

Bay Area Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Volume 16, Issue No. 1

September 2016

Friday, September 30, 2016: *Digging Up Clues In The Cemetery* presented by Kathleen Maca

Public Invited. Join us at 6:30pm for socializing. Meeting begins at 7pm.

We meet at the University Baptist Church (UBC) in the Chapel, 1st floor. (16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77059 - online map).



Kathleen Maca

Cemeteries, not surprisingly, can be some of the best resources for genealogical research. Unfortunately, they can also present challenges. Join us for a presentation that will cover the types of resources available for cemetery-related research, how to locate graves, tricks for hard-to-read gravestones, how to pack a "cemetery kit," planning a successful cemetery visit and more.

After over twenty years in the advertising and media industries, Kathleen Shanahan Maca is now focusing her attention on finding hidden and little known stories from history, and sharing them with her readers. In the process, she's found that non-fiction can be even stranger and more fascinating than fiction. Kathleen has been researching genealogies, local histories and cemeteries for over 40 years.

A graduate of Sam Houston State University, she is a member of the Texas Chapter for the Association for Gravestone Studies as well as the Friends of Galveston Cemeteries group, and BAGS.

A regular contributor to *Galveston Monthly Magazine*, she is the author of the book *Galveston's Broadway Cemeteries* released in 2015 by Arcadia Publishing. Her latest book *Ghosts of Galveston* releases this month from The History Press. Kathleen may have a few copies of these books on hand at the meeting. Both books are available through Amazon in ebook and paperback formats.

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Need a ride? Contact Polly Swerdlin

Missed the meeting? Do not drive at night?
Come to the recap session on
Saturday, October 15 from 11am to noon
at the Friendswood Public Library.

September *Journal*Pick up your copy at the September meeting.

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BAGS will host a table at two public events to advertise the Society. Hope to see you at these events.

RootsTech Family Discovery Day Saturday, September 17 from 9:00am to 3:00pm

Five one-hour classes will be held at the South Shore Chapel located at 4655 South Shore Blvd, League City. Free admission, and snacks will be provided. Register online now at www.lcaccessingancestors.com

Clayton Library Open House Saturday, October 8 from 11:00am to 3:00pm

Do you have friends and family that you think would be interested in genealogy? Then bring them out to Clayton Library's Open House, where they can be introduced to genealogy by attending beginning genealogy classes, participating in a kids' scavenger hunt, meeting genealogical societies, talking with historical re-enactors, and enjoying refreshments. All activities are free! The Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research is located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston

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
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2016 BAGS Calendar



Tuesday, September 20 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library. If you want to ride

on the bus, please signup by contacting Mary Martin by phone 281-332-2435 or e-mail

Imartin497 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 at the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center (16511 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062). The bus will arrive back at 4:00pm.

Monday, September 26 at 6:30pm: **Board Meeting** at the University Baptist Church in room EB105. All members are welcome to attend.



Friday, September 30 at 7:00pm: General Meeting. Kathleen Maca, BAGS member and author of Galveston's Broadway Cemeteries, will present

"Digging Up Clues In The Cemetery."



Sunday, October 9 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm: Members Helping Members for both beginners and advanced

researchers. Meet at Helen Hall Library.

Monday, October 24 at 6:30pm: Board **Meeting** at the University Baptist Church in room EB105. All members are welcome to attend.



Friday, October 28 at 7:00pm: General Meeting. Fidel Ramirez, Social Media and Technology Director for Clayton Library Friends, will present "Genealogy

To Go" discussing the mobile apps and equipment we can use to mobilize our genealogy research.



Sunday, November 13 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm: Members Helping Members for both beginners and advanced

researchers. Meet at Helen Hall Library.



Monday, November 14 at 6:30pm: **Board Meeting** at the University Baptist Church in room EB105. All members are welcome to attend.



Wednesday, November 16 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library.



Friday, November 18 at 7:00pm: General Meeting. Andrew Shaner will present "Research at the National Archives: A Primer.".



