Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

Finding a Page in History at November 3 Meeting

Please join us at the November 3 DCAGS meeting where the topic will be "Finding a Page in History," DCAGS member Judi Page will be presenting a case study about her experience researching her French-Canadian ancestry.

Judi is new both to DCAGS and to genealogical research, having been at it in earnest for just over a year, although the story of this particular search spans some 40 years. By overcoming many stumbling blocks, some common to all genealogists and some peculiar to her subject, Judi uncovered a fascinating family history stretching back to the earliest years of both New France and New England. In the process, she made contact with a Canadian fourth cousin once removed.

Judi is originally from Green Bay and her ancestry includes Belgian, Irish, Danish and Austria-Hungarian immigrants in addition to these French-Canadian transplants, so she still has lots of rocks to overturn. Based on her experience so far, she declares herself totally hooked and is looking forward to learning all of their stories and the varied paths that brought them together in Wisconsin.

The November meeting is also designated as DCAGS's annual meeting. We will be electing officers for the positions of Vice President and Treasurer at the meeting.

Please join us on Thursday, November 3 at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St.

Election Time

At the November 3 DCAGS meeting, election for the offices of Vice President and Treasurer will take place. Each is for two-year term. The nominations are:

Vice President: Jim Benes, Middleton

Treasurer: Joyce Peterson, Madison

Genealogy Fair 2011

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for helping us make the 2011 Genealogy Fair a success. We had over 105 attendees, many of whom are not members, although two of them are now! The comments that we received back from the vendors, speakers and exhibitors were all positive.

This year we had two different tracks for people to attend, so there was lots to take in. We also offered special consultation services for the first time.

We would to first like to thank the speakers – Pat Stone, David Null, Joyce Higgins, Henriette Cain, Pat Skubis, Jerry Paulson, Sherry Lloyd, Cora Kluge and Walker Crawford all did a great job.

We would like to thank all of the vendors and exhibitors who took part in the Fair -- Fun Stuff for Genealogists, Michiana History Publications, Joyce Higgins, Joyce Salter, Sons of the American Revolution – Nathaniel Ames Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution – Governor Nelson Dewey Chapter, Colonial Dames – Reginald Foster Chapter, Wisconsin State Genealogical Society, Wisconsin Historical Society, UW-Madison Archives and Records Management Services, Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library, Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, and the Dane County Historical Society.

We would also like to thank those who volunteered for individual research consultation sessions in specific areas of expertise: George Findlen, Rollie Littlewood, Joyce Nigbor, Barb Glassel, Jerry Paulson, Sherry Lloyd and Pat Skubis.

This year, DCAGS brought in the Civil War Moving Memorial War and it was visited by many. It certainly is a moving display to read the names of those who died from Wisconsin while serving in the Union Army. We thank Jim and Lois Benes for picking the memorial up and bringing it to Madison from the Wausau area.

Regular DCAGS meetings are generally the first Thursday of each month at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, WI beginning at 7 p.m.

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DCAGS Update:

*The DCAGS Governing Board meets the third Tuesday of each month. Next month, we are meeting on **the fourth Tuesday, November 22** at 6:30 p.m. at the new South Madison Library on 2222 Park St. We invite all members to attend. Please join us!*

Beginning Norwegian Genealogy

How does one begin researching their Norwegian genealogy? Jerry Paulson, Director of Genealogical Research at the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library (NAGCNL) lectured on two major stumbling blocks: naming patterns and the importance of understanding farm names.

Jerry said there are some unique things to researching Norwegian genealogy. First was the names. Norway used the patronymic system. Norwegians have four names: first (given) name, middle name, Patronymic name and the farm name. A Patronymic name was created for the male by the addition of "son" or "sen" to the first name of the father, for a female by the addition of and "datter" to the first name of the father. For example Hans Paulson was the son of Paul Hanson. Gunhild Larsdatter was the daughter of Lars Hanson. Add to this the name of the farm -- Hans Paulson Vik or Gunhild Larsdatter Hoihjelle. An individual's farm name would change if the family moved to a different farm. The farm name portion of an individual's name always reflected where the person

currently lived. The farm name is registered with the state and numbered. If you have the farm name or number, researchers can locate the farm on maps.

