

Speak!

The Online Newsletter of the Genealogical Speakers Guild



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

From Our President

I want to extend a big *thank you* to the GSG members who volunteered their time in our booth at the FGS conference in Washington D.C. Look through this issue for photos and other articles about the booth. There will be another opportunity to help in the GSG booth in May 2020 at the NGS conference in Salt Lake City.

Speaking of volunteering in the booth got me thinking about how important active and involved members are to a society. Without involved members a society will surely wither and die. Fortunately, our Guild is blessed many actively involved members, BUT there are always new places for members to become active.

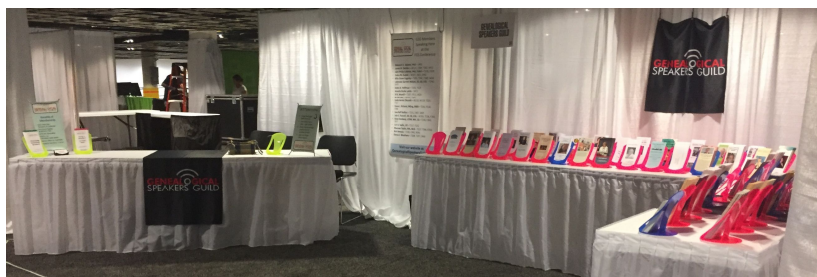
The Board is currently discussing creating committees that will help us grow and offer more benefit to our membership. These new committees will offer new volunteer opportunities for members to be active in the life of the Guild while easing the burden on those already volunteering. We may be looking for help with publicity; GSG website page monitors; webinar administrator, hosts, and moderators; and more. Hopefully, you are intrigued by some of these.

When you read a request for volunteers, please take a moment to consider whether that is something you could help with. Your Board will try to keep those requests to a minimum – in both number of requests and the time needed to complete a request.

Speak! always is looking for articles written by members. They can be short or long, even in serial installments. An article can be about speaking, creating presentations, writing handouts, or new gadgets. The deadline for submitting an article is the fifteenth of the month before **Speak!** will be issued: 15 February, 15 May, 15 August, and 15 November. Here's an idea: would one of our FGS booth volunteers write a short article, for the December issue of **Speak!** (due 15 November) about their experiences (good and bad) in our booth? I am sure this would be of interest to everyone.

Margo Fariss Brewer

President, Genealogical Speakers Guild



GSG/ISFHWE LUNCHEON AT FGS 2019

Annette Burke Lyttle presented *Kissing Cousins: Writing and Presenting are Two Sides of the Same Coin*, at the GSG/ISFHWE luncheon at the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2019 conference in Washington, D.C.

In her presentation Annette showed 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. She explored the close kinship between writing and speaking and how techniques for improving one can help us improve the other.

A synopsis of Annette's talk will be included in the December 2019 issue of *Speak!*



NEW SOCIETY CORNER COLUMNIST

Annette Burke Lyttle has volunteered to become the columnist of "Society Corner." Her first column will appear in the December issue of *Speak!*

Annette is well qualified to guide her column as it moves forward. She owns Heritage Detective, LLC, providing professional genealogical services in research, education, and writing. She loves helping people uncover and share their family stories. Annette speaks on a variety of genealogical topics at the national, state, and local levels. She has a master's degree in English and a bachelor's in journalism, and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, as well as a number of national, state, and local societies. Annette has been researching her family on and off since high school, and has been a full-time genealogist since 2012. Her genealogical education includes the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, the British Institute, the ProGen Study Group, and the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* Study Group.

The column, which is geared to our subscribing societies and libraries, will contain information that connects speakers with these subscribers and encourages open dialogue between them.

Please send any ideas or topics you would like see discussed in the column to Margo Fariss Brewer at President@GenealogicalSpeakersGuild.org and they will be forwarded to Annette.

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!



