

THE AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 19, Issue 11

[http:// AustinTxGenSoc.org](http://AustinTxGenSoc.org)

Nov. 2013

Austin Genealogical Meeting Tuesday, November 26, 2013

FALL FESTIVAL

Our Fall Festival event begins with a celebration of our bounty of food. Many members have signed up to bring their favorite salad, vegetable, or dessert. However, if you didn't sign up, be sure to RSVP to the upcoming blast and come with your favorite dish to share. AGS will furnish Rudy's Barbeque. We will eat and socialize at 6:00 PM. At 7:00 we will have our program.

Luba Ruzicka will present "Telling the Story of My Immigration."

She will share her experiences as an immigrant from the Czech Republic. Luba Haviar was born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia in 1940, the daughter of the eminent Slovak cardiologist Dr. Vladimir Haviar. She attended Comenius University where she majored in foreign languages, centering on French. Her early plans to travel to Africa to teach French were derailed when she met the Slovakian doctor Fano Ruzicka. They fell in love, married, and started their journey to America. After stops in New York, Wisconsin, and Arizona they finally settled, with their two children Vladimir and Renata, in Taylor, Texas, just outside Austin. Fano went to work at the Johns Community Clinic and Hospital and Luba began her travel agency "Luba's Travel". She now lives in The Hills, TX, near Austin, and has four American grandchildren.



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AGS Business: *From the Minutes of the Board Meeting*

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, October 22, 2013, prior to the regular AGS meeting. Members present were Inez Eppright, Teri Flack, Carolyn Gresham, Leslie Inman, Missy Harris, Marcia Arn, Anne Mamiya, Karin Nelson, Jane Schwendinger, and Jacquie Wilson. Randy Whited and Jennifer Whitley were not present. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as submitted. The following items were discussed.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for September was submitted and accepted.

Bank Statement

The September 2013 bank statement has been reviewed, and it is in agreement with the treasurer's records.

Intro to Genealogy Workshop

There were 13 attendees for the first session. Finding a larger location and possibly having more workshops next year were discussed.

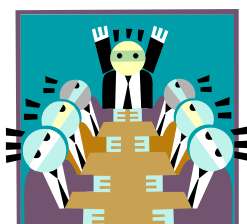
Programs

Marcia Arn, as program chair for 2014, reported that most of next year's programs have been set. As is usual, there will be an August meeting even though the FGS conference in San Antonio falls the end of the same week.

Old Business

Roots, Boots and Brisket volunteers will receive an email to confirm their assignments. A free 2014 AGS membership will be awarded via a drawing to a lucky RBB attendee.

TSGS volunteers will receive an email to confirm their assignments for the conference. One free 2014 AGS membership will be awarded each day via a drawing to a lucky TSGS attendee.



New Business

Luba Ruzicka, an emigrant from Czechoslovakia, will be the speaker at our November meeting. Rudy's Barbeque will arrive at 6:00. Members will be asked to bring a potluck dish. The speaker will be at 7:00. Members will be asked to RSVP in order to know how many tables will be needed in Sapp Hall and how much BBQ to order.

Membership Renewals

Renewals will begin on November 1. A motion was made that we retain the same dues and contributions as last year and that half-year memberships be for new members only.

Departing Board Members were thanked by Jane for their years of service. Randy Whited and Teri Flack each served for six years; Jennifer Whitley served for three years and Jackie Wilson served for two years.

TSGS Delegate

Jennifer Whitley is the AGS delegate with TSGS and will be voting at the conference on Saturday, November 2.

Longevity certificates for membership will be given out at the November meeting.

An announcement will be made at the TSGS conference that the Texas State Library will be open on the 2nd Saturday of the month starting in January 2014.

General Membership Meeting

A brief general membership meeting was held in order to elect new board members. The following nominees were announced: Marcia Arn, Inez Eppright, Carol Mason, Linda Milligan, Winnie Noelke and Lisa Smith. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion to accept the slate by acclamation was made and seconded.

(Some of the events, etc. mentioned in the board notes have now occurred but the notes reflect the status of the events at the time of the meeting.)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Having attended the Texas State Genealogical Conference in Round Rock this past week, I am energized by the ideas I gathered from the conference. I'm looking forward to putting some of the ideas into action to expand and improve our Society. The help from some of the AGS board members who staffed our exhibit table and talked to many members from other societies is greatly appreciated. Without this kind help, our Society would not be where it is today. All AGS volunteers are so valuable. Thank them when you have a chance.

As this will be the last newsletter for the year, I want to reflect on what a great year this has been. Our seminar was spectacular. We offered numerous opportunities to tour facilities in Austin and opportunities to learn from our educational events. With most of the programs and the seminar already planned, next year will be as exciting as this year. You may renew your membership now, so you don't miss anything. Have safe and festive holidays this month and next. I look forward to seeing you next year.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy New Year!

Local Genealogy Opportunities

There are many opportunities to participate in genealogical activities in Austin and in nearby communities. The list below includes information on regularly occurring meetings in which AGS members may wish to participate.

