

**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF NEW JERSEY**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2024**

**PO Box 1476
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www.gsnj.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Genealogical Society of New Jersey had another exciting year in 2024. In response to member feedback, and as the Board of Trustees was faced with managing increasing costs for the Society, GSNJ rolled out new delivery options for memberships. Members may now choose how they would like to receive GSNJ publications and communications (digitally or in print). Three delivery options are currently offered: Digital Only (all communications and publications received digitally); Print GMNJ (all communications and publications received digitally, with the exception of print copies of GMNJ); and Print Only (all communications and publications received in print).

Another exciting change comes with these new delivery options—digital delivery of the Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey (*GMNJ*). All three issues of *GMNJ* were made available digitally this year, bringing the publication to members more quickly and in a more modern format. Many members have reported that they appreciate the flexibility and the ability to search through the issues with their own computers.

GSNJ has maintained its robust programming again this year, with a dual-track spring program, annual meeting presentation, and monthly webinar series. Again in 2024, GSNJ received grant funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission. We are grateful for these funds and continue to use them to expand programming and services for members.

As always, GSNJ benefits from the dedication of our officers and trustees, including several new trustees who joined the board in 2024. This group of hard-working, dedicated individuals spends countless hours furthering the mission of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey.

GSNJ always appreciates comments, suggestions and feedback from our members, so please feel free to reach out to us at any time via president@gsnj.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Melissa A. Johnson
President

**Minutes of the 102nd Annual Meeting of the
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY
Saturday, 9 December 2023**

The 102nd Annual Meeting of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey was held on Saturday, 9 December 2023, in person at the Morristown and Morris Township Public Library, 1 Miller Road, Morristown, New Jersey. Vice-President Mary Szaro welcomed attendees to the first in-person annual meeting since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vice-President Szaro opened the business meeting at 10:01 A.M. Recording Secretary Pamelyn Bush read the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting. After a motion by member Mark Szep and a second by Trustee Emeritus Joan M. Lowry, the minutes were approved as read. Vice-President Szaro announced that committee reports are available on the Society's website, <http://www.gsnj.org>, on the Officers and Trustees page. A motion and second from the floor to dispense with their reading was approved.

Nominations of Trustees:

Trustee Szaro presented a Nominations Committee motion to nominate the Slate of Trustees to be elected for the term ending 2026. They are:

Michelle Tucker Chubenko, AG, Middlesex County, New Jersey
Alexander D. Everitt, Sussex County, New Jersey
Janice Cross Gilyard, Union County, New Jersey
Lisa A. Minerd, Burlington County, New Jersey
Janet T. Riemer, GSNJ Fellow, Mercer County, New Jersey

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate of nominated trustees for the term ending 2026 was elected.

Old Business: There was no old business from 2022.

New Business: There was no new business for 2023.

Two long-term trustees and former presidents of GSNJ, C. Arthur Lawton and Joan M. Lowry, were awarded framed resolutions for their recent election as GSNJ Trustee Emeriti. A GSNJ member from the audience presented a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded. All approved. The business meeting adjourned at 10:11 A.M.

At 10:15 A.M., Vice-President Mary Szaro introduced the speaker, Chris Larlee, a library staff member, who presented "*An Introduction to the Caroline Rose Foster North Jersey History and Genealogy Center, with an Overview of its Many Collections.*" The lecture ended at 10:45 A.M.

Approximately twenty people participated in the annual meeting, including nine GSNJ Trustees and two Trustees Emeriti.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamelyn P. Bush,
GSNJ Recording Secretary

Annual Report of the GSNJ Nominating Committee

The GSNJ Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of nominees for Trustees of the Class of 2027:

Joan E. Betancourt, Monmouth County, New Jersey
Elizabeth DeSapio, Hunterdon County, New Jersey
Debbie Hadley, Ocean County, New Jersey
Daniel Klein, Hudson County, New Jersey
Mary Szaro, CG, Middlesex County, New Jersey

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Szaro, Chair

Annual Report of the Editorial Committee of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey (GMNJ)*

Volume 99 (2024) of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* includes articles relating to families of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, and Somerset counties, spanning the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries. In this volume, authors contributed Barraclough, Berardinelli, Cummins, DeGroot, DelVecchio, Dyer, Edsall, Fell, La Bagliva, Mabie, Meeker, Michalek, Ramsden, Ricca, Thompson, Tom, and White family research. Other articles include gravestone inscriptions from the Pompton Plains Reformed Church Cemetery of Morris County and a Van Ness family burying ground. With more than half of GSNJ members receiving their *GMNJ* issues electronically, the Board of Trustees decided to eliminate the separate subject, place, and name index and include a modified index in the last half of the September issue.

Editorial committee members spend many hours proofreading each final draft of *GMNJ* while searching for possible errors in the narrative text, accessing online links for validity, and checking citations for content accuracy. Committee members also “blindly review” each work submitted to *GMNJ*. Without knowing the author’s name, they judge every article sent to our Editor on merit, not solely on the author’s reputation as a genealogist and writer.

