

# Western New York Genealogical Society, Inc.

## Report of the Nominating Committee

November 18, 2023

The Board of the Society lost a number of valued members during the year. Here we think of longstanding Board member and Officer, Nancy Archedekin, whom we lost to pursuit of other interests. Her valued counsel will be missed. The same is true for our Registrar, Sandi Russo, whose experience, judgment and knowledge we relied on so often. Our able Treasurer, Chuck Wenzel, resigned for personal reasons as did Steve Trincanati, who came on board during the year and assumed the editorship of *The Western New York Genealogist*. We certainly wish them well and hope they might be able to rejoin us at a future date.

We were most pleased to welcome to the Board, however, Becky Burke, our new Registrar who quickly adapted to the rigors of that position. Another excellent addition to our Board has been Joanne Clements who took on the thankless job of Secretary as well as agreeing to serve as interim Vice-President of the Board.

Our search for a replacement for Chuck as Treasurer and for Steve as Editor continues. Our experience in identifying candidates for our Board mirrors that of other genealogical societies, if not non-profits as a whole. Few people are able or willing to step forward. **We encourage all members of the society to consider seriously sharing their time and talents with us.**

We were blessed though when two very able people agreed to be nominated for seats on our Board.

Elizabeth M. "Beth" Benson, already a member of our 50th Anniversary Committee, was appointed in October to fill the remainder of Steve Trincanati's term on the Board. She comes recommended by the Nominating Committee and the endorsement of the Board for a three year term as Director ending December 31, 2026. Here is her biographical summary.

### ***Benson, Elizabeth M.***

*Elizabeth holds a B.A. in English from SUNY Fredonia and an M.S. in Counseling Psychology from Niagara University. Over her career she has re-invented herself several times, working in a variety of business and non-profit roles. Beth directed membership, special events and travel programs at the Seneca Park Zoo before moving to the National Aquarium in Baltimore. She presented at both regional and national conferences. As the chief development officer for the Maryland Food Bank, Beth supervised fundraising, events, data-base and communication areas. Wanting to return to her native Western New York, Beth accepted the position as assistant to the vice president for institutional advancement at SUNY Buffalo State University. She remained there for twelve years, retiring in 2020.*

*Beth volunteered as a docent at the Richardson Center Corporation, leading tours for ten years. She led the program as volunteer coordinator on a part-time basis for two years managing its transition through the Covid and closing of Hotel Henry periods. She enjoys painting, photography and playing the ukulele. Beth worked on family history intermittently for several years and is now able to pursue genealogy more seriously, taking classes and webinars to increase effective research methods and unravel the mysteries of DNA. She is looking forward to working with WNYGS, both to learn from their extensive knowledge base and to share whatever skill set may be of assistance to the organization.*

**Recommendation: Elect Beth Benson to three year term on the WNYGS Board, ending December 31, 2026**

To fill a second vacancy in the Class of 2026, the Nominating Committee is most pleased to recommend Jeanette Sheliga for election to a three year term ending December 31, 2026. As can be seen below, Jeanette has deployed her prodigious skills in service to WNYGS for a number of years now.

*Jeanette Sheliga of Jeanette's Genealogy lives in Lockport, NY and has been researching her family tree since 2002 and lecturing since 2011. She has had the privilege to speak for societies and libraries locally and virtually all over the world. Jeanette is the President of the Virtual Genealogical Association (VGA), the President and Board Member for the Niagara County Genealogical Society (NCGS), the Program Chair for the Western New York Genealogical Society (WNYGS), and a member of the Professional Development Committee for the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG). She has also completed the study groups of ProGen 49 and ProGen Practicum 02 and has attended many genealogy institutes.*

**Recommendation: Elect Jeanette Sheliga to three year term on the WNYGS Board, ending December 31, 2026**

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony Cooper (2664L)  
Chair, Nominating Committee