

Speak!

The Online Newsletter of the Genealogical Speakers Guild



In This Issue

From Our President	1
Booth Attendant Needed.....	2
Board Nominations	3
New Members/Member Dues	4
Member Profile: Jeffrey Bockman	5
News of Our Members	6
Calls for Papers	7
NGS Luncheon	7
Three Painful Things: Cari Taplin	8
Programmer/Member Resources.....	9
Speak! Policies/Board Members	10

The next issue of **Speak!**
will be published in June 2018

From Our President

I know it was with a heavy heart that we all heard of the passing of Gary Smith in February. Gary was very involved with GSG from the beginning onward. Among the many things he did for GSG was serving as the conference coordinator from 2006 and President (2014-2016). One of his services, and I believe the one he liked best, was mentoring GSG members as they developed their speaking careers. I am sure many of the current GSG members benefitted from his help.

I know I did. Gary was one of GSG's most avid and outspoken supporters and I know he will be greatly missed. The GSG Board has voted to make a donation in Gary's memory to each of the charities mentioned in his obituary, Habitat for Humanity and the American Heart Association; the link to his obituary is <http://www.fullermetz.com/tributes/Gary-Michael-Smith> Thank you to all the members who reached out to Gary's wife, Diana Smith, our Treasurer, with offers of support and with prayers.



On another note – It is election time again. The offices of President, Treasurer, and one directorship will be on the ballot. Your nominating committee is now seeking candidates for these positions. Look for the descriptions of the responsibilities of each of the offices elsewhere in this issue of *Speak!* and consider running for one of these positions. We would like to see more of our membership involved; new officers bring new ideas for growing our society. When the ballot is announced, please read it, then be sure to vote.

The column *Society Corner*, written by Katherine R. Willson, is missing in this issue due to illness, but it will be back in the next issue.

GSG will have a booth at the NGS conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. There are three ways for you to participate in our booth:

1. Become the Booth Attendant and receive a free full conference registration; look for the description of the Booth Attendant's responsibilities in this issue of *SPEAK!*
2. Send your brochures to be displayed in the booth.



3. Volunteer your time helping to answer the questions of program chairs from local societies and of potential GSG members.

Ann Staley and I will be asking for volunteers to work in the booth while the Vendors' Hall is open. Towards the end of this month, we will send an e-mail to the membership with a link to SignUp.com with the available volunteer time slots. If you are going to the conference, we would love to see you and your brochures in the booth.

The Board will soon be requesting proposals from website designers. We have taken all the comments

received from the member survey and the website redesign committee and are putting the finishing touches on our call for proposals. If you have an idea you think the Board should consider, please send it to me at president@genealogicalspeakersguild.org. The Board represents you and needs your input.

Are you going to the NGS Family History Conference in Grand Rapids? I would love to see you at the GSG-ISFHWE luncheon; look for the article about our speakers' lecture. Hope to see you in Grand Rapids!

Margo Fariss Brewer, GSG President

Booth Attendant Needed!

GSG needs an attendant for our booth at the NGS conference in Grand Rapids, MI – This is not a permanent position. If you are still trying to decide whether or not to attend the conference, this could be a great opportunity for you. In exchange for being the booth attendant (see responsibilities below) you would receive the GSG booth conference registration, which is a free full conference registration.

Booth Attendant responsibilities:

1. Be in the Guild booth during the first two (2) hours of the Exhibit Hall on opening day.
2. Fill all lunch periods and all breaks between lectures not covered by volunteering GSG members.

The Conference Booth Coordinators, C. Ann Staley and Margo Fariss Brewer, will assist the Booth Attendant by providing instructions for managing the booth, setting GSG member volunteer time slots, and advertising these volunteer times/opportunities to the Guild membership.

Key points:

- Not a permanent position
- Will be assisted by the Conference Booth Coordinators
- Free full conference registration

To apply for the Booth Attendant position or ask additional questions, send your name and contact information, including a cell phone number, to Margo at Genealogist4U@gmail.com. Please include "GSG Booth Attendant" at the beginning of your subject line.



