SGS SPRING SEMINAR:
JEANNE LARZALERE BLOOM, CG℠

The Seattle Genealogical Society hosted a terrific spring seminar on the 17th of May with Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG℠ as our speaker for the day. There were 105 attendees who renewed acquaintances and learned from this dynamic speaker. Jeanne shared her knowledge by integrating her experiences as a Confidential Intermediary (connecting adoptees with birth parents) and working for the Department of Defense to connect remains of dead soldiers with the nearest living relatives.

The following presentations were made:

Session #1: 1940 Census: The 1940 federal census was “sandwiched” between the Great Depression and WWII and reflects the values and concerns of the US government at the time. Questions included employment, hours worked and where living in 1935. All of which prove very helpful to the genealogists. It is the only census that identifies the informant, critical to assessing the validity of the source.

Session #2: Internet Techniques for Locating Lost Relatives or “Forward Genealogy.” Jeanne explained the ins-and-outs of searching for the living, including how to follow up once found.

Session #3: Lost Children. Jeanne reviewed the history of child welfare and clustered them into four eras: before 1851, 1851-1910, 1910-1920 and 1920 to present day, and the characteristics of each. Did you know that not all children placed in orphanages were without parents? She also described Orphan Trains, why they developed and their impact on the Midwest.

Session #4: Integrating Proof Arguments into Family Narratives. This more advanced topic included an overview of the Genealogical Proof Standard and why genealogists of all skill levels need to strive for its standards. Jeanne also described the need to write and broke the process of documenting our work into explainable segments. Particularly effective was the analogy of the weaver working on a loom (Genealogy Standards), with warp (evidence), woof (the proof argument) and weaving it into a tapestry (the final product of the whole).

The Library Trustee’s conducted a raffle (see article elsewhere in this issue) and raised over $900; the perennial favorite -- the book sale -- was rich in new materials due to a recent donation. It raised over $400. Thanks to Linda Fitzgerald, Seminar Chair, and all the other volunteers who helped that day to make it a success for all.
The SGS Board discussed and acted on the following topics over the last three months:

- Much effort has been spent these past few months on improvement of our past financial practices and working on the creation of the budget for the next year. The Board also reviewed and consolidated multiple accounts.
- Spring Seminar planning reports were regularly presented by Linda Fitzgerald, Chair.
- At the May meeting of the Board, Linda announced that there were 105 attendees for the spring seminar and we earned almost $500 in book sales.
- The Library Trustees will conduct a raffle at the Spring Seminar. All proceeds will be deposited in the newly established Library Fund for new books, preservation of the old and materials for cataloguing. At the May meeting, Bernice Keller, Library Board representative, reported that the Library Fund received over $900 from the raffle at the seminar and in cash donations.
- Membership renewal letters went out to the membership and others who had been members in the past five years. Do not forget to renew and support your society!
- Planning for the Fall Seminar has begun. the topic will be DNA research for genealogists. SGS is presently identifying speakers for the event which will cover beginning and intermediate DNA topics.
- While we state in the SGS Bulletin we accept advertising, there was no schedule of rates. The Board passed the new rate schedule.
- SGS rejoined the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). When SGS joins, each SGS member becomes a member of FGS. By joining we become a member of a community of fellow societies which support each other to become better at what we do.
- The Board established a $200 scholarship to the FGS conference to be held in San Antonio, Texas from 25 August to 29 August. The scholarship was announced at the Spring Seminar. See the announcement on page 7 in this newsletter.
- Volunteer Day was planned and date set for 21 May.
- SGS participated in GiveBig Day. Official tally of the gifts which are partially matched by The Seattle Foundation are not yet known.
- It has been difficult to identify volunteers to prepare and mail the SGS Bulletin. Proposals were solicited from mailing service vendors who would perform these tasks. Lake Union Mail was the successful vendor. The service will go into effect with the winter Bulletin.
- The Board agreed that the two 2013 SGS Bulletins could be submitted to the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (ISFHWE) Excellence-In-Writing Competition for 2014. Jill Morelli, Director of Publications, will make that submission.
- Dan Harmon, Director of the Library, announced the receipt of a donation of ten years of obituaries mostly from the Seattle Times. These have been carefully cited, and the original copied and placed on a card in alphabetical order. The Board accepted the donation.

Next Board meeting: 23 June 2014, 6:00 pm, SGS Library. All are welcome.

