

ANCESTORS

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

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President's Prose -by Becky Speaker

When I attended my first BCGS program six years ago, I had no idea how that I would become so engaged with the group and end up as President. Of course, I should have had a clue, as I so enjoyed that first program, led by Jason Hatton, on the treasures of the Indiana Room. Later that year, I bought the 2012 calendar commemorating the War of 1812 and I was hooked – on the War of 1812 and on building more friendships within this group.

In 2017, I encourage you to build more friendships within the Society. Come early and visit with other attendees at the programs. Read the stories in this newsletter and write part of your family story to help others get to know you. Attend (or better yet share your knowledge during) one of the S.K.I.L.L. sessions. Join us for the July field trip to Madison in Jefferson County. Participate in one of our activities, such as working during the History Days at the Library or helping with our new scanning project.

You don't know how to scan? That's ok – most of us didn't either, but we've had some training from Ron Darrah, from the Indiana Genealogical Society. As a part of the Indiana Genealogy Digitization project, BCGS

has been loaned a laptop and scanner in order to create records that can be added to the IGS website. And best of all, if we digitize 5 sets of records in the next six months, we get to keep the laptop and scanner! Small groups of 2-3 people can help with scanning records, as we get the opportunity to learn this skills. All scanned items can be sent to IGS, who will consolidate and post as a Bartholomew County database on their website, making many records available online.

I am honored to serve as the BCGS President this year. I hope that you will be able to join us for our upcoming programs. Unfortunately, our May presenter has rescheduled, so we are working on our schedule. But you'll definitely want to attend a program called "A Walk through the Cemetery" on May 9th at the Bartholomew County Public Library Red Room. This program will be led by the Indiana DNR Historian. Then July 22, we'll have a fun field trip down to the beautiful river town of Madison in Jefferson County to learn more about the Eleutherian College, the first college in Indiana to admit students without regard to race or sex. Keep an eye on our facebook page and our website, barthngen.org, to learn more about our events – and to see the fresh new look of our website this spring!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

- BEVERLY ELSNER
- GEORGE AND JOYCE JONES
- HARRIET RILEY
- A.H. "HUTCH" AND KEVIN'S SCHUMAKER II



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Editor's Note: Many thanks to all BCGS Board Members for their time and articles to make Ancestors the "Voice of BCGS" ! As a courtesy, and to insure the personal communication with each of you, their columns are not edited. Hope you enjoy !

HIGHLIGHTS -by Marcus Speer

January 21, 2017

(initial Jan notes by Becky Speaker)

Our January Program was opened by 2017 President Becky Speaker at 1 p.m. Regular business items were covered. Becky introduced the presenter for the program: Annette Blount, our genealogical librarian, at the Bartholomew County Public Library. Annette gave an update on all the new resources available at the Library and/or available through their website. While on the library's website (mybcpl.org), click on the Resources tab at the top of the page. After clicking on the tab, look at the menu on the left side of the page. Click on the down arrow next to Genealogy Resources. Here you can see the links and databases the library has relating to genealogy.

Annette shared information on Historygo, which has both Landowner & Antique maps. She demonstrated how to search for antique maps by state or map (only about 7-8 for Indiana.) It does not include the 13 original colonies (or Tennessee/Kentucky, which were part of NC & VA).

Annette also shared information on Newspapers.com, which is certainly a popular resource for many of our local genealogists. The Library has free access for some Indiana newspapers (in-Library only). Papers included are Columbus Herald, Columbus Republican, The Republic, Brown County Democrat, The Tribune (Seymour), Jackson County Banner, Daily Journal, The Evening Star, The Franklin Evening Star, The Daily Reporter, Greenfield Republican, Times-Post (Pendleton). There are five menu buttons across the top: Home, Search, Browse, Papers, and Clippings. Details were shared on how to effectively use these tabs.

Another great program to start a new year!

February 18, 2017

Our meeting was opened by our President Becky Speaker at 10 a.m. Regular business items were covered. It was shared that our SKILLS would now be held on March 25 for BCGS members. Becky introduced the presenter for the program: Anne Johnson.