Under early Norwegian law, when the father died, the farm was passed onto the eldest son. Later all the children shared in the inheritance equally. Farms were very small in U.S. terms -- often 25 acres or less. This was why coming to the U.S. was so attractive. A person homesteading in the U.S. often would receive up 160 acres if they farmed it for five years. Jerry had a handout that included a list of Norwegian terms that related to rural life in Norway. The handout is on the DCAGS website, www.dcags.org.

The Patronymic system worked well for Norway, but meant difficulty when Norwegians emigrated to the U.S. Jerry cautioned that no one on Ellis Island changed immigrant's names. Generally the manifest was generated in the country

where the ship sailed from. So, the name was probably changed there. In addition, most immigrants were processed on the ship for entry into the U.S. and the names were simply checked off when they entered Ellis Island.

Name changes were complicated by the naming patterns. The spelling included foreign characters. The farm name was probably deleted. Sometimes the middle name became the last name. For a variety of reasons, many names were altered when Norwegians came to the U.S.

So, if you are having problems finding your Norwegian ancestors, do not be surprised. Some diligence and learning about Norwegian naming patterns and farm names may help solve your problem.

NAGCNL is located at 415 W. Main St. in Madison, WI. For information on hours and research, visit their website at http://www.nagcnl.org/index.html.

Free Genealogy Software: Record your Family Records and Put Them Online.

Pat Skubis provided the following links that will take you to sites that offer free software genealogy programs. Download them and see which ones you like. Some have upgraded versions that you may buy. Some sell versions on CD that come along with a book on how to use the program. The one call ScionPC has a portable feature that allows you to take your information along on a jump drive and add to it while you are working at a record office or a computer that is not your own.

Gizmo's Freeware Top Picks 2011

- http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-genealogy-family-tree-software.htm
- Legacy 7.5 http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/

- Gramps http://gramps-project.org/
- MyHeritage Family Tree Builder http://www.myheritage.com/download-family-tree-builder
- RootsMagic Essentials http://www.rootsmagic.com/Essentials/
- ScionPC http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/scionpc/
- Personal Ancestral File http://www.familysearch.org/eng/paf/

Three other free programs:

- Dynastree http://www.dynastree.com/infocentre/home-edition
- Ancestral Quest Basics http://www.ancquest.com/AQBasics.htm

- Cumberland Family Software https://sites.google.com/site/cftwin/

To post your genealogy information on the Web, create a GEDCOM file in your genealogy program and import it into the program. MyHeritage allows you to just press the link that says upload to the Web. Several sites let you post information for free. One being MyHeritage (up to 250 individuals) or RootsWeb will allow you to post your information using their World Connect Project or by helping you set up a free web site.

You want to be sure that the site you post to protects the privacy of living individuals. Select only information that you wish to share. Pat's rule for the Web: If you don't want someone to steal it, don't post it!

Upcoming events
WHS Library-Archives Classes and Workshops

USING ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS (COMPUTER LAB)

Instructor: Rick Pifer, director of public services for the WHS Division of Library-Archives
Registration: $35 for Society and WSGS members, $40 for non-members.
When: 11/12/2011, 9 a.m. to Noon
Where: Memorial Library, Room 231, 728 State St., Madison

FAMILYSEARCH.ORG (COMPUTER LAB)

Instructor: Lori Bessler, WHS Reference Librarian
Registration: $35 for Society and WSGS members, $40 for non-members.
When: 12/3/2011, 9 a.m. to Noon
Where: Memorial Library, Room 231, 728 State St., Madison

ONLINE GENEALOGY (COMPUTER LAB)

Instructor: Lori Bessler, WHS Reference Librarian
Registration: $35 for Society and WSGS members, $40 for non-members.
When: 12/10/2011, 9 a.m. to Noon
Where: Memorial Library, Room 231, 728 State St.

