

The Maryland Genealogical Society

2012 Holiday Luncheon

Annie's Ghosts: The Delicacy & Intrigue of Probing Family Secrets

Featuring Steve Luxenberg, author and associate editor at the Washington Post

Date and Time: Saturday, 1 December 2012, 12 noon

Location: Snyder's Willow Grove Restaurant
841 N. Hammonds Ferry Road, Linthicum, MD 21090

Every family has a story. Often, those stories revolve around a secret. Until he was in his forties, *Washington Post* editor Steve Luxenberg had no reason to question his mother's biography. He knew her name was Beth, she was an only child, and she had raised him to always tell the truth. At age 78, Beth casually told a new doctor that she had a disabled sister, sent away at age two, her fate unknown. After Beth's death in 1999, her secret surfaced once more. This time, it had a name: Annie.

As Steve began digging, the secrets began unraveling. His mom's name wasn't Beth. Annie hadn't been two when institutionalized. She had been 21, his mother 23. They had grown up together. Piece by difficult piece, Steve unearths the story of his mother's motivations, his aunt's unknown life in one of the nation's largest mental hospitals, and the times in which they lived. *Annie's Ghosts* explores the nature of self-deception and self-preservation as it reveals the emotional consequences of stigma and family secrets.

About Steve Luxenberg

Steve Luxenberg, an associate editor at *The Washington Post* and book author, has worked for 38 years as a journalist. Steve began his career at *The Baltimore Sun* before joining *The Post* in 1985.

Steve's award-winning nonfiction book, *Annie's Ghosts: A Journey Into a Family Secret*, revolves around his mother's decision to hide the existence of a sister, Annie, who was institutionalized for 31 years. Part detective story, part social history, part memoir, *Annie Ghosts* has been praised as a "must-read" for genealogists by the former president of the National Genealogical Society.

Join us for a great buffet lunch and to hear about Steve Luxenberg's research obstacles and quest to learn the details of this family secret. Steve will have books available for sale and will sign them.

Cost: \$32.00 – MGS Members \$35.00 – Non-members

Buffet lunch includes: beef bourguignonne, vegetable lasagna, chicken chasseur, sliced ham and turkey, cheeses, garden salad, fixings, coffee, tea, and dessert.

Pre-registration deadline: 24 November 2012 (Walk-in registration is an additional \$5.)

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Cut here and mail the bottom portion with your check to:

Maryland Genealogical Society
201 W. Monument Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-4674

Please print or type your name. Use a separate form for each person, please.
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MGS Member: Yes____ No____