Anne opened with a review of why research in newspapers (obituaries, wedding announcements, "gossip" sections, photographs, and even in advertisements) can be so important to genealogical work. She noted that the Indiana State Library (ISL) has the largest collection of Indiana newspapers in the world (even the galaxy!) ISL also has a large Photograph Collection. One important way to access the ISL is through the webpage: <http://www.in.gov/library/> One important online resources is ISL's online databases. This includes databases from other libraries.



When using newspapers in genealogy research, Anne shared the following information:

Subscription resources (can be used at the ISL or other subscribing institutions):

- *Newspaper Archive
- *Newspapers.com – world edition,
- *Ancestry Library Edition (Social Security Death Index & other Death indexes)
- *Pro-Quest Obituaries
- *ProQuest Indianapolis Star (1991-present, obituaries from 1998-present)
- *Indianapolis Star Historic Newspaper database – ISL does not have a subscription, but index can be used to locate dates of articles.
- *American Ancestors
- *HeritageQuest
- *FindMyPast
- *Fold3

Free Resources:

- *Hoosier State Chronicles,
- *In-house databases, such as Indianapolis Newspaper Index, 1848-1991
- *Public library-created newspaper indexes
- *Newspapers.com (the Indiana Newspaper version available through Inspire)
- *Search engines (ex. Google the person's name, city, etc. for possible obit.)
- *Chronicling American Newspaper Project
- *Indianapolis Commercial Index (an index to vital records column in business newspaper – also a part of in-house databases)
- *Interlibrary loans are available for newspapers (up to 5 reels for up to 6 weeks)

Another informative program for using newspapers in genealogy research.

New Books

New Genealogy Books at the Bartholomew County Library

from Annette Blount, BC Librarian

This quarter I do not have any new book additions to the Indiana Room. Not for genealogy at least. I have added Indiana related books but none for the genealogy collection. Since there are no books to highlight, I would like to draw your attention to one of the periodicals or magazines we have for genealogy. *Your Genealogy* which was formerly known as *Family Chronicle* is a magazine with timely articles regarding the search for our ancestors. It is published six times a year and can be checked out from the library. There are back issues under the former title which can also be checked out.

Articles in the current issue include: "South Seas Research" which is about the author trying to find an unknown grandfather on the island of Tahiti. There is an article titled "Family in the Time of Plague". This article is about a family who lived on the east coast but had a loved one who died and was buried in Colorado. The young man who died had tuberculosis and was sent to Colorado for his health but the disease was too advanced and he died while he was there, answering the question of how one family member ended up being buried in Colorado when most of the family lived and died in Connecticut. Also in this issue is an article about the history of radio titled "Did Your Ancestors Tune In?" There are several other articles and helpful hints for the genealogist as well as listings for upcoming conferences.

The upcoming issue, May 2017, will be a special issue by Christine Woodcock. It will be titled *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors*. If you have any Scottish ancestors you may want to check out this issue when it comes in. If the magazine is not available the library does have books about tracing your Scottish ancestors, as well as other nationalities, in our circulating genealogy collection.

CARVED IN STONE

-BY DONNA KUHLMAN

A Recent Observation about Census

TWICE in the past few days I have discovered a census error that I never noticed before—although possibly just because I hadn't thought to look for it. And it's a lulu.

The search was for a family residing in Adams Township, Decatur Co., Indiana, in 1870. The parents were listed....but all their children appeared to be residing with another—apparently unrelated—family. Then there was a woman, annotated as 'living with daughter,' residing with someone not *known* to be her daughter...puzzlement. And then came the "Aha!" moment. I looked at the *household numbers* in the first two columns—and realized a long series of pages were out of order. All of these curious mismatches in the indexing occurred where part of a family was listed at the bottom of a page, and the rest at the top of the next page—but the pages were scrambled. Household 199/200 is on page 24, and concludes with Edward and Christina Early; the next page displayed is actually **26**...and begins with occupants of household 207/208. The "real" page 25 is several forward, renumbered as 28, and there, surely enough, are eight Early children. Pages 30-36 seems to be in order, and then the next several are scrambled and renumbered again.

