



FSG Lock-in to feature Female Ancestors

WEEKEND HELD IN HONOR OF FRANCES SPROTT GOFORTH

Huntsville Public Library and the Walker County Genealogical Society will be hosting their annual Frances Sprott Goforth Memorial Genealogy Weekend in August. This year's event is titled "One-half of our Ancestors are Women: Finding our Female Ancestors."

The weekend will run from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, August 4, 2017, with a light supper being provided during the lock-in, and continues from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5. A silent auction will be held during the weekend and is open to the public. The auction will end at 4 p.m. Saturday.

The free "lock-in" event will feature presentations on Friday and Saturday. Friday's lectures include: "Spanish Women vs. Anglo Women in Early Texas" by Dr. Caroline



Crimm; "Oh, Grandma, Where Art Thou?" with Johnnie Jo Dickenson, past president of WCGS; "Quilts, Stitches and Women's Crafts" by Helen Belcher; and "Diaries & Letters" by Cheryl Spencer. Saturday's lectures include "Rights of Women in Early America" by 12th Judicial District of Texas Honorable Judge Don Krammer; "Ancestry.com" by Cecily Kelly of the Montgomery County Genealogical Library; "Language Patterns" by Clara Malak; and "I Have a Story to Tell" by Johnnie Jo Dickenson.

"I look forward to the genealogy weekend each year. We always learn something new as we hear the speakers and interact with other individuals interested in Genealogy. My only regret is that I didn't ask my parents and family for

more information about their ancestors. If we do not document family history for our children, it is lost," said Walker County Genealogical Society President Kay Mitchell.

The event is named in honor of Frances Sprott Goforth, who passed away at the age of 78 on May 7, 2011. She was born on November 12, 1932 in Walker County, Texas, to the late Frank Vernon and Nannie Wells Sprott. She was a professor at the University of South Florida. She was also an avid member of the genealogical society and Tall Pines Quilters Club.

The event is free but requires registration, call 936-291-5471 or sign up on our website.

- Brenda Poe, Cataloging

HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1219 13th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
936-291-5472

www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com
@HuntsvilleLib—Twitter
HuntsvillePublicLibrary—FB
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Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturdays Noon to 4 p.m.

Listing of Events

Find this information online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com

The Huntsville Public Library will be **CLOSED** on Tuesday, July 4th and will reopen at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 5th.

Do you have children ages 2 or under? Then **Mother Goose Lapsit** is a story time designed for you! Held on Mondays at 10:30 a.m., enjoy a half hour of developmentally appropriate play featuring stories, songs, and rhymes. This program introduces little ones to the story time experience and is perfect for their language development and developing vocabulary. Sign up is not required. For more information, contact Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator at 936-291-5910.

Come to **Story Time** – a fun early literacy program for kids 5 and under. Join us for interactive stories, songs, rhymes, and crafts. The early literacy practices featured each week help build the foundation for a lifelong love of reading and learning. For parents and caregivers, story time offers an opportunity to experience early literacy practices in action, discover great books and resources for home use, and socialize with other parents after Story time. Wednesday and Friday sessions share a theme with something new each week. Sign up is not required. Story times are held on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:45 a.m. For more information, contact Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator at 936-291-5910.

It's not too early to start your junior high or high school student budgeting, saving, and preparing for the financial aspects of college life. Financial Advisor Scott Francis is coming to the Huntsville Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 11th for **Teen Talks—Finances** to speak with Teens and their parents about important financial planning. Sign-up is not required. For more information, contact Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator at 936-291-5910.

The **Sam Houston State University Natural History Collection** is coming back! The curators will be bringing their assortment of animal pelts and artifacts to the Huntsville Public Library from 12-5 p.m. on Friday, July 7th. Explore this educational exhibit to learn about different species. All ages are welcome and sign up is not required. For more information, contact Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator at 936-291-5910.

