



Volume 24 Number 1

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Editor pro-tem: Dan Royal

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## President's Message

2010 is now over and a new year has begun. I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and a nice Christmas or just had a great holiday overall. This year we are going to try and finish some projects we were hoping to get done last year. We will be having another open house sometime this year again and some classes. For our general meetings we have it planned thru the year and some of next year. Good job, Barbara.

All societies have members which is what we all want and need, but it takes volunteers to make societies successful. Most volunteering is only a few hours a month. You don't have to be an officer as there are other opportunities available to help. You may not know what is required to do a certain job, but with all of the past and present officers, or previous job holders they are there with support. Please step up and help since we have open positions. It is also a way to get to know other members and learn more. We need volunteers for the following positions: Newsletter, Sunshine, Projects, Ways & Means, Bylaws/Standing Rules and SECRETARY.

In this difficult time of economy due to budget cuts, cities and states are closing or have closed museums and libraries. This is something we must stand together and try to stop from happening. The latest one is Tacoma's Washington State History Museum. History is important whether it is used for ancestry or otherwise. It is what made our countries and our ancestors.

I am looking forward to serving another term as President. I would like to thank as my fellow officers, board members and volunteers for helping me thru my first term. I was very nervous when I took on that job. I would like for members to let me know or other officers know what you would like to see and ideas to better improve our society. I know I have a full time job, family, grandkids (#2 in my life), and my crafts that I do, but O have made time for my ancestry and the society and sometimes need ideas or suggestions. Lets all make this a great year of knowledge for everyone, full of friendships and success stories.

*Dottie Chandler, President*

## Openings for Board Positions

We are currently in need of persons to fill the following positions on the Board of Directors which meet once a month EXCEPT July and August.

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Gather, compose and produce a bi-monthly newsletter with information relevant to members of the genealogical community.

Mail and/or submit to webmaster for posting on the society website

### PROJECTS CHAIR:

Be responsible for the coordination of records and preservation projects undertaken by members of the Society;

Instruct membership in the procedure for the collection of primary source data;

Serve as clearing house for data collection;

Advise Board of Directors of all preservation projects being conducted;

Maintain a permanent record of data preserved by the Society.

### WAYS & MEANS CHAIR:

Submit plans for fund raising projects to the Board of Directors

### SUNSHINE PERSON:

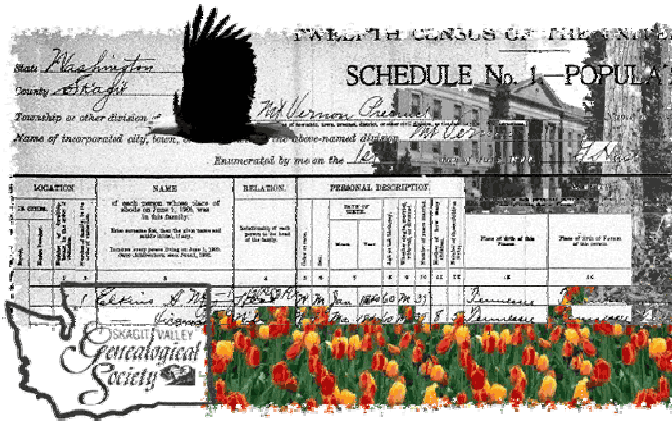
Mail cards of condolence and be contact person for events involving members

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Just a friendly reminder that dues are now due for the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. In the event you may have already paid, it is possible that they were sent in and just haven't reached me yet. Our year goes from Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st. Dues this year are \$15.00 for single membership and \$20.00 for family membership.

