

Exploring Your History: Sharing Your Story

A Year of Discovery

Begins Sunday, Sept. 10

Explore your family's history through skilled research, visits to local resources and via storytelling. This unique 8-session class teaches you how to do in-depth research. Ample time between sessions lets you explore on your own using your new skills and gives you the opportunity to develop questions to bring back to the group. Using video clips of the stories of Jewish elders from the Jewish Identity and Legacy Project as our source material, we'll learn how to create poetry and story to engage our audience and bring our stories to life. Taught by Susan Weinberg and Walter Elias of the Minnesota Jewish Genealogical Society.

Introductory Session – Sunday, September 10 • 1-2 pm

This introductory session will solicit your experience and areas of focus so we can better tailor this course to your needs. We will discuss:

- Your experience to date
- The genealogy approach that best suits you
- Whether to research yourself or hire someone
- Expectations if you hire someone
- Resources if you do-it-yourself
- Your questions and needs

Useful Search Engines – Sunday, October 8 • 1-3 pm

This session will examine the on-line search engines that can help unlock your family's story. We will explore Jewish resources, country resources and general search engines.

- Key resources within Jewishgen.org
- Stevemorse.org
- Information in country specific sources such as JRI-Poland, Lithuania Database
- Broader search engines -Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Geni and MyHeritage
- Finding others who are researching your family, surname or village of origin

Delving into Documents – Sunday, November 5 • 1-3 pm

This session will examine the contents of documents we uncover through the search engines in the prior session.

- Information within specific documents
- Documents such as vital records, draft, census, immigration, naturalization etc.
- Making use of tombstone information
- Interrelationship between records
- Proving a hypothesis through multiple sources

Site Visit – TBD Tuesday, December 5

We have several site visits in mind and will base our choice on what is most meaningful to attendees and the capacity that can be accommodated

Overseas Resources – Sunday, January 7, 2018 • 1-3 pm

This session will look at how you move from US records to European records. Topics will include:

- Tying back to European records
- Obtaining overseas records from the US
- Preparing for an overseas trip
- Researching in foreign archives on-line or in person
- Hiring a researcher in Europe
- Dealing with language issues

Site Visit - TBD-Tuesday, February 13, 2018

We will base our choice of site on what is most meaningful to attendees and the capacity that can be accommodated

Finding Those Lost in the Holocaust –Sunday, March 4, 2018 • 1-3 pm

This session will focus on family members affected by the Holocaust. It will examine:

- Identifying lost family members and their ancestral towns
- Finding surviving relatives
- Sources of information include registration records, Ghetto addresses, Yad Vashem, Survivors & Victims database, International Tracing Service, Testimonies, Yizkor books
- After you have found lost relatives, then what?

Telling Your Stories Sunday April 8, 2018 • 1-3 pm

After you've learned your family stories, we will focus on how you can share them with others in ways that are succinct and memorable. We will use video clips of the stories of Jewish elders from the Jewish Identity and Legacy Project as our source material as we learn how to create poetry and story. Out of this process we will learn how to distill story and engage your audience, bringing your own stories to life.

Cost is \$300 for members of the MN Jewish Genealogical Society and \$325 for non-members. (The \$325 includes a new one-year membership.)

REGISTER at adath.nirsham.com/form/a-year-of-discovery