To find more work by NMAJH Artist-in-Residence JJ Tiziou, visit the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors of the Museum, and see the ground level windows facing Market Street.

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Special thanks to Faces of Migration community portrait partner sites Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, Art Sanctuary, Catholic Healthcare Services, The Moffet School, Norris Square Neighborhood Project, Norris Square Senior Center, and the Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition, Inc (SEAMAAC).
In the following pages, you will find stories collected from some of the individuals whose portraits you’ll find displayed in my *Faces of Migration* installation.

During the course of my residency at the Museum, I hosted a series of portrait sessions both at the Museum and partner sites across the city, inviting individuals who have themselves or in some generation of their families experienced migration or displacement to participate.

I intentionally framed this call broadly, knowing that everyone’s family history includes stories of migration or displacement, even if we don’t know the details.

Participants were asked to talk about migration or displacement in their own lives, and in their family histories.

Some participants elected to be brief, while others shared in-depth stories. Some were recorded via an interpreter, and others weren’t collected at all. The stories shared here are presented unedited, in the words of each individual.

They are presented in randomized order, like my photographs, to offer a glimpse into the diversity of experiences represented in this installation (and indeed, in America), and that they may inspire curiosity about and engagement with our neighbors.

— JJ
My family primarily comes from Eastern Europe.

JARED P

I’ve moved from Philadelphia to Boston as a first generation college student, Boston to Los Angeles, and Los Angeles to Philadelphia. My great-grandparent Archibald Cameron moved her from Scotland with his pregnant wife in the early 1900s. My grandparents Armando and Norma Morales, both from farming families in a rural area, moved to Philadelphia in the mid-1960s from Aibonito, Puerto Rico to pursue new opportunities for their family due to corporate purchases of most agricultural land in Puerto Rico.

AMANDA M

Born in Munich in a displaced person’s camp in Munich, came to USA at age 2 in 1949, with my parents and brother Len. My parents were born in Poland, lived through the war, and then lived in a displaced person’s camp in Munich (Neu Freiman).

HERMAN H

“I Don’t move around much as far as being there for any length of time. There was a times in the past I did move from one part of town to another from fish town and back to west Philly and then to port Richmond. My Father moved from South Carolina and my mother from Virginia in the thirties and that was called the great migration, they were escaping the horrors of Slavery.

J JUSTIN R

My family is from Puerto Rico. I’m from philly lol idk when they came here or why lol I want to leave not sure where to at the moment but one day I’ll figure it out. Honestly none that I know of I’m pretty proud of myself though... I received my GED 2015 & I’ve completed my dental assistant program with three kids at 22 all by myself.

TIANNA M

My biggest move was from my country home as a small child in Penns Creek to the huge city of Williamsport, PA. This is where I actually grew up and attended high school. From here I moved back to small town rural Muncy and then to rural Milton and then to rural Danville. So I’ve actually lived most of my life in the country, which is very much where I prefer.

SUE L

i have moved around Philadelphia and it was neighborhood to neighborhood. i ended up leaving my mom when i was around 1-1/2 and moved with my cousin and it was because of a big ordeal with family instances

RICKELLE R

I have lived in Philadelphia all my life. I am fifth generation confirmed here from Germany on my maternal grandmother’s side

DEBORAH S

from apartment building nearest my dad’s WWII 4-F job near the Pentagon, at age 3, to a house also in Arlington, VA. Then age 17 to small town upstate NY, 5 yrs B.Arch degree, back home to Arlington, married and back to Ithaca for 7 years. Then finally (i.e. until now) to rowhouse Philly. Family moved from rural England-Welsh border to East Tennessee. Part economic restart for entire family, part for Protestant freedom.

BILL M

Western New York; New York City (Queens & Manhattan); Greenwich, Ct; South Florida
Maternal Paternal’s Side - George Soules, indentured servant on The Mayflower. Paternal Paternal & Paternal Sides from Alsace, Germany/France region to the US in 1850s.

MARYELLEN B

The II WW in Germans and Romanian Ghetto travel after the war to South America; Argentina and after 50 finally emigrating to USA (Philadelphia From Russia to Romania to Italy to Brazil Paraguay Argentina and USA

MARIUS MARIO G

Philadelphia to Florida

I have no big moves in my family

EMILIA M

I grew up in a small farming town in the green mountains of Vermont. The first time I ever lived somewhere else was when I was 18 years old and I moved away to Oberlin, Ohio where I attended college. Though Oberlin was also a rural farming town, I felt the differences in big ways—there were no more mountains, and the people in the university were from a different
social class than the community that raised me. After graduating from Oberlin, I moved to Quito, Ecuador, where I had previously visited on a study abroad program. Though I expected to stay there for two months, I ended up staying for almost a year, working as a journalist with different activists all over the country. After that, I moved to the city of Philadelphia, the city where my mother grew up, and that is where I currently live. My Dads side of the family has been in the US for two generations. My great grandmother, Sonia Bachlechuk was from what is now the Ukraine (at the time, the boarders were changing a lot because of wars and occupations in that part of the world). Her family were the owners of a soap factory, and my Great Grandfathers family were fisherman. My great grandfather Zadi was an orthodox Jewish Rabbi, and they were put together in an arranged marriage and escaped the violence of the holocaust together to come to the United States. There are many fractures in the story, many people, names, and stories lost in the journey. My grandmother was born in the US, but her sister was born in the old country and spoke many different languages (Yiddish, Russian, Hebrew, English) all of which were never passed down to the rest of the family. Every time I hear pieces of the story of this migration I feel like I am learning about a deep part of myself, and seeing with more clarity where I am going.

ARIEL G

Puerto Rico. 1957... came here with my mom. My father was first here, we came to work. I live on 7th street, I live solo. I work a bit, but that is about it.

CARMEN P

I grew up in NY, went to Queens College, and then to Indiana University for graduate school. I was SO excited to be so close to California! I anticipated being able to visit on weekends. Instead, I was introduced to the “cultural capitol of southwest-central-southern Indiana” and ended up moving to Chicago where I’ve been since 1968. I still miss New York, despite a rich and full life in the midwest. The irony is that I got married and had two kids...who BOTH moved to Brooklyn. My grandparents on both sides came from the ‘Pale of Settlement,’ one from what is now Ukraine, the other from Russia. Fortunately they left before the Holocaust. Another irony in my personal history, is that while I know I must have lost relatives during the Nazi years, I don’t know their names. On the other hand, my wife, who was not born Jewish, has plenty of stories. Her mother was from Lidice, a village in Czechoslovakia that was razed in retaliation for the assassination of SS commander Reinhard Heydrich. Her first husband was shot; she spent 3 years in Ravensbruck concentration camp; her daughter from her first marriage was kidnapped out of the Lebensborn program of forced Germanification of stolen children and survived. Life is complex.

ALAN T

the time of Zapatista uprising. Hope this give you some understanding of my situation. As a decedent of the original native populations of this continent and specially been Mexican. I still suffering from problems like, the colonial times has not over yet. So I feel like a man without land, without rights, without a clear or worthy future. I can’t go to another country and ask for protection because mostly the protection is for other kind of people. As Indian or Native or Indigenous of the now called American continent, we don’t get defended or protected by any other government that could help us.

After been arrested many times in Mexico, been helped for some time by an American girl and after everything I went through to get here. I had not been able to fix any status in US. So what I did decide was to stay in US because my hands were empty and tide from were I came from. I got this feeling that I could fill up or free my hands with the opportunities of this country. Now I’m a teaching artists and community worker and my new city, Philadelphia, PA. Seventeen years have past and I want share all I’ve had done and hope to do more for the commonwealth of humanity.” My paternal grandmother migrated from Xico, Veracruz to Mexico City before I was born, and I have continued this family experience with my own migration to Philadelphia PA. USA, on February of 1998, where I have joined the diversity of lives and cultural exchanges of this city.

FRANCISCO J

I was adopted from China at age 1 and live in New York. I don’t know much about my family history, being adopted and all, but I hope to learn some more as I grow up.

BO G

I personally have not moved to far. I have gone from the suburbs of Philadelphia and now to living in the city. “My grandfather came off the boat in ellis island in the early 1900’s from Russia. As the story goes, no one knew he actual birthdate because they used to change them to make them seem younger.

He was a business person who found his way into owning an egg and butter shop in Philadelphia and later on opening a Bar downtown across the street from the trocadaro which was a burlesque theater at the time.

My dads mother arrived from Poland somewhere around the 1920’s. Unfortunately I don’t know much more.

My grandmother Lil was born in this country in 1910 and lived to be seven days shy of 104. She had stories and I captured many of them on video which I shared on my YouTube channel.

She was in the Navy in Philadelphia during the war and worked in the back office.
for work and now here in Philly. My maternal grandfather is originally from Torro del Greco, Italy. During WWII he defected from the Italian army and came to the US. According to stories he did not come through Ellis Island but entered the US via Canada and then resided in NY where he worked multiple jobs as a jeweler, painter, and other things. In terms of my father’s side, there exists little information about my grandparents.

JUSTIN T

Ponze, PR. I was 29, I had my first daughter and I had to leave her with my mother for 2 years and I came here to work and get a place. I worked at the Holiday Inn hotel, and my husband worked too. Then I had my own house and brought my daughter and mother–she didn’t want to leave my daughter so she stayed with me for 8 months. I kept working with the hotel for a few years. I first arrived in Harrisburg, but only knew my husband at that time. He came first, I arrived in 69. We’re from Ponze, always. I never really knew my father, until I was 19, my parents have both passed away. I live near Norris Square, have been here 43 years.

ELSIE P

Born on Long Island, New York...spending my adult life in Westchester, NY. My Great-grandparents migrated from East Europe (Russia, Romania and Poland) to New York and Phila in the late 1800’s. My paternal grandfather was born in Phila in late 1890’s and moved to NY as an adult.

WENDE P

Born in Oklahoma, moved to New Jersey at age 2. Moved to NYC for college at 18. Mom’s family - Delaware Cherokee, Trail of Tears to Oklahoma; other side came from Ireland and Germany to Oklahoma. Dad’s family - from Germany/Alsace to Texas, then Louisiana, then NYC, then NJ. Other side from Russia to NYC to NJ.

RACHEL B

Ohio to Florida 1964 relocated My mother moved to the USA from Cuba

INA F

“I came to Philadelphia, when I was 20 years old in February 1998. I came, escaping from the repression and discrimination inflicted on indigenous Mexicans, as well because of my political opinion and the high risk of being persecuted for my way of thinking and believes (ARTIST). I was part of a collective called Juventudes Anti-Autoritarias Revolucionarias (J.A.R) Anti-authoritarian Revolutionary Youth, a group of activists emerged in Mexico City around 1994 on

I didn’t really have a big move, but I moved from Queens New York to Great Neck New York. My father and his parents are from Israel and moved to Brooklyn and then my father moved to Queens, and finally he ends up settling in Great Neck. My grandmother is from Germany, and moved to Cuba when she was 2 and then to Brooklyn New York at 6. Now she lives in Great Neck too.

DANIEL N

Personally, I haven’t moved in my life. My family is quite scattered across the country though. I have family from California to Philadelphia. On my dad’s side, my great-grandfather came here to escape persecution in Russia. My mother’s family was brought here as slaves way back in the day.

JACOB H

vine a EE. UU a compartir momentos con amigos, y luego me agrado y decidi quedarme en el, y, hoy estoy muy orgulloso se ser americano

JORGE V

Philadelphia - South Philly and NE Phila, Cherry Hill, NJ, to Woolwich Township NJ My grandfather and one of his brothers came over from Kiev to Philadelphia. He send money to my grandmother who needed enough to go first class. My great grandmother wasn’t well enough to travel in steerage. So my mother, grandmother, and great grandmother then came in to Philadelphia in 1913.

