



## Eastside Genealogical Society Newsletter

May, 2024

### Calendar of Events: May – early June, 2024

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

**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>.

**Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 PM Pacific time:** May General Meeting – “What’s in a Name: Clues to Ethnicity & Spelling Variations” presented by Judy Nimer Muhn. Judy utilizes her own genealogy research to explain various degrees of surname variations, how to include these in your family history work, and how to detect the signals that there may be a name change in your ancestors’ past. 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, May 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 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](mailto:ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org) no later than Thursday, May 16.

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

**Saturday, May 18 at 1:30 PM Pacific time:** Italian Interest Group – “St. Cabrini: The first Italian-American Saint and her influence on the world including Seattle.” St. Frances Xavier Cabrini was the Italian-born founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the first United States citizen to be canonized. She was born on July 15, 1850, in Sant’Angelo Lodigiano, Lombardy, Italy, and died on December 22, 1917 in Chicago, Illinois. She was canonized on July 7, 1946, and her feast day is November 13. Cabrini was sent to the United States by Pope Leo XIII and spent the rest of her life working with Italian immigrants, particularly in New York City and Chicago. Go to the IIG website for more information and to sign up to receive the Zoom link at <https://egs-iig.com/>.

**Friday, June 7 at 12:30 PM Pacific time:** German Interest Group – “Is this the End? Taking Your German Brick Walls Down Piece by Piece” presented by Luana M. Darby. What do you need to look for once you have reached your brick wall? What is available and how do you find it? Learn how to think like a German and understand how to assess the needs of your German research to get the most out of it, from both sides of the ocean. You will understand how a typical German lived and made decisions. A case study will show you step by step how to overcome a typical brick wall. Register in advance for the meeting at <https://tinyurl.com/3748pjb9>.

### 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](mailto:President@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org).*

**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](https://kcls.org).

**Thursday, May 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 Meeting Room 3 in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Gallery. **(Note the change of location.)** Drop-in at your convenience.

**Wednesday, May 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](https://kcls.org).

**Thursday, May 23 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 Meeting Room 3 in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Gallery. **(Note the change of location.)** Drop-in at your convenience.

**Wednesday, June 5 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](https://kcls.org).

## Other Genealogy Events in the Area and Beyond

*Note: These events are via Zoom unless otherwise indicated.*

**Wednesday, May 1 from 10:00 AM to noon Pacific time:** Fiske Library class – Mary Kircher Roddy presents, “Bagging a Live One: Reverse Genealogy in Action.” For more information, go to <https://www.fiskelibrary.org/>.

**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-uvqzkgE9BP14cfKEbpSAV4x5UNlv63>.

**Thursday, May 2 from 11:00 AM to noon Pacific time:** Heritage Quest Research Library class (in-person or via Zoom) – Judy Line presents, “Newspaper Research or ‘That’s My Family.’” Learn how to find vital statistics, death notices, obituaries, marriage notices, local news, and more in the newspaper. For pricing and to register, go to the HQRL Store at <https://hqrl.com/>.

**Saturday, May 4 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM Pacific time:** Institute for African Centered Thought (IACT) presentation (in-person) – Tony Burroughs, author and international genealogist is giving a community workshop and presentation at the Black Dot Coworking Space, 1437 South Jackston Street, Seattle on Saturday May 4. For more information, pricing, and to register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-roots-genealogy-tickets-883841623087?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>.

**Saturday, May 4 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM Pacific time:** FamilySearch and IGHR 2024 Virtual Family History and Genealogy Expo. FamilySearch personnel will present sessions about the extensive, free resources available online at FamilySearch.org and answer your questions. In addition, a variety of genealogy and history related organizations and vendors will have virtual booths to help attendees explore genealogy tools, resources, organizations, and educational opportunities. For more information and to register, go to <https://ighr.gagensociety.org/expo/>.

**Wednesday, May 8 from 10:00 AM to noon Pacific time:** Fiske Library class – Beth Swartz presents, “Becoming the Ancestor.” For more information, go to <https://www.fiskelibrary.org/>.

**Monday, May 13 at 7:00 PM Pacific time:** Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State – Ellie Vance presents, “History of Jews in the Russian Empire and an Introduction to Record Types.” At its peak, it is estimated that over 5 million Jews lived in the Pale of Settlement. We will discuss the history of Jews in the Russian Empire and Pale of Settlement and common Russian Empire record types including metrical books (birth, death, marriage, divorce), revision lists, the 1897 Census, military records and much more. We’ll also learn about locations where these records can be found online as well as how to navigate archives and archival finding aids. Join us to learn techniques and strategies on researching in the former Russian Empire! For more information and to register for this meeting, go to <https://www.jgsws.org/meetings.php>.

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

**Wednesday, May 15 from 10:00 AM to noon Pacific time:** Fiske Library class – Winona Laird presents, “Across the Pond to Scotland.” For more information, go to <https://www.fiskelibrary.org/>.