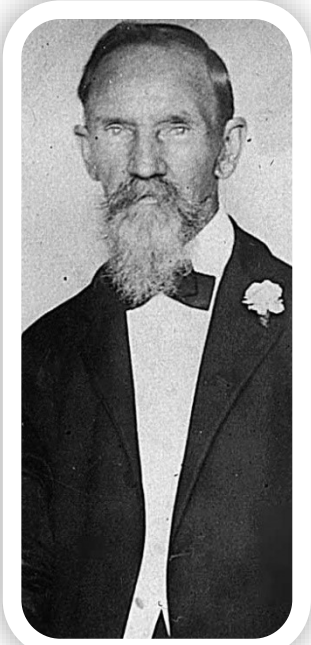
I ran across the exact same sort of error somewhere else a few days later, although I can't recall now where that one was. Apparently it's not terribly rare! The lesson is, 'don't rely on indexing.' There is no substitute for looking closely at an original document, whether it's census, marriage, or anything else. This is especially critical when something doesn't look right, or someone appears wildly out of place. Keep an eye on those household numbers and make sure the information 'as collected,' matches the 'as displayed.'



Charles Otto August Schrader -by Becky Speaker

What an exciting (and also sad) story in last quarter’s *Ancestors* newsletter! Bob Hobbs wrote about attending a presentation at the library by James Alexander Thom, a bestselling author from Indiana. Thom’s novel *Fire in the Water*, told the story of a journalist who survived the explosion of the steamboat Sultana at the end of the Civil War. This book reminded Bob of the stories of his ancestors who worked along the river, interacting daily with steamships. Thank you so much, Bob, for sharing these stories and bringing that time and place to life!

Immediately after reading Bob’s story, I ordered *Fire in the Water*, as it made me think about my 3rd great grandfather, Charles Otto August Schrader, who enlisted in Company K, 93rd Indiana Infantry Regiment on 29 Aug 1862. As the Confederates invaded Kentucky, racing toward Louisville, a mere 50 miles from his home in Perry County, IN, this German immigrant left his pregnant wife and young daughter at home to serve in the Union Army. Over the next two years, the 93rd Indiana performed guard duty and supported the sieges of Vicksburg and Jackson, MS. In May 1864, to distract the Confederates from menacing Sherman’s supply lines, the 93rd Indiana was part of the Union force who moved toward Guntown, Mississippi where the Battle of Brices Cross Roads occurred on June 10, 1864. Considered a brilliant tactical victory for the Confederate Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, Charles was one of 184 Union prisoners of war taken that day.



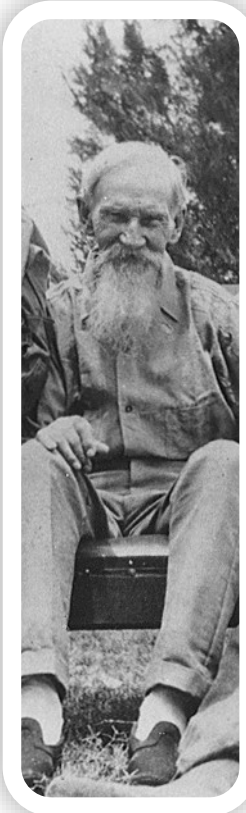
Perhaps 1900 (~60 yrs old, 40th’s anniversary or a child’s wedding, given his tuxedo?)

According to his military pension file, in the battle, Charles was maimed by a musket ball which hit him in the tendon at the back of his left knee. Ironically, the gunshot wound may have saved his life by preventing his travel to the notorious Andersonville prison. In his own words, “I was cut off

from my comrades, I was kept in the hospital at Mobile account of being wounded and my comrades marched on to Andersonville. All of my officers died. I lay in the Mobile Hospital about two months”. Charles was then taken to the Cahaba prison near Mobile, Alabama for nearly nine more months without anyone from his company or regiment.

The Cahaba prison surgeon cited the lack of a sanitary water supply and infestations of fleas, but ‘only a 2%’ death rate (vs. 12-15% in other Confederate prisons) with only one fireplace and cramped conditions (432 bunk spaces for over 3000 prisoners by spring 1865.) The National park historians share “The irony of this high survival rate is that many of the prisoners, once free, later perished in the subsequent Sultana disaster.”

