

BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2024
Volume 24
Issue 7



BAGS General Meeting Friday, July 26, 7:00pm *8 Tips for Using AI as Your Genealogy Assistant with Dana Leeds*

AI (Artificial Intelligence) can help you complete many tasks faster than you can on your own. This makes it an incredible time-saver! It can also help you get more out of the records you find. But where do you start and what can it help you with?

Dana Leeds, creator of the **Leeds Method**, will highlight eight areas where AI can be a patient and knowledgeable assistant, supporting you in both your genealogy research and daily tasks. In genealogy work, AI can help summarize information, extract and visualize data, write engaging family history narratives, convert handwritten documents into searchable text, and illustrate family stories. AI can also assist with daily tasks such as tech troubleshooting, saving valuable time. Join us and discover the various ways AI can help be more efficient and effective in your pursuits!

Dana is a professional genealogist with over 25 years of experience. She created the highly respected Leeds Method, a tool for identifying unknown biological parents and grandparents, confirming biological relationships, and breaking through genealogical brick walls. Despite not having a formal background in artificial intelligence, she's been an early adopter and has become a leader and innovator in the field of AI applications for genealogists.

Registration for this meeting is located on the [BAGS website](#).

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Special Points of Interest

BAGS Welcome
Social Media Links
BAGS Partnerships
Clayton Library Partner Links

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS GROUPS



IN-PERSON Education Spotlight Members Helping Members

July 9th, 10:30am – **FamilySearch part 2**

August 7th, 10:30am – **Newspapers**

At **Education Spotlight** MHM meetings, topics are introduced with a brief presentation, followed by hands-on “how to,” and then attendees can practice what has been presented. Several hosting members will be on hand to help attendees and a handout will be provided. **Education Spotlight** meetings will be held at the **Friendswood Public Library, 416 S Friendswood Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546**

ONLINE Research Members Helping Members (sessions #1 & #2)

#1 Mondays, 10:00am to 12:00pm

with **Reneé Ball & George Porterfield**

#2 Mondays, 7:00pm to 8:00pm

with **Kim Zrubek & friends**



Need assistance with your family tree or a genealogical brick wall? BAGS members can participate in MHM sessions via **Zoom**. Participants share their screens and demonstrate research finds. Details for connecting to a **Zoom** MHM link are available on the [Members Helping Members page](#).

FOCUSED Research Members Helping Members (at session #2)

#2 Mondays, 7:00pm to 8:00pm, with **Kim Zrubek & friends**



Monday evening MHM sessions, after a General Meeting (via **Zoom** or in-person), focus on the topic from the previous general meeting. These focused sessions will provide a more detailed overview of specific topics from the general meeting to allow participants to ask additional questions about the presentations. The group will use information and techniques presented in a hands-on approach to participants' actual experiences. The next focused sessions are:

July 1 at 7pm – Using That Brick Wall as a Foundation **July 29 at 7pm – 8 Tips for Using AI**

More information is available on the [Members Helping Members page](#).



Family Tree Maker – *by Appointment Only*

If you would like help with Family Tree Maker MHM or need to ask questions about how the software works and interacts with other genealogical sources, you can now make appointments directly with our FTM guru, **Reneé Ball**. Help with technical concerns, such as software upgrading and exporting files, is also available. Connection details are on BAGS [Members Helping Members page](#).



**German
Special Interest
Group**

Our BAGS German Special Interest Group is **currently on hiatus**. For questions/information you may contact **George Porterfield**. Members are encouraged to utilize our other [Members Helping Members](#) events for further research help with German Ancestry.

Still Need Help?

Complete the [BAGS Help Desk Form](#) and email it to [Kathleen Williams, Education Chairman](#). She'll respond to discuss your research needs!

Bay Area Genealogical Society is proud to be members of:
National Genealogical Society,
Texas State Genealogical Society, Clayton Library Friends,
and
International German Genealogy Partnership



INTERNATIONAL GERMAN
Genealogy Partnership

BAGS EVENTS and OPPORTUNITIES

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

Using FamilySearch Effectively part 2

Tuesday July 9th, 10:30am

Friendswood Library

Please bring your own laptop/device. We will cover FamilySearch Wiki and unindexed records. We'll also briefly review Full Text Searching. See BAGS website for more details

NEWSPAPERS!