SHEILA G

55 I went to NY. Then I came to Philly in 56. My family lived in NY—parents, grandparents. the person I loved was here... this is the city of brotherly love. this is like. Never did I experience any discrimination, here. I live in a small house. There was this Jewish lady, she was like my Nana and she took me everyday. I have seven children—a big family 136 people in this family including me and my husband. I have great-great grandkids. 1 born in NY, 2 in PR and 5 in Philadelphia. I went for the first time in 1974, my husband was a stowaway in a ship in virginia...they found him when he was 8 years old and then he stayed there until he was 17... Then he went to NY and stayed with his family and joined the army at 18. Then we met at Christmas, when I was 14 years old...he told me he was going to the korean war. It was hard for me to leave there, but I don’t want to live by myself in the house.

VICTORIA S
I’m puerto rican, my parents have passed away, I’m not sure. I have very little family.

ROSA MARGARITA M

I have lived in the same house my whole live. Both my parents we born and raised in Philadelphia but I am not sure about my grandparents.

JACQUELINE S

My grandparents came from Cecolosvaky From Portage to Peru to Philadelphia

ANDREW M

Moving from Cherry Hill, NJ to Boston, MA for graduate school in biology at Harvard University. Mother’s parents came to Philadelphia from Poland after the War.

NOAH B

I moved from Argentina to NY at age 18 to go to college and I’m gonna get my visa and work in NY now. My great-grandparents from my dad’s side moved from Syria to Argentina at the start of the 20th century. My great-grandmother was a socialist and moved to Argentina from Poland around the same time as well. My grandfather escaped from Poland to the USSR at the start of WWII, then lived in West Berlin after the War for a couple of years. Finally, he left Germany for Argentina, previously living in Bolivia for a couple of months and later crossing illegally through Argentina’s north since Jews weren’t allowed to immigrate to the country at that time.

JOSE B

Moved from Hartford CT to Cherry Hill NJ as a baby. From NJ to NYC, NY for college, medical school in Be’er Sheva, Israel. Residency back in Philadelphia, PA and next stop - Atlanta, GA for a fellowship! My maternal grandmother and grandfather got married in 1948 (same year as the birth of Israel) and immigrated from Benzin, Poland to Philadelphia.

DEBORAH B

“I was born in Newark, NJ and lived in Irvington,NJ with my family (Mother(Shirley), Father(Leo) and Sister (Beth)) in a two family house with my mother’s sister Eva, my uncle Jack and cousins(Barbara, Steven and David) for most of my early childhood (1950-1964) My mother died in 1963 and we relocated to Hillside NJ in 1964 to be close to other relatives. My father remarried in 1965 and we relocated to Union NJ with my new extended family.

政府帮助了她。她是“不是移民而是难民。”她的父母总是住在 Saigon。她有一些成员在她的家族中在加利福尼亚生活，一些在2002年之前离开，一些在之后。

BA N

I was born and raised in Orlando, Florida. I have travelled extensively in and outside of the United States but have lived in Orlando my entire life. My grandfather was born in Puerto Rico and met my Mexican grandmother in Texas. They married soon after and had three children who they raised in Puerto Rico. My grandmother got very sick while living there with his family, but after none of his siblings came to visit him while he was in the hospital, he decided to pack up with his family and move. He did not want his children to be raised around a family who were not concerned about them. He threatened my grandmother that if she didn’t move with him, he would take the children and leave her. She was very sad to move from Puerto Rico, a place she loved, but made the move to stay with her husband and children. They moved to Orlando - a place where they knew no one and did not know the language. My grandfather eventually was able to purchase a house for his family and they stayed there for many years, gradually adapting to the new environment. That was the house I was raised in.

LINA L

from atlanta to florida from cuba to florida because of Communism

MADISON V

I moved from a large urban area (Newark NJ) where my parents were raised and came to Philadelphia as an older child. Over the years, my family members moved to other parts of the country and world. I lived in Asia and Latin America for briefer periods of time but always returned to Philadelphia. My grandparents all came from Eastern Europe at different times. Most of the moves had to do with religious persecution. My paternal grandfather, in particular, came by myself as a young teen by boat from Russia and had to figure out how to make a life for himself with no English, money, etc. This experience affected him throughout his life- not always in good ways. I grew up hearing stories about the hardship of these migration experiences, even all of those years ago.

CATHI T

Born in NJ, moved to Washington DC in 1998 for college followed by a move to rural Honduras for three years for Peace Corps. After the Peace Corps I returned to the US and relocated to Austin, Texas for 10 months for work and then back to NJ followed by Kalamazoo, MI. After a year in Kalamazoo I spent 2 months in Colorado until I finally headed to Maine for three years
because I was illegal. Then every two years I came to visit my family... there was this Jewish wonderful beautiful woman was working in the govt. I was too much in the bar, ... she was cooking for me and leaving the plate cold. People make mistakes. I'm a citizen. I was never in my mind to be married, even when I was in chile, but she said (andrea) we have to be married. My father thinks that we sleep in separate rooms... after we got married we did the paperwork so that I could go back and forth. I told my mom I'd be here only 2 years, I'd study, I'd work and I'd have a lot of money... but it isn't that easy. When you come form another country, the salary is very poor. Plus I knew nothing about construction!

JORGE V

From Canton, MA to Braintree, MA
From Russia & Poland to Ellis Island. Then to Brookline, MA

JILL E

I was born and raised in Phila., went to University of Pennsylvania. Soon after marrying, lived in Germany as my husband was in the Air Force. We returned to America with two children. I began my career in the museum world shortly after. My grandparents left Russia in 1900 to come to America because of the pogroms.

GWEN G

Mt vernon to Boston for college then to nyc for rabbincial school. then to israel for living and work and then to new hampshire and finally rhinebeck ny for work and family.

YAELE R

I am originally from LA via Boston, Rochester NY, a brief stint in MD and now DE. My mother's family was from Russian, she was born in Winnipeg, they migrated to Palestine and my grandfather settled Ramat Gan...... when my mother turned 21 she moved to South Africa, then to Canada, the US and met my father on a vacation in Hollywood Ca. My brother and I were born and grew up there.

LAURA B

From Rockaway New Jersey. My dad moved here at 12 years old and mom at 18.

RASHAD J

She came to NY first until 2002 and then she came to Philadelphia. She took the plane. The

My Stepmother Dorothy, and sisters, Jill, Nancy and Lauren. My next relocation after college was to start Graduate School in East Lansing, Michigan. I lived in East Lansing for many years and relocated to Ann Arbor, Michigan with My Husband Philip and daughter Katie in 1988. He began a new job at the HighScope Foundation. I was working as a consultant and the time and the move did not affect my work. Our next significant move occurred in 1997. We relocated back to the East Coast to Eastampton, NY. We lived there for about 3 years and relocated to South Orange, NJ. In 2003, we relocated to Philadelphia for Philip's job with a non profit organization.

I appreciate the difficulty and the joy of adapting to new surroundings, people and places. It is a growth process. Both my maternal and paternal grandparents migrated from eastern europe in the early 1900's. Maternal Grandparents Yetta (Trost) German and Joseph German (I was told that their name was misinterpreted at Ellis Island and was actually Herman.) My grandparents grew up in villages near each other and my Grandma Yetta's Father was a merchant who did business with my Grandfather's mother. They knew each other since they were young because of this and had many opportunities to talk to each other. Both of my grandparents were betrothed to other people. My "Zaida" Joe migrated to the USA to avoid being conscripted into the army. While in the US he came in contact with my grandmother's sister who had come to the US for a better life. My grandfather talked with her sister about how he was always interested in my grandmother. My Great Aunt arranged with her parents to have my grandmother sent to the US to live with her. She was married to my grandfather soon after she arrived in the states.”

RONNIE K

I've never experienced a drastic move to another neighborhood or country but I have lived for 2 months in Ecuador and I've never been happier in my life living there. Both of my parents moved to the United States at a very young age. My dad is from Bogota, Colombia and my mom is from Cuito, Ecuador. My dad moved to Queens, New York when he was 17 and my moved moved to Queens as well but when she was 20. Both moves were radical moves, My parents began working in restaurants as cashiers and dish washers and slowly but surely began living their own American Dream.

ANDREA G

In 2000 I moved to Philadelphia from the suburbs, a huge cultural difference from my childhood. Moving from a place where most people were racially and ethnically the same to a melting pot of people from different backgrounds and experiences was amazing for me. “My father moved to Trevose from Nakhon Rataschima in Thailand when he was 18, in the 60s. He has come over with a man named Don who was to be my godfather. Don was a part of the first ever Peace Corps, at the end of which each group member was given the option
to take their local helpers to America to give them more opportunity. He went back through high school so that he could acclimate to America, taking English lessons and working on a farm after school every day to send back money to our family in Thailand. His work enabled my uncle to come here, and for my aunts to go to college.

My mother moved to Philadelphia from Mlang, a small town on Mindanao in the Philippines. After nursing school, she followed my uncle here so that she could have more opportunity and a better life, and she also worked hard to send money home to the family."

MO M

I moved from the country to the city eight years ago so I could immerse myself in theater work. I sold my car, bought a bike and the whole style of my life changed. My Grandfather, Vito Colucci, left Italy when he was 12 and I was the first descendant to return, at age 53

CHRISTOPHER C

i live in west philly and lived there all my life. my great grandpop moved from alabama to philly in1956

DIAMOND C

Havertown, Pennsylvania to Princeton, New Jersey for college, and then back to Havertown

Donegal, Ireland to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the 1890s

ALEXA M

I was living in Peru and traveling to USA where I met my husband Andy

My grandparents came from Spain, France and Germany.

URSULA M

I moved from NJ (where I grew up) to California & back twice in the 1990s. Eventually permanently moved back to the Delaware Valley in 1999.

I only had one grandparent--my maternal grandfather--who was a direct immigrant--he came from Slovakia as a child. The other part of my mom’s family were immigrants from Ireland and England, starting in the 18th century. My dad’s family were Dutch and Irish--both of whom came to the US in the 19th century.

KATI S

I was just born in Philadelphia! Her father, Rafi Rom and grandparents Rochelle Rom and Avi Rom have a long history of migration from eastern Europe and Baghdad Iraq due to being displaced at different times due to anti-Semitism. My paternal grandmother was born in Europe the daughter of Holocaust survivors and my paternal grandfather was born in Israel but the rest of his siblings and family had been born in Baghdad Iraq and then moved to Israel in the 1930’s.

AMALEA W

“I was born in 1949 and I came to the USA when I was 2 yrs old in early 1952 from Paris France. My parents were Holocaust survivors who survived in Poland and moved to Paris where I was born, and from there we came to the USA. My father and mother lost many family members, my father lost his 1st wife and 3 children, ages 16, 10 and 6. My mother lost an infant, I don’t know if it was a boy or girl, she never spoke about this to me.

We lived in the Bronx until I married in 1978 and then in Brooklyn. My 3 children were born in Brooklyn and then in 1990 we moved to Cherry Hill, NJ where we live to this day.

My husband Avi was born in Israel (before it was a country) in 1948 and moved to the US in 1975. His family were all from Iraq. Both his parents were Zionists and came to Israel as a young couple. Later, may members of their family came in the 1950s when they were forcibly told to leave that country, due to anger over the birth of the Jewish State.”

See the answer above.

