



Eastside Genealogical Society Newsletter

November, 2023

Calendar of Events: November – early December, 2023

Note: These meetings are via Zoom unless otherwise specified, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Friday, November 3 at 12:30 PM Pacific time: German Interest Group – “German Guilds and Their Records: A possibility for filling gaps when church records are missing” presented by Fritz Juengling, Ph.D., AG® from the Family Search Library. In this lecture, we learn about the history, structure, and purpose of guilds. Then, we look at some of the many record types that guilds created and how they can be of use to the researcher, especially when church records are missing, and how these records can fill those gaps. Some discussion of occupations will also be given. You must register in advance for the meeting at <https://tinyurl.com/2kzh8yd2>.

Thursday, November 9 at 7:00 PM Pacific time: November General Meeting – “What’s Online at the National Archives” presented by Marisa Louie Lee. The National Archives website and online catalog have great resources for genealogists, but how can you get started? This presentation – appropriate for beginners – will explain the ins and outs of federal government records and walk you through how to navigate the National Archives website. We’ll explore the newly re-designed online catalog and learn how to make connections between the catalog and what’s online on Ancestry, FamilySearch, and elsewhere. Those with questions about specific types of federal records are encouraged to contact the presenter in advance of the program at marisalouielee@gmail.com. Members will receive the Zoom link via email or anyone can obtain it from the website a day or two prior to the meeting at <https://eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org>. Virtual meeting doors will open at 6:30 PM Pacific time with the program beginning at 7:00 PM.

Calendar of Events (cont'd)

Thursday, November 16 at Pacific time: Lunch Bunch and Research – Lunch Bunch returns with an added twist: it will include some research time at the FamilySearch Center (previously known as the Family History Center) at 10675 NE 20th Street, Bellevue. We have reserved a room at the church building across the parking lot (where food is allowed) from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM so we can meet up, network, and get reacquainted. Bring lunch from home or stop in one of the many area options to buy food. Water and restrooms are available on-site. When we are done visiting and talking about genealogy (are we ever done?!?), we will move over to the FamilySearch Center for some research time. The Center is open until 6:00 PM. *Mark your calendar for the 3rd Thursday each month to join us!* No reservation required.

Friday, November 17 at 10:30 AM Pacific time: Family Tree Maker Interest Group – Individuals using or interested in using the Family Tree Maker software program to record genealogical information are invited to join us to learn about the software. If you would like to attend and are not on the email distribution list, please send an email to ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org no later than Thursday, November 16.

Saturday, November 18 at 1:30 PM Pacific time: Italian Interest Group – “A Brief History of Italians in America During World War I” presented by Elaine Fraser. Italy entered World War I nearly two years before the United States did, so how did that affect your Italian immigrant? Go to the IIG website at egs-iig.com and click on the November meeting to request the Zoom link.

Friday, December 1 at 12:30 PM Pacific time: German Interest Group – “German Advent, Christmas and New Year’s Traditions and Superstitions” presented by Ingeborg Carpenter. The speaker will share stories about German Advent, Christmas, and New Year’s traditions with superstitions thrown in. You must register in advance for the meeting at <https://tinyurl.com/ktbcsaww>.

There is no General Meeting in December. After November 9, our next EGS General Meeting will be Thursday, January 11, 2024.

Upcoming Help Desk Opportunities

Wednesday, November 1 at 1:00 PM or 2:00 PM Pacific time via Zoom: Genealogy Help – Genealogy questions? EGS offers one-on-one help with a volunteer. This is a one-hour appointment for an individual. Sign up on the King County Library System website: kcls.org.

Thursday, November 9 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pacific time at Bellevue Library: Ancestry Help – An EGS volunteer will show you how to research your family history and genealogy with Ancestry Library Edition in the computer lab on the 2nd floor. Drop-in at your convenience.

Wednesday, November 15 at 1:00 PM or 2:00 PM Pacific time via Zoom: Genealogy Help – Genealogy questions? EGS offers one-on-one help with a volunteer. This is a one-hour appointment for an individual. Sign up on the King County Library System website: kcls.org.

Upcoming Help Desk Opportunities (cont'd)

Wednesday, December 6 at 1:00 PM or 2:00 PM Pacific time via Zoom: Genealogy Help – Genealogy questions? EGS offers one-on-one help with a volunteer. This is a one-hour appointment for an individual. Sign up on the King County Library System website: kcls.org.

Thursday, December 14 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pacific time at Bellevue Library: Ancestry Help – An EGS volunteer will show you how to research your family history and genealogy with Ancestry Library Edition in the computer lab on the 2nd floor. Drop-in at your convenience.

Save the Date!

Saturday, February 3, 2024 from 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Pacific time at Bellevue Library, Room 1
EGS and The Bellevue Library will be having an **Ancestry Day!**

Bring your family history artifacts, heirlooms, photos, family trees and anything else related to genealogy and family history to share with others. More information will be in the December EGS newsletter. Start thinking about what you can bring to share!

