

Welcome to our meeting!
Thank you for being here.

Eastside Genealogical Society
Bellevue, Washington
eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

<https://eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org>

Next Monthly Meeting

January 8, 2026



Topic: Getting Started with AI in Family History

Our speaker: Andrew Redfern

Check our website for more information:
eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

Eastside Genealogical Society presents:
Getting Started with AI in Family History

Our speaker: Andrew Redfern

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Networking and announcements at 6:30 pm Pacific; program at 7:00 pm

About our speaker: Andrew Redfern is a passionate family historian and technology educator. Since his initial interest in researching his family tree in the mid-1980s, Andrew has developed a deep interest in how technology can enhance the way we explore and preserve our family histories. The integration of AI into his genealogical toolkit was a natural progression and he is excited by the possibilities while remaining aware of the limitations.

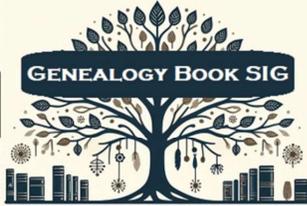
About our program: Whether you're a seasoned genealogist or just getting started, this talk will provide you with valuable insights and strategies for using AI to uncover your family's unique story. Lots of practical demonstrations and uses of various tools currently available will provide a starting point for attendees to use these technologies straight away with their own family tree. And for those not sure, there will be plenty of discussion about navigating security, privacy and bias.

Everyone is welcome---we hope you will join us.

For more information about EGS, visit our **website** at eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

SIG News

Genealogy Book SIG



Date/Time: Friday, November 14, 10 AM PT via Zoom

Book: The Marriage Certificate
by Stephen Molyneux

Next Meeting: *No meeting in December*

January 9, 2026 –

The Quest for Annie Moore of Ellis Island
by Megan Smolenyak

Request Meeting Access: Email
vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

Meetings are held by Zoom at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd Friday of the month. No meetings in August and December. For Meeting Access: Email vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org.

The Marriage Certificate: When amateur family historian Peter Sefton buys the marriage certificate he sees on display in an antiques arcade, little does he realise that it will lead him towards a potentially lucrative discovery and a long-forgotten family secret. Through his research, Peter finds himself uncovering a series of sad and tragic events that connect the marriage certificate to a modern-day mystery. But, there's a complication. In his quest to complete the family tree, Peter learns that he has competition. It's not just a matter of pride; there's money at stake too! Should he the amateur genealogist, give up or can he beat the professionals at their own game?

The Quest for Annie Moore of Ellis Island: On January 1, 1892, Annie Moore of Ireland tripped into the pages of history and became the poster child of immigration by being the first to arrive at Ellis Island. She's since been immortalized on stage and in music, museums, books, and of course, pub names. Statues of her adorn Ellis Island where she stands as a symbol of the American Dream and at the Cobh Heritage Centre in Cork, Ireland where she represents millions who have emigrated over the centuries and scattered their gifts around the globe. And yet, we got her story completely wrong. Megan Smolenyak is the determined sleuth who discovered this case of historical identity theft and devoted years to figuring out how it happened, finding the true Annie, and unveiling what her life was really like. Follow along as the author parks you on her shoulder and unravels the mystery of Ellis Island's first. History buffs, genealogists, and mystery enthusiasts will enjoy the ride, as will those interested in immigration and tales of the long overlooked.

Future books:

- December NO MEETING
- January 9, 2026, *The Quest For Annie Moore of Ellis Island* by Megan Smolenyak
- February 13, 2025, *DNA Never Lies* by Sue George
- March 13, 2026, *Three Times Removed* by M.K. Jones
- April 10, 2026, *Once You Were Mine* by Elizabeth Langston
- May 8, 2026, *Paper Love* by Sarah Wildman

SIG News

Italian Interest Group



Date: Saturday, November 15, 2025

Time: 1:30 PM PT via Zoom

Topic: How Italian Migration Laws
Affected Our Ancestors

Speaker: Victoria Calabrese

Request Meeting Access: egs-iig.com

The Italian Interest Group meets virtually 1:30-3:30pm on the 3rd Saturday of the month Sept. through June excluding December.

Description: How easy was it to emigrate from Italy? What was the process like after one made the decision to leave? This presentation will discuss Italian emigration laws regarding migration in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and how these laws influenced our ancestors' lives. The talk will cover topics such as who could and could not emigrate (and why), what was needed to get a passport, how to buy tickets, and travelling to the port of departure.

Speaker Bio: Victoria Calabrese received her Ph.D. in modern European history from the Graduate Center at the City University of New York. Her research focuses on modern Italian history, gender, migration, and nation building. Her book, *Italian Women in Basilicata: Staying Behind but Moving Forward during the Age of Mass Emigration, 1876–1914*, was published by Lexington Books in 2022. The book examines women in the southern Italian region of Basilicata and the many ways their lives changed when their husbands emigrated. In addition to the women who remained behind, she has written articles on honor and infanticide, and on traveling child musicians. Victoria is an avid genealogist, focusing on southern Italian genealogy research. She is currently an adjunct professor at Lehman College, teaching courses in early modern and modern European history.

For more information or to request a Zoom link, please visit our website at: <https://egs-iig.com>

EGS Lunch Bunch and Research



Date: Thursday, November 20

Time: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
(plus research time)

Where: Bellevue FamilySearch Center,
10675 NE 20th St., Bellevue

Topic: Immigration Records on
FamilySearch.org

No meeting in December

Bring your lunch and join us in-person on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM PT. We discuss what we are doing in genealogy and have a very short program on a topic such as a new feature in a genealogy program or a recent article or video of interest.