ROCHELLE R

see prior answer

“Addendum:

When Jen and I were trying to come up with names, we decided we wanted one that memorialized the “lost generation” that suffered through the Holocaust. My maternal grandmother’s name was Leah, so that was an obvious choice. We also wanted one name to commemorate those that did not survive. My grandfather gave testimony at a war crimes tribunal in the 50s, and he mentioned a family member who died, Amalia. So we combined those names. Her middle name, Rose, is after her maternal grandmother, Rosemary. ”

RAFI R

Chile. I was going to go to australia, but I had family in here who had been here a long time. They said my house was your house, so I came. I did construction work as a finish carpenter, i was buying and selling houses. i came in 1978. In 1985 my mother came here to visit me,
OPEN FOR INTERPRETATION, JJ TIZIOU

From Ploiesti, Romania, to suburban New Jersey in 1994. My mom left Romania before the 1989 revolution and, when she got her Green card five years later, she brought the rest of the family over to the US. We wanted to live an honest life. Since then, I’ve lived in North and South Jersey, New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia. Many members of my family have scattered throughout the world. We have family who have made a life in Moldova, Germany, Mexico, Israel, Kuwait, and North Carolina.

RUXANDRA M

Grew up in California. Germany to La Paz, Bolivia to California

LEAH L

Puerto Rico to Philadelphia because my mother wanted us to have a better life.

ARLENE V

From Mid-Govans to Idlewild (Baltimore) for my first home. From Idlewild to Edno Gardens after separation. Military, family rearrangements

GABRIEL B

New York to Boston to New York to Connecticut—Left Long Island for college at Boston University. After graduation, I moved back to NYC and got a job, got married and had children. Moved to Connecticut. “Father’s side: Left Czechoslovakia (Hungary that became Czechoslovakia)—emigrated to Wilkes-Barre, PA around 1900 where my father and his three siblings were born in the 1920s. He went to Wilkes College, joined the Navy during WW2 and went to Bucknell on the GI bill. There he met my mom and they were married not too long afterwards. My grandfather left to avoid the military—family had to change their name so as not to be taken by the army.

Mom’s side: Her grandparents brought my grandparents from Russia (Dvinski)—my grandmother—and Warsaw, Poland—my grandfather. They lived in New York, my grandmother on the lower east side and my grandfather in the Bronx. My grandmother was the only girl and the youngest of 12 children. They got married in NY and lived on the upper West side where my mother was born in 1931.

Mom and Dad got married in 1951 and moved to Long Island where my dad worked as an electrical engineer and my mom as a schoolteacher. They never left and my mom still lives in the house where I grew up.”

WENDY D

Moving in Jr. High felt monumental, though it was only 30 minutes from my childhood home it was light years away from my park, my school, my friends and my urban understanding of the world. Moving across the country for college was invigorating, hilarious, exhausting and just right for finding myself in a new place. Moving across the ocean meant learning a new language, a new mindset and a new way of walking through my everyday—sometimes so quietly that I didn’t speak for days at a time. These were all intentional choices, the luxury of having outlived a time in my family’s history where moving wasn’t an option but a necessity. As a child I thought that everyone’s Grandma sounded funny and insisted on the special foods. I am barely an American, though you’d likely not notice that I’ve got elders from many places in arms reach: grandparents arriving on some of the last boats to Ellis Island in the 50’s and the rest landing in 1968 to a country in uproar. In saving me from their history, from war and ethnic cleansing, they’ve shielded me but also provoked a curiosity about what I’m made of. They are reluctant to share and talk about that time sparingly. It’s been packed away, and soon the people with the history will be gone, along with the opportunity to walk the path they’ve paved in search of freedom, opportunity and outright survival. When the nightly news talks about the anxiety over refugees, the fear of foreigners and the terror of tribes not yet met, I wonder if I’d be around to respond to this question were the gates not open to us less than fifty years ago.

ANNA D

I never really migrated far from home but when I realized I wanted to live my own life I moved from my family’s home into my own house. This was one of the most rewarding moments of my life to be a 27 year old african american single women purchasing my “own” home alone. I don’t recall ever experiencing this with my family.

LAVONNE N

none minsk to ny

STEVEN K

Born and raised in Mar del Plata, Argentina, moved to Israel to finish High School and see my father. Back to Buenos Aires for college and then moved to Dallas, TX for an internship. Decided to stay in the US and became an immigrant, now a citizen here and happily living in Phila. My grandparents and all my granduncles moved from Poland to Argentina after a series of pogroms in their shtetl. My uncle and fathers cousisn subsequently moved to Israel, and the US and my father to Venezuela

SEBASTIAN G

I was born in 1949 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe was known as Southern Rhodesia at
that time. It then became part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, then Rhodesia in 1966 and finally Zimbabwe in 1980. I finished high school there and then went to the University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa for college. During my college time, I spent a full year at the University of Sussex, Lewes, U.K. After I graduated, I married the love of my life and we immigrated to New York, USA where he completed his residency training and I received my PHD in Clinical Psychology. We have been in Great Neck since our arrival in the USA. “My parents were from Poland: my mother, Pesia Lowenstein, from Koszice, Poland and my father, Kalman Lis from Slomnicki, Poland. My mother’s family came from Frankfurt-a-Mein in the 1700s. My mother came from a long line of Rabbis which meant that there were many moves from city to city, whenever a suitable rabbinical post opened up. My grandfather, Avraham Abusch Lowenstein, was born in Srotsk, Poland, where my great grandfather, Joseph Lewinstein, was a well respected Rabbi.”

My father’s family also moved from city to city. Some ancestors were from Lublin, in northern Poland. Relatives settled in all small towns and cities. After WWII, my parents lived in Slomnicki and in Cracow, before they were able to emigrate in 1948 to Bulawayo, Rhodesia.

RENA H

From Milwaukee to Minneapolis to Memphis and then Newark Delaware My family comes from Poland and Austria and came to the US by way of New York to Trenton NJ to Gary Indiana to Milwaukee, and then on the other side from Poland to Buenos Aires Argentina to Milwaukee

ROBERT D

I moved from Boston to New York and back to Boston for work and to start a family. My paternal grandparents are both Holocaust Survivors. My paternal grandfather survived Auschwitz and my paternal grandmother (who is still living in New York) survived multiple work camps. They met after the war and while 7 months pregnant with my father, moved to New York City in 1949. My mother’s ancestors are from Odessa, Ukraine and eventually settled outside of Boston.

DANA R

I came to the US from Laos in 1995 as an immigrant, because my daughter came her in early 1978 as a refugee. I went back to Laos to visit my son and the grandchildren after my husband passed away in 2010.

THONGSY S

I move from San Salvador, El Salvador to Philadelphia 3 years ago, I meet my partner over
OPEN FOR INTERPRETATION, JJ TIZIOU

Assistant school. A part of that two years I spent moving from area to area every 5 weeks for clinical rotations. I’ve lived in DC, Philly, Roanoke and other areas for only 5 weeks. The Laidackers moved to the USA from Germany in the late 1700’s from that point on the family has always been in Pennsylvania. My husband’s family is from somewhere in Ireland and, like the Laidackers, has been in PA ever since.

LAURA M

After the US government had pulled out its troops from South Vietnam then we have to escape from Laos to live in a refugee camp in Thailand, because my former husband had served in the Royal Lao Army to fight the Lao and North Vietnamese soldiers. We came to the US as refugees in 1981 to settle in Philadelphia ever since. I am very sad that my husband had have an affair with another woman and he is staying with her now.

NOUANCHANH V

The biggest move to my life from was from Brooklyn, NY to Cherry Hill, NJ when I was 9 years old. I never adjusted quite well to the suburban life. “My fathers side can be traced back to Spain, where they lived until the round the time of the inquisition, when much of the Jewish population was forced to flee. At some point they resettled in Baghdad. During the time of the Ottoman empire, my fathers family was a fairly prosperous merchant class. One day, my great grandfather disappeared - shortly after, my family moved to Jerusalem, Palestine. Most of my father’s family still lives in areas that is now part of Israel.

In the mid-20th century, my fathers mothers family lived in a small village in Poland (now actually an area part of Ukraine). During the Holocaust, my mothers family was in hiding. The majority of them were found and sent to work/concentration camps. Little is known about the fate of most of that family, including my maternal grandfathers first wife and their 3 children. During the war, my grandfather married his wife’s 1st cousin, my grandmother. They ended up as refugees in Paris, where my mother was born. In the early 1960s, they came as refugees to the Bronx, NY.”

RAFI R

From OH to RI to CT to PA—moved to Philly in the summer of 2006 to help some friends for a few weeks—been here ever since. John Beal shipped into Hingham, MA (what would become MA) in 1636 with (no kidding) his 7 sons and their 7 wives. Beals still live in Hingham to this day, along with Beal street, Beal church (for some reason) and a few other landmarks. Rory (photographed here) is generation #14. Roughly 1500 Beals are descended from that one John Beal—I am from the line of Israel Beal. To wrap up the story, John Beal died aged 102 or 103 mending his fence.

ANDREW B

there, i didn’t knew she was from the “States. We decide to be together, we where very happy in the beaches of El Salvador doing art and playing music, but my partner had to come back to work so we decide to move to Philly and see how the art scene worked over here. Every day I wake up missing El Salvador, the surf, my friends and the feeling that the time is not running but walking with me.” I was born in the middle of the civil war, I’m the older of three siblings, so as a family of five we move a lot, more than 7 times, escaping the war and the gang violence. we are still dealing with it, trying to bring the rest of the family to a safer place.

CARLOS L

When I was 2 years old we moved from Detroit to Phoenix due to my father’s health. Then my grandparents moved there also. My grandfather Nichols Januzzi came from Napels, Italy to Detroit to Phoenix. My Grandmother on my dad’s side moved later, she came from Scotland to work in the factories in Detroit. My father, Gilbert J Brodie came to Detroit, from Glasgow, Scotland at the age of 10 for a better life with his father, mother and sister. It was a difficult move and when his father died shortly after, he ended up working in the iron factories to support his family. It took him 12 years to complete college.

MARYANNE W

“I was born in China and got adopted into America Year May 2005”

HAO YING G

The first big move was when I was three and my family moved to Miami, Florida in 1945. we brought my paternal grandparent and joined my maternal grandparents. Both my maternal and paternal grandparents arrived in the US in the 1890’s and early 1900’s. My husband and i married in Miami in 1963 and moved to Sarasota in 2003. Both my maternal and paternal grandparents arrived in the US in the 1890’s and early 1900’s. Paternal grandparents moved from Lithuania and Latvia to NYC; my maternal grandparents came from Stryj Austria.

MARILYN S

Raised outside ofBoston , Winthrop a modest predominantly Catholic population . there were two small synagogues and my grandfather was founder of one. Experienced anti semitism throughout school which frankly helped me grow as a young adult. after college at Syracuse moved to NYC and raised family on Long Island. […] I am 74 years old and have been blessed with a beautiful life and an incredible extended family .

GARY D
2005...to China...to teach ESL. I know that the Irish side of my family came to America in the 20's. When the Italian side came here is a family mystery!

MIKE D

I moved from Queens to Washington after college. Then I went to graduate school in Austin, Texas and finished my graduate studies while living in Indianapolis. Then returned to the Washington area and now live with my family in the Maryland suburbs. My Grandparents came from Russia and Poland and settled in the New York area. At one point everyone in the family lived in the New York area. Now no one does; we are in Florida, Washington, New Jersey and Israel.