Wednesday Aug 7th, 10:30am

Friendswood Library

We'll be discussing the major commercial newspaper websites, how to locate lesser-known newspaper websites, and different searching strategies. Please bring your laptop or other device as well as your research.

Volunteer Opportunity – County Coordinator!!

BAGS needs a County Coordinator! This FUN position doesn't require much time, outside of the bus trip to Clayton Library and minimal planning. The County Coordinator schedules 4-6 bus trips per year. Two BAGS members currently serve as backups and assist the County Coordinator as needed.

The County Coordinator:

- Works with Harris County to schedule each bus trip.
- Communicates upcoming dates to the board for publications.
- Maintains all usage agreements and emergency forms.
- Tracks attendance, sends reminders, and takes attendance (beginning/end of each trip) to ensure all attendees are present.

A minimum of ten attendees is required for Harris County bus usage guidelines.

Interested? Please contact Kathleen at education@txbayareagen.org for more information.

Board Meetings

All BAGS Board Meetings are virtual via Zoom. Members are welcome to attend! If you would like to attend a meeting, request a link from info@txbayareagen.org

2024 Meetings

July 22

August 19

September 23

October 21

November 18

Board meetings are on Mondays at 6:30pm. Board meeting minutes are available on the Members Page of the BAGS website.

Follow BAGS on Facebook!

[Facebook Group \(members only\)](#)

[Facebook Page \(public page\)](#)



txbayareagen.org/



JULY RESEARCH | LIBRARY UPDATES



Friendswood FamilySearch Center

In-Person MHM Research Session

July 17th, August 21st, September 18th

9:30am to 11:30am (for BAGS Members only)

The Friendswood FamilySearch Center is located at **505 Deseret Dr**, in Friendswood. The entrance is on the side furthest from the street. This MHM session is open to BAGS members **ONLY** for research. The center is also open to the public for research during the listed visitor hours:

Tues, Thurs, & Fri 10:00am – 2:00pm

Tues evening 7:00pm – 9:00pm

This center has access to the FamilySearch Center Portal page, which gives free access to premium family history software and websites that generally charge for subscriptions.

League City FamilySearch Center

The League City FamilySearch Center is located at **4655 South Shore Blvd**, in League City. The FamilySearch Center's entrance is on the SE corner, at the back of the building, away from the street. Use the first entrance off of South Shore Blvd.

The League City FamilySearch Center is open to the public for research:

Tuesday and Wednesday 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Saturday 10:00am – 12:00pm

This center has access to the FamilySearch Center Portal page, which gives free access to premium family history software and websites that generally charge for subscriptions.

Clayton Library Sponsored Events

The **Family History Center at the Clayton Library Campus** is open for research! Staff are available to help you get started and to assist you in locating books, microfilms, periodicals, and databases to further your research. You can even visit their NEW YouTube channel [here!](#)

CLF Donated Duplicate Booksale – Saturday, July 20 and August 17, 11:00am – 3:00pm, (repeat)

Clayton Library Friends General Meeting – Saturday, August 17, 10:30am – 12:00pm, (hybrid)

“State of the Library at Clayton.” Carl Smith is the new Manager of the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus. He will be presenting the Annual State of the Clayton Library Report.

Scanning Saturdays – July 20 and August 17; please call for an appointment. (repeat)

Bring your photos, slides, or documents, and a flash or thumb drive to save your images. Volunteers will be available to help get you oriented to the scanners. *Appointments are available at 10:30a; 12:00p; 1:30p, or 3:00p. Call 832-393-2600 to reserve your spot!*

Clayton Library Friends Partner Societies | [The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society](#) | [The Bay Area Genealogical Society](#) | [The Baytown Historical Preservation Association](#) | [Galveston County Genealogical Society](#) | [German-Texan Heritage Society](#) | [The Greater Houston Jewish Genealogical Society](#) | [Hispanic Genealogical Society of Houston](#) | [The Houston Genealogical Forum](#) | [Houston History Alliance](#) | [The Humble Area Genealogical Society](#) | [League City Historical Society](#) | [The Matagorda County Genealogical Society](#) | [Texas Research Ramblers Genealogical Society](#) | [West Houston Area Genealogical Society](#)

Family History Research Center @the Clayton Library, 5300 Caroline Street, Houston, Texas 77004

BAGS BUSINESS | INFORMATION

2024 BAGS OFFICERS

President

Teresa Rundell

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First Vice President

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Terri Myers

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Statement of Activity as of June 1, 2024

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Checking Account | \$3,155.50 |
| Saving Account | \$12,162.12 |
| PayPal | \$74.03 |
| Total Monetary Assets | \$15,391.65 |

Welcome Newest BAGS Member!

