



Education

Preservation

Networking

Ellis Island: Its History and Its Documents

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Speaker: Matt Weismantel

Virtual doors will open at 6:30 pm Pacific;

Program will start at 7:00 pm

Via Zoom---watch for the link sent to your email address

About Our Program: Ellis Island served as the main entry point for millions of immigrants to the United States, with its peak years between 1892 and 1924. This presentation places Ellis Island within the context of US immigration history, debunking some long-standing urban legends. It considers the documents generated as part of the immigration process, including **how to find them** and **what information they include**. Additionally, it looks at Ellis Island's recent story, from its abandonment and partial restoration, and reflects on the conflicting yet critical immigration story in our nation's long history.

For more information, click on our [website](#).



Speaker Matt Weismantel



President's Message

As we approach the beginning of a new year of programming for EGS, I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the breadth of offerings that are available during the year thanks to the hard work of our volunteers. All these programs are open to members and non-members alike.

I assume that everyone is aware of our monthly general meetings that take place on the **2nd Thursday of the month** (except July, August, and December) beginning at **7:00 PM PT via Zoom**. We strive to present a variety of speakers on a wide range of topics throughout the year. To start this year, we have Matt Weismantel on Ellis Island scheduled for September and Katherine R Willson on preserving family memorabilia in October. Suggestions for speakers and/or topics are always welcome at programs@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org.

EGS currently has **four Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**. They are: DNA, led by Bruce Lee; Family Tree Maker, led by Janet Stroebel; German, led by Dorothy Pretare; and Italian, led by Mary Sangalang. All groups meet via Zoom and welcome new members. More details about each of these groups, including contact information, is available on our website at <https://eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/special-interest-groups/>.

Volunteers for Genealogical Research

Volunteers from EGS provide assistance to genealogy researchers in conjunction with the King County Library System. On the first and third Wednesdays of each month, individual Genealogy Help sessions are available in two, one-hour time windows via Zoom. One or more EGS member volunteers can work with an individual to provide direction and guidance in addressing genealogical questions. Sessions are held from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM and 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, and pre-registration is required via the KCLS website (kcls.org).

To access the registration, use the Search function at the top of the website and change the first search box from Catalog to **Events**. Then type "**genealogy**" in the second search box to bring up all genealogy events on the library calendar. The above-described sessions are titled, "**Genealogy Help with Eastside Genealogical Society.**"

Another opportunity to obtain assistance with your research is our in-person Ancestry Help. EGS volunteers are available in the computer lab on the 2nd floor of the Bellevue Regional Library (1111 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue) from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. They can show you how to get started with Ancestry Library Edition (available free in the library branches) or provide suggestions about resources to address your genealogy question.

You can also use this opportunity to be introduced to the genealogy book collection donated to the library by EGS. These are non-circulating reference books which may be useful in your research. No registration is required; just bring your question to the library computer lab on any session date. (Note: Be sure to check the calendar before attending as sessions may be cancelled around holidays or special library events.) We encourage members to take advantage of both of these opportunities to either obtain or provide assistance!

Family History Month—October!

The latest addition to our offerings is an in-person special event. In celebration of Family History Month in October, EGS and the Bellevue Regional Library are presenting, “**What’s in Your Attic? Heirloom Show and Tell Event**” on Saturday, October 12 from 1:30 – 3:30 PM at the Bellevue Library. Look for the details elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope to see you there!

As always, your comments are welcome at president@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org. We look forward to welcoming you at one or more of our events!

Janet Stroebel

Book/Website of the Month—Ellis Island Focus

An unflinching look at the immigrant experience, an unlikely and unique friendship, and a resonant story of female empowerment.”—Pam Jenoff, New York Times bestselling author of The Woman with the Blue Star



Ellis Island, 1902: Two women band together to hold America to its promise: "Give me your tired, your poor ... your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..."

A young Italian woman arrives on the shores of America, her sights set on a better life. That same day, a young American woman reports to her first day of work at the immigration center. But Ellis Island isn't a refuge for Francesca or Alma, not when ships depart every day with those who are refused entry to the country and when corruption ripples through every corridor. While Francesca resorts to desperate measures to ensure she will make it off the island, Alma fights for her dreams of becoming a translator, even as women are denied the chance.

