

Supporting family historians in the South Puget sound since 1974



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GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY

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#### UPCOMING DATES

- **Thurs, May 11th, virtual**  
General membership meeting begins at 7:00pm (Meet & Greet at 6:30pm)
- **SIGs meeting throughout May**
- **May 15th deadline to submit stories for newsletter**

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## President's musings

We were very sorry to hear about the passing of our Vice President, William Kautz. I remember William's enthusiastic work together with our program committee, bringing education to the membership every month. One member, Terry Church, told the board William said he was having a lot of fun with his work as the Vice President. Terry said that William was very sweet, and he was hesitant to take on the role of Vice-President, but he wanted to keep the organization going. We are publishing a memorial to William in this month's newsletter. If you'd

like to send a card, please send in care of Justin



Kautz at William's address in the member directory. Terry Church has stepped up to take on the role of Vice President for the Olympia Genealogical Society. Terry has previous board experience, is a highly engaged member, and we welcome him to the role! We are very

fortunate to have fantastic resources serving on our board, from new members who have recently stepped up to the board, including Terry Church, Secretary Carol Jenner, and our Treasurer, Karin Coppernoll, who serves us from Monroe; plus a fantastic tech team, and our SIG leaders. Marian Burk Wood is joining us again to speak to us about preserving family genealogies and heirlooms, at our next member meeting on May 11th. Please join us, and please consider stepping up to support your Genealogical Society by joining the board.—**Laurel Haas**

### May Presentation: "Planning a Future for Your Family's Past"

Marian Burk Wood is the author of the popular genealogy book, *Planning a Future for Your Family's Past*. An experienced speaker and a long-time blogger about family history issues and methodology (at <https://ClimbingMyFamilyTree.blogspot.com>), she earned an MBA from Long Island University and a BA from the City University of New York. Marian is a Bronx native transplanted to New

England who has been researching her family tree for 25 years, with a special interest in preserving family history.

Marian will discuss how the PASS process can help in organizing and storing family history materials; setting priorities for keeping key items and finding new homes for other items; writing a "genealogical will" to safeguard your collection for the future; and sharing

your family's history now. This presentation will also discuss ideas to consider if there are no obvious heirs for your genealogy research and materials.



Photo: Marian Burk Wood

# In Memoriam for William Kautz

William Kautz, B. Sept. 24, 1944, in Chicago, Illinois, died unexpectedly on March 31, 2023, at age 78. He was a widower with 4 children, a member of the LDS church, and a relatively new member of OGS (VP since last September, who oversaw the newly formed Program Committee) but had done genealogy for a number of years through [familysearch.org](#).

He was a Civil Engineer who worked more than 40 years for the U.S. Army. He volunteered for the Vice President position when he learned that OGS couldn't operate without someone in this position.

Please send donations to "[Donations and Memorials](#)" on OGS Home page.



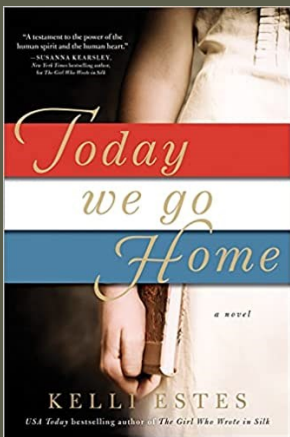
## Tribute to William Kautz

I started working on the Program Committee last September, alongside of William Kautz, Cindy Stevens Neff and Terry Church. It was a newly organized OGS committee and none of us had any experience with this type of work (aka: we didn't know what we were doing). William, a recent member to OGS, had graciously agreed

to be the VP so that we had a full complement of officers, enabling OGS to function for another year. Besides filling in for the president if needed, he also oversaw the Program Committee which included learning how to manage our meetings virtually. In that small committee, we all relied on each other for ideas and encour-

agement, and in the process became like a little family. I will always appreciate that William was such a quiet, kind and contemplative leader and I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to know him. Farewell, William – you'll be very missed.

- Diana Bargmann



## “Today We Go Home” - book review

“[Today we go home](#)” by Kelli Estes is a novel you might want to give this a try. While not one of the hard core mysteries involving genealogy and DNA, this story uses the tried and true method of alternating between the past and the present, with

the past being the diary kept by a young girl impersonating a Union soldier in the Civil War, and the present being the reader of said diary, a veteran of the conflict in Afghanistan, living right here in Washington, dealing with the aftermath in

her life. The author seems to have done her homework and research as the book weaves PTSD, genealogy and women’s roles and conflicts past and present in an engaging story line.

- Diana Bargmann

# DNA SIG leader highlight

Meet your OGS DNA SIG Facilitator Nancy Neville Cordell:

I am the OGS DNA SIG facilitator, Nancy Cordell. I've worked with the DNA SIG since its inception in 2018/19. I earned a PhD in anthropology from the University of Washington in 1991.

