



Eastside Genealogical Society Newsletter

July, 2024

Calendar of Events: July – early August, 2024

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

Thursday, July 18 at 11:30 AM Pacific time in-person: Lunch Bunch and Research – Bring your lunch and join us to share your brick walls, new finds, and search tips with each other followed by research time in the FamilySearch Center, 10675 NE 20th Street, Bellevue. Water and restrooms are available as we meet in the church building across the parking lot from the FamilySearch Center.

Upcoming Help Desk Opportunities

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

Wednesday, July 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, July 11 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, July 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.

Upcoming Help Desk Opportunities (cont'd)

Thursday, July 25 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, August 7 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.

Wednesday, July 3 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Pacific time: Seattle Genealogical Society Pacific Northwest Interest Group – Share information and discuss Pacific Northwest genealogical research. This new SGS-sponsored special interest group meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. SGS membership is encouraged but not required. Register in advance for this meeting at <https://seagensoc.org/eventListings.php?nm=67>.

Wednesday, July 10 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Pacific time: MAC Computer Special Interest Group – Jointly sponsored by Seattle Genealogical Society and Fiske Genealogical Library, this group meets every other month on the second Wednesday of the month. Meetings address topics and resources helpful for those using MacIntosh (Apple) computers and the Reunion program in their genealogy research. The link to logon will be sent to the MAC SIG email list. People wishing to attend should email macusersig@seagensoc.org to be added to the mailing list.

Thursday, July 11 from noon to 1:00 PM Pacific time: American Ancestors free online lecture – Meaghan E.H. Siekman presents, “An Introduction to California Research.” California has a rich history that reflects the state’s diverse cultural heritage and dynamic social changes. From Native American tribes who first inhabited the land to Spanish missionaries to Gold Rush pioneers and immigrants from around the world, each group has left an indelible mark on California’s identity. In this online lecture, Genealogist Meaghan E.H. Siekman will provide an introduction to doing family history research in the state, starting with the period of pre-contact to statehood and beyond. We will discuss go-to record collections, published resources, and online and onsite research repositories. Register at: <https://www.americanancestors.org/events>.

Thursday, July 18 from noon to 1:00 PM Pacific time: American Ancestors free online lecture – Melanie McComb presents, “Understanding and Utilizing Indexes.” Indexes are an unparalleled tool for genealogists. When they exist in record collections and published compilations, they can point you directly to an ancestor without having to go page-by-page. However, not all indexes are arranged the same way. Join Senior Genealogist Melanie McComb to understand the different types of indexes that you will come across and how to leverage them in your family history research. Register at: <https://www.americanancestors.org/events>.

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

Monday, July 29 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Pacific time: American Ancestors free online lecture – Gabrielle Roth presents, “Locating Jewish Women in the Archives.” Join the Jewish Heritage Center’s Collections Management Archivist Gabrielle Roth for an in-depth webinar on locating Jewish women in the archives. Gabrielle will cover some of the challenges to finding women in vital records and other collections, the value of the archive in genealogical research, and tips for identifying which types of records hold clues about historical women’s lives. The session will close with a Q&A. Register at: <https://www.americanancestors.org/events>.

Message from Your President

This message is from EGS President, Janet Stroebel.

As you probably know, most of the activities of Eastside Genealogical Society take a break in the summer months of July and August. Your Board, however, will be meeting in July to discuss strengths and challenges, review 2023-2024, and make plans for 2024-2025. As our success as an organization depends on our responsiveness to the needs of our members, I’d personally like to see more feedback from all of you, our members and friends, in the coming year.

Your Program Chair, Beth Snyder, is tasked with identifying and selecting nine speakers and presentations for our Thursday night General Meetings. She does an excellent job of sourcing speakers, insuring we have a wide variety of topics. Have you heard a speaker that you’d like us to contact? Is there a general subject area or specific topic that would interest you? Do you think the presentations lean toward being too basic or too advanced? Do you have any suggestions to improve the value to you of our General Meetings? Please let us know.

In the past couple of years, we have returned to creating and distributing a monthly newsletter. Beth Snyder initiated the revival with a “periodic newsletter,” and I picked up with a monthly newsletter when I became Publicity Chair. Marcia Williams has agreed to take over the newsletter, and I’m confident will take it to new heights. Does the monthly newsletter add value for you? Are we presenting useful content each month? Are the Board and SIG Leader profiles of interest to you? Do you have a suggestion for an article on other content, or would you like to write an article to be included? Please let us know.

This year, your Membership Activities Committee of Celia McNay and Kimberly Nichols worked to create several in-person events. They led the resumption of the Lunch Bunch with an added component of research at the Bellevue FamilySearch Center. (They are continuing to meet during the summer.) We had a Field Trip to the Puget Sound Regional Branch of the Washington State Archives in April and have “What’s in Your Attic? – Heirloom Show and Tell Event” scheduled for October (see below). Would you participate if we offer more in-person activities? Do you have suggestions for an in-person activity related to genealogy? Would you like to chair an activity or help to organize one? Is there a location that you would like us to consider for a field trip? Please let us know.

Message from Your President (cont'd)

Every year, EGS purchases books for the genealogy research section of the Bellevue Library. Your Books Chair...oh wait, we don't have a Books Chair! Would you be interested in being Books Chair or serving on a Books Committee? Jane Wickert, in addition to her role as President, took on responsibility for researching and acquiring several books last year which were listed in last month's newsletter. Are there books that you would like to see considered for addition to the collection? Do you see a deficiency in the collection in a specific area of genealogical research? Please let us know.

