

Speak!

The Online Newsletter of the Genealogical Speakers Guild



In This Issue

From Our President	1
NGS Luncheon Recap	3
New Officers	3
Booth Attendant Sought.....	4
Member News	4
Upcoming Conferences	5
New Members	5
Society Column	6
FGS 2019 Luncheon	7
Calls for Papers	8
Dues Renewals	9
Member Benefits	10
Speak! Policies/Board Members	12

*The next issue of **Speak!**
will be published in September 2019*

From Our President

This President's letter contains many well-deserved congratulations and thanks as many of our members have taken the time to make GSG an even better organization. I'll start with a big thank you to GSG Director Jean Hibben, who needed to resign due to family matters. Jean has been very helpful on many issues, especially the website redesign, which she worked on from the beginning. I will miss working with Jean and wish her the best in the future.

Next, the entire GSG membership and I owe a thank you to all the GSG members who have stepped up and offered their time and energy to help GSG run smoothly. The first thank you goes to the members that served on the Nominating Committee – Janis Minor Forte, Dan Earl, and Judy Nimer Muhn – their work provided the GSG membership with the fantastic slate of candidates for the 2019 election. “Thank You!” Please look for the article on the results of the election and the members of the 2019-2021 GSG Board in this issue of **Speak!**

The second thank you goes to the GSG members who volunteered in our booth at the NGS conference in St. Charles – Michele Doyle, Janis Minor Forte, Margret Fortier, Nancy Loe, Annette Lyttle, Jamie Mayhew, Kimberly Nagy, Michelle Spencer, Alice Hoyt Veen – many of these members volunteered for more than one time slot. The efforts of these volunteers helped GSG gain new members and renew existing members. GSG greatly appreciates the time and support they gave in the GSG booth.

Do you recognize yourself or any of the GSG members mentioned in **Speak!** in the included photos? Harry Benson took them at the GSG booth and the ISFHWE/GSG luncheon. Let us know through the GSG Facebook Group. See the SPEAK! article on GSG Facebook on how to join the group.

If you missed the chance to volunteer in the booth, GSG will have a booth at the FGS conference in Washington, DC, this coming August. Watch for an e-mail with details in July.

While I am writing about the 2019 FGS conference, I hope you are planning to attend the ISFHWE/GSG luncheon that we sponsor and where you can mingle with other GSG members and conference attendees. The luncheon will be on Saturday, 24 August. More information on the luncheon is in this issue. Sign up soon and reserve your seat as it will sell out quickly.

Just a heads-up: GSG is planning on having another get-together during the FGS conference. The last one held at FGS 2018 was attended by several of our members. We gathered at a nearby restaurant to enjoy a good meal and great discussions on various topics — yes, even some related to issues faced by speakers. Look for details to be posted in August on the GSG Members Group on Facebook. To join this private group, see the *Speak!* article on the GSG Facebook page to learn how to join the group.

GSG held its first electronic annual meeting on 20 May using GoToMeeting. It was a big success even though only fifteen members attended; the number attending gave us a quorum. The topics covered were:

- The website redesign and recruiting Beta testers for the final phase. This phase will be very short, and we expect to announce the new website to the general membership very soon.
- The GSG Board recently authorized the revival of our educational webinars. We will offer these quarterly webinars with topics designed to encourage growth in our members' speaking careers. The speaker presenting the webinar, which will be given via *GoToWebinar*, will be reimbursed. For these webinars to become a reality GSG will need a webinar coordinator, a host, and webinars. In the next month or two, look for emails asking for members to volunteer for these two positions and a call for webinar presentations.

The Society column is back in this issue of *Speak!* This column was created to help both society program chairs and GSG members; the articles will be written to provide information and ideas for both types of readers.

- For the societies, we are looking for articles that help them understand why speakers charge what they do, ways to minimize or spread out that charge, how to add the cost of speakers to their budgets, how to locate a speaker that will bring increased attendance and thus new members, what they can provide for the speaker, etc.
- For speakers, the articles might focus on helping them advertise themselves to societies, ways to encourage societies to hire them, how to create lectures that appeal to a wide spectrum of audiences and localities, etc.

