

Meet Our Speakers:



Megan Smolenyak, Ancestry.com Chief Genealogist

Megan Smolenyak is an incurable genealogist and wears many hats in the family history world. In addition to serving as Chief Family Historian and spokesperson for Ancestry.com, she is a popular writer, speaker and TV guest. Megan is also President of RootsTelevision.com, a pioneering online channel of free, on-demand genealogy and history-oriented videos. Megan was one of the first to champion the use of DNA testing as a means to explore one's heritage and along with Ann Turner, M.D., authored *Trace Your Roots with DNA*, the best-selling, how-to book on genetic genealogy. Her other books include *Honoring Our Ancestors: Inspiring Stories of the Quest for Our Roots*, *In Search of Our Ancestors: 101 Inspiring Stories of Serendipity and Connection* in *Rediscovering Our Family History* and *They Came to America: Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors*. She has also written articles for *Ancestry*, *Family Chronicle*, *Family Tree Magazine*, *Genealogical Computing*, *Heritage Quest*, *NGS NewsMagazine*, *Everton's Family History Magazine* and *APG Quarterly*, among others.



J. H. Fonkert, CG

J. H. ("Jay") Fonkert is a Certified Genealogist specializing in Midwest, Dutch and English genealogy. His favorite research topics are the Fawkner family of mid-19th century Kentucky and Indiana, and migration of Midwestern Dutch immigrants, but he also pokes around in Swedish and Norwegian research. He lectures on census research, vital records, English and Dutch genealogy, maps and geography, research methods and other topics. He writes a genealogy education column for *The Septs*, the journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, and has published in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *Minnesota Genealogist*, the *APG Quarterly* and *Family Chronicle*. He is President of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors, the National Genealogical Society, and the Genealogical Speakers Guild.



Alvin Sherman Library

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Our Genealogy Collection provides free resources to aid in your research including both print materials and electronic databases. Our databases include Ancestry Library, the Digital Sanborn Maps and Origins, plus over 200 academic databases of interest to family historians. Our print collection contains over 4,000 titles specific to genealogical research. We also offer our patrons free genealogical instruction and programming throughout the year.



Middle River Press

Judy Borich

CEO

Judy Borich graduated from the University of North Florida, majored in art, minor in photography and worked as a staff the Bradenton Herald, The Orlando Sentinel, and the Sun Sentinel. Having lived in Florida all of her professional career, she now combines her love for family history, stories, pictures and Florida, as well as a passion for books, as a publisher for Middle River Press.



Dian DeBusier

Registrar of Captain Alexander Quarrier Chapter

As Registrar, Dian is responsible to assist prospective members in researching their ancestral line to a Patriot and in completing their applications for membership in DAR. Dian is a resident of Hollywood, former resident of Sarasota, and originally from Virginia where she helped a DAR chapter with research for their members. Dian has been involved in genealogy research for over 22 years and is a valuable asset to our chapter and DAR. She will explain how to use the Patriot Index, recently opened to the public, to find a Patriot ancestor or other relatives who have joined the DAR.



Lauren Douma, Dr. Emily Schmitt

Honor student Lauren Douma will present her research and highlights from her honors thesis "Using genealogical records and genetic markers of the Y-chromosome, X-chromosome, and mitochondrial DNA to create a personal family history narrative"

Drs. Emily Schmitt and Jim Doan co-teach the Honors Seminar "Genetics & Genealogy" in which honors students, through lecture, discussion, review of primary literature, case studies, videotapes and class presentations, investigate the relationships among the studies of genetics, human evolution and genealogy.



Family History Library

FamilySearch is the largest genealogy organization in the world. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. For over 100 years, FamilySearch has been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide. Patrons may freely access our resources and service online at FamilySearch.org, or through over 4,500 family history centers in 70 countries, including the renowned Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.



**Genealogical Society of
Greater Miami**

Patti Martin & Judy Sawyer

President & Vice President

Patti Martin is the current President of the Genealogical Society of Greater Miami. From 1989-90 Patti served as 1st VP for GSGM and as then twice as President and Director and is currently the president and editor of *The Heritage* quarterly. She and Tom have indexed the *Daily Illustrated Tabloid* (now at the Miami-Dade Public Library), served as co-editors for GSGM's *The Heritage*, and co-editors for FSGS's *The Florida Genealogist*. They have published the *1885 Florida State Census Index*, the *Cubahatchee Baptist Church Record Book I*, *Ebenezer Baptist Church Record Book*, four volumes of *The Gadsden Times Abstracts (Etowah County, Alabama)*, and indexed the *1910 Federal Census Index* for several Florida counties. Patti & Tom are currently working on volume V of *The Gadsden Times*.



**Jewish Genealogical Society
of Broward County**

Michael Sofman

Past President

Michael S. Sofman, M.D. is currently the President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc, also serving as Newsletter Editor. He is a local physician, having graduated from Georgetown University and Rutgers Medical School. He has been researching his family's history for about 7 years, and has served on the Board of the JGSBC for the past 4 years. He has lectured many times for the group, and will give an overview of getting started in Jewish Genealogy.



**Heritage Book Design &
Photo Restoration**

Suzanne Woodie

President

Suzanne Woodie is a mixed media artist residing in Florida. Suzanne is a graduate of Moore College of Art in Philadelphia with a degree in Fashion Illustration and Advertising Design. Much of her career was spent working as an Art Director for retail stores catalog companies. Although Suzanne continues to work as a freelance Graphic Designer and Still Life Stylist, she is now pursuing her passion for Photo Preservation and the creation of Family Heritage Books. Suzanne creates beautifully designed keepsakes for you treasured memories. With your photos and family history research and Suzanne's design skills the result is a one of a kind Family Heritage Book that will be treasured for generations to come.

Guild

of One-Name Studies

Larry Vick

Co-Founder

Larry Vick has been a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies since 2006, and he is 1st Vice President of the Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County. He is the editor of the *Vick Family Newsletter* and a member of the board of the Joseph Vick Family of America. He administers several activities involved with studying the Vick surname including the Vick Rootsweb surname e-mail list, the Vick Rootsweb surname board, the VICK and Allied Families DNA Project, and the VICK Y-DNA Surname Project.



Martha Ibñez Zervoudakis

Founder & Director

Martha Ibañez Zervoudakis is one of the founders and a director of the Cuban Genealogy Club of Miami, Fl. (CGC). She also serves as the webmaster for the club. Martha is a delegate for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and a member of many other genealogical groups, as well as a member of the St. Augustine Historical Society. Since 1988 she has been researching her family's roots as well as her husband's Greek and Jewish roots. She has been on the Board of the CGC since its founding in 2001. On a personal note, she teaches Special Education and ELL students for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, is married, has 4 sons and is a long-time resident of Broward County.