and Bijsterveld decided to find out what had happened to the family who built his house. He found out that most of the family had escaped, but that one son, 24-year-old Bertam Polak, had been killed at Auschwitz in 1942. In 2010 when the first stolperstein (stumbling



stones) were laid in Tilburg he renewed the search. Bijsterveld connected with the surviving family and began recreating the family story, turning it into the book, "House of Memories". In 2015 he hosted Bertram's relatives at his home. First we will see a video about the search for Bertram's story, and then hear from our speaker. Beri Kravitz who is a first cousin once removed of Bertram. His father and

her grandfather were in business together. The people in the video are her relatives. She visited the author and the house in 2016.

### 11am-1pm Special early opening of JGSGW Library 1-1:30pm Mavens Table and Shmooze

### 1:30pm Meeting and Presentation: *Researching in the the USHMM Collection* with Mr. Steven Vitto, U.S. Holocaust Museum

The afternoon presentation will begin with an overview of the development of the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center at the USHMM emphasizing the development of its scope, collections and tools for research. Emphasis will be on the names database and the International Tracing Service collection. Mr. Vitto will share examples of stories he's been involved with – a reunion, helping a survivor and his family find critical information 70 years after they were told there is no documentation, and others. Throughout, he will focus on how staff in the Resource Center and Library/Archives collections can be of use to genealogists – what they have/what they do not have. He will discuss what resources can be accessed from your home computer, and which require a visit to the USHMM. He will also discuss the World Memory



Project, where anyone, anywhere can help make names and documents available to researchers.

Steven Vitto is a Researcher and Senior Information Retrieval Specialist in the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center (formerly known as the Survivors Registry). He was the first Reference Librarian in the then newly established Museum Library and is now a researcher working primarily in the Public Reference desk. He has worked with thousands of survivors and their families providing information and documentation on the individual experiences of survivors and victims during the Holocaust. He was among the first to be allowed direct access to the then newly accessible records of the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolson, Germany and works regularly in this collection and others.

**JGSGW Guest Attendance Policy:** A non-member may attend the monthly JGSGW meeting as a Guest for a \$5.00 fee payable at the sign-in table. The \$5.00 Guest fee may be applied toward payment of annual JGSGW membership dues if dues are paid at the same meeting at which the guest fee was paid. JGSGW members requiring personal assistance at a meeting due to a health condition or disability may bring someone to assist them free of charge.