Are you wondering how your society can receive this column? They just need to sign up for a free subscription to *Speak!* This can be done on the GSG website Home page <https://www.genealogicalspeakersguild.org/> and clicking on "Newsletter Subscription Form." The society will be put on the non-member mailing list which will send a notification e-mail when the next issue of *Speak!* is available.

After you have read this issue of *Speak!* please let me know at President@GenealogicalSpeakersGuild.org, which articles you liked and the type of articles you would like to see added. *Speak!* is always looking for more articles, so if you have articles

you'd like to see added or information you are always telling others about, Please, Please, Please write an article about it.

See you in Washington, DC, at the FGS conference.



Margo Fariss Brewer
GSG President

A little history on our website was located by Ann Staley in an article in the March 2005 (Vol. 14, No. 1) issue of *Speak!* introducing the "New GSG Web Site." Fourteen years later we will soon be announcing our redesigned GSG website and giving many thanks to the efforts of our webmaster and the Website Redesign Committee who have been hard at work behind the scenes. Watch for the announcement!

RECAP: GSG/ISFHWE LUNCHEON AT NGS 2019

Billie Stone Fogarty, past president of GSG, was the speaker at the GSG/ISFHWE luncheon at the annual NGS conference, held this year in St. Charles, Missouri. Her talk, which followed a nice meal, was titled *A Journey of Discovery: Where is the Podium?*

The luncheon attendees were given a new perspective on the term "thinking on your feet," a term that is often quickly put into use if the audience is a group of avid genealogists.

Billie provided ideas to C.H.A.R.M. the audience of learners, suggesting they employ Curiosity, Humor, Agility, Respect, and Mindfulness in their presentations.

She used these suggestions in delivering her talk and got everyone who attended chuckling and thinking.

Thank you, Billie.



Billie Stone Fogarty speaks at NGS 2019

9



GSG Vice President C. Ann Staley and President Margo Fariss Brewer, at NGS 2019



2019 ELECTION RESULTS

The GSG membership elected the following candidates to the GSG Board:

Vice-President: Lisa Louise Cooke

Secretary: Elizabeth O'Neal

Director: Tamara Hallo

Their terms began 1 June 2019 and run through 31 May 2021. Our congratulations and good wishes go out them!

YOUR GUILD NEEDS YOU!!

Booth Attendant Needed at the FGS Conference in Washington, DC

The GSG Conference Booth Coordinators, C. Ann Staley and Margo Fariss Brewer, are offering an FGS Booth (full) Conference Registration to a Guild member for the position of Booth Attendant. (Not a permanent position.)

Ann and Margo hope to find someone who will be attending or residing near the conference location in Washington, DC, 21-24 August 2019.

The Booth Attendant would accept the following 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.
3. Be available to the Guild Booth during special events held in the vendor hall unless all time slots are filled by other GSG members. These events will occur Friday and Saturday. No lectures are scheduled during these times.

The Conference Booth Coordinators will assist the Booth Attendant by providing booth management instructions, setting volunteer time slots, and advertising to the GSG membership requesting conference booth volunteers.



Key points:

- Not a permanent position
- Local to the conference location, but not essential
- Will be assisted by the Conference Booth Coordinators

To apply please send name, contact information, cell number to Margo at

President@genealogicalspeakersguild.org.

MEMBER NEWS

Henry Z “Hank” Jones Jr., FASG, FGBS, a founding member of GSG, award-winning genealogist, well-known speaker, author, movie star, and recording artist – wrote to us recently. He noted that he would not be renewing his membership – he was going to “slow down and smell those roses.”

Those of us who have known and worked with him over the years will certainly miss seeing him on the “circuit,” but wish him a wonderful retirement.

Thank you, Hank, for your support of GSG these past 28 years!





UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The Ontario Genealogical Society 2019 Conference "Breaking Down Genealogical Barriers." **21-23 June**, London, Ontario, <https://ogs.on.ca>

The Family History Show, **22 June**, York, United Kingdom <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/york>

Association for Gravestone Studies Conference and Annual Meeting, **25-30 June**, Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, North Carolina, <https://gravestonestudies.org/conference/register-for-the-conference>

Midwestern Roots Family History and Genealogy Conference, **18-20 July**, Indianapolis, Indiana, <https://indianahistory.org/research/family-history/midwestern-roots/>

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia 50th Annual Convention, **22-27 July**, Lincoln, Nebraska, <https://www.ahsgr.org/>

39th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, **28 July–2 Aug 2019**, Cleveland, Ohio, <http://www.iajgs2019.org/>

51st Annual BYU Conference on Family History and Genealogy, 30 July-2 August, Provo, Utah, <https://tinyurl.com/yy3xu7jd>

2019 FGS Family History Conference: "Coming home to our Washington. DC" **21–24 August 2019**, Washington, DC, <https://fgs.org/>

MyHeritage Live 2019, **6-8 September**, Amsterdam, Netherlands, <https://blog.myheritage.com>

Association of Genealogists & Researchers in Archives (AGRA) 2019 Conference, **27-28 September**, Oxford University, United Kingdom, <https://www.agra.org.uk>

AAHGS - Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society 2019 National Conference, **10-12 October**, College Park, Maryland, <https://www.aahgs.org/>

RootsTech in London, **24-26 October**, London, United Kingdom, <https://www.rootstech.org/london>

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) 17th Genealogical and Cultural Conference, **15-19 October**, Lincoln, Nebraska, <https://www.cgsi.org>

Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast 2019 Conference, **18-19 October**, <http://www.pgscctne.org/ConferencesEvents.aspx>

Illinois State Genealogical Society Fall Conference, **25-26 October**, Naperville, Illinois, <https://ilgensoc.org/>

North Carolina Genealogical Society 2019 Fall Conference, **1-2 November**, Raleigh, North Carolina, <https://www.ncgenealogy.org/>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following joined GSG during the fall of 2018 and winter and spring of 2019. We look forward to their contributions to the Guild!

Jan Ahrens

Sara Cochran - Moreno Valley, California

Karen A. Fortin - Pinellas Park, Florida

Kathleen Kaldis - Leominster, Massachusetts

Dana Leeds - The Woodlands, Texas

Gregg Legutki - Helendale, California

Lori Berdak Miller

Jeanette Shiel - San Marcos, California

Michelle Spencer - Millbrook Alabama

Alexander Tolksdorf - Sterling Heights, Michigan

Stewart Traiman - Alameda, California

Bethany L. Ware - Ellamore, West Virginia

SOCIETY COLUMN

by Margo Fariss Brewer

When I was working in the GSG booth at the NGS conference in St. Charles, several society representatives asked me why speakers charge so much, or stated that their society could not afford a speaker. Before answering, I asked a couple of questions:

1. *Did they have a budget line item for speakers?* – Often answered "no."
2. *Who were they trying to hire?* – Frequently this was an "in-demand" speaker.

I was able to counter these answers with information from my experience as a lecturer (20 years) and a full-charge bookkeeper for several small corporations (22 years).

Societies would be wise to include a line item in their budgets for paying speakers. An offer to pay should be made to anyone, member or not, who presents an informational talk or lecture, with or without a slideshow or handouts, at their meeting. Every speaker spends time researching and preparing their presentations and this time should be honored with a reimbursement.

The dollar amount entered for this line item will depend on the number of speakers the society wants to host per year, but at least \$50-\$150 to cover one speaker per year.

Currently, a society can find many professional speakers who charge \$150 per one-hour lecture and have charged this amount for the last five to ten years. This fee, which is based on their budgeted income and expenses, is required by the IRS to prevent the speaker's business from being labeled a hobby which would force several speakers out of business.

Societies that want to hire "in demand" speakers must realize their fees are justifiably higher due to increased time spent developing and improving lectures, travel and other expenses, and the law of "supply and demand." A society may well benefit from paying the higher fee for someone with a widely recognized name by drawing a much larger audience, which can thus attract new visitors and, perhaps, new members.

If the fee would "break" the budget, a society might consider saving up for a couple years or approaching neighboring societies to share the expense.

Along with lecture fees, speakers will ask to be reimbursed for travel, lodging, and meals. Don't hesitate to negotiate expenses. Many speakers will agree to overnighting with a society member they know.