President's Message
What would it take ...?

... to convince **YOU** to volunteer some of your time and effort to help keep DCAGS running smoothly? We have a dedicated group of board members, but there are several society jobs which need new volunteers. I'm not much for twisting arms, but we need to have some of you step forward to help out.

More specifically, we need people to work on publicizing our events, to plan the talks for our regular monthly meetings, and to work on the newsletter--especially to recap each meeting's talk and to be an editor in charge of the newsletter. Perhaps you aren't willing to take on a whole job at this time, but would be willing to be part of a team? Guidance will be available from folks who have done these jobs in the past and from other current board members. One board member suggested I point out "... this work and the folks you're working with are fun and not a prison sentence."

Genealogy Fair continued...

A big thank you to all the volunteers. The baked goods were delicious, and the people who helped serve the food did an outstanding job. The set up and take down crew worked as a smooth team and our vendors liked how well the room was set up. Those who helped at the registration desk, or showed people around the family history center made the day work like clock-work.

DCAGS would especially like to thank the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the use of the building.

As co-chairs of the Fair Committee, we personally want to thank everyone who pitched in and helped out. We know that a couple of you had last minute changes but we still appreciate your dedication and thoughtfulness. Without you we could not have done it. We look forward to 2013. Thanks again.

Pat Skubis and Walker Crawford

Wild Rice Soup

1 medium onion, thinly sliced

4 ounces of fresh mushrooms chopped

3 T. butter

1/4 cup flour

4 cups chicken stock

1 cup half & half

1/4 cup dry sherry

1 1/2 cup cooked wild rice (about 1/2 cup uncooked)

Cut sliced onion into quarters. Cook onion and mushrooms in butter until onion is transparent. Add flour and cook 15 minutes, stirring occasionally (gives rich color to soup base). Add chicken stock and cook about 10 minutes, stirring until smooth. Add wild rice, cream and sherry and cook until thoroughly heated.

Submitted by Joan Nagle

Please keep these needs in mind when you fill out your membership renewal form, which asks--among other things--what committees you would like to serve on. The board will be looking for willing responses. Feel free to contact any board member if you want to learn more about what each job entails.

Rollie Littlewood

Recipes

Bohemian Dish – Flicky
(Noodles/Ham butt)

1/2 package of wide noodles, cooked

2 cup chopped ham

1/2 onion chopped

3-4 eggs beaten slightly

1 cup milk

Salt & pepper to season

Mix together the ham and onions and add to the cooked noodles. Combine the milk and eggs together and pour over the noodle and ham mixture. Stir in the seasonings. Place in an oiled 9 x 12 pan. Cover with foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Remove the foil the last half hour to let noodles brown slightly.

Submitted by Jim Benes

Note: Rather bland with ham. Grandma Benes used smoke butt (cooked) to add more flavoring or smoked flavoring could be added – 1/2 tsp. to taste.

Tea Biscuits

4 cups flour

1 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. nutmeg

2 cups sugar

1 cup shortening

1 cup sour milk

1 egg

1 cup raisins

Mix all the ingredients together and then roll out on a floured cutting board. Roll to about 1/2 inch thickness. Cut out with cookie cutter and place on greased cookie sheet. Sprinkle with sugar. Cook at 400 degrees for approximately 10 minutes. Cool and enjoy.

Submitted by Joyce Buckingham Peterson

Genealogical Materials in the UW Digital Collections

David Null, Director of the University Archives at U-W Madison discussed the work of the UW Digital Collections Center (UWDCC). As background, the UWDCC was founded in 2000 and has worked collaboratively with UW System faculty, staff, and librarians to create and provide access to digital resources that support the teaching and research needs of the UW community, uniquely document the university and State of Wisconsin, and provide access to rare or fragile items of broad research value. The UWDCC has also partnered with cultural heritage institutions and public libraries throughout Wisconsin to create digital resources.