This is a novel of the dark secrets of Ellis Island, when entry to "the land of the free" promised a better life but often delivered something drastically different, and when immigrant strength and female friendship found ways to triumph even on the darkest days.

Inspired by true events and for fans of Kristina McMorris and Hazel Gaynor, *The Next Ship Home* holds up a mirror to our own times, deftly questioning America's history of prejudice and exclusion while also reminding us of our citizens' singular determination.

[Ellis Island Website](#)





New Goal for Washington State Genealogical Society's Pioneer Pursuit

From Kathy Sizer, Washington State Genealogical Society President

Washington Pioneer Pursuit



Seems like just yesterday that Washington State Genealogical Society launched Pioneer Pursuit, our contest for individuals and local societies to send in genealogies of individuals that were living in Washington Territory at statehood on or before 11 November 1889. Again, congratulations to Ralph Brown (1,285 names), Vickie Bullard (272) and Jayne McCarley (269) and local societies: North Beach (150 names), Fort Vancouver Chapter 19 Daughters of Pioneers of Washington (269 names), and Kingston Historical Society (92 names). We hope you put your winnings to good use.

Our launch was a huge success adding 3,696 names to Pioneer Pursuit. Since the contest ended, faithful members have contributed 120 plus more names. **Now, let us try to reach a goal of 5,000 names by November 11, 2024!** Encourage your members to check both the [Pioneer Pursuit index](#) and the [Pioneer Certificate Project index](#) to see if a family or individual is listed. The Pioneer Pursuit includes all family members here in Washington on

or before statehood. The Pioneer Certificate Project index lists all heads of households. Let's work together to add additional names. **We ONLY NEED about 1,200 more names!**

We've made it easy to submit Pioneer Pursuit genealogies. On the [WSGS Home Page](#)'s left navigation bar, select Washington Pioneer Pursuit. Check the Submission Instructions, Submission Example, and Frequently Asked Questions to see how to type up your genealogy and add your source materials. The last step is to complete the [Submittal Form](#) (available in PDF and Word) and send it to wapioneerpursuit@gmail.com or mail it to Washington State Genealogical Society, Pioneer Pursuit, 1901 S. 12th Ave, Union Gap, WA 98903.

REMEMBER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO YOUR FAMILY – just anyone who was in **Washington Territory** on or before 11 November 1889. Let's do this together for Washington!

Click [HERE](#) for a video presentation explaining **Pioneer Pursuit** and answering questions.



Eastside Genealogical Society

Special Interest Groups—Sponsored by EGS

SIG	Meetings	Coordinator	Email
DNA	Contact Bruce for meeting schedule	Bruce Lee	bruceearllee.egs@gmail.com
Family Tree Maker SIG	3rd Friday of most months at 10:30 AM	Janet Stroebe	ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
German Interest Group	1st Friday of the month from 12:30-2:30 with times adjusted for international speakers. Don't meet in July and August.	Dorothy Pretare	GIG_Leader@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org
Italian Interest Group	meets virtually 1:30-3:30 pm on the 3rd Saturday of the month Sept. through June excluding December	Mary Sangalang	egs-iig.com

Special Interest Groups

Sponsored by [Seattle Genealogical Society](#) (SGS) - Click on [Calendar of Events](#)

[South King County Genealogical Society](#) (SKCGS) - Click on [Meetings and Events](#) —> [Monthly Schedule](#)

[Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society](#) (TPCGS) - Click on [Events](#)

SGS

Pacific Northwest Interest Group

Write It Up! Writers' Group

Family Search Users Group

MAC Computer Interest Group

Irish Interest Group

Scandinavian Interest Group

Brags and Bricks

Tech Tuesdays

SKCGS

Technology User Group

Genealogy Chat

Family History Writing

Family Tree Maker Users Group

WikiTree User

TPCGS

Genealogy Chat

Legacy Family Tree

Writing Family History

Click on the link of the individual Genealogical Society for dates and times of specific SIGs

Eastside Genealogical Society and the Bellevue Library Presents

What's in Your Attic? Heirloom Show and Tell Event



Date: Saturday, October 12, 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, and the Bellevue Library, will be hosting a fun event in October in celebration of Family History Month. Bring items to share, listen to the presentation, and enjoy!