Genealogist’s Declaration of Rights

Recently, Legislatures have felt it necessary to address the issue of access to records under the mistaken concept that identity theft is occurring because of an open access to such records as the SSDI and other records held by governmental agencies. Three national genealogical societies have cooperated to support a Genealogist’s Declaration of Rights. This document is published on page 6 of this newsletter. If you can support such a statement, please go to http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/genealogists_initiate_a_declaration_ofRights and register your approval. Thank you.
AN INTERVIEW:
JEANNE LARZELERE BLOOM, CGSM

Attendees looking over the raffle prizes

Jim Ryan and others checking out the book sale items

Jeanne Bloom discussing a fine point with an attendee.

The book sale is always fun. Depending on the donations received in the previous six months, different items will be for sale. Here are a number of attendees purchasing their items and the able volunteers assisting with the sale.
JUST A FEW OF THE WINNERS.....

Kay Wilson is holding the winning ticket for a subscription to Mocavo.

Jerri Ingram was a multiple winner--here she is proudly displaying her one year free membership to SGS.

Janice Garr will have a free registration to either the Fall or Spring Seminar.

Marilyn Rose, President of SGS and Betty Ravenholt, Library Trustee, presents Jo Wood with her certificate for one year membership to World Ancestry.com.

Linda Fitzgerald is a winner! She won one of the two of the books “Genealogical Dates: A User-Friendly Guide.”

Jo Shively is the winner of “Mastering Genealogical Proof” by Tom Jones.

...BUT, THE REAL WINNER WAS THE SGS LIBRARY FUND.
GSummer Quarter Calendar: June 2014

Unless stated otherwise, events are held at the Seattle Genealogical Society Library. SGS classes are free to SGS members and are $5 for nonmembers. Call SGS at 206-522-8658 for information about program cancellations or closures due to adverse weather conditions. This listing is subject to change or additions. For up-to-date information, access the SGS website: http://seattlegenealogicalsociety.org/

June 2014

1 Sunday, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, GENEALOGICAL PROOF STANDARD ELEMENT #5; Jill Morelli, leader
   Last in a series. “Writing your conclusion” We will learn how to write conclusions and why.

7 Saturday, 10:15 – 12:15, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP; David Robert, leader
   “The Prairie Provinces: Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan”

14 Saturday, 10:15 – 12:15, COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP; IDA MCCORMICK; John Wise will
   present a comparison of 4 or 5 genealogical software packages, including RootsMagic, Legacy, Family Tree Maker, and The Master Genealogist.

15 Sunday, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, GRIETJE WIENTJES: A PROBLEM OF IDENTITY, Jill Morelli.
   Putting the Genealogical Proof Standard to work to solve a problem of identity and location of birth.

Karen Young Thompson, SGS Education Director, has been seriously ill. Although she is recovering nicely, the education calendar looks a little slim. Please watch your e-news and check the website for additions throughout the summer months.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Karen!

Tech Tips for iPhone & iPad Users: Apps to Aid Your Genealogy

Fine Scanner: Many of you use your phone to take photos of book pages to review later when you have more time. With Fine Scanner you take the photos and then within the app you can combine individual photos into a single PDF. You can then download and file into Evernote or Good Reader. The clarity has not been tested but it appears to work for all but high resolution photos.

FindAGrave: Many SGS members are contributors to FAG and the mobile app makes those contributions all the easier. FAG has recently updated their mobile app which allows you to take pictures and record the information directly to FAG. The upgrade (IOS) allows for a direct sync rather than a corded connection.

Ancestry: If you have your family tree on Ancestry.com, this is a must-have app. You can see your work and access original source material in high resolution. When you find something new, you can upload and link to a family member. This app is compatible with both the iPhone (5) and iPad.
Declaration of the Rights of Genealogists

WHEREAS, Americans have pursued the research of their family heritage since the beginning of our country; and
WHEREAS, millions of Americans derive enjoyment from genealogical exploration, consistent with the pursuit of
happiness recognized by the founders of our country in our Declaration of Independence; and
WHEREAS, Americans derive substantial emotional benefit from genealogical exploration into their heritage; and
WHEREAS, many Americans derive financial benefit from the practice of professional genealogy and have
performed such throughout this nation’s history; and
WHEREAS, genealogists make meaningful contributions to the fields of forensic genealogy, identification of
kinships, determining the facts in legal cases such as probate court, cases involving tribal and other relationships; and
WHEREAS, thousands of historical and genealogical societies, libraries, museums, and other institutions and
associations have been established throughout our land to assist all Americans in the pursuit of their family
heritage; and
WHEREAS, genealogy adds substantially to the ethnic, cultural, and racial richness of which our country is
composed; and
WHEREAS, the American people have recognized that the right to open government and unfettered access to the
records of our government are rights which find expression in the constitutions and legislation of our federal and
state governments and which enrich the lives of all Americans; and
WHEREAS, genealogists have been at the forefront of efforts to protect and preserve the precious records and
documents of our genealogical and historical heritage; and
WHEREAS, genealogists, no less than other Americans, are vitally concerned for personal privacy and safety from
untoward acts that diminish our freedom; and
WHEREAS, most records, including vital records, have, for all of our nation’s history, been substantially open to
access,
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN
That we, the undersigned genealogists, in pursuance of our individual and collective rights as
Americans, do hereby
DECLARE
That genealogists possess the right to the pursuit of genealogical exploration through unfettered access to the
records of our government; and
WE CALL upon our governmental representatives to recognize our rights by;
PRESERVING the freedom of the American people to access the public records of our government in a timely and
orderly manner through appropriate legislation; and
REFRAINING from legislation which would prevent or render extraordinarily difficult access to the public
records, principally birth, marriage, and death records collected by our state and federal governmental agencies; and
PROMOTING those principles that enhance, not diminish, our freedom of access to records; and
CELEBRATING with genealogists the valuable benefits of exploring, researching, and compiling the histories of
our families, and as a result, the history of our exceptional nation.
SIGNED,

