



Evaluating Conflicting Evidence to Find “the Truth”

Arline and Daniel Sachs

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon Beginners and Intermediate Workshops

1:00 PM Schmooze & Maven Tables

1:30 PM Program Meeting

Using their work on the story of Rabbi Hirsh Frankel (a German Rabbi who was convicted of being a magician in 1712 and imprisoned for 24 years), Arline and Daniel Sachs will explain how to find the truth when presented with conflicting evidence. While knowing only prayer book Hebrew, Daniel translated a distant cousin's book about their common ancestor Rabbi Frankel from Hebrew to English using the Internet. That book helped them correct long-accepted information that had been often quoted in other publications. Using other more recent examples of conflicting evidence, Arline will show that if you don't critically evaluate evidence, you will never find what you need for your genealogical quest.

Daniel Sachs

Father, attorney and part-time religious school educator, Daniel was nagged by his Harry Potter-loving daughters to take an online profile test to determine into which magical house he would be sorted. Daniel refused, claiming that he was a “muggle” and wouldn't be sorted. It occurred to him that as the direct descendant of a man convicted of practicing witchcraft, he wasn't a “muggle” but a “squib.” This realization prompted him to find out more about 18th century witch trials (Practical Kabbalah) and led him to his distant cousin's book. With no English version of the book available, Daniel used his minimal understanding

of prayer Hebrew and the internet to translate the book.

Arline Sachs

Former President of JGSGW and former board member of IAJGS, Arline also ran the original IA-JGS cemetery project (<https://www.iajgsjewish-cemeteryproject.org>) for seven years. She was the co-host of the television show “Tracing Your Family Roots” for 20 years (available online at tracingroots.nova.org), and has authored articles for *Avoytanu*.

Free Members-Only Workshops

10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon (Advance Registration Required)

Beginners Workshop: If you're new to Jewish genealogy or just need to jump start your research, this workshop is for you. The workshop starts with an introduction to Jewish genealogy and includes basic guidelines and strategies, online resources, and the holdings of the JGSGW library at B'nai Israel.

Intermediate Workshop: This workshop is for members who know the basics, but want to take their research to the next level. It will cover more in-depth

online searching, DNA, a case study, and a question-and-answer session.

These workshops are offered concurrently, so participants may register for only one workshop on this date. Registration is limited to 20 members per workshop. To register, please email jgsgwpresident@gmail.com, specify which workshop you would like to attend, and provide your phone number.