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News & Views

August 2024

Vol. 32 No. 8

From Your President

As time keeps marching on, the leadership team at TGS continues to keep an eye on our activities and our bottom line, and to work on making progress on our long-term goals. As always, our primary goal is to focus on our core mission (promoting and supporting interests in genealogy and family history). At the same time, we need to consider the impact of changes in the world around us and adapt our operation so that it continues to be relevant and viable. In some areas, we have made substantial progress:

- After more than two years of exploration and skill-building, we have finally launched an all-new website that allows us to make our many indexes and finding aids available and searchable online.
- We have made the major decision to close our library and are currently exploring the details of that process. We hope to have a more detailed plan ready to submit to our members for a vote in the next few months and have set a tentative date for closing our library on October 31st of this year.
- We have discontinued publication of our Quarterly, and recently made the decision to discontinue our Periodicals Exchange program.
- We are beginning to clear out other miscellaneous materials and items that are stored in our building and are considering how we would operate without an office space or building of our own.

The underlying rationale for these decisions has been to stop putting our efforts and limited resources into programs or activities that are not working well for us, enabling

us to re-focus those resources into new or existing areas that are central to our mission or will better align with the needs and interest of current and prospective new members. These are big and difficult decisions, but we believe that they will improve our financial stability and long-term viability.

In other areas that were identified as priorities in our most recent strategic plan, we have not made as much progress:

- We know that we need to do a better job in recruiting, managing and recognizing our volunteers. We need to do a better job in recruiting volunteers for leadership roles, and in grooming and developing leadership skills among our membership.
- We desperately need to promote our organization and increase our visibility in our community more effectively. There is still much work that needs to be done, and we need more volunteer help to do it. If any of our readers might be interested in helping us in these areas, please contact me (tgstopeka.president@gmail.com).

We remain committed to our mission, and we believe that the work that we do is important and makes a difference in people's lives. We appreciate the ongoing support of our members. To non-member readers of this newsletter, we hope that you also believe that our work is important, and we invite you to show your support by becoming a member of our organization. Joining is easy – see the Membership portion of our website (<https://tgstopeka.org/membership/>) for details.

—Barb

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 21, Annual Member Meeting, 10:00 am – 1 pm at the Peppertree Clubhouse in Topeka.

Join us to learn about what is happening and what changes are in the works with TGS, as well as to share brunch, enjoy a presentation by Terry Stahl about Betty Crocker, and visit with other TGS members. Members who will be attending are welcome to bring a spouse or significant other. No registration fee, but we are requesting that you RSVP to give us a count for purchase of food and table service. Register at the event listing on our website: <https://tgstopeka.org/events/#!event-list>

Saturday, October 5 - Free Intro to Genealogy Class, 1:30-5:00 pm.

This is a free, intro-level class for anyone who is interested in learning more about their family history but is just getting started or has not had much research

experience. In-person class, at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Space is limited; pre-registration is required. To register, see our website, <https://tgstopeka.org/events/#!event/2024/10/5/intro-to-family-history-research>.

Friday, October 11 – “Last Chance” Library Lock-In, 4:00-11:00pm, at the Topeka Genealogical Society Library.

Join us at the TGS Library for an evening of last-chance research in our library, socializing, and genealogy fun before we close down the library and begin the process of transferring items in the collection to other area repositories. Spend your time researching, socializing and connecting with other members, or playing genealogy board and card games (or a little of each -it's up to you to decide!) We will have library volunteers on hand to help you find items in the library collection, and we have a collection of genealogy games ready for your enjoyment. Snacks and a light dinner of pizza, salad and cookies will be included. This event is open only to current TGS members, and pre-registration is required. Registration fee of \$10 to cover food costs. To register, see our website, <https://tgstopeka.org/events/#!event/2024/10/11/last-chance-library-lock-in>. Space is limited. Register today to save your spot!

