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APG eNEWS



Association of Professional
GENEALOGISTS

Vol. 13, No. 1, January 2025

Members Celebrated for Outstanding Contributions to APG and the Genealogy Profession

APG recently honored several members for their professional achievements and service to the association and the genealogy profession. President John Boeren presented the awards at the Annual Members' Meeting and Awards Presentation on 5 December 2024. This year's recipients are:

Laura G. Prescott Award for Exemplary Service to Professional Genealogy – Alice Childs, AG



The Prescott Award recognizes services to the field of professional genealogy, exemplary professionalism, and continuing encouragement to other professional genealogists. The 2024 recipient, Alice Childs, selflessly gives much of her time to educating, mentoring, and inspiring genealogists of all stages. She was a mentor for ProGen 66, writes a blog called GenealogyNow, and

has given presentations at conferences and institutes such as RootsTech, SLIG, and APG's PMC. Alice served for several years as the Communications Manager for SLIG and has done much volunteer work with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She is currently assistant director of Brigham Young University Center for Family History and Genealogy.

Grahame T. Smallwood Jr. Award of Merit – Leslie Lawson



The Smallwood Award recognizes an APG member for their personal commitment and outstanding service to the Association. This year's winner, Leslie Lawson, has been an active participant and pillar of APG for many years. A member of the APG Board of Directors from 2017-2020, she was instrumental in the launch and a founding member of the APG Forensic Special Interest

Group (SIG). In particular, she was the backbone of the SIG Mentor program and provided countless hours of support to many members starting their

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education in forensic genealogy. Leslie is also active with her local APG Chapter and serves as the Chapter Liaison.

Kathleen W. Hinckley Professional Achievement Award – Kip Sperry, AG



The winner of the 2024 Hinckley Award, Kip Sperry, certainly meets the award criteria of exceptional professional achievement with contributions to the field of genealogy through individual excellence and ethical behavior. An Accredited Genealogist in the Midwestern states with the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists, Kip is Professor Emeritus of Family History, Department of Church History & Doctrine at Brigham Young University (BYU) where he taught family history and American and LDS genealogical research methods and sources for more than twenty-five years. He formerly worked at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and was former Associate Director at the BYU Center for Family History and Genealogy. Kip was national conference chair for four NGS Annual Conferences and a former NGS council member, and is a former editor of the Utah Genealogical Association's *Genealogical Journal* and *BYU Family Historian*.

APG Quarterly Excellence Award – Jen Shaffer



This award recognizes excellence in writing for the *APG Quarterly*, and this year's winner, Jen Shaffer, was recognized for her March 2024 article, "Expand Your Business with TikTok Videos."

The article represented a unique perspective about marketing in today's digital landscape and was thoughtfully written in an engaging manner to encourage fellow professional genealogists to try something new to reach potential clients.

Certificates of Appreciation

These recognize outstanding, continual, or unusual contributions to APG by a member or non-member:

- **Code of Ethics Review Committee** – Mark A. Wentling, CG, Chair; LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, CG, CGL, FASG; Debbie Kennett; Jessica M. Taylor. The committee was recognized for its work reviewing our code, responding to members' concerns, and evaluating each section against standards across our industry, and beyond.
- **Publications Advisory Committee** – Jenifer Kahn Bakkala; Jennifer Dix; Vanessa Akridge Dorminey; Shannon Musfelt; Lori Lyn Price MAS, MLS. In addition to their regular role of reviewing all APG published materials, the committee took on the additional task of reviewing more than 200 website pages in less than six weeks in support of the website redesign and launch in mid-2024.
- **Website Committee** – Suzanne L. Hoffman, Chair; Fiona Brooker; Sara L. Dawson; Pam Ricciardi Paschke. Honored for their countless hours designing the new website, testing functionality, and communicating to and educating members about the changes.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners!

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The December 2024 APGQ is now available!

The latest edition of the **APG Quarterly** is now available, and includes the following articles:

- “Diversify Your Income: A Genealogist’s Guide” by Carly Lane Morgan
- “From Passionate Dream to Joyful Reality: Building a Genealogy Business” by Anni Parsons
- “A Vision Realized: How I Became a Published Author” by Diana Elder
- “Just Say No?!?” by Sara Dawson
- “Tech Tips for Crafting Quality Documents” by Cyndi Ingle
- “Let’s Talk Business: A ‘Hire Me’ Page That Produces Results” by Joy Curtiss
- “Weekly Reviews: A Newer Approach” by Drew Smith
- “Getting an Education: Genealogy and Related Fields” by Amanda E. Perrine

Access the issue at www.apgen.org by logging in and selecting **Members > Publications > APG Quarterly**.

APG's Continuing Education Reporting Form is Open

Continuing Education Committee chair Jenifer Kahn Bakkala discusses how to report our latest learning to APG.



APG's Continuing Education Reporting Form is now live and will be available through 31 January 2025. Having your member number ready in advance will ease the process. To access the form, please visit https://www.apgen.org/2024_reporting_form.php.

