

Volume 17 Number 5 President: Laura Pemberton-Sparr Newsletter Editor: Dan Royal PO BOX 715, CONWAY, WA 98238-0715

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SVGS Library Collection:
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Burlington, Washington

President's Message

October was Family History Month; we at SVGS decided to show tribute to this special month acknowledging genealogy and family history.

We sponsored two special events in recognition of FHM; a seminar with speaker, Donna Potter-Phillips on October 16 at Burlington Senior Center and our first Heritage Festival, October 30 also at the center.

Both of these events were well supported by our members as well as member of other genealogical societies and new members. I was pleased to see this level of response and look forward to increased participation at the Heritage Festival next year.

I'd like to thank all the SVGS committee members for their time and energy spent volunteering for these two fund raising events as well as thanks to Heritage Quest of Sumner, and the Seattle Genealogical Society for their support. We couldn't have accomplished these events without everyone's support-Thank you all!

As we move forward to the busy holiday months of November and December, I wish everyone a very happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you at our meeting November 23rd.

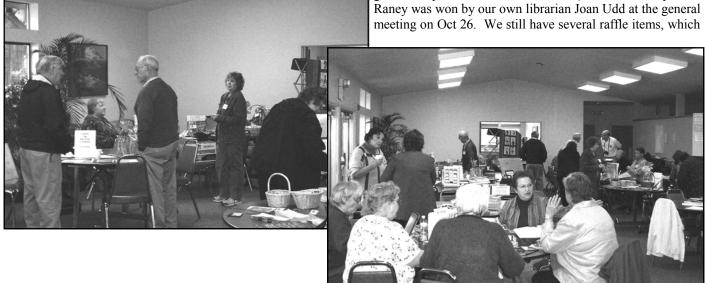
Annual Conference & Heritage Festival off to a great start during Family History Month!

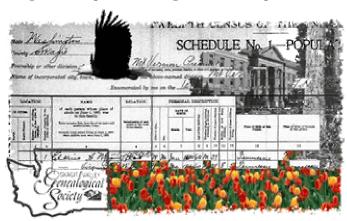
Post Seminar News

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the events scheduled for Family History Month during October. Our committee consisted of Diane Partington, Darlene Libbey, Vonda Anderson, Pat Bartlemey, Lorraine Rothenbuhler, Donna Hinds, Iona Raney, Norma Keefe-Hills, Jim Mowrer, Dan & Maureen Royal, and Arnold Stewart. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU. Some of you worked on both events, others on just one, but everyones help was great and gratefully appreciated. If I forgot anyone, please accept my apologies and know that everyones help was needed and appreciated.

We had a great turnout at both events. Heritage Quest in Sumner brought their books to both events and all of our attendees found something useful in their assortment of books and maps.

Both events were very successful. Lots of entertainment and good feelings and lots of networking came from the Oct 16 seminar with **Donna Potter Phillips.** Her presentations were very informative and spiced with just the right amount of humour. I believe that everyone who attended came away with a door prize (we had many, many give-aways thanks to many genealogical vendors). Many of our raffle prizes were given away also. The Pinwheel Quilt donated by Iona Raney was won by our own librarian Joan Udd at the general meeting on Oct 26. We still have several raffle items, which





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Special History Project

C0-chairs

Hazel Rasar Dan Roval

Calendar of Events

Attentian !! 2004 Winter 2005

General Meeting:

November 23 A "Show and Tell" program will be presented by our society members who have constructed a genealogy related project of interest to the group. Bring your project to display and inspire others.

December- No General Meeting HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

January 25 Heidi Thomas, a local writing instructor, will provide an introduction and overview of her "Memoir Writing Course". This may provide a good push for some of us to write our family history.

February 22 Darilee Bedner, owner of Third Street Book Emporium in Marysville, has many books and school year books in her store. She will show some of her local year books and explain what her book emporium has to offer genealogists. She is also the Gen Web Project Coordinator for Skagit County. http://www.rootsweb.com/~waskagit/

Centre for Resource & Research

Laura Pemberton Sparr announces that the library has been moved to the Center of Spiritual Living facility, 1508 N. 19th Street, Mount Vernon. A new series of genealogy classes and workshops will begin on Thursday, September 16th. Check your e-mail for a notice, drop her a note at laurasparr@hotmail.com, or call her cell at 425-231-6945. The plan is to be open on Thursdays, with other times by appointment. See you there!

