



# THE Forum Insider

Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon  
Volume 35 • Number 7 • April 2024

## GFO Study Group Enhances Skills

### *Participants Practice Targeted Research and Report Writing*

In early September, the GFO offered members the opportunity to participate in a study group with a focus on sharpening genealogy research skills. The book *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide* by Diana Elder, AG® and Nicole Dyer was chosen for the group's inaugural curriculum. GFO's Webmaster, Ed Vandehey, facilitated this new group.

Participants were expected to

- set a research objective
- summarize what was already known about their research subject
- create timelines, locality guides, and source citations
- perform in-depth research while maintaining a research log
- analyze their findings
- formulate a conclusion with possible further study
- write a research report

Participants were also asked to conduct peer reviews on submitted assignments. A wrap-up Zoom meeting was held on February 15, 2024, for a presentation of the participants' findings and a discussion of skills learned.

The study group participants were pleased to have sharpened



Photograph courtesy of Pixabay

their research skills. One participant said, "I answered my question in the affirmative, and the results far exceeded my expectations." Another said, "It forced me to stop chasing 'shiny objects' and focus on a single research question." While others said, "the book and study group helped me understand the value of following a more disciplined approach/process in a way that I will follow from now on" and "I learned how to research much deeper than I ever had done."

The overarching sentiment is probably best summed up in the words of one of the participants

who said, "I have learned so much from this study group, the authors, [the facilitator], and all of you. Thank you for sharing your work so we could learn from each other."

Another GFO Study Group is expected to begin in the spring with a focus on the book *Research Like a Pro with DNA* also by Elder and Dyer along with Robin Wirthlin. Watch the GFO website for an announcement about the start of the new session.

Contact Ed Vandehey at [ed.vandehey@gfo.org](mailto:ed.vandehey@gfo.org) with questions.

# Genealogical Forum of Oregon

2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B18  
Portland, OR 97202-1061

## Mission

To inspire and empower every person to *discover* and *engage* with their family history.

## Contact Us

503-963-1932  
[info@gfo.org](mailto:info@gfo.org)

## Visitor Information

Library Hours  
Sundays 1–5 p.m.  
Mondays & Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Wednesdays 1–5 p.m.

## Executive Board of Directors

President <b>Geoff Smith</b>	Treasurer <b>Rebecca Tait</b>
Vice President <b>Open Position</b>	Director at Large <b>Harold Hinds</b>
Secretary <b>Alexa Waddle</b>	Director at Large <b>Tina Rainer</b>

## Committee Chairs on the Board

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Library <b>Laurel Smith</b>	Purchasing <b>Loretta Welsh</b>
Membership <b>Jane McGarvin</b>	Technology <b>Richard Crockett</b>
New Home <b>Geoff Smith</b>	Webmaster <b>Ed Vandehey</b>




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## Submissions to *The Forum Insider*

Please send short stories, news, announcements, comments, and corrections to Geri Auerbach, AG®, and Keri Logan, Editors, at [insider@gfo.org](mailto:insider@gfo.org).

Follow us 

*The Forum Insider* [ISSN 1051-5666 (print), ISSN 2377-469X (online)] is the newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Inc., 2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B-18, Portland, OR 97202-1061. Dues are \$51 per year for individual memberships and \$77 for joint memberships. Membership includes digital subscriptions to *The Bulletin* (March, June, September, and December) and *The Forum Insider* (January, February, April, May, July, August, October, and November). Material from *The Forum Insider* may be reproduced provided credit is given to the publication, the author of the article, and the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. *The Forum Insider* staff includes Geri Auerbach, AG®, and Keri Logan, Editors. Many thanks to our proofreaders April Ober, Tanya Goffman, and Harry Auerbach.



# Voting Opens for GFO Board

The GFO Board contains talented and dedicated volunteers who run vital operations for our organization. We are fortunate each year to have people interested in running for open Board positions.

For the 2024 election, there are three open Board positions that are up for election—President, Secretary, and Director at Large. Those elected to the Board will serve for two years.

Please see [page 4](#) to learn about your candidates and for a link to the ballot.

The GFO is your organization. Please vote!

All active GFO members get one vote. Joint members should submit two votes online. Voting closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

If you must vote by mail, please ensure it reaches us by that deadline.

# Nominees Sought for Hall of Fame



The Hall of Fame Award is our way of honoring GFO members who have performed outstanding service to the Forum. Recipients have a well-documented history of service, leadership, and accomplishment in more than one facet of the GFO over a significant period of time.

A nomination may be made by any

Forum member, and the recipient will be selected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

To see previous winners, visit our Hall of Fame [web page](#) or look for the plaque hanging in the GFO Research Library.

