

The Stillaguamish Star

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STILLAGUAMISH VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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It's almost that time
of year again!



The SVGS Board of Directors
is calling for nominations for the following positions:

Vice President
Treasurer

If you have an interest in volunteering for one of these
positions, please contact a Board member, the nominating
committee, or send an email to info@stillygen.org
expressing your desire to serve.

The Annual Meeting and election will be held following our NOON Potluck
on May 14, 2024

at 1:00pm at the SVGS library.

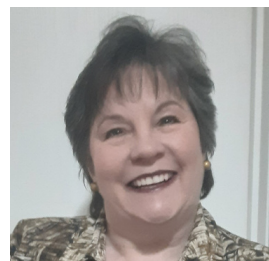
Mark your calendar for NOON and don't miss the
2024 SVGS Annual Meeting & Potluck

ANNUAL REPORTS

FY-2023-2024

President's Report

Ruth Caesar



Over the course of FY 2023-2024 our Society has been thriving. Many people have dropped by our library to find out how to begin or expand their family history research. To that end, our volunteer librarians have been instrumental in providing information about our on-site and online resources and assisting individuals with their efforts.

We were very grateful to the Family Search Center of Mount Vernon for the generous donation of many books and 6 bookcases.

As a reminder, SVGS is a Family Search Affiliate Library. We continue to provide access from our library to Ancestry Library Edition and will be providing library access to American Ancestors online resources, thanks to the donations from many of our members.

Looking forward- Our Annual Meeting is set for May 14th. Join us for the noon potluck and stay for the following meeting. Also in 2025 our society will be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

As a society, we will continue to have significant challenges in FY2024-25 and it is critical that we successfully meet these challenges.

In the area of volunteer support, positions need to be filled by knowledgeable and committed individuals, for board, committee and librarian positions.

I wish to offer a sincere Thank You to all Board Members and SVGS Committee Chairs. A special thank you to our genealogist who has donated over 450 hours and the volunteer librarians who have collectively donated over 1700 hours to our Society this year. Without you, our society would be greatly diminished. SVGS is also genuinely grateful to those who provide funding grants to help us continue to accomplish our mission – The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Tulalip Tribes, Snohomish County and the City of Arlington have been some of our generous benefactors.

Library Report

LeAnne Koliha



The librarians have had a very busy year. If you haven't been in for a while, come by and see what is new.

New acquisitions:

For the 2023-24 year we have added 600 books. We are grateful for the large donations from both the Whitman County Genealogy Society in Pullman and the Mt. Vernon Family History Center, as well as many smaller individual donations. The newsletter now features an article in each edition listing the newest books.

These donations have required some rearranging of books as well as additional bookcases. We are in the process of putting the periodicals from the various states into their own bookcase which will give us much needed space in the state bookcases. In addition, we have moved the genealogies into a new space allowing the reference section to expand.

We are seeing a steady increase in requests for research help both online and in person. It is always a great feeling to know that you have helped someone in their search for their family history.

We now have 4 different focus groups that meet in the library. Every Thursday morning, we continue to have the Zoom and in person groups. This year we added a monthly Tuesday morning New England Research group as well as a monthly Thursday afternoon DNA group. We are looking to create other interest groups. Let me know if you have an interest that you would like to see addressed.

In March, the SVGS was awarded a grant from the Snohomish County Historical Preservation Commission. This grant will allow us to digitize all the microfilm and fiche that we have. These digitized records will be much easier to use in your research.

A special thank you to all who turned out to help in our indoor spring cleaning in April and our outdoor cleaning in May.

Thank you for all you do!

Publicity Report

Diana Keehn



The best publicity for SVGS continues to be performed by our members, educating others about the benefits of the society and sharing their passion for family history. The next-best publicity appears to be the signs provided by the City of Arlington and our own sandwich-board signs in front of the library. When working as a librarian I ask visitors how they found out about the library. The most common answer has been they saw the signs and were curious about how we might help them find their family.

Advertising our SVGS meetings and events to the general public continues to be the challenge. Our meetings, special interest groups, library closures, need for volunteers and all the library events (including our month-long celebration of Family History Month last October) were posted on a variety of websites. If you follow SVGS on Facebook, please remember to “like” and “share” the postings to your friends and any local group you belong to that may be interested in our events. Some of the Facebook pages where our events were posted this year are Arlington Living, What’s Up Arlington, Everything Snohomish County and Vintage Everett. Also, many thanks to multiple genealogy groups that follow us and have also shared our posts to their FB page.

Our meetings and events are also being emailed to the Washington State Genealogical Society for their Blog published weekly. (You can get this blog emailed on Thursdays for free by signing up on their website). Any educational presentations via Zoom get posted to ConferenceKeeper.com for a wider audience to attend virtually. Events for Family History month and a call out for volunteers appeared in the Arlington City newsletter.

