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Association of Professional Genealogists
apgen.org

Executive Director
Michelle Dwyer Cohen
admin@apgen.org

President
Suzanne L. Hoffman
president@apgen.org

Vice President
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Secretary
Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG

Treasurer
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Board of Directors
apgen.org/team

APG eNews Editor
Chris Paton
enews@apgen.org

Contact us:
P.O. Box 2369, Poulsbo, WA 98370, USA

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APG eNEWS

Vol. 13, No. 10, October 2025

2025 APG Election Nominations from the Floor

The APG Nominations Committee wishes to thank the members who responded to the Call for Recommendations of nominees earlier this year. Members will receive an email on 2 October 2025 that will announce the nominees for the upcoming election and include a call for nominations from the floor.

Per Article VIII, Section 1, A, 1 of the **APG Bylaws**, members have until 10:00 p.m. ET on 10 October 2025 (please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents) to submit a nomination from the floor for the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, six members of the Board of Directors, and two members of the Nominations Committee.

Nominations from the floor should be sent to the Nominations Committee at admin@apgen.org with the subject line of "Nominations from the Floor for APG Election." Please include each nominee's contact information, your statement of nominee eligibility and consent, a 150-word biographical sketch, and a high-resolution photo at least 300 DPI. You may nominate yourself. Nominees must be APG members in good standing who joined before 1 August 2024.



The annual APG election will open for voting on 15 October 2025 and will close on 2 November 2025. In order to vote you must be a member in good standing and current on your dues as of 14 October 2025.

This is a great opportunity for members to participate in the decisions and goals of the organization!

Launch of New Young Professionals Special Interest Group

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Young Professionals Special Interest Group (SIG), created to support, connect, and empower early-career genealogists as they establish themselves in the field.



The mission of the Young Professionals SIG is to foster a vibrant, inclusive community where young professionals can gain practical skills, access mentorship, explore diverse career paths, and contribute their voices to the future of professional genealogy. There is no cost to enroll in the Young Professionals SIG. Sign up today by contacting Sarah Day at sdaygenealogy@gmail.com.

Members can also sign up for the new Young Professionals Message Board (along with many other topical boards). To access the Message Boards, visit https://members.apgen.org/members/forum/board_list.php (you must be logged in to access).

APG Members Named to National Genealogical Society's James Worris Moore Leadership Academy

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) recently named APG members Kassidy Jo Price BS, PgCert (Utah) and Luís Ariel Rivera (New York) to the inaugural cohort of the James Worris Moore Leadership Academy.

The Academy honors the legacy of James Worris Moore, a pioneering African American archivist whose career spanned forty-two years at the United States National Archives. Its mission is to mentor and develop future leaders, enhance diversity and inclusion, encourage practical engagement, and build strong professional networks.

Learn more about the Academy at <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/james-worris-moore-leadership-academy/>.



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Make the most of your APG membership by joining a Chapter or Special Interest Group (SIG) and connecting with your peers. Sign up today at apgen.org.

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- Australia & New Zealand
- Britain, Ireland & the Isles
- Canada
- Chicago Area
- Colorado
- Great Lakes
- Great Plains
- Heartland
- Mid-Atlantic
- New England
- New Jersey
- New York Metro
- Northern California
- Northland
- Ontario, Canada
- Oregon
- Puget Sound
- South Central
- Southeast
- Southern California
- Utah

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- Advocacy
- El SIG En Español
- Forensic Genealogy
- Jewish Research
- Writers
- Young Professionals



Get Your APG Merchandise!

Following several years of member requests, APG has launched an online merchandise store on Zazzle.com! To access the store, visit the members section of our website and select "Store" (or go to <https://members.apgen.org/members/store.php?orgcode=APG>).

We want your feedback! If you have APG-branded items you would like to see in future releases, contact us at communications@apgen.org.