The Skagit Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter is now accepting 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 to be posted in the newsletter again, I certainly wouldn't be opposed to it. Ye Editor

Comb Binding .. For members

The society owns a comb binding machine. If I you call Arnold Stewart at 360-466-3288 he will make arrangements to bind your pages into a book for you. Cost is: \$1.00 per book to cover supplies.

will be given away at the November 23 general meeting. Tickets are still available for a Red Hat lap quilt donated by Lois Theodoratus, a beautiful wine-colored afghan donated by Ione Bradburn and a basket of hair supplies with the choice of a perm or hair color donated by Debbie Rasar of Rumours Hair Design.

I would also like to thank Costco for donations of items for our delicious lunch prepared by my daughter-in-law Debbie Rasar. Haggens of Mount Vernon, Thrifty Foods of Burlington and the Darren's Donuts in Mount Vernon contributed the wonderful assortment of bakery items, fruit and vegetable trays. And thank you to Sharon Johnson of Cedardale Orchards for the wonderful fresh apples we all enjoyed for our afternoon break.

On October 30 we had a nice response from the community for our **Heritage Festival**. Many people came to see what we are all about and we gained two new members. Welcome to the Mancers. We received information from a few people for our book project, Dan was kept busy scanning photographs and I was busy with Internet questions. Other stations which received some activity as well included, Learning How to Write your Memoirs, a Beginners table for just getting started, Learning How to fill out Pedigree and Family Group sheets, and how to use a Digital Camera for genealogy.

A great thank you to Dave Ault, Barbara Raemer, Lisa Stewart and Patricia Summers-Smith for coming up from the Seattle Genealogical Society and having computers available to show anyone interested how to use several different genealogy programs.

Thanks to everyone for the wonderful support. **Hazel Rasar - Publication Chairperson**

A Resolution to Designate October as Family History Month: From: Senator Orrin G. Hatch, UTAH To: United States Senate July 10, 2001

(Reprinted from the internet)

Dear Colleague:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to ask you to cosponsor my resolution that will dedicate the Month of October of each year as "Family History Month."

Within the last month some 14,167,329 people researched their family history and 24 million people have used the Web and email to locate or hunt for family or friends with whom they had lost touch. Researching ancestry is a very important component to self identity. It can lead to long-sought-after family reunions or life saving stories like that of Nancy Andjelich Margraff. Nancy's story, found in the book In Search of Our Ancestors by Megan Smolenyak, helps to illustrate the need for public attention to the important subject of family history. Nancy started showing signs of an illness that afflicted her father who died suddenly at the age of 39. At the time her mother was told that her father had a rare illness

that caused the cerebral hemorrhage that killed him.

After Nancy learned she had this deadly illness, she began corresponding with the Minister of Health in Zagreb, Croatia. He kindly accepted and distributed informational packets that Nancy put together regarding the diagnosis and treatment of her illness. She disseminated the informational packets to her extended family members, many of whom are alive today because they were identified through family history research that lead to the early diagnosis and treatment of their affliction.

At present, there are some 2,500 genealogical societies in the United States that represent approximately a million people who belong to these groups. One such group, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, represents around 560 genealogical societies and ultimately at least a half million individuals. There is no doubt that the study of family history is growing in popularity and is an important tool in researching ethnic identity and genetic health concerns.

I urge you to join me in supporting the millions of American men and women who have researched their family history by co-sponsoring the Family History Resolution. For more information on this resolution or to add your name as a co-sponsor, please contact Chris Campbell in my office at (202) 224-4412. **Orrin G. Hatch United States Senator**

BUSH JOINS HATCH IN CELEBRATING FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Washington — Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) today welcomed President Bush's proclamation in support of October 2003 as Family History Month. This year marks the third straight that America has celebrated October as Family History Month, a result of Senate-passed resolutions sponsored by Hatch.