Resources within the collections are free and publicly accessible online. They are loosely organized into collections that span a range of subjects including art, ecology, literature, history, music, natural resources, science, social sciences, the State of Wisconsin, and the University of Wisconsin. Digital resources include text-based materials such as books, journal series, and manuscript collections, photographic images, slides, maps, prints, posters, audio, and video.

The UWDCC has digitized many materials of interest to the genealogist. Some collections that may be of interest:

The State of Wisconsin Collection. This collection contains unique or valuable materials that document Wisconsin's history and ongoing development. The collection includes city directories, county and local histories, community annuals or yearbooks, pioneer and immigrant remembrances, oral histories, photographs, atlases and plat maps. Many Wisconsin towns and counties have their histories here as well as general information about agricultural and rural life or the Great Lakes maritime history.

Wisconsin Electronic Reader. Stories, essays, letters, poems, biographies, journals and tidbits from Wisconsin history. Many are firsthand accounts and profusely illustrated.

Wisconsin Public Land Survey Records: Original Field Notes and Plat Maps. This contains the field notes and plat maps of the public land survey of Wisconsin conducted between 1832 and 1866 by the Federal Land Office.

The University of Wisconsin Collection. This collection contains images, manuscripts, papers and books relating to the University's history or mission including the Badger Yearbooks, University of Wisconsin Alumni Directory 1849-1919, Wisconsin Alumni Magazine and images from the University of Wisconsin Archives. The collection spans the many universities across Wisconsin.

Archival Resources in Wisconsin: Descriptive Finding Aids. Archival finding aids that provide information about materials held in 19 repositories throughout Wisconsin, including the archival collections within the UW Archives, UW Memorial Library Department of Special Collections, Wisconsin Historical Society and the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures. These finding aids describe unpublished primary resources held by the above institutions, and in some cases resources held by other institutions. They serve as a searchable access point to the archival holdings described. Archival holdings can include a variety of materials such as correspondence, diaries, maps, government records, film, photographs, and audio recordings.

The History Collection: Selected by librarians, scholars, and other subject specialists along a wide range of criteria, this collection includes published materials as well as archival documents. The items were digitized from a variety of formats including books, manuscripts, sound recordings, photographs, maps, and other resources.

American Languages – Our Nation's Many Voices. The project began in 2003 to digitize, interpret, and make accessible audio recordings documenting linguistic diversity in the United States. To date, interviews with speakers of German-American and American English dialects from across the United States comprise the bulk of the digitized materials. Excerpts from these interviews are complemented by rare recordings of ethnic music from the Mills Music Library, as well as a number of maps, short interpretive essays, and visual images.

Milwaukee Neighborhoods: Photos & Maps 1885-1992. The digital collection provides a visual documentation of the development of the city of Milwaukee from the mid-1880s to the early 1990s. It includes images of residential and industrial facilities, local businesses, historic buildings, churches, and numerous Milwaukee parks.

David said that when you go to a collections page, there are two search options at the top page -- "search the collections" or "search only the full text." Searching the collection means you are searching for an image, audio or video. Searching the text, means just that, you will be searching words in a document. If looking for a name, try different spellings. The search function does allow for wild cards. If you want to print something, there is an "image for printing" icon. If you click on that, it will print the page.

For more information on the UWDCC, go to its website at http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/. If you have questions contact http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/contact.

Visit the UWDCC, which has a wealth of information that may be helpful in your genealogical research. We thank David for giving us a great overview of the UWDCC's resources.

Slave, Freedman and Free-People of Color Research: Prior to the Emancipation Proclamation

Joyce Higgins and Henriette Cain, members of the Afro-American Historical and Research Society, provide information on ways to overcomes barriers that African American have when locating lost ancestors. The focus of the presentation was on name changes, missing slaveholder's information or simply psychological fear of being considered chattel.

The first thing was to provide some definitions. Slave: a person on African descent owned by others as slave or forced labor. Freedman: previous slaves that became "free" men (by will or gifts) or were able to purchase their freedom. Free-people-of-color: born free. Under the "black code" if a child was born of a free mother, the child was free. This person was normally of mixed ancestry – African, Native American, French or other European ancestry, unless they came after the slave revolt in Haiti of 1795 and 1811.