Saturday, December 3 at 11:00am to 1:00pm: Annual Holiday **Luncheon.** Come enjoy the holiday spirit and a pleasant lunch with friends at the Hope Village Cafe in

Friendswood. Members and guests are invited. Lunch is dutch



Sunday, December 11 at 2:00pm to 4:00pm: Members Helping Members

for both beginners and advanced researchers. Meet at Helen Hall Library.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Wednesday, January 25 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library.



Friday, January 27, 2017 at 7:00pm: General Meeting. Nick Cimino, Professional Genealogical, will discuss the

Genealogical Proof Standard.



Thursday, February 16, 2017 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library.



Tuesday, March 17, 2017 from 9:00am to 4:00pm: Bus Trip to Clayton Library.

Annual Show and Tell - Recap

Good food, good company, and good stories. A Big THANK YOU to all of you that shared food and family history this evening!

Thank you to Leslee Fehlman for serving as our dinner hostess and to Bill Mayo for ordering and delivering the BBQ meat from A J's Meat Market and Smokehouse located in Dickinson. All the food was VERY GOOD!!!

Pictures of the event taken by Bill Mayo are available on the BAGS website. Click on the "About Us" link and then "Photo Gallery." On the "Photo Gallery" page, click on 2016 to view the August photo album.



Annette Bowen displayed the contents of service records for two uncles, one served in the US Navy and the other US Marines. These are examples of what you could receive when ordering family military service records.

David Cate discussed how much help the website www.FindAGrave.com was in discovering family members.

Glen Cress has a direct family connection to one of the Germanna colonists that settled in colonial Virginia during the early 1700s. He shared a photo album documenting the towns and places Sharon and he visited this past summer in Palatine and Baden-Wuerttemburg areas of Germany (Glen's family homeland) as part of an annual family heritage trip organized by The Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia (www.germanna.org).

Jane Ebrom read aloud a letter written in April 1865 from one brother to another brother, her Yankee ancestors, which mentions one brother's interview with President Lincoln in Washington. Jane found the letter and a picture of one brother at an Alabama museum.

Lou Ellen Hatchett has a vast collection of family documents she is organizing into scrapbooks for family members. She shared several family stories and is a member of the DAR Capt. Gilbreth Falls-Absolom Hooper Chapter (Friendswood).

Ann Joyner shared one of the fourteen family history binders she has made for her nieces and nephews. Her family was part of the colonial South Carolina settlers dating back to 1715 and some immigrated to Canada. Her family surname Breed owned the Breed Hill where the Battle of Bunker Hill was really fought.

Betty Martin's great aunt was a Ziegfeld dancer. Betty shared a photo album of wonderful performance photos and a bank book her aunt had maintained while working the shows.



Susan Moyer

Susan Moyer shared an old family album with a luxurious red velvet cover that belonged to her great-grandmother. Susan is currently researching to discover the names of the people contained in the album.



Charlotte Wisnewski and David Cate

Teresa Rundell shared a miraculous Louisiana trip that resulted in connecting with a local family historian who gave her a book of her family's history connecting her back to Germany.

Charlotte Wisnewski has tracked down locations of land owned by her ancestors since the American Revolution. A Methodist church and cemetery was established on some of the land. During her research, she discovered ancestor family land in Georgia was for sale, the original acreage had remained intact, and was assigned a historical marker.

Digital Collection of American Jewish History

Letters, diaries, photographs, newspapers, business records, organizational records, and other materials for historians and genealogists, focusing on the Jewish community in New England and the study of family history in America has been digitized and is available to browse and search on The Digital Collections website (http://digitalcollections.americanancestors.org) maintained by the New England Historic Genealogical Society. For example, earch and browse:

- Pages of *The Jewish Times* (alternate titles: *Boston Jewish Times*, *The Jewish Weekly Times*) newspaper published weekly from 1945 to 1992 in Boston.
- French and Indian Wars manuscripts
- Civil War manuscripts
- Individual family papers
- local history manuscripts.

