



St. Louis Genealogical Society

# Jewish Special Interest Group 2026



The Jewish Special Interest Group (J-SIG) provides a forum for those interested in their Jewish ancestry to network, share genealogical research, study, and preserve their history. The SIG is a member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). Meetings are held four times a year at the locations designated below. **All times are Central Time Zone.**

## J-SIG 2026 Meeting Schedule

**Sunday, 1 February 2026**     ***The Old Deal: Fraternal Societies, Self-Help, and How Our Immigrant Ancestors Built the World We Live in Today***

1:00 p.m.     ***This meeting will be Zoom only.***

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, fraternal societies made things like life insurance and home loans available to their members. They also served as an important focal point for cultural and communal identity among recent immigrants. This talk will introduce the history of fraternal societies in the United States—with special focus on Jewish organizations—and argue for how their records can be incorporated into genealogical research.

**Featured Speaker: Dr. John Cline, reference specialist, St. Louis County Library**

**Sunday, 7 June 2026**     ***Origins and History of the Jewish Hospital of St. Louis***

1:00 p.m.     ***This meeting will be Zoom only.***

Jewish Hospital (now Barnes-Jewish) has served St. Louis for more than 120 years. Founded in 1902, it was originally a thirty-bed hospital with a staff of only six nurses and four doctors. This presentation will touch on the origins and early history of this institution and will prominently feature Jewish Hospital's incredible archival collections (photographs, documents, and artifacts) held by the Becker Archives at Wash U. Medicine.

**Featured Speaker: Stephen Logsdon, head of archives, Washington University School of Medicine**

**Sunday, 23 August 2026**     ***Rituals and Superstitions of our Ancestors***

1:00 p.m.     ***This meeting will be Zoom only.***

Rabbi Elizabeth Hersh will share “shtick” and stop knocking on wood, discussing the superstitions and rituals that were beliefs of our ancestors. How did these superstitions impact their behavior? And what is the difference between ritual and superstition? You may be surprised! Come and learn—“*kenya hora!*”

**Featured Speaker: Rabbi Elizabeth Hersh, Temple Emanuel, St. Louis**

**Sunday, 6 December 2026**     ***Lost Tables: Lost St. Louis Restaurants***

1:00 p.m.     ***This meeting will be Zoom only.***

Harley Hammerman will revive culinary memories of old St. Louis restaurants which were dear to members of the St. Louis Jewish community.

**Featured Speaker: Dr. Harley Hammerman, physician and well-known local blogger (*Lost Tables*)**



Visit <https://stlgs.org/about-us-2/sigs-and-special-programs/jewish-special-interest-group> for more information and updates to the schedule (or use the QR code below).

For details or questions, contact Phyllis Faintich, J-SIG Co-Leader at [jewishsig@stlgs.org](mailto:jewishsig@stlgs.org)



Use your smartphone's camera or scanning app on the QR code to the left to go directly to the SIG's web page.



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