FELLOW GUILD MEMBERS –NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

It is election time once again, and nominations are open for three Genealogical Speakers Guild positions. The term of these offices is two years, from May 2018 (the annual meeting at NGS) to May 2020. These open positions and their duties (as outlined in and quoted from the bylaws) are:

- President: "The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and all general meetings and shall be the chief executive officer of The Guild. The President may act on behalf of The Guild, subject to the approval of the Board. The President shall appoint all committees. The President shall be responsible for filing government forms other than tax forms."
- Treasurer: "The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of The Guild and shall receive and disperse funds, within limits approved by the Executive Board, and upon receipt of appropriate invoice, after approval of the President. The Treasurer shall present a financial report at each scheduled meeting for the Executive Board or the membership. The Treasurer shall prepare and mail a proposed annual budget to the members of the Board at least thirty days prior to the Board's annual meeting. The Treasurer shall be responsible for filing all government tax forms, city, county, state, and/or federal, as required. The Treasurer shall maintain the official list of members in good standing and notify the webmaster and mail list coordinator of any delinquent members."
- Director: "shall vote on all issues before the Board and perform other duties as requested by the President or the Board."

Your Nominations Committee is Janis Minor Forte, Nancy Lauer, and Tim Pinnick. They are seeking persons interested in serving the Guild. All of us are busy. Do you have some time that you can contribute to improving your Guild? Do you have expertise that would benefit the Guild and, by benefiting the Guild, benefit the members? The GSG bylaws state that any member may nominate any other member, with that person's permission. (Please do not nominate anyone without his or her permission and an acknowledgment that he or she is willing to serve in the position if elected.) If you have any interest in seeking any of these positions, please ask someone to nominate you, or contact the nominating committee and nominate yourself. This is not the time to be shy!

The Nominating Committee is charged to present at least one name for each vacant position. All nominees, whether presented by the committee or membership, who are members in good standing will be placed on the ballot for members' consideration. Please consider placing your name in nomination for a position. We'd like to have more than one for each position.

Nominations will close on 31 Mar 2018. A ballot will then be prepared for electronic voting by each member in good standing, as outlined in the bylaws.

Send any questions to the Nominating Committee at: nominations@genealogicalspeakersguild.org.

The three members elected to fill these positions will not be able to do all of the work alone or even collectively. They need us to support their efforts— by action — and by getting more involved. They will also need our ideas: What is it that WE want? What can the Guild do for us? What can we do for the Guild? No organization can sustain a membership if it is not able to meet the needs of its members. If the Genealogical Speakers Guild is to continue, it will be through the efforts of members committed to making it attractive to, and meeting the needs and expectations of, current and new members.

Alert!

Alert!

Another chance to help GSG is coming!

The GSG booth at the NGS conference in Grand Rapids needs you to help staff it.

Look for an e-mail in late March with all the information on how to volunteer.

The GSG booth is only successful because of the members who volunteer!

DUES RENEWALS/ NEW MEMBERS

If paying dues renewals, or joining GSG for the first time, here are a few reminders:

1. Pay dues online through the GSG website. Select **Membership Information** from the menu bar, then select **Membership Form**. (Note: The link "Change Membership Quarter," is different from the membership links.) Payments made through the GSG website will be processed via PayPal. You do not need to have a personal PayPal account and we never see your credit card information.
2. Please **do not** go through your personal PayPal account to pay GSG—the funds will not automatically come to our account. In addition, YOU will pay the PayPal fee; when you use the GSG site, WE will pay the fee.
3. When paying your dues online, **always** continue from the payments page to the member information page. We use the information on this page to update your membership, and it can be difficult to match payments to the correct member without it.

Any questions? Please e-mail
treasurer@GenealogicalSpeakersGuild.org

Welcome New Members

The following joined during fall 2017 and winter 2018.

We welcome all new members and look forward to their contributions to the GSG.

Julianne DeWalt Adamik	Carlsbad, CA
Gary Ball-Kilbourne	Fargo, ND
Janeen Bjork	Old Greenwich, CT
Sara Cochran	Moreno Valley, CA
Lisa Gorrell	Martinez, CA
Michael J. Hall	Orem, UT
Tamara Hallo	Miami, FL
Susan Hill	Strongsville, OH
Cindy J. Hineman	DeLand, FL
Charmaine Riley Holley	Tullahoma, TN
Wallace Huskonen	Brecksville, OH
Mary Jamba	Fairview Park, OH
Nancy Loe	San Luis Obispo, CA
Mary Mannix	Rockville, MD
Judy Nimer Muhn	Milford, MI
Tom Michael Perry	Salt Lake City, UT
Michael A. Ports	Jacksonville, FL
Linda Roghaar	Amherst, MA
Walter Schlomann	Tampa, FL
Gerald Schmidt	Chicago, IL
Jana Churchwell Scott	Rocky Mount, NC
Barbara Shoff	Bartlesville, OK
Lorelle VanFossen	North Plains, OR
Bonnie Wade-Mucia	Bluffton, SC
Jennifer Warner	Woodridge, IL

MEMBER PROFILE

By Mary Kircher Roddy

Speak! is pleased to provide a forum for members of the GSG to introduce themselves to one another. In the December 2017 issue we featured a profile of Ron Arons.