AGS British Isle Genealogy Special Interest Group meets via email to exchange information. Contact Jane Schwendinger at janesca@earthlink.net.

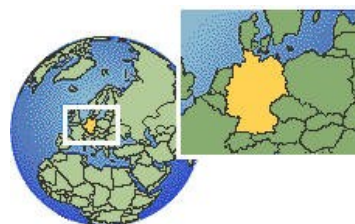
Austin Genealogy Special Interest Group meets from 1:00- 3:00 P.M. the second Saturday of the month at Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, 7051 Village Center Drive.
<http://www.austingensig.com/>

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 BartonCreek Blvd., Austin. Rjenkins7@austin.rr.com

Bastrop Genealogy Society meets at 1:00 P.M. on the second Saturday of the month at Pressley Meeting Room, Bastrop Public Library. <http://www.bastroplibrary.org/genealogy/bastrop-genealogical-society-monthly-meeting.html>

Williamson County Genealogical Society meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the Round Rock Public Library. Social time at 7:00 with the meeting at 7:30. <http://www.williamsontxgenealogy.org/>

November 19th, 2013 Liberty Co. Genealogical Society: German Texas Heritage Society genealogy editor, Liz Hicks, will present "Passenger Lists" with focus of arrivals to Texas Ports. Meeting starts at 10:00a.m., DAR meeting room behind the historic Cleveland-Partlow House, Liberty, TX. The public is invited to attend.



Planning Ahead

Austin Genealogical Society Seminar– Put It On Your Calendar!

Maureen Taylor will present four talks on **May 3, 2014**

- Reading Genealogical & Immigrant Clues in 19th Century Photographs
- Identifying & Dating Family Photographs
- Preserving Family Photographs -- 1839 to the present
- Walk in Your Ancestors' Footsteps: Plan a Family History Vacation

GOT



???

SEND IT IN!



Severe budget cuts are planned for Texas Memorial Museum, effective September 1, 2014. These cuts will result in the loss of close to two-thirds of our budget and 8-9 staff positions. To learn more, please read the article published by the Daily Texan: <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/news/2013/10/28/on-campus-museum-set-to-lose-400000-in-funding>.

"I NEED" Column

The success of any new column depends on submissions from our membership. It has been suggested that we publish a column entitled "I NEED....." If YOU are in need of something genealogical, we would publish that need in this new column. Limit your submission to one sentence and tell us what you need. Let's give it a try. Submit your needs to: sharonkfoley@gmail.com or robertlfoley@gmail.com.

LOIS HENEGAR, an AGS member has submitted a need that she has. She says that she desperately needs help with her Family Tree Maker files. She will explain via the phone. Please call her at (512)836 2012. She is willing to pay for successful assistance. She signed her request with "Thanks, Lois Henegar, a senior of 88 years."

Things to Do.....

December 7, 2013- For fun and Holiday shopping try the Christmas Market at German Free School, German Texan Heritage Society headquarters, 507 East 10th St., Austin, TX 78701. Please see website www.GermanTexans.org for additional information or call (512) 467-4569 or toll-free (855-892-6691). Homemade baked goods, Christmas items made in Germany, and more. Fröhliche Weihnachten Y'all!



If you like cemeteries, perhaps you would be interested in being part of Save Austin's Cemeteries. Here are some of their ongoing projects.

Documentation: SAC's goal is to photograph and document each headstone at the five city cemeteries of Austin: Oakwood, Oakwood Annex, Evergreen, Austin Memorial Park, and Plummers. These photos will not only record history, but will also offer an accurate reference during the restoration process if/when headstones need repair.

One Grave at a Time: We are cleaning Oakwood's markers one at a time in hopes of preserving these beautiful historical gems for many generations to come.

Volunteers meet the 1st Saturday of each month, weather permitting, for headstone documentation and cleaning. Contact info@sachome.org or mkdb1405@gmail.com for more information.

CEMETERY CORNER



This dramatic photo was taken at Oakwood Cemetery by our new AGS member **Brooke Moody**. She has contributed photos to the Oakwood calendar.

In Sympathy



Longtime AGS member, Bennie Stasny, passed away unexpectedly on October 29.

Bennie was born in Center, Texas on August 18, 1942. Her family moved to Orange early on, and she considered it to be her 'hometown'. The family also moved to Houston, then Pasadena, where she graduated from high school. She made her way to the University of Texas at Austin where she met John Stasny, fell in love and got married in 1964 at the Old Taylor Brethren Church. She then received her BA in Journalism in 1965. Bennie and John raised a daughter and lived together happily in Austin for 49 years until her passing.

Bennie was filled with compassion and interest in others. Although her degree was in journalism, she found herself at the Texas Department of Human Services. She had a meaningful career, moving from Social Worker to Regional Administrator over her 31 years with The State of Texas.