APG Members are required to report at least twelve hours of Continuing Professional Education each year. Conferences, institutes, courses, and webinars are just some of the items that qualify for inclusion as reportable Continuing Education hours for 2024.

Although only twelve hours are required, the online form allows for the description of additional hours for those who wish to offer an expanded account of their experience. If you are just now tallying your hours for the past year, the following resources may be helpful:

- “Developing Your Skills through Continuing Education,” which appeared in the June 2022 issue of the APG Quarterly, offers an overview of some of the educational opportunities that qualify for inclusion on the form:
<https://www.apgen.org/docs/07ace819-4e2c-4448-a2b2-8638775b1d14.pdf>
- An account of some examples of self-directed education is available beginning on page 8 of the March 2023 issue of the APG Quarterly:
<https://www.apgen.org/docs/4b9837f1-4fcb-4c37-ac0d-5b3ac1b3d4be.pdf>



If extenuating circumstances have prevented you from completing the requirement in 2024, the form offers an opportunity to ask for an exemption. Those who do not fill out the form will not be eligible to have a public profile on APG's website.

For more about APG's Continuing Education policy, visit: https://www.apgen.org/continuing_education.php

Questions? Drop In!

A live drop-in session will take place on Zoom, from 2 and 3 p.m. ET on Tuesday, 14 January for those who have questions about the Continuing Education requirement or who would like help in filling out the online form.

Members can “drop in” anytime during the hour-long session to speak to members of the Continuing Education Committee, who will be on hand to provide answers and guidance.

To attend, register here: <https://members.apgen.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=146455>

Strathclyde Institute's Symposium Calls for Presentations

The Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies (SIGS) will hold an international academic genetic genealogy symposium on 26 April 2025, entitled **“Further Discussions in Advancing Genetic Genealogy: How the Past is Continuing to Inform the Present Through Revolutions in Genetic Research.”**

This online event follows a previous two-day conference in June 2024 held at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, showcasing research on Y-DNA, autosomal DNA, investigative genetic genealogy and genetics.

The symposium is interdisciplinary in nature, with shorter presentations focusing on current research projects. Presentations should be aimed at an audience with an intermediate to advanced level of knowledge and understanding.



This call for presentations seeks proposals which will tend to cover the more practical application of genetic genealogy, to supplement the more academic based keynote presentations, although more academic proposals will be considered. Presentations highlighting case studies demonstrating the use of genetics in genealogical research would be welcome.

Speakers from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds are invited to share their experiences and thoughts around the following themes:

- Autosomal DNA
- Investigative genetic genealogy
- Methodologies surrounding unknown parentage cases

Proposals beyond these themes will also be considered. Recordings of the presentations will be made available for two months to conference participants.

Submission guidelines

The symposium committee invites proposals for individual or co-presented presentations.

Presentations can be 20 minutes in length, and time will be set aside for questions and answers. Proposals must be submitted via email by 20 January 2025. Acceptance decisions will be sent out by early February 2025.

Please submit an abstract (200–300 words) and a biographical note (100 words) for each presenter. Provide information on any previous experience with presenting at conferences or other events. The deadline for submissions is 20 January 2025.

For further details please visit

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/genealogy/advancinggeneticgenealogy/> or contact the institute via cll-sigs@strath.ac.uk.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Dwyer Cohen



I am sure our members are off and running with all kinds of plans for 2025!

I am going to add a few things to your list, if I may:

- Don't forget to turn in your 2024 **continuing education reporting form** before 31 January. This is an essential requirement for your APG membership.
- Consider submitting a proposal to the Professional Development Committee to present to your fellow members – you can do so via https://www.apgen.org/call_for_webinar_proposals.php.
- Audit your APG profile:
 - Have you added anything new? Completed a course, updated your latest lectures?
 - Have you removed any out-of-date information?
 - Have you completed the central/bio section of your profile?
 - Have you set your profile to public view, if your aim is to attract new clients?
 - Have you updated your “Based In” and “Researches in” sections? These will help make your profile more “searchable”.

Here in the APG main office, we have plenty of exciting plans for the new year. We will be preparing for upcoming conferences, monitoring marketing results, supporting committee and chapter/SIG requests, and organizing our next new members meeting with John Boeren, APG President. We are working on standardizing a lot of procedures for things we do each year, to make transitions between new contractors, or new volunteers, go more smoothly.

The APG *Quarterly* team will be getting the March issue ready for publication, and Chris will be planning out upcoming *eNews* issues. Our new board members will go through their orientation next week, and chairs of APG committees will begin setting goals for the year.

We will be recruiting booth volunteers for upcoming events! RootsTech is the first one scheduled. Please check in on this message board at https://members.apgen.org/members/forum/board_list.php if you will be available to help us – we would love to see you. It's also a great way to network with other members and to gain knowledge of potential client needs.

Until next month!