Jeffrey Bockman began researching his family as many others did: prompted by a family history homework project of a child or grandchild. Inspired as a teen by his grandmother's research on connections to the royal families of Europe, he soon found there was very little chance of ascending to any of the various thrones. So, it wasn't until his son needed help with his homework, that Jeff made the genealogical research leap.

If you are interested in having your profile featured in an upcoming issue of *Speak!* please contact Mary at MRRODDYN3@msn.com.



JEFFREY BOCKMAN

Jeffrey Bockman, who grew up in Hyde Park in southeast Chicago, is, according to his grandmother's research into the Johnson family and their roots in the Terrell family, a descendant of Walter Tirel whose errant arrow pierced the heart of King William II, killing him. Inspired by these tales of Plantagenet kings in his lineage, sixteen-year-old Jeff became interested in genealogy. But then his mother pointed out that his family hadn't gotten the throne so "get on with your life." And so he did . . . until his sixth-grade son needed help with a family tree late one Monday evening. After coming up with enough ancestors to complete the homework assignment, Jeff sent his kid to bed while he stayed up 'til the wee hours of the morning studying pedigree collapse, and then spent the next 22 years completing his son's homework.

Jeff's career as a researcher began when he joined the DuPage County Genealogical Society and attended some of Paul Milner's classes. As he progressed and began to attend Illinois State conferences, he met Leland Meitzler and Sandra Luebking who encouraged his writing. Many of the articles he wrote became lectures.

Jeff's genealogy speaking career began in the mid-1990s. He had engagements all over Illinois while he was an Illinois Road Scholar for the Illinois Humanities Council. When NGS held their conference in Chicago in 2006, he was the local arrangements chair. He spoke at that event as well as at several FGS conferences. He credits DCGS President Pat Sengstock as a mentor who gave him the opportunity to teach classes and serve on the society's conference committee. With 18 years on the committee, he's had the chance to observe, speak with, and learn from many great speakers. He's put that knowledge to work in speaking engagements around the Midwest, Florida, Utah, and Ottawa, Canada.

Methodology and problem solving are the main focus of Jeff's lectures, a natural fit with his analytical and engineering background. Teaching about where to find a record and what is in it is valuable, but how one uses the information in the record to solve a problem is the most important lesson to learn.

Jeff feels that many of his speaking opportunities were a direct result of his magazine articles. He's also found work through the GSG website. Another source of booking came from writing to genealogical societies in areas where he would be staying for a while.

Jeff amends the old adage, "Don't work with children or animals," adding live internet to the list. At a 1998 program at the Newberry Library, he demonstrated an online German directory website. Carefully typing the name "Bockman" into the site and trying to find the Search button, he heard snickers from the audience. When he turned to look at the projected image behind him, he saw banner sex ads running across the wall. Note to self: use saved images in future.

He enjoys arriving early for presentations, giving him the chance to meet the coordinator and audience and relax a bit after making sure the equipment is running smoothly. He suggests speakers come prepared for anything. He takes his own computer and projector even if the venue has them. He also carries a 25-foot extension cord, a 3-plug adapter, along with a circuit tester, and even a 2-prong to 3-prong adapter. And he has needed them all at some time. He advises speakers who don't know the answer to a question to just, "Admit it. Do not prove it."

Genealogists can learn more research tips in his book, *Give Your Family a Gift That Money Can't Buy/ Record and Preserve Your Family's History - 5th Edition* (ISBN 978-1-933194-88-2). His book started from the handouts from his beginner classes, grew into a booklet with blank charts to fill in, and then became a book when he added a cover and 24 more pages of "how to" and stories. The book encourages preserving family stories. The premises are "do not throw everything away before you move to your retirement destination" and "Tell and record the stories while you still can." He learned that lesson from his mother's father who died when she was just three. The letters her father sent home from France during World War I are the only thing that allowed Jeff to learn anything about him as a person.

