



# Bay Area Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

P.O. Box 590853  
Houston, TX 77259-0853

Volume 15, Issue No. 1

September 2015

**Friday, September 25, 2015: Featuring LDS member Joseph Pergler discussing BillionGraves.com**

*Public Invited. Join us at 6:30pm for socializing.*

**We meet at the University Baptist Church (UBC) in the Chapel, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.  
(16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77059 - [online map](#)).**

Come learn how to search *BillionGraves.com* to enhance your family history research, link to photos in *FamilySearch.org*, and add contribute transcription entries to the site. *BillionGraves.com* is a free site you can access from home and provides GPS coordinates to locate the marker.

Bishop Joseph Pergler began doing family history as a youth and loved it. He had indexed over 10,000 records by the time he was 16 – often staying up until the wee hours of the morning typing up German extraction records. He has taught family history in 5 countries and across multiple states. He has visited over 320 cemeteries and photographed over 80,000 headstones for *BillionGraves.com*. He has helped hundreds of people work on their own family history. His personal family history research ([www.Perglers.com](http://www.Perglers.com)) is focused largely on the Czech Republic, Southern Germany, and Illinois. He is the proud great grandson of Bergmann (Coal Miner) Josef Pergler.

**A new issue of the *BAGS Journal* has been published.  
Pick up your copy at the meeting.**

**Welcome New Members Vicky & John Whynott, and Barbara Bennett. Please give a hearty welcome and introduce yourself to these people at the next meeting.**

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- (insert) Complete List of BAGS Events

*It is a new Society Year!*

**But it is not too late to renew your membership. Membership form is included in this issue.**

**A complete list of BAGS events is included in this issue as an insert.**

***Need a ride? Contact Polly Swerdlin***

## **BAGS Officers 2013-2015**



### **President**

Shirley Lindquist

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### **First Vice President**

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### **Web Editors**

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## ***President's Message***

### **Tribute to the Board of Directors of 2013 - 2015**

The Board of Directors of the Bay Area Genealogical Society has been dedicated to quality programs for the organization. They have maintained the activities of recent years, such as: the bus trips to the Clayton Library of Genealogical Research, the special informative speakers at the monthly general meetings, the Annual "Show and Tell" meeting with a potluck dinner, and the Holiday Luncheon at Hope Village Café in Friendswood. The monthly newsletter keeps us updated about society events. The BAGS award-winning *Quarterly* publication has been replaced by the *BAGS Journal* that is full of our research and ancestor articles, published three times annually.

In addition to the traditional activities mentioned, new activities have been added to the programs, such as Special Interest Groups (SIGs) who meet to learn about specialized topics. The topics include beginning genealogy research, and researching ancestors in other countries, such as: Africa, Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Another new service is the Mentoring sessions for members needing help.

This past Society year, BAGS grew to 200 members. Now, New Member Luncheons are scheduled for new members to get acquainted with current members. We meet at a local restaurant to share information about the Society, as well as have fun. The luncheon is open to any member and each member pays for their own meal.

The board often works "behind the scenes" conducting the "business" of the society, with little recognition. As we approach the end of this two year term, let's recognize and express gratitude to the board of directors and the committee chairmen and committee members for their service to the Bay Area Genealogical Society.



Thank you!

*Shirley Lindquist*

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 have an interest 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 on the BAGS Newsletter should be addressed to:

Editor, P.O. Box 590853, Houston, TX 77259-0853, or [newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org)

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# BAGS Event Calendar

## General Meeting Programs

We meet the last Friday of the month at 7:00pm except November and December. Come at 6:30pm to enjoy coffee and socializing. The public is invited. These meetings are held at the University Baptist Church (UBC) located at 16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77059 (Clear Lake City).

**Friday, September 25 at 7:00pm:** Joseph Pergler will discuss BillionGraves.com, how to use and contribute to this online free resource.

**Friday, October 30 at 7:00pm:** Review several free online resources accessible from home and within local libraries and family history centers.

