GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP—Course Proposal

I am 4 weeks into my first gig with the GIG. It's going ok, but the administrative and technical tasks involved (e.g., sending emails with attached slides, getting volunteers to help as virtual assistants etc.) are still a bit of a challenge (as opposed to the didactic task of the opening presentation each week, which I expected). I was a bit overwhelmed to think of committing to doing it again in the spring. Nevertheless, here I am.

PROPOSAL: The class involves a short presentation each week on a genealogy topic, usually loosely correlated with the Genealogy Overview Class (led by Carol Callaghan, for which I believe I will again be a co-leader and for which I am giving 2 lectures). For each topic I will have a short presentation prepared or will solicit presentations from the group as interest dictates (so far I have had no volunteers to present for this semester's themes.) This will be followed by collaborative discussion among the participants.

I still don't have a specific VA, although Carol, Reg (from the Overview class) and a few others have volunteered on an informal level.

I may still need help to up my Zoom skills to be able to make people co-hosts in order to allow them to share screens freely. So far, no one has wanted to share a screen, so I haven't had a chance to test that option, as I understand it from other instructors at OLLI.   Also I would like to learn how to put people in groups, if people have differing interests, or if a more advanced group wants to work on something together while I answer questions for beginners. Gerri reached out to me, and has volunteered to teach me, if/when I can find some time. I still have a tech phobia, and get flustered when I have to figure something out in real time, so I won't attempt it until I really understand how to do it.

I base my weekly topics on those of the Overview class which were just (sort of) finalized.

This is a very rough idea of potential topics for the Spring:

OVERVIEW TOPIC	GIG TOPIC
1. Review Genealogy Methodology/Search Techniques	1. Search Tips
2. Vital Records	2. Church Records, other VR substitutes
3. City Directories	3. City Maps
4. Court & Other Govt Records	4. Local Repositories
5. German & French settlers to the Midwest	5. Regional Repositories
6. New England Records	6. Other Regions of US -TBD
7. New York Records	7. Other large port cities
8. Irish to America	8. Other Ethnic Ancestors-TBD
9. Italian to America	9. Other Ethnic Ancestors-TBD
10. African-American Research-Deeper Dive	7. African, Asian & Australian Sources
11. More DNA	11. DNA Stories
12. Creative Uses of Photos	12. Sharing Photo projects
13. Telling and Preserving Your Story	13. Family History Books, Blogs, Websites