

## Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting: August 28, 2018

### **Genealogy Tech: The Power of FamilySearch and Recent Changes to it**



Speaker: Alan Rabe

FamilySearch is the largest genealogical organization in the world and its database, available free on-line, has been a vital resource for genealogists for almost 125 years.

In this presentation, Alan Rabe will provide an overview of the records, resources and services that FamilySearch offers genealogists, as well as how to access them.

But he will also address another issue that has been a hot topic of discussion throughout the genealogy community. Family Search has converted trees in its database from individual, or stand-alone trees, into trees embedded in a collaborative data base, or Wiki.

#### **What's in the August newsletter?**

[Welcome new members](#)  
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**AGS 2018 QUARTERLY  
FALL ISSUE DEADLINE  
AUGUST 20**

Click [here](#) for submission  
guidelines.

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In this environment any registered user can make changes to a tree that you have submitted. However, source changes to your tree can tracked and reversed by you. FamilySearch's intent is to provide for an independent consensus review of your tree by a panel of your relatives as well as a collaborative means of correcting obsolete or incorrect data in family trees.

Alan is well suited to address the topic as he is the Director of the Family History Center for Georgetown, a branch of FamilySearch and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Understanding all that FamilySearch has to offer as well as its philosophy for managing its huge database, including Family Tree, is important for all our members to know. So, don't miss this opportunity to hear Alan's presentation on FamilySearch.

**Speaker: Alan Rabe**

Alan has been an active genealogist for the past 50 years. He is currently the Director of the Family History Center in Georgetown, Texas. In that role he was responsible for volunteer indexing efforts of records from Round Rock, Pflugerville, Taylor and Georgetown which resulted in almost a million names being indexed for FamilySearch. Similarly, he was also responsible for indexing efforts in northern Ohio and western Pennsylvania where 10 million names were indexed over a three-year period. Alan is also trained in graveyard restoration.

Alan is a graduate of Brigham Young University with a Masters of Mechanical Engineering. He worked at nuclear power plants and was responsible for document control and procedure processes at the 4th largest utility in US. [Ask Alan about why you should save files as PDF/A instead of just PDF or Word.]

**6:30 p.m.** Doors Open  
**7:00 p.m.** Presentation begins  
Highland Park Baptist Church  
[5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Highland+Park+Baptist+Church/@30.2975,-97.7315,15z)

## Time to start thinking about the 2018 Board

It's time to start considering who will fill the seats that will be vacated at the end of this year by AGS Board Members who have completed serving their two year term!

A Nominating Committee is being formed, chaired by Robin Raben. The committee will meet to select a list of nominees which will be announced at the September meeting. Members will vote during the October meeting. (See <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/about/bylaws> for details)

If you are interested in participating on the Nominating Committee, please reach out to Robin Raben at [newsletter@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@austintxgensoc.org). If you would like to be considered to fill a position on the Board or have an idea of someone that you'd like to see on the Board, let Robin know!



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**Why publish in the AGS Quarterly?**

## Welcome new members!

Natalie Bowers-Benderly, Betty Castro, Rita & Ray Grasshoff, Ann Hargrave, Karen Pennell & Norman Hood, Ailana Larson, Carolyn W. Phillips

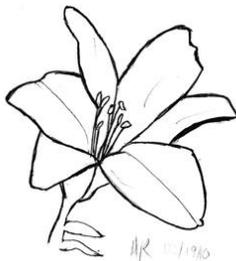
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### In Memory of Bill Menefee

We are saddened to report that longtime AGS member William Earl Menefee passed away on July 27, 2018. He was born on December 13, 1931 to Henry Earl and Sara Thames Menefee. His wife, Joyce Wicker Menefee, and a granddaughter, Kira Harrison, predeceased him. He is survived by his son, William Earl Menefee, Jr., his daughter, Janet Menefee, four grandchildren, Kelli, Dan, Rachel and Sam Harrison, and a sister, Ann Cook.

Bill first joined AGS in 2003 and was a member for the most part through 2016, when he discontinued due to failing health. Our condolences go out to his family during this difficult time.

Memorial service will be held at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 8724 Travis Hills Drive, on Saturday, August 25, at 9 AM. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Salvation Army or a charity of your choice.



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### New documents available online from the SMU DeGolyer Library

I am writing to let the Austin Genealogical Society know

Are you wondering how to preserve your research? Make it available to family members you might not even know about? Articles published in the AGS Quarterly are a great way! We share copies of the Quarterly with several institutions to preserve in their collections, including:

- The University of Texas @ Austin
- Texas State Library Genealogy collection
- Familysearch library in Utah (some of our editions appear in their online collections)
- Allen County Public Library Genealogical Periodicals in Ft. Wayne, Indiana
- DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) library in Washington, D.C.

