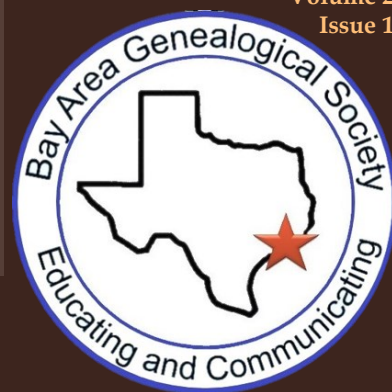


# BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 2023  
Volume 23  
Issue 11



## BAGS Members Meeting Friday, November 17th, 2023

at 7:00pm

*How to Find Your Ancestors  
in Church Records*

Speaker — **Sunny Morton** (Zoom)

Records created by the major Christian denominations before 1900 in the United States are an underutilized resource for family historians. In these records, you can find ancestors' births, maiden or married names, marriage details, deaths, family relationships, other residences, and even immigrants' overseas birthplaces. You may uncover information about ancestors who have been unnamed in other records – women, children, ethnic minorities, immigrants, and the poor. You might even find details about your ancestors recorded long before the existence of civil records!

**Sunny Jane Morton** is an internationally known genealogy speaker, award-winning writer, and editor. She is a contributing editor at Family Tree Magazine, contributing editor and content manager for [YourDNAGuide.com](https://www.familysearch.org/yourDNAGuide.com), a contributor to [FamilySearch's blog](https://familysearch.org/blog), and past editor of Ohio Genealogy News. She's received awards from the National Genealogical Society, most recently for her book *How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records*, co-authored with Harold Henderson. Her book, *Story of My Life: A Workbook for Preserving Your Legacy*, is now in its 2nd edition.

This will be a live, virtual presentation. [Register here](#) to attend

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# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2024

**It's time to renew your membership** with the TX Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS)! The new membership year starts January 1, 2024. You can renew your membership anytime between November 1, 2023, and February 29, 2024, without any loss of membership privileges.

## **Why should I renew my membership with BAGS now?**

- ✓ BAGS is now able to include genealogy experts from outside the Houston area to speak at our virtual monthly general meetings. This provides you with the benefit of national speakers and a wider range of genealogy topics. We have also worked with other regional genealogical societies to give you access to their resources and presentations.
- ✓ Our private Facebook group is highly active with regular postings about webinars and expanded online resources (many of them free) to help you with your research.
- ✓ Members Helping Members sessions are expanding and include both virtual and in-person meetings. You can join in the group sessions or request an individual, one-on-one session. These sessions can help you with "how to" questions about using Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Family Tree Maker software or other tools. These sessions can also help you learn how to analyze the info you already have and show you how to research new sources.
- ✓ Participate in our Special Interest Groups (currently German only)
- ✓ Free bus trips to the Clayton Library's Family History Research Center.
- ✓ Special in-person events are planned for the upcoming year and include awesome guest speakers plus door prizes, drawings, and delicious food!
- ✓ 4 monthly in-person General Meetings (BBQ buffet or potluck) and a Holiday Luncheon.
- ✓ Free access to all past publications (Quarterlies, Journals and monthly Newsletters).
- ✓ A listing in our Membership Yearbook.
- ✓ The opportunity to serve the Society by joining one of our committees.

## **Renew your membership NOW – 2 options:**



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
RENEW YOUR  
BAGS  
MEMBERSHIP**

**ONLINE** – You can fill out a membership form online and make your payment via PayPal with a credit or debit card, or a PayPal account, if you have one. To renew online, [click here](#). You will be directed to the "Membership Application Page" at the BAGS website. After filling out the form online, click the **Submit** button at the bottom. This will take you to PayPal where you will make your payment. You do not need to have a PayPal account to complete the transaction.

**Paper form and check** – If you would rather pay by sending a check through the regular mail, you can fill out a printed membership form. [Access the form here](#). This will open a PDF file which you can print and fill out. Mail this to the address on the form along with your check made payable to "BAGS."

If you have questions on the registration process or if you want to verify your membership status, please contact our Registrar via email, [registrar@txbayareagen.org](mailto:registrar@txbayareagen.org).

# BAGS INFORMATION

## 2023 BAGS OFFICERS

### President

Teresa Rundell

[president@txbayareagen.org](mailto:president@txbayareagen.org)

### First Vice President

Jane Martin

[vicepresident@txbayareagen.org](mailto:vicepresident@txbayareagen.org)

### Second Vice President

Becky Jones

[vicepresident2@txbayareagen.org](mailto:vicepresident2@txbayareagen.org)

### Treasurer

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[treasurer@txbayareagen.org](mailto:treasurer@txbayareagen.org)

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[registrar@txbayareagen.org](mailto:registrar@txbayareagen.org)

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### County Coordinator

*vacant*

[countycoord@txbayareagen.org](mailto:countycoord@txbayareagen.org)

### Social Media Administrator

Kathleen Williams

[socialmedia@txbayareagen.org](mailto:socialmedia@txbayareagen.org)



## BAGS Holiday Luncheon

**December 2nd @ 12:00pm**

South Shore Grille

2800 Marina Bay Drive,  
League City, TX, 77573



## 2024-25 Slate of Officer Nominations

*for the*

### Bay Area Genealogical Society

The official nominees were announced at the October general meeting for the following BAGS Board positions. All members are encouraged to attend the November general meeting (Zoom), on **November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** to vote for the new officers. The online ballot link will be provided at the meeting.