Michelle

Getting to Know the New APG Website

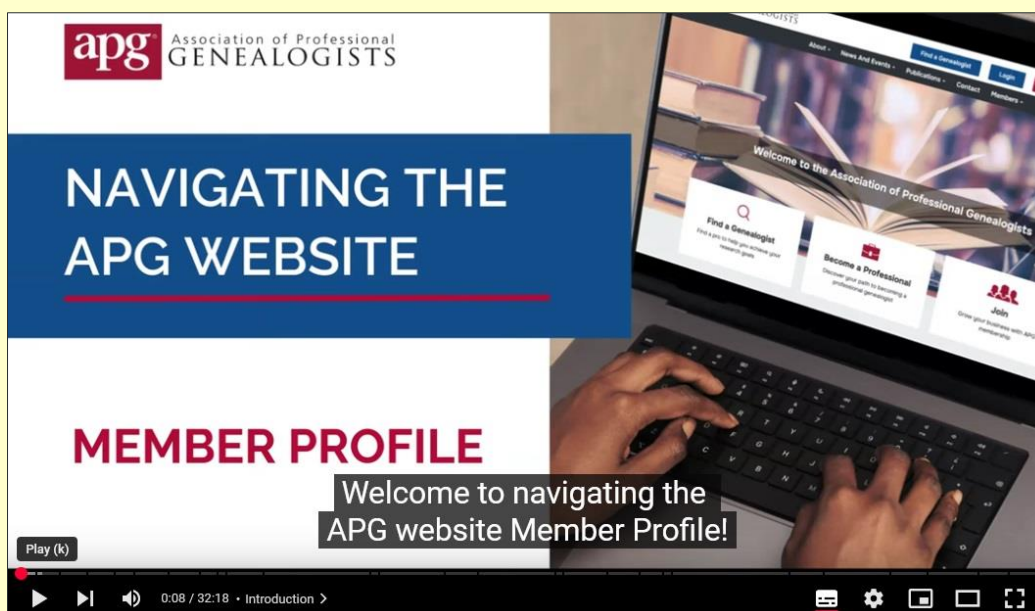
It's a New Year – Update Your APG Membership Profile!

Entering the new year, you might be reflecting on your accomplishments from 2024. Why not jot them down and take a moment to update your APG membership profile?

A descriptive and complete membership profile in the APG Directory will help potential clients discover you. Keep your profile up to date! Get started by heading to the APG website (www.apgen.org) and:

- Log in to the Members' Area at the top right. From that member landing page, then
- Click on "Change Contact/Profile Info" in the center of the page. Be sure your contact information is correct.
- Add new details to the other sections (e.g., lectures, publications, and specialities)
- Don't forget to add a photo (or a new photo). Incomplete profiles are often overlooked by web crawlers and impact your SEO retrieval and findability.

To help you through the process, check out the **"Navigating the APG Website"** video by Sara Dawson on the member landing page, which includes details on how to set up your profile. It will show you the features on our new website and tips on best practices to get more visibility for your profile.



Many members are experiencing an increased number of leads being generated by public views to our website. Those leads not only reflect new research clients but also new speaking engagements and other projects.

See what new opportunities an updated profile can provide for you!

Your Association Needs You!

APG President John Boeren calls for volunteers to serve on APG's committees.



Do you want to help shape the future of our association? APG's committees are looking for enthusiastic members to volunteer their time and talents!

Whether your strengths lie in education, advocacy, membership engagement, or another area, there's a committee that could use your expertise. Serving on a committee is a great way to give back, collaborate with fellow members, and make a meaningful impact on our association.

To learn more about the committees, visit <https://www.apgen.org/committees.php> or contact me directly at president@apgen.org. Tell us why you would like to be on a certain committee and what you bring to the table. A link to your APG profile would also help too. I look forward to working with you to make APG stronger than ever!

APG is now on



Bluesky

Follow us [@apgenealogists.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/apgenealogists.bsky.social)

Looking for APG Quarterly articles on specific topics or by title? The [APGQ Index](#), a searchable PDF file organized by general topic, and then by article title, has been updated to include issues up to 2023. The Index can be accessed on the [APG Quarterly](#) archive page.

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Upcoming Professional Development Events

The Impact of EU Privacy Laws on Genealogical Research

Sunday, 26 January 2025, 1:00–3:30 p.m. ET (For worldwide times visit <https://www.timeanddate.com>)

Join us for a special panel discussion sponsored by APG's International Affairs Committee and Professional Development Committee. In this webinar, genealogists from several European countries will discuss details of European Union (EU) privacy laws and the impact they might have on genealogists' research for clients. This webinar is for APG members only. Not a member? Join today!

This event is open to MEMBERS ONLY. Register here:

https://members.apgen.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?org_id=APG&eventid=146821.

Panelists



Lene Dræby Kottal, CG, is a professional genealogist who holds the Certified Genealogist credential from the Board for Certification of Genealogists. She has earned an academy profession degree in marketing economics and taken various classes at the University of Southern Denmark, including linguistics, American history, and social studies. Before founding her genealogy research business in 2013, she worked as a financial clerk for multinational corporations. Lene's passion for genealogy was ignited at age seventeen when she discovered her Czech ancestry. Since then, she has researched her Danish, Swedish, Finnish, and Czech ancestors. She regularly blogs about Danish genealogy and research methods. For more information, visit her website at <https://www.genealogistkottal.com>.