TEVI T

Chicago to Skokie, to Miller Beach, West Lafayette, Minneapolis, Memphis Newark. Grandparents on my mother's side were from Poland, maternal grandfather 2nd generation. Grandmother immigrated in her teens. My mother's 1st language was Yiddish. Father's parents were from Lithuania. Grandfather immigrated at the age of 14 but lied and said he was younger.

CYNTHIA D

Making the transition from high school to college. The reason why I choose this topic because I was never use to being away from the neighborhood for too long. So to transition from a couple blocks away from my house to miles was hard and tough. Moving from the projects to my grandma house. This happened when I was young but the transition from how my big brother talks about it was great. He was happy even though he had to leave his friends. He lived in a better environment.

MARINE T

I was born and raised in South Philly. My parents migrated from South Carolina. My Family moved to the north to find work from South Carolina.

AUDREY S

puerto rico and to america — i didn't have any big moves only from puerto rico when my grandmother moved over here 33 years ago

NARIELY V

America. My grandfather's last name when the first Nuremberg Laws were passed. He was not allowed to come to the US, and first went to Ecuador, then to Texas. He fought on D Day as an American against Nazi Germany. On the other side, my family left from Eastern Europe to Chicago.

JULIA G

I was born in Philadelphia and have lived here all my life. As a young child until I got married I lived in North Philadelphia. From there I moved to Northeast Philadelphia and lived in one house for 13 years. Then moved to the Bustleton area and lived in that house for 22 years. My last move was to a Center City Co-op for the last 20 years. My family came from one of the shetlits in the Ukraine named Radzivilov. Most of them came here between 1902-1912 and settled in Philadelphia. Other family members settled in the South.

ROCHELLE S

Jersey to Philly. College. Jersey to North Carolina. Drugs and violence overwhelmed the community.

AMARIS M

Always lived in Philadelphia. Not sure if it's displacement or migration. My family is from North Carolina, deep south North Wilkesboro and Boomer Counties. They came to Philadelphia for job opportunities.

JEANNEL G

I live on the same street since i was a baby my mom was on a date team

DAHMIR C

I grew up in the Fairmount Area of the city, on 20th and Wallace Street. Around 1977 I relocated to Old Kensington, at 3rd and Cecil B. Moore Ave. I relocated to Newport RI in 1980 and returned on 1981. I have my family here and I plan to stay here.” My mother came to Bronx, New York in the early 19050’s from Adjuntas, Puerto Rico, to the garment district to secure employment. I was born there. In 1957 we relocated to Utuado, Puerto Rico. In 1960, my the family relocated to Philadelphia, PA.

CARMEN F

I grew up in Amish country Pennsylvania but then spent two years in Virginia for Physician
college years. I eventually moved from Savannah, Georgia to Philadelphia where my mother is from and moved in with her because that’s what us millennials do these days. My dad's family is from Alabama and some of them moved to Cleveland, Ohio where my dad is from and eventually he moved to Springfield, Ohio and my mom met my dad in Springfield and that's how I came to be. My mom’s family is from mostly South Carolina and migrated to Philadelphia in the 1920s. Over the years I have met so many family members from all across the country.

CECYL C

I came in 1971 in airplane from puerto rico to Philadelphia. I came to look for work, some of my family member were here all ready. My brothers came here because, my older sister got marry and she help us to move to philadelphia

EDITH G

I am originally from Paris, France, and I had previously never left my country for more than a few weeks. The biggest move in my life was in Fall 2013, when I decided to move to Philadelphia along with my American husband. I am far from my family and friends in France, but I now have a new American family and wonderful new friends. It is hard for anyone to start a new life and adapt to a new culture, but the trip from France to America was not a total culture shock! I feel very fortunate to have found this second home! My father is French and my mother is Vietnamese. She left Vietnam right after the fall of Saigon with my grandparents. They stayed in Hong Kong for about a year before coming to Paris, which was the biggest move in their lives.

CÉLINE R

Grew up in Philly. Spent 2 years in Japan & the rest in Philly. Austrian Parents emigrated to US in 1939. 3 children born after the war.

CAROL S

I am from Quintana Roo, Mexico and I moved to United States to study my masters at the University of Pennsylvania. I decided to do it since I wanted to complete my graduate studies in a top university. All my family is located in Mexico, I am the only one who decided to move to look for better educational opportunities.

EDGAR F

Moved from Denver, CO to Washington, DC in 2014. "On one side from Nazi Germany to
My life is big moves. The biggest is from Johannesburg to New Orleans. My grandfather immigrated from Russia in 1918.

LORI W

I’ve spent most of my life in the Boston area. My grandparents came to the US from Russia and Poland. My paternal grandfather came via Canada.

KEN G

I was born on the West Coast of the United States but when I was 11 I moved to Aleppo, Syria and lived there until I was 16. I then moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where I have resided since then. My father migrated to the United States when he was 17 years old. My mother was born in America and moved all over the United States as a child and teenager.

MARYAM H

From Vietnam to US by air

My younger brother moved to California in 1995.

HANNA D

I was born in Cincinnati and moved 1 time within the city from North Avondale to Amberely Village. When I graduated from High School I moved to Philadelphia for school at Philadelphia University. I have stayed in Philly now and moved a number of times within the city. I don’t know a lot about my family but I know both sides of northern European origins. My mother’s side is from Russia and Poland and they arrived some 4 generations ago. My father’s side is from Poland, Russia and Germany. I am unsure when they arrived in the US. Both sides ended up in NYC and stayed there until my parents went to college in Cincinnati and met there.

PAUL G

From Queens, NY to Great Neck, NY. From Germany to the United States due to the Holocaust. From Jerusalem, Israel to the United States due to financial opportunities.

ORI N

Although I was born in Philadelphia in 1951, I have also lived in Springfield, Ohio and Hilton Head, South Carolina. Each move brought a different aspect of community and experiences. Due to circumstances in the loss of my mother in 2001, I moved back to Philadelphia and Northeast Philadelphia (Oxford Circle neighborhood). In my high school years, my parents built a house and we moved again farther north in the northeast section of the city.

As an adult, I moved to south jersey and raised my family in Cherry Hill, NJ. My parents were born in Poland (father-Bedzin; mother-Krakow) and were deported to concentration camps. After liberation, they moved to Bergen-Belson as a refugee camp, where they met. Eventually, they immigrated to the United States where my mother’s aunt lived in Philadelphia. They settled in Philadelphia to re-start their lives after the Holocaust. That is how I ended up being born in Philadelphia.

JOAN ROSEN B

i have not moved in my life. my grandmother was born in Algeria and moved to France where her and her family lived much of their lives. During the war she moved to the U.S and worked in the American Army. She met an American soldier and moved to TX where she stayed.

HANNAH S

From the Philippines, moved to Singapore, to Canada and then to United States. We moved because of my dad’s work.

HENNA C

Her biggest move is from Vietnam to the US. She always lived in Philadelphia. She came to the US in June 1993, by plane. She stayed in Thailand for a few days before coming to the US, and she left with her son. Her parents always lived in Vietnam.

BAY THI L

I’ve lived in many areas here in North Philadelphia, First in Norris Square Neighborhood Project, at 18 I moved around Summerset Station then to Margaret Station then to back to Norris Square. I couldn’t really find a safe place to live and still be independent. I finally moved back out to Tioga but that ended not being any better. Finally I moved out to South Philly and currently live there now. My Grandmother on my Moms side is from Puerto Rico, I don’t know exactly where.

SAUL M

I was born in Springfield, Ohio at the age of 16 my mom and I moved to Hilton Head, South Carolina. I went to college in Cleveland, Tennessee and then I moved back and forth between Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina during the what the heck am I doing after
OPEN FOR INTERPRETATION, JJ TIZIOU

8 months. I’m from Columbia. My family, my siblings are here. I live about 20 minutes by bus from Norris Square. My mother mi pedio (sponsorship). Pink shirt lady (something about her mother having an American heart)

ELIDA T

I feel that moving is an essential part of being human. Being sedentary and content is a life I have never strived for. All my life I have moved from place to place- even in a small distance. Moving out of necessity, out of survival, out of enjoyment, out of opportunity. I’m looking forward to living in many parts of the earth. My family moved to New Jersey from the Caribbean around 1950. Because they were hispanic they faced many trials in America. Working in factories, janitorial positions and other trades, they fought for their children and attempted to achieve the contrived and unrealistic portrait of the American Dream. Although I am grateful of their sacrifice I am reminded that nothing worth fighting for comes easily.

JAKE R

From south philly to north philly I don’t know any of them

TEDDY D

Born in Argentina came to Philadelphia in 1990 through a Fulbright Fellowship. Stayed in Philadelphia and completed a PhD in Special Education. Stayed in Philadelphia and moved to the Main Line with my husband Phil. We have lived in our home in Bala Cynwyd for almost 20 years. From my father’s side, my grandparents were Russian and immigrated to Argentina after WW I after having lived in England for few years. My dad was first generation Argentinean. From my dad’s side, my grandfather said that depending on the government he was Polish or Russian. He moved to Paraguay at age 16 and soon after to Argentina. My Bobe from my mom’s side was born in Argentina, so my mom is second generation.

GRACIELA S

I was born in a small town in southern IN and moved to Chicago at 9 years old. I have travelled and lived briefly in other countries including Italy, which is where my mother’s side of the family came from. My great great grandmother was from Sicily and was minor aristocracy. She fell in love with a tailor and had to leave Sicily to Canada to be able to be together. They immigrated and lived in the Detroit area until my mom’s family moved to Phoenix.

JENNIFER W

“I was born in West Philadelphia (Delancy Street). During my infancy, my parents moved to have resided here since that time. My daughter Cecily now lives here in Philadelphia while my sons and their families live in Charleston, South Carolina and Puerto Viejo, Costa Rica. The most interesting move in our family history dates back to 1922. At that time, my grandfather migrated from Orangeburg County South Carolina to Philadelphia. He found work as a longshoreman and sent money back each week to my grandmother who eventually was able to move to Philadelphia with their children. Other family members gradually moved to Philadelphia and now we have an extensive heritage here.

RUTH C

Kenya USA 4th may 2014 Visiting. My father went to Dundee University UK Late 60s and back to Kenya after studies. Most of my family members live in various cities in Kenya eg: Nakuru, Nairobi, Bungoma and Mumias.

DAVID I

“From suburban NJ to Manhattan, lived there for 10 years. Next to...?

I grew up in a traditional Conservative community, but went to Orthodox schools. I’ve since grown towards liberal Orthodoxy as an ideal mixing ground for us.”

“My paternal family’s side was from Poland and came to NY between the wars. My mother’s family was from Vienna, Austria; both my grandmother and grandfather were from Vienna, but they didn’t meet each other until they arrived on the Upper West Side in 1939. My wife and I currently attend synagogue in the same building where my parents met; our engagement party was in the same room.”

DAVE B

From Puerto Rico to Philadelphia in August 2000. My mom was here in Philadelphia and I had to leave everything in Puerto Rico to come here and take care of her. It was a big change especially because of the change in weather and language. Tropics to seasons was hard. I’ve always lived in this neighborhood near 5th Street in Philadelphia. I think my grandparents were from Spain but I’m not sure.

ALEXANDRA A

Born in Lackawanna NY was adopted and moved to Rochester @ 13 weeks. When I was 10, my family moved to Deerfield Beach, FL and 3 years later moved back to Rochester. Went to college in Buffalo, moved to Austin TX, lived there 3 years, moved to St Petersburg FL - lived there 1 year, moved back to Buffalo. Went to graduate school, met husband, got married
adopted two daughters from China. My biological parents have ancestry from England, France, Ireland, and German

MARY H

My family nor I have had to migrate anywhere. Because I am African-American, my ancestors were slaves and therefore displaced from their native country.