The Writers’ Group for *GMNJ* continued in 2024 under the leadership of this committee and hosted by Editor Deanna E. Korte, GSNJ President Melissa A. Johnson, and Editorial Committee Chair, Pamelyn Bush. All GSNJ members and non-members interested in writing for *GMNJ* are invited to describe their research subjects and stumbling blocks to completing their work. At monthly meetings, two or three hosts provide guidance and encouragement to prospective writers with the promise that *GMNJ* will publish more scholarly genealogical articles.

Pamelyn P. Bush, Chair
GMNJ Editorial Committee

Annual Report of the GSNJ Manuscript Committee

As Alexander Library, where the GSNJ collections are held, has been closed due to the pandemic and subsequent water damage from Hurricane Ida, Manuscript Committee activities have been curtailed. The record of usage has been irrelevant and maintenance halted. Many of the collections were moved to the New Jersey Room and others were moved off-site.

The library has re-opened but Special Collections and University Archives has not, so research can only be done by appointment. Library staff brings requested material to a designated location to be studied. In the case of GSNJ materials, what may be helpful is difficult to determine and some collections can not be moved. The manuscript committee can now access the New Jersey Room and may be able to assist. How long this situation will prevail is still unknown.

Manuscripts and monographs donated to the Society are acknowledged, accessioned, and filed. A finding aid for the papers of Shirley Moore Barnes, received last year, has been prepared. Contributions of family research are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Riemer, Chair

Report of the GSNJ Gravestone Committee

In 2024, the gravestone committee did not conduct any onsite tombstone hound expeditions. Older recordings of cemeteries yet to be published generally involve pairs of volunteers checking the gravestones one last time. Volunteers will check to see if grave markers are still present, missing, or continue to be legible. They also transcribe newer stones added since the cemetery was last recorded.

The GSNJ cemetery collection of field notes and previously recorded inscriptions has been temporarily transferred to the New Jersey State Archives while Special Collections and University Archives, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, is undergoing repairs.

The serialization of Pompton Plains Reformed Church Cemetery began in January 2024 and continued in May 2024 in the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey (GMNJ)*. These churchyard inscriptions will continue in 2025 issues. The September 2024 issue of *GMNJ* has inscriptions from the Van Ness Family Burying Ground in Kinnelon Borough, Morris County. In the meantime, this committee will continue to format older field notes from prior recordings into articles for publication. For several larger cemeteries, it was decided to bypass publication in *GMNJ* and add inscriptions directly to *Find-A-Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com>) using the “user-id” of GSNJ Tombstone Hounds.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamelyn P. Bush

Annual GSNJ Membership/Circulation Report

Beginning with the 2024 calendar year, GSNJ began offering memberships with three different delivery options for society publications and communications. These options include:

- Digital: All publications and communications delivered digitally only.
- Print *GMNJ: Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey (GMNJ)* delivered in print; other publications and communications delivered digitally.
- Print Only: *GMNJ, GSNJ Newsletter*, and all communications delivered in print only. No subscription to *NewsBrief* (GSNJ's digital-only e-zine).

These new delivery options were not made available to subscribers for 2024, but will be available to subscribers for 2025.

Membership/Circulation Report as of 11/30/2024:

Membership & Delivery Method	#
Annual Members – Digital Delivery	214
Annual Members – Print GMNJ Delivery	179
Annual Members – Print Only Delivery	22
Family Members – Digital Delivery	8
Family Members – Print GMNJ Delivery	6
Family Members – Print Only Delivery	0
Supporting Members – Digital Delivery	2
Supporting Members – Print GMNJ Delivery	1
Supporting Members – Print Only Delivery	1
Contributing Members – Digital Delivery	0
Contributing Members – Print GMNJ Delivery	2
Contributing Members – Print Only Delivery	0
International Members – Digital Delivery	2
International Members – Print GMNJ Delivery	0
International Members – Print Only Delivery	0
Life Members – Digital Delivery	9
Life Members – Print GMNJ Delivery	14
Life Members – Print Only Delivery	13
Total Members	473

Subscribers	72
Complimentary Subscribers	4
Total Subscribers	76

Total Circulation (less ½ family members): 542

Additionally, GSNJ regrettably announces the passing of several members reported recently:

- Donald G. Armstrong
- Mary Lou Delahunt

- Sally M. Emerson
- James A. Jolly
- Byron D. Roff
- Richard Spence

Respectfully submitted,
Membership Committee

Annual Report of the GSNJ Corresponding Secretary

The primary responsibility of the Corresponding Secretary is to reply to research requests. From October 2023 through October 2024, 72 inquiries were received, many of which request research in multiple collections for specific individual names. Other requests were for photocopies or scans of Bible records, cemetery inscriptions, or articles published in the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*. Requests are received by mail, email, social media, and through Rutgers University's "Ask a Librarian" via Special Collections & University Archives (SC/UA).