"We are fortunate to have a President who recognizes that an overwhelming number of Americans are striving to learn more about their ancestors," Hatch said. "I am thrilled to see the surge of interest in family history. As they discover their heritage, millions of families are growing closer and becoming stronger."

President Bush said the following in today's proclamation:

"I send greetings to those observing Family History Month.

"Lessons in family lineage are often lessons in courage, endurance, and love. While tracing our roots can be challenging, the rewards can be great — affirming our pride in our history and keeping us mindful of the sacrifices of our forbears.

"Viewing records and photographs, and listening to memories of parents and grandparents are ways to learn about the inspiring experiences of families. Libraries can recommend other public archives to help in the research of family heritage. In honoring the contributions of our ancestors, we improve our understanding of the past and better prepare ourselves for the future. "Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable observance. **George W. Bush**

Coming Events

6-7 Nov 2004 - Seattle, WA The Seattle Genealogical Society is holding a seminar, "Using Your Computer for Genealogical Research." Nov 6 offers sessions on Genealogical Databases and Computer Search Techniques. Nov 7 offers sessions on Digital Aids and Publishing and Ethnic Background Research by Computer. Please visit their website at http://www.rootsweb.com/~waseags/

10-14 Jan 2005 - Salt Lake City, UT The Utah Genealogical Association announces the tenth annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Please visit their website at http://www.infouga.org/

19-29 Jan 2005 - Salt Lake City, UT The Fiske Genealogical Library plans a research trip to Salt Lake City, UT. Please visit their website <u>at http://www.fiskelibrary.org/</u>

20-27 Jan 2005 - Salt Lake City, UT Donna Potter Phillips has organized a research trip to Salt Lake City, UT. For more information check the The Eastern Washington Genealogical Society website http://www.rootsweb.com/~waewgs/ or email Donna at donnapp@earthlink.net. (Trip not sponsored by EWGS>)

5 Mar 2005 - Kent, WA Gene-A-Rama. Mary Clement Douglass, CGRS, will present four sessions. Further information will be posted as it becomes available.

19 Mar 2005 - Vancouver, WA The Clark County Genealogical Society is holding their Spring Seminar featuring Cyndi Howells of Cyndi's List. Mark your calendar now so you will be able to attend. It will be held at the Washington State School for the Deaf. Please visit their website at http://www.ccgs-wa.org/

17 Apr 2005 - Mercer Island, WA The Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State will host two lectures on one day by Steve Morse, of Ellis Island fame and fortune. This will be a Sunday and we will try to schedule this after church hours. More details on their website http://www.jgsws.org/

22-23 Apr 2005 - Yakima, WA The Yakima Valley Genealogical Society will host the Washington State Genealogical Society's Conference and Annual Meeting. More details will be posted as they become available. http://www.rootsweb.com/~wayvgs/

Volunteers Needed

The telephone committee is in need of two volunteers to replace our faithful callers, Edna Bainter and Ramola and Wes Seabury. This would involve calling about five members each month to remind them of the upcoming meeting. We send many thanks to Edna, Ramola and Wes for their longtime services.

Vonda Anderson Telephone Committee

Society News

155 members this year!

A Field Trip to the Seattle Public Library By Iona Raney

A few Skagit Valley Genealogical Society members joined Whidbey genealogists on a field trip Oct 1 to the Seattle Public Library, and vowed we'd go back as soon as we could.

Darlene Hamilton, who spoke to our society about the new library, gave us a grand tour, explaining the shelving, the cataloging, and the broad range of resources and where they would be found. There was explanation of the unique architectural features. After this half hour orientation, we settled down to do serious research and some of us made break-throughs. Others fleshed out our existing characters. Some eliminated resources that were disappointing. But that's the way a trip is.

We had developed book lists through the internet catalog and were ready to research in earnest. At the end of the day, a number of the people on this trip asked when the next one would be. They wanted to sign up.