Jeff's presentation schedule and other information can be found on his website, www.JeffBockman.com.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

The Genealogical Speakers Guild was well represented at Congress 2018: 15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, *Bridging the Past and Future*, which was held in Sydney, Australia, 9-12 March. Former GSG member Helen Smith welcomed Lisa Louise Cooke and Judy G. Russell, who were among the keynote speakers, in addition to longtime member Billie Stone Fogarty who attended and participated in the conference. (Pictured are Judy Russell, Billie Fogarty, and "Flat" Laura Prescott.)



CALLS FOR PAPERS

Please send information regarding Calls for Papers to the editor at editor@genealogicalspeakersguild.org

DEADLINE 1 APRIL 2018

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) is accepting lecture proposals for their 2019 conference, “Journey of Discovery,” to be held 8-11 May in St. Charles, Missouri. Details on topics and submission instructions can be found at https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/call_for_proposals

DEADLINE 31 MAY 2018

The Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) announced a request for lecture proposal for its 2019 conference, “Building a Heritage,” to be held 1-4 May at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio. Details on topics and submission instructions can be found at <https://www.ogs.org/conference2019/call.php>

DEADLINE TBD 2018

The Fairfax Genealogical Society began accepting speaker proposals for its 2018-19 programs on 15 November 2017. Proposals will be accepted for monthly general meetings September 2018 through May 2019; monthly education classes September 2018 through May 2019; a one-day fair to be held 27 October 2018; and a two-day conference to be held 5-6 April 2019. Please check their website for additional information. <http://fxgs.org/cpage.php?pt=51>

DEADLINE 31 MAY 2018

The Conference on Illinois History is accepting lecture proposals for its 4 October 2018 conference, “Building a Heritage,” at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois. For complete information on topics and submission requirements please contact Christian.mcwbirter@illinois.gov

GSG/ISFHWE LUNCHEON AT NGS 2018

GSG President Margo Fariss Brewer is pleased to announce that *The Legal Genealogist*, Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, will be our speaker for the GSG/ISFHWE luncheon at the National Genealogical Society’s 2018 conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Open to GSG and ISFHWE members and anyone interested in hearing a talk by a first-rate speaker, it will be Saturday, 5 May 2018. Sign up for this luncheon as soon as possible, as it will sell out quickly.

Judy’s lecture is entitled *Paths to Your Past: Storytelling to Bring Us Together*. Storytelling is both art and science: science to help us understand why stories are memorable; art to tell the stories that bring us together.





THREE PAINFUL THINGS I LEARNED IN 2017

by Cari A. Taplin, CG[®]

I spent this year learning how to be a more efficient speaker. I have learned a few things that maybe others already knew, but, apparently, I needed to learn the hard way. Here are three things I learned and hope these items may give speakers some ideas for future speaking preparation.

First and foremost, don't overdo it when it comes to agreeing to give completely new lectures. This year I found myself needing to write fifteen (15!) completely new lectures, not to mention those that simply needed updating. That is TOO MANY! I was so caught up in the excitement of some new opportunities that I lost sight of the actual workload required. Not that lecturers should not be coming up with new and interesting offerings, but keep track of your workload.

Second, I found out that I needed a better system for hauling my personal projector at national conferences. At the first conference, I used my rolling laptop bag for my computer, and carried the projector with the bag and strap. OW! By the end of the day I was so sorry! After that conference, I shopped for a rolling bag that could hold both my projector AND my computer in one. That made all the difference at the next conference.

Third, I had a blast speaking at two different all-day seminars, where I was the featured speaker, delivering four lectures in one day. Those are such fun, and I enjoy meeting new people, getting to know the participants, and traveling to new cities. However, by the end of the day, my feet are so tired! I have two ideas on this: First, if I am driving to the seminar, I will throw one of the anti-fatigue mats I have in my office into my car. Second, I am going to suggest to every program chair I ever encounter that they provide one for each of their speakers.

My feet have healed, my shoulder soreness has faded, and my new lecture workload is nearly relieved. I hope these painful learning experiences will be helpful to you as well.

Cari A. Taplin, CG[®] is a native of Wood County, Ohio, but migrated to Wyoming, Colorado, and now Pflugerville, Texas, which is just outside Austin. Cari holds the Certified Genealogist[®] credential and has served in a wide variety of volunteer and leadership positions for several state, local, and national societies over the years including Education Chair for the Austin Genealogical Society. She has been on the boards of the Association for Professional Genealogists and the Federation of Genealogical Societies. As the owner of **GenealogyPANTS**, she provides speaking, researching, and consultation services. Cari focuses on midwestern and Great Lakes states; methodology; and researching family legends. When she's not working on her genealogy, she is a wife and the mother of two/too cute kids.

