



Eastside Genealogical Society Newsletter

April, 2024

Calendar of Events: April – early May, 2024

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

Friday, April 5 at 12:30 PM Pacific time: German Interest Group – “Germanic Genealogy on Facebook: Prussia, Austro-Hungary, Russia, Denmark, Swiss & more!” presented by Laura Kaatz. This Facebook group was established to provide a forum for those that had ancestors for ANY region where German was, or is, spoken to include Germany, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Ukraine, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, etc...and all the areas where those Germanic people emigrated to around the world. The group is entirely a volunteer-based group, although we have many professional genealogists that are members and donate their time as they are able. You must register in advance for the meeting at: <http://tinyurl.com/mrz2hzw3>.

Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 PM Pacific time: April General Meeting – “Wives, Spinsters and Mistresses: Documenting Women’s Relationships” presented by Gena Philibert-Ortega. Details about women’s lives are found in examining their relationships. What records exist that document relationships to significant others? Learn what records exist that connect a woman to her husband, partner, or significant other, what information the records provide, as well as where these records can be found. Members will receive the Zoom link via email, or anyone can obtain it from the website at <https://eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org>. Virtual meeting doors will open at 6:30 PM Pacific time with the meeting beginning at 7:00 PM.

Friday, April 19 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 more 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, April 18.

Calendar of Events: April – early May, 2024 (cont'd)

Saturday, April 20 at 1:30 PM Pacific time: Italian Interest Group – “Full-Text Search.” The ability to expand your search with full-text search of records that have not yet been indexed is an experimental feature under FamilySearch Labs on the FamilySearch website (familysearch.org). Learn more about how this AI-powered functionality can help your genealogical research. Go to the IIG website for more information and to sign up to receive the Zoom link at <https://egs-iig.com/>.

Friday, May 3 at 12:30 PM Pacific time: German Interest Group – “National-Socialism – ‘Euthanasia’ and family research” presented by Inga Guttzeit. During the Nazi era, people were transferred from hospitals and homes for the disabled to various institutions in the German Reich and in the annexed territories and murdered there. This took place in 2 phases. Based on the speaker’s own relative, it is possible to follow his path in today’s Poland and the Pomeranian institutions until he was murdered in Meseritz (Today Międzyrzecz) in Brandenburg. There will be an overview of the history surrounding the forced sterilization of mentally ill and disabled people and their murder (“euthanasia”). Register in advance for the meeting at: <https://tinyurl.com/mrwca3bd>.

Upcoming Help Desk Opportunities

If you’d like to be a volunteer for either an online or in-person Help Desk session, please contact President@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org.

Wednesday, April 3 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, April 11 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pacific time at Bellevue Library (check the online library calendar before attending to ensure it has not been cancelled due to construction): 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, April 17 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, April 25 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM Pacific time at Bellevue Library (check the online library calendar before attending to ensure it has not been cancelled due to construction): 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, May 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.

Other Genealogy Events in the Area and Beyond

Note: These events are via Zoom unless otherwise indicated.

Wednesdays, April 3, 10 and 17 at 1:00 PM Pacific time: Seattle Genealogical Society classes – DNA for Beginners with Karin Borgerson. New to genetic genealogy? These classes will discuss who, what, why, and where to DNA test; Autosomal, mitochondrial, and Y-DNA; and third-party tools. Each online session is 90 minutes, and the class fee (for all 3 sessions) is \$80 (\$65 for SGS members). Maximum enrollment is 20. For more information and to register, go to:

<https://seagensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=171&fbclid=IwAR1gsAWadzPFws0FFmzhDcbuFk63kNmmWqMm9a5yA8rzhHWklSLW6cuvwaA>.