**November 14 from 11:00am to 1:00pm:** Annual luncheon at Hope Village Cafe in Friendswood.

**December 2015:** Happy Holidays! No meeting.

**Friday, January 29, 2016 at 7:00pm:** Irene Walters from the Clayton Library will present "Modern Military Research," specifically discussing records of military service from the Spanish-American War through today.

**Friday, February 26, 2016 at 7:00pm:** Melissa Hayes from the Clayton Library will discuss how to research ancestors of adoptees.

## Board Meetings

The Board meets the last Monday of the month with exception of Memorial Day, November, and December. All members are welcome to attend. These meetings are held at the University Baptist Church.

Monday, September 21 at 6:30pm  
Monday, October 26 at 6:30pm

## Research Trips at Clayton Library Mary Martin, County Coordinator

### Scheduled Trip Dates:

**Thursday, October 8**  
**Wednesday, January 20**  
**Wednesday, March 2**



Ten people caught the bus on September 17. If you want to participate in one of the future bus trips, please signup by contacting Mary Martin by phone 281-332-2435 or e-mail [lmartin497@aol.com](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com). This resource is provided by the Harris County Senior Program. A minimum of nine people must sign up per the county regulations. Catch the bus by 9:15am in front of the parking lot of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center (16511 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062). The bus will arrive back at 4:00pm.

## THANK YOU

- ★ To all members that renewed or just recently joined. Registrar Bob Wegner reported the membership is now at 186 members as of September 21, 2015. It is not too late to renew your membership!
- ★ To Annette Bowen, Lori Cole, Beth Marshall, and Lisa Smith for joining Nick Cimino (chair) to create an Education Committee.
- ★ To Betty Wegner and Judy Wright for joining Kathie Caffee (chair) and Barbara Moore to complete the Telephone Committee.

## BAG\$ Report for August 2015 Loren Martin, Treasurer

Balance Brought Forward 7/31/2015	\$4,244.39
Income	\$323.00
Expenses	<u>-\$662.16</u>
Balance on hand 8/31/2015	\$3,905.23
CD Balance	\$3,700.35

## Education Corner



### Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Gay Carter presented *Lesen Sie Deutsch? German Research Without Leaving Home* at the SIG on September 19. In this program, Gay demonstrated how to use Social Security applications, Federal Censuses, FamilySearch.org IGI records, and Family History Library German church records (on microfilm) to uncover past generations and ultimately locate the family's German hometown. Gay recommends the following books to assist you in researching German records.

John T. Humphrey, *Finding Your German Ancestors: A Practical Guide for Genealogists*, rev. edition (Washington, D.C.: Pennsylvania Genealogy Books, 2009)

Wendy K. Uncapher and Linda M. Herrick, *German Maps & Facts for Genealogy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Columbus, Ohio: Origins Books, 2002). At Clayton Library, book call# U54 GERMAN

Wendy K. Uncapher. *Lands of the German Empire and Before*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Columbus, Ohio: Origins Books, 2004). At Clayton Library, book call# U54 GERMAN

Roger P. Minert, *Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents: Analyzing German, Latin, and French in Vital Records Written in Germany* (n.p.: GRT Publications, 2001). [Note: 2<sup>nd</sup> edition published in 2013] At Clayton Library, book call# M664 GERMAN

**The next SIG is on Saturday, November 7.** Gustav Hinds will present *German Genealogy Basics*. Come learn how your ancestors migrated from German speaking countries to the U.S. The lecture will cover migration routes, trip documentation, immigration documentation, and strategies for finding your family. This program is from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in the Community Room at the Freeman Library.

### NEW! BAGS Members Only Working Sessions

Two concurrent sessions will be held at University Baptist Church in October, November, January, and February. Watch your email for specific dates and times. In one room, beginner researchers will meet and participate in a 30-minute discussion followed by individual research with mentoring assistance. Bring your devices and research. In the second room, intermediate and advanced researchers will meet in a round table discussion to share ideas and solve research problems.