Visit the APG Merch Store



Call for volunteers for AAHGS booth

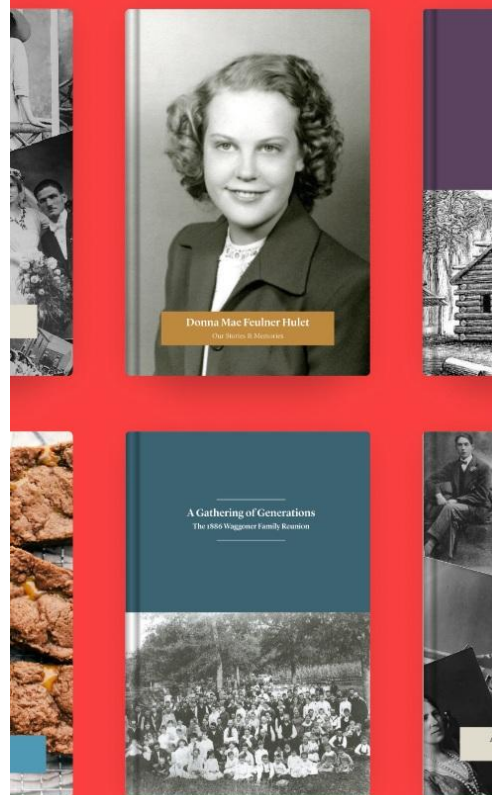
APG is thrilled to be a sponsor and exhibitor at the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Conference in Charleston, South Carolina! The conference will be held 9–11 October. We are seeking volunteers to help answer questions and represent APG at our booth in the exhibit hall—for available slots please see <http://bit.ly/4mtIS4d>.

This is a fantastic way to network with other APG members and conference attendees. Please contact Jen Shaffer at boothcoordinator@apgen.org with any questions.

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Need Inspiration to Apply for the 2026 APG Fellowship?

Are you thinking about applying for the 2026 APG Fellowship, but want to learn more about the process? Visit our APG Fellowship web page https://www.apgen.org/apg_fellowship.php for all the criteria, details, and a downloadable application. The deadline to apply is 15 November 2025.

The APG Fellowship is a funded, short-term opportunity for a professional genealogist to undertake a program focused on professional, academic, and/or personal development related to their practice. The Fellowship must be undertaken outside of the recipient's country of legal residence.

Need some inspiration for your own proposal? We have a list of sample project ideas on our web page, or you can watch video updates from 2025 Fellowship recipient Lisa M. Voge (picture right). Lisa recently started her work in Italy, researching passport collections between 1850–1950 in the Genoa, Livorno, Savona, Treviso, and Turin State Archives.

In her first video update from Treviso's Piazza dei Signori, Lisa talks about what she expected to find versus what she has found so far: "In one week, I've already learned so much about the different records, and the different forms they used, and the process they went through, that it's just been really amazing. I can't believe it's going to get any better, but I still have a couple more weeks!"

Watch more at https://www.apgen.org/apg_fellowship.php



PMC 2025 Session Recordings Available for Purchase

APG members who were not able to join us for the 2025 Professional Management Conference can now purchase recordings from this year's event! Purchase PMC digital access and view twenty-one course/session videos (plus bonus content) and download the full PMC syllabus with instructor materials. Recordings will be available through 31 January 2026. Workshops were not recorded.

Purchase the 2025 PMC syllabus and recordings at https://members.apgen.org/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=APG&evid=55050779.