I served as president of OGS from 2016-2019 and I am the current president of the Puget Sound Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. DNA education was a part of my education in anthropology starting in

the 1970s. I taught basic genetics



to college students in my introductory biological anthropology

courses for 30 years. In the DNA SIG, we take a hands-on approach to help all of us use DNA testing to break through brick walls in our family history. You don't have to have a PhD to use DNA in your family history, but you do have to constantly apply what you've learned.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm on Google Meet. If you'd like to join us, please send me an email at [dnasig@OlyGenSoc.org](mailto:dnasig@OlyGenSoc.org)

*Know any local heroes or living legends? Send their stories to [newsletter@olygensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@olygensoc.org).*

## Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are a perk of membership in OGS. Free and open to all members, these groups meet monthly around a variety of topics related to genealogy. Current SIGs include: [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), DNA, family history writing, [Family Tree Maker](http://FamilyTreeMaker.com), Genealogy chat, Italian heritage, and [Legacy Family Tree](http://LegacyFamilyTree.com). These groups offer a small group setting to dive deeper into topics.

OGS is always interested in starting new SIGs so if you have a topic you would like to lead, please contact [Kerry Upton](mailto:Kerry.Upton@olygensoc.org). Meeting format is currently virtual using [GoogleMeet](https://www.google.com/meet/), a platform very similar to Zoom. If you would like to be on the SIG list please send an email to the facilitator to be included on their list of

members. You'll find their email contact on the Membership List (accessible only to current OGS members). A list of days, times, and facilitators for current SIGs is listed on the [OGS website](http://www.olygensoc.org).

★ Schedule change: Family History Writing SIG will meet May 8th **not** May 1st.

- ANCESTRY - Greg Nordlund; meets 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- DNA - Nancy Cordell; meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 6:30 pm
- ★ FAMILY HISTORY WRITING - Laura Carroll meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Note change in start time!)
- FAMILY TREE MAKER - David Abernathy; meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 10:00 am
- FAMILY SEARCH.org – Carolyn Gibbons; meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- GENEALOGY CHAT - Peggy Cooley; meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 1:00 - 2:30 pm
- ITALIAN - Greg Nordlund; meets quarterly (Nov, Feb, May, Aug) 1st Saturday 11:00 am.
- LEGACY FAMILY TREE - Jerri McCoy; meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 1:00 pm

## Guess who's turning 50?

Olympia Genealogical Society will be celebrating our golden 50th anniversary this next year. Were you a member back in 1974? Do you have photos or memories you would like to

share from OGS's early years? Next year, we will be collecting stories and running a special section in our newsletter looking back over the past 50 years. Are you a charter member or a

Past President? We would love to hear from you. Please send any articles, photos, or happy memories to [newsletter@olygensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@olygensoc.org). Articles need to be between 100-150 words

## Spring Seminar Recap

Did you Spend the Day with The Legal Genealogist®? I did and I've already started watching the recordings.

Fifty-eight people registered for the seminar and I'm sure many of them will watch the recordings. Judy Russell is a joy to learn from because of her passion for genealogy. Her presentations on wills, finding African Americans in legal documents, using court and land records, and using the law to help find records of women were full of information.

Legal documents are full of genealogical information, but it helps to know where and how to look. As Judy mentioned many times, you don't

necessarily have to go to a courthouse or archive to find those records. Depending on the city, county, and/or state, you may find those records online at [FamilySearch](#), the website of the municipality or an archive, among other places. Those records can give you information about who is related to whom, or even the economic status of your ancestors. A great time was had by all!



Photo: Judy Russell

- **Nancy Neville Cordell,**  
**Seminar Coordinator**

The **Legal** Genealogist®

Wondering how to make a donation to OGS in someone's memory? Go to [olygensoc.org](http://olygensoc.org) and click on "[Donations and Memorials](#)".

## Vital records in Washington

The Washington state Department of Health (DOH) made the first step in amending rules around vital records by filing a Preproposal Statement of Inquiry ([CR 101](#)) on January 27, 2023. The department states in the CR 101 that the rulemaking may:

- Establish registration and amendment requirements for vital records
- Update or add program processes.
- Adopt fees associated with amendment and delayed birth applications.
- Adopt or adjust fees associated with the issuance of certifications and informational copies.
- Add or remove data items collected in a vital record.
- Expand use of electronic registration of a vital event.
- Make editorial and technical changes to align with statutory changes.
- Repeal obsolete sections of rule.

A timeline of rulemaking activities can be found [here](#). It appears from the timeline DOH will be gathering input and drafting rules over the next few months.

