

**THE BEACON  
JANUARY 2018**

<b>SIGS Officers for 2017-2018</b> <b>President: Brenda Sanchez</b> <b>Vice President: Phylis Jorgenson</b> <b>Secretary: Kathy Morrow</b> <b>Treasurer: Samantha Morales</b> <b>contact officers at</b> <b>sigs (AT) alderwood.org</b>	<b>BEACON EDITOR</b> <b>(this could be YOU!!!)</b> <b>JOB IS OPEN</b> <b>Contact Beacon Staff</b> <b>for more details, email</b> <b>sigs (AT) alderwood.org</b> <b>ATTN - BEACON</b>
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**SIGS Research Library**  
**Humble House, Heritage Park, 19827 Poplar Way, Lynnwood, WA**  
**Library hours: 11 to 3 on Tues., Thurs. and Sat.**  
**Telephone 425-775-6267 Online Catalog at**  
**<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wasigs/sigsLIBINTRO.htm>**

**\* \* \* SIGS MEETING WEDNESDAY, 3 JANUARY 2018 \* \* \***  
**At The FHC in Mountlake Terrace**

Our first speaker for the New Year will be our old friend Jill Morelli, who will tell us all about her favorite "Top Ten Tech Tools" for genealogy. Jill will describe a variety of hardware and software tools that she uses, mostly on a daily basis; she says she can NOT do her genealogy without them!

The meeting venue is the Family History Center in the LDS building at 22015 48th Avenue West in Mountlake Terrace. The (brief) General Meeting starts at 6:30, followed by socializing (also brief and with cookies) with Jill's presentation beginning at 7. Use Google to find directions and/or create a map. Park around the back of the building; (the EAST side); the entrance at the NORTH end of the building opens to the front door of the FHC.

**SIGS WEBSITE IS "DOWN"**

Since its creation, the SIGS website has been part of the RootsWeb server community, hosted by Ancestry. At this time, our site is down, and there is no Best Guess as to when it will be functioning again. Ancestry posted a Security Update on 23 December – read it at <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2017/12/23/rootsweb-security-update/>

**HAPPY NEW YEAR WISHES**  
**from**  
**SIGS PRESIDENT, BRENDA SANCHEZ**  
**and the SIGS OFFICERS and DIRECTORS**

## MEMBERSHIP

New Year's Resolutions – make plans to invite a non-member to any upcoming meeting. Show off how really REALLY great our group is! Conveniently have a few membership forms in your purse or pocket (don't forget a pen/pencil). We can build our membership base with a little bit of soft-sell!

## SIGS WISH LIST for 2018

Your Society is seeking a Web Manager who has the skills to re-design our website so that it meets the needs (if not the wishes) of site visitors, and to teach US how to effectively bring our website into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. IMPORTANT! It is NOT necessary for the new Web Manager to be “a genealogist”!

The Library (as always) could certainly use more volunteer staff; perhaps you can spare only 4 hours, once a month, or whatever time/skill you can offer. We will cope with YOUR schedule!

Curious about any of these volunteer opportunities? Call the Library during Open Hours and the staff person on duty will get your name and contact information to the appropriate Director.

## Official “Thank You”

Many thanks to **Brenda Sanchez** and **Carlos and Doni Balansay** for making our December “Holiday Traditions of our Ancestors” program so entertaining, enlightening and, well, “TASTY”.

## MLT FHC REOPENS

The Family History Center in Mountlake Terrace will reopen on Tuesday, 2 January at 9 am. Call the FHC after 9 am to confirm that the Center is indeed open. The phone number is 425-776-6678.

## In-depth Genealogy Education Opportunities

*by Carol Budney*

These days, there are a number of ways to further our genealogy education. We could participate in online webinars, watch YouTube™ videos, or attend local seminars and conferences; these are the most convenient ways to gain or enhance our genealogical expertise. However, the archaic method of “attending school” can be a great opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge about genealogy methodology or special interest research. Short one week courses referred as “Genealogy Institutes” are available nationwide.

Genealogy Institutes offer classroom experience on a specific subject for one week, usually located either on a college campus or at large hotel conference center. Lodging, food services (cafeteria/restaurants), and classrooms are often in one location. Off-site lodging may be available if you aren't a fan of college dorm rooms.