**Thomas and Janice Parish
and Robert Bennett**

Fifteen residents from Grand Living at Tuscan Lakes, joined several BAGS members for an introduction to BAGS and Genealogy presentation on June 20th. President Teresa Rundell helped multiple community members get a taste for family history and invited the residents to join us at our June 28th Members Meeting!



Additional points of contact:

Don't know the Members Page password?

registrar@txbayareagen.org – George Porterfield

Research questions or provide research assistance:

education@txbayareagen.org – Kathleen Williams

Have an article or idea to share?

newsletter@txbayareagen.org – Cindy Austin

Submit information for the Journal:

journal@txbayareagen.org – Todd Roberts

Ideas for BAGS advertising:

publicity@txbayareagen.org – Terri Myers

Not receiving emails?

emailcoord@txbayareagen.org – Fred Roe

Want to go on the Clayton Bus trip?

countycoord@txbayareagen.org – for reservation

Submit your pedigree chart to:

pedigreecharts@txbayareagen.org – pedigrees/questions

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Bay Area Genealogical Society, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the people of Harris and Galveston counties, Texas, who are interested in genealogy. Articles on genealogy are welcome. Inclusion is based on space available and is subject to editing. Please include permissions with copyrighted material submissions. Questions or comments about the BAGS Newsletter should be addressed to the Editor at newsletter@txbayareagen.org. All rights reserved.



BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

For the latest news and event updates,
visit our website at texasbayareagen.org



July 2024

Calendar of Events - 2024

JULY

- 1 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
7/24 Focused follow-up: Using That Brick Wall as a Foundation
- 8 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 9 10:30a Education Spotlight *Friendswood Library, FamilySearch part 2*
- 15 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 17 9:30a MHM, Friendswood FSC
- 22 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 26 7:00p JULY Members Meeting – *Dana Leeds; 8 Tips for Using AI as Your Genealogy Assistant*
- 28 4:00p Meet 'n Munch – *La Brisa, 501 N. Wesley, League City, TX*
- 29 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
7/26 Focused follow-up: 8 Tips for Using AI

AUGUST

- 5 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 7 10:30a Education Spotlight, *Friendswood Library, Newspapers*
- 12 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 19 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 21 9:30a MHM, Friendswood FSC
- 23 7:00p August Members Meeting – *John Sellers; Researching Your Ancestor's Plot: The Adventures of Courthouse Land Research (Zoom)*
- 25 4:00p Meet 'n Munch – *TBA*
- 26 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2

SEPTEMBER

- 2 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
8/30 Focused follow-up: The Adventures of Courthouse Land Research
- 9 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 16 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 18 9:30a MHM, Friendswood FSC

SEPTEMBER – con't

- 23 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
 - 28 12:00p September Members Meeting @ *UBC Members Show & Tell Presentations & Potluck*
 - 30 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- ### OCTOBER
- 7 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
 - 14 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
 - 16 9:30a MHM, Friendswood FSC
 - 21 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
 - 25 12:00p October Members Meeting (Zoom) – *TBA*
 - 27 4:00p Meet 'n Munch – *TBA*
 - 28 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
10/25 Focused follow-up: TBA

NOVEMBER

- 4 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 11 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p Members Helping Members #2
- 18 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting (Zoom)
- 20 9:30a MHM, Friendswood FSC
- 22 7:00p November Members Meeting – *Nicole Dyer Genealogy Writing & Artificial Intelligence (Zoom)*
- 24 4:00p Meet 'n Munch, *TBA*
- 25 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
11/22 follow-up: Genealogy Writing and AI

DECEMBER

- 2 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 9 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2
- 16 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
6:30p BAGS Board Meeting
- 30 10:00a Members Helping Members #1
7:00p Members Helping Members #2