

Sample of Programs Offered

Write Your Family History *NOW!*

Genealogists are very good at doing research but often delay sharing their findings. This presentation removes all excuses for not publishing *now*, and provides specific examples of books ranging from the simplest to complex ones of over one hundred pages.

Bring Your Ancestors Back to Life: Write Their *Life Story*

In this unique presentation, Mike Karsen walks the audience through the process of preserving the memories of departed loved ones. Where genealogy meets family history, this presentation explores the elements of putting together an individual's life story. Framed against the backdrop of historical context, these elements begin with collecting the information and various formats and styles available to each author. These efforts result in written portraits of our ancestors that bring them back to life for future generations to know and cherish.

Genealogists' Higher Calling: Reaching Out to Family

While collecting information, we genealogists meet many family members along the way. We have a unique opportunity—even *obligation*—to touch these individuals in a significant way. Specific examples are provided for reaching out to them.

Sex, Murder, and Genealogy?

Dora Feldman McDonald, the daughter of German Jewish immigrants, made the front page of Chicago newspapers in 1907 when she shot her lover. Dora, who was married to one of the most powerful political bosses in Chicago at the time, used murder to end this affair and her lover's blackmail. But what ever happened to her after her dramatic acquittal the following year? Genealogist Mike Karsen uses every trick in his tool bag to set the record straight and follow her trail.

Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors' Arrival Records Online

When the Ellis Island database went online in 2001, we entered a new generation in searching for our ancestors' arrival records. In recent days additional ports including Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Galveston, and Castle Garden have been made available to genealogists around the world via the internet. This lecture provides the basics for searching these databases using case studies to illustrate various techniques.

How to Find Your European Ancestor's Hometown

If your European ancestor arrived in the United States in the last 100 years, you can find his or her hometown using commonly available records. This presentation reviews where to find the information and the tricks of going from one record to the next to solve this mystery. Case studies are used to demonstrate how to use the records and some of the possible traps to avoid.

Mike Karsen

Genealogy Speaker

& Researcher



MikeFamHistorian@aol.com

1.847.803.4446

www.hometown.aol.com/
MikeFamHistorian

Speaking Highlights

Conferences

DuPage County Conference, 2006
Polish Genealogical Society, 2005
Int'l Conf. on Jewish Genealogy, 2005, 2003
Czech & Slovak Conference, 2005
Midwest Conference on Jewish Gen., 2004
FEEFHS (Eastern European), 2004

National/Local Lectures

Genealogy Societies (IL): Elgin, Fox Valley, JGSI, CAGG-NI , Chicago Genealogical Society, McHenry, PIP (Woodridge), NW Council, South Suburban, DuPage, Polish

Jewish (IL): JUF Professional Development, Spertus Institute, BJBE, Or Shalom, Beth Hillel, KAM, Weinger JCC, Rishona Na'amat

Beyond IL: Stone Avenue Temple (AZ), Broward County JGS (FL), TIARA (MA), Boston JGS (MA), Honolulu County (Hawaii), Cherva Hadassah (FL)

Regular Teaching Programs

Newberry Library
Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies
College of Lake County (IL)
Palm Beach Community College (FL)

Programs Offered

Writing Your Family History

- Write Your Family History *NOW!*
- How to Create Your Family History (seminar)
- Bring Your Ancestors Back to Life: Write Their Life Story
- Publishing Your Family History Using Family Tree Maker (FTM)

Ethnic/Immigrant

- Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors' Arrival Records Online
- How to Find Your European Ancestor's Hometown
- JewishGen: A Resource for the Jewish and non-Jewish Researcher Alike

Finding and Meeting Living Relatives

- Genealogists' Higher Calling: Reaching Out to Family
- You *CAN* Pick Your Relatives!

General Genealogy

- Sex, Murder, and Genealogy?
- Genealogy Made Easy: How to Begin to Discover Your Family in 5 Easy Steps
- You *CAN* Pick Your Relatives

Mike Karsen

A professional genealogy speaker and researcher, Mike is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG), and the National Genealogical Society (NGS). He speaks on genealogy topics locally and nationally, teaches classes in genealogy and is on the faculty of Newberry Library and Spertus Institute for Jewish Studies. Mike has presented at state, national, and international conferences. He is the author of the JewishGen website "Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland" and has published articles on genealogy. He has an active speaking schedule—about 40 lectures per year.