**Thursday, May 16 from 11:00 AM to noon Pacific time:** Heritage Quest Research Library class (in-person or via Zoom) – Joleen Aitchison presents, “Using FamilySearch Catalog.” This class will explore birth, marriage, and death records; census records; church registers; books; periodicals; family histories; and many other records from the FamilySearch catalog. For pricing and to register, go to the HQRL Store at <https://hqrl.com/>.

**Friday, May 17 at 10:00 AM Pacific time:** Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society monthly program – Richard Hill presents, “Y-Chromosome Insights and Strategies.” Learn how Y-DNA testing of suitable males can trace and confirm paternal lines in your family tree. See how to choose the right test and how to work with your genetic matches. Examples cover STRs, SNPs, genetic distance, match thresholds, Tip reports, the Y-DNA tree, haplogroups, group projects, account settings, and more. For more information and to register, go to <https://bigenealogy.org/Events/>.

**Friday, May 17 – Saturday May 18:** National Genealogical Society Virtual Family History Conference, “Expanding Possibilities.” The NGS Family History Conference is a premier annual event for family historians, professional genealogists, hobbyists, and history buffs. The conference will be online. Attendees can choose from dozens of new lectures for family history researchers at all levels by the nation’s premier genealogical speakers. For pricing and additional information, go to <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>.

**Saturday, May 18 from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM Pacific time:** South King County Genealogical Society Annual Membership Meeting – Paula Stuart-Warren presents, “Superb Seven: Fabulous Avenues for Finding Family Manuscript Collections.” We have at least seven easily accessible finding aids to locate old family letters, photos, business records, church records, diaries, membership records, and other original records that we may not know still exist. These items could be in a repository anywhere and luckily, we have the Superb Seven that will help us locate them. Examples will have you itching to search for your own scattered family documents and most searches of these FREE finding aids can be done online from home. Researchers should review all the information on the websites of the finding aids to fully understand all details, including the origins and limitations of the descriptions and contributors. This presentation includes an extensive handout detailing the Superb Seven, examples of what can be found, and ways to learn more. 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, May 18 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Pacific time:** Olympia Genealogical Society 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary kick-off party (in-person) – The Olympia Genealogical Society, formed in 1974, is holding a kick-off party for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the Capital Vision Christian Church, 1775 Yew Avenue NE, Olympia. Two of their founding members, Alma Greenwood and Ann Olson, will give a short presentation about OGS’s origins followed by an open Q&A period. The event is free and open to the public; refreshments will be served.

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

**Wednesday, May 22 from 10:00 AM to noon Pacific time:** Fiske Library class – Sara Cochran presents, “Disaster Proofing Your Research.” For more information, go to <https://www.fiskelibrary.org/>.

**Thursday, May 24 from noon to 1:00 PM Pacific time:** American Ancestors free online lecture – Rhonda R. McClure presents, “Closing the Golden Doors: The Immigration Act of 1924.” From the mid-19<sup>th</sup> through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century waves of European immigrants arrived on American shores seeking new opportunities. Unfortunately, this period also ushered in antisemitic and prejudiced attitudes toward these immigrants, which culminated in the passing of the Immigration Act of 1924. The act introduced an immigrant quota system and other policies that would cause immigration to plummet in the following years. In this online lecture, Senior Genealogist Rhonda R. McClure will discuss the historical context of the Immigration Act of 1924, how the act shaped immigration records, and how the “closing of the golden doors” impacted the lives of your ancestors. Register at <https://www.americanancestors.org/events>.

**Wednesday, May 29 from 10:00 AM to noon Pacific time:** Fiske Library class – Jenny Hansen presents, “Pruning Your Family Tree.” For more information, go to <https://www.fiskelibrary.org/>.

**Thursday, June 6 from 11:00 AM to noon Pacific time:** Heritage Quest Research Library class (in-person or via Zoom) – Janice Sellers presents, “Get Me to the Church on Time – Finding Religious Records.” You will learn that religious records are often important substitutes when vital records are lost or never existed, but they also add depth to our understanding of our ancestors. For pricing and to register, go to the HQRL Store at <https://hqrl.com/>.

## Message from Your President: Thank you...but don't stop now!

*This message is from EGS President, Jane Wickert.*

Last month I read to you, and subsequently published in our newsletter, a letter about how close EGS came to taking steps to curtail all activities because of insufficient volunteers. Thankfully, several of you responded.

Thank you to those of you who did respond! Because of you, we are close to filling most of our committee roles.

If you did not respond, you can still contribute. Keep looking for ways you can give your time, energy, ideas, knowledge, and talents—we need them. Bake a plate of cookies for Ancestry Day at the library in September (see article below), share a success story in our newsletter, suggest a topic or speaker for a program, refer book suggestions to the Book Chair for inclusion in the library collection, assist in our Help Desk activities, stay after a meeting and join the conversation, participate in one of our SIGs, let us know what you think we can do to improve our society, or volunteer for something that you think needs to be done.

Above all, thank you for being part of our community!

## 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.*

October is Family History Month – come celebrate with us! 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, October 12<sup>th</sup>** (note the change of date) 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](mailto: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!

## Genealogical Detective Story – Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank and Ida

*Thanks to Glen McNay for sharing this information.*

“Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank and Ida” is described by the author, Anne Hanson, as “the true genealogical detective story of my quest to discover my grandparents’ hidden past. When I finally unearthed their real identities, I learned that their tales were lies invented to conceal disturbing facts.”