Yes, the Sultana! In another blessing, Charles barely avoided the greatest maritime disaster in US history when the Sultana steamboat exploded on 27 April 1865, killing 1800 of 2400 paroled Union prisoners. Thousands of recently released Union prisoners of war from both Andersonville and Cahaba prisons had been brought to a small parole camp outside of Vicksburg to await release to the north. The U.S. government was paying \$5 per enlisted man and \$10 per officer to any steamboat captain that would take a group north. Charles entered the parole camp hospital near Vicksburg, MS on 31 Mar 1865 with a diagnosis of dysentery and acute diarrhea and was transferred to a hospital steamer on 18 Apr 1865 to go north to freedom. Just nine days later, many of his friends and fellow prisoners from Cahaba were killed during the Sultana explosion. Charles was lucky enough to live another 65 years until his death at the age of 91 in August 1930.



Late 1920’s (based on kids in photo)

Is there a book you have read or a movie that you have seen that makes you think about your ancestors? If so, tell us about the book and your ancestors!



*THE LENZINI'S and the CENTRALIA NO. 5 -by Robert Hobbs
Part 1 of 2*

I have always been intrigued by the forces that brought my family members together in Centralia, Illinois. On my father's side I know that the Hobbs and the Davis families somehow made their way there from England and Wales. Why a small town in southern Illinois remains a mystery at this point in my research.

On my mother's side I know more. I know that my grandmother's family dates back to Twelfth Century northern England. From there they went to the northern part of Ireland, then on across the ocean to Pre-American Revolutionary northern Virginia. From there they snaked their way through Tennessee and Kentucky to settle on the northern banks of the Ohio River in the land that would eventually become the state of Illinois. My grandfather's family left Italy for Centralia to work the coal mines and that tragic personal story and the mine disaster that occurred there March 25, 1947, 70 years ago to the day I write this account, will be my focus. But first some background of the town that would contribute to the makings of the person I would become.

In the early 1850s there were only ten incorporated towns in the state of Illinois and only one, Alton, located on the banks of the Mississippi River fifteen miles north of St. Louis, was in the southern third of the state. The railroads then came and changed the face of southern Illinois forever.

A central railroad for Illinois from north to south had been a dream of public officials before action was taken by Congress and President Millard Fillmore in 1850. Leading support in Congress and the state was Senator Stephen A. Douglas, a champion of westward expansion. Legislation authorized a grant of 2.5 million acres of federal land in the state for what was to become the Illinois Central Railroad. Sale of lands and bonds provided financing for construction of a 700-mile rail line on two distinct routes. The first route was to run from Cairo, located at the southernmost point in the state, northward to a certain point and then head northwest and across the Mississippi River from Dubuque, Iowa. A second route also started in Cairo and continued northward to the same point where it split from the first and headed northeast to Chicago, a town of about twenty thousand people where reportedly everything was covered in dust until it rained. Then everything was covered in mud.

In 1853, the railroad established a town from a public land grant at the point where the railroad line from Cairo split and went in different directions. Within a year the Illinois Central laid out the town, named CENTRALIA (pronounced Cen-trail-ya) identifying the town's location in the rail system, where they erected a combination passenger station/hotel and began construction on its terminal. Rail shops then opened in the center of town and Centralia had an instant connection to markets and travel destinations throughout the eastern half of the nation. George B. McClellan, later to become a controversial Union army general during the Civil War, lived in Centralia for a time as chief engineer of the Illinois Central.



THE LENZINI'S and the CENTRALIA NO. 5 (cont)

The first engines on the Illinois Central were wood-burners, but a shortage of wood soon caused the officials to look for alternative fuels. This led to experiments with coke and coal, one of the first of which occurred in Centralia. The results of these experiments resulted in the officials determining that coal would become an alternative to wood and that experiments would continue. By the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, more than half of the Illinois Central locomotives ran on coal.

In 1869, The Centralia Mining Company was formed. However, it wasn't until 1874 that coal was discovered about 600 feet underground south of town. It was called Centralia No. 1 Mine.

The investors of the company found that while the residents of rural Centralia welcomed more economic diversity, few had any interest in working underground. With its long history of coal mining, Europe provided a source of experienced coal miners not available in the region. The first immigrants came from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Germany. Others soon followed from Italy, Poland, Spain, Austria, Hungary, Bohemia, Moravia, and Lithuania. This influx provided an instant diversity of the population which was not always to the liking of native residents and early settlers. Unable to speak English and unfamiliar with the culture of rural Illinois, many of the workers suffered social injustices before becoming accepted in the community.

