COMING UP AT TGS

The monthly program meeting for Thursday, March 22 will be “Veterans History Project” 7:00-8:00 PM. Gale P. Beal will share her passion for the Veterans History Project. She explains how to help save Veterans stories and artifacts for preservation by the Library of Congress. Program is free, and open to the Public. No registration required.

March 22, 7:00 - Monthly Program, "Veterans' History Project," TSCPL

April 6, 1:30 - Class, "DNA - Using GEDMATCH," TGS, register here
April 6, 9:30 - Family History Writers' Group, TGS
April 7, 10:00-4:00 - "Basics of Family History Research Class", TGS, register here
April 9, 9:30 - DIG-DNA Special Interest Group, TGS
April 9, 1:00 - Brick Wall Special Interst Group, TGS
April 12, 9:30 - Family Tree Maker Computer Genealogy Special Interest Group, TGS
April 12, 1:00 – TGS Board Meeting, TGS
April 20-21 -- TGS Annual Conference, “Finding Unfindable Ancestors,” KSHS
more information and registration here

May 4, 9:30 - "DNA- Y-DNA & MtDNA DNA Testing” Class, TGS, register here
May 4, 9:30 - Family History Writer’s Group, TGS
May 10, 9:30 - Family Tree Maker, Computer Genealogy Interest Group, TGS
May 10, 1:00 - TGS Board Meeting, TGS
May 12, 1:00 - Cemetery Research Workshop, TGS & Topeka Cemetery, register
May 14, 9:30 - DIG-DNA Special Interest Group, TGS
May 14, 1:00 - Brick Wall Special Interest Group, TGS
May 19, 10:00 - Saturday Skillbuilder - Topic to be Announced, TGS
May 20, 2:00 - Computer Use (was PAF Users) Special Interest Group, TGS
May 24, 7:00 PM - Monthly Program - "Charles Sheldon’s In His Steps”, Topeka Publ. Library

NEWS FROM THE PREZ

Another month ran by in a flash or did I blink. Here is March! It does remind me of all the things I was going to do this winter and did not complete. But, I love March as it is my birthday month and it means April with our Annual Conference is just around the corner. If you have not sign up, please do so quickly as there is a limited seating.

Many things are all my mind this day as I’m trying to put this article together. What is really important to you? What info do you really want to read? Are we meeting your needs? We are compiling the results of the survey sent to members and non-members. We plan on publishing the results after the conference. A few things did stand out and are worth mentioning. The
Did you know that TGS has hundreds of publications of Shawnee County records, other Kansas records, and records from across the country? Click here to see what we have to offer.

question is: What we are doing with the money and why do we charge for classes? We are a non-profit organization. What that means is we do not pay income tax. We get no tax grants or rebates from public sources or private. For example, TSCPL receives a certain part of property taxes that we all pay, but TGS does not. We still pay sales tax on all items we buy and sell. We still pay full price for electronic equipment, paper, ink, supplies (including trash bags, cleaning and paper products for personal use), books, electricity, water, gas, update on building (we updated our electrical outlets by adding safety devices in the library last year), memberships in certain genealogy societies and organizations to run the Library. For example, NEGHS, Web page, software updates including virus protection, and other necessary expenses, travel and speaker fees for conference, donations to hold meetings at outside locations, annual picnic member meeting, and programs at TSCPL. All of these expenses are ongoing each year and can increase (so far, they have not decreased). This is what TGS is about.

Every class we have cost some money, but we charge to increase revenue for TGS. We do it because we offer a service and educational experiences for everyone. This is in our mission statement and by-laws. There is always a balance between the number of people who are members and our expenses. We have 57 folks who have not renew as of yet from last year. This affects the budget. This is for explanation purposes only as it could be more or less, 57 times $30 = $1720.00. So, do we add more paid classes (instructors volunteer do this without pay) or raise membership annual fees or cut cost. This is discussed in the September Board meeting. These decisions are the ones your board must make to balance the budget. Our financial statement is published in the Quarterly in the first issue each year. If you have questions or suggestions, please email or call any board member. Your board is here for you. You can attend and make suggestions at our monthly board meeting.