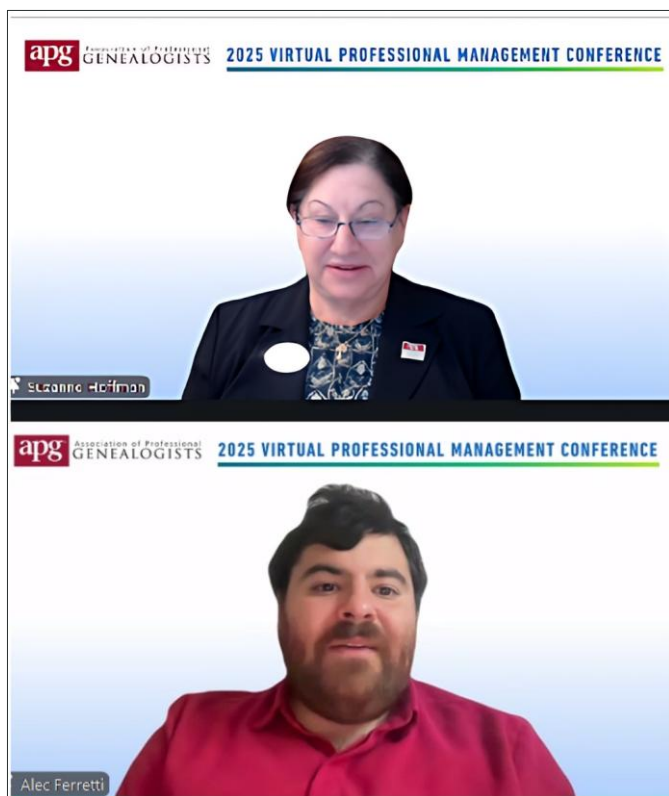
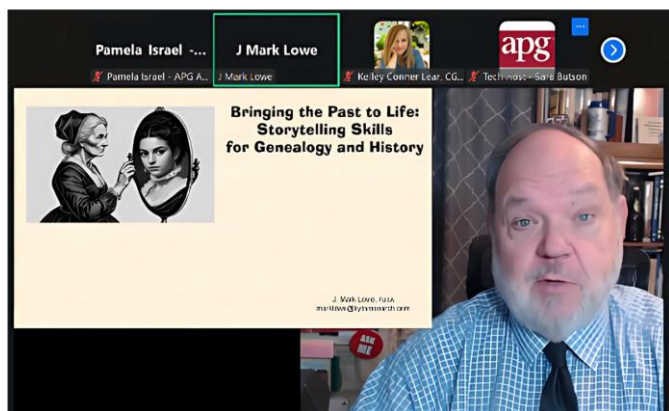
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PMC 2025

VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Laughter and Learning at the APG Professional Management Conference!

A huge thanks to all who attended and participated in our Professional Management Conference from 18–20 September. If you did not attend, but wish to see some of the presentations, visit p.5 for details on how to do so.



Top left: J. Mark Lowe entertains attendees with his storytelling session. Middle left: APG President Suzanne Hoffman speaks with Alec Ferretti during the Opening Session. Bottom left: A round of (virtual) applause for the panelists of Professional Genealogy Credentials. Top right: Some of the faces at the international attendee icebreaker. Middle right: Getting Started in Podcasting with Drew Smith and George G. Morgan, moderated by Tricia Seguire. Bottom right: Kenyatta D. Berry presents Tanya Teat Foreman with the APG's 2025 Berry African American Research Scholarship.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Michelle Dwyer Cohen



As always, there is a lot happening in the main office, but I have to start with the PMC!

What a great event - fabulous speakers, fun networking events, and tons of great door prizes! Thank you to our wonderful sponsors who helped us make this year a success: FamilyTreeDNA, Vivid-Pix, Goldie May, National Genealogical Society, Storied, Family Locket, ICAPGEN, and University of Strathclyde.

This year was a bit of an experiment for us, using our new website for the conference platform for the very first time. It wasn't without hiccups, but we were able to handle most member inquiries quickly and efficiently.

I especially want to thank the PMC Committee and all our volunteers who worked so hard, as well as the APG team supporting them. We had a lot to figure out, and even brought in the website committee for some back-up! Our Board, acting as dynamic and lively hosts and moderators across all the sessions, were another fun highlight. I also want to thank our chapters for allowing us to use their Zoom accounts.

What resonated with me as I watched sessions was how our speakers interacted with each other, recognizing how their presentation topics complemented others, and reinforcing those connections for attendees. I also enjoyed seeing attendees discuss their challenges in our breakout rooms or on the message boards and get great advice and creative solutions from other members.

My biggest lesson learned from the event was that we definitely needed more volunteers. Members helping members is what makes APG such a great organization, so keep your eyes peeled for more opportunities to help out in 2026!

As I noted, we have other important things taking place right now: applications for the APG Fellowship are open, the APG election will be held next month, and nominations for APG awards are open. Please let us know about worthy genealogists who should be on our list!

APG Mission Statement

To support those engaged in the business of genealogy through advocacy, collaboration, education, and the promotion of high ethical standards.

Remember to Submit Nominations for the Annual APG Awards!