The opportunity of shipping by rail to points throughout the nation brought more railroad lines to Centralia and added further incentive to search for more coal. A separate new company, the Centralia Mining and Manufacturing Company, sank the No. 2 shafts and announced it to the citizens in a dramatic way by blowing a loud whistle taken from a wrecked Mississippi River steamboat.

New entrepreneurs sank shafts of Centralia No. 3 and No. 4 and purchased No. 1 and No. 2 from the original owners. Two miles south of Centralia the company sank the shafts of No. 5. At the same time, a group of men active in the Old National Bank organized a coal company and sank a shaft at Glen Ridge, a few miles north of town. By the end of 1908, seven mines were active in the Centralia area. The prominence of coal and the railroads to take it to markets far away brought prosperity to the area.

Antonio Lenzini and Aldelphia Paduzzi, my great-grandparents, were born in nearby villages west of Bologna in the northern half of Italy. As newlyweds, they moved farther north to the big city of Milan. He was a coal miner, but the work was not steady as the mines were being mined out. Relatives who had made the move to America wrote of a place where the work in the mines was consistent and the coal seemed unending. With nothing to lose but the friends and loved ones they would never see again (with one exception), they traveled by train to the French port of Havre. There, on December 15, 1906, they boarded the ship *SS La Provence* and set sail for New York City. The crossing could not have been pleasant for her as she was pregnant with their first child, my grandfather. I can only imagine what it was like for them to sail into the harbor to get their first sight of the Statue of Liberty. On December 22, 1906 they set foot on Ellis Island.



THE LENZINI'S and the CENTRALIA NO. 5 (cont)

At the time of their voyage to America, the *SS La Provence* was a fairly new ship having been launched on March 21, 1905. With a capacity of 397 first class, 205 second class, 900 third class passengers, and a crew of 435, it was the largest ship in the French merchant marine. The

The S.S. La Provence, the ship that brought my Italian great-grandparents to America.

ocean liner operated on the Havre-New York route, making one crossing in six days and four hours. On the fateful Monday night of

April 15, 1912 while traveling eastbound from New York, the ship was among the first vessels to pick up the distress call of the *Titanic* at 12:15 am. The wireless operator misread and logged in the wrong coordinates, but corrected the mistake and transmitted the message to other vessels ten minutes later. Too far away to be of any assistance, the news of the disaster spread quickly among the *La Provence* passengers causing much concern. The ship's last commercial voyage was on June 17, 1914 and in December that year it was refitted and became a French armed merchant cruiser and was renamed *Provence II*. On February 16, 1916, while sailing in the Aegean Sea near Cape Matawan, the ship was torpedoed by a German submarine. With an estimated 1700 French troops on board, there were 870 survivors and approximately 830 lost, many of them as a result of lifeboats being swamped in the heavy swell.

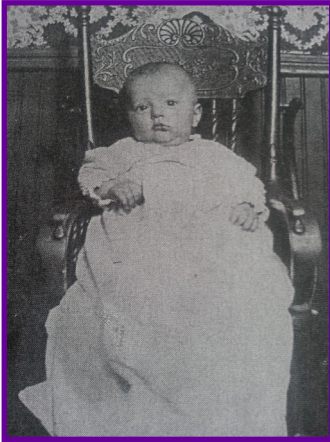
In addition to the ship's date of departure and arrival, the ship's records revealed interesting things about my great-grandparents: He was 30 years old; she was 17; He was 5'4 ½ " ; she was 5'1"; He paid for his own ticket and he paid for hers; They both could read and write; He knew how to speak Italian and English. She spoke only Italian. How'd he know English? He had \$35.00 on him at the time; They were coming from the town of Fiumalbo, Italy; Their destination was Centralia, Illinois; They had their tickets for Centralia.

He was described as having blond hair and blue eyes! That HAS to be a mistake! Even though he was from the northern half of Italy where there are Italians with lighter hair and eyes, photographs of him show dark eyes and hair. She was described as having auburn hair and brown eyes. That's more logical.

My great-grandparents Aldelphina and Antonio Lenzini early in their marriage. Possibly 1905.