SYDNEY W

born in Philadelphia raised around northern liberties
no big move been here before i can remember

HONESTY M

Trinidad to USA!! School :-) Barbados to Trinidad.

TRACEY C

Born in Siberia, USSR, during WWII, child of Exodus 1947, imprisoned by British in Germany, after 1 year arrived again in Haifa Israel in 1948. Fulbright Scholar arrived in USA in 1968 to study at University of Pa. Born in Lodg Poland, escaped Nazi invasion, Mother Yohevet Ziss met Father Abraham Messinger in Siberia USSR. Walked to France with 2 young children, got on Exodus captured by British near Haifa israel taken to DP camp in Germany. Eventually got back to Haifa during 1948 war.

ALEXANDER M

When i was around the age of 7, i moved outta my grandmas house in mayfair, into the fish town area. The house felt to crowded with my grandmother, mom brother, sister, me, and step-father which caused the move. When my mother was about 12 she moved from Philadelphia to Puerto Rico with my grandmother and aunt. My grandmother felt she wanted to go back to Puerto Rico which is their reason for moving.

BIANCA M

From Kingston, NY. I want to travel across Europe to see how other cultures live.

From Poland to America in the 1920’s.

DAVID T

From Powelton Village to Gambier, Ohio then back to Powelton Village then to North Philadelphia My family stayed in Powelton Village my whole life

MAX D

Immigrated from Canada when I was 3 and lived in small towns (North Dakota and New York) and moved to Great Neck, NY when I was 8. My father, who had spent time as a Fulbright scholar from Egypt in Ohio when he was younger had dreamed of coming back to live in the United States and wanted to live ultimately in the NYC area. I moved to NJ in 1996 and settled in Cherry Hill in 2009. Both my parents were expelled from Egypt. They left in the 50’s after the king was overthrown. My mother went to Israel and my father had a French passport and went to Paris, France. He met my mom in Israel and they left for Canada where my father finished his residency.

NADINE H

Born and raised in Jakarta Indonesia, moved to Singapore to finish school and internship year 1998. Move to Orlando Florida 2001 then to Philadelphia end of 2001 "My grand father from my mother side was migrated to Hongkong from jakarta to work as mechanic around year 1945 for couple years, he has one son from his Hongkong wife. My family never have chance to meet with his son and his wife.

From my father side, my grandmother move from Bogor West Java to jakarta, then married my grand father who born and raised in jakarta, he was one of the local hero that fight against Dutch occupation, he passed away 1944, a year before Indonesia Independence."

HANI W

I have moved many times over the last 30 years, My husband is in the Army

My grandparents came to America in 1900 from Ireland and England

MARY S

Philippines to the United States, Philippines to NJ, United States in 1981.

DEOGRACIAS R

From Argentina to Usa in 2000 because my children were living here and we join them Because we all want to live in a free country, and to be free and proud to tell any one I am a jew

MARTA G
OPEN FOR INTERPRETATION, JJ TIZIOU

Soy puertorriqueño. Tengo seis hijos. 2009. I arrived by myself and my wife was here first in the same year.

LUIS B

When I was 11, I more or less migrated from one school to the next. I found that experience very freeing. Given that in my previous school, I had felt very alone and out of context, finding a place where I could begin to be accepted and begin to accept myself was very empowering. I switched from Perelman Jewish Day School to Abington Friends, and it was proper—good decision. Placing yourself in the best environment for you is often the best way to be happy in life. The majority of the migration and displacement that occurred in my family involved movement from Eastern Europe to the United States. My great grandfather was one of the first to come over in 1901, as he needed to escape poverty and hardship where he was. He was only eleven at the time, but he started his life, and his legacy eventually led to me. My ancestry is mostly Hungarian and Italian, but it comes from very Jewish roots. Those who didn’t leave, well when the wars came, they did not fair well. My family here in the US is small, but I suppose that allows me to appreciate it all the more.

LEV G

I just moved—from Northeast Philadelphia where I grew up to Graduate Hospital, where I bought my first house. It’s crazy and exciting. My family was part of the big Jewish migration from South Philadelphia in the 1940s to Northeast Philadelphia, which had just begun to develop. Prior to that, my grand and great grandparents immigrated from Russia and the Ukraine.

HARLAN R

I’m from Columbia. My sponsor worked out all of the paperwork in 96. I am a citizen, I swore to the flag. I have one child and 5 grandkids here in Philadelphia, we live ten minutes apart here.

MARIA V

Born in Alexandria, Virginia in 1963. Served 20 years in US Navy in submarines. I have lived mostly on the East coast including Key Largo, Miami, Charleston, Norfolk, Groton, and Atlanta. Family arrived in Philadelphia in 1706 from Prussia and emigrated to Pennsylvania and later Ohio.

DAVID F

Faces of Migration

Moved from Guyana, South America at the age of 15 with my family for life improvement. Currently living in NYC.

FELICIA J

Kensington, Connecticut to Carlisle, Pennsylvania for school; back to Kensington Connecticut the to Southern New Jersey to start a family and work in Philadelphia; Philadelphia to Sanford, Florida to pursue career and new adventure; Sanford, Florida returning to Southern New Jersey to be near Family and better work opportunities Ireland to the US; Poland to the US via Ellis Island middle 1800s for both.

ELIZABETH R

I’ve been in different places in Baltimore due to lack of finances.

I moved from a two parent household to a one parent household.

JESSICA R

From southwest Philadelphia to Germantown.

Moved to start a family in a better place.

TIMOTHY S

Moved from Bucharest, Romania to Haifa, Israel in 1950. Left there in 1959 to go to Montreal, Canada. Ten years later, I married a Philadelphian who was also born in Europe to WWII survivors and together we came to Philadelphia and later settled in Northern New Jersey. None other than those mentioned above.

ANN H

I was born on the West Coast of the United States but when I was 11 I moved to Aleppo, Syria and lived there until I was 16. I then moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where I have resided since then. My father migrated to the United States when he was 17 years old. My mother was born in America and moved all over the United States as a child and teenager.

MARYAM H

Grew up in Houston, moved to Los Angeles for college, needed a change and didn’t want to go back to Texas, so moved to Raleigh in 2010 and finally put down roots... Mom’s side from Virginia, but my mom grew up in Florida and ended up in Houston after a 5 year stint in Paris.
Dad’s side from Pittsburg and then he moved down to Houston to join his brother, who was attending Rice University. He obtained a job at Exxon, and ended up staying in Houston for 30 years.

COLETTE G

I was born in Macedonia. In 1992 we moved to Germany. 6 years later our refugee status application was rejected and we had to return to Macedonia. After graduating from High School in 2003 I received a full tuition scholarship to Rosemont College. Where I stayed for the next 6 years for college and Grad School, and since 2010 in South Philadelphia. I think all my grandparents were born and raised in Macedonia. My grandparents on my mothers side and my uncle on my fathers side, became Gastarbeiter in the 1960s in Germany. My aunts on my fathers side came to the US I think also in the 1960s.

ELSINA A

I’ve moved so many times in my life but always in the U.S. I’ve made a lot of these decisions at the very last second, and it has always made me feel deeply ambivalent to know that I can drop everything and be somewhere completely new so quickly. Moving to so many different regions of the country, I’ve realized how much the physical beauty and feel of a city can impact the experience of feeling that you belong, or that you don’t. My grandmother moved to the US from the Philippines alone in the 60’s to become a special education teacher. After several years she slowly brought the over the family, but my father was apart from his mother for a long time as a kid.

LAUREN P

I’ve been here since 1955, my husband came first and he sent for me. I was 17. I had all my children here in Philadelphia. I came by plane. I was by myself and missing my mother already. It was the first time I was separated from my mother. His mother was here, and he came to meet her. I live in S. Philly now, used to live near Norris Square. I have 4 children, i had six (two deaths). They all live in Philadelphia, this place is home. I have two brothers in PR, we visit one another and our grandchildren as well.

CARMEN A

from Peru to USA from Peru to Philly

ANDREW FELIPE M

Rhinebeck New York, for a trip

KEVIN G

In 1944 I was born in north carolina, and a year later we moved to philadelphia, pa. after my family migrated from north carolina, and settled in, other family members migrated to philadelphia as well. our migration occurred 1945-1960. during that time period we did move from apartment to apartment several times.

ARTHUR E

After graduate school, I moved from Philadelphia to Wyoming to see what science teaching and learning are like in other parts of the country. After 1-1/2 years I came back to Philadelphia, where my row house had been demolished for expansion of 95. Attempts to buy a replacement failed and I found myself homeless and sleeping with my sister in her 1BR apartment. Thankful for a loving relationship with family, I understand how expensive it is to be without a stable home space. With no address, I am treated differently by banks and organizations...p.o. box stability is NOT for me. My son and his father experienced fire...loss upon loss.

JOY B

I came here from Thailand refugee camp as a refugee. I moved to live in Atlantic City for 3 years. I moved back from Atlantic City to live in Philadelphia, because I bought a row house at 6th and Ritner Streets. However, I still have to travel to work at a casino at the Atlantic City as a dealer for four days a week.

MAI NGOC N

I was 12 years ago, I moved from the “hood” to the “suburbs.” It was a way for me to save my life. Moving meant to experience life differently from the hardships I had to overcome. My grandparents moved from the south. Their moved here to the north meant opportunity. They moved with a mighty residence, a hand full of prayers, and rich story.

NIKKI P

Came to the US in March 1990: her biggest move in her life  She does not know
JJ TIZIOU

I was born in Bedzin, Poland. We had a big store (garment) on the main street. This town was 4 kilometers from the German border. When the Germans occupied the town, I was moved to another home. Eventually I was moved to concentration camps. After being moved to about 8 concentration camps, the war ended and I was moved to Bergen-Belson. Eventually I was granted the opportunity to immigrate to the United States. I moved to Philadelphia for a new start in life in 1949. I have lived here ever since. My father was born in Bedzin. My mother was born in Western Poland and moved after marrying my father. I am the only survivor in my family that survived WWII. As stated above, my big move was to Philadelphia.

SOL ISRAEL R

None. My family came from Belarus to leave Anti-Jewish pogroms in the early 1900s. They settled in Alabama, where they were peddlers.

LEAH N

My family is originally from Nigeria and the majority of my family are from Nigeria but my immediate family now lives in America. My parents are both from Nigeria and became citizens of American 20+ years ago.

YINKA A

New York to Philadelphia to Cherry Hill; Lodz, Poland to New York; Vienna, Austria to New York

MARTIN R

From Jakarta Indonesia to Philadelphia PA. I moved around summer 2006 and the primary reason I moved is for better education. At the time, I did not know any English and I was struggling academically and in my social life. As time goes on, my English improve significantly and now I am attending Temple University! My mom, Hani White, moved from Jakarta to Singapore 1998. Then migrate from Singapore to Florida in 2001. From there my mom travel to Philadelphia and start processing for me to receive my green card to pursue better education for me.

MUHAMMAD Z

Brooklyn, NY

No clue.

BOB M

Family from Denmark

JESSE S

Grew up in Far Rockaway New York, relocated to Fort Lauderdale for 33 years and moved with my wife last month to the beautiful city of Philadelphia

came from romania

GARY D

I was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Came to the USA for a one year program for professionals in 1990 and stayed in Columbus, Ohio for 5 years. Now I live in Nashville TN. My grandparents went to Argentina from Kiev and also Poland. They were escaping antisemitism. My polish grandfather’s family came to the USA where they settled in Cleveland. I recently reconnected with my cousins who now live all over the USA.