I strongly encourage members to contact DOH to receive updates and to provide input about any changes to current statute at: [VitalRecordsRules@doh.wa.gov](mailto:VitalRecordsRules@doh.wa.gov)

- **Mandy Stahre**

# Tips and Tricks

1. Check out [The Genealogy Guys Podcast](#), Genealogy Connection and their Blog, from George C. Morgan and Drew Smith. The Genealogy Guys and Genealogy Connection is a podcast that is advertised as "the longest running genealogy podcast on the planet". There are more than 400 episodes out there. They talk about what's new on several of the genealo-

gy websites ([FamilySearch.org](#), [Ancestry.com](#), [My Heritage](#), etc.) and upcoming genealogy events, give tips about re-searching and answer inquiries about brick walls which are submitted to them. Very educational. I've been listening for a few weeks now and have jotted down several suggestions.

2. Check out the [David Rumsey Map Collection](#) from Internet Archives! Just type in those keywords into the Search bar and it comes right up. This collection of "more than 100,000 historic maps, atlases, charts and diagrams" was donated to them in 2022, according to Internet Archives.

*Do you have tips and tricks to share with other budding genealogists? Send them to [newsletter@olygensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@olygensoc.org) by the 15th.*

## Regional news

WA State Genealogical Society sent out a survey in January of this year to local genealogical societies and had 30 responses returned. Societies reported 26-125 members with 45% showing some growth in membership.

The strategies used to increase or maintain membership were:

1. Monthly meetings using Zoom or hybrid meetings

2. Communication with members via social media, newsletters and their website

3. They offered programs with desirable speakers

4. Outreach programs

5. Offered free research classes for beginners

Their biggest concerns:

- Members "aging out"

- Finding volunteers to serve as officers or on the Board

- Need to recruit the "next batch of leaders"

- Maintaining sufficient membership to cover costs (storage, insurance, room rental, speaker fees, etc.)

- Don't wear out the Board!



## Recipes—Sweet Peppers Appetizer

Submitted by Peggy Cooley:

### Ingredients:

- 1 bag of small, sweet peppers, sliced longwise and washed
- 1 package of Boursin or tub of Pub cheese
- Balsamic Glaze

### Instructions:

Fill the peppers with cheese, smoothing it out on top. Pop them in a 350° oven for 20 minutes; the cheese will be melted a bit. Drizzle with Balsamic Glaze.



### OGS Elected Officers

**President** — Laurel Haas  
**Vice President** — Terry Church  
**Secretary** — Carol Jenner  
**Treasurer** — Karin Coppernoll  
**Past President**—Kathy Erlandson

### Team Leads

Book Management— Rebel Romero  
Information Technology — Joe Brookshier  
Membership — Bob Monn  
Newsletter — Peggy Cooley  
OGS Historian — Vacant  
Publicity — Mandy Stahre  
Refreshments — Diana Bargmann  
Research — Jerri McCoy  
Spring Seminar — Nancy Cordell  
Sunshine—Gayle Strom  
SIGs—Kerry McHugh-Upton

### Community Partners

City of Lacey — Erin Quinn Valcho  
Timberland Library — Agatha Burstein

### “Research in Other Countries” - April General Membership Meeting

So you've been tracking down your ancestors and you've finally arrived to the one who immigrated to America – now what? Do you feel that the only choices you have are to travel to that country for further research (but you can't speak that language!!) or hire a professional “over there” to do the work for you? We heard from three of our own OGS members on their research in Norway and Italy as Linda Fialkowski, Jon Halvorson, and Greg Nordlund shared their techniques, tips and recommendations with us. Handouts from the meeting are available on the OGS website under “Program Materials”

## April Meeting Minutes

Past President Kathy Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The March 2023 general meeting minutes were approved as published in the March 2023 OGS Newsletter. Peggy Cooley, reporting for the Newsletter Team, urged members to contribute items, particularly those related to the availability of new resources. She urged members to respond to the newsletter survey included in the April newsletter. The members of the Nominating Committee have been busy calling all members. The position of President is open. Anyone interested in serving in that role should contact Peggy Cooley. Kerry Upton urged members to register for the Spring Seminar, scheduled for 15 April. Recordings will

be available for 30 days to those who registered for the event. The Special Interest Groups are active and going strong! Members are urged to participate in any (or all) of our SIGS: Family Tree Maker, Legacy Family Tree, DNA, Ancestry, FamilySearch, Family History Writing and Genealogy Chat. Old Business: The OGS board is planning a retreat on 17 June at a yet-to-be-determined location. Kathy Erlandson, Kerry Upton, and Laurel Haas are planning the retreat. Discussion topics might include reviewing job descriptions, returning to in-person events, and reinstating monthly genealogy workshops (or other outreach activities). OGS is also looking for possible venues for in-person meetings. Members should contact any board member with suggestions.

Announcement: Terry Church reported that the Program Team has finalized programs through June. Marian Burk Woods will discuss “Planning a Future for Your Family's Past” in May. A representative from the state library will present in June. Program: Diana Bargmann introduced a panel of OGS members who presented a program focused on international research. Linda Fialkowski and Jon Halvorson discussed their work with Norwegian research. Greg Nordland followed with a presentation on researching ancestors in Italy. A question-and-answer period followed the presentations. Kathy Erlandson adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Thirty-three members were in attendance.