Some of the key word search results provide a description of the item including date, subjects, collection, box and folder numbers. To view the image(s) of the item, you must submit a reference request to American Jewish Historical Society – New England Archives using their online form

https://ajhsboston.org/digital-archive The request must include your OCLC Worldcat user name (to create a free OCLC Worldcat account go to http://www.worldcat.org and look for "create a free account" in the upper right corner), the name of the collection(s), the box number(s) and folder number(s) you wish to view.



LDS Local Family History Centers provide free public access to

- Ancestry.com Library Edition
- WorldVitalRecords
- FindMyPast (United Kingdom records)
- Fold3 (military)
- ArkiDigital Online (Swedish church records)
- 19th Century British Newspapers
- American Civil Ware Research Database

LDS Local Family History Centers are:

Alvin:

2700 Lehi Lane 1-281-299-2381

Friendswood:

505 Deseret Drive 281-996-9346

League City:

4655 South Shore Boulevard 1-281-538-5356

Galveston:

3114 77th Street 409-744-7938

Pasadena:

4202 Yellowstone 1-281-991-8479

July Meeting Recap – "My Enlightening Experience in the Genealogy Roadshow"

Thank you to Helen Mooty for sharing the activities and emotional ride through the months-long process to participate as a guest. She encouraged everyone to give it a try. If you really want to participate in a reality show, consult with Helen. She has some good tips to help you be successful. Helen and her husband John Dickey are active members of The Laffite Society, Galveston, Texas which focuses on the study of the privateers Jean and Pierre Laffite and their contemporaries, and to the geographical locales and chronological era associated with them. The group meets on the second Tuesday each month at 6:00pm in The Meridian Towers Retirement Center, 23rd at Seawall in Galveston, Texas. Follow them on Facebook www.facebook.com/thelaffitesociety or find more information about the society on their website www.thelaffitesociety.com

BAGS Education Corner

Members Helping Members Sessions

Sunday, October 9, November 13, and December 11

from 2:00 to 4:00pm at Helen Hall Library, 100 W. Walker, League City which is on Hwy 3 one light south of FM 518.



Education Committee: Nick Cimino (chair), Annette Bowen, Lori Cole, and Beth Marshall

Spend some quality time researching with friends, in groups or one-on-one. Ask questions and share ideas. Bring your laptop or mobile device. Free WiFi connection is available inside the library. Details on information shared during previous sessions are posted on the BAGS website under "Workshops."

Here are a few research topics that were discussed at the September session. Maybe you have some ideas or experiences that could help these members.

Barbara Moore is working on a photo organization project. She is seeking a way to get them organized and share them with family.

Jane Thompson is searching a Lewis ancestor which she believes may connect to Meriwether Lewis (August 18, 1774 – October 11, 1809). Her ancestor was Lewis Lewis. She found an obituary published in a book with a transcript from Martinsburg Statesman, Martinsburg, West Virginia on March 28, 1874. Nick Cimino was able to find his pension record for the War of 1812 on Fold3.

Beba Cates is researching through DNA to identify her birth father and paternal ancestry. She has several matches through AncestryDNA and is working on two candidates. She is seeking more advice on the process of using DNA to determine ancestry.

Nick Cimino, Professional Genealogist, is willing to mentor members interested in working towards professional genealogist certification.



Bus Tips Dates

These research trips are usually destined for the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research. If you have interest in visiting a different library for research (e.g. Rosenberg Library in Galveston, Moore Memorial Library in Texas City, George Memorial Library in Richmond, Sam Tuesday, September 20, 2016 Wednesday, November 16, 2016 Wednesday, January 25, 2017 Thursday, February 16, 2017 Tuesday, March 17, 2017

Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, Houston Metropolitan Research Center, or Fondren Library-Woodson Center at Rice University), please share your requests with Mary Martin or Nick Cimino.