FABIAN B

I moved from westwood to newton. actually i was in a rental house in westwood because i moved from midfield. my grandpa moved from from italy to america

OLIVIA G

Latifah visit Philadelphia 2010 from Jakarta indonesia to help her Hani when she have her 2nd baby Latifah born and race in jakarta Indonesia, her first trip out the country was when she visit Saudi Arabia for muslim pilgrimage year 1993. She travel within Indonesia in Java and Sumatra Island

LATIFAH N

Muchos anos I've been here. From Puerto Rico. I like Philadelphia, I like Norris Square. I don't care for bingo, but like to play pokeno. I'll do that tomorrow. I have 18 children.

LUMARIA C

From Philadelphia, Pa to Newark, De; 1968; Father's new job was in the Delmarva peninsula. My maternal grandmother came to Philadelphia from Poland, maternal grandfather from Russia. My paternal grandfather arrived in NY from Poland and paternal great-grandmother from Russia.

KATHRYN R
First I came to NY city in airplane in 1968, I meet my esposo and then I return to Puerto rico, 1994 when he got retired, then he died and I return in 2005 a philadelphia at this time my son's and family was here all ready one of my sister was here in Ny city all ready, so it was easy for me she was all ready working. I came to help her to take care of her son's

ROSA M. P

I originally grew up in Boston in an area called Mattapan/Dorchester which was an area full of Jewish immigrants, stores and synagogues. Over time the area changed ethnically and families moved to the suburbs of Boston. My family’s original area was across a town outside Vilna, Lithuania and they moved to Boston around 1912. My father and his 2 older brothers were all born in Boston and grew up in an area called the West End of Boston which had a lot of immigrants. That area is by Mass. General Hospital and where Boston City Hall Plaza is.

Both my mother’s parents were originally from Poland but lived in Vienna, Austria when married. My mother and her younger brother were born in Vienna and were able to leave Nazi occupied Austria in 1940 and emigrated to Boston. My grandmother left Poland during the pogroms and did remember it. My grandfather was a dentist in Vienna—what my grandmother referred to as a “doctor dentist”—and actually moved to Vienna at 14 to start studying to be a dentist.

There was a family story about how one day my mother was walking with her father. A Nazi soldier came by and took my grandfather away and told her to go home. He was actually returned home months later and I have no idea what happened when he was with the Nazis. It was so unusual that he was taken away and returned. My grandparents did apply to leave Vienna and after 2 years they were allowed to leave. They moved to Boston as my grandmother had family here and a brother sponsored her.

SHARLENE F

My grandfather immigrated from Russia to New York,
My grandfather came to America from Russia on a boat.

JEFF F

The biggest displacement I have discovered in my own life is that I don’t live where I should. After freshman year I went on a backpacking trip in North Carolina. We were far away from any physical markings of society, and even from the pressures of society. In nature I finally felt at peace, which made me realize that I live far from where I am truly meant to be. Although my Dad’s family, of nine, lived in one place throughout their time together, whenever they would 2 uncles fought in WWII, one with Patton, one on Guadalcanal.

My dad went back to Germany in 1935 to try to convince his parents to come to the USA. They didn’t. They were jailed in Kristallnacht. A Christian friend of my fathers, Franz Buettner, gave them blankets and pillows. They came to the USA in 1939, when I was 2 years old. My father had to sign an affidavit that he would support them, so that they would not become wards.

My PGF lived into his 80s, worked in his brother’s paint store, learned English, did the NYT crossword puzzles.

My MGM never learned English, made terrific noodle kugel.

They both became US citizens—I have the documents.

The Judge, who spoke German, asked my MGM “Frau Brill, how many Supreme Justices?” “Eleven”

“You mean nine, Frau Brill.”

“When I say 11, I mean 11.” She became a citizen.

“All the relatives attended my Bar Mitzvah.”

CHARLES B

I moved from Millburn, New Jersey to Cherry Hill, New Jersey at the end of the summer of 2009. My mother had gotten remarried and we moved in with her new husband Jonathan. It was a big adjustment for me as I started my new middle school as a 7th grader, but I am very grateful for the opportunities and experiences I have had because of this move. My grandmother and grandfather on my mother’s side were both born in Egypt. My grandmother in particular was kicked out of Egypt in 1956 when she was only 16 years old. This was due to the King wanting to expel all of the Jews, so she fled to Israel, having no where else to go, where she there met my grandfather. They got married and then moved to Canada and in 1965 my mother was born. In 1968, they immigrated to the United States and my grandparents settled down in Great Neck, New York.

ARIELLE G

Puerto Rico—en el pueblo. I have 5 kids, all of them have been here. I have been here a long time, so long I can’t even remember.

FRANCISCA P
I’ve lived in Philadelphia my whole life. In the same neighborhood. My mom is from Puerto Rico. My dad is from Palestine.

WEDAD A

NYC --> Phila, 1978, work “Mother’s family:
Sanok, Poland, where my mother was born --> Nordenham, Ger, 1913, better life, easier access to USA. My mother was the oldest of her sibship.
MGF - Ger --> NYC, worked as Kosher cook on ship, stayed in NYC for +/- 1/2 year, working as a furrier with his brother. Repeated process x 2. My 2 older aunts.
Back to Ger, made MGM pregnant, back to NYC.
Interned in USA because of WWI (Enemy alien), 1914 - 1918.
Back to Ger, where my 2 youngest uncle and aunt were born.

Came to NYC permanently in 1925. Lived in Brooklyn.
All kids graduated HS, 2 graduated college. My mother taught in NYC public schools.
All cousins and myself graduated college, some MDs, lawyers, teachers.

Father’s family:
My great grandfather and his brother came from Ger to the US in the 1850’s.
Fought in the Civil War on opposite sides.
My GGU saved his commander’s life - we have the cigar holder that he was given.
His side of the family moved to NYC --> had something to do with the Brill Building
My GGF moved back to Ger after Lincoln’s assassination. Lived in Erlangen.
My PGF was born in 1870. He ran a leather goods store. Lived in #6, Weisseherz Strasse.
My father was born in 1907. Kicked out of his HS fraternity in 1926, after Hitler spoke in Erlangen. Came to US in 1927; (Babe Ruth hit 60 home runs in his honor).
He worked for Robert Reis + Co, manufacturers of pajamas and underwear.
Although he spoke German, was not drafted, since I was born in 1937 and he worked in a defense related industry—military needed underwear.
Married my mom in 1932.

WILLIAM S

In August 1969 I answered a newspaper ad to be a roommate with a woman who was a teacher in NE Philadelphia. I moved from my childhood home, “the Army,” with our last long assignment being Fort Dix, NJ, a very quiet place to live near the Pine Barrens of southern New Jersey. So that was a big change in venue. I have lived in Philadelphia ever since then. I married, raised 6 children, taught ESL in the SDP and lived in University City and in Olney, and most recently, in South Kensington. My grandmother moved from Ireland in the early 20th century, and married a German-background man from an Alsatian family settled around Buffalo, NY. When he retired from the Army after a long career as a quartermaster, they bought a house in Staten Island, NY...the first they had ever owned.

PEG L

We have moved around a lot because we are a military family. (spent a number of years overseas) Father’s family immigrated from Russia/Lithuana. Mother’s from Ireland/England.

GRACE S

In 1975 I was 3 years old when my family moved from the Bronx New York to Philly because my mom wanted a better life for me, for 3 years my family was going back and fourth until my mom decided to finally stay in Philly. My mother was born in Yauco Puerto Rico and was raised between Puerto Rico and New York, she said it was because her parents seperated when she was young and it was very hard to be a single parent in PR she often was paced in different family members home just because there were 6 of them and have basically no money to eat or go to school.

VALERIE M

Grew up in Los Angeles Germany to La Paz, Bolivia to Los Angeles, CA

DAVID L

Last summer, my boyfriend and I traveled to Europe for 21 days to help him pursue his goal of visiting every continent before he turns 21. We traveled from England to Scotland, Spain to Portugal, France to Switzerland, and then from Holland through Belgium and Germany to Denmark, coming back to Philadelphia from Copenhagen! My grandparents were born and married in Italy. When they decided they wanted to come to America, they moved to
Venezuela for seven years and took care of a mansion to earn enough money to move to NYC and then Philadelphia. In 1959, my dad was born in Venezuela, and came to NYC at age 4.

JESSICA P

I left Egypt April 1957 following the Suez crises in Sept 1956. At that time, Egypt expelled all foreign nationals. My family went to Israel because we didn’t have any nationality. I lived 5 years in Beer Sheva and then I met my future husband who himself was expelled from Egypt because he had a french nationality. Yes. My life travels began in Egypt where I was born... then to Israel... then to Canada and finally to end up in the USA.

NELLY M

From DC to Philly

From Port-au-Prince, Haiti to Washington, D.C. 1964 to join parents who had arrived earlier.

MIKAEL R

I have always lived in my hometown of Richmond, Virginia, as did several generations before me. The biggest move I personally have ever made was from Richmond to Fairfax for school, college. I only come home for breaks and the occasional weekend, but I am close enough to my family to not make it so bad. My great grandparents on my mother’s side immigrated from a shtetl in Poland to New York in America. My great-grandfather and great-grandmother owned a grocery store in Queens, and my grandmother was born in Astoria. My great-grandparents moved from Europe before the Second World War, but not all of my family made it. My grandmother’s first cousin survived Auschwitz and chose to go to Israel before it was an established state. She was caught by the British and sent to Cyprus before being smuggled into Israel and fighting in the war for Independence.

ASHER A

From Georgia to Philadelphia

Father in college than drafted to service in WW2

KEITH B

First my sister was in puerto rico, then my father asked for me in 92. we got a visa, and my family was living here first. El Salvador. I am legal. (I think that her father was a policeman back home, he needed work).

MERCEDES R

$50(maybe marks?) into his collar. Men’s collars were detachable in those days. They would change collars rather than shirts. This money was stolen and he knew he wouldn’t be able to get into America with no money. He got of the ship in Newfoundland, in a town called St. Johns. Across from Detroit. He made enough money and snuck into the bottom of a coal barge to get to Detroit. Eventually, he made it to NY but the family doesn’t know that part of the story.

MELANIE J

I am fourth generation America. My ancestors are from Russia. And I am Jewish. From Europe before WW2.

JENNIFER S

I moved from Lima, Peru to New York City only this January. I started studying psychology in Lima but they had a very backwards approach so I made the decision to move in order to study what I wanted. My father moved to America in order to complete his medical residency. He knew that he would have a better future here. He started in Philadelphia and he is now in McAllen Texas, a town that is growing fast.

ARANTXA D

Currently, I became a homeowner at the age of 25 years old! As I reflect on my movement of life, I am in full gratitude for my ancestors who paved the way for these possibilities and blessing in my life. In hopes of experiencing the America DREAM, my abuela (grandmother) decided to leave Puerto Rico with her five children in the 1960’s leaving everything and everyone she knew behind including my abuelo (grandfather). He couldn’t imagine a life outside of the Island, even if it meant dying alone. The concept of home and where we come from is a complicated thing. They both made significant sacrifices and for that I am in full gratitude. They are my heros!

GABRIELA S

I was born and raised in Rhinebeck NY and I have lived there all my life. My dad is a protestant from England and my mom is a Jew from Portland Oregon. Her grandparents came from shtetls in Russia and Poland and made a life for themselves in America.