What is in the future? Is it a new roof, outside painting of TGS, gravel in parking lot, furnace, new carpet, office equipment, projector, or copier? These items are on the table for discussion. Another possibility is a new building (lease or own) and the questions and discussions are ongoing. Your board is dedicated to keeping TGS actively engaged in the community in many ways. Did you know we present programs to outside organizations and we have presented classes to outside organizations (this activity brought in about $1000), we do research for folks from all over the country (this brought in about $1000), we sell publications that we own the copyright (this brought in about $2000) and we do this with unpaid volunteers.

Your board is constantly looking for ways to cut cost and to expand revenue. Here is an idea for our members. You do not need to feel like you must, but only if you would like. Here is a wish list: Kleenex, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, 55-Gal Trash Bags (the heavy-duty kind), Cleaning Products, Liquid Soap, Reams of Paper, Office Supplies (a list will be compiled and shared next time) and if you have an idea that is not on the list check with Lyn at the library. Let’s start this out with an annual event called “Supplies for TGS in May”. You can drop off at the library or bring to the May meeting at TSCPL.

I look forward to seeing you all at the conference. Let’s do it together and make TGS the best. Share what is good and drive the membership AND what needs improved be part of the solution, VOLUNTEER.

Marty Flanagan

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW FOR OUR 2018 CONFERENCE!

The 46th Annual Conference of the Topeka Genealogical Society will be held April 20 & 21, 2018 at the Kansas State Historical Society, in Topeka.

Conference registration information is available on the TGS website or you can register at Eventbrite. Paper registration forms will be available at TGS. It is strongly suggested you register before March 17 as there is an additional processing fee as well as the $10 late fee after that date.

The featured speaker on Saturday will be Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS, board certified genealogist, editor of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, award winning writer and author. His theme will be “Finding Unfindable Ancestors.” This will be a great conference - don't miss it!
TOPEKA GIVES - A FUN DAY OF GIVING SPONSORED BY THE TOPEKA COMMUNITY GIVING FOUNDATION

On June 5, 2018, the Topeka Genealogical Society will be participating in Topeka Gives sponsored by the Topeka Community Foundation. The event will be held at Fairlawn Plaza Mall from 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

On that day, the Community Foundation will accept donations for participating non-profit organizations and provide a proportional match for each donation. Last year the match was nearly 18%. So far, $65,600 has been earmarked as “match money” for this year.

Donations must be made in person by cash, check or credit card. One hundred percent of donations will go to the organization(s) selected by the donor. A minimum of $25 up to a maximum of $1000 may be donated per donor per organization. Up to 5 different organizations may be selected. Donations are tax deductible and the Community Foundation will provide each donor with a receipt letter. Donations made that day will help TGS purchase much needed equipment so volunteers may continue to digitize and share historic records in the organization’s collection.

Mark June 5 on your calendar now and start saving. Let’s increase the number of donors and the total donated to TGS that day. This is an opportunity to support your favorite non-profits and learn about the variety of services they provide in the community.

Volunteer opportunities

Thank you to Jahnnie Brake and Jewell Welch for volunteering to serve on the Finance Committee with our new Treasurer, Bernadine Boyer.

Dave Haslett, chair of the Information Technology (IT) Committee is needing two volunteers to help him keep our computers, printers and other tech machines ready to go for our researchers.

Jan Droge is seeking a partner in planning next year’s conference who would become the chair for the event in 2020.

We are searching also for a Social Media Coordinator to manage Society publicity through social media such as our Facebook page, Twitter, and Instagram.

If any of these opportunities interest you, please contact me at janiceashby3131@yahoo.com.

PRINTER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

Thanks to everyone for turning in your empty printer cartridges for recycling. We have earned $325, which Lyn will be using to purchase a new library ladder.

Keep those cartridges coming!

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR TGS MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018?

We have added a new, convenient feature to make your experience of joining or renewing a breeze. On our website click on “Membership – Join Us”, then choose “online join” and follow the guidance. It’s that simple! Thank you for your membership in TGS!
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Read the VerticalResponse marketing policy.