**President**

**Teresa Rundell**

**1st VP**

**Jane Martin**

**2nd VP/Programming**

**Becky Jones**

**Secretary**

**Kitty Olson**

**Treasurer**

**Todd Roberts**

**Registrar**

**George Porterfield**

### Statement of Activity as of October 1, 2023

Checking Account	\$2,021.46
Saving Account	\$11,874.16
PayPal Account	\$42.63
Total Monetary Assets	\$13,938.25



### Additional points of contact:

Don't know the Members Page password?

[registrar@txbayareagen.org](mailto:registrar@txbayareagen.org) — George Porterfield

Research questions or to provide research assistance:

[education@txbayareagen.org](mailto:education@txbayareagen.org) — Kathleen Williams

Have an article or idea to share with the Society?

[newsletter@txbayareagen.org](mailto:newsletter@txbayareagen.org) — Cindy Austin

Submit information for the Journal:

[journal@txbayareagen.org](mailto:journal@txbayareagen.org) — Todd Roberts

Ideas on where or how to advertise BAGS:

[publicity@txbayareagen.org](mailto:publicity@txbayareagen.org) — Terri Myers

Submit your pedigree chart to share with membership:

[pedigreecharts@txbayareagen.org](mailto:pedigreecharts@txbayareagen.org) — Sharon Boeger

Not receiving emails?

[emailcoord@txbayareagen.org](mailto:emailcoord@txbayareagen.org) — Fred Roe

# MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS & SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



## BAGS German Special Interest Group

**November 8, 2023 at 7:00pm**

The next regular meeting of the BAGS German SIG will be on November 8 at 7pm. The topic of the meeting will be "Are They German or Are They French?" - a discussion of the history, geography, and genealogical resources in the areas bordering Germany and France (Saarland, Alsace, and Lorraine areas). This meeting is open to all BAGS members. To join this group please complete the [German SIG Interest Survey!](#) There is no meeting of the German SIG in December; enjoy your holidays!



## Members Helping Members (MHM)

### Online Research - Session #1

**#1 Mondays from 10:00am to 12:00pm**  
with hosts Renee Ball and George Porterfield  
**or Mondays from 7:00pm to 9:00pm**  
with host Kim Zrubek

Need help with your family tree or a genealogical brick wall? BAGS members can join the virtual MHM sessions via Zoom. Participants may share their screens and demonstrate recent research discoveries. Details are on the [Members Helping Members page](#).

*If you'd like practice connecting to Zoom or have questions, contact Kim Zrubek at 281-992-2636.*

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



## Members Helping Members (MHM)

### Focused Research - Session #2

**#2 – Mondays from 7:00pm to 8:00pm,**  
Kim Zrubek, moderator

The first Monday evening MHM session, after a general meeting (via Zoom or in-person), will 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 utilize information and techniques presented in a hands-on approach to participants' actual experiences. The next focused session is:

**Monday, November 27; Follow-up Topic:**  
**Church Records.** (presentation 11/17/23)

Details are on BAGS [Members Helping Members page](#).



INTERNATIONAL GERMAN  
Genealogy Partnership

## Family Tree Maker

### MHM Session #3

**#3 – Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:00pm**  
Renee Ball moderates this MHM group.



Family Tree Maker MHM focuses on helping members take advantage of the many features and options of **Family Tree Maker** software. Help with technical concerns, such as software upgrading and exporting files, is also available.

Details are on BAGS [Members Helping Members](#)

## Still Need Help?

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



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](mailto:newsletter@txbayareagen.org). All rights reserved.



# MEMBER GATHERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS



## Make an Impact with Two Minutes of Your Time!

The Education committee is making plans for upcoming **Members Helping Members** events. To do this effectively, the committee wants **YOUR** input! You can easily provide this by completing the "2 minute" survey at the link below. **Please complete this survey**, even if you are not currently interested Members Helping Members events. There is an option to indicate your level of interest in participation. This will help the committee know the "reach" of the survey and understand the needs of every members of BAGS.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QYZCYB6>

If you have questions, please reach out to Kathleen Williams at [education@txbayareagen.org](mailto:education@txbayareagen.org)

## BAGS Meet 'n Munch

Our **Meet 'n Munches** are always well attended! BAGS members and their families share delicious meals and socialize on beautiful Sunday afternoons!

Please join us at the next Meet 'n Munch:

Sunday, November 19th,

**La Brisa Mexican Grill**, 4:00pm

501 N Wesley Dr, League City, TX

[\(map of directions\)](#)



BAGS Members, family, and guests are always welcome to come!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2024!