One little feature of the library is that transportation systems, elevators, escalators and stairs, are a brilliant shocking chartreuse. Bathrooms are a gentler blue. The ribs and structural elements are exposed—steel floors, exposed beams and pillars—few things that are not totally functional.

The Whidbey group hires the Oak Harbor Senior Center 24 passenger bus and driver for the day, and each passenger pays \$15 and spends the day at a research facility further away from home than they would otherwise go, perhaps.

SVGS Obituary Clippings Some Background by Hazel Rasar

The obituaries have been collected since 1987 when our society was organized. An initial contest gave us a few early obits but none that were consistent. When Dee Ackerman of the Whatcom County Gen Society passed away she had been collecting obits from the Courier Times and the Skagit Argus for many years and some of her files covered the years from 1980-1986, but we have no way of knowing if this is a complete collection as these are both weekly papers and the majority of obits are published in the Skagit Valley Herald.

A few years ago, Barbara Harris and her nephew Kenneth Klaus donated some papers from the 70's but I am not sure how many or if they are a complete collection of years. We have no way of knowing for certain on this.

John and Shirlee Fisher, Mollie Sackman and others in the society have been in charge of clipping obituaries from local papers since the society was formed. With John and Shirlees move to California Barbara Ricketts is presently doing that job with Norma Keefe-Hill filing the obits.

We are interested in any collections of older obituaries to fill in our collection. Please contact Hazel Rasar if you can help in this regard. Thank-you to all volunteers who've been instrumental in building this collection.

Dan Royal has set a deadline at the SVGS website for having the **Obituary Name Index** on-line. *More page 5*.

Website

http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasvgs

Dan Royal has set a deadline at the SVGS website for having the **Obituary Name Index** on-line the first of January 2005. He is working on creating a search engine that will make it easy for folks looking for obituaries on a Skagit County surname of a particular family member or ancestor. There will also be a printable form to order the obituary from SVGS that you've been looking for. There will be a nominal fee for this service.

Affiliate Program

You can help the Society by buying your favorite genealogical magazine, CD or book from the societies website through an affiliate program with the publishers. Simply click on the link below to the magazine or website of your choice, pay for whatever you are interested in and the society will receive a small commission for your doing so. A simple way to help contribute to Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and their ongoing works.

Genealogical Resources

Available from the Anacortes Public Library Anacortes Newspapers on Microfilm Submitted by Sharon Johnson

American Bulletin

August 1, 1951 – December 28, 1951

Anacortes American

1890-1932

January 1933-December 1939

March 1959-December 1962

January 2, 1974- December 25, 1974

January 1986-December 1986

Anacortes Bulletin

1950-1961

Anacortes Citizen

January 1911-December 1912

January 1913-December 1914

January 1921-December 1922

Anacortes Progress

1889-1892

Anacortes Reporter

January 18, 1962-Decmeber 26, 1962

January 2, 1963- December 25, 1963

Northwest Enterprise

March 25, 1882-March 13, 1886

Skyliner

February 1978-July 1981

Dan Royal has started a new project at his website the Stump Ranch http://www.stumpranchonline.com

He is recording alumni of Concrete High School from 1918 to present with photos of the class and yearbook. He is asking alumni to contribute. *See URL address to the right>>>*

Subject: Memoirs Class

Hi, I'm starting a new Memoirs writing session Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 2:30 p.m. if you're interested. We'll probably get in 4 or 5 sessions before Christmas, then continue in January. They are held at the Mount Vernon Senior Center 1401 Cleveland Ave. Hope to see you soon! **Heidi Thomas**

News Release-Washington State Digital Archives Grand Opening

The much-anticipated grand opening of America's first state government digital archives occurred on October 4, 2004. The opening gala event hosted Washington State legislators, county officials, archivists from throughout the United States, as well as a delegation of regional archivists from as far away as China. Among the speakers at this prestigious event were Secretary of State Sam Reed and Lew Bellardo, Deputy Archivist of the United States.

The Digital Archives Archival Management System was also brought on-line that day, with the electronic marriage records from Chelan, Snohomish and Spokane counties — as well as the Historic Census and Naturalization records database — web arrayed in an easy to user search interface (www.digitalarchives.wa.gov).