Other Genealogy Events in the Area

Wednesday, November 1 from 10:00 AM – noon Pacific time via Zoom: Fiske Genealogical Library class – Jenny Hansen presents, “Using the Online Scandinavian Church Records.” Go to their website, <https://www.fiskelibrary.org/>, for more information.

Saturday, November 4 from 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Pacific time via Zoom: Lindsborg Old Mill & Swedish Heritage Museum – Sue Schlichting presents, “Every Family Has a Story...What’s Yours?” This online presentation is free to museum members and just \$10 for non-members. For more information and to register, go to: https://www.oldmillmuseum.org/product/genealogy-presentation-registration-november-4-2023/?mc_cid=df07316eba&mc_eid=cdea63a5bb.

Wednesday, November 8 from 10:00 AM – noon Pacific time via Zoom: Fiske Genealogical Library class – Karin Borgerson presents, “What’s New in Genetic Genealogy.” Go to their website, <https://www.fiskelibrary.org/>, for more information.

Friday-Saturday, November 10-11 and Saturday, November 18 via Zoom: Seattle Genealogical Society 2023 Fall Seminar – “Death and Taxes,” an exploration of lesser-known record sources to enhance your genealogy research. There will be 5 presentations over the 3 days with one each by Judy Russell, Annette Burke Lyttle, Lisa Gorrell, Nicole Dyer, and Gregory Gardner MD. The registration fee is \$55 for non-members and \$45 for Seattle Genealogical Society members. More information and the registration link is on their website, <https://seagensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=158>.

Other Genealogy Events in the Area (cont'd)

Monday, November 13 at 7:00 PM Pacific time via Zoom: Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State meeting – “Using Social Media for Genealogical Research: the Good, the Bad, and the Exceedingly Strange,” presented by Robin Meltzer. Zoom doors open at 6:30 PM PT for networking. Registration is required, and everyone is welcome. For more information, go to their website: www.jgsws.org.

Wednesday, November 15 from 10:00 AM – noon Pacific time via Zoom: Fiske Genealogical Library class – Janet Camarata presents, “Using Tables and Timelines to Break Through ‘Brick Walls’.” Go to their website, <https://www.fiskelibrary.org/>, for more information.

Saturday, November 18 from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Pacific time via Zoom: South King County Genealogical Society General Meeting – Michael L Strauss presents, “Follow the Tracks: Your Ancestors on the Railroad.” Register in advance for the meeting and find more details about the presentation and presenter on their website at <https://www.skcgss.org/>.

An Appeal from Your Nominating Committee

Dear Members,

Please volunteer to serve on your EGS Board!

We have been looking for a Vice President for the last year. Additionally, the President position will be open June 2024. The current board is active and supportive but needs a few more people to participate. If you would like to learn more, please email Jane Wickert, President, at president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org. Your help is very much appreciated!

2023 Washington State Genealogical Society Awards

The Washington State Genealogical Society recognized outstanding members of local genealogical societies statewide with their Outstanding Members and Teams awards at their 2023 annual meeting. Eastside Genealogical Society is proud to congratulate and thank two of our board members for their valuable contributions – Glen McNay, Treasurer and Webmaster, and Beth Snyder, Program Chair.

In addition, we would like to congratulate all the society members and teams from across the state of Washington who were recognized for their contributions. A complete list can be found on the Washington State Genealogical Society blog at: <https://wasgs.org/blog/category/outstanding-volunteers-outstanding-volunteers/>.

Book Review: Helping Patrons Find Their Roots: A Genealogy Handbook for Librarians

Submitted by Bob Barnes – This is the second of two reviews of recent genealogical books in the King County Library System.

Janice Lindgren Shultz's 240-page volume, "Helping Patrons Find Their Roots: A Genealogy Handbook for Librarians," was intended, as its title indicates, to be a guide to help librarians assist genealogically inclined patrons. What resulted is a genealogical text of modest length, incredible depth and breadth that will help librarians and genealogists alike.

The book starts with answering the question of what genealogy is and how to conduct genealogical research. It discusses the different classes of records (family, published, and original), the reference sources that will typically be encountered, including the internet, and importantly, shows how a researcher evaluates the quality of the sources and verifies their accuracy. Chapter 2 begins with organizing family data (family group sheets and pedigree charts) and discusses the genealogical software programs that are often used as well as the value of oral histories, heirlooms, and timelines. Patrons often need to consult more distant archives like the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, the National Archives or DAR Library in Washington, D.C., or genealogical libraries in the area that they are researching. No, Virginia, not all the information is on the internet!

Chapter 3 begins the search for records starting with the U.S. Census population schedules as well as the often-overlooked non-population schedules. Other federal, state, and local records discussed include wills and probate, deeds, land purchases and transfers, taxes, and naturalization. Vital records such as birth, marriage, divorce, and death can help to positively identify your kin and supplement the census information.