**BAGS Website**  
[www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org)



All the pedigree charts that were published in previous *Quarterly*, *Journal*, and newsletter issues can be found on the "Members Only" page of the BAGS website thanks to Gary Garrett's digitization and uploading efforts. Good Job Gary!

Polly Swerdlin has created an outline (a.k.a. site map) explaining what information content is available on the BAGS website. The website is a goto resource for current list of BAGS events, past publications, and The outline is included in this newsletter and can be accessed online by clicking on the link "Web Site Map" located on the site's home page. Also, recently added to the site is the "In Memoriam" page listing BAGS members and family that have passed as a gesture of recognition and also providing a bridge for genealogy researchers. Thanks Polly!



## August Show and Tell Program

Thank you to all the cooks who brought food to support the potluck dinner. We had a huge spread of delicious choices. Thanks Bill Mayo for pickup and delivery of the meat! The BBQ was cooked by A J's Meat Market and Smokehouse located at 4908 Fm-517, Dickinson, TX 77539 phone (281) 337-7777

Thank you to Renee Ball, Annette Bowen, Becky Herder, Beth Marshall, Loren Martin, Andy Shaner, Lisa Smith, Oletia Teas, Vicky Whynott, Denise Willis, and Kathy Wright who shared family stories, research, and treasured items with the group during the Society's annual show & tell program.

Pictures of the event are available on the BAGS website. Click on the "About Us" link and then "Photo Gallery." On the "Photo Gallery" page, click on 2015 to view the August photo album.

Annette Bowen exhibited her father's ukelin musical instrument. There was some group discussion on how to play the instrument. Watch this YouTube video "Playing The Ukelin – Amazing Grace" to see a demonstration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhEyu04vs-Q>



Renee Ball shared her own personal creation called a generation album in which she has expertly crafted a beautiful six fold, nine-section album with pockets to display photos and genealogy information for three generations. Too complicated? Try "Scrapbook in a Box" for a Christmas or anniversary gift. Details online at [http://artgirlzscrappinattic.typepad.com/artgirlzscrappinattic\\_web/2008/04/scrapbook-in-a.html](http://artgirlzscrappinattic.typepad.com/artgirlzscrappinattic_web/2008/04/scrapbook-in-a.html)

Kathy Wright was thrilled to find much of her needed research already documented on the website <http://www.houstoun.org.uk/family>

Nick Cimino documented the story details shared by Denise and Cheryl Willis on how they identified inherited family photos. Read Nick's *Ancestor Puzzles* blog article "Show & Tell Reveals Genealogy Serendipity" published on Monday, August 31, 2015, access directly using this link <http://www.ancestorpuzzles.com/2015/08/show-tell-reveals-genealogy-serendipity.html>

New member Vicky Whynott shared her ideas on using maps and ship images to engage children to learn about the family's immigration story.

Ask Andy Shaner how a prison record led him to find ancestors in Dublin and Pennsylvania.

Becky Herder shared beautifully preserved United Confederate Veterans reunion ribbons. Minutes from these annual reunions were published. Some of the books are available at Clayton Library, Houston Metropolitan Research Center, and online Google Books (<http://books.google.com>)

Beth Marshall shared some wonderful original family papers, iconic books, and photographs.

Loren Martin discussed his methods for documenting and organizing family information.

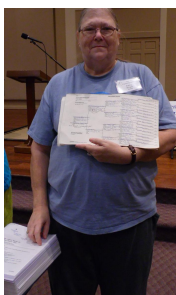
Andy Shaner



Beth Marshall



Kathy Wright



Oletia Teas



Lisa Smith



[Editor's note: Lisa Smith wrote the following article to document and share the process she used to create the wonderful set of albums exhibited at the August Show & Tell program. Thank you Lisa!]