Bob Barnes, your Education Chair, has been working with Helen Carlson and Jane Wickert to offer a variety of opportunities for genealogy education. Under our partnership with King County Library System, we have two dates each month when individuals can sign up for assistance via Zoom with their genealogy research and an additional two dates of in-person assistance with Ancestry Library Edition in the Bellevue Library. Also, Bob and Jane have been redesigning a series of classes that can be presented either individually or collectively and have contacted multiple library locations to gauge interest. One of those classes was presented in Kirkland last week. Are there topics on which you would like us to develop a class? Would you be interested in assisting or teaching a class? Is there a location that you recommend we explore offering a class? Please let us know.

Your Membership Chair, Celia McNay, does an outstanding job of managing our membership renewals and welcoming new members to the society. Your SIG leaders are excellent at continuing to encourage their meeting attendees to become society members. Do you have suggestions as to how we can attract more members? Are there ways you think we can increase interest among younger genealogists? Please let us know.

Melissa Kacher has recently taken over as your Webmaster, and I want to take this opportunity to thank Dave Wickert for stepping in as Webmaster for the past six months. Melissa has a strong technology background and already has ideas for upgrading the website. Are there things that you would like to see us add to the website? What improvements would make the website more useful to you? Does the online membership functionality make it easier for you to renew your membership and/or donate? Please let us know.

To make it easy for you to share your feedback in any area, just email president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org, and I will route your message to the appropriate board member. Inevitably, we will not be able to implement every suggestion, but we value everyone's thoughts and input. Thank you for helping to make EGS more valuable to its members and friends!

What's in Your Attic? – Heirloom Show and Tell Event – Save the Date!

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

Date: Saturday, October 12th, 2024

Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Location: Room 1 in the Bellevue Library, 1111 - 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue WA.

What is it? Genealogy Show and Tell plus a Speaker

EGS, along with the Bellevue Library, will be hosting a fun event in October in celebration of Family History Month. Come bring items to share, listen to the presentation, and enjoy the shared items. You can participate in several ways:

- You are invited to participate by bringing something to show and share! Maybe you have a clock, old photo, a quilt, some family documents, or something else that is meaningful to your family and genealogy. Sign up and then bring your items to share with others. You can sign up by emailing Kimberly at kimberly7nichols@gmail.com. Let her know what you plan to bring and how much table space you will need.
- We will also be having a presentation by EGS member Marcia Williams, “Solving a Decades-Long Brick Wall.” Marcia has a newspaper from 1783 containing an article about Samuel Loudon (1727 – 1813), New York printer, who would be returning to New York City after the British evacuated. Her husband descends from Robert Loudon (1718 – 1796), but she could not connect the two men through any traditional means. She wondered -- Why do I have this newspaper? What is the connection between Robert and Samuel? Any articles about Samuel state that nothing was known about him before he arrived, nor anything about his parents or siblings. In cleaning out her brother-in-law's safe, his widow found an envelope of about 35 letters written from Samuel to “my dear brother Robert” and another brother, John, between 1791 and 1810. These letters had likely been sitting in the safe untouched since about 1995. Learn how this discovery of “What's in Your Attic” answered genealogical questions and the steps she is taking to publish new facts about Samuel and his family, as well as how to handle and preserve old documents.
- You can also participate by coming and enjoying the items being shared and the presentation. Everyone is welcome!

Hope to see you then!

In-Person Research: Top Libraries for Genealogy Research in the United States

According to an article in Family Tree Magazine, these are the top public libraries across the country for genealogy research:

- Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
- FamilySearch Library, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, Missouri
- Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, Houston, Texas
- Birmingham Public Library, Birmingham, Alabama
- Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado
- New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) Library, Boston, Massachusetts
- Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Michigan
- Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
- Dallas Public Library, Dallas, Texas
- Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, California
- National DAR Library, Washington, D.C.
- The New York Public Library, New York City, New York
- Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library, Cincinnati, Ohio

Check their websites to see if you should fit in a research stop next time you're travelling!

FamilySearch Center Locations

Did you know that there are 3,244 FamilySearch Center and Affiliate Library locations throughout the United States? (An Affiliate Library may be a public or higher education library, archive, museum, cultural center, or genealogical or historical society that is granted access to FamilySearch's digital genealogical collections that are otherwise accessible only through a FamilySearch Center.) By accessing FamilySearch.org at one of these locations, you can obtain access to records that, generally for contractual reasons, are not accessible from home. These are the records that display a key over the camera image in the FamilySearch Catalog. There are 108 locations in Washington state including several in our area, a selection of which are listed below.

FamilySearch Center Locations (cont'd)

FamilySearch Center (FSC) or Affiliate Library (AL)	Name	Address
FSC	Bellevue Washington FS Center	10675 NE 20 th Street, Bellevue
FSC	Seattle Washington FS Center	15205 SE 28 th Street, Bellevue
FSC	Newport Washington FS Center	4200 124 th Ave SE, Bellevue
FSC	Redmond Washington FS Center	10115 172 nd Ave NE, Redmond
AL	Seattle Genealogical Society	4649 Sunnyside Ave N, Suite 302, Seattle
AL	Fiske Genealogy Library	1644 43 rd Ave E, Seattle
AL	Seattle Public Library	1000 4 th Ave, Seattle
FSC	Seattle Washington North FS Center	5701 8 th Ave NE, Seattle
FSC	Seattle Washington South FS Center	14022 Ambaum Blvd SW, Seattle
FSC	Tiffany Park WA FS Center	8220 S 126 th St, Seattle
FSC	North Bend Washington FS Center	527 Southwest Mt Si Blvd, North Bend

To find other locations across the country as well as additional information about each location, go to: <https://locations.familysearch.org/en/us>.

EGS Board of Directors

President	Janet Stroebel	president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Vice President	Kimberly Nichols	vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Secretary	Janice Leitzke	secretary@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
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Webmaster	Melissa Kacher	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.