

The Mysterious Mister Manley: How do you prove something didn't happen?

Sue Fialkoff

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12:00 Noon – Member Orientation to new JGSGW website

Grab a bagel and join us to learn how to use your new JGSGW website. We'll show you how to find your way around, renew your annual membership, and access your personal member profile.

1:00 PM – Schmooze and Maven Tables

1:30 PM – Program Meeting

Eloise Metzger, a relative of the speaker, was suddenly widowed at the age of 26 when her husband was killed in a tragic 1918 New York subway wreck. Within a few years, references to Eloise Metzger disappeared from public records, and Eloise Manley seemed to appear in her place. Assuming Eloise had remarried, the speaker spent years searching for evidence of a marriage between Eloise and Mr. Manley, to no avail. Were Eloise Metzger and Eloise Manley the same person? If so, who was the mysterious Mr. Manley? Did he exist, and if not, why did Eloise start using the name Manley?

This program will touch on numerous strategies to take your research to the next level, including

refining your research question, analyzing negative evidence, using nontraditional sources, and placing your research into historical context, all of which can help illuminate the lives of our ancestors.

Sue Fialkoff is a graduate of the Boston University Certificate Program in Genealogical Research and the ProGen genealogical study program, and has attended several genealogical institutes. She has provided expert genealogical testimony for the New York State Surrogate's Court. She is a long-time member of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington and is currently the editor of *Mishpacha*, JGSGW's quarterly publication.