JAMES A

De Puerto Rico. since 1965. I like it here, my family is here. I live near Norris Square.

ELISEO G
Born in Jersey City, moved to Bayonne NJ, North Plainfield NJ, Westfield NJ to start a family and educate them. Joined the temple there, had my children study Hebrew for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah. It was important for me to actually learn Hebrew and eventually see my own grandchildren learning Hebrew and becoming educated in the Jewish religion. My grandparents were from Russia and came to the US in the early 1900's. My grandmother worked in the sweat shops, eventually owned her own store, where on Fridays, she made sure a pretty dress was in window, so the workers in the area who were paid on Friday, had money to buy a dress. With so little education, she went on to educate her 3 sons who became lawyers and dentist. All of whom went to Ivy league schools and graduated with honors. They all valued education and taught me to value it as well.

CAROL G

My biggest move wasn’t geographical. It was cultural. I moved from Mclean, VA to the neighborhood Arlandria-Chirilagua in Alexandria. I was a community activist in this low income Latino and African American neighborhood. Arlandria is on the border of Alexandria and Arlington and they hyphenated the Chirilagua when almost the entire population town of Chirilagua in El Salvador settled there to escape the war in the 1980's. Being second generation American and half Jewish, I heard of the struggles and racism my grandparents and mother went through in assimilating in this country. I felt truly at home in Arlandria-Chirilagua, became fluent in Spanish and lived there for almost 10 years. “Jewish Grandmother from she said “’Misrich”’ probably Myszyniec, Poland. She came by boat with her mother and sister when she was 3 years old in 1912. Her earliest memory was during that crossing that her sister standing near the rails of the ship and threw her doll into the ocean to see if it could swim. When the doll sank her sister became hysterical. They all arrived in Ellis Island and waited for my great grandfather to pick them up. They waited and waited. Evidently my great-grandfather got wind that my great-grandmother had a lover in Poland and he refused to pick them up. My grandmother says they were almost put back onto the boat until a cousin finally arrived to pick them up. They eventually divorced. Unheard of for a Jewish woman in that time. After living for a while in a poorest lower East side in NY, my great grandmother being quite entrepreneurial opened a newstand/candy store and served dinners with live music every evening to the single male Jewish immigrants in the ritzy area of Prospect Park West, the highest point in Park Slope Brooklyn.

My Jewish grandfather was from Chelm, Poland. His earliest memory is of his mother sweeping the dirt floor every day in a one room house. At age 10 he ran away to avoid the Czar’s conscription in 1912. He went to live and work for his wealthy uncle in Leipzig, Germany, a port town? His uncle had a business selling pelts to manufacturers of hats and coats. This profession went way back and their name reflects that, Fuchs, which means fox in German. My grandfather, Morris, when he was 19 in 1921, saved enough money to book passage on a ship to America so he could “pick up the gold in the streets”. He sewed I was born in the USA but lived in Israel to attend Medical School. Most of my family were eastern european jews who luckily left before the war to arrive in the USA. Both my parents were born in the USA so I am only the second generation of my family in the USA. Israel and the USA are the support of my life.

JONATHAN H

“Interesting question, I often think of this. I don’t think displacement as we talk about it in modern term has happened to me. But, I do think of my changing city. I’ve lived in Center City and as the neighborhood and markets have changed, I’ve consistently moved deeper south. To control my ability to live where I want and how I want, I’ve purchased a home in the rapidly gentrifying neighborhood of Point Breeze.

I see people around me fighting to maintain their sense of place, fighting to stay in what has been a historically African American neighborhood – when all of the development has been targeted to the solidly middle class.

I have my own journey in this changing neighborhood sitting right between often divided communities, understanding the perspectives of both. I don’t think I have been displaced, but I have journeyed to at least be more sensitive to thinking about the systems that cause people to lose their ability to stay where they are most comfortable, and where they call home. “ I’m not sure I have any information here.

JAMES C

Philadelphia to Evanston, IL to NYC to suburban NJ. My great grandparents came to NYC and Harrisburg (their children, my grandparents) came to Philadelphia from the Pale Settlement, Lithuania and Latvia. All escaped progroms and mandatory conscription into the army. Teenage sons came first, earned money to bring parents and sisters.

JENNIFER B

I was born in Phila. Went to college in Syracuse, N.Y. Entered the Air Force in 1957 and was stationed in Germany. After the service. I had an engineering company that did projects throughout the world. In addition to that work, my wife and children travelled whenever we had the opportunity. My father was born in Russia. He and his mother settled in Alantic City and eventually in Phila.

ALAN G

“1961-64 From a mainly Jewish neighborhood in Philly to a mainly black area.

1964-66 To Kenya to get married. Didn’t get married but worked there on and off for 16
months, then traveled to about 26 other countries in east & north Africa, the middle east and
Europe for 8 months... learning about people, culture.

1969-1972 Traveled across the US and Canada then stopped for about 3 months in San
Francisco (which I loved) for about 3 months until it got too cold for me. Then traveled around
the world - about 2 years in Asia, 4 months in Australia and the last few months in Europe...
learning about people, culture and teaching in Japan and Australia - partly for learning and
partly for sustenance.

1973-75. ‘Finished’ what I had cut short on the previous trip—west and central Africa (about
1.5 years—working in Benin—for the same reasons) and back to Europe on my way home
(always Philadelphia).

1978-80 Unable to get a permanent teaching job in Philly (because of a surplus of teachers),
I went through central and part of South America to pick up Spanish... as well as the former
reasons. I had to come back sooner than planned because of my aging parents but was able to
get back into the school system teaching English as a second language.

1995-96 I took a sabbatical year to travel around the world—again—but this time got paid (half
salary) to do it. I no longer HAD to travel ‘last class’... though I still hitchhike abroad when it’s
'safe'.

I retired in 2000 and still travel, mainly during the winter—to avoid it. Sometimes I go far—
South Pacific, South America—but usually it's Florida or some Caribbean islands. “My
mother’s mother and her family lived in Kurland, Latvia. It seems they left after a 'great fire'
(we don't know if it was a program or 'just' their business/home burning down). I believe they
walked across Europe and eventually my grandmother, her father and 2 siblings took a ship
from Amsterdam to Phila. where they earned enough money to bring the rest of the large
family over. I think the period was between 1888 to the early 1890's.

I believe my mother’s father, who grew up in Legum/Lygumai, Lithuania, had to come over 2
times. There are 2 conflicting stories about why they went back. We don’t know the true one.
No one said why they left but it was probably because of how bad things got for Jews in that
country. I think that was in the late 1880's. My grandfather met my grandmother’s brother in a
'Segar' factory (3rd & Spruce Sts) and a marriage arrangement was done (to my grandmother's displeasure) in 1895.

My father’s father was born in Ternopol, Austria-Hungary. His mother was born in Radzichow,
Austria-Hungary. They were married by arrangement and my father was born in Zlochow,
Poland in late 1899. All 3 of these places are currently in Ukraine. Shortly after my father’s birth
his father took a ship from Bremen to Philadelphia where he became a peddler and earned
enough money to bring his family over 3 years later. Third generation is thoroughly middle
class or richer [with perhaps a few exceptions]."

JUDY B

moves within US except a year in Canada
Hungary to Us, Belarus to Us, England to US, Austria to Us all grandparents

KAREN M

Newton, MA to Braintree, MA when I purchased a home
My parents moved from New York to Boston in 1976 for school and work

DANIEL E

3 years living in the US, I’m from Puerto Rico, Salina, es en el sur. I lived here before in
Philadelphia, all of my children are here.

ROSA C

I grew up in the Bronx and came to Philadelphia for college (Temple University) and several
years later I returned for an internship at University of Pennsylvania Hospital during which
time I met my wife and except for two years in the army have been a Philadelphian ever since
(more than 50 years) "1) My grandparents and their nine children, including my 16 year old
mother left Minsk at the time of

ntsarist oppression. My mothers sister Mary who was years older had fallen from a tree when
she was eight years old and never grew any taller. When the family arrived in Ellis Island they
worried that

Mary would be a health concern and draw attention because of her height, so they lied about
her age, saying that she was younger than my mother. Years later when my Aunt Mary was
applying for social security, we had a problem because she had three documents of her age,
none of which were correct.

2) My father left Minsk alone when he was 14 years old. No one else in his family even came
over and I never met my fraternal grandparents or any other relatives.

3) My father-in-law, Herman, had a bigger problem. When his family emigrated from the
town of Faflof in Kiev he was two years old. The family was about to board a train and Herman was
now where to be found. They searched as the train was bout to leave. At the last moment the
family found him under the train, peacefully eating a piece of herring. It is hard to imagine a
situation in which he would not be found and crushed under the train. For one, I would not
have had my wife of fifty three years and three exceptional daughters."

JOEL C
struggling with finding a house for me and my three older brothers.

TALIA A

I was Born in Seattle WA, Moved to Israel and lived there most of my life. I am moving with my family to Philadelphia this summer. come from Israel to Philly.

JONATHAN A

Atlanta, Georgia, Wisconsin, Saint Louis, Morristown, New Jersey, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, West Deptford, New Jersey, cities I have lived & enjoyed a life of promise and the endless need to become a spiritual champion. “My father had a spirit to continually improve our life. His strong faith in God and his love for his family encouraged to pursue a more fruitful life.”

CONSTANCE K

Manila, Philippines to Belleville, NJ in 1986

Manny, Henna, Hannah, and Brandon lived in Mount Olive, NJ

MANNY C

Raised in Philadelphia. Moved to Fort Lauderdale Florida for 27 years & just relocated back to my home in Philadelphia. My daughter Samantha moved to Melbourne Australia for one year.

LISA D

De Puerto rico. I came to Philadelphia 2003. Before I lived in Boston, but I didn't have any family in Boston and they live here.

EVANGELIA G

I am from a military family, so I moved many times during my childhood. I spent time living in Japan, Saudi Arabia, and several different parts of America. Some moves were down the street, and other moves were thousands of miles away. My father's family has French Canadian roots, so at some point in the late 1800s there was a big move from Canada to Louisiana. My great grandmother never revealed the identity of my grandfather's father, so there is a large part of our history that remains a mystery. I have even less information about my mother's side of the family!

MEGAN T

I was born in Lawrence KAnsas, moved to Missouri for high school, went to Kansas for college, NYC for grad school, moved to Ohio afterwards for my first job and then to Nashville for a new job. Still in NAshville now. my oldest relatives in the US came in 1726 from England. I have German relatives that came in 1830's. The English side migrated west eventually and ended up in the plains and Wyoming. The German side ended up in Michigan.

MARY LINDEN S

My living situation with my mother was not the ideal home environment. I ended up in an LGBTQ Wellness center called divine light. That has been a huge change in my life and has helped me grow. I remember my mother telling me a story about when she moved by herself from New Jersey all the way to Connecticut. She only knew a few family members that lived there and since then she has been on her own. My mother has always traveled alone. Now I'm reliving her foot steps.

EMMANUEL C

puerto rico. 1962. one sister lived here, my other sister is in PR, she's sick. I live upstairs, this place has a great ambiance.

RAMONA M

I was born in Birmingham, AL. After a month moved to Virginia Beach, VA, 9 years after that moved to Atlanta, GA, 5 years after that moved to Basking Ridge, NJ, 6 years after that moved to Tuscaloosa, AL, 4 years after that I moved to Raleigh, NC where I married my wife and had my first child (and have lived there for 4 years). When my family came to Ellis Island from England (Grodno, Russia/Poland for generations prior to that) they were asked their last name and where they were from. They answered the question backwards and said their last name was Grodno Gabernia (town of Grodno) and their last name is in debate within my family between, but I believe it was Hyatt. They wanted to shorten the long “last name” and "Americanize it"; when they did that it became Grodner. I have since met other people with the prefix of “Grod” who have similar stories.