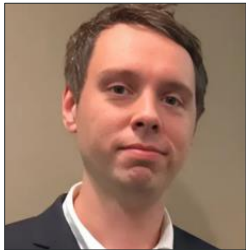
Ursula C. Krause is a German genealogist with a law degree. She previously worked for the Data Commissioner of the federal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, where she was part of the team responsible for drafting the first data protection legislation for Mecklenburg-Vorpommern after German reunification. Ursula began her professional genealogy career in 2009. After running her own company, Rootseekers, and later working as a senior genealogist with AncestryProGenealogists, she established My German Family in 2023. Specializing in German genealogical research across multiple centuries, Ursula focuses particularly on 20th-century research, where her legal background proves especially valuable. Her expertise has been showcased on renowned genealogical television programs, including *Finding Your Roots*, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, and *Every Family Has a Secret*. Together with Ute Brandenburg, she is part of the German Genealogy Headquarters, the go-to place for German genealogy education and mentoring.



Anne Morddel, CG, MLIS, worked in libraries and archives in her native California, Europe, South America, the Middle East, and Africa. She is now based in France, where she has written The French Genealogy Blog for more than fifteen years, producing nearly one thousand posts about the many aspects of French genealogical research. Some of these posts have been published in book form, most notably, *French Genealogy From Afar*. She also has spent many years researching American merchant seamen in Europe. Her recently published *American Merchant Seamen of the Early Nineteenth Century: a Researcher's Guide* explains how to use libraries, archives and online databases around the world to document the lives of seamen who lived in the early 1800s. Her next book, about the more than 1500 American mariners who were prisoners in Napoleonic France, to be published by Boydell and Brewer, is due out in 2025.

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David Ryan is a genealogist, speaker, and oral historian based in Cork, Ireland. He has worked as a professional genealogist for the past decade and has been a member of APG since 2015. David recently completed a Masters in Public History and Cultural Heritage at the University of Limerick and is a graduate of ProGen Study Group 39. He has also served on the APG Board of Directors since 2022 and as part of the APG International Affairs Committee since 2020. David is the current Communications Chair for the Oral History Network of Ireland.



Markus Schoenherr is a professional genealogist originally from Germany. Since 2000, he has lived and worked in Vienna, Austria, specializing in Central and Eastern European research as well as probate genealogy, finding living relatives of deceased persons as potential heirs to an estate. Apart from his native German and English, he speaks and reads in several languages, including Romanian and Hungarian. Markus has held several leadership positions on boards and commissions of various associations in Europe, and was recently reelected to a position on the Board of Directors of the APG. He formerly worked in financial planning and accounting, holding a business degree from the University of Passau, Germany.

Facilitator



Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, The Legal Genealogist, is a genealogist with a law degree who provides expert guidance through the murky territory where law and family history intersect.

An internationally-known lecturer and award-winning writer, she holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist and Certified Genealogical Lecturer from the Board for Certification of Genealogists. Judy's blog is at www.legalgenealogist.com.

Global Gathering

Sunday, 23 February 2025, 4:00–5:30 p.m. ET (For worldwide times visit <https://www.timeanddate.com>)

The Global Gathering will feature regional and specialty Breakout Rooms for APG members (and those interested in becoming members!) to socialize and share research tips, or ask questions focused on the area or topic represented by each room.

This event is open to all. Register here:

<https://members.apgen.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=147804>

The **Association of Genealogy Educators and Schools** conference is coming up on 4 March 2025. This will be a hybrid conference focusing on fostering research and education connections.

View the program at
<https://agesgenealogy.org/annualconference/>.



MEMBERS' NEWS

APG Members Participate in Unlock the Past's Final Ocean-Going Genealogy Cruise

From 1–10 December 2024 the final sea-going genealogy cruise from Adelaide-based Unlock the Past / Gould Genealogy (www.gould.com.au) took place around southern Australia, with APG members Helen Smith, Michelle Patient, Shauna Hicks, Margaret Gaffney, and Chris Paton on board as part of the speaking team. The cruise started in Sydney, and visited Hobart, Kangaroo Island, Adelaide, and Melbourne, before returning to Sydney.



Top left: APG members Helen Smith, Margaret Gaffney, Samantha John, Shauna Hicks, and Chris Paton. Top right: Australian member Shauna Hicks lecturing on board. Bottom left: Margaret Gaffney from New Zealand speaking at the event. Bottom right: Lead speaker Chris Paton and his wife Claire stand beside the Celebrity Edge, the conference venue. (photos: Chris Paton)

ProGen Study Groups

Congratulations to the following APG members who have recently completed the following ProGen Study Groups (<https://progenstudygroups.com>):

ProGen 67

Robyn Choate, Todd Holden, Kristin A. Kaercher, and Melanie L. Proctor.

