

2017-2018 Annual Appeal



The GFO exists to educate, provide and preserve resources, promote, compile, and publish within the genealogical community.

November 24, 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

With 2017 drawing to a close, I am writing to ask for your support. We are a 100% volunteer-reliant organization. No one at GFO is paid a dime. GFO's volunteers work hard every day to provide resources, education, and a welcoming environment. But volunteers are only part of the equation.

The simple truth is this: we rely on donations for our continued existence.

In addition to keeping our fantastic library open seven days a week and providing full access to seven online database subscription services, GFO also offers a variety of educational opportunities to support our members and encourage others to join us, including:

- Seminars and workshops twice a year with nationally-known speakers,
- Thirteen diverse Special Interest Groups,
- Free First Mondays, and
- An annual open house featuring 40 classes, free to everyone.

Yet GFO is facing challenges. Did you know that next year our expenses are expected to increase by 11 percent?

- Member dues cover just 24% of our budget.
- GFO's rent increases \$1,200 each year.
- Online database subscriptions cost \$4,524 per year.

Over the past two years, GFO has benefited from two generous and unexpected bequests which helped keep our budget out of the red. Since bequests by their very nature are unpredictable, GFO must offset rising costs with donations.

Please help GFO meet its budget by contributing today to our Annual Appeal goal of \$19,900.

- Your \$75 donation could cover one speaker's fee for a GenTalk.
- Your \$100 donation could offset one month's rent increase.
- Your \$377 donation could provide one month of database subscription services.

Every contribution you make goes directly into your library, your subscriptions, and your educational resources. GFO belongs to the Oregon Cultural Trust and has attained a silver-star rating on GuideStar.

Please give now by completing and returning the enclosed form with your gift. Or you may donate safely and securely via our website at www.gfo.org or by sending your donation via PayPal to payments@gfo.org. Please give what you can to keep GFO going strong.

Every contribution counts!

GFO provides every person who walks through our library doors, or visits our new website, abundant opportunities to research, to learn, and to discover their own unique heritage. This reflects our shared values of hard work, integrity, and empowerment—values that would make our ancestors proud!

With deep gratitude I thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurel Smith".

Laurel Smith, President

*P.S. While a move is not imminent, our GFO will someday need to find a new home. Moving is expensive and will require heavy lifting! As genealogists, we know that it's best to prioritize, prepare, and plan, and now is the time to start. So, we're now (finally) beginning our **New Home Fund**. Stay tuned for more info on this new initiative!*

Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc.

2505 SE 11th Avenue, Suite B-18 • Portland Oregon 97202 • 503-963-1932 • www.gfo.org

The GFO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and as such all gifts, contributions, and devices are tax deductible. Federal Tax ID 93-6026015



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2505 SE 11th Avenue, Suite B-18
Portland, Oregon 97202-1061

Celebrating 71 years! 1946-2017

Yes, I want to keep GFO strong!

Here's my tax deductible donation of \$_____

- I will sponsor GFO's database subscriptions for a month: \$377
- Heritage Level \$1,000 and up
- Pedigree Level \$500 - \$999
- Ancestral Level \$250- \$499
- Sustaining Level \$100 - \$249
- Supporting Level \$50 - \$99
- Patron Level up to \$49

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

- List my gift as Anonymous
- List my name in the annual report of donors as:

- Please make my gift in honor of / in memory of (circle one):

Named gifts are published annually in the Bulletin. Please limit each gift to one individual, family, or other entity such as a group or organization. The GFO does not trade, sell, or otherwise share donors' information.

- I have included the GFO in my estate plan.
- Please let me know how to include the GFO in my estate plan.

Thank you for your generous support!

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