Bennie and John loved to travel. They started as a young family with their daughter's constant twirling competitions across the U.S. Once retired, they ventured out across to the United Kingdom and once the couple got a taste of Europe, they went back every chance they got (twelve times over eighteen years, but mainly to the Czech Republic). Although Bennie did not speak or understand the Czech language, she always enjoyed being with John's Czech friends and relatives. She truly learned to love the Czech culture.

The journalism degree proved to be an invaluable asset during Bennie's retirement, as she worked endlessly with numerous genealogical societies, especially the Texas Czech Genealogical Society and the Czech Veteran's Wall of Honor and Museum. She was constantly involved with meetings, conventions, fundraisers, and was author and/or editor of multiple books and articles.

Over the years, Bennie was an avid TV-watcher and movie-goer, which she lovingly passed on to her daughter and granddaughter. She has even been known to have over fifty shows recorded at once and somehow, with all the wonderful things she was doing for everyone else still found time to watch each and every one of them. And she was a 'Good Shopper!', as John would say, which she also lovingly passed along. Her other interests included antiques, cooking, and of course, being so proud of that daughter and granddaughter of hers.

Bennie was predeceased by an infant son; also, her parents, Will Lansford and Vera Stephens Lansford; two sisters, Maxine Lansford Hayes and Bernice Lansford; and niece, Carolyn Hayes Vidrine. She is survived by her husband, John Stasny of Austin; daughter and son-in-law, Dr. Cheryl and Kevin Sellers of New Braunfels; and granddaughter, Ainsley, also of New Braunfels.

A Viewing and Prayer Service will be held Friday, November 1, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Providence Funeral Home in Taylor, Texas. Funeral services will take place Saturday, November 2, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. at the Taylor Brethren Church, where Bennie was an active and beloved member for almost 50 years.

Burial will follow at Taylor City Cemetery.

Those that have been blessed to be part of Bennie's life have never known anything other than her love and her willingness to help. She gave of herself freely and fully to each person or task she encountered. There was never anything done half-heartedly everything over-the-top, to the fullest degree. This includes the 'smallest' of dinners or parties if done to her liking -- could be worthy of royalty.

AND THAT'S HOW SHE LIVED FULL OUT FOR EVERYONE!!!

Published in Austin American-Statesman from Nov. 1 to Nov. 2, 2013

HOSPITALITY REPORT

Greeters for October were Nancy Stevens and Carroll Patterson.

Refreshments were provided by Jan Pelosi, Jean Kotrla, Glenda Black, Helen Hicks, and our AGS Board members.

Sheila Sargent presided over the refreshment table.

Registration Table was tended by Jean Marostica, Carol Mason, Martha Carpenter, and Arlene Zirkel.

Attendance Report for October: 58

New Members: James E. Bridges – bridgework@aol.com (surnames: Bridges, Bridger, Ramsey, Wright, Carpenter, Seal) and Brooke Moody moodypt@gmail.com – (surnames: Moody, Camp, Grissom, Kelk, Holcomb)

Visitors: Isaac Curtean, Charleen (Charlie) Mullenweg– cmullenweg@gmail.com (Mullenweg, Billingsley) Andy Osment– osment@austin.rr.com (Calgary, Osment) Sarah Marshall– sarahjensen56@yahoo.com

2013 Board of Directors

Term Ending 2013:	Term Ending 2014:
Inez EPPRIGHT	Carolyn GRESHAM
Teri FLACK	Missy HARRIS
Marcia ARN	Leslie INMAN
Randy WHITED	Anne MAMIYA
Jennifer WHITLEY	Karin NELSON
Jacquie WILSON	Jane SCHWENDINGER

2013 Officers

President	Jane SCHWENDINGER
1ST Vice President	Carolyn GRESHAM
2nd Vice President	Jacquie WILSON
Secretary	Inez EPPRIGHT
Treasurer	Teri FLACK

If you have ideas, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to share those with us.

2014 PROGRAMS

Your program committee, led by program chair, Marcia Arn, is excited to present the scheduled programs for our monthly meetings in 2014.

Jan 28 Maps & Online Resources at the Perry-Castaneda Library -Katherine Strickland

Feb 25 General Land Office Tour: What is Available at the GLO-James Harkins

Mar 25 Using Evernote to Organize Your Genealogical Research-Caroline Pointer

Apr 22 Copyright & Intellectual Property Law for Genealogists-Matthew J. Booth, Atty.

May 27 Effectively Using Family Search for Research TBD

June 24 Researching on a Budget : Member Panel

Jul 22 How to Write Short Stories About Your Family History-Mary Scrudder

Aug 26 We Bet You Didn't Know That-AGS Members

Sep 23 DNA: Using DNA for Genealogy-Debbie Parker Wayne

Oct 28 Document Analysis 101-Karen Matheson

Nov 25 Fall Festival Subject to change. Check our website to confirm program/speaker.

Monthly Meetings on 4th Tuesdays
(except December)

Social time at 6:30; Program at 7:00

Highland Park Baptist Church

5206 Balcones Drive

Austin, TX 78759

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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