

Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce: Chamber connections yield huge dividends

Last week, we had the opportunity at our “Business Blender” networking event to foster connections. It was a great feeling to start an introduction between two people, which then turns into a conversation between groups of people who didn’t know each other.

Why is it important that the Chamber makes connections happen? When you meet someone in person and strike up a conversation, it is easier to connect with them in



Jennifer Pauly
President

the future.

We want members to make the connections to grow their business. A few weeks ago, I wrote about the importance of networking. Let’s take it a step further and find out how the Chamber can make the connection work for you.

The Chamber has a database of member businesses, organizations and elected leaders that all have the same goals to grow their presence, achieve a positive bottom line, and create a great place

to work, live and play. We share this database with our members! You can ask for it when you need it. We can provide this information in an excel spreadsheet or print out labels for you.

The only aspect of the database we cannot share is email address. When you make the personal connection, grab their email to keep communication going at that level.

We offer volunteer opportunities for members to work with others to achieve a goal. Volunteer on a task force, committee or at an event. We have plenty of opportunities for you to jump in

and work alongside others.

Consider running for our board of directors. The process generally starts every July and is a series of interviews prior to the voting process in November. The volunteer board of director positions do have a commitment of leadership with monthly meetings. All of our board members will tell you that serving leads to new connections and familiarity with other leaders. They have been able to leverage relationships to share information and drive more business or presence to their business or organization.

What’s the next step after an

initial connection? Schedule an in-person meeting over coffee. Make sure the conversation revolves around listening, asking questions and finding a common ground as to how you both can work together or use your network to help.

I have to admit, our Chamber is GREAT at making the introductions and connections happen. Use us!

For more information on Chamber connections, visit www.NiagaraRiverRegion.com.

Start your genealogy journey

METRO CREATIVE

Genealogy fascinates much of the general public. The number of people learning more about their families and heritage through genealogy increases year to year. According to FamilyTree.com, genealogy is the second only to gardening as the most popular hobby in the United States.

People explore genealogy for many reasons, including learning about their ancestry. A rundown of the basics of genealogy can make such pursuits more enjoyable.

Genealogy and Family History are Subtly Different

Genealogy is a line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor, while family history is defined as the history or narrative of a family. They are intertwined but not synonymous.

Vital Records are Key

Genealogists explore vital records to obtain information about their ancestors. Vital records include documentation of ancestors’ life events, including births, deaths, marriages and more. Civil registration began at different times around the world, and even across North America, so it’s often challenging, though entirely

A rundown of the basics of genealogy can make it more enjoyable. (Metro Creative Graphics)

possible, to develop an accurate history.

Surnames May Be Different

Surnames were not commonplace until around the eleventh century in Europe, according to S.C. Perkins, who is the author of a mystery series featuring a Texas genealogist as the protagonist. Surnames fall into four general categories:

1. Place or geographical features (i.e., “Hill”)
2. Nicknames or appearance (“Little”)
3. Occupation (“Baker”)
4. Father’s name (“Peter-son”)

Some names may not have been recorded correctly, so a person’s last name actually may be a derivative of the real name or a misspelling. Often, immigrants changed their own surnames to make them sound more American or more native to wherever they were emigrating to.

Cities Change

Discovering records of ances-



tors can be even more challenging because of shifting borders or municipalities, which change over time. The Family Tree Factbook provides European maps from throughout history and a timeline of European border changes that can help with research.

Preserve Family History

In addition to uncovering mysteries of one’s heritage, dabbling

in genealogy helps to preserve family history by confirming tales and tracing ancestors’ journeys. It also may help shed light on the history of artifacts or jewelry that

ancestors owned and passed down.

Connect with Others

A motivator behind genealogy research is to uncover relatives. Cousins from all over the world can discover they are related and bridge the gap between them through shared genetics and history. This may be particularly important to those who were adopted and hope to understand more about where they came from for personal or health-related reasons.

Genealogy is a growing hobby that can be quite rewarding. Thanks to the internet and growing databases of civil records, it’s now easier than ever to trace family histories.

IN THE NEWS

Whose fish (fry) will swim to the top – and whose will flop?

NFP’s famous ‘Best Fish Fry’ contest returns

Fish fry season has begun again – and we want to know where to eat!

Meatless Fridays are much better when you can order a fish fry from Apple Granny, The Beach House, Roman Café, The Village Inn or any one of Western New York’s finest restaurants.

But if you could choose only one, where would you go?

As part of Niagara Frontier Publications’ annual “Best Fish Fry” contest, vote for the restaurant serving your favorite fish fry. The eatery with the most votes will be featured in The Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel and Island Dispatch, with additional content posted at www.wnypapers.com.

Voting began Monday, Feb. 20, and will conclude Monday, April 3. Vote and find rules online; or fill out an entry form found in one of our newspapers. Send the entry back to NFP at 1859 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island, NY 14072.

When you cast a vote telling us which restaurant offers the freshest catches served in the tastiest batter, you’ll be entered to win a fish fry for two, or a general food gift certificate, courtesy of an area restaurant.

Winners will be selected by random draw and notified by phone or email.

Good luck, and happy eating!

Committed to strengthening the viability and enhancing the value of family and privately owned businesses.

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CBAcenters@niagara.edu

Stop running your business and start managing it!

Join us for our next Virtual breakfast forum!

Tuesday, March 7, 2023
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
You must pre-register:
cbacenters@niagara.edu

"Financial Lessons from 2022 and Beyond"

Presented by:
F. James Ginnane, Owner,
Planned Futures Financial Planning

You will receive an email from "NU College of Business Administration" with a Zoom link.

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