Contact: cat.taplin@gmail.com or www.genealogypants.com

GSG WEBSITE RESOURCES FOR PROGRAM PLANNERS

www.GenealogicalSpeakersGuild.org

Directory of Members

All members of GSG are entitled to an individual web page in the Directory of Members on the GSG website. Members are encouraged to add information about their speaking business and themselves, including awards, specialties, lecture topics, and previous engagements. Many speakers also include a short bio and a photo. The GSG Directory of Members is a great place for program planners to search for a speaker for their next lecture, workshop, or seminar. Members, be sure your member page is up to date. Program planners, utilize the Directory of Members in your search for a speaker for your next event.

The Directory of Members is searchable by name, city, state, county, or by keyword.

Members' Calendar

The Members' Calendar can tell you when and where GSG members are currently speaking or planning to speak. Maintained by the speakers themselves, the Members' Calendar can be searched by speaker name (first and/or last name) and date of program. Program planners can learn what speakers will be in their area.

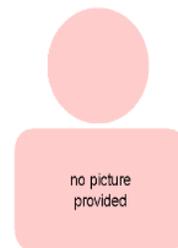
LET YOUR GSG WEB PAGE WORK FOR YOU

Every active member has a personal page on the GSG website (*www.genealogicalspeakersguild.org*). The instructions for updating are sent to new members with their logon credentials, have been published in *Speak!*, and are in the Members' Corner on the website.

Do not forget to keep your web page and calendar listings on the GSG website up-to-date. These are valuable member benefits since they give you a (free) channel to show off to the world.

Is your web page up-to-date?

- Is it cross-linked to your personal web page?
- Is it cross-linked to other personal pages, i.e., ISFHWE, APG?
- Is your Contact Information up to date?
- Are your Lecture Topics current?
- Is your Bio current?
- Have you added your coming engagements to the Lecture Calendar?
- Do you have a photo on your page? Be sure your page has a picture so program chairs can put a name with a face.



Instructions on updating your page can be found on the GSG website in the Members Corner.

Speak! Policies

Speak!, the quarterly newsletter of the Genealogical Speakers Guild, is published in March, June, September, and December. The deadline for submission of articles and other material for the newsletter is the 15th of the prior month (15 February, 15 May, 15 August, and 15 November).

As stated in Article II of the Bylaws of the Genealogical Speakers Guild (as amended and restated May 2004), the objectives of GSG shall be

1. To provide a unified, effective voice to promote speakers' interests by providing a forum for the discussion of topics of concern to genealogical speakers;
2. To broaden the speaker base by identifying, educating, and assisting promising speakers;
3. To raise professional lecture standards; and
4. To aid speakers in understanding and fulfilling their obligations to program planners and to audiences.

Guidelines for Submitting Feature Articles Prior to submitting a feature article, authors are requested to review the newsletter guidelines outlined in this document (*Speak!* Policies) and submit article topic to *Speak!* editor, Lauren Maehrlein (editor@genealogicalspeakersguild.org), for approval. Unsolicited articles will be returned to the author along with a copy of *Speak!* Policies.

- Articles must address a topic directly related to genealogical speaking.
- Articles should be no more than 2,000 words.
- Book reviews should be no more than 750 words.
- The editor retains the right of acceptance of all articles, news, and announcements.
- The editor retains the right to edit articles for accuracy, clarity, and length. Articles will be edited to conform to the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*.
- Authors retain their copyright.
- First-time submissions should be accompanied by a short (75 words or fewer) bio of the author and a photo. Both will be printed with the article when published.
- Not all articles submitted may be accepted for publication.
- Articles may not be published in the order in which they are received. The editor will balance content and topics throughout the year.
- Articles by non-members will be considered when space permits.

These guidelines do not apply to member news, calls for papers, or other notices and/or announcements submitted by GSG members. Adopted November 2010; updated January 2015.

GSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Margo Farriss Brewer, 2018

Vice President: C. Ann Staley, CG, 2019

Treasurer: Diana Crisman Smith, 2018

Secretary: Katherine R. Willson, 2019

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Smith