He and seven others have stamped on their line of information the words "Non Immigrant Alien." The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (www.uscis.gov) website defines "Nonimmigrant" as "an alien who seeks temporary entry into the United States for a specific purpose."





A picture of my grandfather Alphio Lenzini in 1907. This was sent to his grandparents in Italy. Apparently my grandfather never knew this existed.

low, three girls and then later another boy.

My grandfather (left) with his parents and sisters. His baby brother had not yet been born. Taken about 1916

Like their parents, all five of the children's given names started with the letter "A." However, most of those names did not remain in common usage. Antonio did remain known as Antonio. Never have I found in my research any references made of him as Tony; Aldelphenia became Delphina; Alphio became Alphy; Adena became Dena; Arina became Rina; Alma stayed Alma; and Adolfo became Adolf and was known as "Dolful" by the family.



Antonio (upper right in straw hat) with his pals. His best friend Frank is the first one in the first row. His cousin Pete is the last one in the first row in front of him.

The family had many friends and family as the years went by. Those left behind in Italy were missed, but not forgotten. Many letters and photographs crossed in the mail. Antonio's best friend, Francisco (Frank) Lazaretti, was from his hometown in Italy and the two were inseparable. Many Italians had a desire to own land in Italy. Nicknamed "Birds of Passage," they came to the United States to work and save their money only to return to Italy. Antonio had witnessed friends make good money in the mines and then leave to go back to Italy never to return.

Antonio (upper right in straw hat) with his pals. His best friend Frank is the first one in the first row. His cousin Pete is the last one in the first row in front of him.

THE LENZINI'S and the CENTRALIA NO. 5 (cont)

In answer to the question if he had been in the United States prior, the answer documented is Yes!... from 1901-1905. I can not make out where he had lived during that four year period, but it definitely was not Centralia, Illinois! This is a mystery yet to be solved.

Regardless of Antonio's status, he and Aldelphenia went west by train to Centralia where they joined friends and family that had previously established themselves there. Antonio went to work in the new Centralia No. 5 mine. Six months later on June 19, 1907, their first child, my grandfather, Alphio was born.

Four more children were to fol-





THE LENZINI'S and the CENTRALIA NO. 5 (cont)

One day Frank told Antonio that he needed to go back to Italy to take care of some unfinished business. Antonio feared he would never see his friend again, but Frank assured him that he would definitely return. Antonio asked Frank when he visited their village for him to check in on his parents, Battista and Beatrice, and his sister Francesca. Frank told Antonio that he would definitely make an effort to do just that. Almost a year later, Frank, true to his promise, did return. On his arm he had his new bride...Antonio's sister Francesca! His best friend was now his brother-in-law.

All was going well for the family until the year 1918. The United States had become involved in World War I. Antonio, now forty-two, continued to work in the mines and was registered for the draft. Delphina, then twenty-nine, gave birth to Adolpho. Soon after the birth she felt a severe pain in her lower left abdomen. It was determined that her appendix had ruptured. While undergoing surgery, she died on March 11, 1918, leaving Antonio to raise five children ranging in age from eleven years to only a few months.

Family and friends stepped forward to help Antonio with the children while he continued to work his shift in the mine. One can only speculate as to what Antonio was thinking and feeling as Christmas approached, his first as a widower with motherless children. Perhaps he feared he would be drafted. We will never know. On December 20, 1918, nine months after the death of Delphina, he failed to get out of the way and was hit and killed by a loaded coal car.

Frank and Francesca, who at the time had six children of their own, volunteered to raise the four older children. Francesca, who would become known as Cia (a variation of the Italian word of Zia, meaning aunt) had an infant of her own and did not feel she could handle baby Adolpho as well. Antonio's cousin, Pietro Lenzini, (known as Pete) and his wife had five children, but committed to taking in the baby and raising him as their own.

Although the older Lenzini children were separated from their baby brother by residing in different households, they all remained in the same large extended family in the same town and saw each other on occasion. One of those occasions was getting together for family photographs.



A later photo of my grandfather and his siblings. I love the way my grandfather is posed with his youngest sister and little brother. Taken about 1924.

Bartholomew County Genealogical Society

Membership year extends from Jan – Dec (includes 4 issues of ANCESTORS)

1 year Membership: Individual (\$10) Couple (\$15)

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