It is the mission of the digital archives to preserve and make accessible the electronic records for both state and local government agencies in Washington State.

National Archives now accepts Online Orders

Dick Eastman Genealogical Newsletter

The National Archives' most frequently requested genealogical records may be ordered online. Using "Order Online", you can order copies of passenger arrival records; copies of specific pages from the Federal Census; copies of Eastern Cherokee applications; copies of Federal land entry files; Federal military pension files for the Revolutionary War through the Civil War; and military service records for the Revolutionary War through the Spanish American War — all from the comfort of your own home.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has made all of its form requests available online at: http://archives.gov/research room/orderonline.html. The site requires that you register as a user and pay with a credit card.



http://www.stumpranchonline.com/ concretehighschool

From Joan the Librarian

New books are being processed and will be added to the library as donations from Rita Schulze and Janet Armbrust. They are: Lyman County Pioneers (South Dakota) 1885 -1968; Indiana, A History; Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area; Yesterday When I was Younger (Illinois); Kane County Illinois Early Families 1833-1885. SVGS members have also recently taken part in the program of purchasing books for the library and sharing the cost. Everyone is invited to do this as a way of adding to the holdings those items of interest.

Another way for each of us to share our genealogical reference resources is to list those books and other items i.e.CD's we have in our personal libraries. Bring this listing to our general meeting and I

will put them in a special book reserved for that purpose. Everyone is welcome to look at these lists and then make arrangements with the owner for the use of these materials.

The Burlington Library has renewed their subscription to the Heritage Quest online service, accessible in several ways. This is a great way to find and print out census records and many other things. For further information please talk to the friendly librarians in Burlington or phone me. This is a great service so please let Christine Perkins, the library director, know that you appreciate this when you go to the library.

The traveling library comes to the general meeting each month and items may be checked out for a month at a time. A special bonus comes on November! Because there is no meeting in December items checked out at this time can be kept for two months! Take advantage of this special offer.

The Monday volunteers for our library for the remainder of this year are as follows: Nov. 15 - Donna Hinds; Nov 22 -Hazel Rasar; Nov. 29 - Sharon Johnson; Dec. 6 - Iona Raney; Dec. 13 - John Hayes; Dec. 20 - Diane Partington; Dec. 27 -Rita Schulze. Start off the new right and sign up as a library volunteer, it is very rewarding. Joan Udd

Burlington Public Library

Burlington Public Library has supported SVGS for several years by allowing us to house our collection of library resources in their facility. Recently while visiting their website I found a wonderful list of genealogical links, some of them linking to our society website.

Visit their website and you will be pleasantly surprised with

Welcome New **Members**

Dr. John L. Mattson Everett, WA

Barbara & Ward Lynch Everson, WA

Tordis Maland Busskohl Burlington, WA

Billie Barb

John & Suellen Kay Mancer Mount Vernon, WA Freeland, WA

the resources they have identified for genealogy. Be sure to thank them the next time you visit the library. Hazel

http://www.burlington.lib.wa.us/community.htm#genealogy

GENEALOGY & HISTORY

Family History Center, LDS http://www.familysearch.org Heritage Quest Databasehttp://www.burlington.lib.wa.us/databases.htm Pioneer Book of Skagit County

http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasvgs/Databases/pioneer/

Skagit Valley History http://www.skagitvalleyinternetdirectory.com/history.html

Sedro Woolley Museum

http://www.sedrowoolleymuseum.homestead.com/

Skagit County Death Records 1891-1908

http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasvgs/Databases/skagit county death index.htm

Skagit County Historical Museum and Historical Society

http://www.skagitcounty.net/Common/asp/?d=HistoricalSocie

=General&p=main.htm tv&c

Skagit River Journal of History and Folklore

http://www.stumpranchonline.com/skagitjournal/

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasvgs/

StumpRanch: Family & Community History of the Upper Skagit Valley http://www.stumpranchonline.com/

U S GenWeb Project for Skagit County

http://www.rootsweb.com/~waskagit/

Washington State Archives Genealogy Resources

http://www.secstate.wa.gov/history/genealogy.aspx

Washington State Archives Northwest Regional Branch

http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/archives_northwest.aspx

Washington State Historical Records Search

http://www.secstate.wa.gov/history/search.aspx

Washington State Vital Records Information http://www.vitalrec.com/wa.html

Salt Lake City Trip

Marilynn Wright is in the planning stage for a trip to Salt Lake City March 2005. She would like to invite Skagit County Genealogical Society member who are interested to join the Whidbey Group.