Don't forget that members can now submit nominations on our website for the following APG awards, to honor our members' outstanding contributions to the organization and to the field of genealogy:

- **Laura G. Prescott Award for Exemplary Service to Professional Genealogy**
- **Kathleen W. Hinckley Professional Achievement Award**
- **Certificates of Appreciation**

Honorees will be selected by the APG Awards Committee, and recognized at the APG Annual Meeting on 16 December 2025 at 2:00 p.m. ET. (Visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents.)



apg Association of Professional GENEALOGISTS

Annual Members Meeting and Award Presentations


16 DECEMBER 2025
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM ET

SIGN UP AT [APGEN.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.apgen.org/events)

A golden trophy with the APG logo on its base is shown on the right side of the poster.

For more information about the awards including criteria, eligibility, selection process, and to access the nomination forms, please visit the Members' Area, in the member dropdown, under **Awards & Scholarships**, or directly at https://www.apgen.org/awards_scholarships.php.

Good luck to all nominees!



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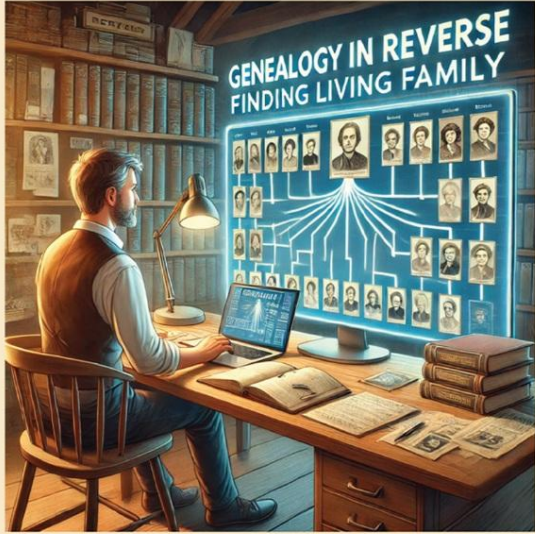
**Genealogy in Reverse:
Finding the Living**

A Practical Guide for All Genealogists

by Cheri Hudson Passey

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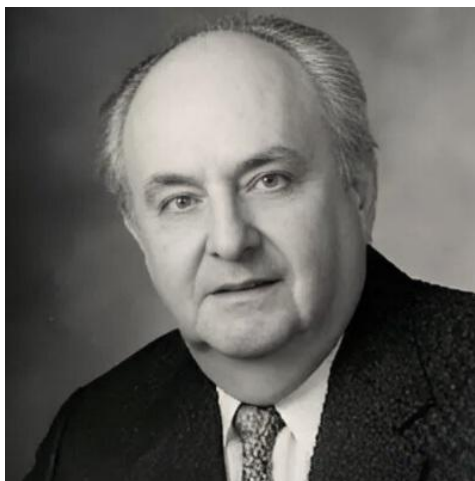
Genealogy in Reverse: Finding the Living
A Practical Guide for All Genealogists

By
Cheri Hudson Passey

The book cover features an illustration of a man in a vest sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop. Behind him is a large, glowing blue screen displaying a complex family tree diagram with many portraits of people. The screen has the title 'GENEALOGY IN REVERSE FINDING LIVING FAMILY' at the top.

In Memoriam

Gary Mokotoff (1937–2025)



It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Gary Mokotoff, a pioneer in Jewish genealogy and a former leader of APG. Mokotoff passed away on 31 August 2025, at the age of 88. He served on the APG Board of Directors as Treasurer from 2002 to 2006 and was honored with the Grahame T. Smallwood Award in 2006 for his outstanding contributions to the organization. In recognition of his lifelong commitment to genealogy, he was named a lifetime member of APG in 2008.

Throughout his decades-long career as a researcher, author, and speaker, Mokotoff held leadership roles in numerous genealogical organizations. He was the founder and first president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), which recognized his contributions by awarding him its inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award. Mokotoff also served as co-chair of the JewishGen Board of Governors and was actively involved in the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), which honored him with the Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Humanitarian Award in 2006.

Mokotoff's background in computer software development and sales played a pivotal role in his work, particularly in the co-development of the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System. He was also the creator of several key genealogical databases, including the JewishGen Family Finder and the Consolidated Jewish Surname Index.