Saturday, November 16, 2024 - Identity Quest Conference at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

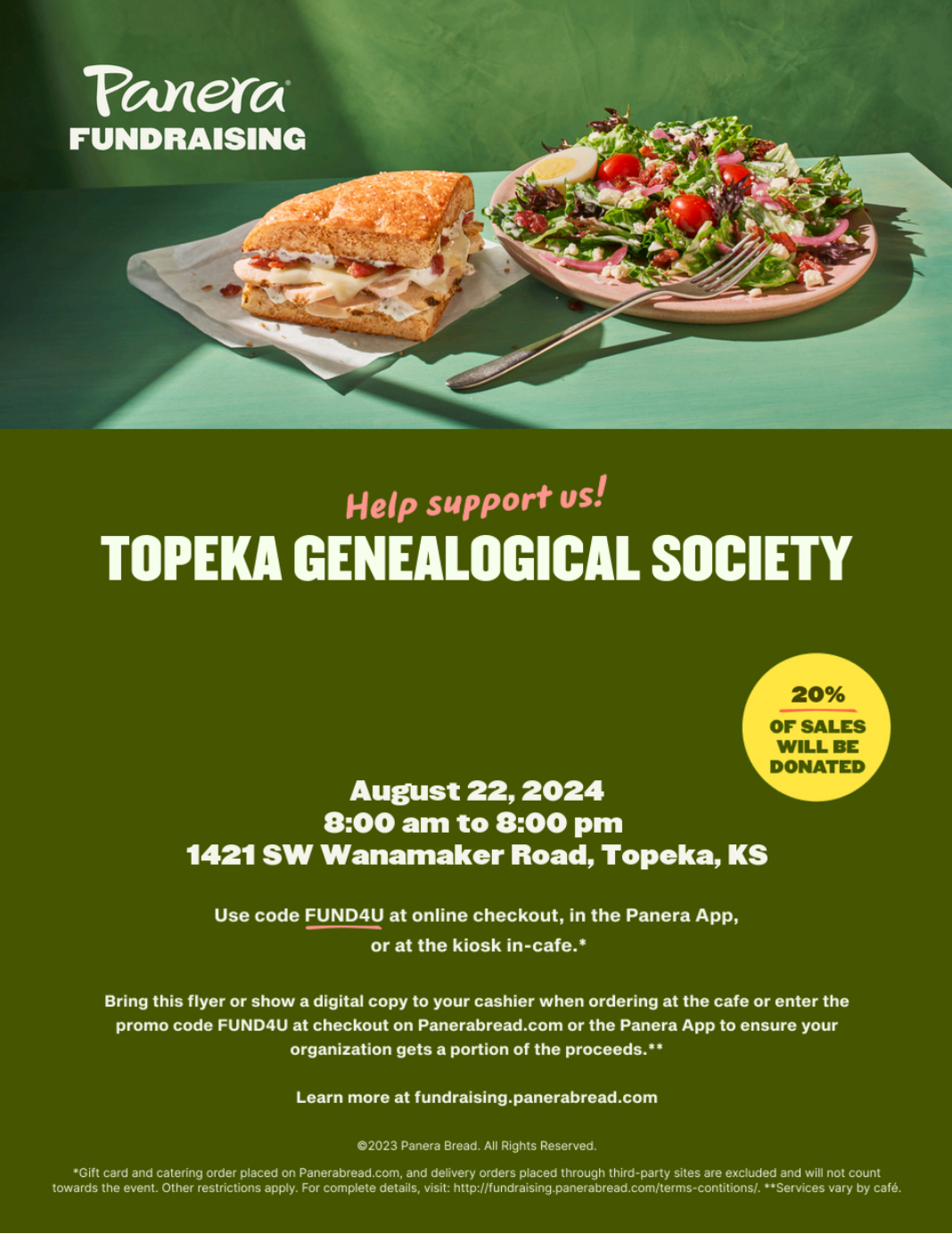
Plan to attend the Identity Quest Conference on Sat, Nov 16, 2024, to learn about the latest research tools to help you find your identity and view heritage research demonstrations. This free event is hosted by the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library; TGS will be participating and supporting the event as presenters and exhibitors.