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

19-20 Sep 2019: 30th Annual Montana State Genealogy Conference, Helena, Montana.
<http://montanamsgs.org/conferences.html>

19-21 Sep 2019: Association of Professional Genealogists 2019 Professional Management Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah.
<https://www.apgen.org/conferences/index.html>

20 Sep 2019: New Mexico Genealogical Society 59th Annual conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico. <https://www.nmgs.org/>

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

27-28 Sep 2019 – Family Roots Family History Conference, St. George, Utah.
<https://www.familyrootsconference.com/>

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

11-12 Oct 2019: The Texas State Genealogical Society Annual Family History Conference, Houston, Texas. <https://www.txsgs.org/2019-conference/>

12 Oct 2019: The Greater Omaha Genealogical Society 2019 Fall Conference, Omaha, Nebraska.
<https://gogsmembers.wordpress.com/>

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

15-19 October: The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) 17th Genealogical

and Cultural Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska,
<https://www.cgsi.org>

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

24-26 Oct 2019: RootsTech, London, United Kingdom. <https://www.rootstech.org/london>

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

26 Oct 2019: Fairfax Genealogical Society Fair, Dunn Loring, Virginia.
<https://fxgs.org/cpage.php?pt=21>

26 Oct 2019: Mid-Atlantic GS, German Migration in the Mid-Atlantic States, Matinsburg, Virginia
<https://magsgen.com/eventListings.php?nm=19>

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following joined GSG during the summer of 2019. We look forward to their contributions to the Guild!

Kathleen J. Callanan – Florida

Phyllis Codling McLaughlin – Kentucky

Lisa Reed – Texas

Michael Stills – Washington

HANK Z JONES ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Henry Z “Hank” Jones Jr., a founding member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild, has announced his retirement from the speaking circuit and from GSG.

Long-time members of the Guild are well aware of Hank’s many activities and achievements, and nearly everyone knows his genealogical contributions, but some of those new to genealogy may not be familiar with his extensive accumulation of awards and recognitions, not only in the field of genealogy, but also as a television, movie, and recording notable.



Hank got his start in the early 1960s with the most iconic children’s programmer of all time, Walt Disney. In his thirty years in show business, he appeared in eight Disney movies alongside such stars as Peter Ustinov, Dean Jones, Elsa Lanchester, Suzanne Pleshette, and Tim Conway – who he barely survived working with! He also was cast in more than 300 various sit-coms and variety shows, working with Robin Williams, Henry Fonda, Patsy Cline, Ron Howard, Ringo Starr, Patty Duke, William Frawley, Vincent Price, Minnie Pearl, Fred MacMurray, Jimmy Dean, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Bob Hope, Dizzy Gillespie, and even Elvis.

His show-biz career wasn’t limited to acting, however. As a singer and ASCAP songwriter for RCA he has released several LPs and CDs of his own music.

Of course, genealogists are probably most interested in his career as a genealogical researcher, lecturer, and author.

A 1963 graduate of Stanford University, Hank was bitten by the genealogy bug at the age of eight, and his

early genealogical beginnings and exploits were dramatized on NBC’s *Unsolved Mysteries*.

His research specialty has long been the study of the early immigrants to the US from the Palatine region

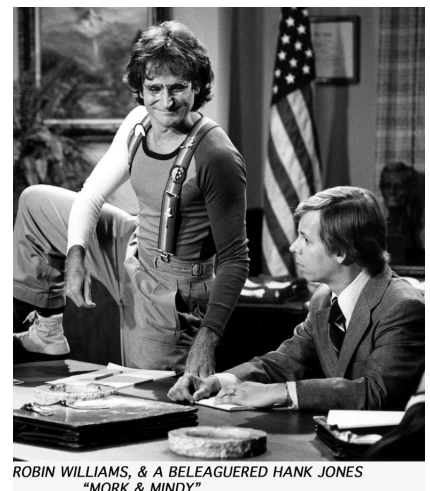
(Palatinate) of Germany. He’s written eleven books including *The Palatine Families Of New York – 1710* which was the 1986 winner of the Donald Lines Jacobus Award as Best Genealogical Book of The Year, and two



Psychic Roots: Serendipity & Intuition in Genealogy volumes (currently in their ninth printing). Hank’s many articles have been published in TAG (The American Genealogist), NGSQ(quarterly), NEHGS Register, NYG&B Record, and The Genealogist.

Hank is the current President and a Fellow of The American Society of Genealogists; Fellow of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society; and a winner of the NGS Award of Merit for Distinguished Work in Genealogy

After giving presentations on family history research since 1972, Hank and several others on the speaking circuit got together to see how best to provide a unifying force regarding such problems as raising fees, covering expenses, and addressing some of the problems



ROBIN WILLIAMS, & A BELEAGUERED HANK JONES
“MORK & MINDY”

speakers were facing alone. The upshot of those meetings was the founding of The Genealogical Speaker's Guild in August 1991 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. (See a more extensive history of the founding of the GSG in the upcoming December issue.)