Flynn Kennedy volunteered to represent our society this year at the Downtown Arlington Business Association (DABA) monthly meetings. Sue McNeil has been diligent in keeping our website updated with our upcoming meetings and events. She has also been sending out reminder emails to members prior to these events, including the monthly DNA Interest Group that she facilitates. LeAnne Koliha has been sending monthly email reminders for the New England research group. Karen Looney and Susanne Brown have been emailing weekly reminders for the Thursday morning research group that meets via Zoom. If you are not receiving email reminders and would like to join, please send an email to info@stillygen.org and request to be added to the email list for any or all of these groups.

President Ruth Caesar is temporarily keeping members up to date with upcoming events publishing the Stillaquamish Star newsletter. This position is currently vacant. Please contact Ruth if you can takeover this position. She can provide some training to get you started.

The librarians have been instrumental at showing visitors the wonderful resources at the library, encouraging new memberships and letting them know of our upcoming meetings and events.

Publicity currently needs a co-chair. I would love to share this position with someone. Also, any and all suggestions for Publicity for our society are always appreciated.

Membership Report

Michele Grant



As members of SVGS we should all be looking for opportunities to increase our membership. If you have any ideas on how we can do better please do not hesitate to let us know.

As of April 30, 2024, Membership has 134 active Personal Plans, of that number 69 are Lifetime Individual Memberships and 3 are Lifetime Family Memberships. Additionally, there are 46 Organizational Memberships.

It is very important to us that you notify info@stillygen.org if you change your email, mailing address or phone number. Our Membership database is the method we use when sending "Blast" email messages about upcoming events.

Budget and Finance Report

Karen Looney



The process of finding funding is always a challenge and truly is never ending. In a perfect world a benevolent benefactor would generously present our organization with a substantial donation which would allow us to own a facility of our own, with a reserve large enough to fund our day to day operations. Reality is a different story.

We rely on the generosity of our members and grants from civic minded donors for day-to-day expenses (i.e. rent and overhead). Our recent experience with providers of grant funding has made it abundantly clear that there can be no expectation of full funding of our financial needs from those outside sources.

Therefore, in FY2024-25 we should strive for more direct internal sources of funding. Watch for further information on how you can become involved.

I'm also asking all of you to support us by attending our monthly presentations, volunteering when you are able, and telling your friends what a great place we offer for learning about genealogical resources, making friends and sharing ideas.

Your donations mean a great deal. Remember, you can make monetary donations by going to www.stillygen.org and clicking the "Donate" tab. Or, mail a donation to SVGS at PO Box 34, Arlington, WA 98223.

Publications Report

Sue Walde



Website Rotator Photos

In September 2023, the Publications Committee created 11 new photographic slides that rotate on SVGS's website homepage. They are designed to promote the library, which has over 7,500 books and other resources. Topics include Welcome to SVGS, Find Your Family, Arlington High School Graduates, and Our Military Heros, as well as little-known historic stories about Bryant, Burn Road, Edgecomb, Island Crossing, Jordan, Silvana, and downtown Arlington.

Photos of Marietta Colbern Roth

About 300 photographs were gathered to commemorate our founder Marietta Roth and SVGS's 39-year history. Some photos were used in a slideshow created by LeAnne Koliha, Vice President of the Library, and presented at the SVGS Library for Marietta's memorial.

SVGS Books Available for Sale as of April 1, 2024

Title

- Arlington Centennial Pictorial Book, 1903-2003
- Early Stillaguamish Valley Schools
- Arlington Cemetery Book
- Arlington Times Obituaries, 1895-1915
- Arlington Times Obituaries, 1916-1920
- Arlington Times Obituaries, 1921-1925
- Arlington Times Obituaries, 1931-1935
- Arlington Times Obituaries, 1936-1939
- Harwood Cemetery (Arlington Municipal Cemetery)
- Loyal Heights (Bryant Cemetery) Obituaries

Snohomish County in the War is being reprinted and will be available soon.

In Memoriam

Marietta Colbern Roth
Born: 13 April 1928, Bozeman, MT
Died: 5 Nov 2023, Stanwood, WA at 95 years

Marietta Roth founded
the Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society
39 years ago in 1985.



Marietta served as president, secretary, Cultural Fair judge, and fundraiser and did whatever job was needed. Before computers provided death records, she spearheaded several tombstone projects that resulted in SVGS's publication of nine books on local cemeteries and obituaries. In addition, she and a small team gathered, transcribed, typed, and preserved thousands of historic school attendance records. For years, Marietta held enormous yard sales at her home that helped pay the Society's rent and utilities. In 2012, the Masonic Lodge of Arlington awarded her Citizen of the Year. On November 5, 2023, Marietta Roth passed at 95.



Social Studies Fair Judges: Marietta Roth, Joanne Wetmore,
Kay Crabtree & Mary Jo Trudeau, 2001.

Send us your submissions!

If you have a story that our readers might enjoy, please send it to us!
Newsletter submissions for the **July/August** issue should be sent
to newsletter@stillygen.org by **June 26th**.



Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stillygen/>



Check out our Blog:

<https://stillygen.wordpress.com/>



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MAY/JUNE 2024