



JGSGW April Meeting

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Bender Jewish Community Center, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD

Special Two Part Program:

10 AM, Part One: Using DNA in your Genealogical Research.

1PM: Shmooze and Mavens Table

1:30 PM, Part Two: Tracing Crypto-Jewish Heritage



This program is jointly sponsored by JGSGW,
the Bender JCC, and Family Tree DNA.



These events are both FREE and Open to the Public

10:30 AM: Using DNA in your Genealogical Research. Jim Brewster from Family Tree DNA will talk about using DNA for Genealogy. Lack of records and unforeseen relocations can be a huge stumbling block in Jewish genealogical research. In recent years DNA testing has become a popular tool for getting past these brick walls. Learn about the three basic types of DNA tests (autosomal, mitochondrial, and Y Chromosome DNA) and how it can help with your research. Jim is the genealogist for his family and has taught classes in both paper trail and genetic genealogy. He now works as Assistant Manager for the Group Projects Team at Family Tree DNA. Jim works with project administrators as well as attending conferences and events where he enjoys sharing his passion with others and educating people about genealogy.



Family Tree DNA was the first company to develop the commercial application of DNA testing for genealogical purposes. It has the most comprehensive and diverse genetic genealogy databases in the world, to connect people with their ancestors and their relatives in Europe and around the world. Genetic genealogy gives family historians a means to check their discoveries with information obtained via DNA testing. With a simple cheek swab, Family Tree DNA test can provide clues for further genealogical research, help determine ancestral homelands, reveal living relatives, and

confirm or refute suspected connections between families. Test kits will be available for purchase following the talk.

1PM: Shmooze and Mavens Table

1:30 PM: Tracing Crypto-Jewish Heritage.

Daniel Díaz-Huerta will share his personal, tumultuous and complex journey within the secret or private construct of crypto-Judaism, an innovative form of Spanish medieval Judaism, to include “La cabalá,” which has miraculously survived for well over 500 years. He will also present the precious and meticulous



genealogical documents – including 16th century handwritten genealogical trees – that are integral to the guardians (primos y primas) of the Spanish secret in New Mexico. Mr. Diaz-Huerta is an author, educator, lecturer, and self-proclaimed “dance aficionado,” artistically integrating flamenco into his genealogical and crypto-Jewish presentation. He has advanced degrees in Portuguese Language & Literature, Latin American Studies, and Spanish Language & Literature from the University of New Mexico, as well as graduate hours toward a M.A., Religious Studies at Arizona State University. He was the recipient of the Seymour H. Jacobs Memorial Scholarship for his work, “Unveiling the Hidden Jewish Voices of Spain: From Convivencia to Modernity.”