

Hall of Fame Recipient

2026

Joann Taylor

We are honored to announce Joann Taylor for the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Hall of Fame award. As a primary researcher for the Genealogy Problem Solvers Special Interest Group since 2018, Joann consistently demonstrates exceptional skill, dedication, and insight. Her expertise in Northeastern U.S. genealogy—and occasional contributions in Irish research—are invaluable. She is meticulous, reliable, and deeply committed to the team, often contributing even when juggling other GFO and personal obligations.

Joann's insatiable curiosity and fearless deep dives into FAN club, and newspaper research, in particular, uncovered critical clues that advanced GPS projects. She shares her well-documented research notes with the group's members, even volunteering to meet with them afterwards to make sure they understand everything the team has done. Group members were told, "Joann is very thorough. When she gets a bone, she cleans it so well the marrow is gone. She has mad skills." Joann's contributions have left a lasting impact on the GFO community, making her a truly deserving candidate for this recognition.

Joann joined the GFO in 2017 and became a life member in 2019. Her first volunteer role was as a Research Assistant. She has also helped Loretta Welsh and the research request committee with electronic and regular requests. Joann is quick to respond to all types of inquiries and often suggests other items or areas that could be researched. Loretta summed it up by saying, "She is fabulous."

Frequently coming into the library for Sunday work parties, Joann offers help in any way needed. We've been told she has never said no to any task, from sorting through boxes of old, donated periodicals to helping clean before a big event.

In addition, Joann is editor of the weekly E-News. She publishes every week, even when she is on vacation or helping family members on the East Coast. Joann was also an integral part of the conversion of the email marketing across all GFO publications from MadMimi to EMMA. She redeveloped templates, style guides, images, distribution lists, and distribution processing logic. To the email recipients, the conversion was nearly seamless. This change in software has ultimately saved the GFO hundreds of dollars every year.

Joann is also an original member of the GFO's Bottle Sleuths group, and she recently shared her experience and assisted others in applying for dual citizenship in Ireland.

As you can see, Joann wears quite a few hats at the GFO. She has shown incredible leadership over the years. Joann, thank you for all that you do. You are a wonderful asset in so many ways that we may have missed a few!