Send your nominations to [secretary@gfo.org](mailto:secretary@gfo.org) by May 1, 2024.

**Genealogical Forum of Oregon GenTalk**  
**HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY**  
April 20, 2024 ◆ 2:30 pm PT  
WITH  
Dr. Michelle Roberts  
FREE REGISTRATION  
[gfo.org/gentalk](http://gfo.org/gentalk)



# GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON 2024 ELECTION

Members: Please vote **online\***  
by 5 p.m. PT, Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

## Candidate Statements for GFO Board Positions

### PRESIDENT (two-year term)

#### Geoff Smith

GFO remains a strong organization thanks to you, our members. We have enviable participation rates from those who are able to volunteer their time and provide additional financial support. Last year, my research revealed that we are the largest genealogical society in the Pacific Northwest and the West Coast. Moreover, we are well positioned for the future.

I am pleased to run for a second term as President. As president, I expect to continue my focus on the New Home effort as a key strategy for GFO's long-term financial stability. Nonetheless, from time to time, GFO encounters opportunities such as increasing our collection, adding new indexes, and collecting primary records, and I will continue to facilitate those efforts. I have served as President since 2022 and served as Secretary in 2018–2020.

### SECRETARY (two-year term)

#### Alexa Waddle

I have been thrilled to serve the GFO and its members as Secretary for the past four years. The GFO is such an incredible asset to the genealogical community. I'm amazed at the wealth of resources and knowledge our library and members have to offer. I enjoy volunteering as a Research Assistant and facilitating The Q Review SIG. I would like to continue to support this organization in the role of Secretary.

### ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE (three-year term)

No one has declared candidacy. If you are interested in this position, contact President Geoff Smith at [president@gfo.org](mailto:president@gfo.org).

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE (two-year term)

#### Tina Rainer

I have served as Director at Large since December 2023. I find it very rewarding to be a liaison between members and the board.

I am also a member of the Library Committee and recently have become interested in GFO's New Home Committee.

Being a native of Germany who also has a genealogical license with focus on German studies, I have had the pleasure of helping many members with their German research.

I would love the opportunity to continue representing our members.



\*Online voting is preferred. If you choose to mail your vote, please do so early to allow ample time for mail retrieval before the deadline on April 30, 2024. Include your name, your member number if known, and candidate choice (You may write in a candidate if desired): Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 2505 SE 11th Ave., Suite B-18, Portland, OR 97202-1061.



# Support GFO During *Earth Week Give 2024*

The GFO is pleased to be part of the Bottle Drop's fourth *Earth Week Give* campaign. The GFO will earn a 20% match for donations made from April 22 through May 4, 2024.

There are two ways you can participate:

1. Ask us for Blue Bags with our GFO barcode labels on them. Fill them with returnable bottles and cans. Drop your bags at any Bottle Drop Return center. Look for the secure Bottle Drop door on the back or side of the building. Scan our label, which unlocks the hatch. Tie your bag tightly and set it inside. Please write to [bottledrop@gfo.org](mailto:bottledrop@gfo.org) to ask for Blue Bags.


2. Set up your own **Bottle**




**Drop account** online. Search the participating nonprofits to choose the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. Buy Green bags from the Customer Service desk at a Bottle Drop Center. Return them as mentioned above.

Note: Bags cost 20 cents each, plus a 40-cent processing fee when returned. The GFO pays those fees for Blue Bags. You pay the fees for Green Bags, though if you return your Green Bags to a retailer instead of a Bottle Drop Center, the retailer pays the processing fee.





GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON GENTALK




## DOCUMENTING

### the Historic Columbia Cemetery

The GFO holds the records for the Historic Columbia Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

#### LEARN

- how we are making the records available
- about our efforts to document the burials and photograph the markers
- about upcoming GFO field trips
- tricks for taking good photos of cemetery markers with a smartphone



**Speaker: GFO Library Chair Laurel Smith**

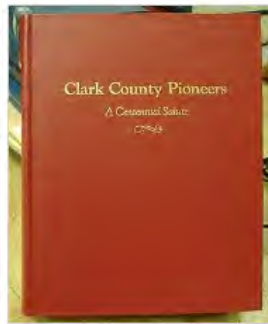
**MAY 18 • 2:30 PM PT**

**[gfo.org/gentalk](https://gfo.org/gentalk)**

# GFO Offers Books for Sale on Abe Books

Abe Books is an online marketplace used by a wide variety of independent booksellers from all over the world. The Genealogical Forum of Oregon is one of those independent sellers.

As of this writing, the GFO has 392 books for sale on this website. The books are primarily genealogical books, but we also have a large number of other books on local, regional, national, and world history for sale. The GFO gets all of the money spent on these books (minus our shipping costs).