"Birds nest and eggs" – Join us for an exciting program offered by the Huntsville Audubon Society from 2-3 p.m. Thursday, July 13th. See firsthand a display of different types of nests and eggs as you learn about them. Make your own nest and eggs to take home. This program is best suited for elementary and junior high ages. Sign up is not required. For more information, contact Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator at 936-291-5910.

A special treat is in store for those attending the **Brown Bag Lecture Series** Thursday, July 27. Local artist and builder Dan Phillips will discuss his innovative and creative use of recycled and salvaged materials in home construction. He has built more than a dozen unique homes in Huntsville, the latest being the Cowboy Hat House which is featured in April's *Travel + Leisure* magazine. Attendees may bring a brown bag lunch. Lunch time begins at 11:30 a.m. with the lecture beginning at noon. The lecture series is planned for the fourth Thursday of each month. Beverages will be provided. Admission is free. This program is for adults age 18 and older. For more information, contact Mary Kokot, Adult Coordinator at 936-291-5471.

Join **Comic Book Club** at the Huntsville Public Library! This free monthly program is held from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays, July 22. This event is for ages 17 and under. Do you like comic books? Enjoy games, crafts, raffles, and a speaker from the world of Comic Books. Bring a comic book to trade with. This program is sponsored by Annette Tubbs and the Comic Book Stop and Trade group. Sign up not required. For more information, contact Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator at 936-291-5910.

Tell the story you've always wanted to write...whether it's a comic book, short story, novel, or a poem. Learn how at the Huntsville Public Library's **Creative**

Writing Seminar from 2-3 p.m. on Wednesdays from June 7th to July 12th. Poet and author Christopher Holmes will be leading this course for ages 8-17 with weekly writing prompts and activities designed for creativity and fun. Enter the writing contest at the end of the program and win a prize! Sign up is required and can be found at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com. For more information, contact Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator at 936-291-5910.

Would you like to create and STAR in your very own animated movie? Come to the **GoAnimate** class during the Summer Reading program at the Huntsville Public Library. Classes will be once a week on Wednesdays at 3:30 pm starting June 7th through July 12th in the Board Room. With GoAnimate, you can create your own character, give a voice to your character, and customize your video to engage your audience! GoAnimate can also help give context to your ideas, represent diversity, strike the right tone of emotions, and so much more in less than 5 minutes! This program is for teens ages 11-17. Supplies will be provided and registration is recommended. Contact Ashley Newsome, Tech Service Coordinator at 936-291-5485 or anewsome@huntsvilletx.gov.

Oh snap! This summer is electrifying at Huntsville Public Library as we study how to build working circuits with **Snap Circuits**. Join us from 4:00 to 5:00 on Tuesday, July 11th in the Community room to make a working circuit and learn about electricity! No sign up required. This program is for teens ages 11-17. For more information, contact IT Services at [936-291-5471](tel:936-291-5471) or check out our website at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com.

The Huntsville Public Library is offering free **Intermediate Excel Computer** classes. Classes will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays starting July 13th through August 3rd in the Board Room. These classes will feature how to create, duplicate, and edit files; move and organize files; deleting file types; and downloading and installing programs. July 11- File Creation, Duplication, Editing; July 18- Moving and Organizing Files; July 25- Deleting and File Types; August 1- Downloading Files and Installing Programs. Class size is limited so you must be registered to take the class. You can register online www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or at the Tech Reference Desk. This program is for adults 18 and older. For more information, feel free to stop by the library or call 936-291-5485.

New Book Club In Town. Get in on the ground floor and be part of the new book club starting up at the Huntsville Public Library. All interested persons are welcome to meet and organize a pre-Book Club meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 10th, 2017 in the Huntsville Public Library Board Room. Attendees will create a reading agenda, set a schedule and select the first book to be read. Book Clubs are an excellent way to enjoy new genres and authors and revisit long cherished masterpieces. Join other readers, make new friends and stimulate the brain cells! This program is for ages 18 and older. For more information, contact Mary Kokot, Adult Coordinator at 936-291-5481.

