Everyone Cares About Genealogy

What’s the second-most-popular topic on the Internet, after pornography? Why, it’s genealogy or the study of family history. Since April 2, when 1940 census data were released, that information has generated more than 125,000 hits a minute, according to Curt Witcher, senior manager of special collections at the Allen County Public Library (ACPL).

The census release demonstrates how and why people are interested in genealogy, Witcher said. “If you really want to know who made this country, you need to look at the people who lived in this community,” he said. Interest in family history took off in 1976, which was the U.S. bicentennial and also the broadcast of the miniseries Roots. This program let everyone know, ‘I have a family,’ Prior to that, only the rich, famous or infamous were researched.

The mid-1990s brought the Internet boom and opened doors for genealogists, Witcher says. Thanks to technology, everyone can explore their family history. In addition, genealogy is a way for classroom teachers to engage students in history. History comes alive and makes learning relevant by helping students find a relative’s records. “A sense of family is important and of consequence to youth.”
THE DOWNTOWN ROTARY CLUB  
Next Meeting: May 7, 2012  
“OPENING DOORS THROUGH SERVICE”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greeters</th>
<th>Mark Carboni &amp; Tim Gibson</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cashier</td>
<td>Zach Higgins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invocation</td>
<td>Denny Williamson</td>
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<td>House</td>
<td>John Hoffman</td>
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<td>Song Leader</td>
<td>Nate Fink</td>
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<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>Kay Ostrum</td>
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<td>Spin Editor</td>
<td>Kelly Updike</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>“Opening Doors through Education: Fort Wayne Museum of Art’s Scholastic &amp; Writing Awards Program”</td>
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Upcoming Programs

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>RYLA students, “Our Experience at Rotary Youth Leadership Award Camp”</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Group Study Exchange team from Bulgaria</td>
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<td>May 28</td>
<td>NO MEETING – MEMORIAL DAY</td>
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<td>June 4</td>
<td>Ana Cris, GSE student from Mexico “Reflecting on My Year in Fort Wayne”</td>
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<td>June 11</td>
<td>Matt Konkler, “Bringing my Pentagon experience back to Indiana”</td>
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<td>June 18</td>
<td>Tom Herr &amp; Dr Otto Chang, “Introducing Fort Wayne’s new Chinese Sister City”</td>
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<td>June 25</td>
<td>The International Youth Exchange EXPO Committee, “What happened at the 2012 IYEE?”</td>
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Proposed New Members
Please call President Mike with any comments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tracy Donley</td>
<td>Admissions &amp; Marketing Director, Life Care Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>Carole Fuller, Mike Kelly, Dave Borgen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick Rhynard</td>
<td>Regional Sales Manager, Swan Lake Resort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>Jeremy Redding, Linda Skaggs, Jason Daenens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marc Levy</td>
<td>Executive Director, Questa</td>
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<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>Mary Campbell, Ronnie Greenberg, Deb Beckman</td>
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“I’m Looking for My Ancestors”

According to Curt Witcher, guest speaker, anyone can become a genealogist. Begin by:

1. Just start. Seriously! “Remember. Write it down,” Witcher says. Download free documenting software and start recording whatever you remember about your family. “You know more than you think you know,” he said.

2. Look around your home for photos, records, documents, family Bible, school report cards and medical certificates.

3. Thanks to the Allen County Public Library’s agreement with the Salt Lake City Family History Library, the ACPL is the largest genealogy library in the Milky Way! With a great physical collection, great staff and this great relationship, you have a GREAT deal of information at your fingertips, all right here in Fort Wayne. And a lot of information is available via the Internet.

The 1940 census data are found at http://1940census.archives.gov

Connect with area genealogists at www.indgensoc.org

Don’t Forget!

May 19: This is River Greenway (Headwaters Park) Cleanup Day, organized by our environmental committee.

May 19-26: Group Study Exchange team from Bulgaria visits the Fort. One host family is needed; contact Tim Gibson or Noel Knox for more information.

June 1-2: Attend the district conference in Michigan City. Volunteer to be a sergeant-at-arms -- collect meal tickets, seat VIPs, serve as a venue guide -- by contacting Pres. Mike.