**Clark County Pioneers: A Centennial Salute**  
Clark County Genealogical Society

Published by Clark County Genealogical Society, Vancouver, WA, 1989

Seller: Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Portland, OR, U.S.A.

Seller Rating: ★★★★★

[Contact seller](#)

BOOK

*An example of a book for sale by GFO.*

So, before you go elsewhere to buy a book, check the books GFO is selling on Abe Books. Bookmark

the page, and check back often: [Genealogical Forum of Oregon - AbeBooks.](#)



**Registration** for Rogue Valley Genealogical Society Interest Groups

<https://rvgslibrary.org/>

All times are Pacific Time.

**April 5, 2024**

1–3 p.m. German Research Help

**April 8, 2024**

2–3:30 p.m. Colonial America

**April 9, 2024**

11 a.m.–12 p.m. German  
1:30–3 p.m. Family Tree Maker

**April 10, 2024**

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Genetic Genealogy  
1:30–3 p.m. Great Lakes

**April 11, 2024**

6–7:30 p.m. Genealogy Newbies

**April 12, 2024**

1:30–3 p.m. Irish

**April 17, 2024**

1:30–3 p.m.  
Roundtable: Let's Talk Genealogy





# Online Events for April

## Wednesday, April 3

*Learn & Chat*

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

SIGN UP >

## Saturday, April 6

*Virginia Roots and Vines*

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

SIGN UP >

*German Group*

1–3 p.m.

SIGN UP >

## Monday, April 8

*RootsMagic*

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

SIGN UP >

## Tuesday, April 9

*Board Meeting*

6:30–8:30 p.m.

All GFO members are invited to attend. To receive a link to this online meeting, or request an agenda item, send an email at least 24 hours in advance to [president@gfo.org](mailto:president@gfo.org).

## Wednesday, April 10

*Great Lakes Interest Group*

1:30–3:00 p.m.

SIGN UP >

## Thursday, April 11

*The Q Review*

6–7 p.m.

SIGN UP >

## Sunday, April 14

*The Writers' Room*

2:30–4:30 p.m.

SIGN UP >

## Wednesday, April 17

*DNA Q&A: The Basics*

1–3 p.m.

SIGN UP >

*Irish Group*

6–7:30 p.m.

SIGN UP >

## Saturday, April 20

*Genealogy Problem Solvers*

9:30–11:30 a.m.

SIGN UP >

*African American Ancestry*

12–2 p.m.

SIGN UP >

*GenTalk: How to Write an Obituary*

2:30–3:30 p.m.

SIGN UP >

## Saturday, April 27

*DNA Advanced*

9 a.m.–12 p.m.

SIGN UP >

# Two Free Webinars on AI and Genealogy

Are you hearing more and more about artificial intelligence and how it may be useful for your family history research? Are you curious or confused about this evolving technology? Legacy Family Tree Webinars has two webinars in April that you may find helpful.

## Artificial Intelligence & Family History: An introduction

Presented by Andrew Redfern

Thursday, 11 April 2024

6:00 p.m. PDT

## 10 Ways AI Can Help You Find Your Elusive Ancestors

Presented by Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A.

Friday, 12 April 2024

11:00 a.m. PDT

Register for either or both at the Legacy Family Tree Webinars upcoming webinars webpage:

[Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

Note: These webinars have free registration to watch live. Members receive handouts, access to all recorded webinars, and more.



# GFO Stars

## February

### *Genealogy Problem Solvers - Brick Wall Team*

The GPS Special Interest Group models in-depth genealogy research, from analyzing data and organizing the findings to creating presentations that can be easily understood. The core facilitators of the group—Katie Daly, Duane Funk, Joann Taylor, and Kristin Wingo—each possess their own special skills to break down even the toughest of brick walls. They have combined these skills and have become known as the “Brick Wall Team.” Collectively their talents include knowledge of useful U.S. records repositories, migration patterns, and military records; excellence in deductive reasoning; diligence in following the Genealogical Proof Standard; persistence in searching through large collections; and being able to separate facts for same-named individuals. They're not afraid to admit taking a trip down a rabbit hole, and they just make all this hard work look like so much fun!

It is for all these reasons that we name the Genealogy Problem Solvers (GPS) Brick Wall Team our February GFO Star. To attend an online meeting of the GPS, visit the GPS web page to [register](#).