Thursday, April 4 at 11:00 AM Pacific time: Heritage Quest Research Library class – Diana Crisman Smith presents, “Basic Scandinavian Research.” Any genealogical research needs to be based on an understanding of the history, culture, geography, language, and resources of the area. This presentation will introduce these subjects for the Scandinavian countries – Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. Some of the unique factors involved in Scandinavia include the use of patronymics, religion, geography, and history. The three countries have much in common, but some differences will be highlighted. To register, go to the HQRL Store at <https://hqrl.com/>

Thursday, April 4 at noon Pacific time: American Ancestors free online lecture – Kim Mannisto presents, “The Truth of Tracing Tartans: Scottish Clan Research.” If you’ve ever stopped into a Scottish goods store, you may have been given the impression that finding your Scottish clan or tartan is as simple as finding your surname on a long list of options, and picking out the corresponding kilt, crest, or other merchandise proudly displaying your clan name. If only it were so easy! In reality, only about 20% of Scottish surnames have a clan connection, and it can be very difficult to trace those connections. In this lecture, expert Kim Mannisto will discuss the historical context of clan and tartan research, key terms, and strategies and resources for research your clan connection. Register at:

<https://www.americanancestors.org/events>.

Monday, April 8 at 7:00 PM Pacific time: Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State meeting – Adina Newman presents, “L’Dor V’Dor: Using DNA to Reunite Holocaust Survivors.” We know the power and potential of DNA testing to find family and uncover long buried family secrets. The DNA Reunion Project is using genetic genealogy to help reunite Holocaust survivors with living relatives and their history. In this presentation, Dr. Adina Newman shows how genealogy benefits the Holocaust survivor community, with examples of how DNA has provided closure and led to heartwarming reunions. For more information and to register for this meeting, go to: <https://www.jgsws.org/meetings.php>.

Thursday, April 18 at 11:00 AM Pacific time: Heritage Quest Research Library class (in-person or via Zoom) – Shelley Bishop presents, “Finding Ohio Ancestors Before 1850.” Researching Ohioans before the advent of birth and death records and an every-name census presents a challenge to genealogists of all skill levels. Yet by employing time-tested research methods, seeking out some lesser-known resources, and understanding how to work with evidence, you can overcome difficulties caused by the scarcity of early Ohio records. To register, go to the HQRL Store at <https://hqrl.com/>

Other Genealogy Events in the Area and Beyond (cont'd)

Thursday, April 18 at noon Pacific time: American Ancestors free online lecture – Melanie McComb presents, “Using Tax Records in Your Family History Research.” As genealogists, we may be the only people around who can find an upside to the old adage, “in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” After all, if no one can escape taxes, then that makes tax records an ideal record set for family history research! In this lecture, Senior Genealogist Melanie McComb will provide an overview of U.S. tax records—including the types of tax records available, where to locate records, and how the information in these records can advance your research. Register at: <https://www.americanancestors.org/events>.

Saturday, April 20 at 10:00 AM Pacific time: South King County Genealogical Society General meeting – Lisa Gorrell presents, “General Land Office: Get the Most Out of the BLM-GLO Website.” Did your ancestor obtain land from the Federal Government in the Public Land States? The General Land Office website has the answers, but the website can be confusing to use. This presentation will dip deep into the website and offer tips for future research in other records. Even if your ancestor did not get land from the Federal Government, information from the site can be useful for your land-owning ancestors in the Public Land States. Social time begins at 9:30 AM with the program beginning at 10:00 AM. For more information and to register for the Zoom link, go to: <https://www.skcgss.org/>.

Saturday, April 27 from 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM Pacific time: Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society 2024 Virtual Spring Seminar. Cyndi Ingle and Cari Taplin will be the speakers for this all-day, virtual seminar. Cyndi’s topics are: “Smarter Searching: Refining Search Parameters for Genealogists” and “Off the Shelf: The Unexplored Potential for eBooks in Genealogy.” Cari’s topics are: “Using Timelines to Analyze Your Research” and “The Heart of it All: A New Hampshire to Ohio Migration Case Study.” For more information and to register, go to: <https://tpcgss.org/cpage.php?pt=3>.

Wednesday, May 1 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Pacific time: Seattle Genealogical Society Pacific Northwest Interest Group. Seattle Genealogical Society is delighted to announce a new special interest group focused on Pacific Northwest genealogical research. The SIG will meet monthly via Zoom on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM Pacific time. SGS membership is encouraged but not required. Register in advance at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvc-uvqzkipE9BP14cfKEbpSAV4x5UNiv63>.