Hank was good enough to share some of his hard-earned knowledge with today's GSG members:

GENEALOGICAL AXIOMS I BELIEVE:

1. Documentation – Documentation – Documentation!
2. Historians don't have to be genealogists, but genealogists have to be historians.
3. It's great to find out about important or prominent ancestors, but don't forget to honor the horse thieves – they too have their stories.
4. Follow your intuition and see if the facts back it up.
5. The mark of a really great genealogist is the willingness to revise and reevaluate his own work.
6. Find another passion besides genealogy to enjoy when there's a lull, you're bored, or you're stale: don't be a one-trick pony. Smell *other* roses too – get a *life*.
7. The internet is a blessing but also a curse: triple-check everything you find on it because so much (especially in those blankety-blank "Public Member Trees") is pure garbage – and the errors and family connections therein perpetuate. Genealogy still is a down and dirty, roll-up-your-sleeves endeavor that requires in-person visits to archives, courthouses, and cemeteries.
8. Our ancestors want to be remembered – and it's our job to do just that – it's what we're *supposed* to do - it's our *calling!* Allow yourself to be a *conduit* for their loving energy.
9. Hit a brick wall??? Study the neighbors!

SUGGESTIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL GENEALOGICAL TALK

(Lessons learned – sometimes the hard way – and things to remember)

1. Speak as if you are speaking to just one person, not the whole crowd.
2. Give the talk that YOU would like to hear at a genealogical gathering.
3. The wisest thing you'll ever say at a Q&A session after your talk might well be "I don't know."
4. Make your presentation a celebration, not a funeral. Although it may be a heavy subject, keep it light

- whenever you can and have fun. ("A genealogist, a priest, and a rabbi walk into a bar ..."). Amuse yourself as well as your audience.
5. Don't let the distractions (fire alarm systems going off, cell phones ringing, mumblers muttering, mutterers mumbling, etc.) get to you – keep plugging along with what you want to say. It'll be worth it.
6. Once you work your speaking fee up from where it started, try never to lower it – even though the local society who might want you pleads poverty and whines. Have respect for your own worth and effort. However, *do* give gratis talks to special groups when you feel so moved.
7. Remember that the old guy in the front row of your audience who snored through your entire presentation might come up after you're finished and say, "That was the BEST talk I ever heard – you changed my life!"
8. The audience *wants* you to succeed – they're your friends, not enemies. They've already given you their money and their time, so they're on your side from the get-go.
9. Never give the same exact speech twice or you'll get stale. Stay fresh. Feel free enough to wander off-topic a little, but don't stray away from your subject-matter too long before you get back on track.
10. If you have to, fake spontaneity.
11. Find a genealogical bailiwick. Become the guru for that topic. It will keep you in demand. Milk it for all its worth!
12. Remember that the hardest part of your booking probably will be having to go out to dinner afterwards with the local society's board of directors – when all you really want to do is collapse and go back to your hotel room and watch dumb cartoons.
13. Never eat spinach at a banquet prior to your talk. And, for the guys, never assume that your fly is fully zipped as you walk to the podium.



Thank you, Hank, for all you've given to the genealogical community. Although we of the Genealogical Speakers Guild will miss your regular contributions, we all wish you a long and very happy retirement!

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 87 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.



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SEEKS NOMINATIONS

The National Genealogy Hall of Fame is an educational project sponsored by the National Genealogical Society (NGS). The entire genealogical community is invited to participate in this project – through annual elections to the Hall of Fame, we honor those individuals of the past who made significant contributions to genealogy and set the high standards by which we work today.

Would your society like to honor a genealogist whose unique, pioneering, or exemplary work lives on today? Perhaps there was a notable genealogist in your state or county whose name should be memorialized in the National Genealogy Hall of Fame. If so, NGS and the National Genealogy Hall of Fame would like to hear from you. They are seeking nominations from the entire genealogical community for persons whose achievements or contributions have made an impact on the field. This educational program increases appreciation of the dedication and useful advancements achieved by committed genealogists whose work paved the way for researchers today. This is an opportunity for your nominee to receive national exposure for their contributions to genealogy.