Preserve your research today - send in an article for the AGS Quarterly to [quarterly@austintxgnsoc.org](mailto:quarterly@austintxgnsoc.org).

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### AGS August conversation starter - Who is the most notable ancestor in your family tree?

Not many of us are related to presidents or stars of the silver screen.

that more than 300 historic Texas documents from SMU's DeGolyer Library are now available online in the *Texas: Photographs, Manuscripts and Imprints* digital collection. Specifically, the documents comprise historic, promotional literature, 1866-1936, that was designed to attract people to move to all areas within the state of Texas. The documents are freely accessible and downloadable, thanks to the generous support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services through a grant to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission as part of the TexTreasures program.

We believe these promotional materials will be of great interest to Texas genealogists. Often funded by railroads and local chambers of commerce, these pamphlets and booklets were designed to encourage Texas immigration, especially along train routes. Some documents cover broad geographical areas of Texas, while others focus on specific cities, towns, and counties. Brief biographies of Texas citizens, individual portraits, and photographs of the area are frequently included. We think the descriptions and photographs of geographical areas, individuals, and Texas life will be useful to Texas genealogists who are searching for more information about the lives of their ancestors. Your members may very well find pertinent information in these materials, because so many Texas communities participated in the promotional campaigns of this era.

Just to give one example: *Homes in Texas for everybody: valuable information*, ca. 1887, describes 51 Texas counties and lists land for sale in each county with the names of landowners and general descriptions of the properties. The 51 Texas counties included are Anderson, Angelina, Atascosa, Bandera, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazoria, Brown, Burnet, Cherokee, Comal, Coryell, Dimmit, Freestone, Gillespie, Gregg, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Henderson, Houston, Jasper, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Lampasas, Leon, Liberty, Llano, Madison, Matagorda, Medina, Milam, Montgomery, Polk, Robertson, Rusk, San Jacinto, Shelby, Smith, Travis, Trinity, Uvalde, Walker, Webb, Williamson, Wilson, Wood, and Zavalia.

We hope you will let your members know about these documents that are now freely available from our web site. We would welcome any feedback and/or questions you

But perhaps your most notable ancestor was well-known within his or her town. They may have run a successful business or been elected to office or headed a local organization. They may have been a doctor or inventor or even a gunfighter.

Maybe your exceptional ancestor served valiantly in a Civil or World War, or possessed an extraordinary talent.

Please join us at 6:30 on August 28, 2018 for a half-hour of snacks and socializing before our speaker Alan Rabe discusses "Genealogy Tech: The Power of FamilySearch and Recent Changes to it."

Feel free to bring newspaper articles, medals, or photos of your most notable ancestor to "show and tell."

See you there!



[Portrait of a Young Woman],

may have about this project.

<http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/cul/browse.asp>

Debbie Frick, M.Ed., MLS, CA  
Cataloger  
nCDS/Technology Services/Central University Libraries  
Southern Methodist University

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## Website Committee looking for members

We are looking to form a committee of people who know WordPress to help with the Austin Genealogical Society (AGS) website. We are looking for members who either know WordPress or are web proficient and willing to learn. If you are interested in some "volunteer from home" type of participation, please contact our webmaster, Jean Marostica.

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## RootsWeb hosted web sites starting to comeback online



RootsWeb is a free genealogy community, now owned by [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com). It was founded in 1993 by Brian Leverich and Karen Isaacson as the *Roots Surname List*, and is the oldest free online community genealogy research website.

Unfortunately, in January of this year, a problem was discovered and rootsweb was taken offline. (See this article in the Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter for details:

photograph, [1920..1929]; (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph124407/: accessed August 5, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

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## AGS on FaceBook



[Austin Genealogical Society](#) - Posts on this site include information about the AGS monthly programs, the annual AGS Seminar, and AGS classes. **“Liking” this page helps get the message out to more people on Facebook! Please “like” posts when you see them to help market our Society.**

[Austin Genealogical Society Members Helping Members](#) (public group) - Posts on this site include genealogy-related topics such as webinars, websites, and classes not sponsored by AGS. Members of the group may request help with any particular issue they are experiencing with their own research.

<https://blog.eogn.com/2018/01/10/rootsweb-is-currently-unavailable-and-probably-will-remain-that-way-for-some-time/>)

A notice on the RootsWeb home page indicates that hosted websites are now being brought back online. Mailing lists are working. They are in the process of importing the old archives into the new archives which they indicate will take time. These include discussions of surnames and counties. The Ancestry Wiki is now the RootsWeb Wiki. Obituary Daily Times has a new secure code base and will be updated on a regular basis. They have identified about 600 USGENWEB sites to bring back. These are valuable records submitted by users and societies. For instance <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~txtravis>.