Christine Cooper

Membership Chairperson



**SVGS Board of Directors 2011**

- President:** Dottie Chandler  
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**Projects :** OPEN

**Publications:** Sylvia Ammons  
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**Ways & Means:** OPEN

**Publicity:** George Ridgeway  
360-424-4427 4george30@comcast.net

**Special Committees**

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svgstree@hotmail.com

**FGS Delegate:** Rita M. Schulze  
360-856-2826

**Nominating:** OPEN

**Audit/Budget:** Sharon Johnson  
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**Bylaws/Standing Rules:OPEN**

**Refreshments:** OPEN

**Raffles/Door Prizes:** Sharon Johnson

**Obituary Index:** Nancy Bonafede  
Dottie Chandler  
Sylvia Ammons  
Donna Stone

**Special History**

**Projects:** Dan Royal

**SOCIETY EMAIL:** genealogy715@gmail.com

**Comb Binding ...**

For members, The society owns a comb binding machine. If you call Dan Royal @ 360-826-6141 he will make arrangements to bind your pages into a book for you. Cost is: \$1.00 per book to cover supplies.

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter accepts business card size advertisement. The cost will be \$10.00 per issue and the editor can help put one together for you if you don't have something ready. If anyone would like queries or surnames to be posted in the newsletter, please send to... *Ye Editor*

**ADVANCE NOTICE OF GENEALOGY CLASSES SCHEDULED FOR 2011**

**HOW TO DO RESEARCH ON YOUR FAMILY HISTORY**

Four sessions, Mondays, April 4, 11, 18, and 25th from 12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland, Mount Vernon, WA.

**RESEARCHING LAND RECORDS IN THE UNITED STATES**

Three or four sessions, Mondays, Sept. 19 and 26, October 3, and 10th  
 Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland, Mount Vernon, WA.


These will be classes for researchers who have some experience and are willing to participate in a seminar type of class. There will be a registration fee of \$30 for each class. Registration will start in March for the "How to do research on your family history." Watch for an e-mail to members in March regarding details for registration and for flyers in the Senior Centers announcing the class. Further information regarding "Researching Land Records" will be announced in August.

The Education Committee is also hoping to put together free Genealogy Workshops in areas around the county. These will be one day sessions of two to three hours in an afternoon most likely. Any members who are willing to assist in aiding others in their Family History on one of these days may contact Shirley Christenson, 360-770-0741. Watch for further information on these workshops in the Senior Center newsletters and the next Skagit Valley Genealogical Society newsletter.

Shirley Christenson, Education Chairman

**Burlington Public Library**

820 E Washington Ave  
 Burlington, WA 98233  
 Phone (360) 755-0760  
 Email:  
 blibrary@ci.burlington.wa.us  
 Hours: Monday – Thursday  
 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
 Friday & Saturday  
 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday – Closed




**SVGS Library Collection located here. SVGS Volunteers available on Mondays from 11:00—1:00 to assist with questions.**  
**Margie Wilson—SVGS Librarian**

**BackStory with the American History Guys** is a new public radio program that brings historical perspective to the events happening around us today. On each show, renowned U.S. historians Ed Ayers, Peter Onuf, and Brian Balogh tear a topic from the headlines and plumb its historical depths. Over the course of the hour, they are joined by fellow historians, people in the news, and callers interested in exploring the roots of what’s going on today. Together, they drill down to colonial times and earlier, revealing the connections (and disconnections) between past and present. With its passionate, intelligent, and irreverent approach, BackStory is fun and essential listening no matter who you are.

Released to air on December 22, and broadcast on KUOW on New Year’s Eve, BackStory looks at “Beyond Numbers: A History of the U.S. Census,” a fascinating story of how Americans have counted themselves throughout our nation’s history. The History Guys explain what was so revolutionary about the concept in 1787, and explore how assumptions about who counts as an American have shifted over time. They also look at reasons the “undercount” became an important issue in the 20th century, and consider the ways Americans’ suspicion of government has posed a challenge to the work of the Census Bureau.

BackStory is a program of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, and is broadcast over KSVR in Mount Vernon, KUOW/KXOT in Seattle, and KPBX and KSFC in Spokane. Currently, three years of BackStory programs are archived at the show’s website <http://backstoryradio.org/>.