She has contacted the Carlton Hotel in Salt Lake City and reserved a block of rooms for the week of March 13 to March

Contact Marilynn 360-678-4324 or mwright@whidbey.net

Attention SVGS Members:

Please come prepared at the General Members Meeting Tuesday November 23 to update for the website.....

Home Pages of SVGS Members. This would be any member who has a family webpage on the internet. For example: you might have something with your ancestry at Family Tree Maker, we need the URL address.

Surname Listings. This would include all surnames in your family tree you are researching, we will need your name and e-mail address. Dan Royal Webmaster

Resolution

Designating the month of October each year as "Family History Month"

Whereas it is the family, striving for a future of opportunity, and hope, that reflects our Nation's belief in community, stability, and love;

Whereas the family remains an institution of promise, reliance, and encouragement;

Whereas we look to the family as an unwavering symbol of constancy that will help us discover a future of prosperity, promise and potential;

Whereas within our Nation's libraries and archives lie the treasured records that detail the history of our Nation, our States, our communities and our citizens.

Whereas individuals from across our Nation and across the world have embarked on a genealogical journey by discovering who their ancestors were and how various forces shaped their past;

Whereas an ever-growing number in our Nation and in other nations are collecting, preserving and sharing genealogies, personal documents and memorabilia that detail the life and times of families around the world;

Whereas 54,000,000 individuals belong to a family where someone in the family has used the Internet to research their family history;

Whereas individuals from across our Nation and across the world continue to research their family heritage and its impact upon the history of our Nation and the world;

Whereas approximately 60 percent of Americans have expressed an interest in tracing their family history;

Whereas the study of family history gives individuals a sense of their heritage and a sense of responsibility in carrying out a legacy that their ancestors began;

Whereas as individuals learn about their ancestors who worked so hard and sacrificed so much, their commitment to honor their ancestors' memory by doing good is increased;

Whereas to encourage family history research, education and the sharing of knowledge is to renew the commitment to the concept of home and family; and

Whereas the involvement of National, State, and local officials in promoting genealogy and in facilitating access to family history records in archives and libraries are important factors in the successful perception of nationwide camaraderie, support and participation: Now, therefore,

Resolved, That the Senate --

- 1) designates the month of October each year as "Family History Month;" and
- 2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Orrin G. Hatch United States Senator

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

FO Box 715, Conway, Washington 98238 Email: genealogy2@verizon.net

Web: http://www.nootsweb.com/~wasvgs Phone: [360] 424-6528

"Skagit County, Washington and Its People! 150 Years of Rich History & Heritage"





Accepting photographs and family history information for our history project. Example of submissions...

August Kemmerich and Family

Birdsview, WA—July 5, 1902
Left to Right, standing, rear: Mary, Joseph, John, Anna. Seated: August, holding Mark, Julius, wife Barbara, Kathryn. Standing in front: Clara. Submitted for the history project by Barbara Kampareich Halliday. Kemmerich Halliday

Questionnaire Line 12. Do you know who was the first settler in your family to arrive in Skagit County and where they settled? August Kemmerich was the first settler on my

father's side to arrive in Skagit County. He settled in Birdsveiw, WA on the north bank of the Skagit River. A portion of his homestead is now Rasar State Park

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 - 2004

APPLICANTS NAME		
ADDRESS STREET, CITY, STATE & 9 DIGIT ZIP CODE		
AREA CODE () TELEPHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS	
New Member	Renewal	Previous Member
FAMILY \$ 12	INDIVIDUAL \$10	INSTITUTION \$10



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED