

# Clark County Genealogical Society Newsletter

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**General Meeting**  
**February 22, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**4300 main St., Vancouver WA**

In February, Rick Slavens will present "Using GenSmarts Software in Your Genealogical Research"

GenSmarts is a utility that analyzes your genealogy program file and produces research recommendations. The program works directly with the following software: Family Tree Maker, PAF, Legacy, TMG, RootsMagic, Ancestral Quest, and Ancestry Family Tree. For online research, GenSmarts produces links that already have your ancestor's name and specifics embedded, making it much easier to perform online record lookups. It helps you generate and track to-do lists, print worksheets to record your genealogy research results, and plan trips.

Here are some things people are saying about GenSmarts"... the best genealogy add-on software available on the market today. It's a super program that is easy to use, comprehensive in its scope, and provides often-needed focus to genealogical research priorities..." - Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter; "...we always wondered when someone would produce a program that would check our database and tell us where to look for additional data. Well, the time has come..." - Heritage Quest Magazine; "I've been waiting for years for someone to apply artificial intelligence to genealogy—and now, it's finally happened!" - Ancestry Daily News ; "It's like having your own virtual research assistant..." - Family Tree Magazine

Rick and his wife, Paula, live in Beaverton, OR, and are partners in Slavens Enterprises & Marketing Services. They specialize in publishing personal and family biographies, photo retouching, oral history interviews, genealogical research and computer-related services. Rick is a member of Clark County Genealogical Society (CCGS) and Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO); Oregon Chapter, Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) and Vice President, Oregon Historic Cemetery Association (OHCA)

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*We offer our condolences to member Howard Kemper and family on the death of his wife, Marie.  
Condolences also to family and friends on the death of life member Ann C. Graham of Wilsonville, Oregon*  
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## **New Database Aids Jewish Genealogists**

Don Finel calls our attention to a valuable article originally published in *UpFront with NGS*, The Online Newsletter of the National Genealogical Society at <http://www.NGSgenealogy.org/upfront.htm>. We quote:

A remarkable database has just been added to the Internet. It is a collection of detailed information about more than 3 million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. Called the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, but for the tragedy that created it, it is a genealogical gold mine. It was developed by Yad Vashem, the principal Holocaust memorial and archives located in Jerusalem. The site is at <http://www.yadvashem.org/>. The majority of documents in the database are known as Pages of Testimony, a manuscript collection created over the past 50 years by Yad Vashem from family members who stated (gave testimony) that their family member was murdered in the Holocaust. The submitter was asked to provide the victim's name, maiden name if a married woman, year of birth, name of parents, place of birth, place of residence before the Holocaust, place of death, name of spouse including maiden name, and names and ages of children who perished.

Books that arrived this month:

1. Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy \$85.00
2. A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland \$20.00
3. Norden: A Guide to Scandinavian Gen. Res. \$14.95
4. Your Swedish Roots \$24.95
5. Klickitat Co. Terr. Census 1871-1887 \$35.00

From the Doris Wastradowski Honorarium : Finding Birth Parents & Other Family Members

From the Jerri St. John Honorarium: In Search of European Roots 3rd. Ed.

In Search of Your German Roots 4th. Ed.

New Jersey Biographical Index

From the Irish Interest Group: In Search of Your British & Irish Roots 4th. Ed.

We would like to remind the membership that we are always looking to add to our collection by your gracious donations. When you have finished your research in an area using Books, CD, Film, or Fiche, we would be honored for the donation to our growing collection. Also, we continue to thank those who are contributing to the Library Donation Tree Money Jar.

We recently have received 1 set of 18 of the Family Pedigree Resource File. This is a valuable addition to our library – there is additional information on the CDs that is not on line at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). If any of you have one of these 5-CD sets and are finished with it, we would love to complete this set with your donations. The cost at this time is \$22.50 per set.

Your library committee is still determined to finish Phase 1 of the library move and begin Phase 2 by spring.

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### Note from President Bill Duchie

**Update of CCGS Space Acquisition Study:** The nineteen members present at the CCGS January Board meeting unanimously approved a motion to acquire additional space and directed the President to: "Sign a two-year lease with Hidden Farms for the space immediately adjacent (south) of the Library. This will permit CCGS, while still very healthy and full of energy, to continue the work of the many who are responsible for bringing the Society to this point in our 30+ year history."

The extremely favorable lease terms are the result of the Landlord's belief in the Society's long term viability and CCGS' contribution of "sweat equity." Electrical and structural changes to meet our use requirements are currently being made. In early February, Society members will have a paint party. Sign up in the library or on the web page. We will assume control of the site March 1.

There are two leadership positions vital to the success of this venture:

Facility Coordinator: A new position which, with assistance from others, will: establish guideline for facility use, marketing to outside groups, and scheduling.

Education: This is an expansion of the activity handled so ably by Burt Paynter over the past four years. This committee will establish and conduct a broad range of educational opportunities for CCGS members and the community at large.

Just as expected, since approval of the additional space, members have already begun suggesting additional potential use opportunities, including an "open house" to celebrate this expansion and increase CCGS visibility, and a members' "rummage sale" in the new facility.

This is an exciting time as CCGS continues its collective and significant contribution to genealogy in Western Washington. Let's have fun.

## Getting ready for the Spring Seminar Saturday March 19, 2005 with Cyndi Howells

### To Do List...:

Contact Cindi Howells ✓  
Lectures Choices ✓✓  
    Googling for Grandma, Evaluating Web Sites, 10 Commandments of the Internet, Question and Answer Session  
Contact Washington State School for the Deaf  
Lunch Choices with Catering ✓  
Facility Preparedness with Administration ✓  
Contact CCGS Membership  
Volunteers  
Breaks and Lunch Organizers (Kitchen Crew)  
Cyndi Howells Books Sales  
Donations ✓  
Publicity ✓  
All members distribute flyers and Information!! ✓✓  
Signage  
Membership Table  
Conference Packets  
Door Prize Announcer

As you can see my to do list is still in progress. Looking for many more volunteers!! This is going to be a outstanding presentation. Cyndi Howell is very well respected (she knows her stuff)! We are very fortunate to have her for our seminar and will be able to learn many ideas for researching our ancestors and families.

Waiting to hear from you!! Maria Adler [amadler@myexcel.com](mailto:amadler@myexcel.com) or 360-695-9932

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### Strategic Planning Update:

As mentioned in the January newsletter, we are beginning the next phase of strategic planning. The foundation of this work will be the information from the CCGS survey and the material developed in the small group activities involving the strategic map exercise at the October General meeting.

In the next few weeks five strategic planning subcommittees will be formed to "brain-storm" the following areas vital to the future of CCGS:

- 1. Education** - Establish program goals (class type, scope and number) to meet the educational interests, needs and demands of a full range of genealogists as well as attracting newcomers.
- 2. Public Interest** - Establish goals and activities necessary to encourage and sustain a growing public interest in genealogy in the Clark County community.
- 3. Research and Preservation** - Establish the type of local materials, relating to genealogy, that CCGS can collect, publish, and make available to meet the needs of the greater genealogical community.
- 4. Genealogical Library** - Set goals and establish implementation plans for significantly increasing patron use of the library.
- 5. Facilities** - Establish facility definition goals to ensure CCGS is able to carry out its varied mission

In the earliest stages, these groups will define, evaluate, and compare alternative scenarios and their potential for contributing to CCGS intermediate and long-term success. The options considered, with an identified "preferred approach," are targeted for presentation to the Strategic Planning Team in February. Included in those presentations will be a list of issues that cross study-group lines. The committees will then work on these "crossing issues" and present a draft integrated plan to the Strategic Planning Team in April.

Please consider which of these activities best fits your interests, experience, and vision for CCGS' future. Contact Diana Cruz, Jane Germann, or Bill Duchie to express your interest.



**P.O. Box 5249  
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**Vancouver WA**

**Permit No. 934**

**Library: 717 Grand Blvd  
360-750-5688**

**President: William Duchie**

**Vice President: Diana Cruz**

**Secretary: DeAnn Wilson**

**Treasurer: Vonda Erickson**

**Asst. Sec-Treas: Lynne Novotny**

**Past President: Sharon Wodtke**

## **CCGS Meetings and Programs**

- 7 Feb. Legacy Family Tree Interest Group, CCGS Library, 10 a.m. – noon**
- 14 Feb. CCGS Board meeting, CCGS Library, 10 a.m. - noon; All members are welcome.**
- 16 Feb. Tom Laidlaw Program, 6:30 p.m. at Washington State Library**
- 16 Feb. Deadline for March Newsletter; e-mail material to [gskuech@pacifier.com](mailto:gskuech@pacifier.com)**
- 22 Feb. General Meeting, 10 a.m. & 7 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Vancouver**
- 19 March, 2005  
Spring Seminar with Cyndi Howells of Cyndi's List**

**General Meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of the month (except November) at First Presbyterian Church. Morning meetings: 10 a.m. - noon. Evening meetings : 7 - 9 p.m.. No General Meeting is held in March (Spring Seminar), July, August, or December.**