An Important Message from Your President, Jane Wickert

The following message was delivered to those in attendance at the March 14 EGS general meeting by President Jane Wickert. It has been edited for the newsletter.

I need to share with you important information on behalf of the EGS Board. We have been asking for volunteers to serve on the Board or assist the Society in some manner for several months. Without success, we were heading for a dire situation in which we would have no President or Vice President as of June 1 of this year.

An Important Message from Your President, Jane Wickert (cont'd)

At the beginning of the March Board Meeting, we had no candidates for President or Vice President; yet I, as the current President, am required by our By Laws to leave office in May after a four-year stint. Thus, the Board was in a bit of a pickle. EGS is not alone in this situation. The Whidbey Island Genealogical Society has recently disbanded due to a lack of Board Members. The venerable and much larger Seattle Genealogical Society faced the same problem with a President who had fulfilled his 4-year term but with no Vice President waiting in the wings. They only survived by an urgent appeal to the membership explaining that they would have to close down. EGS is in a similar situation. Without the key positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer, EGS would not be able to operate as a society under the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act.

If we disband, a lot of things would happen – no more speaker programs, no more newsletters, no more help desk opportunities, no more classes at libraries, no more opportunities to meet at Lunch Bunch or for field trips. These are just a few of the things that would go away. SIGs would cease to operate as they would not have the non-profit status needed nor would they have a Zoom account to use for their meetings. How sad to close up shop after 46 years!

Fortunately, by the end of the Board Meeting, two members of the Executive Board and one recruit were identified to fill the Executive Board. Disaster temporarily averted—although there are still empty board positions.

What now? We need EGS members to step up and volunteer! We especially need a SIG coordinator, a Publicity Committee Chair, and a Book Chair (see summaries below). Please consider volunteering for a monthly job or a one-time job. What skills and passions do you have? Are you good at sharing information on Facebook? Do you like helping others with their genealogy research questions? Would you enjoy teaching a beginning genealogy class? Can you send out 2 meeting reminder emails to our membership each month? Would you like to coordinate genealogy book purchases on behalf of EGS for the Bellevue Library? Will you write a newsletter article, do a book review, describe your research, or share a success story? Can you suggest a program idea or speaker and help make it happen? Is there a new Special Interest Group you would like to host? These are some of the skills and interests we are looking for right now, but we welcome anything you have to offer. We on the Board will mentor you as you get started.

Volunteering is a great way to meet people, to help others, and to further your opportunities to learn more about genealogy. And you will be giving service to a group that needs your help! Please respond to Janice Leitzke at janiceleitzke@gmail.com if you want more information about how you can help.

An Important Message from Your President, Jane Wickert (cont'd)

Board member position summaries:

- SIG Coordinator: Act as the spokesperson within the board for the Special Interest Groups (SIGs); maintain awareness of active SIGs and their leaders; meet with leaders periodically (currently quarterly) to understand their support needs, program plans and leadership structures.
- Publicity Committee Chair: Coordinate the internal and external promotional efforts for the Society, including the Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, general meeting announcement slides and messages, Facebook group, member meeting reminders, and external meeting promotion.
- Book Chair: Work with others to gather suggestions for books to donate to the Bellevue Library for inclusion in the genealogy reference section. This includes analyzing weak areas of the collection, assessing what is available at other libraries in the vicinity to avoid duplication, ordering selected books, and delivering books to the library.

EGS Field Trip to the Puget Sound Branch of the Washington State Archives

EGS Trustee, Kimberly Nichols, provided the following information about this upcoming event.

Have you wondered what an archive might look like or what records they may hold? At RootsTech, there was a great presentation called “Digging Into Finding Aids: The Road Map to Any Manuscript Collection.” This presentation talks about what archives do, what kind of records they might hold, and how to find them. You can watch the presentation for free

here: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/digging-into-finding-aids-the-road-map-to-any-manuscript-collection?lang=eng>.