November's topic will be immigration records on FamilySearch.org. ***There will be no meeting in December.***

The group meets at the LDS church at 10675 NE 20th Street, Bellevue. Additionally, attendees can walk over to the FamilySearch Center to do some research or try out what they learned with databases either available with a subscription or unavailable online. Bring your laptop. The library is open until 6:00 pm.

For more information, contact Celia McNay at membership@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org.

SIG News

Family Tree Maker SIG



Date: Friday, November 21

Time: 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM PT via Zoom

Topic: Varies – topics related to using Family Tree Maker software

Request Meeting Access: Email
ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

No meeting in December

The Family Tree Maker SIG meets on the 3rd Friday of each month from 10:30AM to 12:30PM Pacific time via Zoom.

The next meeting is November 21.

If you are not on the distribution list and would like to attend, email ftmsig@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org to request the Zoom link no later than Thursday, November 20.

SIG News

German Interest Group



Date: Friday, December 5, 2025

Time: 12:30 to 2:30 PM PT via Zoom

Topic: Frohe Weihnachten: Unwrapping the Charms of German Christmas Traditions

Speaker: Anette Isaacs

More information and registration:

gig.eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/meetings

We meet virtually on the first Friday of each month except July and August at 12:30 pm Pacific Time or 10:30 am PT, if the speaker lives outside of the United States.

The next meeting of the German Interest Group of The Eastside Genealogical Society will be virtual and take place on: Friday, November 7, 2025, from 12:30-2:30pm PT

Zoom Registration Required: <https://gig.eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/meetings>

Topic: Frohe Weihnachten: Unwrapping the Charms of German Christmas Traditions

Uncover the rich history and cultural significance behind cherished customs such as the Advent calendar, Christkindlmarkt, and St. Nicholas Day. Delve into the heartwarming tales of the Christkind and the festive decoration of the Tannenbaum, while also exploring the delectable delights of traditional holiday treats like Lebkuchen and Stollen. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs and journey through time and tradition, exploring how Germany's unique customs have shaped the magic of Christmas celebrations worldwide.

Presenter: Anette Isaacs

German born and raised Anette Isaacs is a Historian and Public Educator who has been presenting hundreds of programs on more than 40 different topics (all pertaining to her native country's history, politics, and culture) all over the United States. She holds Master's Degrees in American Studies, Political Science, and History and is currently serving as the Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at FIU (Florida International University) in Miami, FL.

Visitors are always welcome.

Our **website** is <https://gig.eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/>

SIG News

German Interest Group



Date: Friday, January 9, 2026

Time: 12:30 to 2:30 PM PT via Zoom

Topic: Free Websites for German Genealogy

Speaker: Josiah Schmidt

More information and registration:

gig.eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/meetings

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Topic: Free Websites for German Genealogy

Take a guided exploration of how to access and use numerous free websites for your German family history research.

Presenter: Josiah Schmidt

Josiah Schmidt is a history and genealogy specialist for the Saint Louis County Library System in Saint Louis, Missouri. He specializes in German, Jewish and Genetic Genealogy.

Visitors are always welcome.

Our **website** is <https://gig.eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/>

What's in Your Attic's Pictures



Saturday, October 11, 2025, Eastside Genealogical Society and the Bellevue Library Presented:
What's in Your Attic – Is There A Story There?

Speaker **Jill Morelli** gave us a great presentation **Jill Morelli, “Beyond the Binder: My Self-Publishing Journey**, followed by several EGS members sharing their publishing experience, and then an Heirloom Show & Tell.

Jill Morelli is a certified genealogist, a writer, lecturer and co-founder of the online Applied Genealogy Institute. She has lectured nationally as well as written articles for major genealogical publications. She is the author of *Journeys of the Forgotten: The Orphans of Hamilton County, Iowa*. Jill is the past president of the Seattle Genealogical Society, program director for the Puget Sound-APG chapter, and a member of many local and national genealogical societies.

Questions? Email Kimberly at vicepresident@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org



Twisted Branches

Request for newsletter articles

December/January Topic:

- Have ancestors who settled in Pennsylvania?
- Send us the ancestors':
 - Names,
 - Dates of birth/death,
 - and cities where they lived.
- **Deadline: Dec 6**

Send to: newsletter@eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org

December/January Twisted Branches Topic

Do you have Ancestors who settled in Pennsylvania?

Send the ancestor's name, date of birth/death, and city where they lived. Who knows? You may have a cousin in EGS!

Deadline for December/January newsletter is Saturday, December 6.

Deadline: December 6, 2025

Upcoming Help Desk Opportunities

Volunteer assistance with your research



In-Person: Bellevue Library, Computer Lab
2nd and 4th Thursdays

Upcoming dates: December 11 & January 8

Time: 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Drop-in.

No 4th Thursday in November and December

Volunteers from EGS provide assistance to genealogy researchers in conjunction with the King County Library System. Upcoming dates: December 11, 2025 & January 8, 2026!

There is no help desk on the 4th Thursdays in November and December.

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. No registration required for In-Person help.

Want to help? Email: Jane Wickert at jcwickert@hotmail.com

Stick around for the Post-Meeting Discussion



Are you searching for a Revolutionary ancestor?

- Where did they live/serve?
- How much do you know about their story?
- What brick walls have you encountered?
- What tasks will you do as a result of this presentation?

BECOME A MEMBER

If you get value out of our meetings and/or Special Interest Groups, please consider joining (\$20 for 12 months) or donating to Eastside Genealogical Society.

eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/membership

eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/membership