

FAIR LAWN SENIOR CENTER

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STORIES FROM ELLIS ISLAND



Ellis Island opened on January 1, 1892 as the nation's first federal immigration entry point. During the next 32 years, it was by far the busiest US inspection station, processing 12.5 million people, each hoping for a chance at a new life. It is estimated that 40% of all Americans can trace their roots back to immigrants who came through Ellis Island.

Did you have relatives who came through Ellis Island? Did the inspectors detain them? Were they treated at the island's hospitals? Did your family names get changed by the inspectors?! Fred Voss is a professional genealogist and a volunteer tour guide at Ellis Island National Park. He will give an illustrated talk about the past, present, and future of this iconic landmark as well as sharing some of his favorite immigration stories.

Mr. Voss will provide an overview of the workings of the Island—how immigrants arrived, how they were processed through the different parts of the Island, and what might mean a long stay on the Island or a return-ticket home. He will also dive into those squiggles on the manifest and how to decipher them.

PRESENTED BY FRED VOSS

professional genealogist, researcher, and educator. He volunteered for 9+ years as a tour guide at Ellis Island, leading both historical and photographic tours of the abandoned hospitals on the south side of the island
(SaveEllisIsland.org)



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024 @ 1-2:30 P.M.

No advance registration necessary for this program.

The Senior Center offers a Noon lunch (\$1.25 suggested donation) and reservations should be made at least 24 hours in advance.