You can participate in several ways:

- Bring something to show and share or send a photo of something too large or fragile to bring! Maybe you have a clock, old photo, a quilt, family documents, or an item that is meaningful to you. Sign up and bring your items (or photo) to share by emailing Kimberly at vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org. Let her know what you plan to bring and how much table space you will need.
- EGS Member Marcia Williams will be presenting, "Solving a Decades-Long Brick Wall". Marcia's husband descends from Robert Loudon (1718 – 1796), and she always wondered about a 1783 newspaper containing an article about Samuel Loudon (1727 – 1813). Despite having the newspaper, she could never connect Robert and Samuel. After decades of mystery, a relative cleaning out a safe found the missing link. Come listen to how this discovery of "What's in Your Attic" answered this genealogical question, learn the steps Marcia is taking to publish the newly revealed facts about Samuel and his family, and how to handle and preserve old irreplaceable documents.
- Come and enjoy the items being shared and the presentation. Everyone is welcome!

Reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities is available by request. Email access@kcls.org at least seven days before the event. Automated closed captioning is always available for online events.

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm PT

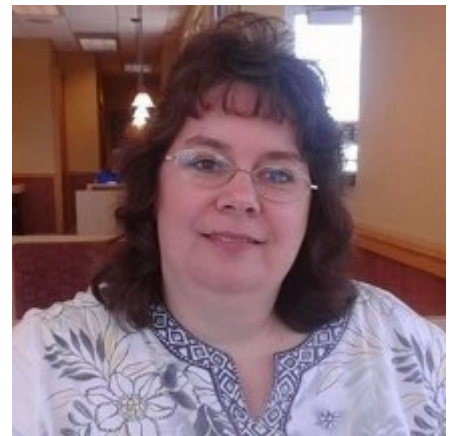
Our speaker: Katherine R Willson

Top Dos & Don'ts for Preserving Family Memorabilia

Via Zoom---watch for the link



Katherine will provide the best materials, methods and places for storing precious family photos, heirlooms, textiles, and more.



Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm PT

Our speaker: Melissa Barker

Researching in Libraries and Archives: The Do's and Don'ts

Via Zoom---watch for the link

Those brick-and-mortar buildings that we call libraries, archives, courthouses, genealogical societies, historical societies and museums are all around us. They hold the records that we are searching for. Do you know how to use these repositories for the utmost benefit to your research? This presentation will show the genealogist some Do's and Don'ts to help make the most of a visit to any library or archive.

Upcoming Events and Genealogy Help

Next Lunch Bunch—Thursday, September 19

Contact [Celia McNay](#) with questions and to RSVP



11:30—1:00—reserved room in church across from the **FamilySearch Center**, 10675 NE 20th Street, Bellevue
Use the **FamilySearch Center Library** with databases either available with a subscription or unavailable online—bring your laptop; library open until 6:00

Genealogy Help—Two options

1. Bellevue Library Computer Lab

Sept 12 and 26, 10:30—12:30

No registration required

In-person assistance with



Ancestry Library
Edition

2. Two Zoom 1-on-1 appts available (Sept 4 & 18): kcls.org, then

Select **Events** and type **Genealogy**

See below



**King County
Library System**

Search the

Events ▾

Genealogy

Italian Interest Group



IIG Meeting: 21-Sep-2024
Saturday **1:30—3:30**
Topic: *Using Maps for
Genealogy*

egs-iig.com



Future Americans approaching
Ellis Island.





HOME	ABOUT EASTSIDE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY	MEETING INFO AND ARCHIVES	MEMBERSHIP	SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS
		RESEARCH ASSISTANCE	RESOURCES	NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER

Expand your knowledge and share with other genealogy geeks. Contact **Janet Stroebel** to explore opportunities that match your skills.

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