

WESTERN MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

GOT ANCESTORS?! 2010 ARE THEY WHO YOU THINK THEY ARE?

FEATURING

MEGAN SMOLENYAK SMOLENYAK

AT THE

PRINCE CONFERENCE CENTER AT CALVIN COLLEGE

FRIDAY 5TH NOVEMBER – MICHELLE OBAMA'S ROOTS

This special programme is brought to you by the **Western Michigan Genealogical Society** in association with the **Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society**.

Megan Smolenyak² shares how and why she researched the First Lady's ancestry and what she discovered along the way. The talk highlights Mrs. Obama's multi-cultural, seriously Southern (11 states), and Great Migration heritage, including the story of Dolphus T. Shields and his mother, Melvina McGruder, that was featured on the front page of *The New York Times*.

The evening will include presentations by Donna Odom of the **Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society** and Don Bryant of the **Western Michigan Genealogical Society** and will conclude with Mini Desserts and Tea/Coffee.

SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER – ARE THEY WHO YOU THINK THEY ARE?

A full day with **Megan Smolenyak**² as she presents four educational and inspiring sessions. Learn how to connect with living relatives, take your research further with DNA, and hear about proven sleuthing skills from one of the best.

**Reverse Genealogy
Tracing Your Roots with DNA**

**Right Annie, Wrong Annie
Cases that Made My Brain Hurt**

Vendors – Deli Delight Lunch Buffet – Network with other Genealogists – Door Prizes

Message from WMGS President – Don Bryant

New things to discover and old mysteries to solve are certainly part of the attraction to genealogy and family history research. **Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak** is an expert sleuth, loves solving mysteries and sharing her experience and knowledge.

Education is a life-long ambition for most of us. Our goals in producing this year's "Got Ancestors?!" program were to inspire and encourage you to stretch your thinking and discover new ways to think about your ancestors in the context of the world and times in which they lived.

We are stretching ourselves this year by trying new things. We are proud to join with the **Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society** in presenting Megan's popular talk on **Michelle Obama's Roots**. This is also the first time Megan has made any presentation in the State of Michigan.

So come to be inspired. Come to network with other researchers and learn. Stretch yourself to a new and wider vision of what we all strive for – how to answer the question... **Are They Who You Think They Are?**

Register and pay online at <http://GotAncestors.com/>
Questions? – send eMail to Seminar@GotAncestors.com

REGISTRATION FORM

(use coupon code **web** when registering online)

If you have Internet access please help us out by using the online registration form at <http://GotAncestors.com/registration/>. You can choose to pay online using PayPal, or print out your completed form from your online registration and mail it to us with your payment. If you don't have Internet access, please complete the form below.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

eMail: _____ (even if mailing in this form, please include your eMail address)

If you are planning to attend Saturday:

Use Part One of this form to register 1 person for the Seminar, and optionally for Friday evening.

Use Part Two if you wish extra people to come with you only on Friday evening.

If you are planning to only attend Friday evening:

Use Part Two of this form to order as many tickets for Friday evening as you need.

Part One – If you're attending the Seminar on Saturday:

<p>Got Ancestors?! – Are They Who You Think They Are? on Saturday</p> <p>If you only wish to attend Saturday's Seminar, choose this option, and enter the appropriate price for early or regular registration.</p> <p>Fee before 9 October 2010 = \$49. After 8 October 2010 = \$59 Note this includes Deli Delight Lunch and Refreshments.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Registration \$ _____</p>
<p>OR</p>
<p>Got Ancestors?! – The Weekend on Friday AND Saturday</p> <p>If you wish to attend Friday evening AND Saturday, choose this option, and enter the appropriate price for early or regular registration.</p> <p>Fee before 9 October 2010 = \$59. After 8 October 2010 = \$69 Note this includes Friday evening Light Dessert & Tea/Coffee AND Saturday Deli Delight Lunch and Refreshments.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Registration \$ _____</p>

Part Two – If you're only attending Friday evening, or need extra tickets for Friday evening:

<p>Got Ancestors?! – Michelle Obama's Roots on Friday evening</p> <p>If you only wish to attend Friday evening, or are attending Saturday and need <u>extra</u> tickets for Friday evening, choose this option, and enter the appropriate number of tickets needed. Note this includes Light Dessert and Tea/Coffee.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Number of Tickets _____ x \$15 = \$ _____</p>

Optional – Joining WMGS

Check here if you wish to also join WMGS as a new member for 2011 or renew your existing membership (see below). **\$20** \$ _____

