

# Morris Area Genealogy Society

## Speakers Bureau

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**Breaking Down Brick Walls:** This presentation gives many ideas in how to attack a brick wall. Many of the ideas are illustrated by examples of how the presenter attacked her brick walls.

Susan Simon

**DAR Databases for Genealogical Research:** We explore what the DAR is, how to access the various DAR databases that are available to the general public, and what important genealogical information can be obtained, even if you do not have a direct ancestor from the Revolutionary War.

Susan Kehr

**DNA: harnessing biological science to find your ancestors.** Law Enforcement Agencies and the courts have been using DNA to solve crimes, prove paternity and identify remains. Each cell in our body contains the blueprint for our body as well as a history of our ancestry. Learn how you can tap into your biological record to find both living relatives and ancestors. Discover the different types of DNA tests and what each DNA test can reveal.

Bob Stein

**DNA and Genealogy.** DNA testing can help you explore your family's history, whether documented or unknown. We discuss the science behind DNA testing for genealogy and which tests (autosomal, Y chromosome, mitochondrial) best serve which situations. If you have already tested, you can learn what to do with the results and strategies to increase your success. The presenter uses illustrations and examples from her own DNA results and family trees.

Jody Lutter

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**Family Detective:** An over view of genealogy research using a structured approach patterned after detective's case studies. Learn how to Visit the Scene, Perform Background Checks, Analyze DNA, Organize your Case Notes, Present your Findings and much more.

Bob Stein

**FamilySearch Family Tree:** An over view of FamilySearch's Family Tree. What is it, how to use it, the benefits of using it, tracking changes, searching, adding documentation.

Susan Kehr

**Finding Relatives in Surprising Ways:** A recalled 50+ year old discussion with Grandpa leads to an exploration of the family's migration to America from Eastern Europe, with surprising results. This talk explores various techniques used to trace a family from the pre-WW I Austria-Hungary and post war Poland to New York and (of all places) Charleston West Virginia.

Mike Schwartz

**German Genealogy:** German Americans comprise the largest ethnic group in the United States. But they may not have come from present day Germany. And you won't find many national records in Germany, and the records you will find use a different alphabet and be written in German, or Latin or maybe French or another language. Learn where you can find your Germanic ancestors' records, how to decipher them and what you can learn about them.

Bob Stein

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**How to Make Sure You Are Researching the Correct Family:** Many of us have heard stories about our ancestors. Are the stories true? Any part of the story true? Can I accept what my grandmother or mother told me about my family? You may find contradictory stories or 'facts' about your ancestors. How do you decide which version is correct? This presentation will help you use reliable sources in researching your ancestors to determine correctness of the stories.

Susan Simon

**Mapping Family Stories:** Historical and modern maps are used to follow the movements of family members in their (genealogically verified) stories. The two examples I will show are the movements of my grandfather in the Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia and in Russia during WW I and the movement of my grandmother and children (including my father) across Europe to get to their ship to America. I will first, however, provide an introduction to the historical maps now available on-line for Eastern Europe, showing where and how people lived and got around. A list of useful map websites will be provided in a handout.

Mike Schwartz

**Presenting the Evidence:** After you've worked so hard researching your ancestors what are you going to do with the information? Enter the data in a software program, or maybe upload it to a web site? Produce family trees and reports for family members? Manage a family reunion or maybe publish a book? Learn how you can do these things and more.

Bob Stein

**The Table, The Diary, and the Road to Discovery:** A family heirloom leads to the discovery of new cousins, and insights into a Russian immigrant family's history. This talk explores various techniques successfully used to trace a family from the Kiev region of the Russian Empire to New York, Philadelphia, and beyond.

Mike Schwartz