My suggestions for finding and hiring a speaker:

- First, don't just consider the geographic location of the speaker. Look for a topic that will interest your audience.
- Next, look for a speaker who lectures on your topic choice. The Genealogical Speakers Guild directory (<https://www.genealogicalspeakersguild.org/>) will let you search our members by Keyword.
- Finally, contact the speaker and see if they will negotiate. Sometimes speakers will have scheduled other lectures nearby, or may want to visit your area to do genealogical research, or to visit relatives and friends.

You just never know what might happen until you ask.

GSG/ISFHWE LUNCHEON AT FGS 2019

GSG President Margo Fariss Brewer is pleased to announce that Annette Burke Lyttle will be our speaker for the GSG/ISFHWE luncheon at the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2019 conference in Washington, DC. Open to GSG and ISFHWE members and anyone interested in hearing a talk by a first-rate speaker, it will be Saturday, 24 August 2019. Sign up for this luncheon as soon as possible, as it will sell out quickly.

In her presentation, *Kissing Cousins: Writing and Presenting are Two Sides of the Same Coin*, Annette will show how quality genealogical writing and excellent presentations may seem like second cousins once removed—two related, but different, work products, but in reality, they are downright incestuous. Explore the close kinship between writing and speaking and how techniques for improving one can help you improve the other.



!!! ALERT, ALERT!!!

Another chance to help GSG is coming!

The GSG booth at the 2019 FGS conference in Washington, DC, 21-24 August, needs you to help staff it. The GSG booth is only successful because of the members who volunteer!

Here are ways for you to participate in our booth:

1. Become the Booth Attendant and receive a free full conference registration. If you are interested in this position, please send your name and contact information to president@GenealogicalSpeakersGuild.org. Additional information is on page 4 of this issue.

2. Volunteer to help answer the questions of society program chairs and potential GSG members. Instructions on volunteering will be e-mailed to members in July.

3. Send or bring your brochures to be displayed in the GSG booth in Washington, DC. Remember displaying your brochures in the GSG booth at conferences is a membership benefit that you should use to your advantage.



A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Let your fellow members get to know you! Whether you're a new member or one who's been with us for years, we are interested in learning about you!

Please contact editor@genealogicalspeakersguild.org, if you would like to be the focus of a **Member Profile**. It's a great way to introduce yourself to the Guild and to get your name and specialties noticed by the greater genealogical world!



CALLS FOR PAPERS

The following is not a comprehensive list of speaking opportunities. Please send information regarding Calls for Papers to the editor at editor@genealogicalspeakersguild.org

DEADLINE 17 June 2019

RootsTech 2020

Join us as a presenter at RootsTech, the world's largest family history and technology conference, happening 26-29 February 2020, at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Presentations will be accepted through June 17, 2019.

Full speaker guidelines are found at <https://www.rootstech.org/call-for-presentations>

DEADLINE 1 July 2019

Federation of Genealogical Societies 2020 Conference

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) is requesting proposals for their 2020 Family History Conference, to be held 2-5 Sep 2020 in Kansas City, Missouri. Suggested themes include: Society Management, Non-Traditional Record Categories, Genetics & DNA, Social and Cultural Communities, Military Records, Midwestern Records, and Migration.

<https://fgs.org/conferences/call-for-proposals/>

DEADLINE 15 July 2019

New York State Family History Conference 2020

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) welcomes proposals for the 2020 New York State Family History Conference (NYSFHC) in Albany, 9–11 September 2020. The NYG&B is specifically seeking presentations and webinars focused on New York records and repository research, methodology, New York case studies, writing and publishing, biographies, and the use of DNA in genealogy. Presentations on other topics will be considered. Examples in presentations are encouraged to have connections to New York.

<https://nysfhc.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/program>

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



The Genealogical Speakers Guild booth at the 2019 NGS Conference, in St. Charles, Missouri.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF GUILD MEMBERSHIP?

In our current brochure we note the benefits of your Guild membership as:

- Display of brochures at various genealogical conferences
- **Speak!** Newsletter
- Inclusion in online directory
- Web site links
- Banner promotion of speakers at NGS & FGS Conferences

These are all great and help our businesses, but there's more!