EGS is taking a Field Trip to our local archives – The Puget Sound Branch of the Washington State Archives. We will be going on **Thursday, April 18th** at 10:00 a.m. This archive is located on the campus of Bellevue College at 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue. The field trip is limited to 20 people so if you are interested, please RSVP to Kimberly Nichols at kimberly7nichols@gmail.com Come see what this local archive might hold for your genealogical research!

What's in Your Attic? EGS's Ancestry Day at the Bellevue Library

Thanks to Kimberly Nichols for submitting the information about this upcoming event.

Bring your family heirlooms, antiques, photos, family trees, or family stories and share! EGS will be hosting, in conjunction with the Bellevue Library, a “What's in Your Attic?” Day on **Saturday, September 28th** from 1:30 – 3:30 PM in Room 1 of the Bellevue Library. This is your chance to show off and share your favorite family items. We would love to see what things you have!

If you would like to participate, please email Kimberly at kimberly7nichols@gmail.com, and let her know what you will be bringing. This will help us ensure everyone has adequate table space.

Also, if you would just like to come and see what other people bring, that would be great too. All are welcome!

Family Tree Maker 2024 is Coming! Would You Like a Sneak Peek?

If you are a Family Tree Maker user, you probably already know that MacKiev have announced a new version, Family Tree Maker 2024, that they expect to start shipping later this year. To introduce users to the new features, Mark Olsen, Family Tree Maker Ambassador for MacKiev, is visiting genealogical societies around the country to preview the newest version. EGS, in conjunction with Seattle Genealogical Society and South King County Genealogical Society, is excited to announce that we will be co-hosting two in-person presentations on **Thursday, April 25th**. They will be held in Room 202 of the Good Shepherd Center (4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, Seattle) with capacity for 50 people at each session. We hope you will be able to attend from either 11:00AM – 2:00PM or 5:30PM – 8:30PM. You are encouraged to arrive on the early side to take advantage of onsite parking. There will be an Eventbrite registration link provided as soon as it is available to those who express an interest in attending. Please contact Janet Stroebe, leader of our Family Tree Maker SIG, at ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org to be added to the distribution list for the registration link or to ask any questions.

RootsTech and FamilySearch Collaborate on New Live Classes

Thanks to Celia McNay for sharing this information from FamilySearch.

Following RootsTech 2024, it was announced that they will be collaborating with the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City to host new live classes every month for the remainder of 2024. Here are the monthly themes:

- April – DNA
- May – Research Strategy and Setting Yourself Up for Success
- June – African American
- July – Immigration
- August – Storytelling
- September – Getting Started/Beginner
- October – Homeland Highlights
- November – Military Records
- December – Open

Access to all FamilySearch Library classes, webinars, and handouts is available on their website at: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/FamilySearch_Library_Classes_and_Webinars.

Yes! We're Open. Information from the Redmond FamilySearch Center

Thank you to Leslie Edmunds, Onsite Director of the Redmond FamilySearch Center for this information.

That's right. The Redmond FamilySearch Center is open 7 days a week and is fully staffed each day. We accept walk-ins and call-ins but ask that you call ahead. Call or text: 425-443-7506.

Staffed:

Day	Hours
Mon.	10 AM to 4 PM
Tue.	10 AM to 4 PM
Wed.	1 PM to 4 PM
Fri.	10 AM to 4 PM

By Appointment:

Day	Hours
Tue.	7 PM to 9 PM
Thu.	10 AM to 4 PM
Sat.	1 PM to 4 PM
Sun.	2 PM to 4 PM

The center is near Redmond High School at 10115 172nd Avenue NE, Redmond. Access the center from the upper church parking lot down the steps near the disability parking spaces. We operate both an ONSITE and VIRTUAL center with 8 computers; 5 staff members with research and computer skills; high-speed/high-quality document, photo, and film scanners; and a digital imaging specialist.

We offer these services free of charge: archiving, compilation, digital imaging, research, history/timeline, consultation, translation, specialty/DNA research, and access to public and restricted access records. We will either 1) teach you, 2) help you, or 3) just do the work for you.