The Huntsville Public Library will host an **ESL New Student Orientation** from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 22 in the Community Room. The classes will be held at Mance Park Middle School from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and will be taught by Lone Star College staff. Attendance is mandatory at the Orientation and Testing on Saturday, July 22 in order to enroll. Visit the library's website www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Mary at 936-291-5471 for more information.

The Huntsville Public Library will host free **GED classes** 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. each Saturday from July 29 to September 16. The classes will be taught by Lone Star College staff. Students are required to attend Orientation (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and Testing (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) on Tuesday, July 25 in order to enroll. Students 19 years and older should bring with them a valid government-issued photo ID. Students 18 years of age, in addition to the ID, need a self-consent form, a parental consent form, and a withdrawal form from their previous institution. Saturday class dates are: July 29, August 5, 12, 19, 26, and September 2, 9, and 16. Visit the library's website www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Mary at 936-291-5471 for more information.

Spotlight on Corbyn Cravero - Adult Literacy Tutor Plus Much, Much More

Corbyn Cravero, a volunteer tutor since last September, has been working off and on with a variety of students for the past year. He started off helping several students improve their English speaking and comprehension skills. Corbyn then met with a middle school cafeteria worker for several hours each week reviewing her on scientific terms and food safety requirements in order to recertify her Texas Food Handler's License. Now he's ready to take on a new student from Cambodia. He hopes to get him ready to pass the math GED test. During this past year, Corbyn was simultaneously an adult literacy tutor, an SHSU student - he brushed up on some science classes before taking the Medical College Admission Exam (MCAT) - worked at a full-time job in a busy doctor's office, and showed up every Sunday to play the organ at First United Methodist Church services (including practice with the choir on Wednesday evenings)! Thanks, Corbyn, for all you do!

Literacy Program

Huntsville's multicultural and multilingual population necessitates a literacy program to help its citizens with learning English and/or assisting adult learners with reading and writing.

Luckily, Huntsville Public Library has a robust program with 10 volunteer tutors and many eager-to-learn students. Current students come from Cambodia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Honduras, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. Many more students, from a plethora of other countries, await their turn for a tutor.

Tutors are required to volunteer for at least two hours per week and no foreign language skills are necessary. All materials are provided and study rooms can be reserved at the library to insure privacy and quiet. Please think about becoming an adult literacy volunteer.

Contact Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471 for more information.

- *Mary Kokot, Adult Library Services*

GENETIC GENEALOGY: TELLING A NEW STORY

Genealogy has long been a part of the human experience. Before scribes set to writing the genealogical history, poets and story tellers would recant the lives of kings and queens, heroes and "regular folks". Homer and many others told epic tales in hours long renditions. Culture and history were passed from generation to generation through dramatic oral recital.

The Greek historian Herodotus (484 - 425 BCE) was the first in western civilization to systematically record the accounts of heroes, wars and the accomplishments of ancient civilizations. A contemporary of Herodotus questioned, and here I am paraphrasing, "Now that we have written history, what will happen to memory?"

Memory is fleeting. Records are discarded and secrets are held only to be lost with the passing of a generation. The human genealogy is also ancient. It spans eons into what has been a mysterious unknown. Recent advances in genetics and DNA analysis have opened avenues of discovery. The advances have answered questions of the recent past and provide insights into our ancient ethnic history.

Unknown siblings and extended families have been united through the techniques of genetic genealogy. People are excited to unite with new family members and eagerly share accounts of their ethnicity. Here are two stories recently shared with me by two friends.

What may sound like a plot from a ro-

matic novel provides a heart-warming account of reunion of siblings and members of an extended family. Following World War II an Iowa school teacher, a young woman recently divorced, conceived a child out of wedlock. Fearing public humiliation and shame she sought assistance from a church adoption agency. The agency placed her with a man and his wife in Texas who provided her with housing and employment to support her eleven year old daughter and small son while they waited the birth of the child. The man and wife were to become the adopted parents of the boy. Over the years the birth mother and adopted parents remained in contact, but the secret remained private.