June 28: Celebrate the year at the club’s annual meeting at IPFW’s new Alumni Center.
Gold Standard Honoree
Bill Shustowski was presented with the Gold Standard for chairing a committee that determined the club’s candidate for a graduate peace studies scholarship. The application is on its way for district consideration.

Support High-Speed Rail
The Northwest Campus of Indiana University has embraced the Midwest regional rail system and is working with the Indiana High Speed Rail Association to research and develop the project. Advocate for this form of 21st Century transportation by attending the 13th Annual Golden Spike Seminar on May 17, IU Northwest, 3400 Broadway, Gary, Ind. Registration and more information are available at www.indianahighspeedrail.org/goldenspike.html

Your Happy Day
Happy May birthday to:
- Gerald Dahle May 02
- Doris Fogel May 03
- Jane Wilks May 04
- Deborah Beckman May 07
- Sharon Pohly May 07
- Jeremy Redding May 13
- Roy Gilliom May 14
- Mark Carboni May 15
- Nagin Shah May 17
- R. Kay Ostrum May 19
- Kelly Updike May 19
- Christian Cage May 22
- Richard Conklin May 23
- William Raftree May 25
- Lori Stinson May 28
- Maclyn Parker May 31
Friends in Need

Tony Niewyk reports that Ruth Niewyk’s cancer has returned and she is due for surgery soon. Send cards and notes to them at:

Tony & Ruth Niewyk
6804 Gulf Dr
Holmes Beach FL 34217
aniewyk1@gmail.com

Bohemian Rhapsody…Not

Cheers to song leader Kenn Kunze for his creative use of Rotarians in the singing (!?) of Queen’s rock anthem by Dick Conklin, Denny Williamson and Kay Ostrum.
High Pressure Membership Tactics – Are They “Fair to All Concerned”?

Has the desire to increase our club membership driven some to use questionable high pressure recruiting tactics? We must remember the guiding principles of our “Four Way Test” in all activities of our club! Could President Mike have taken the concept of “embracing” prospective new members a bit too literally? We report, you decide!

Rotarian’s “Day of Work” 2012 a Success!

What’s the line from that famous holiday song… something about “The weather outside is frightful”? Yup, that would definitely have been very appropriate last Saturday for our Rotary “Day of Work” event! It was a hardy lot of Fort Wayne Rotarians that braved the rain, sleet, lightning and what may have been some of the hardest soil to be found in
Indiana, to lend a hand with projects at the American Red Cross. One group completed a landscaping beautification project outside, while another group worked indoors in the kitchen making chocolate candy treats for an upcoming celebration! Whatever your desire or inclination – we had a job for you! Many thanks to Bill Gabbard, Kay Ostrum, Dave Borgen and his wife Laura, Jane Wilks, Carole Fuller, Frank Weaver, Larry Sheetz, Jeff Zimmerman, Jason Daenens, Tim Gibson, Candace Schuler and daughter, Hope Sheehan and husband John! It proved to be a great opportunity to include spouses and children in a service project! Special thanks to Jason Daenens for securing and transporting the mulch! Kay Ostrum wanted to pass along a special “High Five” to the Red Cross volunteers who assisted alongside our club members!
RYLA is an intensive 3-day leadership camp that is designed to improve the teamwork, communication, and leadership skills of our future generation of leaders! Over 120 students have been chosen from the 55 Rotary clubs in our Northern Indiana district 6540. Our RYLA committee received applications from the top students identified by their guidance counselors in several area high schools, and we selected 10 students who we felt would benefit most from the program. The students will be departing for the YMCA Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, IN on April 20th and will return on Sunday the 22nd. They’ll be giving a presentation of their experience at the Rotary meeting on May 14th. Stay tuned!

Meet our students

Amy Arthur
Northside HS

Ben Gibson
Hereitage HS

Catherine Bleddoe
Homestead

Wilisha Graham
Anthis Career Center

Mark Hellinger
Bishop Luers

Laura Macias
Northside HS

Mark Marin
Anthis Career Center

Mariah Kiefer
Northside HS

Ana Martinez
Leo HS

RYE student

Emma Walker
Southside HS