As with any genealogical pursuit, start with yourself and ask yourself research questions about your family. It is then very important to collect an oral history from your family members, especially the elders. Joyce said that the oral history is the base and from there you can engage in some speculation, which then can be verified.

Joyce used her ancestor Matilda as an example. Joyce had heard she was of Scottish descent. Joyce also knew that Matilda was sold in 1838 from Nashville to Mississippi. Joyce then used this information to find out where her family was from.

The biggest issues in tracing your African American genealogy prior to 1865:

1. Not having slaveholder's name
2. Your ancestor changed the name after slavery ended
3. Not knowing where to locate the documents for your proof.
4. Not certain where your ancestor resided
5. Ancestors are all dead.

Sometimes property records can be found that keep track of the slaves as well as family bibles, which may note slave's births and deaths.

Naming patterns are important in reconstructing family ties. Understanding the heritage and customs of potential slaveholders can help in locating African American ancestors. Remember various ethnicities used different methods of naming. For example, Joyce found that the Scots often named the eldest son after the paternal grandfather.

Joyce was able to find that Matilda was a slave for the Houston family. This is the Houston family that Sam Houston is a part of. The Houstons were Ulster Scots and had immigrated to Philadelphia, PA in the 18th century before moving south.

Joyce said that in the antebellum south it was the slaveholder that named the babies born on his land. This meant that many of the slaves were named for someone in the slaveholder's immediate family, like brother, sister, uncle, etc. It is also important to know the middle names or nicknames since that can also reveal family connections.

Many slaves took on the slaveholder's last name or his wife's maiden name. This name sharing with whites often indicates some relationship between them prior to emancipation. This does require verification.

Joyce was able to find that her ancestor Matilda was married to a John Houston and their children appeared to share many similar names with the white Houston family: Phebe, Silos, Sallie, Fannie, John and Venton.

Other items to use to find slave ancestors:

- Bill of Sale: This often included ages and birth years. It may also list the slaveholder who sold the slave as well as the new slaveholder's name.
- Wills: These often lists chattel and personal property, which could include slaves owned.
- Land records: Deeds or bounty lands. This could include information on headrights – land received for every person brought into a colony.
- Journals and family bibles.
- Certificate of Registration: Freedom papers or manumission papers.

Joyce and Henrietta spoke about freedman in the south. As noted, most were of mixed race origin. In Mississippi, 80 percent were mixed race. However after 1840, states in the south began passing laws that newly freed slaves could not live there. In Arkansas, the Legislature said a black person could not be there unless enslaved. Louisiana had laws against slaves marrying and only the slaveholder could provide consent for slaves marrying. And of course there could be no mixed race marriages.

So while there are many barriers to researching ancestors of African ancestry, there are many ways to overcome these barriers.

The two also suggested some other resources:

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogy Society.

Books: *Black Genesis* by James M. Rose, *Finding a Place Called Home*, Dee P. Woodtor.

Websites: Ancestry, Heritage Quest, FamilySearch, AfriGeneas, US Genweb, and Genealogy.com.

There were many questions about Afro-American genealogy and we thank Joyce and Henriette for sharing their expertise.

Foremothers: Genealogy and Gender

Cora Lee Kluge, Professor of German and Director of the Max Kade Institute for German Studies at UW-Madison, provided insight into gender-specific problems and perspectives that affect source materials for genealogists.

Cora began with the question: Why is it hard to find our female ancestors? Cora said researching women can be more difficult than looking for information from foreign documents. Some reasons:

1. Women's names didn't carry on the family name. Once married, a woman adopted her husband's name

2. Men were listed as the "head of household" and then sometimes only by initials.

3. Women have been nameless. Women were often only listed as "Mrs. (name of husband)." Anonymity was considered to be the proper custom.

4. Women often had no documents of their own. They were often listed on a man's passport as a "traveling companion."

5. The legal rights of women were limited. Early on, a man and his wife were one in the law. A woman's body belonged to her husband. A woman could not sign a contract or own property. They could not vote.