As the author and publisher of *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, Mokotoff contributed greatly to the field. His books include *How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust* and *Where Once We Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust*. For many years, he lectured at genealogy conferences at the regional, national, and international levels, sharing his vast knowledge and passion for Jewish genealogy.

Mokotoff was married to his wife, Ruth, for 60 years until her passing earlier this year. He is survived by their three children, eight grandchildren, and a wide network of friends and colleagues in the genealogy community.

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APG Code of Ethics and Professional Practices



One of the principal objectives of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) is to encourage high standards of ethical conduct and professional practice in dealings with clients and other members of the public. To further that objective, all members of APG agree to adhere to the *APG Code of Ethics and Professional Practices* (hereinafter, *Code of Ethics*).

The *Code of Ethics* serves to promote

- (1) a truthful approach to genealogy, family history, and local history;
- (2) the trust and security of genealogical consumers;
- (3) careful and respectful treatment of records, repositories and their staffs, other professionals, and genealogical organizations and associations.

For details on the code please visit https://www.apgen.org/code_of_ethics.php

Forthcoming Events Featuring APG Members as Speakers

APG is proud to highlight members who have presented, or who will present, at recent or upcoming conferences, institutes, and more.

Are you speaking at an upcoming event? If so, please send an email with the details to communications@apgen.org. (And if you have recently presented, pictures are always welcome!)



Many of our members will present at the following event:

New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC), Manchester, New Hampshire, 29 October–1 November 2025 (see p.13)

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| • Jenifer Kahn Bakkala | • Rev. Kate Penney Howard | • Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, FUGA |
| • Kelli Jo Bergheimer | • Susan Jaycox | • Craig R. Scott, MA, CG, FUGA |
| • Diane M. Boumenot, CG | • Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG, AGL, FOGS | • Claire Smith |
| • Michael Brophy | • Annette Burke Lyttle, CG | • Michael L. Strauss, AG |
| • Sara E. Campbell | • Allyson Maughan, AG | • Cari A. Taplin, CG |
| • Margaret R. Fortier, CG | • Jill Morelli, CG, CGL | • Pamela J. Vittorio, MA, PLCGS |
| • Karen A. Fortin | • Bonnie Wade Mucia, AG | • Robert Cameron Weir |
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Members can access recordings of these webinars and others in the APG Webinar Library on the website.

CHAPTER AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) NEWS

New England Chapter



APG's New England chapter (NEAPG) looks forward to playing a key role at the forthcoming New England Regional Genealogical Consortium conference, colloquially referred to as "NERGC," rhyming with "perk." The conference, taking place from 29 October through 1 November 2025 in Manchester, New Hampshire, will feature speakers, luncheons, a vendor hall, networking opportunities, and a free genealogical consultation program organized by APG's New England chapter.

NEAPG has been a member of the NERGC consortium since its inception in 1992, and has participated in every conference so far (including 2019, pictured right). For New England genealogy professionals, the event provides a valuable educational venue as well as a unique speaking opportunity. Its role in the conference has varied over time but has often focused on outreach to the genealogical community, either in the form of hosting the popular "Table Topics" luncheon, or in the organization of the conference's consultation program.



Chapter members involved in this year's NERGC include Jennifer Smith as treasurer of the consortium, Kathryn Black as assistant treasurer, and Sara Campbell on the board of directors. The chapter will have a booth in the vendor hall that will promote both the New England chapter and APG itself, whilst many chapter members have also committed to many volunteer roles to help the event run smoothly.

Fourteen of our chapter members will be speakers, including Annette Burke Lyttle (right), and Cari Taplin (far right). Annette, a past president of APG, will speak at the opening session and will also give two talks during the conference. Cari, a former treasurer of APG, will speak at Saturday's banquet and will also offer two additional sessions. See the full list of APG member speakers on p. 11. To register for the NERGC 2025 conference, please visit www.nergc.org.



APG's New England chapter is open to APG members who live in or near one of the six New England states, or who are interested in New England genealogy. Dues are \$20 per year; events are held both in-person and online.

To learn more about the chapter, please visit www.neapg.org.