ProGen 68

Adrienne McQuillan and Suzanne M. Parker.

Do you have news to share?

If you have news that you would like to share with APG colleagues, please drop a note to eNews Editor Chris Paton at enews@apgen.org, and copy Executive Director Michelle Dwyer Cohen at admin@apgen.org.

Ohio Genealogical Society Call for Lecture Proposals for 2026 Annual Conference

The Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) has announced a request for lecture proposals for the 2026 conference “**Finding Those Gems in Genealogy**” to be held 29 April–2 May 2026, at Sharonville Convention Center in Sharonville, Ohio, USA.

Topics being considered include but are not limited to the following: immigration, census records, religious groups, migration, origins of early Ohio settlers and the Old Northwest Territory, “movers and shakers” of early Ohio, early Ohio River settlements, utilizing land records, military records, technology (including usage mobile devices, apps, social media), DNA, organization, society management and development, and methodology, analysis, and problem solving in genealogical research, Ohio history and its records, archives, and repositories.

The program committee is specifically seeking new, unusual, and dynamic proposals. Think outside of the box! Interested speakers are strongly encouraged to submit multiple proposals for either one-hour general sessions, or two-hour workshops. There is no limit to the number of proposals a speaker may submit. The deadline for submission of lecture proposals is 31 May 2025.

Proposals should be submitted in PDF format, and must include the following to be considered:

- Speaker’s name, address, telephone, and e-mail address
- Lecture title, not to exceed ten words, and a brief, but comprehensive outline
- Lecture summary, not to exceed twenty-five words to be used in the conference booklet
- Identification of the audience level: beginner, intermediate, advanced, or all
- Speaker biography, not to exceed twenty-five words
- Resume of prior speaking experience

Submit all proposals via e-mail to ogsconference@ogs.org no later than Midnight ET on 31 May 2025. Multiple proposals may be sent in an email, but please submit no more than two emails. Speakers are required to use an electronic presentation program, with projectors provided by Sharonville Convention Center.

Selected speakers will receive an honorarium, travel compensation, conference registration, hotel, and per diem based on the number of days lectures are presented. (Sponsored speakers will only receive conference registration and syllabus materials. See more about sponsorships below.)

Societies and businesses are encouraged to submit proposals for sponsored talks. The sponsoring organization will cover speaker’s lecture(s) honorarium. Sponsored speakers will abide by all speaker deadlines. Sponsored speakers will receive complimentary OGS conference registration and electronic syllabus materials. The deadline to submit sponsored lectures is also 31 May 2025.

Camera-ready syllabus material, due 1 February 2026, is required for each general presentation and will be included in the syllabus distributed to all conference registrants.

Invitations to speak will be issued by mid to late June 2025. Syllabus format guidelines will be sent to speakers at that time. The deadline for acceptance and submission of signed speaker contracts is 15 July 2025. Letters of regret will not be sent out until all invited speakers have responded.

**THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FAMILY TREE DNA:
Y-DNA, Mitochondrial, Autosomal and X-DNA**
by Roberta Estes

Genealogical.com *The Best Books in Genealogy & Family History*

FamilyTreeDNA, founded in 2000, was the first and is still the only company to offer three kinds of DNA testing for genealogy:

- The Family Finder autosomal DNA test provides you with your ethnicity breakdown, plus matches to close and distant family members on both the paternal and maternal sides of your family.
- Mitochondrial DNA tests your mother's direct maternal line.
- Y-DNA tests the direct paternal line for men, providing matches to males both recently and distantly related.

Roberta Estes, the author of over 1,600 articles about genetic genealogy, explains each kind of test, when it's most useful, and how to incorporate the results into your genealogy. This guidebook contains multiple screenshots like the ones you can expect to view on your own computer; roadmaps and checklists with instructions on how to proceed; plus, an extensive glossary to help you decipher the technical language associated with DNA testing. In a word, this is the only comprehensive guidebook to FamilyTreeDNA.

Color print edition: ISBN 9780806321400 \$60.00
 Black & White print edition: ISBN 9780806321288 \$37.50
 Color eBook version: ISBN 9780806372471 \$24.95

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**APPLICATIONS DUE
31 JANUARY 2025**

**Don't miss your chance
to apply for the
APG Fellowship**

The APG Fellowship is a funded, short-term, members-only opportunity for a professional genealogist to undertake a program focused on professional, academic and/or personal development related to their genealogical practice.

- Provides opportunities for cultural immersion, expanding professional/personal networks, experiential learning, and professional development.
- Supports professional genealogists with demonstrated capacity for high-quality research and leadership.

Applications are due by 31 January 2025 -- don't miss your chance!



Visit apgen.org/fellowship for details and to apply

CHAPTER AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) NEWS

New England Chapter



As the membership year rolls around, the New England Chapter welcomes members from near or far. We are excited to announce the lineup of monthly programs, combining virtual events with visits to repositories around the region. The strong online participation that developed when we were virtual-only continues as the program committee looks for ways to showcase members' research and developments in the field, while keeping up the Fun Factor.