MICHAEL G

born in brooklyn now live in new rochelle ny moved out when i was 23 to start

GARY LYNN L
My family moved from Ann Arbor, Michigan to Birmingham, Alabama when I was very young for my father’s medical practice. Yes, there are jews in the south! I am lucky that family members on both my mother and father’s side have been so active in documenting our family’s history. My aunt, Beth Wener, who lives in Philadelphia played a major part in the founding of this museum, has documented much of my maternal side. And my father recently published a book tracing his lineage back 400 years. I am very appreciative of their efforts and hope to add exciting new chapters to these histories.

KEVIN W

ny to philly in 1992 family n/a

ATIAB B

“Always Philadelphia: For my first 20 years West Philadelphia: Born in 1935 at Mt Sinai Hospital, home to Baltimore Ave at Vodges Street where my parents had a hardware store; and they lived with my eight year old brother over the store. Next stop 5938 Washington Avenue, a bigger house. My father was now the proprietor of a lumberyard in Landsdowne. In 1942, yet a bigger house at 6126 Christian St. Although the 16 foot wide semi-detached house had six bedrooms in it three stories, it had one bathroom. By then the U S was at war. My father lost his lumberyard, My 9-year-old cousin, daughter of an army officer, came from Milwaukee to live with us. in 1943, my then 17 year old brother enlisted in the marine corps. By 1951 there were large demographic shifts in that part of West Philadelphia, we moved to Overbrook, 1825 Wynnewood Road, a beautiful old house, a block from the School for the Blind.

After I was married, I lived in West Mt. Airy. In 1965, my husband, three children and I moved to 2215 Rittenhouse Square Street, then to 320 South 21st Street. Now we live at Academy House, 1420 Locust, a condo, because it allows my retired, mobility impaired husband ease of access to the Academy of Music, Kimmel Center, his club, where he eats lunch daily, and to some theatres.

Next stop...” My mother, her eight siblings and her parents, in 1913 from Basel, Switzerland to Philadelphia. With none children, my grandparents were searching for those streets paved with gold.

CIREL M

I came to Philadelphia in airplane in 1995. My son move to philadelphia before me then he ask born in new york, have led there twice, Philly twice, plus Boston, memphis and hartford My fathers family moved from Germany to Russia, survived pogroms,then to America around the turn of the century. My mother’s family was born in Philadelphia before the turn of the century and some member has been here most of the time since

JAY S

I relocated from Georgia to Florida. My grandmother came from Cuba.

ALTON C

philadelphia to Miami and Miami to Sarasota; Eastern Europe to New York; Portland Ore. to Key West Fla.

RONALD S

West Philadelphia to Oxford Circle to Bells Corner (NE) Philadelphia, Cherry Hill, NJ and then on to Woolwich Township, NJ. My father was born in Kiev in 1909 and then moved to Odessa. He started his emigration to America. Approximately 1920, he travelled on a hay wagon to cross into Romania and from there travelled to Amsterdam and worked there pushing merry-go-rounds manually to make enough money for traveling. He disembarked in Canada but not until he was detained because his eyes were red from standing in the front of the ship and the wind. His final destination was Philadelphia.

ROBERT G

I moved from Connecticut to Boston for college, from Boston to New York for law school, and then back to Boston to work and start a family. “My entire family emigrated from Kiev, Ukraine to Bridgeport, CT starting in 1979. My parents were part of an initial wave of Jews who were allowed to emigrate from the USSR to Israel. While en route, during a several month stay in Europe waiting on paperwork, they were able to change their destination to the US. My parents left Kiev to provide my sister and I an easier and better life, and to provide us with opportunities that would not have been available to us in Kiev. Following the fall of the USSR in the early 1990s, my remaining family members immigrated to Bridgeport, CT. Most of my family has remained in Connecticut, New York and Boston areas.”

GREGORY S

no i havent moved alot moved away from mother for a couple month because she was
moved from New York, to Philadelphia with my parents and sister to reunite with other family members. My parents moved in 1958 to the Bronx, New York looking for jobs. My sister and I stay in Puerto Rico with our grandmother and great grandmother.

BETHZAIDA B

I lived in Philadelphia Pennsylvania on tulip & allegheny street been their for five years, then moved to Kissimie Florida, stayed their for six years moved back to Philadelphia Pennsylvania and decided to stay in a better place to live plus stay closer to the family. i am related to a famous boxer named roy jones,j but only got to see him one time & it was for my 5th grade graduation i had a good time. he left :(

CYRUS R

I am born and raised in Philly never went to my hometown or anywhere My mom came from Vietnam and my big move is to try to move in Paris.

TOMMY T

From West Oaklane to Jenkintown in 1955 at age 8 It was a challenge to make new friends and to be in a class with few Jewish kids. From Cherry Hill to Center City in 2006 after the kids left, back into a vibrant community from the vanilla suburbs. “My mother’s father came from Poland to Philadelphia in 1913. My grandmother and mother came in 1920 after WWI. The town where they lived, Siedlce, was constantly on the battle line between the Russians and the Germans. There was never any conversation about that period in my mother’s life.

In 1951, my grandmother sponsored a family of cousins to the US who had survived WWII. I only recently connected with this family and they had always lived in Phila.”

DAVID M

After completing college, I spent 4 years in Louvain, Belgium completing 5 advanced degrees, including a PhD. I then moved to Washington, D.C. to begin teaching for 3 1/2 years. Then, my family moved to southern Indiana where I taught for 10 years. We moved to Chicago where I taught for 14 years, and then moved to Los Angeles where I taught at a university as an endowed chair in bioethics for 14 years. I retired, and we moved to San Antonio, TX where we now live. Both sides of my family moved to the United States from Alsace Loraine in Europe in the late 19th century. Both sides moved to Indianapolis, IN, where eventually my Mom and Dad met and married.

JAMES W

to his bothers to come to philadelphia at the end all my son’s ask me to move to Philadelphia. And now I live in my house and I take care of that. My son’s move 1st to Philadelphia.

MARGARITA L

Philly to New Jersey
Africa(?) to America

JERIMIAH G

As a Temple University student, I am constantly exposed to opposite perspectives on the pressing issue of gentrification. I believe that migration/displacement can be a great thing, but not always when it’s not a voluntary action. Both of my parents were immigrants, leaving China in pursuit of a better life and opportunity for themselves and their children. Their large journey means a great deal to me, and I’m very grateful to them for it.

BROOK B

No moves from country to country, having lived in the U.S. all my years. I did have a couple of unusual short trips, courtesy of the US Air Force: to Thule Air Base, on the northwest coast of Greenland. 24 hours of light a day, warmest temperatures in the 30s. As well as numerous trips in the U.S. and other places for the Air Force. All this second hand and sketchy, via my parents, three of whose parents moved from Europe to America around the turn of the 20th century. My mother’s parents moved from what was now the Czech Republic. My father’s mother always had great pride about having been born in America, a Yankee Doodle she’d say. Her family was from, I believe, Germany. None of my grandparents ever said anything that I heard about the family’s great migrations over a hundred years ago. I was also surprised to learn, as a young adult, that my grandmother, then in her 80s, never became a U.S. citizen. Why, who knows?

LARRY T

When i was about 12 i moved to puerto rico from Philadelphia, and back. I went to visit family members. My grandfather moved to Georgia from puerto rico.

DAYSHALEE S

Im originally from Southwest Philadelphia I moved to Collingdale Pa. than stayed their for a
while than moved on to Sharon Hill Pa. My Father Migrated From Jamaica to the United States

BRAHIN B

Born Oklahoma City, moved to NJ at age 32, Delaware at 50. Father is Cherokee, descendant of Trail of Tears.

RENEE S

I lived in several different locations around the country. I grew up in the Bronx and attended Hunter College in the Bronx and attended the university of Illinois for graduate school. I went to work for the U.S. government and have worked in Boston, Richmond, Virginia, St. Paul, Minn, Indiana, and Trenton, NJ” My mother came to America in 1938 or 1939, just before the war. She was brought to America by her sister, who came to America at age 12 with her aunt and uncle. They came here a few years after world war 1 ended.

STANLEY N

Overall, my story is a little lame... in my opinion, though, i have seen the majority of the state of pennsylvania in the last 34 years. moving from amish country in central pennsylvania to northern pa for college, then to pittsburgh and lastly to philadelphia. which, was actually a bit of an acclimation process after coming from a farming community, i do have the advantage of having a father who has taken a serious interest in our family history and has spent the past twenty years tracking the paths that his ancestors took. from the first laidackers in america (leydecker), who came over from germany in the 1730's, and also his mother’s family (schooley) to the 13th century in england. so, while i myself don’t have a very extensive experience with any really large moves in my life, i have had been able to contemplate what my ancestors had done in their lives through the research of father.

JONATHAN L

I am from Philadelphia, Pa. My great grandfather was the son of a slave owner by the name of Mr. White. The land is known as the Sally White Plantation, in North Carolina. Recently a small slave house was found and moved closer to the road and a historical park.

LAKEISHA S

I grew up in Philadelphia, but have traveled to South America, Europe and Israel I am a 2nd generation American on one side and 3rd generation on the other side. All ancestors came from Poland and Russia in the early part of the 20th Century, escaping descrimination and the czar’s army.

BONNIE S

I’m from Ecuador, but my daughter was born here. I’ve been here since 1995.

CARLOS D

Rochester to Miami Beach Florida, back to Rochester then to Jacksonville, FL to Rockford, IL back to Rochester all because of job opportunities.(1965-1985). Final move from Rochester, NY to Cherry Hill, NJ to get married. Father’s parents where from Suwaik, Poland made the move in late 1800’s. Name was changed because they did not speak English or understand of what was being asked of them when they entered the U.S. They thought they were being asked what their occupation was which was a miller but they were being asked what their last name was. Their last name was Jerusalemsky.

GAIL M

Cuando tenía 15 años tuve mi primera mudanza desde Carapungo (Newyorpurgo, en palabras quitenas) hacia Conocoto (Connecticut, en palabras quitenas), el cual fue el cambio de un barrio del geto, hacia un suburbio. Mi antiguo barrio, habitado por diferentes personas de todo el Ecuador, empezó a convertirse en peligroso para los residentes, debido a que oledas de personas en busca la felicidad pero con falta de bonanza económica, generaron toda una lucha por conseguir dinero. Debido a estos problemas que toman forma como el mundo de las drogas, lo ultimo que viví en Carapungo fue la muerte de una persona en la acera del frente de mi casa, lo que motivo nuestro cambio a un valle cercano en un conjunto habitacional.

Mis padres, ecuatorianos de nacimiento, fueron personas que vivieron muy cerca de la frontera con Peru, en barrios rurales, donde por ejemplo había escuelas de un solo profesor para todos los niños de la comunidad, por lo que cuando eran jóvenes, mas o menos en los años 70’s, ambos por caminos distintos decidieron salir a la capital ecuatoriana, Quito, y ahí empezó su travesía como provincianos, personas que nunca fueron aceptadas dentro de la dinámica de la ciudad grande. Ellos buscaban la gran vida ofrecida en los centros capitales, donde el dinero nunca faltaba, pero sintieron en carne propia la lejanía de la familia, y de tantas cosas que nos forman como humanos, como hijos de algún lado, como hijos de la tierra.

ROMMEL V