Britain, Ireland and the Isles Chapter



Britain, Ireland and the Isles Chapter will next meet on Wednesday 26 November, 3:00 p.m. BST via Zoom (please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents). A link to join an informal virtual chat will be emailed to members who are signed up to the Chapter on the APG website.

For further details on the chapter please visit https://www.apgen.org/britain_ireland_and_the_isles.php.

Southeast Chapter



The following are details of Southeast Chapter events in October (please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents for all events):

Chapter Board Meeting: 2 October 2025 at 2:00 p.m. ET. Please register at https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/r5AoQreGTFi5ScN4n__3RA

Chapter General Meeting: 16 October 2025 at 7:30 p.m. ET. Please register at https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/frB2nR_QTiKNqGHPY_gSNA

At this session, chapter business will be discussed at the start, followed by a presentation on Cherokee Genealogy by Aimee Rose-Haynes. All APG members are welcome!

Weekly Chats

Do you wish to network, problem solve, commiserate, or ask a business question? Drop-in to our weekly chats to find a welcoming place for your professional (or personal) genealogy woes and triumphs. Open to both Southeast Chapter members and members within the wider APG.

Fridays 3, 17, and 31 October, at 1:00 p.m. ET: Please register at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/5U-EHDkVS-qWmkkeREQkDw>

Tuesdays 7 and 21 October, at 7:30 p.m. ET. Please register at https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/aRLxUT_zREOU2nOWPm74nQ

For further details on the chapter, and how to join, visit https://www.apgen.org/southeast_chapter.php.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter



We're excited to collaborate with our colleagues from New Jersey APG on a trip behind the scenes to the New Jersey State Archives and the New Jersey State Library in Trenton on Tuesday, 21 October from 9:15 a.m. – 4 p.m. ET. All APG members are welcome.

Schedule:

- 9:15 a.m. Meetup breakfast at Skil-Lit Cafe, 113 S. Warren St., Trenton, NJ 08608, just a few blocks from the archives & library. A quick chance to eat, socialize, and rest from the trip.
- 10:45 a.m. NJ State Archives Tour, 225 W. State St., Trenton NJ 08608: Small-group, behind-the-scenes tours to learn where New Jersey's historical records are housed and how to access them for research.
- 1:30 p.m. NJ State Library Tour: Staff-led tour of the library's extensive genealogy and Jerseyana collections.

Much thanks to host Debbie Hadley for organizing such a fantastic day! Research time will be available; for more information, and to register, please visit <http://bit.ly/4pJ8agu>.

Other October activities:

Please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents.

Mid-Atlantic Chat

Thursdays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 October, 12:00 noon ET. Please register at <http://bit.ly/48sPxqI> to join us for our weekly chats.

Tech Exchange: PMC Edition

Sunday, 5 October, 7:00 p.m. ET. To register please visit <http://bit.ly/3KhAsOK>.

This month we will tackle the flood of ideas shared during APG's recent Professional Management Conference. Let's compare notes: Which tech tools or strategies caught your attention? What have you already tried, and what worked well? What are you excited to experiment with next? Join the discussion and take away practical insights you can put to work right away.

Second Tuesday: A Murderer in Your Tree?

Tuesday, 14 October, 12:00 noon ET.

To register please visit <http://bit.ly/46RSrnF>.

Halloween is the perfect time for murder mysteries and who-done-its, even for genealogists. Do you have murderers or mischief-makers in your family tree?

Join Katie Garner Merkley as she investigates the case records of a self-made widow and the family lore that an ancestor was "falsely" accused of a crime.

continued on p. 16

continued from p. 15

Mid-Atlantic FORGEN study group

Sunday, 19 October, at 7:00 p.m. ET

Topic: Chapter 5: Solving Unknown Parentage Cases with DNA

Check the Mid-Atlantic FORGEN Facebook group for the zoom link.

Happy Hour with Hope! chat

Monday, 27 October, 7:00 p.m. ET. To register please visit

<http://bit.ly/42arWXY>. Come chat about all things genealogical!

Mid-Atlantic Board Meeting

Wednesday, 29 October at 7:00 p.m. ET

Open to all Mid-Atlantic members, check your email for the link.