6. For better or worse, the women who preserved their own names and statuses were those that did not marry, which meant probably not having children.

7. In autobiographical writings, women often did not claim achievements.

It wasn't until the 20th century that a woman's status was no longer derived from the man she married.

Cora then provided some solutions for finding your female ancestors. She recommended the book, *The Hidden Half of the Family, A Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy*.

- U.S. Census records. Lists the names of women after 1850. Some states had their own censuses, which might include more information.

- European emigration data. This would provide information on who emigrated and when. Sometimes women came separately, such as a husband arriving first and then sending money for the wife and children to come.

- Legal Records: One should look for documentation of women through legal records – marriage, divorce, property or tax records. While everything may be listed in the husband's name, that does not mean the wife was not listed as a joint owner or if the property passed by will or intestate to her.

In Wisconsin marriage records were recorded at the county level. Divorce records can be found in county court records.

Today Wisconsin operates under a marital property law, so any property acquired by a married couple during marriage is assumed to be owned equally. A woman's property owned by her before marriage or acquired by gift can still be considered her separate property.

- Obituaries can reveal information on a family. Cora said that news obituaries have been dominated by men. In 1855, 92 percent were men, in 1870, 90 percent were men, in 1910, 85 percent were men and 1930, 82 percent were men.

Women were featured in news obituaries if they had social prominence, wealth, personality, beauty or made contributions to social work, religion and literature.

- Journals or diaries. There is a difference between men's and women's diaries. Men write about fights, conflicts, competition and hunting. Women write of their

concerns with family and relational values.

Cora said that men see the venture in the clear light of the expectation of success. Whereas women experience shadows in their stories – areas of dark reservation and opposition.

Men record death in aggregate numbers. Women knew death as a personal catastrophe.

Cora spoke about the book, *Giants of the Earth* by O.E. Rolvaag. In the story about Norwegian immigrants living in the Dakota Territory in the 1870s. From the man's point of view, relishes the pioneer spirit and is eager to assimilate. From the woman's perspective, it is a story of loneliness and exile, who resists Americanization.

Cora said that the male and female spheres are both there, both valid and the story of the past that we are looking for concerns not one or the other, but rather the two interacting together.

We thank Cora for shedding light on searching for women ancestors and the important perspective they provide to the study of genealogy.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS:

Pat Stone: *Basic Recording Methods for Genealogy.* This presentation included examples of paper forms to record family information. A write-up of a similar program is in the October 2009 DCAGS newsletter.

Sherry Lloyd: *RootsMagic Overview.* Sherry demonstrated RootsMagic Genealogy. She presented a similar program that is reported in the March 2008 issue of the DCAGS newsletter.

Walker Crawford: *Family Tree Maker Overview.* Walker demonstrated Family Tree Maker. He presented a similar program reported in the April 2008 issue of the DCAGS newsletter.

Dane County Area Genealogical Society
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Madison, WI 53705-0652

Address Service Requested

We're on the Web!
See us at: www.dcags.org
Or www.facebook.com/dcags

**Dane County Area
Genealogical Society**

P.O. Box 5652
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See you at the November 3 meeting!

DCAGS Governing Board for 2011:

President: Rollie Littlewood
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Vice President: Don Cole
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Secretary: DeAnn McAllan
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Treasurer: Walker Crawford
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Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Walker Crawford
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Programs & Education: Vacant

Public Relations: Vacant

Historian: Sandy Zart
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Web Master: Rollie Littlewood
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It's Renewal Time

Membership forms are included with this newsletter. There are questions on both the front and backside of the membership form. *Please fill in both sides of the membership form and return it to DCAGS.*

Membership dues in 2012 are the same as in 2011. There are two different levels of membership:

Individual: $23

Family: $28

In both cases there is an $8 discount if you only receive the newsletter electronically ($15 for individuals and $20 for Families). This reflects the cost of postage for mailing out the newsletter. Membership is for calendar year 2012.