



Jewish Genealogical Society of
Illinois

PRESS RELEASE FOR
IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

JGSI Conference Press Release

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“Digging Deeper: Researching Our Ancestors With Technology”

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois will hold a daylong Jewish genealogy conference, “Digging Deeper: Researching Our Ancestors With Technology,” on Sunday, June 9, 2013, at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, Illinois.

The featured speakers will be Warren Blatt, managing director of JewishGen, the major Jewish genealogy website; and Duff Wilson, senior product manager of Family Tree Maker, the genealogy database software. Warren Blatt will deliver a keynote address on advanced searching with JewishGen and will also conduct sessions on Jewish given names and Jewish surnames.

Duff Wilson will lead two instructive Family Tree Maker sessions, one for beginners and one for advanced users of the family tree software.

A unique aspect of this conference will be a free mini-conference for youths from sixth grade through high school. Two consecutive programs introducing Jewish genealogy with beginning methodology will be held from 1:25 to 3:40 p.m. Robin Seidenberg and Harriet Rudnit, experienced genealogists and JGSI board members, will be the mini-conference speakers.

“Digging Deeper: Researching Our Ancestors With Technology” will include presentations on DNA, translating Polish records, the Pale of Settlement, familysearch.org, naturalization and cemetery records, and much more.

Conference attendees will register beginning at 8:15 a.m. at Temple Beth Israel, and the conference will be held from 9:15 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Early registration fees are \$50 for JGSI members and \$65 for non-members paid by May 15. After May 15, the fees are \$60 for JGSI members and \$75 for non-members. Members of any IAJGS-affiliated society can attend the conference at the member rate.

For youths who plan to attend just the mini-conference, it's free; but if they want to attend all day, it's \$25 for early registration and \$35 for late registration.

Attendees from out of town are invited to stay at the Hampton Inn & Suites Chicago-North Shore/Skokie at the special conference rate of \$119/night, which includes a complimentary hot and cold breakfast buffet, free Wi-Fi, and a free shuttle service within three miles of the hotel. Temple Beth Israel, the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, and Westfield Old Orchard mall are within this radius.

Rooms may be reserved at the Hampton Inn at <http://bit.ly/14zseDW>. The special room rate will be available until May 9.

About JGSI: The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois is dedicated to helping members collect, preserve and perpetuate the records and history of their ancestors. JGSI also serves as a resource for the worldwide community to research their Chicago-area Jewish roots by maintaining a free website that includes useful family history databases, including an online searchable death index.

The organization holds monthly meetings, usually at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. Most meetings are held on the fourth Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. Prior to each meeting, the JGSI meeting facilities at Temple Beth Israel open at 12:30 p.m. to accommodate members/guests who want to use JGSI's genealogy library materials, get help with genealogy research or ask genealogical questions of member experts before the main program begins.

JGSI, which has more than 240 members, is affiliated with the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. JGSI previously held a daylong conference in 2010.

For more information about JGSI, visit <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi> or phone 312-666-0100. JGSI's postal mailing address is: JGSI, P.O. Box 515, Northbrook, IL 60065.

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