## Creating an Heirloom Family Album

by Lisa Smith

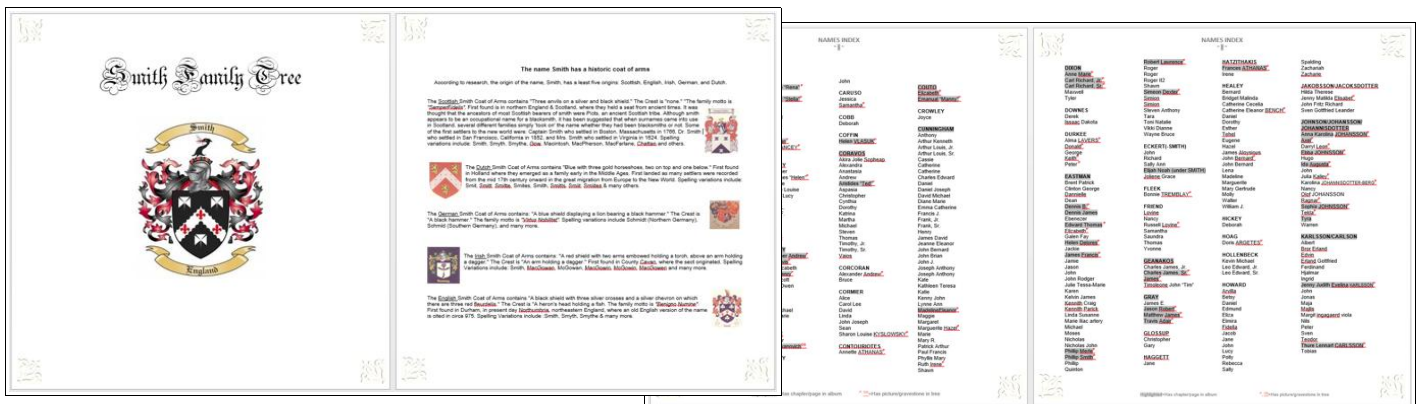
I caught the genealogy bug many years ago as a teen. Over the past 30+ years, there have been spurts of research and other (quite long) periods of dormancy as I juggled motherhood, a career, and life events. After about fifteen years of diligently plugging information into my Family Tree Maker program, it occurred to me that my elders would never see the result of their stories shared with me since they were not electronically connected. Then it dawned on me that the younger generation, being *too* electronic, wouldn't appreciate the family history by looking at a bunch of electronic records, even if embellished with photos and snippets of actual documents. So I decided to create a new family heirloom: a set of albums, scrapbooks, if you will, though much more elegant than a mere collection of photos pasted on a pretty page; something anyone in the family could reference to learn their place in the family, their history, their culture.



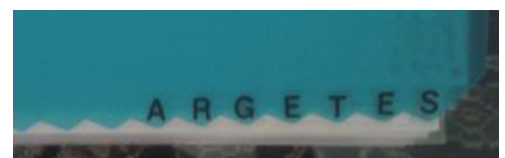
Once decided, however, I hit my first roadblock. How to organize the album so that it would be easy to find information and easily expandable? It took me several years to come up with a system that works well. I continue to make small revisions, but the basic format remains solid. This heirloom has grown to four volumes including a separate volume just for family reunion events and group photos.

My approach began with finding albums that were rich in design and reminiscent of old-world leather-bound manuscripts. I discovered a D-ring three-inch scrapbook album that had a faux Italian leather cover with an embossed binding at a local craft store and purchased two. As the family tree grew, so did my need for more albums. It took a while before I found the same album, online this time, and I purchased two more. I may continue to purchase these as funds allow for fear they will become unavailable as my family continues to grow!

The next step was to determine the best way to organize the information. I decided on a storybook format with each surname being its own chapter. There is a Title page, a Dedication page, an Introduction that explains the setup and how to use the albums, a complete List of Surnames, and a Names Index with footnotes explaining which surnames and people have a chapter and a page(s). At the end, there is a Copyright and Contact page and the separate album for Family Reunions, organized again by surname, then by year (earliest to most recent).