Bob Witherspoon



**Library Donation**

It would be nice to mention in the newsletter that the SVGS Library recently received a donation of three boxes of genealogy books from the Mount Vernon Library...and to say thank you to them for the donation. I will be sending Betsy at the Mt Vernon Library an official thank you letter when I return next week to Washington....but a public thank you in the newsletter would also be nice.

All for now, thanks!  
 Margie

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society  
Upcoming Programs 2011

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January 29: Brick Walls. Do you have an ancestor that “just doesn’t want to be found”? We all do. Bring your questions and we’ll see who can help you find that ancestor. **NOTE: Special Saturday meeting from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm at the Burlington Library.**

February 22: Video from familysearch.org – Newspaper Research in the United States. Learn how to find your ancestors in old newspapers.

March 22: Laura Sparr: NARA in Seattle – What You Can’t Find on the Web. Not all genealogy research can be done on the Internet. Laura will tell us what you can find just down the Interstate in Seattle.

April 26: Margaret Robe Summit: Quilts and Genealogy—Margaret will share with us information on interpreting antique quilts and ideas for present day genealogy quilts.

May 24: Robert Lopresti from WWU – Census Enumeration Districts at Western Washington University. If you have Pacific Northwest ancestors, this is the place to be. Robert will give us tips and tricks to find our ancestors.

### Who Do You Think You Are?

This celebrity genealogy program will air its second season beginning on Friday, February 4 at 8 p.m. on NBC. This year’s celebrities are:

Ashley Judd  
Gwyneth Paltrow  
Tim McGraw  
Rosie O’Donnell  
Steve Buscemi  
Kim Cattrall

If you missed the first season, each episode of this highly popular program features a different celebrity who is “searching” for his/her ancestor. During the program, the celebrity journeys to different parts of the United States and often to different parts of the world. As they arrive at each destination, a professional genealogist is there to hand them documents about their ancestors.

The program is sponsored by ancestry.com. One can view previous episodes at <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/video/categories>

Now you and I know that doing family research is not as easy as the series implies. But it has captured the imagination of many young people. Last year’s series had the highest number of viewers in its time slot. And these viewers were an advertiser’s dream demographic—18-54 years old.

I found the show enjoyable. However, it does make researching look sooo easy and none of the celebrities hit any brick walls. Let’s hope that some of those in the viewing audience wind up exploring more and—just maybe—coming to a genealogical society meeting and even joining!

## Coming Events

4 Feb 2011 - Bellevue, WA

The Eastside Genealogical Society German Interest Group: "Crossing the Atlantic – Our Ancestors' Voyages" presentation will be given by Ken Passe. If you have pictures and stories about your ancestor's journey, please bring them to share. We will meet on February 4th (1pm to 3pm) at Crossroads Mall Community Meeting Room (near the Lotto/Information Booth), 15600 NE Eighth St., Bellevue. Visitors are always welcome.

5 Feb 2011 - Seattle, WA

The Association for African American Historical Research and Preservation is presenting its 2011 Black History Conference. This high caliber conference, anticipated to be the best ever, is a rare opportunity to increase your knowledge of black history from local, national and international presenters. Sessions are lively, informative, thought-provoking. The conference will reveal new scholarship, current trends, and exciting avenues for new research and presentation.

10 Feb 2011 - Bellevue, WA

The Eastside Genealogical Society General Meeting (7 to 9 pm) at the Bellevue Regional Library, NE 12th St and 110th Ave NE, Bellevue. Doors open at 6:30pm for networking. Come learn how to get the most out of scanners and enjoy the interesting family photos that members will show and tell about. Visitors are always welcome.

10-12 Feb 2011 - Salt Lake City, UT

RootsTech 2011, A New Family History and Technology Conference to Define the Future of Genealogy!

