

Family Reunion Organizer

ON THE DISC

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- Your Family Tree software reviews

PC PUBLISHER: FormalSoft, Inc [w] www.family-reunion.com/organizer

PRICE: US\$34.95 inc shipping (approx £22)

Family Reunion Organizer is designed to help you to plan major family get-togethers, offering a near-comprehensive to-do list to the family historian. The software is American, though, and UK-based researchers may need to make some allowances for that.

COMPREHENSIVE: **Every section offers a database, a template, space for your notes or narrative text, or just salient advice**

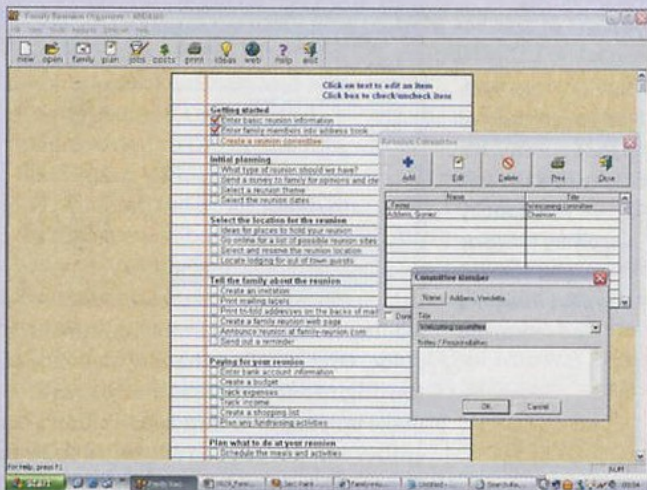
Essentially *FRO* is a detailed, step-by-step task list, supported by context-relevant advice that guides you through the entire reunion planning process. You don't have to complete every item and you can do them in any order, although the order presented is logical. The program can print a number of lists, labels and reports, such as a family directory; family members and notes; invitations; a shopping list; and your expenses. An important part of your data is the family address book, which you can complete manually or, if you have family tree software, import from a GEDCOM file.

The task list is arranged into eight sections, each focussed on a different aspect of your planning: getting started; initial planning; selecting the location for your reunion; telling the family; paying for your reunion; plan what to do at your reunion. Some sections are quite detailed – the one on footing the bill,

for instance, suggests creating a budget and a shopping list, and planning fundraising activities as an alternative to passing the hat round. Other useful elements include a mailing list manager, a name-tag printing program, and a certificate-printing program. The invitation printing program includes State and Zip (which can't be altered).

You can publicise your reunion at www.family-reunion.com/registry.htm, although this may be of limited interest to UK families. If you already have some web space to use, you can create a family reunion web page based on a supplied template.

You can only order *FRO* online, but first try the demo from our CD (which is limited to five families). □



BUY IT FOR...
Planning features that could stop you from overlooking some important element – or family member

Universal Calendar Calculator 1.51

PC PUBLISHER: Cumberland Family Software
[w] www.cf-software.com
PRICE: US\$25

There are many calendars in the world, both secular and religious, that can cause confusion to even the most experienced family researcher. *UCC* uses 34 of the world's major calendars, from Armenian to Zoroastrian, and with it you can convert dates from one to another.

Another complication is the switch from Julian to Gregorian calendars that 'lost' Britain and its colonies eleven days in 1752. If your researches lead you into mainland Europe the situation becomes more complex as the change started in the 16th century, but was not completed for more than 300 years. *UCC* lists the date of the change for over 160 localities in Europe and beyond, as even regions within the same country changed at different times.

Using *UCC's* calculator you can enter two dates from any of the supported calendars and it shows

the interval between them in both total days and years, months and days. Or, you enter one date plus an interval and let the program calculate the second date.

Being shareware you can try *UCC* for 45 days before deciding whether to pay the US\$25 fee – which also includes *Family Photo Album* and *Cumberland Diary*. □



SIMPLE: **Calculate ages and dates from a host of different calendars**

BUY IT FOR...
Date conversions using 34 of the world's major religious and secular calendars

Fzip Family Tree 1.7d

PC PUBLISHER: Andrew Croft
[w] <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~acroft>
PRICE: US\$34 (approx £15) or US\$42 with printed user guide

The chance to try before you pay the registration fee means that you're likely to find a shareware application to meet your needs at a modest price. And this could well be one of them...

The main screen of *FFT* shows details of four generations. Clicking on a name moves up or down the generations, while a double-click opens the person's Edit window where you can add personal details and notes. There is no pedigree view allowing you to jump across several generations, but there is a search facility and the capability to add bookmarks for branches of your family.

There are 24 reports and charts to choose from and a scrapbook for each person that can have up to 32 thumbnail pictures. Click on Language in the Tools menu and you can select any of 12 European languages plus Afrikaans, though



WORTHWHILE: **The uncluttered interface and ease of use makes this a program that's worth trying**

the help files are only in English. Overall this is a good example of shareware and has many features found in more expensive software. The ability to import and export GEDCOM files means that you can copy any records that you already have in other software while you

BUY IT FOR...
Easy to use and plenty of features and languages that you can try before you buy