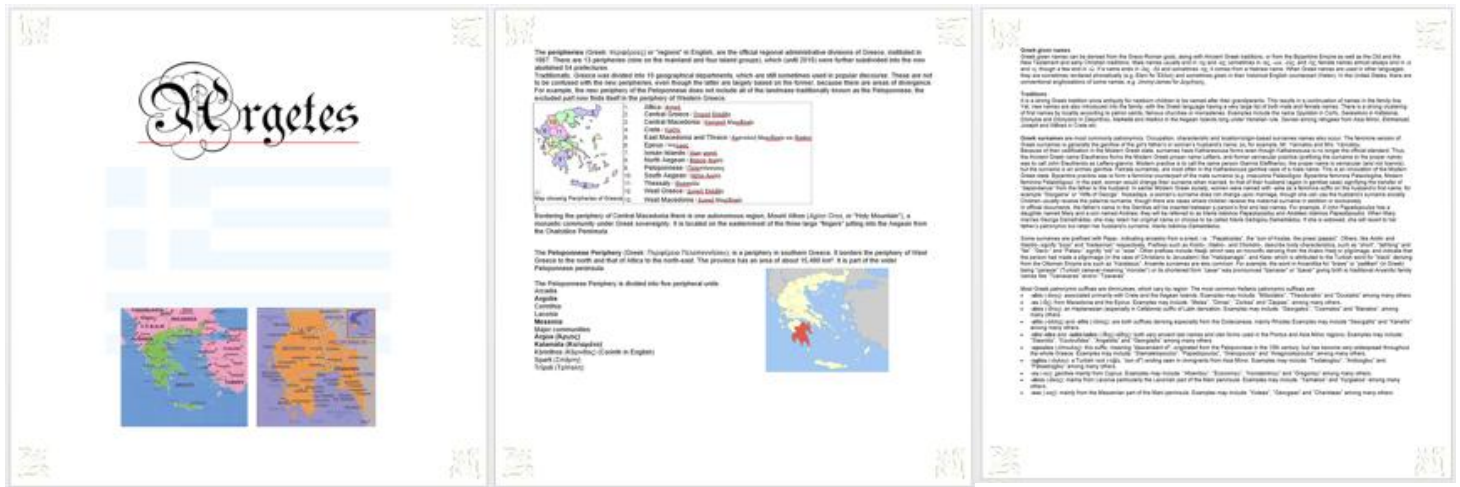


I found semi-rigid 3-ring color plastic dividers with serrated edges, where I placed individual stick-on letters for each surname. Each person I have information on then has his/her individual page(s), arranged alphabetically by first name.



## Creating an Heirloom Family Album (continued)

Each chapter will begin with a cover page and pages describing the surname, its heraldry, maps of country of origin, naming conventions for that region, and other interesting tidbits. Following that is a book-format printout of that branch of the family tree, currently on 8½ x 11 sheets, though eventually I hope to print these in box format on 12 x 12 sheets.



I then turned my attention to having a fairly consistent page format, and decided upon a photo in the upper left corner with vital statistics to the right. Any stories or biographies and documents are pasted below vitals and I try to post documents in order of date of production, i.e., birth certificates first, then social security, draft cards, death certificates in a right-to-left or clockwise manner as space allows. Marriage information is posted to the back of the male's page and additional pages are included for military service or other pertinent activities. For those individuals who married into the family and I don't have much information, I post their vitals on the back of their spouse's page. [Editor's note: Only two of the four sheets that Lisa shared are shown here.]



Creating these pages forces me to focus on each individual, gathering as much information as possible on that singular person, checking off items from a list, before moving on to the next person. It has provided organization to my research as well as created a beautiful history of our family. As I create each physical page, I also create an electronic version, which I will eventually publish as a book, to share with those tech-savvy relatives who are too far away to view the original heirloom. This is a decidedly life-long project that I hope will continue to grow with future generations!