NEAPG 2025 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

January 11 (10 AM): Shelburne Continued -- research your way out of the escape room!

February 4 (7 PM): The new CGG credential with Karen Stanbary, CG®, CGGSM

March 26 (7 PM): BCG Case Study presentation by Diane M. Boumenot, CG®

April 26: Holiday Social & Book Swap in Portsmouth, NH

May 10: Local meetups in ME, NH, CT, RI, MA, VT, and NY

May 13 (7 PM): NEAPG Business Meeting

June 7: Repository visit to the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield, MA

July 8 (7 PM): What Are You Working On (WAYWO)

August 23: Summer Social (location TBD)

September (date TBD): Presentation by Angela Harris, CG®

October 4: Annual Meeting - in-person & virtual (speaker & location TBD)

November 12: New England Cemeteries & Stones with Elise Madeline Ciregna, PhD

December 6 & 7: Repository visits in Newport, RI

All meetings are Eastern time & virtual unless a location is noted. The Zoom room is open 30 minutes before & after presentations for networking.

We start in January with a virtual return to our field trip to Shelburne VT in an escape room activity on Zoom. Our popular holiday event seems to have permanently moved to spring, when snowy weather and winter illness are less likely to interfere. A book swap has been included this year. We also look forward to growing an event that began last summer, where meet-ups take place on the same day at various locations, driven by our members. No catchy name for this one yet. These visits can be as simple as going out for an ice cream cone or crossing off a bucket-list historic site in a small group. We will meet in person in two of the New England states to tour repositories – let's all practice spelling athenaeum!

Our 2024 Annual Meeting in Berlin, Massachusetts, on 2 November featured two lectures from Blaine T. Bettinger on the current state of AI in genealogy. In our annual elections, we welcomed a new VP, Amanda Perrine. The chapter's tech team has done a great job including those who can't make it in person.

For more information, we can be found at <https://www.neapg.org> and at our public-facing Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NEAPGpage>.

Puget Sound Chapter



The Puget Sound Chapter's theme for this year is building community, starting with the following session:

Date: 27 January 2025
 Time: 7:00 p.m. PT (please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents)
 What: "Building an Online Community: Dear Myrt," with Pat Richely-Erickson
 Virtual: See the chapter website for sign up information at <https://psapg.wordpress.com/meetings/>.

A link for members to attend the session is available from Nancy Cordell at nancy.cordell@gmail.com.

El SIG en Español



La próxima reunión de discusión del SIG en Español se llevará a cabo el miércoles 8 de enero 2025 a la 1:30 p.m. PT. Si desea unirse, envíe un correo electrónico a Jessica Taylor a jtaylor@legacytree.com para recibir una invitación. Las reuniones se llevan a cabo en español y se enfocan en apoyar a los miembros del SIG con sus necesidades genealógicas y comerciales. Visite <https://www.timeanddate.com> para conocer los horarios correspondientes a nivel mundial.

The next discussion meeting of the SIG en Espanol will be held on Wednesday 8 January 2025 at 1:30 p.m. PT. If you would like to join, please email Jessica Taylor at jtaylor@legacytree.com for an invite. Meetings are held in Spanish and focus on supporting SIG members with their genealogy and business needs. Please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents.

Colorado Chapter



Our next virtual quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, 1 February 2025 at 10:00 a.m. MT. (For worldwide time equivalents, please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com>).

Our guest presenter will be Angela Packer McGhie, CG, FUGA, discussing "Time Management for Genealogists." Professional genealogists offer a unique combination of services and balance the needs of a variety of "clients." Effective time management promotes success. In this discussion, we will define our various clients and discuss managing commitments, planning and prioritizing, tracking hours, and working efficiently for research clients.

The event is open to the public. Please register via our website at <https://coloradoapg.org>.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter



We are excited to announce the results of our recent chapter election:

- Sarah Fullem has been re-elected for a second term as President.
- Kristin Kaercher was elected Treasurer.
- Kris Jackson is our new Chapter Representative.



L to R: Sarah Fullem, Kristin Kaercher, and Kris Jackson

Congratulations to all three, and here's to a fantastic next two years!

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Lori Flynn, our outgoing Treasurer, and Joseph Roby, our outgoing Chapter Representative, for their dedication and service. Special thanks to the Nominating Committee—Joseph Roby, Dean Henry, and Valerie Williams—for their hard work in making the election possible.

Membership Renewal for 2025

New and renewing members can pay their 2025 dues here: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=6RPQDGS344LQE.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, 5 January, at 6:00 p.m. ET. (For worldwide time equivalents visit <https://www.timeanddate.com>)

“Tech Exchange: Telling the Story Visually,” with Alaine Keisling.

Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ufuqqz8tGtCJvEi3HEYz-qrjSEU7Tyh>

You know your research is solid—but are your reports delivering the impact they deserve? Learn how to elevate your work with professional tables, charts, and standardized data presentations that make your findings shine.

Alaine Keisling, based in Philadelphia, owns Keisling Research and specializes in Mid-Atlantic research. She is Vice President of Mid-Atlantic APG.