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**. 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 at the Clear Lake Community Association and Recreation Center (16511 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062). The bus will arrive back at 4:00pm.

BAGS News



General Meeting Recap Sessions

Can't make a meeting?

Do not like to drive at night?

We are hosting sessions to share with members the announcements and speaker presentation handouts provided at the last general meeting. These sessions will be held at the Friendswood Public Library located at 416 S. Friendswood Drive, Friendswood from 11:00am to noon. No reservation needed. Just come.

Saturday, October 15 from 11am to noon: Covers information presented at September 30 general meeting.

Saturday, November 12 from 11am to noon: Covers information presented at October 28 general meeting.

Saturday, December 10 from 11am to noon: Covers information presented at November 18 general meeting.

BIG Thank YOU to members



Kathie Chaffee has agreed to serve as the Recording Secretary while continuing to serve as the Telephone Committee Chair. Please thank her and the committee for the important work they do for our Society.

Bettejean Spatafore for serving as the Publicity Chair, successfully advertising the BAGS events in local newspapers and newsletters.

Tammy Frey has agreed to serve as Publicity Chair.

PHOTO OP: Add or update your membership photo for the 2016-2017 Yearbook at the October or November general meetings, or the December luncheon. Look for Bill Mayo to take your picture at one of these events.

PASSWORD Change: The password used to access the "Members Page" on the BAGS website (www.TxBayAreaGen.org) has changed. Ask a Registrar for the new password.

Renew Your Membership

A new Society year began September 1. We are accepting new and renewing membership applications for the 2016-2017 fiscal year which runs to August 31, 2017. The renewal rates remain the same — a **single membership is \$20**; a **family membership is \$25**; and there is a \$5 fee, if you want the BAGS *Journal* and *Yearbook* mailed to you. New this year, BAGS has a Square device to accept credit and debit card payments!

Please fill out a membership application form with your renewal. The form is in this newsletter and on the website. Print and mail the form to the Registrar's address at P.O. Box 590853, Houston, TX 77259-0853, or bring the form with you to the next general meeting you attend.



October Family History Month

5th Annual Genealogy Symposium

Saturday, October 1, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at George Memorial Library,

located at 1001 Golfview in Richmond. The symposium is free and open to the public. Professional genealogist and lecturer Nick Cimino will share his knowledge, experience, and insight on a variety of topics designed to help family-history buffs explore different avenues of genealogical research.

9:30 am – "Planning a Research Trip to Ireland." Hear about online resources that are available to trace Irish ancestors. Find out how to research the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

11:00 am – "Researching Immigrant Ancestors." Learn how to track down the hometown of immigrant ancestors. Get tips on how to search passenger lists and one-name studies.

1:45 pm – "Drilling Deeper in the Lone Star State." Discover techniques for maximizing results in online and archival resources for Texas immigration.

3:15 pm – "Heirloom Research and Preservation." Learn how to locate and preserve family heirlooms. Cimino will share stories of heirlooms he has found at estate sales and antique stores, and how he has been able to reunite those heirlooms with descendants.

The following free programs are offered to adults and teens in the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research located at 5300 Caroline Street, Houston. All events require reservations except where noted. Call the library at 832-393-2600 to make a reservation.

Lunchtime Lecture Series Wednesday from noon to 1:15pm

Bring your lunch and watch a recorded webinar, no reservations required.

October 5: Using the U.S. Federal Census – produced by AmericanAncestors

October 12: Immigration – Crossing the Pond – produced by FamilySearch

October 19: Choosing a Genealogical Software Program - produced by AmericanAncestors

October 26: Messages From the Grave: Listening to Your Ancestor's Tombstone - produced by FamilySearch

Wednesday Evening Lecture Series

October 5 at 6pm: Historical documents found at the Harris County District Clerk Office

Join Francisco Heredia, Historical Documents Curator, for an overview of the materials located at HCDCO. *Don't have Harris County, TX family?* Come anyway to get a deeper understanding of the type of documents and their content that MIGHT be available at your specific research location.