Bay Area Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 590853  
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**REMINDER**

Next General Meeting is  
Friday, September 25 at 7:00 pm  
in University Baptist Church Chapel  
Socializing begins at 6:30 pm



# **BAGS Website [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org) – Overview of the site's content**

## **Home**

- BAGS Brochure
- Membership Application

## **Meetings**

- Meeting location
- Meetings dates with speakers

## **Past Meetings**

- Listing since October 2001 with speakers

## **Members Page (password protected)**

- Surname List
- Members' Yearbook
- Archived Meeting Handouts
- Quarterlies
- 5 Generation Pedigree Chart Blank
- Members 5 Generation Charts

## **Newsletters**

- Cover page of most recent two, then whole issues since 2001

## **Services**

- Genealogical services

## **Links**

- Listing of websites that might be useful

## **Articles**

- Table of contents of Quarterlies
- Table of contents of Journals
- BAGS Bylaws
- Searching for Missing Records
- Court House Research
- Contact info for Quarterlies, Newsletters, and Website

## **Board Files (password protected)**

- Each of the positions has a Job Description plus files that relate to them

## **Trips**

- Dates and description of trips to Clayton Library

## **Workshops**

- Working sessions
- SIGs
- Link to Clayton Library's website

## **About Us**

- Short history including Presidents' years
- Officers and their pictures
- Committee Chairs and their pictures

## **In Memoriam**

## **Photo Gallery**

## Running Calendar of Planned BAGS Events 2015-2016

**Friday, September 25 at 7:00pm:** Joseph Pergler will discuss BillionGraves.com, how to use and contribute to this online free resource. Program is in the Chapel.

**Thursday, October 8: Bus Trip to Clayton Library** Please sign-up by contacting Mary Martin, 281-332-2435 or [lmartin497@aol.com](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com). Catch the bus by 9:15am in front of the parking lot of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center (16511 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062). The bus will arrive back at 4:00pm.

**October TBD:** BAGS Members Only Working Session for both beginners and advanced researchers at the University Baptist Church.

**Friday, October 30 at 7:00pm: General Meeting.** Program: Kim Zrubek will review several free online resources accessible from home and within local libraries and family history centers. Program is in the Chapel.

**Saturday, October 31 at 10:30am: New Member luncheon.** Bob Wegner will announce the location.

**Saturday, November 7 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm: SIG German Program from 2:00pm to 4:00pm** in the Community Room at the Freeman Memorial Library located at 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062. Gustav Hinds will discuss how your ancestors migrated from German speaking countries to the US. The lecture will cover migration routes, trip documentation, immigration documentation, and strategies for finding your family.

**November TBD:** BAGS Members Only Working Session for both beginners and advanced researchers at the University Baptist Church.

**Saturday, November 14 from 11:00am to 1:00pm: Annual luncheon** at Hope Village Cafe located at 4541 FM 2351, Friendswood.

**December 2015:** Happy Holidays! No meeting.

**Wednesday, January 20, 2016: Bus Trip to Clayton Library** Please sign-up by contacting Mary Martin, 281-332-2435 or [lmartin497@aol.com](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com). Catch the bus by 9:15am in front of the parking lot of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center (16511 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062). The bus will arrive back at 4:00pm.

**Saturday, January 23 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm:** BAGS Members Only Working Session for both beginners and advanced researchers at the University Baptist Church.

**Friday, January 29, 2016 at 7:00pm: General Meeting.** Program: Irene Walters from the Clayton Library will present "Modern Military Research," specifically discussing records of military service from the Spanish-American War through today. Program is in the Chapel.

**Saturday, February 20 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm:** BAGS Members Only Working Session for both beginners and advanced researchers at the University Baptist Church. Beth Marshall, Biologist, will discuss the science of DNA so that we can better understand DNA testing.

**Friday, February 26, 2016 at 7:00pm: General Meeting with Potluck Dinner.** Program: Melissa Hayes from the Clayton Library will discuss how to research adoptee's ancestors. Program is in the Chapel.

**Wednesday, March 2, 2016: Bus Trip to Clayton Library** Please sign-up by contacting Mary Martin, 281-332-2435 or [lmartin497@aol.com](mailto:lmartin497@aol.com). Catch the bus by 9:15am in front of the parking lot of the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center (16511 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062). The bus will arrive back at 4:00pm.