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Tuesday, 14 January, at 12 Noon ET. (For worldwide time equivalents visit <https://www.timeanddate.com>)
“Research for Lineage Societies,” with Christine Murphy and Deborah White Hershey
 Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAudemqrTwoHdYWGsx85nERCQRQhnukDZzBa>

Joining a lineage society is a meaningful way to celebrate your heritage and connect with others who share your interest in family history. With hundreds of societies to choose from, each with unique membership requirements, this session will cover:

- Application processes.
- Required documentation.
- Tips for navigating requirements and finding sponsors.

Christine Murphy is a professional genealogist specializing in lineage society applications and research in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. She is the New Jersey State Registrar for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and has extensive experience as a DAR Lineage Research volunteer.

Deborah White Hershey is a genealogist with decades of experience and has prepared more than 200 successful lineage society applications. She specializes in societies such as the Mayflower Society, The Welcome Society of Pennsylvania, and DAR.



L to R: Christine Murphy and Deborah White Hershey

Wednesday, 22 January, at 7:00 p.m. ET. (For worldwide time equivalents visit <https://www.timeanddate.com>)
Annual Meeting: Celebrate 2024 and Plan for 2025
 Register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvdu2uqTooEtKDPP_hYdD82AmbinElHywl

Join us as we reflect on the remarkable achievements of 2024 and brainstorm exciting opportunities for 2025. Let’s celebrate our successes and work together to chart a path for even greater accomplishments. We can’t wait to hear your ideas for the future!

January Chats and Events

- Thursday Chats: 9 January and 23 January, at 12 Noon ET.
- Happy Hour with Hope!: Monday, 27 January, at 7:00 p.m. ET.

Links for all events are available through the Events Calendar on the APG website.

Now open!

**CALL FOR
PROPOSALS
2025-2026**



Call for Webinar Proposals 2025-26

APG's Professional Development Committee is now seeking proposals for webinar presentations that support the professional development, practical skills, education, and business interests of the professional genealogist. Talks will be scheduled from April 2025 – March 2026 and include compensation for presenters.

For full information and to apply, visit
www.apgen.org/call

DEADLINE: 15 JANUARY 2025

Writers SIG



Our next meeting is on 15 January 2025 when Dr. George J. Hill, M.D., M.A., D.Litt. will speak on **“A Page a Day.”**

George J. Hill in his own words: “My Dad had many talents, and I inherited some of them. He was a part-time sportswriter before he became a banker, and he encouraged me to learn to type and write as a journalist. A sportswriter never has ‘writer’s block,’ and he finishes his story of a game when the whistle blows at the end. My work as a writer is based on what Dad taught me. Just sit down and start typing. Keep it simple. Let your thoughts flow into your fingers as you type. Try to do a page every day.

“I have had several careers – physician, surgeon, professor, scientist, genealogist, and historian. These careers all demand writing, and the style required for each is different. And I also have many avocations. For instance, a playwright, lecturer, and motivational speaker. However, I do not think of myself as a professional writer. I am certainly not a creative writer, and I do not intend to write fiction.”

Meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday at 8 p.m. Eastern time. We begin to join at 7:30 for visiting in breakout rooms. (For worldwide time equivalents, please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com>).

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Save the dates for our future speakers:

- 19 February 2025 – Mark Lowe, FUGA, **“Sharpening Our Digital Skills for Genealogical Writing and Presentations”**
- 18 March 2025 – John Colletta, Ph.D., **“More Than Pretty Pictures: Sources for Visual Enhancement of Your Story”**

Writers' SIG dues are US \$20 per calendar year. New joiners can pay through the store on the website; renewing members can pay when their APG dues are paid. Membership benefits include Writers SIG Google Group access, closed Facebook Group, recorded meetings, an optional Peer Review Group, and networking opportunities. For more information on the Writers SIG, log into www.apgen.org, and visit Writers SIG under the “About” tab.

Forensic Genealogy SIG



Dues for the Forensic Genealogy Special Interest Group (ForGen SIG) should be paid when you renew your APG membership. Dues are no longer collected on a calendar year basis. Everyone who paid in 2023 or 2024 for the calendar year 2024 is considered paid until their renewal, even if that renewal is in the first half of 2025.

Our next speaker event is as follows:

“The Unclaimed: Abandonment and Hope in the City of Angels” Presented by Pamela Prickett
28 January, 8:00 p.m. ET. (For worldwide time equivalents visit <https://www.timeanddate.com>)
Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. for networking.

For centuries, people who died destitute or alone were buried in potters’ fields—a Dickensian end that even the most hard-pressed families tried to avoid. Today, more and more relatives are abandoning their dead, leaving it to local governments to dispose of the bodies. Up to 150,000 Americans now go unclaimed each year.

Who are they? Why are they being forgotten? And what is the meaning of life if your death doesn’t matter to others?