Your Name here!

Please register your support at: http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/genealogists_initiate_a_declaration_of_rights
NEW BOARD MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS FOR SGS
by Jill Morelli

Board elections were held recently and the following were nominated, advanced to the membership for vote, tallied and confirmed by the Board:

President: Marilyn Rose*
Vice Pres: Janice Lovelace
Secretary: Jean Roth
Treasurer: Fran Lewis
Membership: Julia Marconi*
Library: Dan Harmon*
Publications: Jill Morelli*
Education: Karen Young Thompson*
Operations: Jim Ryan
Volunteers: vacant

The Director of Volunteers remains an unfilled position. The asterisk indicates an incumbent in that position. Jean Roth was Vice President but moved to Secretary. Thanks to all our officers for giving of their time and effort to make this society a better one.

The nomination committee is Phyllis Christianson, Julie Brekke, Ellen Blackstone, V. Kay Riegel, Glenda Cassutt and Richard Morrill.

Reiley Kidd was named a Library Trustee, joining Pat Younie and Betty Ravenholt. Dorothy Landeen has agreed to assist SGS as a grant writer. Grants fund many of our special projects in part or whole. For example, grants have paid for the copier which prints this newsletter and funded the digitization of the VFW cards.

The Election Committee (counted the ballots and ensured compliance with the bylaws): Elizabeth Howie, Natalie Cowan, Bernice Keller, Michelle Khoun and Chris Shomaker.

Ebay sales add to our income stream especially for those more valuable items. Dona Bubelis has agreed to coordinate our on-line sales. Thanks to Ginny Sommarstrom for doing it for many of the past years.

Thanks to all our volunteers and the great work that you do!

SEATTLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP TO
FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES (FGS) 2014 CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO, TX

Recently SGS rejoined FGS and to celebrate that occasion the Society is offering a $200 scholarship to a member in good standing to attend the national conference in San Antonio, Texas, from 26-29 August 2014. If you were thinking of attending this might serve as an incentive; if you were attending anyway, this would help defray your costs! There are some “strings attached.” The recipient is required to attend the Wednesday Society Day, a series of classes which focus on improvement of management of societies. The attendee will share that information with the Board in a discussion at a Board meeting. A short article outlining the experience will also be written about the overall experience for inclusion in the SGS Newsletter. Application for this scholarship could not be easier. Please submit your email of interest to Marilyn Rose, SGS president, at sgspresident.gmail.com.
WRITING? YOU KNOW YOU SHOULD.....WHEN WILL YOU START?

Has there ever been a time when you attended a lecture and the topic just “stuck with you”? The content was just so pertinent to where you were in your life that it changed how you thought day-to-day. Such was a case for me when I attended a writing seminar about a year ago.

Many of the ideas for writing have stuck with me and I would like to share them with you in the hope that even one idea might resonate enough with you that you, too, will start writing your family stories.

1. Write 500 words a day...even if badly written. Just put the words on paper but do it every day. The discipline will get you over your “writer’s block.”
2. Write an email to a member of the younger generation (child or grandchild) every day, telling them a story of your childhood. It may seem mundane to you, but for them it won’t be. For example, my daughter doesn’t know how a dial phone works; I compare that with how, as a child visiting my aunt, I didn’t know how a daffodil phone worked with no dial! (see image) Same thing.
3. Draw a plan of your childhood home---doesn’t matter if it is to scale. Annotate it with your stories of what happened where and then share it with someone.
4. Similarly, draw a map of your route to school. Annotate it with your memories.
5. Take the plan of the house or the map and have your sibling annotate it with their memories. How do they differ? How are they the same?

Just write!

6.