A nomination for election to the National Genealogy Hall of Fame must be made by a genealogical society or similar organization on the official nomination form. National Genealogical Society (NGS) affiliation is not required of nominees, nominating societies, or electors. Thirty outstanding genealogists have been recognized for their contributions since 1986. Those elected are permanently commemorated in the virtual Hall of Fame on the NGS website. See <https://www.NGSgenealogy.org/hall-of-fame-members/>

The formal Call for Nominations can be downloaded at <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Hall-of-Fame-Information-and-Call-for-Nom.pdf>

Deadline for all submissions is 15 December 2019. Official nomination forms are available from the NGS website (<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Hall-of-Fame-Nomination-form.pdf>) or by contacting the National Genealogical Society, 6400 Arlington Blvd., Suite 810, Falls Church, VA 22042-2318; phone 1-800-473-0060.

ISFHWE ANNOUNCES THE “EXCELLENCE IN WRITING” COMPETITION

Our sister organization – International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (ISFHWE) – recently announced that its keynote initiative, the “Excellence in Writing” competition, is back!

Entries are being accepted through the 15th of March 2020. Their website notes: “The competition is open to both MEMBERS and NON-MEMBERS of ISFHWE. Both published and non-published authors may enter.

The entry categories are: Columns; Articles; Genealogy Newsletter; Unpublished Authors; Unpublished material – Published Authors; and Poetry/Song Lyrics.”

More information and entry forms can be found at <https://www.isfhwe.org/excellence-in-writing-competition/>



GSG BOOTHS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Setting up booths at the National Conferences is work – but so rewarding! Talking to those interested in finding speakers and those interested in being a speaker is an opportunity to provide information that might change the way speakers are viewed – and hired. It can also impact how speakers view themselves.

The three tables in the booth are arranged so that we have the brochures displayed on two of them. You can see in the pictures on the following page that some of the brochure display holders are blue, denoting that person is speaking at the conference. Since not all of the GSG members presenting at the conference have provided brochures, we also display a banner listing all of them. For some conferences we have had to go to two banners to hold all of the names! This is the easiest membership benefit you can take advantage of. Send in your brochure and volunteers at the conference will help promote you!

But it is also fun to network with your fellow speakers – and you can make yourself known to program chairs. So consider volunteering some time at the next conference. It will be well worth your while.

WEBINARS SOUGHT

The Minnesota Genealogical Society is currently accepting proposals for its 2020 Webinar Series.

Webinars are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM (Central).

MGS is specifically seeking presentations on the following topics:

1. "How-To" lectures dealing with a variety of genealogical sources, including, but not limited to such topics as: Midwest research and resources (repositories), Putting together a family history book (from start to finished product), Copyright as it affects genealogy, Using hard copy and digital maps both online and in libraries and archives (e.g., Sanborn Map, Rumsey Map Collection, Google Maps).
2. Demonstrating technology for genealogy, including, but not limited to such topics as: DNA data analysis (DNAPainter, chromosome mapping, interpreting results); walk through and teach how to analyze DNA matches (whether and how to contact matches); saving and organizing digital images and documents on your computer; organizing hard copy genealogical research and collected records; explaining and comparing software for managing, organizing, and analyzing genealogical information.
3. Methodology and problem-solving case studies, including, but not limited to research and analysis such as: Combining DNA with traditional analysis (case studies); writing a proof argument; creating good standard citations for genealogical research; solving problems with indirect evidence; methods for breaking through brick walls; merging identities: one person/two names.
4. Presentations on other topics will be considered.

Full details, guidelines, compensation, and webinar RFP submission form will be found in the Webinar RFP and Webinar RFP Guidance links at <https://mngs.org/cpage.php?pt=148>

GSG BOOTH VOLUNTEERS - THANK YOU!

Thank you! to all of the GSG members who staffed the booth at the FGS conference in Washington, DC, this past August:

Debra Braverman	John Colletta	Wevonneda Minis
Michael Cassara	Michele Doyle	Diane Richard
Julia Coldren-Walker	Debra Dudek	Jane Neff Rollins
Annette Burke Lyttle		

Many of these members volunteered for more than one time slot. Their efforts helped GSG gain new members and renewals. GSG greatly appreciates the time and support they gave in the booth.

We hope to see all of you at the NGS conference in Salt Lake City, UT, and the FGS conference in Kansas City, MO. Watch for details on how to join in the fun by volunteering at the GSG booth.

National Booth Coordinators
Ann Staley and Margo Brewer



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

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

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