### **BAGS NEEDS YOU!**

Serving on the BAGS Board is an amazing experience, both personally and genealogically. Volunteering with BAGS can be meaningful for someone who wants to make a difference in helping this community. Please consider volunteering your talents (and a little time) to help BAGS be more effective and efficient next year! BAGS needs volunteers in the following areas:

**Proofreading**

**Publicity**

**BAGS Website**

**Social Media**

**Newsletter Editor**

**Yearbook Editor**

**Hospitality Committee**

**Programs Committee**

**Telephoning Committee**

**Education Committee**

**Journal Editor**

**County Coordinator**

Committees typically work together for about an hour (or less) each month! Board/committee meetings are held via Zoom. You can email your interest [newsletter@txbayareagen.org](mailto:newsletter@txbayareagen.org), let the telephone committee know your interest, or speak to another volunteer at one of our many events! Your help is vital in making BAGS thrive and grow!

## 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](mailto:info@txbayareagen.org)

### 2023 Meetings

Nov 13 – final for 2023

### 2024 Meetings

Jan 22

Feb 19

March 25

Board meetings are on Mondays at 6:30pm.

[Board Meeting Minutes](#) are available on the Members Page.

**Follow BAGS on Facebook!**

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

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



[txbayareagen.org/](http://txbayareagen.org/)

# NOVEMBER LIBRARY UPDATES



## Friendswood FamilySearch Center

### **In-Person MHM Research Session**

**November 15th**

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

The Friendswood FamilySearch Center is located at **505 Deseret Dr**, in Friendswood. The entrance to the building 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 below.

<b>Tues, Thurs, &amp; Fri</b>	<b>10:00am – 2:00pm</b>
<b>Tues evening</b>	<b>7:00pm – 9:00pm</b>

*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 entrance to the FamilySearch Center is on the SE corner, at the back of the building, away from the street. Use the first entrance off South Shore Blvd.

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

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7:00pm – 9:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00am – 12:00pm</b>

*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 Friends Events

- ✓ **November 2nd, 1:00pm, Clayton Library – Show & Tell Veteran's Day - Honoring our Veterans (Zoom)** more information [here](#).
- ✓ **November 18th, 10:30am, Clayton Library Friends Annual Meeting 2023** – more information [here](#).

Join the 2023 TxSGS Family History Conference, entitled *Roots and Branches: Climbing Your Family Tree*, on Friday and Saturday, November 10-11, 2023. TxSGS Live! features ten presentations by some of the top speakers in genealogy on research techniques, records, DNA, and more. For more information [click here!](#)

When registering, please use the code **BAGS** in the TIPS section of the registration to ensure our society is credited with your registration!



Give  
thanks





# BAGS - Bay Area Genealogical Society

For the latest news and event updates,  
visit our website at [tbbayareagen.org](http://tbbayareagen.org)



NOVEMBER 2023

## Calendar of Events - 2023/2024

### NOVEMBER

2	7:00p	Family Tree Makers MHM #3
6	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #1
8	7:00p	German SIG: <i>Are They German or Are They French?</i>
9	7:00p	Family Tree Maker MHM #3
13	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting
15	9:30a	MHM, Friendswood FSC
16	7:00p	Family Tree Maker MHM #3
17	7:00p	November General Meeting <i>How to Find Your Ancestors in Church Records, Sunny Morton (Zoom)</i>
19	4:00p	Meet 'n Munch, <i>La Brisa in League City</i>
20	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2 <i>11/17 Focused follow-up: Church Records</i>
27	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #1
30	7:00p	Family Tree Maker MHM #3

### DECEMBER

2	12:00p	BAGS Holiday Luncheon - <i>at the South Shore Grille</i>
4	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #1
7	7:00p	Family Tree Makers MHM #3
11	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #1
14	7:00p	Family Tree Maker MHM #3
18	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #1
21	7:00p	Family Tree Maker MHM #3

### JANUARY 2024

8	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #1
10	7:00p	German SIG
11	7:00p	Family Tree Maker MHM #3
15	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #1
17	9:30a	MHM, Friendswood FSC
18	7:00p	Family Tree Maker MHM #3
22	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting
25	7:00p	Family Tree Maker MHM #3
27	11:30a	January General Meeting Potluck
29	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2 <i>1/27 Focused follow-up: TBA</i>

### FEBRUARY

1	7:00p	Family Tree Maker MHM #3
5	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #1
8	7:00p	Family Tree Makers MHM #3
12	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #1
14	7:00p	German SIG
15	7:00p	Family Tree Maker MHM #3
19	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	6:30p	BAGS Board Meeting
21	9:30a	MHM, Friendswood FSC
22	7:00p	Family Tree Maker MHM #3
23	7:00p	February General Meeting (Zoom)
26	10:00a	Members Helping Members #1
	7:00p	Members Helping Members #2 <i>2/23 Focused follow-up: TBA</i>
29	7:00p	Family Tree Maker MHM #3