

GFO Hall of Fame Recipient for 2022

The GFO was founded “*for the purpose of promoting genealogical research through education and providing tools, assistance, and offering expertise to its members.*” Our Hall of Fame recipient this year is a true emissary of this mission.

Since she joined the GFO in 1990, she has been a welcoming figure and a key contributor throughout the GFO. Many of us first met her at the registration desk of one of the numerous seminars where she volunteered, welcoming attendees with her characteristic smile and warm greetings. As a long-time member of the Education Committee, she helped procure as well as transport speakers, and diligently researched our venues. She is described as *someone “who sees and instinctively knows what needs to be done...and makes it happen!”* This was clearly demonstrated when GFO hosted the 2001 NGS National Conference where her fellow volunteers considered her a key “*team player*” who wore many hats.

In past Open House’s (when we gathered in person), she was indispensable in the smooth running of the *Ask an Expert* event. In addition, she would go through the library putting thought-provoking quips between books on the shelves, in the restrooms, and on doors and windows. All in the spirit of helping someone learn about genealogy in fun, short bursts of information. She brings that quick wit and sense of humor to every job she tackles.

She has spent about a dozen years as a Monday morning Research Assistant. Some patrons purposely visit that day just to say “*Hi!*” or to get her opinion on a variety of topics also knowing that she is always ready to dig in to help them find answers. She also adds a distinctive touch to the GFO Library by filling out the Welcome Board with the week’s activities.

Now retired after a long career with *The Oregonian* newspaper, she still applies those skills to proofread for *The Bulletin*, *The Forum Insider*, as well as the *Thursday Evening E-News*. In each, she spots overlooked but consequential errors, helping our Publications to shine.

Considered a creative problem solver with wonderful analytical skills, she reliably tackles whatever task needs to be done, always going about a solution in a positive way. This was on full display when she developed and executed a process to mesh staff schedules and patron appointments for GFO’s brief library reopening. She has volunteered to working on indexing projects, pick up donated books and manuscripts, and she has been known to pick up patrons so they could spend time at the library. Always with that smile and a story to share.

Most recently, she has brought her responsive and resourceful skills to serve as our Reopening Committee Chair.

For years she has also written *Letters to Santa* for children. It is just one more example of that spirit of bringing joy through giving of self that she truly infuses into her service, leadership, and accomplishment for GFO and makes it a sincere pleasure to present the 2022 GFO Hall of Fame Award to **April Ober**.