Institutes offer to attendees a varied curriculum of courses where they can learn from the best educators and well known genealogy experts. Subjects such as genealogy ethics and standards, the law and genealogy, special interest research topics, forensic genealogy, including the ever popular topic, DNA Genealogy, have been featured at three popular institutes -

Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) located outside of Pittsburgh, PA. [www.gripitt.org](http://www.gripitt.org)

Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) Utah Genealogical Association, held in Salt Lake City, UT [www.SLIG.ugagenealogy.org](http://www.SLIG.ugagenealogy.org)

The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) sponsored the Georgia Genealogical Society held in Athens, GA. <http://ighr.gagensociety.org>

What can you learn at a Genealogy Institute? I learn best in a classroom setting where I can learn from the instructor and my classmates. My attendance at institutes offered a great learning environment. There were many tips and tricks learned and shared. Yes, Virginia, there may be homework, depending on the course you take. At an institute, you may find yourself sitting at the lunch table with famous genealogy experts you've seen on TV, immersed in great discussions which might result in finding those elusive clues that will break down YOUR brick wall!

I have taken courses at all three of the institutes listed above . Most were to improve my writing skills, writing and publishing for genealogy - great for that family book or scholarly genealogical publication. I've learned the basics on genetic DNA and the third-party tools to analyze DNA results. I've explored genealogical methods and proof standards that will help me be a better genealogist. Institutes can also offer in-depth on finding/researching various ethnicities, religious organizations, U.S. state- or Canadian province- specific research, how to find a female ancestor or uncover migration patterns.

An example - to learn more about researching my Polish ancestors, I attended an "Advanced Polish Research" class at GRIP on The Road in Michigan. I learned about the various online Polish genealogy databases available that I didn't know existed as well as records located in Detroit. I was able knock a brick or two out in my Polish brick wall.

Limiting your education to what is readily attainable at arm's reach, you may be missing a fun and great educational experience. Consider attending a Genealogical Institute if you are seeking to add to your educational repertoire, OR if you just want a reason to go to Genealogy Camp for a week.

## HERITAGE PARK PARTNERS NEWS

A rare winter treat: Jeannie Rogers (aka “The Trolley Chick”) has organized a special Heritage Park open house and tour for the Woodinville Woodshed Model Railroad group (yes, they ARE also known as the “Woo-Woos”).

Our own Walter the Trolley Car is SO looking forward to meeting this group at 10:30, on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. AND, Guess What! Walter and Miss Jeannie have invited YOU to tour ALL the park's historical attractions, too!

### CALENDAR

**Wed, 3 Jan 2018 – SIGS Monthly Meeting featuring Jill Morelli at the Mountlake Terrace FHC.** Her topic – Top Ten Tech Tools. General meeting starts at 6:30, Jill's presentation at 7. More details on Page 1 of this issue of The Beacon.

**Sat, 6 Jan 2018 - Basic Beginning Genealogy** 10 am at the SIGS Library. FREE!

**Thu, 11 Jan 2018 - Heritage Park Event** 10:30 – 3.. All buildings open for visitors. See “Heritage Park Partners News” at the top of this page for details.

**Sat, 13 Jan 2018 - DNA Focus Group** 1pm to 2pm at the SIGS Library. FREE!

**Mon, 15 Jan 2018 2017 – SIGS Board Meeting** – 12:30 to 2:30 at SIGS Library.

**Tue, 16 Jan 2018 – Scandinavian Focus Group** - 11am to 12 noon, SIGS Library. FREE!

**Tue, 16 Jan 2018 – German Focus Group** – 1pm to 2pm, at the SIGS Library. FREE!

**Sat. 27 Jan 2018 – Brick Wall Busters Group** – 10am to 11am at the SIGS Library. FREE!

**Wed, 7 Feb 2018 – SIGS Monthly Meeting at the Family History Center in MLT** – meeting at 6:30, speaker Mary Kathryn Kozy at 7. “Evidence – Finding It and Evaluating It”. Details in the February issue of The Beacon.!

### SEMINARS, CONFERENCES and SPECIAL EVENTS

**Wed, 28 Feb 2018 through Sat, 3 Mar 2018 – RootsTech 2018** – Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah. Read all about it on the RootsTech website – visit <https://www.rootstech.org/>

**Sat, 7 Apr 2018 – Olympia Genealogical Society Spring Seminar** – Lisa Alzo – Immigrant Cluster Communities; Silent Voices: Female Immigrant Ancestors; more. Registration begins January, 2018. Visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~waogs/>

**SNO-ISLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
2017-2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL  
YEARLY DUES - \$25.00 PER YEAR  
(1 September 2017 through 31 August 2018)**

**PLEASE PRINT**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_  
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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
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DUES \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the form, include it with your check and either bring both to the Library OR mail to SIGS, 19827 Poplar Way, Lynnwood, 98036.

If you would like a Membership Card mailed to you, please include a Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope with this application form and your check.