Visit <https://home.rootsweb.com/> to find out more about what is being restored and when.

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## AGS Treasurer makes the neighborhood news!

Erin Garcia and her family were highlighted in *Newsy*, a local newsletter featuring "News, Events & Highlights of the Austin Northwest Hills," August edition. They appeared in a recurring column titled "Meet Your Neighbors" which provides items of interest about families living in Northwest Hills.

[Austin Genealogical Society Writing SIG](#) (closed group) - AGS Members interested in writing a personal or family history are encouraged to join this Facebook group and attend the monthly meetings (see below for details.)

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## CHECK OUT OUR CALENDAR!



The latest schedule for AGS classes, events and meetings is always available on the website [here](#).

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## AGS Board meeting minutes

You can find the AGS Board meeting minutes behind the member wall: [austintxgensoc.org/members-only/#minutes](https://austintxgensoc.org/members-only/#minutes)



# The Garcias

**Family members**  
Jorge, Erin and Kiera

**Moved to NWH**  
We moved to NWH in 2004, 5 years before Kiera was born.

**What attracted you to NWH?**  
Our first NWH home had views of downtown.

**Parents' favorite thing about living in NWH**  
Everything is in walking distance or a two minute drive—HEB, Post Office, Library.

**Kiera's favorite thing about living in NWH**  
I get to play with all the neighborhood dogs and everyone is very friendly.

**Neighborhood memory**  
We love walking Kiera



Erin and Kiera (Jorge not pictured). Photo by Jorge Garcia

to school every morning. It feels like our very own "Mayberry" neighborhood.

**Favorite neighborhood spots**  
Coach Mo's, Epoch Coffee and Old Quarry Library

**When people visit from out of town, what do you show them?**  
Lady Bird Lake Hike-and-Bike Trail, Broken Spoke (it is iconic Austin, after all) and Bob Bullock Museum. 📖

Photo: Erin Garcia and daughter Kiera.

Transcript:

## Family Members

Jorge, Erin, and Kiera

## Moved to NWH

We moved to NWH in 2004, 5 years before Kiera was born.

## What attracted you to NWH?

Our first NWH home had views of downtown.

## Parents' favorite thing about living in NWH

Everything is in walking distance or a two minute drive - HEB, Post Office, Library.

## Kiera's favorite thing about living in NWH

I get to play with all the neighborhood dogs and everyone is very friendly.

## Neighborhood memory

We love walking Kiera to school every morning. It feels like our very own "Mayberry" neighborhood.

## Favorite neighborhood spots

Coach Mo's, Epoch Coffee and Old Quarry Library.

## When people visit from out of town, what do you show them?

## AGS DNA SIG

**First Wednesday of every month (no meeting in July). Next meeting Wednesday, September 5, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Pok-E-Joe's [2121 Parmer Lane, Austin, TX 78727](#) three blocks east of Mopac on Parmer Lane.

On September 5th we will be reviewing Chapter 6, Autosomal-DNA (atDNA) Testing, of *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, by Blaine T. Bettinger. It is available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle editions: [link](#)

Everyone is welcome. You don't need to have tested your DNA to come and learn.

[More Information](#)



## AGS Writing SIG

**Second Tuesday of every month - no meeting in December Tuesday, August 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Cafe Express (we meet in the small room by the kitchen)

Lady Bird Lake Hike-and-Bike Trail, Broken Spoke (it is iconic Austin, after all) and Bob Bullock Museum.

[3418 N Lamar Blvd,  
Austin, Texas 78705](#)

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## AGS classes



PICA 07510, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

*(citation below)*

*Information about our classes is available [here](#). All classes are free.*

**AGS and AGE 4th Saturday Class**  
**Co-sponsored by Austin Groups for the Elderly (AGE), and The Austin Genealogical Society (AGS)**



**Visual Phasing - Mapping your DNA to your Grandparents**

**Instructor: Teresa Devine**

**July 28, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**AGE Computer Lab**

**[3710 Cedar Street, Austin, Texas 78705](#)**

Visual Phasing is a technique that uses the DNA of a set of siblings to assign different chromosome segments to their four grandparents without having

The purpose of the Writing SIG is to support members in writing family histories and genealogical articles. We meet once a month and have dinner together while we discuss genealogical topics and those of us that are ready will read aloud our latest work. Come and get inspired with the rest of us! Open to members of AGS.

We meet in the small room next to the kitchen at Cafe Express - you are welcome to eat dinner there (at your expense) but that is not required. We share the cost for the room (about \$5 a person or less depending on how many attend.)

[More Information](#)

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## AGS 2018 meetings

*AGS' Meeting calendar is also online [here](#)*

*Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday (no meeting in December)  
Doors Open: 6:30 PM  
Program starts: 7:00 PM  
Highland Park Baptist Church, [5206 Balcones, Austin, TX 78731](#)*

**Aug 28 Genealogy Tech: The Power of Family Search and a**

tested either the parents or grandparents. The class will use a spreadsheet tool developed by Steven Fox to identify recombination points and assign specific DNA segments to one of the four grandparents. Instruction will include an overview of genetic genealogy concepts and hands-on exercises.

This is an intermediate to advanced topic.

Class fee is \$10.00. This is a computer lab. Seating capacity is 10. Click [here](#) to register...

\* \* \*

### **AGS Third Saturday Class - August** **How can DNA help my genealogical research?**

**Instructor: Debbe Tipping**

August 18, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

North Village Library

[2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757](#)

You've seen the commercials stating DNA is the way to go for researching your family. Just how does it help? Come to this Saturday class and see.

This class is free. Registration opens August 2.

[More Information](#)

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### **AGS Third Saturday Class - September** **More Than Daughters: Using The DAR's** **Genealogical Research System (GRS)**

**Instructor: Teresa Devine**

September 15, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

North Village Library

[2505 Steck Ave, Austin, TX 78757](#)

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has made more than a century's worth of genealogical records accessible to all researchers. A variety of records have been digitized and made available through many databases and resources using the

### **Look at Recent** **Changes by Alan Rabe**

**Sep 25** PERSI: A Guide to Genealogy's Best Road Map by Cari Taplin

**Oct 23** Who's Your Grandmother? Proven Tactics For Finding Lost Female Surnames by Dianne Holley and Rob Richardson

**Nov 27** Fall Festival

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### **AGS website**

Did you forget your login or password to the Members Only section?

Problems renewing a membership?

Contact: [webmaster@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:webmaster@austintxgensoc.org)

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### **Do You Have a Brick Wall? Bring it to a Meeting!**



We have experienced family researchers and genealogists available at each AGS meeting to help break through brick walls at our monthly AGS meetings! You'll find them at the table in the back of the room. And, feel free to send your brick walls for

DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS). This presentation will help researchers understand how to access and search the GRS and how to evaluate the different types of records found within.

This class is free. Registration opens August 30.

### [More Information](#)

Photograph at top: 1887 Graduating class of Austin High School, photograph, 1887; ([texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph124190/](http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph124190/): accessed August 5, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, [texashistory.unt.edu](http://texashistory.unt.edu); crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

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## Non-AGS upcoming events



### **Connecting Texas: 300 Years of Trails, Rails, and Roads**

**Feb 15 through Sept 17**

**Witte Museum**

**3801 Broadway St, San Antonio, TX**

The Texas General Land Office will lend over 40 Texas maps and documents, representing 300 years, to the Witte Museum for a special exhibit in the Robert J. and Helen C. Kleberg South Texas Heritage Center, and feature maps that examine how explorers, Native Americans, armies, immigrants and early settlers moved in, around and across Texas over the last 300 years.

### [More Information](#)

posting in the newsletter to [newsletter@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@austintxgensoc.org) or post it to our Facebook page, "Austin Genealogical Society Members helping Members."

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## Local genealogy meetings and resources

***Austin Gen SIG***, next meeting September 1, 1:00–4:00 p.m. at Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, [7051 Village Center Dr., Austin](#). Click [here](#) for website.

***Austin Legacy Users Group*** meets on the third Saturday of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the [Querencia at Barton Creek, 2500 Barton Creek Blvd., Austin](#). Click [here](#) for website.

***Texas State Library*** is open during the week from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. the second Saturday of each month. [1201 Brazos](#) in Austin. Questions concerning Second Saturdays may be sent [here](#). Click [here](#) for website.

***Williamson County Genealogical Society*** meetings are held the third Thursday of each

# Adventure Skaraborg 2018

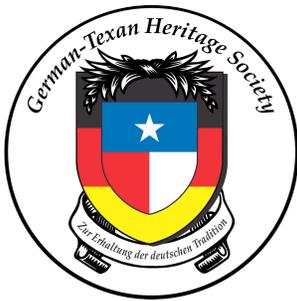
## Exklusive Genealogy Trip to Sweden 2018

### ADVENTURE SKARABORG 2018

Aug 27 - Sept 5

This is a travel package that allows the participants to find their roots in Sweden combined with touring Swedish historical and culture highlights with their own guide. Your own researcher assists you with tracing your roots. The travel package also includes four days in the capital of Sweden, Stockholm.