You have never seen anything quite like this - the first annual RootsTech Conference in Salt Lake City will be in a league of its own. From the Community Zone and participant-driven un-conferencing discussions to the RootsTech Playground, this conference is going to be ground-breaking and unique. Think major technology creators (Microsoft, Dell, FamilySearch, Ancestry.com, and brightsolid) and technology users (genealogists and family history buffs) coming together in a fun, collaborative environment for three days to learn new, technology-based skills and define the future of family history through technology!

Millions of genealogists use technology daily to help them in their ancestral pursuits. Be one of the thousands of RootsTech 2011 attendees to:

See firsthand how new and emerging technologies can improve and simplify your activities

Help influence the future of genealogy

Learn and share new ways to adapt technologies to genealogy

Engage in emerging technology demonstrations

Help leading-edge technology providers better understand your

needs and how to satisfy them

There will be sessions of interest to novice, intermediate, and advanced users of genealogical technology. The intended skill level for each session is noted in the RootsTech 2011 Conference program.

The sessions will include:

Hands-on workshops

Interactive presentations

Sneak peek demonstrations of new products and services

Panel discussions

Common interest gatherings

Unconferencing discussions (last minute, on-the-fly sessions requested by attendees)

Go to [RootsTech.org](http://RootsTech.org) to see the full list of topics and sessions.

Register now at [RootsTech.org](http://RootsTech.org):

\* \$99 through January 7, 2011

\* \$150 beginning January 8, 2011

RootsTech is sponsored by Microsoft, Dell, FamilySearch, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, brightsolid, Ancestry.com, the National Genealogical Society, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and Brigham Young University.

12 Feb 2011 - Seattle, WA

The Puget Sound Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists will present Jim Johnson, Director of the Heritage Quest Research Library and PS-APG member at 10 am at the Pacific Alaska Region National Archives, 6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA. Jim will talk about "Westward Migration During the Gold Rush Era."

12 Feb 2011 - Port Angeles, WA

The Clallam County Genealogical Society presents "WHEN GENEALOGY AND HISTORY MIX...THREE BLACK PIONEER FAMILIES IN THE AMERICAN WEST." Speaker will be John "Jack" Ravage, a retired college professor, writer, producer of TV documentaries and has served as a consultant to museums and historical societies. He is also an expert on historical photography and has one of the largest collection of African American photographs. Meeting time 10:00am-noon St. Lukes Episcopal Church, 525 N. 5th St, Sequim, WA. Contact CCGS office/library at 360-417-5000 or check the web site for more details.

14 Feb 2011 - Mercer Island, WA

The Jewish Genealogical Society will host "Locating Jewish Records on the NEW National Archives Websites," by Carol Buswell, Education Specialist for the NARA in Seattle. Doors open 7 pm and presentation starts at 7:30 pm. Held at the Strum Jewish Community Center, 3801 East Mercer Way, Mercer Island WA 98040. The JGSWS library and WIFI will be available.

Change is in the air! The National Archives recently completed a major redesign of their website at <http://www.archives.gov>,

and little-known documents and materials are more easily available as a result. In addition, billions of NARA documents are being continuously added to commercial and non-profit websites, including Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest, Footnote.com, and FamilySearch.org.

Carol will introduce these and other new resources, as well as techniques for using them to discover Jewish family, community, and political records from the Civil War through the 20th century. She'll show how effortless it is to do research on these websites.

The National Archives in Seattle holds valuable federal government documents for Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, a large microfilm collection for all states, and free computer access to commercial websites that feature National Archives records.

Free admission for JGSWS members and one guest per year, \$5.00 for non-members.

19 Mar 2011 - Kent, WA

The South King County Genealogical Society will host a 1/2 day seminar featuring Steven M. Morrison. Time 8 am to 12 noon at the First Baptist Church of Kent, 11420 SE 248th St., Kent, WA 98030. Topics: "Outlaw Genealogy — Finding the Outlaw in YOUR Family" and "Detours Around — Irish Roadblocks and Stone Walls."

19 Mar 2011 - Chimacum, WA

The Jefferson County Genealogical Society will present a seminar featuring Donna Potter Phillips, speaking on "American Immigration: From Where, When, Why and How?"