To join Mid-Atlantic, complete our membership form, available at <http://bit.ly/42vcWEn>.

Annual dues are US \$20, payable via <http://bit.ly/423Y4fW>.

Connect with Mid-Atlantic via LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/in/mid-atlantic-apg-ba2a7530b/; Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/341233605995572 and Instagram at www.instagram.com/midatlanticapg/.



Quarterly
The Professional's Voice

A VALUABLE MEMBER BENEFIT

APG's recent membership survey showed that the **APG Quarterly** (APGQ) is one of our most valued member benefits; have you checked it out lately?

The APGQ features articles relevant to professionals within the genealogy community, as well as those interested in going pro. If you're looking for ways to build and maintain your genealogy career, we've got you covered.

Explore the APGQ web pages at apgen.org, where you will find:

- **Full issues** of APGQ in PDF format (from 1979-2025)
- **APGQ Index** – Updated searchable index of articles in the APGQ from 1979 to 2023
- **NEW! APGQ Table of Contents Pages 2020-present** – A visual, searchable PDF with covers and tables of contents



Check out APGQ today at apgen.org! **Members > Publications > APG Quarterly**

Forensic SIG



From Then Until Now: The Evolving Use of IGG in Law Enforcement, presented by Investigator Robert Taft. 28 October 2025, 8:00 p.m. ET (Please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents). Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. for networking.



Investigator Robert Taft is a recently retired, 32-year member of a Southern California law enforcement agency, where he was primarily assigned to homicide and cold case investigations. His first exposure to Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) began in 2018, when he was assigned to his agency's Golden State Killer Task Force. Soon after the arrest of Joseph DeAngelo, Robert began exploring the use of DNA technology to identify John and Jane Does for his department. Detective Taft initially partnered with a third-party genealogy organization, and together they successfully identified his department's first Jane Doe in December 2019. Since then, Detective Taft has continued to educate himself in IGG techniques and became one of the few sworn law enforcement officers who conducted IGG investigations in-house for his agency. He completed IGG certificate programs at the University of New Haven and Ramapo College of New Jersey.

Investigator Taft has received several commendations for his work and commitment to these genealogical investigations. Most recently, he was awarded his Department's Medal of Merit for his work in the investigation and identification of a 1974 John Doe, who was suspected to have been a victim of a notorious serial killer active in Southern California in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Soon after his retirement, Investigator Taft accepted a part-time position with another regional law enforcement agency, where he continues to work on cold case and IGG investigations. He was also one of the key-note speakers at the 2025 Ramapo College Investigative Genetic Genealogy Conference this past June.

Forensic SIG Membership Meeting Dates for 2025

- 9 December 2025—"Dual Citizenship: Italian, Polish, Irish"—Franchesca Werden, Michal Petrus, David Ryan. (Note: this program will be held at 1:00 p.m. ET to accommodate international members)

Annual APG Forensic SIG Dues:

APG Forensic SIG dues 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.



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



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APG Welcomes New Members

APG 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 between 19 August and 23 September 2025:

Alexandra Kazyrevič, Prague, Belarus; **Filip Skiljan**, Zagreb, Croatia; **Vaclav Bazenov**, Brno, Czech Republic; **Mia Bennett**, Gloucester, England; **Brigette Waits-Garcia**, Little Rock, Arkansas, USA; **Michael Dolan**, Portland, Oregon, USA; **Stephanie Hughes**, Auburn, Michigan, USA; **Samuel Lerner**, Bethesda, Maryland, USA; **Kimberley Malyn**, Belton, Missouri, USA; **Jody Peeler**, Gray Court, South Carolina, USA; **Sheana Harmon**, Seymour, Indiana, USA; **Dolores Antolín-Muñiz**, Oakland, California, USA; **Marsha Shoemake**, Porterville, California, USA; **Victoria Robinson**, Alexandria City, Virginia, USA; **Leona Busse**, Saint Louis, Missouri, USA; **Kaelyn Deeter**, Los Angeles, California, USA; **Rachael Scott**, Hebron, Kentucky, USA; and **Jamison Zelinko**, Chandler, Arizona, USA.

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