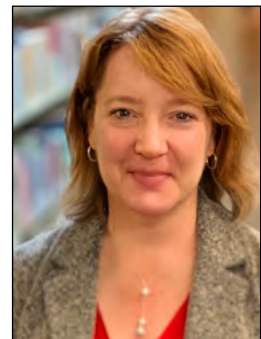
Katie Daly



Duane Funk



Joann Taylor



Kristin Wingo

## March

### *Dennis Lundahl*



Dennis has been digitizing Donation Land Claim microfilm on Monday mornings. March 4 was Free Monday, and the GFO Research Library was busy. Dennis stepped in and helped with a reluctant computer that didn't want to turn on. Back to the microfilm, and then he helped a visitor with pedigree charts. Back to microfilm, and then he next helped a member from the coast with her Donation Land Claim research in Clatsop County. He really helped the Research Assistants and our visitors. For his support in stepping outside his task to serve the members of our community, the GFO Board chose Dennis as the March GFO Star.



# GFO Special Interest Groups

SIG meetings occur virtually in Pacific Time. They are open to the public. Learn more about our SIGs at our [SIG page](#).

## AFRICAN AMERICAN GROUP

Led by Janice Sellers  
[african\\_american@gfo.org](mailto:african_american@gfo.org)

## BRITISH GROUP

Led by Duane Funk  
[uk@gfo.org](mailto:uk@gfo.org)

## DNA – Advanced

Led by Tim Janzen  
[dna@gfo.org](mailto:dna@gfo.org)

## DNA Q & A – The Basics

Led by Lisa McCullough  
[dna\\_qa@gfo.org](mailto:dna_qa@gfo.org)

## FAMILY TREE MAKER

Led by Johnna Waldon  
[ftm@gfo.org](mailto:ftm@gfo.org)

## FRENCH CANADA GROUP

Seeking leader  
[president@gfo.org](mailto:president@gfo.org)

## GENEALOGY PROBLEM SOLVERS

Led by Katie Daly  
[gps@gfo.org](mailto:gps@gfo.org)

## GERMAN GROUP

Led by Tia Cobb  
[german@gfo.org](mailto:german@gfo.org)

## GREAT LAKES

Led by Kim Thurman  
[greatlakes@gfo.org](mailto:greatlakes@gfo.org)

## IRISH GROUP

Led by Karen Hubbard, Peg Kenaga,  
and Erinn Sears  
[irish@gfo.org](mailto:irish@gfo.org)

## LEARN & CHAT

Led by Sandy Alto  
[learnandchat@gfo.org](mailto:learnandchat@gfo.org)

## THE Q REVIEW

Led by Alexa Waddle  
[qreview@gfo.org](mailto:qreview@gfo.org)

## ROOTSMAGIC


Led by Barry Wolff  
[rootsmagic@gfo.org](mailto:rootsmagic@gfo.org)

## VIRGINIA ROOTS & VINES

Led by Judi Scott and Carol Surrency  
[virginia@gfo.org](mailto:virginia@gfo.org)

## WRITER'S ROOM

Led by Geri Auerbach, AG®  
[writers@gfo.org](mailto:writers@gfo.org)





## Get Help at PMUG Clinic

**Every Tuesday Evening  
6:00 – 7:30 pm on Zoom**

- Get Free Help for your Macintosh, iPhone, iPad, iPod or Apple Watch
- For info on how to attend, contact us at:

[info@pmug.org](mailto:info@pmug.org)

# Treasurer's Report

Contact: [treasurer@gfo.org](mailto:treasurer@gfo.org)

## JANUARY 2024 INCOME

Book Sales & Misc. Income	\$ 1,003.62
Contributions	\$ 9,673.55
Grants (unrestricted)	\$ 95.60
Interest & Dividends	\$ 1,769.02
Library & Research	\$ 243.35
Memberships	\$ 4,788.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 17,573.47</b>

## JANUARY 2024 EXPENSE

Facilities & Equipment	\$ 8,817.14
Administration	\$ 2,550.49
Other	\$ 1,292.46
Publications	\$ 29.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,690.08</b>

Net Income for the Month	\$ 4,883.39
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$ 3,255.67

Donor-restricted Donations	\$ 5,327.76
Liabilities (Restricted Grant)	\$ 0.00
Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$ 6,463.25
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>\$ 11,791.01</b>

## FEBRUARY 2024 INCOME

Book Sales & Misc. Income	\$ 965.24
Contributions	\$ 23,795.77
Grants (unrestricted)	\$ 0.00
Interest & Dividends	\$ 1,183.15
Library & Research	\$ 322.10
Memberships	\$ 2,810.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,076.26</b>

## FEBRUARY 2024 EXPENSE

Facilities & Equipment	\$ 2,745.60
Administration	\$ 506.65
Other	\$ 1,046.91
Publications	\$ 29.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,329.15</b>

Net Income for the Month	\$ 24,747.11
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$ 28,002.78

Donor-restricted Donations	\$ 384.00
Liabilities (Restricted Grant)	\$ 0.00
Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$ 19,410.67
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>\$ 19,794.67</b>