Sessions will include:

American Immigration: From Where? When? Why? How?..... Our ancestors came to America from all over the world, during a long period of time, for a myriad of different reasons and by many differing travel methods. This session will suggest some answers for your research.

Squeezing Migration Clues From the Sources ..... There are hundreds of different sources that will yield clues about the emigration-immigration and migration of your ancestors. This session will explore a goodly number of these sources.

Emigration-Immigration-Migration Resources Online..... Today it's a given that the Internet holds many (not all!) research answers for us in our pursuit of family history. This session will highlight some of the many online resources and databases for this aspect of research.

Admission is \$25.00. Location is the Tri-Area Community Center, 10 W Valley Rd, Chimacum, WA. The doors will open at 9:00am with coffee and fellowship. Heritage Quest will be here selling many of their books. Come early to browse and see what new items they have brought. Donna will start her talk at 10:00am with a 45 minute lunch break and a 15 minute afternoon break. JCGS will provide coffee but participants should bring their own lunch. Our seminar should end about 3:30pm. Seating is limited so register early! Visit their web site for more information and a registration form.

9 April 2011 - Olympia, WA

The Olympia Genealogical Society will hold their annual Spring Seminar, featuring speakers on "Migration By Wagons, Trains and Ships." Topics will be "Migration and Westward Expansion," "Wagons West," "Railroads and Their Role in Western Migration," and "Westward Migration Via Ships." \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. \$5 late fee after 26 March 2011. Time 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Here is a link to the society's seminar page for more information and a registration brochure. Attendance is limited to 70, so plan to register early.

7 May 2011 - Tacoma, WA

The Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society will host Laura G. Prescott, President of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Held at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites, 1425 East 27th St., Tacoma, WA. \$35 for members, \$50 for non-members. Time 8 am to 4 pm. Here is a link to the brochure. For more information on Laura Prescott click here. Check the society's web site for more information.

3-5 June 2011 - Montreal, Quebec, Canada

The Quebec Family History Society will host ROOTS 2011 - An International Conference on Family History Research. This event will be the largest English-language genealogical conference ever held in Quebec. There will be numerous well-known speakers discussing all aspects of family history research, computer demonstrations, and a book fair. All lectures and events are in English. Location will be at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. For complete program details and registration form visit the QFHS website (above) or e-mail: roots2011@bell.net You may also write to: ROOTS 2011, Quebec Family History Society, P.O. Box 1026, Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada H9S 4H9 or call: 514-428-0236

16-17 Sep 2011 - Richland, WA

The Washington State Genealogical Society will present their 2011 Annual Seminar, sponsored by the Tri-City Genealogical Society. Featured speaker will be Patricia Walls Stamm, GC, CGL, from St. Louis, MO. In addition to a bonus session on Friday night, Patricia will present three topics on Saturday, along with many other presenters with many topics. There will be three concurrent topics of four each. More details to follow so check back often at this link: <http://www.tricitygenealogicalsociety.org/wiki/doku.php> MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW so you won't miss this event!!

**Source: Washington State Genealogical Society Website; <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasgs/wsgscal.htm>**



**Helen Katherine Bretvick**, 78, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Sunday, January 16th, 2011. She was born August 3rd, 1932, in Waterbury, Connecticut to Louis and Katherine Schiller, the youngest of five children.

She attended school in Naugatuck, Connecticut, and graduated from high school there in 1950. While growing up on the east coast, she spoke fondly of trips to New York City to ice skate at Radio City, and attending the Metropolitan Opera House.

Helen met Duane "Red" Bretvick in 1954, and they were married in 1955. They settled in LaConner, where they raised five children.

Throughout her life, she had many jobs, but above all, she was a homemaker and wonderful wife and mother. One of her favorite jobs was pollinating crops at Hedlin's Greenhouse in LaConner as a self-proclaimed "bee". She also took five kids to pick strawberries at Hasting's farm one summer!