The search for records continues in Chapter 4 with a look at military records from the French and Indian War through World War II—where they are typically found and how to access them. This is followed by a potpourri of church records, cemetery records, passenger lists, and immigration records. As Schultz observes, if one can't find their ancestor's arrival in the U.S. records, look north to Canada where 40% of the inbound passengers were headed for the U.S. Chapter 5 discusses published sources in depth, starting with family histories, biographies, periodicals, city directories, gazetteers, newspapers, and maps, just to name a few examples. This is followed by a discussion of prominent internet sources including America's Genealogy Bank, FindMyPast, FamilySearch, and Rootsweb in addition to many library editions of paid sites (Ancestry, Fold3, Newspapers.com, etc.).

Chapter 6 covers advanced genealogy and foreign research in multiple countries (Germany, Italy, Great Britain, Ireland, France, and Scandinavia). Information about research in each country is accompanied by a list of references. This is followed by information and references for Native American and African American genealogy research and a listing of ethnic periodicals. The chapter concludes with a discussion about building solid evidence and several pages on DNA.

Book Review (cont'd)

This volume is exceedingly well written and accompanied by many excellent examples and references. I found it very enjoyable to read. Had it not been ostensibly advertised for librarians, I believe that it would have attracted more attention in the genealogical community. The good news is that the Bellevue Library has a copy, and it can be checked out!

Changes to the FamilySearch Messaging System

With thanks to Valorie Zimmerman, President of South King County Genealogical Society, for bringing this to our attention.

The August 25, 2023 FamilySearch blog introduced their new messaging system on FamilySearch.org, FamilySearch chat. It enables real-time conversation with other FamilySearch users who are signed in at the same time as you and replaces the old FamilySearch messaging system. You might be interested in learning more about this new enhancement, but if you have messages in your FamilySearch inbox, you should also pay attention to the section of the blog titled, "Backing Up Your Old Messages." Any messages prior to 2022 will not transfer to the new system and will only be available until December 31, 2023. There are easy to follow instructions to save and backup your older messages in the blog post at: https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/new-familysearch-chat?icid=fsm-fs-chat_cta.

Meet Your Board of Directors: Secretary Janice Leitzke

Note: This is the second installment of a regular feature to help you become better acquainted with the volunteers on Eastside Genealogical Society's Board of Directors.

I am Janice Leitzke (pronounced Light-ski). I've been involved with the Eastside Genealogical Society since 2017. I first became aware of the organization when a friend at church, Pete Robertson, told me of his involvement. When I retired, I started spending more time researching my German roots and attended a few German Interest Group meetings that led to coming to the EGS programs at the Bellevue Library.

In 2021, I was asked if I would like to join the board. I've always been a believer in participating in the groups I am a part of and had often taken on the Treasurer's job as a former accountant, but I did not want that job again. They offered me the Secretary's job, and that has been a good fit for me. I spend a couple of hours the week of the board meeting and then a few more hours at other times during the year. I find the time spent very manageable and flexible, and I get to work with some great people and participate in board decisions. I am on the Nominating Committee, and I am hopeful that more members will want to join the board this coming year. I also help the German Interest Group with attendance reports and attend the Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group.

My dad got me started in genealogy over 35 years ago when he wrote up his family tree. I have been researching my paternal German roots from Hamburg and Stettin to emigration in the mid-1800s to Wisconsin and Illinois and Swiss roots from Zurich to Wisconsin and then Illinois. My maternal roots are English/Scot to colonial America and then to Ohio and Irish roots to Maine and then Michigan.

Meet Your Board of Directors: Secretary Janice Leitzke (cont'd)

Recently, I have been connecting DNA cousins to my tree. DNA has also created a couple of mystery cousins that I want to resolve, and I love a good mystery. I enjoy researching horizontally (my cousins and my husband's family) on my tree as well as vertically (my direct ancestors) because I love learning all the various stories of people's lives.

Outside of genealogy, I love reading mysteries and historical fiction, traveling, kayaking, sewing, and spending family time with my 3 grown daughters and 2 grandkids.

EGS Board of Directors

President	Jane Wickert	president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Vice President	Open	
Secretary	Janice Leitzke	secretary@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Treasurer	Glen McNay	treasurer@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Trustee	Kimberly Nichols	trustee@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Book Committee	Nancy Whatmore	books@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Education	Bob Barnes	education@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Membership	Celia McNay	egsgenealogyhelpers@yahoo.com
Programs	Beth Snyder	programs@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
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SIG Coordinator	Open	
Webmaster	Glen McNay	webmaster@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

We need your help to make this newsletter meaningful to our members! If you have ideas for articles or features you would like to see, suggestions for improvement, or would like to write a book review or article for the newsletter, please email us at publicity@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org.