Responses to these inquiries are handled by the committee's volunteers, as time permits. Unfortunately, extensive research cannot be done; if additional research is necessary, the requestor is referred to GSNJ's directory of professional genealogists, or a recommendation is made of another possible source for the requested information.

The temporary relocation of the Bible and Family Records Collection and the Gravestone Inscriptions Collection to the New Jersey State Archives has been a tremendous help.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Riemer
Corresponding Secretary

Annual Report of the GSNJ Programs Committee

GSNJ hosted two programs in the past year: the 2023 Annual Meeting and the 2024 Spring Conference. GSNJ's 101st Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, 9 November 2023 at the Morristown and Morris Township Public Library. Chris Larlee, a staff member at the library, presented "*An Introduction to the Caroline Rose Foster North Jersey History and Genealogy Center, with an Overview of its Many Collections.*" The event was free and open to the public.

The 2024 GSNJ Spring Conference was held virtually on Saturday, 20 July 2024. Eight lectures were presented as part of two tracks. The program consisted of the following lectures: No OMPF? No Problem! presented by Sara Cochran; What is Social History and Why Should a

Genealogist Care? presented by Annette Burke Lyttle, CG; Tips & Tricks for Lesser-Known Record Types, presented by Deanna Korte; What Did You Do in the War, Granny? Women in the Army in World War II, presented by Annette Burke Lyttle, CG; What's in Your Canadian Genealogy Toolbox? presented by Kathryn Lake Hogan; Get Organized to Write Your Family Stories, presented by Annette Burke Lyttle, CG; Help! My Records are Not in English, presented by Bryna O'Sullivan; and Citations: Not as Scary as You Think, presented by Annette Burke Lyttle, CG. Door prizes were awarded. Surveys about the speakers and the event were collected from attendees.

The GSNJ Webinar Series – “Your Roots Pursuits” continued in 2024. Webinars were scheduled monthly with various topics each month, including: Genealogical Pits I Have Fallen Into and How to Avoid Them, presented by Pam Vestal; Using DNA to Explore Cases of Adoption, Unknown Parentage and Misattributed Parentage, presented by Paul Woodbury; Why Should Anyone Believe Your Research – How to Provide Genealogical Proof and Write a Genealogy Proof Argument, presented by Sydney F. Cruice; Genealogy of a Neighborhood: Urban and Rural, presented by Mary Risseeuw; Searching for the Smiths: A Case Study, presented by Jessica Conklin; Maps Galore: Finding and Using Online Maps from the Library of Congress, presented by Annette Burke Lyttle, CG; From Connecticut to New Jersey: The New Haven Colony, presented by Bryna O'Sullivan; More Than Just Names: Advanced U.S. Census Research, presented by Judy Russell, JD, CG, CGL; and Ancestors, AI and Prompt Engineering: Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Genealogy, presented by Margaret McMahon, PhD.

Planning for an in-person spring conference in 2025 is underway.

Respectfully submitted,
Programs Committee

Annual Report of the Treasurer

7/1/2023-6/30/2024

	Total
Income	GSNJ
Membership dues	\$19,750.00
Publication sales	\$3,772.00
Program registrations	\$765.00
Interest Income	\$5,175.00
NJHC General Operating Support Grant	\$7,670.00
Donations	\$1,966.00
	\$39,098.00
Expense	
Printing of <i>Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i>	\$8,025.13
Editor fees for <i>Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i>	\$18,500.00
Social Media Manager	\$1,200.00
Graphic Artist	\$825.00
Other printing	\$552.94
Postage and P.O. Box	\$3,195.07
Accounting	\$1,960.00
Legal Support	\$0.00
Advertising	\$733.50
Software	\$93.34
Web Site Domain/Hosting/Maintenance	\$3,060.00
Supplies	\$4,859.98
Program/meeting catering and food expenses	\$109.78
Other non-personnel expenses	\$1,071.63
Storage rental	\$5,309.00
Insurance	\$630.00
Organizational dues	\$440.49
Corporate filing fees	\$33.00
Travel	\$0.00
Bank fees	\$762.81
Program speaker fees & expenses	\$2,075.00
Misc. operational expenses	\$124.06
	\$53,560.73
Net Income	-\$14,462.73
Monetary Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Checking Account(s)	\$10,771.62
Paypal Account	\$1,644.94
Money Market Account	\$24,860.84
Savings CDs (3)	\$65,812.93
Publication Fund CDs (3)	\$59,485.31
	\$162,575.64
Total investments	\$162,575.64
Endowments	
Mildred Meeker Franklin Bequest	\$6,326.65
	\$6,326.65
Total endowments	\$6,326.65
Other Monetary Assets	
Undeposited Funds	\$0.00
	\$0.00
Other Assets Total	\$0.00
Net worth of the Society as of June 30, 2024*	\$168,902.29

* Includes only monetary assets

Joan E. Betancourt, Treasurer