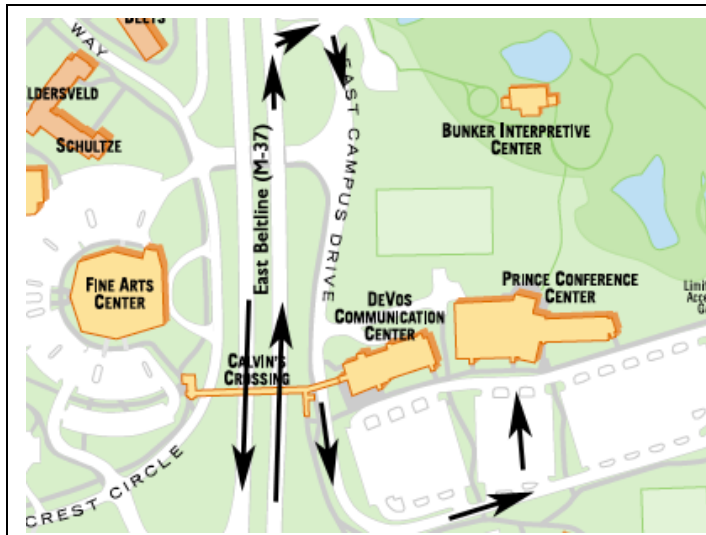
TOTAL \$ _____

WMGS Members who attend the **Saturday** Seminar will receive a \$10 voucher in their registration package. This voucher can be used at the WMGS Sales Table, or can be used toward your 2011 Membership. Membership is \$20 per year for members living in the USA.

Please make cheque payable to **WMGS** and mail to:
Got Ancestors?! Registration
Roger Moffat
3020 76th St SE
Caledonia, MI 49316-8398

Register and pay online at <http://GotAncestors.com/>
Questions? – send eMail to Seminar@GotAncestors.com

THE PRINCE CONFERENCE CENTER AT CALVIN COLLEGE



The Prince Center at Calvin College is located at 1800 East Beltline SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Entry to the Prince Conference Center is from the northbound side of the East Beltline north of Burton Street. If you are travelling from the north you have to proceed south of Burton Street to make a U-turn to head north.

Parking is FREE.

The Prince Conference Center includes a hotel. If you wish to stay at the conference venue you can make those arrangements yourself. Contact the Center at 1-866-526-7200 and ask for a room for the WMGS Seminar. It's possible that you'll get a better discount if you are an AARP or AAA Member.

<http://www.calvin.edu/prince/>

OUR SPEAKER

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak (yes, that's her real name) is a genealogical adventurer who loves solving mysteries, making unexpected discoveries and pushing the boundaries of conventional genealogy. Since 1999, she's worn many hats in the family history world, including Chief Family Historian and spokesperson for Ancestry.com, the largest genealogical company in the world; creator of RootsTelevision.com, a pioneering online channel of free videos and winner of four Telly Awards; and founder of UnclaimedPersons.org, a volunteer group that assists coroners and medical examiners.

A popular writer, speaker and TV guest, she does all she can to get the g-word out there and inspire others in their quest for roots. Megan is a contributor to *The Huffington Post*, and was determined to be the most influential Twitter user on the topic of genealogy. Her most recent book is *Who Do You Think You Are?: The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History*, companion guide to the NBC series.

Megan's "greatest hits" include the following:

- Discovering Michelle Obama's roots, as featured on the front page of *The New York Times*.
- Correcting history by revealing the true story of Annie Moore, the first immigrant through Ellis Island, a story featured on the front page of *The New York Times*, and assisting in the discovery and identification of new photos of Annie Moore.
- Tracing Barack Obama's roots to Moneygall, County Offaly, Ireland.
- Providing a decade of forensic consulting services to the U.S. Army to locate thousands of family members of soldiers still unaccounted for from WWI, WWII, Korea and Southeast Asia.
- Helping Chris Haley, nephew of Alex Haley of *Roots* fame, use DNA testing to confirm the family's oral tradition about their ancestry and meet his Scottish cousins.
- Figuring out who would be king of America today if George Washington had been king instead of president.
- Using her sleuthing skills to help coroners and medical examiners locate the next of kin for unclaimed persons and establishing a group of volunteers to tackle this quiet epidemic.
- Uncovering a surprising connection between presidential candidates Al Sharpton and Strom Thurmond.
- Finding serial centenarians — a pair of relatives who knew each other and lived in the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries between the two of them (that's all the U.S. presidents except Washington and Obama!).
- Supporting more than 100 genealogical initiatives through her Honoring Our Ancestors Grants Program.
- Tracking down relatives of the sailors who lost their lives in the USS Monitor in 1862 to try to identify skeletons found in the turret.

(find out more at <http://HonoringOurAncestors.com/>)

You can stay up to date with the latest conference news at our website <http://GotAncestors.com/> and by subscribing to the RSS feed from the "blog" at <http://gotancestors.com/feed/> or click the link for "Entries (RSS)" at the bottom of any page on the website.

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