



Welcome to the first edition of the Genealogy Club Newsletter. I have so much to share with you, but I don't want to flood your inbox with emails. This newsletter is part of the Board's solution to that problem. I hope you enjoy it and get something useful from it.

### **New Treasurer**

I am pleased to report that Jane Ammeson has accepted the Board's invitation to become our new Treasurer. She will be replacing Hattie, who was forced to resign due to her husband Al's illness. Hattie wants to be part of the Club, but right now, Al needs her support. We wish her and Al all the best.

Jane is filling the rest of Hattie's term. Under the Club's bylaws, finding and appointing a replacement for an officer is the Board's responsibility and does not require a vote of the members. According to the bylaws, Jane is filling Hattie's term, so she will be eligible to serve up to two additional terms of her own if she chooses to do so and is elected by the members.

### **Board Meetings**

The Board held our third meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>. The minutes have been approved and are posted on the website. To access these, go to Club Organization/Exec Board, and click on the blue bar that says Board Meeting Minutes.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

On the January survey, I asked what format you preferred for meetings. A guest speaker received the most votes, so we have lined up some great speakers for the next four meetings for you.

- March 1st (Zoom) — Denise Beeson/Ancestors in Newspapers
- April 5th (Zoom) — Tom Laughlin/Montana Research
- May 3rd (Possibly Live and Zoom) — Francis E. Bauer/Find Aa Grave
- June 7th (Possibly Live and Zoom) — Pam LaFond/West Valley Genealogical Society

The second-highest choice was workshops. We are looking to do several of those in the Fall, but we need to meet in person at the Kiva Club for those types of activities.

We would all like to return to the clubhouse. I have been in contact with club management. We are allowed to use the Learning Center but are limited to ten people, including speakers, and everyone must wear masks at all times, including the speakers. That simply won't work for us. I have been promoting the idea of allowing regular meetings provided everyone who attends is vaccinated, but the answer from Bluestar is no, or at least not yet. I think we will get there soon, but in the meantime, we will continue on Zoom.

## **Special Interest Groups**

For those who didn't respond to our survey regarding SIGs and therefore didn't receive the email detailing the results, I am pleased to say we have five SIGs with leaders and enough support to get started.

The five Special Interest Groups are:

1. Connecting with Living Relatives – Organizer/Leader Eileen Johnson
2. European History – Organizer/Leader Frank Schiller
3. Jewish History - Organizer/Leader Gary Loeb
4. U.S. Census - Organizer/Leader Gary Loeb
5. Platforms and Tools - Organizer/Leader Kat Blitz

We also had a strong response to Telling the Family Story, with twelve people ready to join and thirteen seeking more information. Unfortunately, no one has stepped forward to take the lead, so this SIG can't form at this time. There is an opportunity for someone to make a great contribution to the Club. Please note that you don't need to be an expert in the topic to lead a SIG. The SIG leader is a facilitator, not a teacher. SIGs are groups of people with common interests who share experiences, ideas, and knowledge. I know numerous people who have signed up for this with the expertise and experience to share; we just need someone to facilitate that. Of the twelve that signed up, four are not eligible. Board members can't lead SIGs, and one of those that signed up is already leading two other SIGs, carrying more than his share of the load. If you want to see this SIG form and enjoy learning what others in the Club are doing to tell their family story, please consider taking the lead on this. If you would like to volunteer or have questions about what's involved, just send me an email.

Those who signed up to join SIGs should hear from your SIG leaders soon. More information about the SIGs will be published shortly.

## **Controlling Email From the Club**

Traditionally the Club Boards have sent emails to a single email list that includes all club members. As should already be apparent, I like to communicate via email, and I have a lot to share. I also receive emails from Board members and others in the Club to forward to you. We discussed this at the last Board meeting as we all share the concern of sending too many emails. While many like receiving the information, unsolicited emails could be considered SPAM if it is about topics that don't interest you.

This newsletter is part of the solution. Consolidating many issues into a single monthly newsletter reduces the amount of email you will receive from the Club. You will also be able to opt-out of receiving newsletters while still receiving other types of email from the Club. To do so, just reply to this email and say "unsubscribe." You will always be able to read the newsletters on the website.

This opt-out feature is just the first of categories of the email you will be able to control. Eventually, I foresee you have the ability to manage your subscriptions through the website.

## **Beginner's Class**

On the January survey, I asked what level you considered yourself to be as a genealogist. On February 10<sup>th</sup> and February 17<sup>th</sup>, we held a two-part "Getting Started in Genealogy" class for those who had checked that they were just beginners. The course went well, and I believe those members now have enough information to get a good start on their family research. I have posted the papers that I included in the handouts for this class in the website's papers section under genealogy resources.

It has been suggested to me that there may be others in the Club who are struggling with their genealogy because they got off to a bad start or have gotten stuck. If that is the case, please contact me, let me know where you are in your genealogy and what you feel you need. Either another member of the Board or I will contact you and try to help. If enough people are having similar problems, we can put together a special class to address them.

## **Collaborating with Other Clubs**

Those who attended last month's Club meeting on Zoom met Kevin Thompson, the Pebble Creek Genealogy Club president. Trey and I continue to work with Kevin on ideas on how our clubs can work together for the benefit of all. I have invited Kevin to listen in on our March meeting, when Denise Beeson, a member of the Pebble Creek Club, will be our guest speaker.

This month we will have the President of another Trilogy at Vistancia Club join us, and Trey is working on getting the leaders of another community club lined up for April. These relationships will take time to develop, but they promise to enrich our adventures in Family History.

## **Club Social**

In your responses to the January survey, many of you indicated your interest in a Club social. That is a little hard to do now, but we plan to have one in October, tentatively on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. This event will be different from the past social in several ways. First, we are purposely not holding it on a meeting day, so we can still have a club meeting that month. Second, your significant other will also be invited. Third, it will be late afternoon and evening instead of early afternoon.

There is nothing for you to do right now except to save the date. This event will be an RSVP event, so be sure to respond when the time comes, probably in late September. More to follow!

## **The Picture in this month's Header**

The background picture in this month's issue was taken from a hot air balloon high over Trilogy at Vistancia about ten years ago. Today there would be a lot more houses below.

## **Future Issues**

- How can the Trilogy Genealogy Club help you with your Family History?
- What ideas or suggestions do you have for future meetings?
- How can we improve what we are doing for the benefit of our members?

Please write to me at [rsalford@gmail.com](mailto:rsalford@gmail.com). I'm listening...

Bob