Sociologist Pamela Prickett takes you into the lives of four individuals in Los Angeles, tracing the twisting, poignant paths that put each at risk of going unclaimed and introducing us to the scene investigators, notification officers, and crematorium workers who care for them when no one else will. She reveals the complicated mix of investigation and genealogy required to uncover this hidden phenomenon, suggesting we are all involved in caring for the unclaimed.

Learn more and order a copy of Pamela’s book here: <https://www.theunclaimedbook.com>.

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The Program Committee has also been hard at work securing speakers for 2025. At this time, those who have been confirmed are:

25 February 2025	“Update on the World of Investigative Genetic Genealogy” – David Gurney, J.D., Ph.D.
25 March 2025	“Ethics and Forensic Genealogy” – Michael Ramage, J.D., CG
22 April 2025	“Forensic Genealogy Volunteer Opportunities” – Several organization representatives
27 May 2025	“Law Enforcement and Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy” – Indiana State Police

Mentorship Program

The ForGen SIG is pleased to offer members the opportunity to participate in its formal mentorship program. The mentorship program is offered twice a year. The next cohort runs from 21 February–21 May 2025.

The program matches mentors interested in contributing valuable knowledge and experience with mentees looking to hone their skills. Pairings will meet a minimum of three times, for 30 minutes, over three months on a mutually agreed-upon schedule. Mentees set the expectations by establishing and sharing their professional goals with their Mentor.

Mentees will be matched with a Mentor whose expertise aligns best with the Mentee’s goals and interests. Some areas of interest include the following forensic specialties and business-related topics:

- Oil, gas, mineral rights heirs
- Adoption research with use of DNA evidence
- Probates and Estates
- Genetic genealogy-general
- Investigative genetic genealogy
- Military repatriation
- Search Angel, unknown parentage or children
- Dual citizenship and immigration
- Coroner’s unclaimed human remains identification
- Unclaimed personal property (other than money)
- Native American citizenship
- Business
- Marketing
- Speaking and presentation skills

Those interested in being mentored are invited to complete the form found at this link: **Mentee Application Form**, by 7 February 2025 to be included in our Spring Cohort. If you are accepted into the mentorship program and able to be matched with a Mentor, there is a US \$40 fee for the program. If we are unable to match you with a suitable Mentor, no fee will be due, and you will have priority status for the next cohort.

We do request that applicants be members of the ForGen SIG for at least six months, or demonstrate significant training/experience prior to applying for the mentorship program. This requirement helps to ensure that Mentees are able to get the most out of the mentorship program.

Those interested in joining the mentorship program as Mentors are also invited to complete an application form at this link: **Mentor Application Form** by 7 February 2025.

To learn more about the mentorship program, please see the following APGQ article at this link: **One to One Educational Mentoring** (page 23).

Please contact the Mentorship Committee at **ForensicMentoring@gmail.com** for questions on the program.

APG Welcomes New Members

The Association of Professional Genealogists is committed to fostering an inclusive community in which all participants are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of (but not limited to) ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex, gender, marital status, disability, age, religion, socioeconomic status, nationality, or political affiliation.

The following new members have joined APG between 21 November 2024 and 19 December 2024:



Randy Whited, Austin, Texas, USA; **Daniel Barnhardt**, Island Park, New York, USA; **Noha Shehata**, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada; **J. J. Mazzucotelli**, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada; **Anna Moberg**, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada; **Kelly Dick**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; **Sophie Kay**, Ascot, Berkshire, England; **Kieran Bryson**, Livingston, Scotland; **Jude Rhodes**, Grassington, England; **Rachel Dawson**, Fort Worth, Texas, USA; **Laurel Haas**, Charlestown, Rhode Island, USA; **Susan Lynch**, Signal Mountain, Tennessee, USA; **Mark Belloni**, Brownsburg, Indiana, USA; **Jacqueline Pitts**, Far Rockaway, New York, USA; **Daniel Tremper**, Oxford, Florida, USA; **Tanya Jensen**, Owatonna, Minnesota, USA; **John Columbia**, Lexington, Kentucky, USA; **Denise Geelhart**, Bloomington, Illinois, USA; **Lisa Elvin-Staltari**, Tucson, Arizona, USA; **Kevin Craig**, Mishawaka, Indiana, USA; **Chaya Sara Herman**, Brooklyn, New York, USA; **Katherine Nugent**, Tampa, Florida, USA; **Brett Oppegaard**, Camas, Washington, USA; **Jodie Selman**, Kouts, Indiana, USA; **Lynn Breyfogle**, Riverside, Pennsylvania, USA; and **Ken Black**, Wellington, Florida, USA.



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APG is the world's largest association for the genealogical profession, with more than 2,000 professionals in more than forty countries. Our members include genealogists, librarians, writers, editors, historians, instructors, publishers, and others involved in genealogy-related careers.

- Grow Your Network in Our Community of Genealogy Professionals
- Increase Your Visibility with Potential Clients
- Access Professional Development and Business Resources
- Gain Knowledge with Education and Information Resources
- Advocate for the Interests of the Genealogy Community

Join today at
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Reduced rates available for young professionals and retired professionals.