[More Information](#)



## German Texan Heritage Society Conference

September 14 and 15

[Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy St., Galveston, TX 77550](#)

The annual German Texan Heritage Society Conference theme is "Galveston - Port of Entry for Germans in the 1800's."

[More information](#)

month at the [Round Rock Public Library, 216 E Main Street, Round Rock](#). Social time at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Click [here](#) for website.

**Austin Public Library Genealogical Resources** Click [here](#) for website.

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### Got something for the newsletter?

Submissions are welcome - due the first day of the month for each submission.

[newsletter@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@austintxgensoc.org)

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### July meeting recap

**Topic:** 1890 Census Substitutes: Bridging the Gap

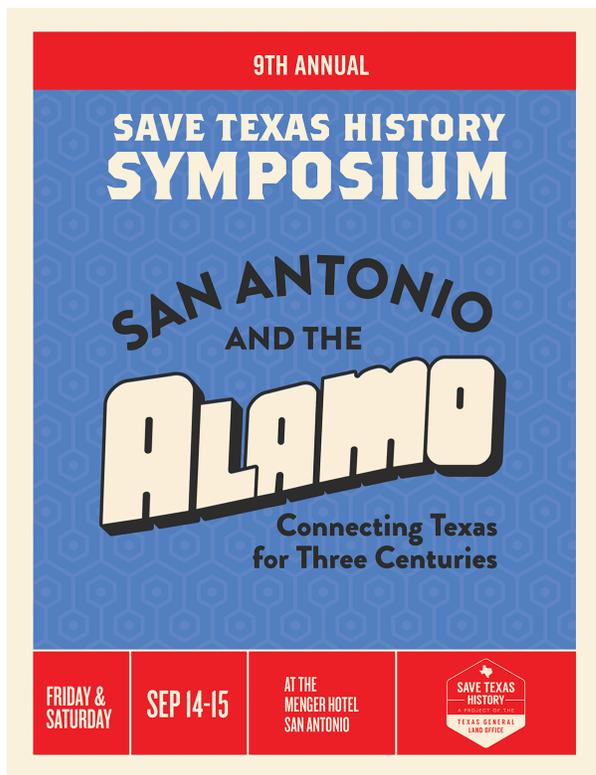
**Speaker:** William "Bill" D. Buckner

**Meeting Attendance:** 82 (includes 5 visitors)

**Thank you to our members for inviting visitors!**

**Thank you to our July volunteers:**

Set-up - David  
Easterday and John



**Texas General Land Office  
Save Texas History Symposium  
San Antonio and the Alamo: Connecting Texas for  
Three Centuries  
September 14 and 15  
Menger Hotel San Antonio**

Featuring Dr. Frank de la Teja, Dr. Amy Porter, Dr. James Crisp, Dr. Mark Allan Goldberg, Mr. Everett L. Fly, Dr. Laura Hernández-Ehrisman, Mr. Gregory Garrett, Mr. Douglass W. McDonald, tours of the Alamo battlefield, pioneer surveying exercises, a Texas History Resources Workshop at Alamo Hall, many vendors/exhibitors and sponsors, and complimentary admission to receptions at Alamo Hall and the Witte Museum.

[More Information](#)

Allen  
Snacks - Elizabeth Price, Shirley Meyer, Dianne Holley, Joyce Campbell  
Greeter - Robin Raben  
Clean-up - Carol Darst, Lise Doss  
Nametags: Gary and Kathy Pemberton  
Sound System: John Marostica

**August volunteers:**  
Set up: Carol Darst and Caroline Sinclair  
Clean up: Marcia Arn and Diane Harvey Anderson  
Greeter: Robin Raben  
Snacks: Wynnell Noelke, Mary Todd, Toni Ericson and Erin Garcia

To volunteer please contact Lise Doss.

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### **Austin Archives Bazaar**

**October 28, 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Saengerrende Hall (Scholz Garden)**

[1607 San Jacinto Blvd, Austin, TX 78701](#)

Come discover the amazing archival resources available in Austin and Central Texas! **Check out the Austin Genealogical Society table while you are there.**

[More Information](#)

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### **Looking for Help at the Meetings: Setup of Sound System**

We are looking for someone to assist in monthly meetings by setting up the sound system (microphone and speakers). We have an excellent trainer to help you get started. If you are interested, contact us at [newsletter@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@austintxgensoc.org).

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