October 12 from 5:00pm to 7:30pm: Genealogy Tips and Tricks

Part 1 at 5pm: Finding ancestors by not searching the known information

Part 2 at 6:15pm: Ways to get the most from our computers

October 19 at 6pm: Defining Obscure Medical Terms Used by Our Ancestors

You may have heard that Great Aunt Mary was consumptive and know that means she had tuberculosis, but what if someone had phthsis pulmonalis, phthisis, potter's asthma, or white plague? Come and learn about some of the diseases our ancestors faced and where to find out what the medical terms you see in obituaries or death certificates mean. (By the way, all the terms above have been used for tuberculosis.)

October 26 at 6pm and 7pm: Photo Scanner Demonstrations

Learn to use Clayton Library's photo scanner to digitize your own family photo collection.

Annual Genealogy Lock-in Friday, October 21 from noon to 11:00pm

FREE Full Day of Genealogy Programming

In celebration of October as Family History Month, The Clayton and Friendswood Public Libraries will be joining the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library in its 16th Annual Genealogy Lock-in. This state-wide initiative to provide educational and research opportunities for family historians takes place on October 21 from noon to 11:00pm. This is the sixth year that the Waco-McLennan County Library has spearheaded the collaborative effort to organize, provide and share programs remotely with libraries and genealogy societies across the state of Texas.

As part of this event, a set of presentations will be broadcasted from/to libraries across Texas. You can watch these presentations live at the Clayton Library and at the Friendswood Library from noon to 11:00pm. The presentations are free, open to the public. Come watch one or two, or stay for the entire day.

- The **Clayton Library** will be open from 6pm to 11pm for the programming and extended research hours. However, you MUST register to attend the "Genealogy After Dark" extended hours at the library. To register, please call the Clayton Library at 832-393-2600.
- At the **Friendswood Library** watch the broadcasted programs from noon to 11pm. However after 6:00pm, the library facility will be closed except for access to these presentations. Children under the age of 16 attending the event must be accompanied by an adult. Snacks and mobile devices are welcome. No registration required. A few computers will be available for online research. For more information, contact Kim Zrubek at the library by phone 281-482-7135 menu option 3 or email **kzrubek@friendswood.lib.tx.us.**

The list of presentations offered during this event are:

12:00 pm -1:30 pm Genealogy 101: How to Get Started in Locating Your Ancestors

Beginning with how to fill out your Family Tree Chart, you will get the basic skills and strategies for locating your family. We will walk through the first steps in the adventure of finding your family. You will be given options on how to organize your information and where to go besides your family and friends to locate more information. Presented by Cheryl Smith, Genealogy Librarian, Genealogy Center of the Plano Public Library System.

1:40 pm - 2:40 pm Preservation Tips for Family Historians

Learn best practices and tips for storage and handling of family documents and photos. Presented by Jennifer Sessa, Archivist, Houston Public Library, Houston Metropolitan Research Center.

2:50 pm - 3:50 pm Genealogical Resources of the Texas General Land Office

The Texas General Land Office Archives contain numerous resources for family history research dating from the Spanish Crown or Mexican Republic to the Republic and State of Texas. This program will cover the Spanish Collection; various land grants - bounty and donation, headright, scrip certificates and more; and a look at the Archive Map Collection. Presented by Kevin Klaus, Information Specialist, Texas General Land Office Archives and Records.

4:00 pm - 5:10 pm Introduction to Hispanic Genealogy Research

This presentation will cover the basic research process and how to use it to start finding ancestors in Hispanic records. A case study will show how records (church and civil) can help build a family pedigree. Presented by Michael Provard, Events Coordinator, FamilySearch.

(continued on the next page)

Annual Genealogy Lock-in Friday, October 21 noon to 11:00pm

FREE Full Day of Genealogy Programming (continued)

6:10 pm-7:20 pm DNA Testing: What is it, what do the results mean, and how do I understand it all?