Have you joined the Facebook group and page? Have you used them? "How?" you ask.

- To connect with other speakers in, or near, your area – your physical area and/or your area of research.
- To ask advice about purchases, business practices, etc.
- To connect with other speakers to share ideas.
- And much more.

Have you volunteered in the Guild booth at the national conferences? Yes! This is a benefit. The networking opportunities to interact with the public – the public that hires you – is great. You can talk directly to Society program chairs and Society members promoting, not only the Guild, but yourself as well.

Have you volunteered to help with Guild matters, either on the Board or as part of a committee? And again, yes, this is a benefit. You have the opportunity to meet and work with like-minded individuals who enjoy working to continue the legacy of the Guild.

In renewing, you can take advantage of all the various benefits that your Guild membership offers.

THE GSG IS ON FACEBOOK!

Are you one of the 80 members in the Facebook GSG Members Group?

To join the group:

1. Go to Facebook
2. Search for GSG Members Group
3. Click on the result with the GSG logo
4. Click on the "Join" button and answer the questions
5. In a day or two, you will be a member.





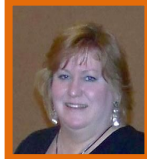









If you have problems joining the group, contact Margo at president@genealogicalspeakersguild.org.

MIDWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY INSTITUTE

Media Contact: Janis Minor Forté, Phone number: 773-768-4413, Fortejm@yahoo.com,
www.maagiinstitute.org

Chicago, Ill - May 2019 -The Midwest African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI) fulfills an educational need in the study of African American genealogy and family history from July 9 thru 11, 2019 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, at the Allen County Public Library. Staffed by recognized experts in genealogy, this Institute presents research and methodology, analysts skills and new resources in 6 Tracks through an array of challenging instructional course. At the end of the course registrants receive a certificate of completion in the course of study.

MAAGI - The Teaching Institute -Choose Your Study Track, Coordinators and Faculty

<p>Track 1A & 1B Fundamental Methods & Strategies, & Methods & Strategies for Slave Era Research</p>  <p>Dr. Shelley Murphy, Coordinator</p>	<p>Track 2A & 2B: DNA & Genealogy, & Track 4: Writing Track</p> <p>Bernice Alexander Bennett, Coordinator</p> 	<p>Track 3: Intermediate Genealogy - Pre & Post Slavery Era Research,</p> <p>Janis Minor Forté, Coordinator</p> 	<p>Track 4: Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes</p> <p>Angela Walton-Raji, Coordinator</p> 
	<p>Shannon Christmas, DNA Consultant</p> 	<p>Juliana Szucs, Ancestry.com</p> 	<p>Roberta Ridley, President, African-American Genealogy Group of Ft. Wayne Ind.</p> 
<p>Atty. Judy Russell, Genealogist, Blogger</p> 	<p>Nicka Sewell-Smith, Genealogist, Video Documentarian</p> 	<p>Dr. Alfred J. Brothers, Retired Military and Research Specialist</p> 	<p>Melissa Tennant, Assistant Manager, Genealogy Department Allen County Public Library</p> 
<p>Ron Graham, Genealogist, Muscogee-Creek Nation Specialist</p> 	<p>Dr. Janice Lovelace, African American Research Epigenetics and Genealogy</p> 	<p>TerryLigon, Genealogist, Videographer and Author,</p> 	<p>Toni Carrier, Director of the Center for Family History at the International African American Museum</p> 
<p>e-mail: maagiinstitute@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Allen County Public Library Ft. Wayne, Ind.</p>		<p>Melvin Collier, Author, Lecturer, Genealogist</p> 

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 Fariss Brewer, 2020

Vice President: Lisa Louise Cooke, 2021

Treasurer: Diana Crisman Smith, 2020

Secretary: Elizabeth O'Neal, 2021

Director: Tamara Hallo, 2021

Director: Timothy N. Pinnick, 2020

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Tami Mize, proofreader

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Eric Basir

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Vacant Margo Fariss Brewer and
C. Ann Staley