Helen loved handiwork, including knitting, crochet, needlepoint, and quilting. She knitted hats which were donated to charity. She especially enjoyed weekly gatherings with her sewing group. She gardened, bowled with "The Hopefuls" League, and loved spending time with her family and friends. Helen was also very interested in genealogy and compiled much information tracing her and Duane's family roots.

Helen was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and Sacred Heart Church in LaConner. She was a Campfire Leader and worked with Cub Scouts as a den mother, as well as helping with her children's many other activities. She was a member of the **Skagit Valley Genealogy Society**.

Helen and Red enjoyed traveling, which included cruises to the Caribbean and Norway, with stops in Denmark, Copenhagen, and London. They enjoyed Hawaii and trips to the ocean, both Pacific and Atlantic. They made several trips to Connecticut to visit the rest of her family.

Among the many memories of Helen, her family best remembers Mom sang, whistled, and danced throughout the house, sometimes all at the same time! She was a friendly, energetic, giving and caring woman, with enough love not only for her own children, but everyone in the neighborhood too. She had an endearing laugh that would make you laugh when you heard it! Helen's generosity and kindness will be well remembered. She was fun!

Helen is survived by her husband Duane; sisters, Betty Harrison, Grace Nolan, and Teresa Sroka, sisters-in-law Lorraine Van Brocklin and Mary Schiller; children, Lynn (Frank)

Handy, Karen Bretvick, Neil (Donna) Bretvick, David (Marrilee) Bretvick, and Scott Bretvick; grandchildren, Frank Louis Handy, Richard Handy, Michelle Hernandez, Angela Hernandez, Amanda Bretvick-Posch, Abby Bretvick, Melissa Bretvick, and Kelcy Bretvick; several nieces and nephews; and one great-grandchild, Chayton Engelson, and her most recent cat Brandy.

Helen was predeceased by her parents, one brother Louis Schiller, brothers-in-law, Robert Harrison, James Nolan, and Edwin Sroka, and one grandchild Jonathan Handy.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society, 728 134th St. #101, Everett, WA 98204, the American Heart Association, Northwest Affiliate 710 2nd Ave., Suite 900, Seattle, WA 98104 or the charity of your choice.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Skagit Valley Hospital who provided excellent care for Mom during this time, and the staff at Kern Funeral Home for their gracious assistance throughout this difficult time.

Visitation will take at Kern Funeral Home on Friday Jan., 21st and Saturday Jan. 22nd 10:00am to 8:00pm both days. A funeral mass will be held on Monday, January 24, 2011, 1:30pm at St. Charles Catholic Church, 935 Peterson Road, Burlington, WA.

You may share your memories of Helen, and sign her online guest register at [www.kernfuneralhome.com](http://www.kernfuneralhome.com).

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Kern Funeral Home of Mount Vernon. Published in Skagit Valley Herald Publishing Company on January 20, 2011

#### **EDA CLARE OLNEY (1916 - 2011)**

Eda was born Sept. 4, 1916 in Hughenden, Canada; she passed away January 15, 2011 in Mount Vernon.

She was a member of the King Guild United General Hospital, the D.A. R. and Skagit Valley Genealogical Society.

She is survived by her son, Mervin Cruthers.

She was preceded in death by her husband and 2 sons.

Eda will be inurned with her husband at Hawthorne Memorial Park.

There will be no services at Eda's request.

Cremation arrangements are under the care of Hawthorne Funeral Home, 1825 E. College Way, Mount Vernon. Published in Skagit Valley Herald Publishing Company on January 18, 2011

This Newsletter is published by the Members of SKAGIT VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY and is distributed free of charge to members. A non-profit organization, membership is open to all persons interested in historical research, preservation and publications of genealogical interest.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2011**

APPLICANTS NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

AREA CODE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Member \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY \$ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION \$15 \_\_\_\_\_



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**Post Office Box 715**  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**WANTED: Newsletter Editor**