The conference will feature national guest speaker, Kenneth B. Morris, Jr. co-founder of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives (FDFI). The Initiative was born from a historical legacy of activism and education. Morris is a direct descendant of Douglass and Booker T. Washington.

The African Americans Renewing Interest in Spirituals Ensemble, Incorporated (ARISE) will perform at the conference. ARISE is made up of voices in Kansas who are dedicated to uplifting, sharing history and inspiring peace through song and storytelling. Their work aims to educate people of all cultures about the significance of spirituals, from the Underground Railroad to the Civil Rights Movement.

Activities during the conference will encourage everyone to engage in the quest for their identity. Experts will present on genealogical research, DNA, family trees and how to research your family history.

Registration for the conference will open September 3. Visit tscpl.org/idquest for conference updates.



Panera
FUNDRAISING

Help support us!

TOPEKA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

August 22, 2024
8:00 am to 8:00 pm
1421 SW Wanamaker Road, Topeka, KS

Use code **FUND4U** at online checkout, in the Panera App,
or at the kiosk in-café.*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the café or enter the
promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your
organization gets a portion of the proceeds.**

Learn more at fundraising.panerabread.com

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*Gift card and catering order placed on Panerabread.com, and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. **Services vary by café.

**20%
OF SALES
WILL BE
DONATED**

Monthly Programs and Special Interest Groups

“You’ve Got Mail: Exploring Letter-Writing Through Time” by Celia Daniels from Humanities Kansas Lecture Series

Thursday, August 22

7:00 pm

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, or online with Zoom

Monthly programs are free and open to the public. No registration is needed to attend in person. To get a link to attend virtually with Zoom, [click here](#).

We usually have a get-together at a local restaurant before the monthly program. See the flyer above for information about the August get-together at Panera. This is a fundraiser for TGS and a portion of every purchase goes to our program. You must identify yourself as a TGS supporter in order for us to receive the funds. See the flyer above for information about the August get-together at Panera. They have been very generous with our program and we thank them.

Foundations of Family History Special Interest Group

2nd Tuesday of each month | Virtually by Zoom.

To sign up for this class, go to the TGS website at tgstopeka.org and find the event listing under “Upcoming Events”, and use the registration button there. Facilitated by Barb LaClair

August 13 - 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Computer Genealogy & Software Special Interest Group

2nd Thursday of each month | Virtually by Zoom.

August 8 - 9:30 - 11:30 am

Contact Rich at: rlm4017@gmail.com to sign up.

Brick Wall Special Interest Group

3rd Tuesday of each month | In-Person-even months | Zoom-odd months

August 20 - 9:30 - 11:30 am

Contact Cindy at: clcruz32153@aol.com to sign up.

Attendees can ask questions and the group will brainstorm resources which might help answer research questions from members. (Submit your research questions to Cindy by Monday, August 19 or bring other questions to the meeting.)

Download: [Research Question Form](#)

DNA Special Interest Group

4th Monday of each month | Virtually by Zoom.

August 26 - 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Contact Marty at marty.flanagan3@gmail.com to sign up.

Discussion in this group will focus on how to understand and use your DNA matches. Participants will find this most helpful if they have done DNA testing and have received their results.

NEW EVENT!

Morning Joe and Jaw

You are invited! Please join TGS members and guests for lively conversation while you enjoy a morning beverage, breakfast and/or pastry. It will be a great opportunity to cement friendships, ask questions, or share your latest family history discovery or dilemma in an informal setting!

Depending upon interest and response, we hope to make this a recurring event, meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at area coffee shops or restaurants.

Venue: Perkins Restaurant

Address: 1720 SW Wanamaker, Topeka, KS

Date: Tue., Aug 6, 2024, 9:30 - 11:00 am





Topeka Genealogical Society Library

2717 SE Indiana Ave.

Topeka, Kansas

tgstopeka.org

(785) 233-5762

Email: tgstopeka.president@gmail.com

LIBRARY HOURS

1-4 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

Noon - 3 pm Saturday

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