The back cover reads as follows:

“When Anne Hanson’s dad first asked her to investigate the secret past of his parents, little did she know what she was getting into. For two decades, despite all her digging, she failed to unearth even the tiniest speck of evidence that the families of her grandparents, Frank and Ida Hanson, had ever existed. If her quest were a detective novel, its title would have been, ‘The Case of the Missing Ancestors.’ Finally, Anne unearthed her grandparents’ true identities and the secrets they took to their graves. Journeying into an early twentieth century drama of pain and heartache, she solved a mystery from an era when a young couple, thwarted by social conventions, could simply vanish and create new lives. They radically altered their family destiny, with aftereffects that reverberated for generations. Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank and Ida is, ultimately, a love story. When she learned the truth of her grandparents’ past, Anne comprehended the true depth of their love. Buried Secrets also illuminates the love between a dad and the daughter who gave him answers he had longed for his entire life.”

Glen is currently enjoying reading this book. It is available at several King County Library locations.

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

*Thank you to Kimberly Nichols for this article about the recent field trip.*

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, eight EGS members visited the Puget Sound Branch of the Washington State Archives, located on the campus of Bellevue College. The Archivist, Midori Okazaki, gave us a presentation about a large variety of topics relating to archives. She told us the difference between archives and libraries, what types of records this branch has, what type of records the state has, and what type of records we can find online at the state site (<https://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/>). She described some of the records such as property records and cards, court records, records pertaining to the 1962 World's Fair, and police records. She told us we can look at the catalog to see what records they hold at this branch ([https://www2.sos.wa.gov/archives/archives\\_holdings.aspx?r=4](https://www2.sos.wa.gov/archives/archives_holdings.aspx?r=4)). After the presentation, Midori showed us around the archives, including the storage area for film and photographs, and the stacks. There we saw some records as old as 1864! Then we went into the research room and looked at some records we had requested prior to our tour. If you would like to visit the archives, you need to schedule an appointment by calling 425-564-3940 or emailing [PSBranchArchives@sos.wa.gov](mailto:PSBranchArchives@sos.wa.gov) at least two or three days prior to when you would like to visit. She asks that you describe your research topic and the records you want to view to make sure they are ready and on-site when you arrive.



## FamilySearch Announces Full-Text Searching

*By Janet Stroebel*

At RootsTech 2024, FamilySearch announced the implementation of full-text search and transcription capabilities in their FamilySearch Labs. At the time of this writing, there are 5 collections available to search including “U.S. Land and Probate Records, 1630-1975.” Using the full-text search allows you to search for your person of interest anywhere in the records. In addition to identifying the grantor/grantee or deceased individual, if he or she is mentioned as a neighboring property, an heir, or a witness, they will be found in your search. In addition, each record has been transcribed from the handwriting using artificial intelligence. The transcriptions are not perfect, but they give you a great starting point to work from.

For more information, see the video by FamilySearch from RootsTech titled, “Unlock the Power of Full-Text Searching for Historical Records” here: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/unlock-the-power-of-full-text-searching-for-historical-records>.

## Meet Your SIG Leaders: DNA SIG Leader Bruce Lee

*We continue this regular feature with our SIG leaders to help you become better acquainted with the volunteers at Eastside Genealogical Society.*

My name is Bruce Lee, and I have been involved with EGS for about 4 years as the DNA SIG leader. When I retired, I thought it would be nice to build a family tree for my daughter, Sophie. Bob Barnes teaches a course at Bellevue College for beginners starting their family trees. I took that course, and my adventure began.

I had sought out Bob's help at the Family History Center when I found some strangers in my DNA match list. This discovery leads me to deep dive into DNA and to collaboration with my unknown cousins seeking my biological grandfather. In February 2020, I did a presentation about developing this family tree for my daughter, and the winding path taken when I took a DNA test. This led to my membership at EGS.

My research has been from Scotland and England to Virginia, Tennessee, Carolinas, and Southern states to the rural pine hills of mid-Western Louisiana for my paternal line. My maternal line research has been in New England, New York, Quebec, Poland, and Eastern Europe. By assisting others to leverage their DNA, I am learning about research in Ireland and Eastern Europe along with the US.

When I am not delving into genealogy, I am enjoying my 4-month-old granddaughter. I also enjoy fishing, building fly fishing rods, and oil painting.

## EGS Board of Directors

|                 |                  |                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President       | Jane Wickert     | <a href="mailto:president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a> |
| Vice President  | Open             |                                                                                                          |
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| Membership      | Celia McNay      | <a href="mailto:egsgenealogyhelpers@yahoo.com">egsgenealogyhelpers@yahoo.com</a>                         |
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| Publicity       | Janet Stroebel   | <a href="mailto:publicity@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">publicity@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a> |
| SIG Coordinator | Open             |                                                                                                          |
| Webmaster       | Melissa Kacher   | <a href="mailto:webmaster@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org">webmaster@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org</a> |

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](mailto:publicity@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org).