Frequently Asked Questions

Patron: Can I come in today?

Director: Sure. We have same day appointments. No problem. See you soon.

Patron: Do you have Newspapers.com?

Director: Yes. We have Newspapers.com and several other premium websites available for patrons free of charge at the center. Just ask for the "director's account."

Patron: Do I have to use FamilySearch for my family tree?

Director: No. You can use any software you like for your family tree. We use every off-line and on-line genealogy software including familysearch.org and ancestry.com.

Patron: How does the VIRTUAL center work?

Director: We will respond to your email and text requests. Or you can remote control one of our computers and have access to restricted records without coming into the center. We observe your session and then send you all your downloaded images at the end of your session. You just need to call for an appointment which can be available on the same day.

Patron: Can I drop off my stuff and have you make the digital images for me?

Director: Yes. We will contact you when the images are ready.

Patron: Would it be worthwhile for me to come to the Redmond center?

Director: Yes. No matter what you want to do, we can help you. If we don't already have the level of expertise you need, we will develop it.

Meet Your Board of Directors: Education Chair Bob Barnes

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

My name is Bob Barnes, and I am a Washington native and have resided in Bellevue since 1987. I joined the Eastside Genealogical Society (EGS) over twenty years ago, and in my first five years or so, I served on the board and then was Vice President and President. From about 2010 to the present, I have served as the EGS Education Chair. I have provided genealogy assistance at both the Bellevue Library and the local FamilySearch Center since 2005. I was also a lecturer in genealogy for Bellevue College's Continuing Education Department from 2011 until 2021. Today I regularly participate in both the Zoom and in-person genealogy assistance at the Bellevue Library.

I got my start in genealogy from overhearing discussions between my mother, her mother, and her mother's sister in my maternal grandparents' home in Seattle during the post-WWII years. It was there that I first heard of the Philadelphia Orphan's Court, and as a six- or seven-year-old, I can recall thinking that it was tragic to take children who had just lost their parents and send them up before an Orphan's Court. Ironically, when I began serious genealogical research at the Bellevue FamilySearch Center in the 1990s, one of the first microfilms I found was for the Philadelphia Orphan's Court, containing records of my maternal great-grandmother and her two older siblings who had landed there in 1848.

My mother's family had saved a great deal of family correspondence, documents, and memorabilia that proved to be a genealogical treasure trove when my older brother was doing a family tree as an assignment in his junior high history class in the early 1950s with me looking over his shoulder. When I began my own genealogical research in the 1990s, my brother's tree was my starting point. This tree was quite accurate but was grossly imbalanced as it went back to the 1680s on my maternal side, but on my paternal side, it terminated after just a single generation. I confess that on my mother's side there was a bit of a gap of over a hundred and fifty years or so between the original immigrant ancestor and the entry of the family into the Orphan's Court Records in 1848. On my dad's side, I had correspondence between him and his mother where she acknowledges that she knew very little about her own Forgy line (not even knowing her own grandfather's first name) and suggesting that if he wanted to learn about his own father's line (Barnes) that he would have to go to Zanesville (Ohio) and look up his cousins and ask them. At that time (1939), he was working in Columbus, Ohio, and he did get to Zanesville, but I never saw any tangible genealogical results of his visit.

I am a firm believer that if one wants to really learn about American history, becoming a genealogist is the best way to do it. Unfortunately, the American elementary and secondary school system is not, and we are continuing to pay the price for this even today. I like history and love doing genealogy and helping others do theirs. People often ask me why I do all the genealogy assistance at the libraries and online. It is quite simple. I like doing genealogical research, and I often learn more about research techniques by helping others trace their lineages in places or times with which I am not personally familiar.

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	Open	books@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Education	Bob Barnes	education@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Membership	Celia McNay	egsgenealogyhelpers@yahoo.com
Programs	Beth Snyder	programs@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Publicity	Janet Stroebel	publicity@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
SIG Coordinator	Open	
Webmaster	Dave Wickert	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.