

**BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013-7:00 P.M.**

President, Shirley Lindquist called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Veteran, Neil Miserendino led the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America".

**NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

President Shirley Lindquist congratulated our organization for entering into it's 12<sup>th</sup> year. Congratulated BAGS for the success of the seminar held in October.

Special Interest Groups: President Shirley Lindquist asked the members present to fill out surveys about improvements that could be made for BAGS and introduced the idea of SIGS. She would like to see BAGS consider meeting on topics of different interests to the group. If you wish to comment and add input, call Polly.

Shirley announced that renewals of membership dues are now due. Quarterleys are available at the back of room or from Quarterly editor, Melodey Hauch.

Next Bus Trip to Clayton Library is 20 November 2013. Sign-up sheet is at back of room. Clayton also has binders and folders that were donated and they are free for pickup.

BAGS Holiday Party is at Hope Village, 16 November 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

JOB OPENINGS: A Registrar Assistant is need for new registrar, Marie Krnavek. See Deborah Cole or Marie if you are able and willing to help.

Yearbook Editor: Neil Miserendino wants to step down from this job and a new yearbook editor is needed. The file is established but the person must be computer literate. Call Neil if you can help.

Welcoming: Person or persons needed to perform welcoming duties at the door at the general meeting. The person needs to be able to explain to visitors the order of the meetings.

Pedigree charts: Eleanor Caldwell asked for pedigree charts to be submitted. It need not be 5 generations if you don't have 5 generations. If you need help doing a pedigree chart, Eleanor offered to help and has blank charts available. They can be emailed to her.

Announcements from the Floor:

Polly Swerdlin announced that the library display is going to Pasadena. Deborah Cole asked for articles for the Quarterly.

Melodey Hauch announced "Ghosts of the Past" event in League City put on by League City Historical Society at Fairview Cemetery on Saturday, October 26.

Five visitors to the meeting were introduced by President Shirley Lindquist.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Barbara Moore introduced one of our own members, David Zwahr as the speaker for the evening. His topic was "Finding Your Relatives' Masonic History" David Zwahr was awarded medal for research of Texas Heroes by Oren Roberts chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy. David's expertise is in Masonic Genealogy. His power point presentation of the Grand Lodge of Texas website included ways to contact local Masonic Lodges and the Grand Lodge. He said that when someone joins the Masons, the original file or application stays with the original lodge. It is called the "Petition for Mysteries of Masonary". The applicant must give parents names. He suggested ways of discovering if your relative was a Mason by using obituaries. Was his funeral a masonic funeral? In doing his own research he discovered a substitute for the destroyed 1890 census by using the 1890 "Student Scholastic Records". David answered questions from the audience. Barbara Moore thanked our speaker and presented him with a portfolio.

President Shirley Lindquist adjourned the meeting at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Deborah Gammon*  
Recording Secretary