

# Meet Carol Clingan

Special Guest speaker: 2/5/26 | 'Introduction to Jewish Genealogy



**Carol Clingan is an American Jewish genealogist, educator,** and community volunteer with decades of experience helping people explore their Jewish family history. She serves as Research Projects Coordinator and board member for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, where she has led extensive efforts to document and preserve historical records and artifacts useful to family historians.

Clingan has played a major role in the society's Memorial Plaques Project, which has photographed, translated, and transcribed thousands of Jewish memorial (yahrzeit) plaques across Massachusetts — creating a searchable resource of Jewish names, dates, and family connections for researchers worldwide.

In addition to her genealogical work, Carol has also been deeply involved in historic preservation. Beginning with research into synagogue records, she rediscovered a forgotten 19th-century synagogue mural in North Adams, Massachusetts and spearheaded efforts to have it conserved and relocated to the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, where it now serves as a public piece of Jewish cultural history.

A native of Chelsea, Massachusetts, Carol has been active for decades in regional Jewish heritage organizations and serves on advisory boards, including for the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Her teaching and community leadership — including talks, workshops, and publications — emphasize practical research methods and historical preservation for beginners and experienced genealogists alike.

---



# Meet Carol Clingan

Special Guest speaker: 2/5/26 | 'Introduction to Jewish Genealogy

- ✦ **Jewish Journal (JewishJournal.org)** — Carol Clingan's role and her work on yahrzeit plaques
  - *Carol Clingan is research projects coordinator at the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston and located/archived almost 80,000 yahrzeit plaques throughout Massachusetts. [Jewish Journal](https://jewishjournal.org/2020/03/12/let-a-genealogist-help-you-trace-your-jewish-roots/) [https://jewishjournal.org/2020/03/12/let-a-genealogist-help-you-trace-your-jewish-roots/]*
  
- ✦ **Wellesley Magazine (Wellesley.edu)** — Mural preservation project
  - *Carol Clingan '63 saved a historic Jewish mural from a former synagogue in North Adams; the artwork now hangs at the Yiddish Book Center. [Magazine](https://magazine.wellesley.edu/issues/spring-2025/forgotten-art-finds-a-home) [https://magazine.wellesley.edu/issues/spring-2025/forgotten-art-finds-a-home]*
  
- ✦ **Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center / AmericanAncestors.org** — Board and genealogical leadership
  - *Carol Clingan is a native of Chelsea, MA; board member and head of research projects for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston; involved in preservation of Jewish artifacts including the North Adams mural. [americanancestors.org](https://www.americanancestors.org/JHC-Dinner-2024) [https://www.americanancestors.org/JHC-Dinner-2024]*
  
- ✦ **JewishGen / "The Mural in the Attic" (TabletMag)** — Yahrzeit plaque project context
  - *Clingan worked on the JewishGen Memorials & Plaques Project, part of her broader historical and genealogical work. [Tablet Magazine](https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/community/articles/mural-attic-synagogue-new-home) [https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/community/articles/mural-attic-synagogue-new-home]*