The 11-year-old daughter was told a fanciful story to hide the pregnancy. The adopted child was told of the adoption and wondered many times about his birth mother and siblings. His natural siblings remained only vaguely aware of their brother. Upon her deathbed, the mother told her now 60-year-old daughter about her brother. Several years later, the daughter's son sent his DNA sample for analysis. The results came back with the information that he had an unknown first cousin. He spoke with his mother who quickly realized that the unknown cousin was not her nephew, but rather her brother. Contacts were made and the reunion was planned. The long lost brother, now in late fifties, traveled from Austin to the Dallas area to meet with his

newly found sisters, nephews and nieces. My friends said, "The meeting with uncle Moe was so easy. It was like he had always been there. We instantly bonded and became family."

Another friend tells her story having recently received her DNA analysis. "My maternal grandparents came to this country around 1900 from Carleone, Sicily. So needless to say, I always considered myself one half Sicilian/Italian. Makes sense, right? I got my DNA done and well, what a surprise." My friend learned that her father's heritage was 45% English/Great Britain, 6% Scandinavian and 3% Irish. There was no surprise in her father's northern European markers. Her mother's heritage was the source of her surprise. Her mother's analysis showed 37% Italian/Greek, 3% Asian, 3% European Jewish and 3% Middle Eastern heritages. My friend's understanding of Sicilian history helped her explain the unexpected Asian, European Jewish and Middle Eastern markers. Sicily, she reports, has been a crossroads of trade and subject to many invasions over the centuries. It stands to reason that the DNA record would show ethnic diversity.

These stories remind us of the advances in genetic genealogy. Genetic genealogy has the potential to unite families and unlock mysteries of humankind. Genetic genealogy is one more tool available to advance the knowledge of our family history.

- *Richard Lane, Genealogy & Reference*

JEDI Academy returns!!

Name this movie: What movie premiered with only 40 theaters willing to show it, utilized footage of dog-fights from World War II, was partially filmed in exotic locales such as on a glacier in Norway and the Redwood State Park in California, is voiced by a famous Muppeteer (who also puppeteered Miss Piggy, Bert, Grover, Cookie Monster, Animal, Sam the Eagle, and Fozzie Bear), and ended up being so popular that one of the many sequels was filmed under the title of "Blue Harvest" to avoid any unwanted media leaks during production?

Answer: *Star Wars!*

Many fans of the Star Wars universe grew up watching the movies as children since the first film premiered in 1977. The newest movie *The Last Jedi* is anticipated to be released in December 2017 which means that many original



viewers of the movie can enjoy the new flicks with their own children.

To celebrate the storyline of the Star Wars franchise as well as its dedicated fans the Huntsville Public Library will be hosting its Second Annual Jedi Academy from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 29th. Registration is required for this event and can be found at myhuntsvillelibrary.com.

Jedi Academy at the Huntsville Public Library is an all ages program designed for families. Featuring activities such as Laser Blaster Target Practice, Light Saber Skills, and a

Trash Compactor Dive, Jedi Academy is fun for every fan.

"Star Wars themed attire is highly encouraged this year. We would love to see fans cosplay at the event as their favorite characters from the movies," says Children's Coordinator Rachel McPhail.

What is cosplay?

Answer: the act of dressing up as a character from a movie, book, video game, or other media.

As patrons develop new hobbies and interests, libraries must develop programs to continue to serve their

communities. Many libraries across the United States are embracing the cosplay culture to meet the needs of the thousands of cosplayers attending cosplay conventions every year. At cosplay events, outfits range from simple to elaborate, from store bought to homemade, from outfits inspired by childhood classics to the newest best seller. Many cosplayers have learned to sew, 3D print, applique, paper mache and more in order to make their ideas come alive. Libraries have begun to offer cosplay events as well as programs designed to help patrons make their cosplay attire.

By continuing to host the Jedi Academy program, the Huntsville Public Library strives to creatively challenge its patrons and welcome cosplayers to the library.

—Rachel McPhail,
Children's Librarian