Confused about DNA and genetic genealogy or do not know where to begin? This session will provide an easy to follow guide to help to demystify DNA. Presented by Randy W. Whited, President, Texas State Genealogical Society.

7:30 pm -8:30 pm Finding Your Slave Ancestors

This class will teach participants three strategies to locate their enslaved ancestors. Participants will learn how to do a survey, find various documents to help determine where their ancestors were enslaved and who their owners were, and help them learn how to use the newly indexed Freedmen's Bureau Records. Presented by Sherri Camp, Genealogy Librarian, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library; President, Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS).

8:40 pm - 9:30 pm Paying It Forward, Recording OUR Stories for Future Ancestors

Family stories are the best part of family history, and are most often the information gathered that leads us to documentary evidence. But, how many of us are recording OUR stories so OUR descendants have a history of us? This presentation offers tools to help us record our stories, apps, story ideas, and more. Presented by Susan D. Kaufman, Senior Manager, Houston Public Library, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research.

9:40 pm -10:40 pm Genealogy Mecca - Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research

Did you know that one of the top genealogical research libraries is located in your backyard in Houston, Texas? Join Sue Kaufman as she give us an overview of resources, services, and the opportunities available from this nationally recognized collection.

Ancestor Roadshow – Grab time with a Professional Genealogists Saturday, October 21 from 3:30 – 9:30pm by appointment only

In addition to these presentations, The Lone Star Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) will host an "Ancestors Roadshow" beginning at 3:30pm. *Do you have a road block in your family research and need some special help?* This Roadshow is an opportunity for you to enjoy a free 15-minute consultation with a professional genealogist from the Lone Star Chapter. You can ask questions about a specific genealogical problem or get general information on how to approach a research quandary. This is an excellent chance to get expert advice on that "brick wall" dilemma or "elusive ancestor" in your family history research. Time slots are limited. Roadshow appointments are limited to one appointment per person.



Friendswood Library will provide a few computers with Skype connections and assistance for you to access the "Ancestors Roadshow." To make an appointment, you MUST complete this questionnaire found at

http://lonestarapg.com/roadshow_form_fillable.pdf and either email or print/deliver to Kim Zrubek at the Friendswood Library, kzrubek@friendswood.lib.tx.us PRIOR to Saturday, October 21.

Bay Area Genealogical Society

Registrar
P.O. Box 590853
Houston, TX 77259-0853
http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org ··· registrar@TxBayAreaGen.org

Membership Application

Please bring to meeting or mail to above address with payment.

Membershi	p: New Renewal Date
Full Name_	
Maiden Na	me Preferred Name for Name Tag
Address	
	ZIP Code
E-mail	Phone #
If this is a f	family membership, list the other family members' full names:
Occupation	or, if retired, previous occupation of primary member
	or, if retired, previous occupation of other member(s)
May we pri	int your address, e-mail address and phone number in the Society's yearbook? Yes No
Research in	nterests (list states or countries, etc.) and surnames
I need help	with
The Societ	y needs your participation. Check the committee(s) on which you are willing to serve:
County Co	Coordinator Hospitality Pedigree Charts Web Master Don Journal Programs Welcoming Member Services Publicity Yearbook Newsletter Telephone Specify; or I can help with e.g., translation or research)
Pay	ment – To calculate your payment, please choose one from each category:
	Single membership \$20 Family membership \$25 Donation (Contributor - \$5-\$29, Benefactor - \$30-\$49, Patron - \$50-\$599, Lifetime membership - \$600 or higher)
	Journal(s) included at no additional charge if picked up by end of Society year
	Journal(s) & Yearbook by mail \$5 [Journal(s) mailed all together at year end]
Mak	xe checks out to "BAGS" Cash Check # TOTAL \[\]

IF YOUR INFORMATION CHANGES DURING THE YEAR, PLEASE NOTIFY THE REGISTRAR.